

# The Current

November 13, 2006

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**THIS WEEK**

**Islamic Awareness Week Runs Nov. 13-19**

This week, which marks Islamic Awareness Week, will include a movie night, a lecture and dinner to increase awareness of the Islamic culture.

**INSIDE**

**Transgender Awareness Week**

PRIZM will host the first Transgender Awareness Week this week with events such as a candle light vigil, a panel discussion and more.

See page 3



**Kathy Griffin performs her comedy routine at the Touhill**

See page 8

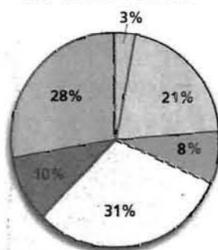
**UMSL professor and student share their experience running in local elections**

See page 6

**ON THE WEB**

**The Current**

**Web poll results:** How do you think the UMSL basketball teams will do this season?

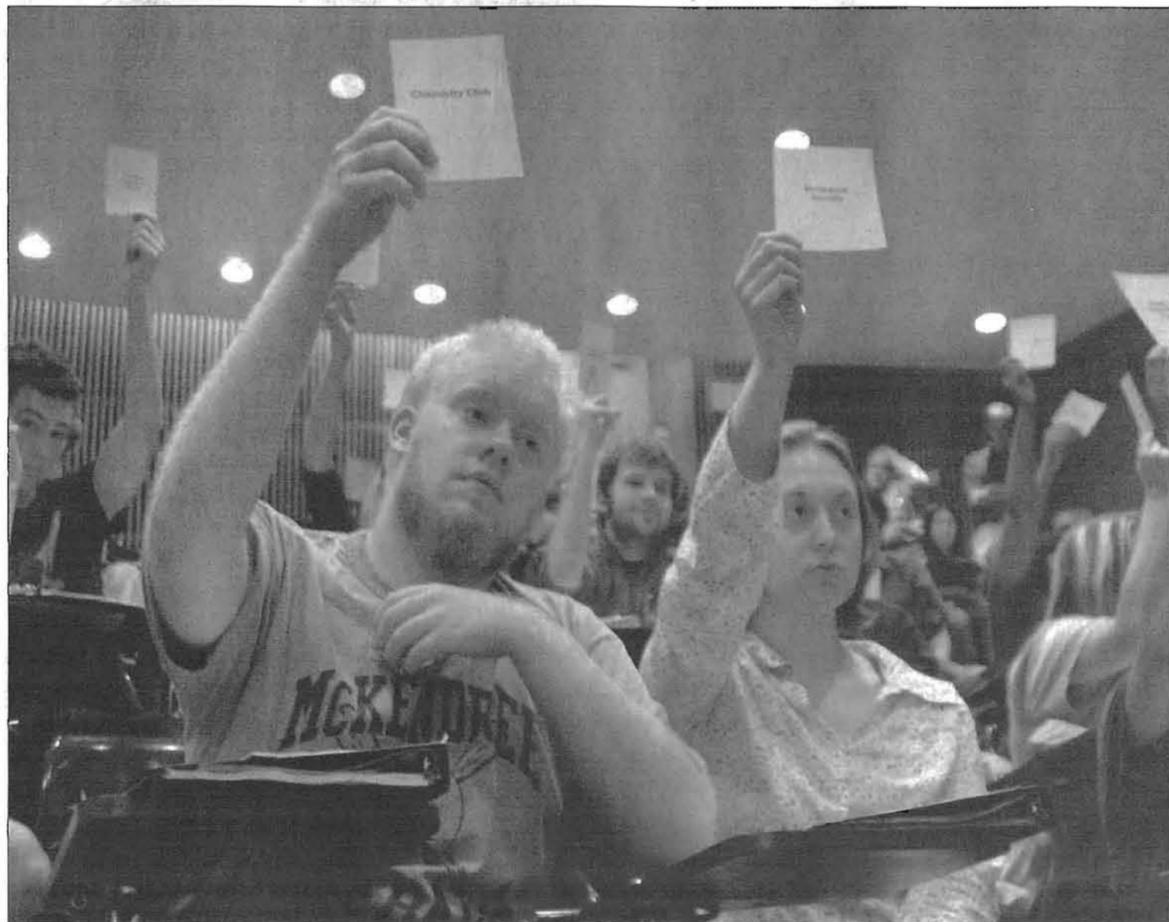


- They will both win every game.
- The women's team will do better than the men's team.
- The men's team will do better than the women's team.
- They will win some and lose some.
- They will lose a lot.
- Who cares? The only sport I even care about is hockey. Go Blues!

**This week's question:** What do you think of the 2006 midterm election results?

**INDEX**

What's Current	2
Campus Crimeline	2
Opinions	4-5
Features	6-7
A&E	8-9
Sports	10-11
Comics	13
Maximo Predicts	13



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

J.B. Carroll, junior, chemistry, and Holly Pope, junior, bio tech/biochemistry, vote during the SGA meeting on Friday. The meeting was held in the Social Sciences & Business Building due to a scheduling conflict with the SGA chambers.

## SGA approves 58% increase in activity fee

UPB would get guaranteed \$315,000 allocation if curators approve the proposal

BY JASON GRANGER

Staff Writer

Students may pay 58 percent more in student activity fees beginning next year if the UM System Board of Curators approves the \$2 per credit hour increase passed by the Student Government Association on Friday.

The assembly approved the increase, which would bring student activity fees to \$5.46 per credit hour, as well as a 9 cent increase in the student service fee, which would be 59 cents per credit hour.

