

David Alan Grier at the PAO  
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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## Student curator's status in doubt

### Gov. Blunt plans not to reappoint Maria Curtis

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN  
Staff Writer

When Maria Curtis applied to be student curator for the University of Missouri system, she believed she would fill the position for a two-year term. However, a decision made by Gov. Matt Blunt will cut her appointment short.

Spence Jackson, director of communications for the office of Blunt, said, "She [Curtis] will not be reappointed. Her term expired on Dec. 31, 2005."

Curtis was officially named student curator July 22, 2005 by Blunt. She has been representing the UM system for approximately five

months.

Missouri Statute Section 172.035 states, "The term of the student representative shall be two years, except that the person first appointed shall serve until January 1, 1986."

"The statute says, 'two years.' Can that change at any time, like there was no rule or law?" Curtis asked. "Are we as a campus going to allow someone to ignore the statutes of Missouri?"

According to Jackson, it is a "two-year term, not appointment."

"Previous campuses were not interpreting the Statute properly. We're trying to bring that in compliance with the law," he said.

According to D'Andre Braddix,

Student Government Association president, if Blunt sends the decision of choosing the next student curator to the Inter-campus Student Council, it plans to only send Curtis' name back.

"There was a lot of confusion (over Curtis' position) and it has basically been a rumor mill," he said.

Curtis said, "It is not fair that the St. Louis campus only gets a short representation. It's not equal, and that's not how it should be."

She also said it is not in the Board's best interest to go from one person to another person in such a short time after all of the time already invested in training her.



Maria Curtis, senior, English, talks with Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder at a press conference in the Millennium Student Center on Jan. 14

see MARIA CURTIS, page 3

## UM to award scholarships from tuition settlement

BY PAUL HACKBARTH  
News Editor

The University of Missouri began accepting applications on Jan. 13 for scholarships from the more than 104,000 eligible students involved in the tuition class-action lawsuit.

The UM system established a \$10 million scholarship fund after three students filed a lawsuit against the UM Board of Curators for "violating the provisions of Section 172.360, RSMo 1998, by charging tuition to Missouri youth over the age of sixteen years enrolled in undergraduate classes at the [four UM campuses]."

The three student plaintiffs, Douglas Sharp, Sandra Lynn and Frederick Eccher III, with the help of St. Louis attorney Robert Herman, reached a settlement in April. The St. Louis County Circuit Court approved the decision in December.

The agreement created a \$10 million scholarship for eligible students who attended class at any of the four UM campuses between the winter semester of 1995 and the fall semester of 2001. Entitled students must have also been between the ages of 16 and 22 during their enrollment at the University.

Instead of each campus's financial aid office handling applications, the scholarship fund has been centralized in Columbia, Mo. The UM system recently hired Carolyn Allen, coordinator for the tuition settlement scholarship, to oversee the application process.

"As of [Jan. 19], we have received 483 online applications and the information was released on the previous Friday," she said. Allen said 4,770 scholarships of at least \$500 each will be available and awarded starting in the fall semester of 2006.

Not only are certain students eligible, but if any funds are left over, spouses and natural born or adopted children of the students are also entitled to part of the scholarship money.

The terms of the settlement state, "applications for such scholarships would be made annually and are not automatically renewable."

The fund will remain in effect for 25 years. After which, Joe Moore, director of media relations for the UM system, explained any money left over in the fund at that time will be transferred to a general scholarship fund.

After the settlement was announced, the UM system was unsure of where the funds would come from. However, now, "the \$10 million in scholarship funds will come from the University reserves," Moore said. He explained the reserves are used for three purposes: to protect bond ratings, to take advantage of unexpected opportunities and to use for unexpected costs.



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Bruce Baker, project engineer for Kozeny Wagner, looks on as the new dorms are being built. The warm weather has been helping the builders make progress. The construction company is still expecting to finish on time in July 2006.

## Construction of new residential halls on track to open in fall

BY SEAN MICHAEL  
Staff Writer

Progress is being made on the construction of the new residential halls on South Campus, which began a year ago and is scheduled for completion in July 2006.

"The residential hall is 55 percent complete," said Bob Samples, director of media, marketing and printing services at UM-St. Louis.

The new dorms feature an elevated walkway that serves as a connector from the Residential Building to the Nursing Administration Building and Seton Hall. In addition, the dorms include five floors with an elevator and a stairwell that joins the different levels of the hall.

Plans call for 431 beds, a fitness center, an outdoor patio with a pool, on-site laundry facilities and a convenience store. Two community study rooms in the north and south wings of each floor are also being built. The cost of the construction project is slightly under \$27 million, Samples said.

Project Engineer Bruce Baker feels confident about the project.

"We're a couple weeks behind schedule, but we intend to make all that up," he said. So far no major unforeseen problems have occurred, Baker said.

Construction is progressing at an even pace and currently, focus on inside work is underway. Baker anticipates that retaining walls and site work will be completed in the spring. In addition, the five floors of the building have all been framed.

The brick work is almost done on the north wing, according to Baker. The other areas of the building still need a lot of brick work to be completed. The hall is secured for the winter to prevent hazardous work-

ing conditions.

"Fortunately, it's been kind of mild winter, which has helped the construction project," Baker said.

The plan is for the students to be enthusiastic about their new housing environment when the residential hall opens in August. The dorms will be closer to the students' classrooms.

The new building was designed with a community theme in mind. The students have the opportunity to congregate in the study and the common lounge in each community. The residential hall assistant on each floor will help the students acquire academic and social skills.

"These dorm rooms will be better than what were available 20 years ago," Baker said.

Although this new hall will significantly improve the parking at UM-St. Louis, the students will have an easier time getting to their classrooms from the new residential hall. The plan is for the residents to have the closest spaces to the building once people have become used to the flow of traffic.

With most of the students commuting to UM-St. Louis, a great demand for campus housing does not exist. Less than 10 percent of students live on campus, but that number is expected to grow in the next few years.

With the project nearing completion by July, students will need to be aware of the options they can afford. The hall has been built to fulfill the students' needs and make their lives easier.

"Students interested in living in the new hall are encouraged to call Residential Life," Samples said. Students can sign up to apply for new dorm rooms by calling 516877.

## Tsunami reconstruction project improving lives of Sri Lanka students

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN  
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis' Tsunami Reconstruction Campaign is taking tiny steps to create huge improvements in the lives of Sri Lanka students.

Jody Miller, professor of criminology, made a return five-week visit to Sri Lanka during UM-St. Louis' winter break. The visit was another part of her continuing efforts to monitor the campaign.

Both schools, Andaragasyaya Vidalia, [school] in Kirinda and Thambiluvil Maha Vidalia, [secondary school] in Thirukkivil have been rebuilt. The project funded the

purchase of furniture for both schools. However, the furniture for Thambiluvil is in storage because of what Premila Gamage, a member of the Sri Lanka Library association, described in an e-mail interview as "unhealthy political situations."

Miller got within 30 kilometers of one of the schools before she felt she should not continue in the rebel controlled area. She said within the government controlled area, checkpoints were placed every few kilometers and military officers were everywhere.

"This trip I was determined to go, but now they're using landmines, so I decided I better not go," she said.

The project gave the schools electricity for the first time, computers,

and other items that many of the children never would have had the chance to see or use. However, Miller said the most important part of the project is that money collected goes beyond rebuilding the schools. She said the project is an opportunity to improve the lives of the students over there.

Gamage said, "This can be taken as a model library. The activities that

we are involved in, such as upgrading education, will definitely help to enhance the quality of lives in the community."

Miller, Gamage and Nilu Abeyratne, assistant lecturer and postgraduate of the Institute of Archeology at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, are the only three coordinators on the project. Abeyratne represents Miller when she is away.

"With just the three of us working on the project, there is far less bureaucracy in getting things done. In about two and a half months, the schools were built," Miller said. "Also, we can tightly monitor the money. Not a cent has gone away from the project."

With the cooperation of the principals of the schools, they are trying to create programs for the students. Miller was disappointed that programs have not been implemented at Thambiluvil.

One project that has already taken place at Andaragasyaya is an activity in which the students painted murals to decorate the library.

"I was going to send down an artist but decided to let the kids paint the murals, so the library has a meeting to them," Miller said.