Orinthia Montague-McGhee, associate vice provost for Student Affairs, presented the fee increases to the assembly, saying the fees are necessary for several reasons.

"Right now, these are just recommendations," Montague-McGhee said. "The board has the final decision."

Presently, \$782,000 is generated by the student activity fee.

The added fee would raise an extra \$450,000 for the student activity fee, for a total of \$1.23 million.

Montague-McGhee said \$315,000 of the new funds would be earmarked for one student organization: the University Program Board. UPB, which holds several major campus events, including Mirthday, has an allocation of \$241,000 this year. That would represent a 24 percent increase for UPB.

The money currently given to UPB through the

Student Activities Budget Committee (\$241,000 this year) would be available for other student groups.

Montague-McGhee said part of the problem student activities and the SABC face is trying to distribute that amount of money to over 80 student clubs and organizations at UM-St. Louis.

The extra revenue would allow UPB to have added monetary flexibility as well as allowing them to put on more events, she added.

Montague-McGhee was asked if there were any other organizations that received a guaranteed allotment and she said she could think of only one.

"The only other organization on campus that gets a guaranteed allotment is *The Current*," Montague-McGhee said. "And they have to have that for printing costs."

However, *The Current* has had problems in getting funding from SABC in the past. The student newspaper, which received \$40,000 for the 2006-2007 school year, received \$18,000 in the 2004-2005 school year, covering half of its annual printing costs. The year before that, SABC originally allocated the paper \$0, but after an appeal, the newspaper received \$38,000.

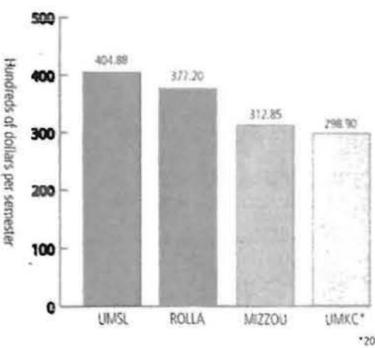
Montague-McGhee also presented the idea of using approximately \$50,000 of the new funds for a student law center on campus. The money would cover the legal adviser's pay, and the rest would go to cover benefits and utility payments, including Internet access.

See **STUDENT FEES**, page 3

**The change:** The SGA assembly approved a \$2 increase in the Student Activity Fee. Currently, students pay \$3.46 per credit hour for that fee.

**What the increase means:** The increase would generate an additional \$450,000, bringing the total funds generated to \$1.23 million. Of the \$450,000, \$315,000 would be earmarked for University Program Board. \$50,000 would be used for a legal adviser, and \$79,000 would go to the Office of Student Life. The \$241,000 currently given to UPB by the SABC could be distributed to other student organizations.

**Student fees across the UM System:**



## SGA looks for feedback to address students' concerns

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN

News Editor



Adam D. Wiseman • Editor-in-Chief

Cassie Gross, doctoral student in political science and SGA representative for the Political Science Academy, asks a question concerning the selection process of the Student Allocations Budget Committee at the SGA meeting on Oct. 27.

With a little more than one month left in this semester, could a lack of feedback from students be keeping the Student Government Association from moving forward and causing students to feel their concerns are not being addressed?

"I don't feel like there's enough feedback right now," SGA President Nick Koechig said.

Koechig said he wanted students to realize that he is "not going to be offended" if they say "anything" to him. "If someone has a problem with something I'm doing, I would like them to address that to me so that I can fix that," he said.

He also said he was "not going to be gunning" for anyone or their organization if they do address any concerns they have.

Cassie Gross, second-year doctoral student, political science, said she had some concerns at the last two SGA meetings. "The majority of my concerns were surrounding the selection of [Student Allocation Budget Committee] members," Gross said.

She said if the SGA is "espousing democratic values," the selection should be a process in which the SGA Assembly votes to choose the SABC members.

See **SGA CONCERNS**, page 14

## Touhill PAC expects to break even this year

After PAC's first year debt of nearly \$900,000, deficit now stands at \$70,000

BY AMY RECKTENWALD

Staff Writer

Despite furor in previous years over the deficit generated by the Touhill Performing Arts Center, there is light at the end of the tunnel of debt.

At the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year, the PAC's projected operating cost deficit from revenue, compared to expenses, was \$365,000. In the report given at the Oct. 13 Budget and Planning meeting, the reported actual deficit is only \$70,000.

In its first year of operation, the Touhill's debt ran a deficit of \$860,000. This was due partly because no budget had been allotted for the purchase of items that would make the building usable, such as office furniture, lighting systems and sound systems, according to Dixie Kohn, vice chancellor of University Relations.

"The first year, there were 25 (people) on staff. Now we have 16. We're all wearing several hats," Kohn said.

Chancellor Thomas George put the PAC under Kohn's management after its first year, when the contract of the PAC's first manager was not renewed. When Kohn was hired, he was put in charge of lowering the operating budget.

In the Touhill's second year, under Kohn, its deficit was reduced to \$336,000. In the 2006 fiscal year, that budget dropped to \$70,000.

"This is a start up project. It takes a number of years with a start up project to break even," said Stephen St. Cyr, business manager of the Touhill Performing Arts Center. "Corporate businesses take three to five years. We could break even this year."

Kohn attributes the financial improvements to ongoing debt reduction strategies and changes in the how the PAC is now being managed.

He said the Touhill's rental fees were also adjusted because they were under the standard for comparable facilities.

The Touhill's operating costs decreased because Touhill - presented events dropped from 40 events to 22 in the last fiscal year.

According to Kohn, the artist fees to book performances range from \$7,500 to \$20,000. To reduce the deficit, the Touhill's staff has become more selective in the events.

Kohn said it serves to reduce the deficit because the planning draws in larger crowds.

This year, some performances have been sold out. "The goal is for sales to hit 65 percent of the seats," Kohn said.

David Dodd, chair of the Student Senate and member of the Budget and Planning Committee, said, "Since [Kohn] took over, he's doing a good job. I'm happy with the direction we're going. We're on the track to getting out of debt."