"I bought chocolates bars, cookies and other equivalents to junk food for the children during the mural painting."

see JODY MILLER VISIT, page 3

To apply for the scholarships:

- Visit the following website: [www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/fa/tuition/](http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/fa/tuition/)
- Click on "Application Form" link
- Fill out the required fields in the form and click Submit Application
- Applications are due by Feb. 17

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# Bulletin Board

**Put it on the Board!** Call 516-5174 for details or email [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)

## Monday, Jan. 23

### Arianna String Quartet performs

The Arianna String Quartet, the quartet-in-residence at UM-St. Louis, will perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis. Tickets are free for students, faculty and staff; \$23 for adults, \$18 for students and seniors. Visit <http://www.premiereperformances.org> for more information. Call 5818 for tickets.

### Elephant art exhibit

Antonio Polo will visit UM-St. Louis to discuss mental health needs of linguistic minority youth in a lecture titled, "Attending the Mental Health Needs of Latino and Linguistic Minority Youth" in 101 Benton Hall from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Call 5393 for more info.

### Basketball doubleheader

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams will host a non-conference doubleheader today. Half time entertainment for the games will feature the contestants of the "The Next Campus Idol" contest. UM-St. Louis students are admitted free of charge with identification. Call 5661 for more information.

## Tuesday, Jan. 24

### Interfaith expo

The Interfaith Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the second floor rotunda at the MSC. The Expo is sponsored by Interfaith Campus Ministries. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

### Free dinner

The Catholic Newman Center is sponsoring a free dinner

starting at 6 p.m. The event is open to new students, transfer students and current students. Advance registration is requested. Call (314)385-3455 for more information.

## Tuesday, Jan. 24

### 3-on-3 basketball

A 3-on-3 basketball tournament, sponsored by Campus Recreation, will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 25 in the Mark Twain gym. Men's and women's divisions will be offered. The tournament is free and open to students, faculty and staff. Registration will be at the Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 5326 for more information.

## Wednesday, Jan. 24

### Women in the Supreme Court

**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](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu). All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Experts to discuss 'Women and the Supreme Court' at 3:30 p.m. in Gallery 210. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 4727 for more information.

## Thursday, Jan. 25

### Study abroad

The Center for International Studies will hold the first study abroad information session of the semester at 10 a.m. in the University Advising Center in the MSC. Call 6497 for more information.

### Irish-American music lecture

Irish-American music to be lecture topic in the next installment in the Irish Music Today series. The seminar will focus on popular Irish-American song. It will be held at 12:30 p.m. in 205

Music Building. Call 5753 for more information

## Friday, Jan. 26

### New art exhibit in Gallery 210

"Drawn," an exhibit drawings by St. Louis-based artist James Michael Smith, opens today and runs through March 11 in Exhibition Room B of Gallery 210. The exhibit is free and gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 5976 for more information.

## Saturday, Jan. 27

### Basketball doubleheader

UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams will host Drury University today. Halftime entertainment will feature the third annual "Mascot Day." All home games are played at the Mark Twain. Call 5661 for more info.

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### website

<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

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### Research Study for Adults with Amblyopic Vision

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

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

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

25 College of Optometry

## The Current

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## UM-ST. LOUIS CAREER SERVICES

Mark Your Calendar!  
Spring 2006

**ResumeMania Week**  
Monday, January 30, 2006 - February 3, 2006 **FOR EDUCATION MAJORS**  
Monday, February 20, 2006 - Friday, February 24, 2006 **FOR ALL OTHER MAJORS**  
Career Services invites you to submit your resume on line at [resumemania@umsl.edu](mailto:resumemania@umsl.edu) so that one of our Career Specialists can critique it. Your resume will be critiqued and emailed to you within 24 hours!

**On-Campus Interviews**  
February 27, 2006 to April 21, 2006  
All interviews will take place in Career Services, 278 Millennium Student Center. Companies will schedule dates throughout the semester. You **must** be registered with Career Services and have your resume in our Candidate Database to participate in these interviews. Visit our web page for a list of companies scheduled to interview on campus.

**UMSL Teacher Job Fair**  
Friday, February 17, 2006  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Mark Twain Building, UM-St. Louis campus.  
Meet and be interviewed by many school districts in one location. Admission is free only for **pre-registered** current UMSL students and UMSL alumni - you must present your admission ticket at the door. Pre-registration deadline is 2/10/06. Admission for non-UMSL job seekers and for UMSL students/alumni who do not pre-register is \$5.00 at the door.

**UMSL Spring Job Fair**  
Friday, March 10, 2006  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Mark Twain Building, UM-St. Louis campus.  
Discuss internship & employment opportunities with employer representatives. Admission is free only for **pre-registered** current UMSL students and UMSL alumni - you must present your admission ticket at the door. Pre-registration deadline is 3/3/06. Admission for non-UMSL job seekers and for UMSL students/alumni who do not pre-register is \$5.00 at the door.

**Etiquette Banquet**  
Wednesday, April 12, 2006  
12:30p.m.  
Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center, UM-St. Louis campus.  
When dining with employers or business associates, our manners convey our professionalism. Polish your etiquette skills - this lunch session includes guidance from a professional etiquette consultant. Tickets may be purchased in Career Services. Admission is \$10 for Career Services registrants and \$20 for all other students. Space is limited!  
Please contact Career Services for more information on any of these events:  
278 MSC \* 314-516-5111  
[career\\_services@umsl.edu](mailto:career_services@umsl.edu)  
[www.umsl.edu/career](http://www.umsl.edu/career)

## TRIVIA NIGHT 2006

UMSL STAFF ASSOCIATION & STUDENT LIFE

**When** ? Saturday, February 11th  
7:00 PM

**Where** ? Wild Acres Park, Overland  
10400 Midland Blvd.

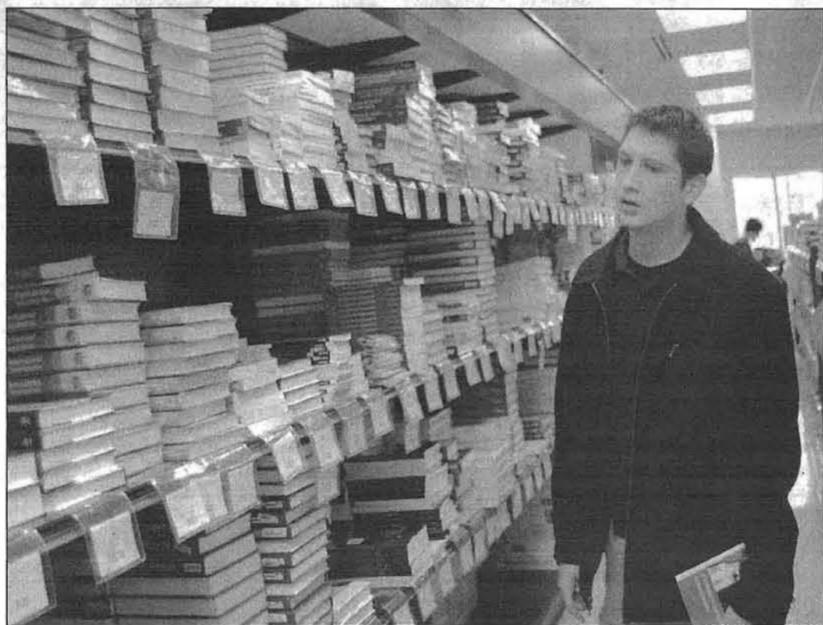
**How Much** ? \$12 per person in advance  
\$15 at the door  
\$6 if current UMSL student

**Teams** ? 8 people per team

For additional information, contact  
Laura Hofer (516-6013) or Don Lewis (516-6002).

TRIVIA NIGHT 2006 - Bring your own beverages and snacks.

## Back to buying books ...



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

William Craig, junior, finance, takes on the daunting task of looking for his books Friday afternoon in the UM-St. Louis bookstore.

## News Briefs

### CCJ professor leaves UM-SL for Arizona

Scott Decker, department chair and curators professor for the criminology and criminal justice department at UM-St. Louis, has accepted an offer to become the chair of the CCJ program at Arizona State University. Decker will leave UM-St. Louis and start his new position at Arizona on July 1, 2006. Decker has worked at the University for almost 30 years and served as the department chair for 15 years.