St. Cyr shared Dodd's opinion regarding the prospects for the Touhill finances. He said the strategy plan has the operating costs breaking even in 2010.

However, he said he thinks the goal of breaking even is "rapidly" approaching because the first five shows "did far better than projected."

Rentals from outside the Touhill are also a large part of its revenue, bringing in \$401,105 this last fiscal year. Those earnings were \$23,925 over the projected fiscal year 2006 goal.

Rentals for the 2006-2007 season are currently at \$345,716, which accounts for 81 percent of this year's goal.

Kohn and St. Cyr both said they were optimistic the goal would be met.

See **TOUHILL FINANCES**, page 14

# CAMPUS CRIMELINE

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

WARRANT ARREST • EAST DRIVE

During a traffic stop, police learned that the driver was wanted out of the St. Louis City Police Department for an assault charge. The driver was arrested and transported to the police station where he was later released to St. Louis City Police.

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

STEALING OVER \$500 • SOCIAL SCIENCES  
BUILDING 2ND FLOOR

A student reported that her wallet containing credit cards and cash was stolen from a computer lab. The victim stated that she had left the room for ten minutes and when she returned, the wallet was gone. The investigation is ongoing and the review of surveillance video may lead to a suspect.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

# INITIATION CEREMONY



Katie Walker, senior, education, receives a certificate from Curt Coonrod, vice provost for Student Affairs, during her induction into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi this past Sunday in the MSC. Afterward she said "it felt great, it was amazing" to be inducted. Coonrod was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi as an honorary initiate.

Adam D. Wiseman • Editor-in-Chief

# The Current

The University of Missouri—St. Louis  
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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### ON THE WEB

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters **must** be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students **must** include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff **must** include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. *The Current* reserves the right to deny letters.

### ABOUT US

*The Current* is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply.

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The University is not responsible for the content of *The Current* and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author.

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. *The Current* requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Current*, its staff members or the University.

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### AFFILIATIONS



# What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

### Math Colloquium

En-bing Lin, professor of mathematics at the University of Toledo, Ohio, will discuss "Wavelet-based computational methods and applications in Symplectic Geometry" at 4 p.m. in 302 CCB.

Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 6355 for more information.

### XBOX Campus Challenge

Campus Rec will be hosting weekly XBOX "NCAA Football '07" tournaments. All participants win t-shirts. Weekly winners will receive an XBOX game, and the overall campus champion wins an XBOX 360 system.

Tournaments will be held in the game room in Oak Hall on South Campus. Times are flexible throughout the week. Call 5125 or 5326 for more information.

### Islamic Awareness Movie Night

A "Movie Night" will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. today in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center in observance of Islamic Awareness Week.

E-mail [sfseck@yahoo.com](mailto:sfseck@yahoo.com) for more information.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

### Islamic Awareness Week Lecture

A lecture and discussion on Islam will be presented from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center in observance of Islamic Awareness Week.

For more information e-mail [sfseck@yahoo.com](mailto:sfseck@yahoo.com).

### Film Screening

"Judith Simon," a rare 1915 Hungarian-Jewish silent film, will be screened at 7:30 p.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill.

The screening will include the debut of an original score for the film by Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UM-St. Louis. James Richards, chair and professor of communication studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will give a short lecture about his documentary film, "Howling with the Angels." A screening will follow. The event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the St. Louis International Film Festival. Call 7776 for more information.

### Transgender Issue Discussion

Debra Davis, a Minneapolis high school teacher, will present "Reading Rainbows: An Evening with Transgender High School Librarian Debra Davis" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the Millennium Student Center. The event is free and open to the public, and sponsored by PRIZM and GLBT and Allies Resource Center. Call 5013 or e-mail [PRIZM@umsl.edu](mailto:PRIZM@umsl.edu) for more information.

### Lunch and Learn Series

Dr. Sharon Laux, housing specialist for University of Missouri Extension, and Kate Reese, chief program officer for Beyond Housing, will discuss how their organizations have worked together to improve the housing situation of St. Louis area households at noon in 78 J.C. Penney Conference Center.