"I would say that the recruitment and development of a world-class faculty, initiation of the [master's] and [doctorate] programs and the recent U.S. News and World ranking of our [doctorate program] as 4th in the discipline are things I have been proud to have been associated with in the University," he said. "Aside from the Cardinals, these are the things I will miss most about St. Louis."

Decker's jobs outside of UM-St. Louis included serving as co-principal investigator of projects involving youth violence, director of the St. Louis Homicide Project and partner with the St. Louis city police depart-

ment on a panel to recommend changes in procedures instructing how crimes are reported. "The chance to have an impact on policy, the way that the criminal and juvenile justice systems operate, has been the highlight of my time in St. Louis," he said. Decker said the CCJ department will name a replacement for him in February.

### Phi Kappa Phi offers new scholarship

Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society at UM-St. Louis, offered a new scholarship to its members this semester. The scholarship for \$1,000 honors John Anderson, retired professor from the College of Business Administration. "This is the first time that the UM-SL chapter of Phi Kappa Phi has offered a scholarship of its own," Chapter President Jeanne Zarucchi said. A recent growth in membership helped the society sponsor its own annual scholarship, she explained. Phi Kappa Phi member Eric Tyhurst, senior, math and education, was the first recipient of the award. Each applicant wrote an essay for the chance to win the scholarship.

"All of the applicants had outstanding academic records, but the selection committee found Mr. Tyhurst's essay to be of exceptional quality," Zarucchi said. Tyhurst wrote in an e-mail interview, "Needless to say, I was very happy upon learning that I was awarded the scholarship." Tyhurst will be honored at Phi Kappa Phi's initiation in April.

### Sue Shear offers "Pipeline to Local Office"

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at UM-St. Louis will hold a workshop for women interested in running for municipal or political offices or working with campaigns on Jan. 30 and 31 from 6 to 9 p.m. each day. The workshop called "Pipeline to Local Office" costs \$45 and will take place in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. Women working in local political offices will help instruct the workshop, where participants can learn how to budget a campaign, target voters and raise money. Call 516-4727 for more information.

## Optometry professor named Fulbright Scholar

BY JAVI NADAL  
Staff Writer

Timothy Wingert, associate professor of optometry at UM-St. Louis, has been named a J. William Fulbright Scholar and will spend the spring 2006 semester at Poznan University of Medical Science in Poland.

The Fulbright scholarship allows the professor recipients to be in direct contact with many universities around the world as well as meet people from other countries and gain research and teaching insights.

"Poznan University of Medical Sciences is a large institution with optometry, medicine, and dentistry as well as other programs," Wingert said. "There will be an opportunity to observe how those programs are structured and run in a country with a different health care system."

The possibility of research and teaching abroad helps students and professors acquire different points of view about their fields of study.

"There are many different ways of doing things," Wingert said. "The more different ways you become familiar with, [the more it] allows you to use different approaches and approach issues with potentially new solutions."

Not only will Wingert research at Poznan University, but he will also teach courses and deliver a series of lectures with the help of a translator and handouts. He said this will allow him to share those experiences with his students and other colleagues.

Wingert graduated from Illinois College of Optometry in 1979. Since then, he developed his interest in access to optometric care. In 1988, he became a professor at UM-St. Louis and since then, he has worked to enhance the College of Optometry and the University through many committees, panels and councils.

Wingert's research and interests over the years have focused on various issues, including the validity of clinical testing procedures, such as vision screening tests on school chil-

dren; access to services; and how optometric services are delivered to different populations including nursing home residents.

"A lot of the stuff I've done here has been related to public health," Wingert said. "At Poznan University, I plan to work with my hosts regarding vision conditions that affect children." Wingert was asked to lecture on clinical refraction, low vision and other topics.

Larry Davis, dean of the College of Optometry at UM-St. Louis, said being named a Fulbright Scholar is a great distinction.

"Dr. Wingert will no doubt make a positive influence on the delivery of eye and vision care in Poland," Davis said.

The Fulbright program began in 1946 and was created by the former U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. Since then thousands of select American scholars and professionals have lectured and conducted research abroad while others have had the same experience in the United States.

### JODY MILLER VISITS SRI LANKA, from page 1

The principal of Andaragasyaya, Kitsiri Jayaratne, is combining his efforts with Miller, Gamage and Abeyratne to concoct program ideas. According to Miller, he would like to see a program for the parents of the children to show them the importance of their children's education and another that allows all of the students to go on a field trip to Colombo.

Miller said, "He [Jayaratne] has a vision for the school of trying to provide the kids with opportunities their parents didn't have."

Projects Miller has slated for this year include campus organizations sponsoring the students, which should cost \$20 per student, and selling greeting cards with prints of four of the murals the children painted. She is also working with Joel Glassman, director of the Center for International Studies, to get UM-St. Louis students to visit Sri Lanka to help the children hands-on.

"It [would be best for] students to come and help with this project as volunteers," Gamage said.



Photo courtesy Jody Miller

Criminology professor Jody Miller made a five-week return visit to Sri Lanka over the winter break. Miller is coordinating tsunami relief efforts through UM-St. Louis for the reconstruction of two schools in Sri Lanka.

### MARIA CURTIS, from page 1

After she heard "a lot of rumors," Curtis was under the impression that she was going to be reappointed.

According to Jackson, she will continue to serve as student curator until Blunt appoints a new candidate. Despite her disappointment, she is ready and willing to serve as curator until the governor appoints a new one.

"I still support the governor. He's got a tough job. I hope that this can be figured out," Curtis said.

The next student representative will come from UM-Columbia following the rotation as stated in Missouri Statute Section 172.035. The order of rotation is as follows: UM-Columbia, UM-Rolla, UM-Kansas City and UM-St. Louis.

According to Curtis, the governor will be releasing a memo regarding her appointment soon. This memo should include information discussing the future curator and when he or she might be

appointed. "Whatever happens, I will be fine," she said. "I just feel bad for the campus only getting a [five-month] representation."

She said, "I have been overwhelmed with how many people really care about this and are being so supportive. I am really lucky to be working with people like that."

Braddix said, "We will do everything we can reaffirm our faith in Maria."

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and UM-SL Welcomes  
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Century Room C  
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1PM - Free Lunch

Student Legislative Association

OPINIONS

Our Opinion

TWO FULL YEARS

Governor shouldn't shortchange UM with less than a full term for Maria Curtis

Since when did two years turn into six months? No, this is not a test question from a new abstract math course at UM-St. Louis, but rather this is the question that Gov. Matt Blunt has yet to explain in his decision to not reappoint Maria Curtis as student curator.

The student curator is a prestigious position to have. The student curator serves as the voice of the entire University of Missouri system on the Board of Curators. This representative is chosen from one of the four campuses rotating every two years.

When it came time for UM-St. Louis to have its turn, Curtis stepped up to the plate, applied for the position, was interrogated during three sets of interviews (by the Student Government Association at UM-St. Louis, the Intercampus Student Council and a representative from Blunt's office) and was then handpicked by Blunt himself.

Curtis began her term on Aug. 1, 2005, but her appointment abruptly ended on Dec. 31, 2005, by far shy from the two-year term that she was supposed to serve. So why has Blunt chosen not to reappoint her? More

importantly, why has the governor of Missouri chosen to ignore a Missouri statute?

The student curator position is outlined in Missouri Revised Statute Section 172.035. According to the statute, "The term of the student representative shall be two years, except that the person first appointed shall serve until January 1, 1986."

If a loophole exists, it is not very clear. In fact, a loophole like this that takes away Curtis' representation of the student voice should not even be a loophole that exists.

Since Jan. 1, Curtis has been left in the dark about whether or not she will be reappointed. As of now, Curtis is still the student curator until another student is appointed, according to Spence Jackson, spokesman for Blunt.

Blunt's office responded to the uncertainty by saying that previous student curators' appointments did not follow the correct procedures of being reappointed. The decision not to reappoint Curtis is meant to help correct the issue. But why wait until the middle of the student curator's term? Would it not make more sense

to correct the appointment procedure after Curtis' term is up?

It is unfair to continue keeping Curtis uncertain about the future of her own position. While the governor may have other duties keeping him from quickly responding to this issue, it still needs to be resolved.

Appointing another student curator in Curtis' place would not benefit the students of the UM system. The student curator would need to be trained and training takes time. The University needs Curtis to remain as its representative because she knows the ropes.

The SGA of UM-St. Louis and the ISC plan to show their opposition to Blunt's decision this week. The other organizations and groups of faculty, staff and students of the University should show their support, as well, for our student curator to keep her so she can continue representing our campus and the entire UM system. Curtis has not let us down yet.

We at The Current believe Blunt should reappoint her to the position to serve the full two years that were promised to her under the Missouri statute.

Staff Viewpoint

A new year means fresh air and no cigarettes

As the big hand slowly crept to midnight on New Years Eve, some people around me rushed to find a significant other to kiss, while others discussed their resolutions to end bad habits.

I have been one of those people who in the past has vowed to make changes in my life and who has made resolutions to live a healthier and better lifestyle; however, in past years I have found myself simply giving up on my resolutions.

Last year, I promised to exercise more and to lose weight. At the time, my resolution seemed like it was off to a good start. For two months, I made frequent trips to a fitness club and sacrificed junk food and carbs completely. I managed to lose 10 pounds, but as soon as March rolled around, I became busier as a student and was less interested in running on a treadmill.

I am sure that everyone has found themselves in the same situation as me. Sure, it is easy to make a resolution, but it is also easy to break it.

This year, I told myself that I am no longer going to be a victim to nicotine and I am going to save my lungs by giving up my bad habit of smoking. Some might say that quitting smoking is easy, but those who have lived their lives around cigarettes know this is not necessarily true.

If quitting was easy, cigarette companies would not post labels such as, "Caution, smoking could increase the chances of becoming addicted" on packs. There would also be no such thing as Nicotrol patches, Nicorette gum and pills like Zyban to help people break away from this habit. Recently, there have even been people who have had electric shocks to prevent their cravings.

This is not my first attempt to quit. I once tried the patch, but became so desperate and edgy that I wanted to rip



MELISSA MCCRARY Features Editor

the sticker off my arm, roll it up and smoke it. On my second attempt, I tried the gum. It worked for awhile. I lost my addiction to cigarettes, but I found a new addiction to Nicorette. I became so dependent on the gum that I found that I was investing more money on it than when I purchased smokes.

I have realized that my addiction to nicotine has entirely ruled and controlled my life. In the morning, a cup of coffee seemed to taste so much better with a cigarette. To relieve stress in between classes and my part-time job, I would spend my 15 minute break smoking. Nothing sounded more appropriate than ending a hard day with a cigarette before bed.

This time around, I am taking the "cold turkey" approach. It has been 11 days since the last time I lit up. Sure, I have had cravings and have thought "one last cigarette won't hurt," but every time these thoughts enter my mind, I grab a piece of bubblegum, a gummy worm or a piece of hard candy for a quick fix.

Over and over teachers have told me about the dangers of smoking, but I never really paid attention or simply thought "that can't possibly happen to me." What I now know is that everything that they had said is true.

According to the National Cancer Institute at www.cancer.gov, cigarette smoking is the most preventable cause of death in the U.S.: smoking causes 30 percent of cancer deaths each year and 87 percent of smokers are diagnosed with lung cancer.

Besides the never-ending list of health problems that smoking can lead to, smoking also ages one's appearance by causing fine lines and wrinkles, stains people's teeth and gums and leaves a strong odor.

Is putting tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide in your body worth it? As for the "new" me, I think not.

Staff Viewpoint

Patriot Act hits close to home

The FBI used to tap my phone. So when I heard that President Bush ran an illegal program to eavesdrop on international phone calls, it meant something to me.

The FBI believed I was a threat to our security. In my reckless youth, I spent three months as a member of the Weathermen, an offshoot of the Students for a Democratic Society. In the 1960s, SDS was the leading predominantly white student group involved in the civil rights and anti-war movement.

Weathermen renounced non-violence and eventually became an underground group. Its most notorious act was to place a bomb in the U.S. Capitol that almost destroyed a women's rest room. I left before Weathermen went underground.

Anyway, as a result of my ties to Weathermen, the FBI tapped my phone and wasted a lot of time monitoring my behavior. My fellow radicals and I expected that our phones were tapped and tried to never say anything on the phone that would interest the FBI.

One time, I needed to meet with someone about something I wouldn't talk about on the phone and told him to meet me "where all good guerillas meet."

When we showed up at the gorilla cage at the Zoo, two members of the police intelligence squad were standing nearby. I made a face at them. They glared at me.

In those days, I received a threatening letter in the mail on the same



BENJAMIN ISRAEL Columnist

day each week. (Thursday, I think.) For example, I opened an envelope one day to find a picture of me taken at a demonstration with the words neatly printed in pencil on the back, "Bang, bang."

The worst letter I got came on the stationery of the local civil rights group ACTION. It was ungrammatical, in a phony African-American idiom and anti-Semitic. The "brothers" threatened to beat me up.

I called a friend in ACTION and asked her what was going on. She told me the ACTION office had been broken into and stationery was stolen. "Probably some right-wing nuts," she said.

In 1976, a Congressional committee investigated abuses by the FBI, and I found out those right-wing nuts were, in fact, the FBI.

Most of those threats did not bother me much.

The first time I ever received a threat like that, it did, however. I was alone staffing an office called The Peace Information Center in the

Delmar Loop when the phone rang. The man calling told me that if I didn't leave right away, he and others would come there and beat me up.

I was shaking as I quickly closed up the center. As I locked the door, another Center volunteer walked up and asked me what I was doing. When I told him of the threat, he smiled and said, "Don't worry. We get calls like that all the time."

However, it did bother my parents when their phone rang with threats to blow up their house or kill their son. It turned out that was the FBI as well.

My father was dying of congestive heart failure, and I'm sure the FBI did not make his last years any easier.

There is a reason our founding fathers passed the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution.

It says, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The amendment lists no exceptions. Legally, a wiretap is a search.

There is a reason Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Security Act, that requires the executive branch to get a warrant from a special court to tap phone calls. Without oversight, the President, and those acting on his behalf, can, and often will, abuse power.

Bin Laden vs. America

Here's Osama! After over a year Osama Bin Laden has come out of his cave and he has brought a message. His message is to try and strike fear across the globe, and especially right here in America.

He has apparently been keeping up with our public opinion polls, because he cited the fact that the majority of Americans want to pull troops out of Iraq. He told us that George W. Bush is a liar for reasons concerning our security. He made it clear that if the US didn't negotiate with him that he would attack "The Heart of your land." He could be speaking figuratively, but maybe he means to attack the Heartland of America. Either way, I am not sure I can just blow his comments to the wind, and forget them.

Once again the Bush administration took its stance of, we don't negotiate with terrorists. An easy way to say that they don't have any answers for why Bin Laden is still out there.

Maybe I am a pessimist, or a realist, but I am not convinced we are safe. Who should I believe? Should I believe the US government? Or should I believe Bin Laden?

Let's compare the two:

**Personnel**  
USA- Government full of corrupt politicians who steal money, lie under oath, and are impaired by monetary judgements (halliburton, oil, Saudi



ADAM WISEMAN Photo Director

friends)  
OBL - Corrupt extremist who has lots of money and has killed a lot of people (9/11, planes, Saudi friends)

**Objectives:**  
USA- To destroy people (terrorists) that might do harm to them, maybe. To free the people of Iraq and to place a government of their choosing. (Paranoia, preemptive, guns)

OBL - To destroy people (infidels) that might do harm to them, maybe. To free the people of Iraq and to place a government of his choosing. (Paranoia, preemptive, RPGs)

**Religion**  
USA - Evangelical Christianity. Close relations with Judaism. Although denying religion plays a part, and they try not to sound like fanatics, they are. (In God we trust)

OBL - Fanatical Islam. Not denying that religion has a part, in fact, religion is a big reason for his hatred. (In Allah we trust, not afraid to admit religious background)

After some analysis, I have come to realize it does not matter who I think is lying, or whom I should believe. Just like the civilians in London, Madrid, New York, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, and plenty of others, we are all victims of the same war. Let us not also forget the soldiers who fight and die on both sides of the lines. Osama Bin Laden is alive, and he is planning. Do you believe him?

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What's your opinion?  
You can make your voice heard in a letter to the editor.

Under Current  
by Adam Wiseman  
Photo Director  
What's your New Year's Resolution?



David Greene Junior, Business



Erica Walshhauser Senior, Political Science



Lynsey Johnson Freshman, Business



Patrick Judge Junior, Criminology

To get good grades, I am sort of sticking to it.

To run a marathon, and yes, I have stuck to my daily regimen.

Mine is to start exercising, yes I have stuck with it so far.

Same as every year, not to make one.

Science Column

Letters From London

# WashU study finds fat overload kills cells

In January, people often think about losing weight and getting in shape. Fat seems to be on everyone's minds. Now a new study from Washington University gives us another reason to fear fat besides how we might look in tight clothes. When fats accumulate in cells other than adipose (fat) cells, then cell death



BY CATE MARQUIS  
Science Columnist

Cells have several mechanisms to store or use fat in cells but saturated fats like palmitate are poorly stored by the usual methods. Palmitate in the cells led to a rapid increase in levels of the protein EF1A-1, which led to rapid cell death. EF1A-1 is a common cellular protein with several functions including pro-

duction of proteins and maintenance of the cell's cytoskeleton. Blocking the production of EF1A-1 in cells with high levels of palmitate protected the cells from cell death. Furthermore, the researchers also found that removal of the EF1A-1 protein allowed cells to withstand normally damaging levels of highly reactive oxygen. The results suggested that cell death came from oxidative stress and cytoskeletal changes associated with abnormal levels of EF1A-1. Future studies will attempt to define the exact mechanisms and changes. The study also uncovered other proteins involved in the negative impact of fat in cells.

Saturated fats like palmitate have long been the focus of concern for a healthy diet. But this is not taking sides in the low fat - low carb diet wars. It is not just the consumption of fats that is the problem. Excess consumption of carbohydrates converts those calories to fats to be stored in the body. Too many calories, too much food, too little exercise are the main culprits. But you might want to skip that palm oil.

The researchers also pointed to preliminary studies that suggest that the development of diabetes is linked to the accumulation of fat in the pancreas and to insulin resistance in muscle cells. Cardiology studies have also linked heart problems to cell dysfunction and death associated with fats.

The researchers looked at the effects of palmitate, a saturated fat commonly found in American diets, on mammalian cells grown in culture.

duction of proteins and maintenance of the cell's cytoskeleton. Blocking the production of EF1A-1 in cells with high levels of palmitate protected the cells from cell death. Furthermore, the researchers also found that removal of the EF1A-1 protein allowed cells to withstand normally damaging levels of highly reactive oxygen. The results suggested that cell death came from oxidative stress and cytoskeletal changes associated with abnormal levels of EF1A-1. Future studies will attempt to define the exact mechanisms and changes. The study also uncovered other proteins involved in the negative impact of fat in cells.

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# Learning in London doesn't end when we leave the classroom

This study abroad went wonderfully until classes had to start and ruin my vacation. Classes started last Monday morning. That's right, no Martin Luther King Jr. day for me.

My British Life and Culture (BLC) course, required for all Missouri London participants, is quickly becoming my favorite class. Tuesday nights, we have a lecture by a visiting professor and Wednesdays are reserved for field trips.

This week, Dr. Wendy Stokes from London Metropolitan University explained 'Modern England.' She explained that England is the country we're visiting. Britain consists of England and Wales; Great Britain is England, Wales, and Scotland. The United Kingdom is all of those with Northern Ireland.

Wednesday, our BLC fieldtrip included a journey to the Museum of London. Of course, I understand that many people are bored to tears at the very mention of a museum, but as an avid museum junkie, I loved the fact that the Museum of London is chronological. Artifacts from London's earli-

est Neanderthal cousins surround visitors, and by the time a person leaves, she has reached the midst of the early twentieth century.

As much as the classes here are incorporating London as a classroom, it is still essential to spend some nights in the flat reading "Vindication of the Rights of Women" or whatever else we've been assigned. Homework is cross-cultural.

For those not involved in an internship, Fridays are free for us to do as we please. So I used my Friday to travel to the famous Portobello Road Marketplace. Normally, the market reaches the height of business on Saturdays, so it wasn't crowded as I wandered the streets.

Little stands crowded the sidewalks, reminiscent of rock concert souvenir shops. Even on a Friday afternoon, I could find clothes, gifts, chocolates, sandwiches, purses, suit-



LAURA AYERS  
London Correspondent

cases, antiques, jewelry, and anything else you can imagine.

Many of the shops reminded me of those on the Delmar Loop. Smelling strongly of incense, they sell tattoos, Indian jewelry and clothing, Bob Marley paraphernalia, and of course, buttons proclaiming the need for marijuana legaliza-

tion. While ale is still available, we have several other alcoholic options. On that we've all found quite fascinating is the Fruli, a strawberry flavored beer. While I'm told that it can also be found in cities like New York and Los Angeles, it was news to my taste buds.

Really, a pub is no different from your local neighborhood bar. The bartenders know the regulars, and several friends can meet up after work for some fun. On a slow night, the atmosphere is almost cozy.

But on a weekend, you are unlikely to find a cozy pub anywhere in London. That also applies to football nights (that's soccer to us). On night like that, if I'm lucky, I can squeeze in at a table with several friends to watch the game at a safe distance. One football night in particular, I stood pressed up against complete strangers. I clung to my Fruli and cheered every time Manchester United scored a goal. After snagging a seat, I sat back closed my eyes, and considered my London experience so far.

Different, I thought. But not a bad different.

Letters to the Editor

# UMSL needs a more visible mascot

Have you noticed our mascot the Riverman around? I have done some research during the semester break to find out who our mascot was. I found out that, according to the UM-St. Louis search, from 1999-2004 the mascot was the Riverpup.

I've noticed by looking at other colleges my friends attend, that we have no actual mascot that I can see.

Let's quickly take a look at other Universities around the state. UMKC has Truman the tiger. Truman the tiger is everywhere.

Truman is highly visible. Missouri State University has the Bear.

A huge statue on campus and the bear plasters all of their T-shirts and sports memorabilia and other items. Truman State has the bulldog, which

has a rich history at the school, and the school dedicates a website to the bulldog alone.

Southeast Missouri State has just undergone a mascot switch to the Red hawks and it's all over their website. On a recent trip down there, I saw a sign just turning onto their campus.

UM-Rolla has Joe the Miner who is seen on the home page. UMKC has Kasey the Kangaroo which they switched to recently and are proud of.

Saint Louis University has the infamous billiken which is plastered all over everything.

Okay, my point is this we have an absent mascot.

I believe it's time to dedicate some

University spirit and call out our mascot to be seen.

Our university is growing; we are becoming more traditional with the future opening of the new dorm.

Also, they are serving meals on south campus. All are great improvements. I still think we need a longer time to cross natural Bridge to go from north to south, but I am focusing on our mascot.

I am not ashamed to do funny dances, have my picture taken or hang out with our mascot. Why should we not do those things and more? Why should we not see our mascot or wear a logo of the Riverman proudly?

Brian Skubic, senior, education and history

# Awareness of crime on campus can help police

I would like to commend *The Current* for its article and editorial about the recent carjacking. As the editorial emphasized, it is important that members of the campus community know when there are special threats that may exist so we can take extra precautions.

There is another, possibly more important, reason to notify the campus community of such events as soon as possible. When a crime is committed it is important to identify and debrief potential witnesses as soon as possible.

Frequently people who do not even know a crime has been committed may have important information about the crime or perpetrator.

For example, in this case people may have seen the perpetrator before the crime elsewhere on campus and noticed identifying characteristics of behaviors that could provide evidence (e.g., expectorating on the ground which could provide DNA), but because they did not know there was a crime they would have no reason to share this information with the police and, as time passes, it becomes harder to remember details and evidence can be contaminated.

With such a transient environment police cannot just "check with the neighbors" to see if they noticed anyone suspicious; we all are the neighbors, and we can only be identified and interviewed if we know about the crime and make our information available to the police.

So simply for the sake of better crime solving, I would encourage the police to notify the campus community as soon as possible when these events occur, unless there is some compelling reason not to.

Joseph Martinich, professor  
College of Business Administration

The Rogue Librarian

# Crime and punishment

RALEIGH MUNS

UM-St. Louis Reference Librarian

On Saturday morning, Aug. 26, I arrived at the TJ. Library for a regularly scheduled weekend shift only to find the entrance swarming with campus police.

It turns out that a nefarious (and not too bright, as you shall read) thief had gotten into the library somehow in order to knock off our safe and retire in great wealth. Not exactly "The Italian Job," as I question the sanity of anyone who thinks knocking off a library safe would be very lucrative.

Apparently, our cretinous crook spent most of the night prying, gouging, twisting, penetrating, and peeling the safe's metal facade to his reward of "less than \$250" as reported in *The Current*.

We take our crime seriously in Library Land, and I can vouch that our libraries are the safest I've ever encountered. We employ professional security who are on hand during all open library hours.

Don't take my compliments about safety as an invitation to leave your purses, backpacks, or laptop computers laying around unattended, as there is no need to invite the occasional opportunist to take your goods. But UM-St. Louis is regularly documented as one of the most crime-free campuses in the state.

The honesty of our student body, or any group of people, isn't universal, but our campus' is pretty high in my opinion. I can recall two times since I've been with the libraries where someone found

money (a \$5 bill once, and a \$20 on another occasion) and turned them in at the Reference Desk as lost and found items.

It was at this moment that I realized the Midwest was a totally different creature than my previous Left Coast habitat of Los Angeles.

At the time I left the UCLA Libraries, they were being harassed by "The Mad Defecator" and stolen backpacks were a daily occurrence (note: in defense, UCLA's library system was MUCH larger than UMSLs, so it wasn't as if theft was happening before one's eyes, minute to minute).

One of my favorite local reads, in fact, are the crime reports in *The Current*.

I recall a few years ago a rash of thefts of Plymouth Neons in the parking structures (Plymouth Neons?); then there was the faculty member reporting a large can of peanuts lifted from her office which I found particularly intriguing.

My favorite bit of UM-St. Louis larceny might have been last year's great frozen chicken heist at the Millennium Student Center (it was an inside job).

Stealing frozen chicken is a classic. I pictured the crooks in trench coats whispering "Hey, buddy. Ya wanna buy some hot cold chicken?" Followed by a display of drumsticks flashed from inside their floor length coat.

Oh. When these people are caught? They DO go to jail, so don't get any ideas. And turn your books in on time while you're at it.

# Librarian's response has faulty logic, reader says

Raleigh Muns, a UM-St. Louis Reference Librarian, took the time to comment on my letter to the editor [in *The Current*, Nov. 28] regarding the dismal food and library service hours on campus.

I would like the time to point out some misqualifications put forth by Raleigh directed towards my analysis. So that the background is understood, the original letter under contention compared the library hours at UM-St. Louis to those the Universities of North Dakota, Maine and Georgia.

I found, on average, each of those schools' libraries has approximately 10 more hours of library time per week than our own. I concluded my letter with the suggestion that UM-St. Louis should lengthen its library hours to on par with other state-funded universities.

Muns sees our relatively small number of library hours as an outcome of enrollment numbers (and its impact on funds), and attempts to disqualify my comparative approach on the premise that a school with more money will inevitably provide better services (e.g., more library hours) and, thus, any comparison between schools with different vertical statuses is unfounded/unfair/irrelevant.

Muns writes in the Dec. 5 issue of *The Current*. "I have to point out that [Scott's] comparison of UM-St. Louis with the University of Georgia [UGA] must be discarded since that institution has about 40,000 full-time students. UM-St. Louis' revenue's would easily be doubled with enrollment of that size, allowing for the option of paying for longer hours. This underscores the problems of comparing any university with another."

First, let's assume that Raleigh is correct in his assertion that UGA has 40,000 students (even though the UGA website claims to have less than 32,000 students, which seems more in line with what I remember - I recently got my B.S. and A.B. from there) and this explains why it has longer library hours.

The question is, how can Muns' (un)insightful note on the causal effect of wealth on treatment explain universities with similar enrollments as our own having the same (or longer) hours as UGA, an unlikely event according to the (above) theorizing of Muns?

He condemns comparative research, and yet if he had employed this method, in his rebuttal to my editorial, he would have realized there are pertinent explanations of empirical reality that go

beyond monetary considerations.

Muns' excuse for our relatively poor facilities is undeniably flawed according to the following facts: the University of North Dakota, according to its Web site, has an enrollment of 10,725 - the largest it has been in over a decade; furthermore, the University of Maine, according to collegeprofiles.com, has less than 10,000 undergraduates.

Although those schools have smaller enrollment numbers than UM-St. Louis (and half that of UGA), they provide 10 more hours of available library time per week than UM-St. Louis. I don't know why exactly it is that UM-St. Louis has so fewer hours, but there's likely more to the answer than what's considered by Muns.

When "discarding" the legitimacy of someone's analysis, please cover your bases and make sure your explanation actually fits the data being considered (i.e., don't simply omit data because it refutes your opinion). (On an ending note, I'd like to mention that I believe those working at the library to be, for the most part, very helpful and I greatly appreciate their assistance.)

Scott Jacques, Ph.D student, criminology and criminal justice

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Theater Review

Rep's **"I Am My Own Wife"** is unique tale of survival in Germany

BY CATE MARQUIS  
A&E Editor

Who knew a guy in a dress could be so tough?

The current production at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, "I Am My Own Wife," tells the story of a real person, a German transvestite who survived both the Nazis and the oppression of Soviet-era East Germany. The play not only tells the story of one person but one person is the whole show. Literally.

Actor Arnie Burton delivers a powerhouse performance as cross-dressing Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, and 33 other characters, in this award-winning one-man play. "I Am My Own Wife" won the 2004 Tony for Best Play and the Pulitzer for Drama. The play runs nightly, except Mondays, with weekend matinees through Feb. 12 on the main stage of the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Loretto-Hilton Center for Performing Arts on the

Webster University campus, 130 Edgar Rd., Webster Groves, MO.

While the Jewish people took the biggest blow from Nazi hatred, Nazi and Soviet persecution was not limited to them alone. Other ethnic groups and gays were also targeted by both Nazis and East German Communists. That a man in a dress should escape the Nazi onslaught, and then the oppressive East German secret police, the Stasi, may seem farfetched but Charlotte von Mahlsdorf was a real person.

Born Lothar Berfelde, he adopted the name Charlotte von Mahlsdorf for the name of the town where he established a small museum under the East German regime, devoted to objects and furniture of the 1890s. Charlotte was a life-long collector of antique furniture and bric-a-brac of her favorite historic period. While others are fascinated by the artistic flourishing of Germany in the pre-Nazi Weimar Republic, made so memorable in "Cabaret," Charlotte von

Mahlsdorf remained fascinated by the sturdy, bourgeoisie Grunderzeit or Gay 90s.

As a transvestite, this remarkable person survived two of the twentieth century's most repressive regimes. Charlotte was a curious character on many levels. Ironically, the fact that Berfelde was the teenaged son of an abusive Nazi, whose estranged wife fled their Berlin home with their children for a country estate during the war, may have helped him survive the close scrutiny of the authorities. The country estate was the home of his cross-dressing aunt, who introduced the teenaged Lothar to the world of transvestites and encouraged him to embrace his inner impulses, don a dress and become Charlotte.

While this unique character is the center of "I Am My Own Wife," another of the characters in this fascinating play is the playwright himself, Doug Wright. Wright learned about real-life survivor Charlotte von Mahlsdorf after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The person the playwright meets is a true eccentric, a little old man in a dress. Without makeup, Charlotte's mannish features and large hands contrast with the white bobbed hair, prim dark dress, string of pearls, and the

thick hose and orthopedic shoes. The image Charlotte presents is a proper and charming hausfrau. Despite a prim and proper manner, Charlotte had an inner steeliness that allowed him to circumvent or stand up to bullying from his father, the Nazis and the East Germans.

During the two plus hours on stage, Arnie Burton portrays Charlotte, the playwright Doug Wright, Doug's friend John, Charlotte's lover and fellow collector Alfred, Charlotte's father and aunt - in all, thirty-four characters. With only one change of costume, Burton clearly creates each well-defined and fully recognizable character through changes in posture, voice or manner. Except for the beginning of the second act, Burton appears dressed as Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, in plain black dress, single strand of pearls, dark stockings and orthopedic shoes. Rather than Charlotte's white wig, Burton wears a dark headscarf that gives him the look of a nun, while the lack of feminine make-up and his bare, masculine arms and hands let us clearly see this is a man. Despite the absence of props and costumes changes, the audience is never uncertain which character is speaking, even when Burton holds a three-way con-

versation. The performance can only be described as an amazing tour-de-force, and a major accomplishment.

Thinking he has found a real gay hero and the perfect subject for a play, Wright throws himself into a series of interviews and research. What he found was a flawed but far more complex person that anyone could have imagined.

Beneath Charlotte's prim appearance was a charming master of self-promotion, publishing a memoir and engineering a biographical documentary movie as well. Charlotte von Mahlsdorf's interest in late nineteenth century antiques began in childhood.

The play lures us, charmingly, into Charlotte's world, terrifies us with the images of Nazi hatred and gives us the confusion of the playwright when he finds flaws in Charlotte's version of events. Charlotte fills the young American playwright's ears with harrowing tales. With theatrical flare, Charlotte recounts her passion for antiques, disgust at the Nazi's treatment of the Jews, and of confronting East German skinheads who invaded her museum.

But eventually disturbing facts come out about Charlotte's conduct under the long East German rule.

Clearly, Charlotte is a survivor but as fascinating as her tales are, the contradictions that emerge are troubling. What was really true and what was theatrical embellishment may never be known.

The play's set is up to the Rep's usual high standard of eye-popping beauty, multifunctional use and symbolic depth. The stage is dominated by the massive door and one big room, with a few furnishings, that stand-in for Charlotte's mansion. But behind this functional set is a backdrop of floor-to-ceiling cubicles, filled with the antique objects and bric-a-brac that represent Charlotte's passion for collecting and hovering over all.

"I Am My Own Wife" is a fascinating work about an enigmatic, elusive person who survived the savagery of the Nazis and the repressive regime that followed. Beyond that, it is an amazing, impressive performance by a single actor who creates an entire cast of clearly drawn characters without the aid of props or costume change. At the play's end, the audience leaped to their feet in wild applause, a well-deserved ovation for a masterful performance and fascinating, moving evening of theatrical artistry.

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**WHEN A STRANGER CALLS**

IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

**LITMAG, from page 6**

In the past, much of Lit Mag's funding went towards the launch ceremony and the celebration lunch, but this year we want to put more funding in the production of the actual magazine."

McCloskey said that students can pick up a copy of submission guidelines and drop off their submissions in the green box, marked Lit Mag, outside of the English Department on the fourth floor of Lucas Hall, or students can email their works to her

at psm2m5@umsl.edu. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The editing Lit Mag course will start the editing process throughout the next month, while works are being submitted. After students edit every piece of work, they will then select which pieces will be in the final copy. Every author will be contacted and informed whether or not their works will be in the publication. The objectives for the last part

of the class include editing and meeting with each author, copy and proofreading and submitting the final copy to the press journal. The final magazine is expected to come out on April 17, and will be inserted in *The Current* as an additional literary supplement.

McCloskey said that Lit Mag is a great opportunity for students to get involved in and to show off all of their hard work.

**TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS, from page 1**

Online applications will be accepted through Feb. 17. Anthony Georges, director of Student Financial Aid at UM-St. Louis, said that after students fill out an application, "students will get one of three responses back. One, they need to provide more information. Two, they received the scholarship. Three, they did not get it."

Recipients of the scholarships of each campus will be notified on April 1, and students have until April 30 to appeal their award letters.

To apply for a scholarship online, visit: <http://www.umsl.edu/departments/fa/tuition/>.

[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)



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The UM-St. Louis  
Panhellenic  
Association Awards  
Fall 2005



The UM-St. Louis Panhellenic Association would like to congratulate the following women for their outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2005 semester:

- Nicola Bell
- Monica Cervellione
- Rachel Clark
- Martha Gamble
- Brandee Georgevitch
- Alicia Higginbotham
- Sarah Hollenberg
- Adriana Hughey
- Lindsay Jakul
- Nickie Kaufman
- Rebekah Kersey

- Megan Labbe
- Kristen Meyer
- Whitney Novack
- Lindsay Sutherland
- Rebekah Talbert
- Ashley Tite
- Alicia Triplett
- Rosalie Ungria
- Brandy Waters
- Andrea Wolf

The Panhellenic Association would also like to extend a special congratulations to those women achieving a 3.5 or above for the Fall 2005 semester:

- Emily Brown
- Erica (Lynn) Brown
- Katie Dalton
- Mandy Deidrick-Young
- Christine Eccleston
- Courtney Gibson
- Angie Gleason
- Rachel Greb
- Angella Grizzle
- Nikki Harrison
- Brooke Hess
- Kristin Howard
- Diana Hsu
- Jamie Kinker

- Kristin Kreitler
- Emily Lauer
- Lindsay Lusk
- Kerri McKinney
- Maribeth Oldelehr
- Mallorie Patton
- Aubrey Price
- Stephanie Rawlings
- Amanda Reinert
- Victoria Schrage
- Rachel Smith
- Christina Stephan
- JoAnne Tinsley
- Jamie VanWinkle



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**WHEN A STRANGER CALLS**

Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Employees of all promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible. One pass per person. This film is rated PG-13 for intense terror, violence and some language.

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS  
IN THEATERS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

NUTN BUT THE FUNK

...Unrated!!

Comic strip about DVD ratings. Characters discuss 'Unrated' versions of movies like 'Dumb and Dumber' and 'Baby Geniuses 2'. Includes dialogue like 'What's with DVD's these days? It's like every movie that comes out needs to have an "Unrated Version."' and 'OHMIGOSH!! THEY HAVE "AMERICAN NINJA 4!!!!!!"'

SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart

Comic strip about a character named Bond. Dialogue includes 'HEE HEE, I LOVE UZ BOND'S SO SILLY', '...HE DOESN'T AGE, DOES HE?', 'YEAH! WHEN HE'S 60, HELL JUST YODEL ALL THE TIME!', and 'SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR RETIREMENT, BOND?'.

LIFE IN HELL

2006 BY MATT GROENING

Comic strip by Matt Groening. Two characters in a repetitive conversation: 'I LOVE YOU.', 'YET I HATE YOU.', 'YET I LOVE YOU.', 'YET I HATE YOU.', 'YET I LOVE YOU.', 'YET I HATE YOU.', 'YET I LOVE YOU.', 'YOU FINISHED?', 'TO BE CONTINUED.'

Advertisement for UMSL. Text: 'FREE ADVERTISING!!! ATTENTION! Students, Faculty and Staff at UMSL. You can place classified advertisements in The Current FOR FREE! Just send us your ad (40 words or less) along with your name and student/employee number to current@jinx.umsl.edu or call us at 516-5316. All others see adjacent rates.'

Advertisement for UMSL rates. Text: 'RATES (40 words are free for students, staff, and faculty.) Otherwise, ad rates are: 1 ad or issue - \$15 2 ads or issues - \$25 3 ads or issues - \$35 4+ - \$10 per ad/issue'

Help Wanted section. Includes 'Telemarketing' (Flexible, part-time days), 'EGG DONORS NEEDED!' (Ages 19-30, pays \$5,000), 'Engineering Opportunities' (world-class research), and 'Start @ \$70 for a 5-hour event!' (Promote brands by distributing samples).

For Sale section. Includes 'Split Firewood' (Local, Reasonable), 'Car for sale' (1996 Honda Civic), 'Moving Sale Entire Contents of House' (Kitchen items, microwave, table and chairs), and 'For Sale' (Apartment-sized fully automatic clothes washing machine).

Services section. Includes 'Interested In Rugby' (Competitive / Social STU rugby team), 'Attitudes: Food, Body and Self' (If you ever struggle to change your body), 'Would you like to quit smoking?', 'Join PRIZM' (PRIZM's GLBT & Ally Student Organization), and 'Military Entrance Counseling'.

Spring Break section. Text: 'Spring Break 2006 PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA 5, 6, 7 Night Packages www.pcb.com'

Housing section. Text: 'Female roommate needed' (Female roommate needed to share a spacious 2 bedroom with study room), 'UMSL ARTIST NEEDS VOLUNTEER MODELS' (for headshots, please email Sara at smae99@studentmail.umsl.edu).

Personals section. Text: 'AEROBICS, AIKIDO, TAI CHI, SPINNING' (Check the UMSL Campus Recreation website), 'FREE TRIVIA NIGHT!' (Campus Rec's Trivia Night will be held Thurs, Feb. 2, 7:30-10 p.m.), 'BOWLING ANYONE?' (Join UMSL's BOWLING Doubles League), 'CAMPUS RECREATION!' (COME PLAY WITH US! UMSL Intramural BASKETBALL, 3-on-3 BB, ARENA FOOTBALL, BOWLING, and COED VOLLEYBALL).

Advertisement for 'FLYERS DON'T CUT IT.' Text: 'Advertise your event in The Current Classifieds. 516-5316.'

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Single Lambs looking for romance could find Cupid especially accommodating this week. Paired partners also find their relationships benefiting from the chubby cherub's attention. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Keep your keen Bull's eye focused on your target, and shake off any attempt to turn your attention elsewhere. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your early enthusiasm for a project might have been somewhat premature. LEO (July 23 to August 22) Apply yourself to completing your task despite all the distractions that might be interfering with your work. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A business agreement from the past might need to be looked at again. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Don't ignore that uneasy feeling about making a commitment. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A colleague could be more supporting of one of your efforts. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Expect some good news about a relative you've been worried about. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Despite some anxious moments, you could have good reason to be pleased with how things are turning out. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A long-overdue expression of appreciation could be offered soon. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to dive right into a new challenge, whether it's learning a computer program or how to drive a stick shift.

Super Crossword DAFFYNITIONS

Crossword puzzle grid with 18 columns and 18 rows. Includes a list of 100 daffynitions (wordplay clues) such as 'Wading bird', 'Fossil', 'Nursery furniture', 'Singer', 'Colossal fossil', 'Control', 'Ready to get', 'Runner', 'Zatopok', 'Fungus', 'True Love', 'Reggae's father', 'Coke and candy', 'Actor', 'Ziering', 'Highlands, CA', 'Morley of "30 Minutes or Less"', 'West Side Story' role, 'Dictator', 'Racer', 'Luyendyk', 'chessa', 'Ardous journey', 'Pabulum variety', 'Tabloid flier', 'Unpopular picnicer'.

Movie advertisement for 'ANNAPOLIS'. Text: 'THERE'S NO GREATER ADVENTURE THAN TRUE LOVE. 50,000 APPLY. 1,200 ARE ACCEPTED. ONLY THE BEST SURVIVE. JAMES FRANCO TYRESE GIBSON JORDANA BREWSTER. OPENS JANUARY 27 AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE.'

# Rivermen, Riverwomen fall in away games at SIUE, Quincy

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Staff Writer

The men's and women's basketball teams have been unable to find much success on the road. That trend has continued over the last week.

The Rivermen are almost perfect at home, posting a 9-1 record with a 4-1 conference record; however they are 0-5 in conference games on the road.

On Jan. 19, the Rivermen lost a heart-breaker against SIU-Edwardsville 85-72, and then on Jan. 21, Quincy dominated the Rivermen in a 98-74 beating. The Riverwomen have not had much more success on the road, losing recently to SIU-Edwardsville 69-40 and to Quincy 71-51.

Against SIU-Edwardsville, the Rivermen were competitive until the final four minutes.

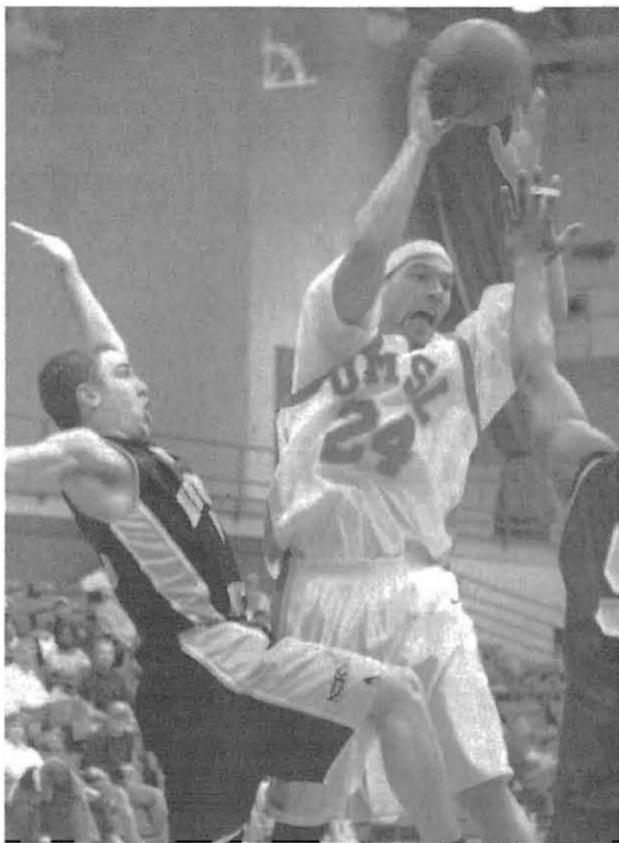
The game had eight ties and six lead changes, and the Rivermen were actually up by four, 37-33, at the end of the first half. Although they dominated the boards, posting a +17 edge, their rebounding success was offset by their turnover deficit. They committed 28 turnovers to SIU-Edwardsville's 7. Those 28 turnovers became 22 extra points for the Cougars.

In the second half, the Rivermen managed to get within four, 71-67 with 5:22 left in the game, but then the Cougars went on an 8-0 run to all but put the Rivermen away. Jonathan Griffin led the Rivermen with 22 points, seven rebounds, and five assists.

Quincy was close until 3:45 in the first half. The Rivermen were able to stay with the Hawks trading baskets until the Hawks went on an 18-2 run over the final four minutes of the half to go up 47-31.

The Rivermen trailed by double digits the entire second half, cutting the lead to 16 with 10:26 left to play behind the inside play of David Ward and Derrell Minner. It was as close as the Rivermen would get, as Quincy would go on to lead by as much as 28 before coming away with the 24 point victory.

The Rivermen were hurt most by the Hawks' Paul Walker, who scored 34 points including 8-11 on three pointers, and their own poor shooting, going 37 percent on the night. Ward led the Rivermen with 17 points and six rebounds. The Rivermen are now 10-6



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jonathan Griffin drives past Bellarmine players on Jan. 14. Griffin led the Rivermen against SIU-E with 22 points.

on the season and 4-5 in conference.

The Riverwomen lost in a blowout to the Cougars, 60-49. The team managed to cut the lead to two, 12-10, with 11 minutes left in the first half. However, the Cougars went on a 14-0 run over the next six minutes. By the end of the first half, the lead was extended to 22, 36-14.

The second half fared little better for the Riverwomen, as they would not get closer than 19 and the Cougars would push their lead up to 31 before it was over.

The Riverwomen allowed the Cougars to shoot 50 percent on the game, while only converting 25.9 percent of their own shots. Taylor Gagliano led the Riverwomen with 11 points.

Against Quincy, the Riverwomen went back and forth and had several lead changes during the first half. The team went up by two, 21-19, with five minutes left in the first half, but then the Hawks went on a 19-2 run to finish the half up 38-23.

The Riverwomen got as close as 15 in the second half, but the Hawks pushed the lead back up 28 before finally winning 71-51. Courtney Watts led the team with 16 points and four assists. The Riverwomen are now 9-6 on the season and 3-5 in conference.

The teams will next be in action against Oakland City Jan. 23. The Riverwomen will play at 5:30 p.m. and the Rivermen will follow at 7:30 p.m.

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