This event is part of the Lunch & Learn series. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch. Drinks will be provided. Call 6775 for more information.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

### Islamic Awareness Week Dinner

A dinner in honor of Islamic Awareness Week will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. at the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

E-mail [sfseck@yahoo.com](mailto:sfseck@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Free Web-design Seminars

Web Design Night will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the UM-St. Louis West County Computer Center, 1715 Deer Tracks Trail (near I-270 and Manchester Rd.).

Participants may attend one of four hands-on seminars on using HTML, choosing Web-design software, enhancing pages with photos and artwork, and using ASP, PHP, and XML.

The event is free, but registration by Monday Nov. 13 is required. Call (314) 984-9000 for information or to register.

### Study Abroad Panel

A panel of UM-St. Louis students that have just returned from study abroad in different countries will discuss their experiences from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in 100 Clark Hall.

Anyone interested in studying abroad should attend. Call 6497 for more information.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

### Volunteer Coaches Workshop

The Parent Coach Workshop will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center, 300 New Ballas Rd.

The workshop covers guidelines and principles for planning age-appropriate practice activities, promoting positive values and behaviors in sports, and more.

The fee for the workshop is \$24. Call 5655 for more information.

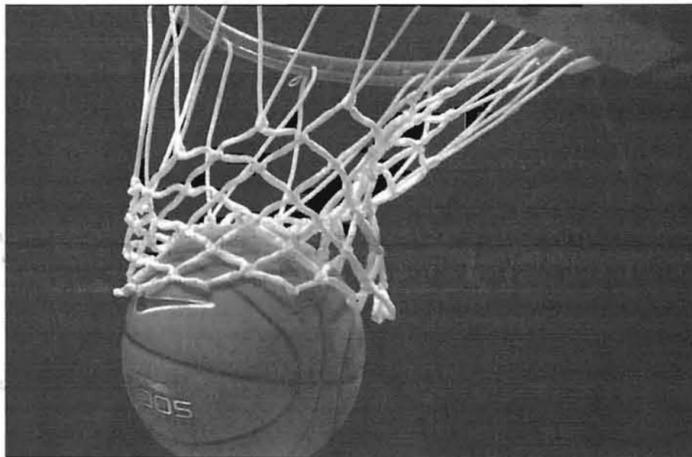
### 'Lunch with a Legislator'

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri will welcome Representative Clint Zweifel for "Lunch with a Legislator" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center.

Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. followed by an address from Zweifel. All are welcome to

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Email event listings to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu).

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



File Photo: Matt Johnson • Photo Director

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams will open their home schedule on Tuesday, Nov. 21. The women play McKendree at 5:30 p.m. and the men play Harris Stowe at 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

### AIESEC Orientation

AIESEC Orientation aimed at recruiting new members for developing global leaders for the future at 4:00 p.m. in the SSB tower, 13th floor.

All are welcome at the orientation and are invited to bring friends.

### Shostakovich Performance

UM-St. Louis instructors and guest tenor Paul Provencio will perform a Dmitri Shostakovich song cycle, "Songs from Yiddish Poetry," at 11:30 a.m. in 205 Music Building.

The concert is free. Call 5980 for more information.

### "Unspeakable Acts" Auditions

Auditions for "Unspeakable Acts," a seven-scene, peer theater play, will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in 119 Benton Hall.

The play deals with the topic of sexual assault on a university campus. Roles are available for four women and four men, and are open to UM-St. Louis students.

Call 5711 or e-mail [james@umsl.edu](mailto:james@umsl.edu) for information.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

### William L. Clay Jr. 'Paying for College Forum'

At 10 a.m. in the Millennium Student Center Century Room A, William Lacy Clay Jr. will discuss ways to pay for a higher education.

To RSVP or for more information call (314) 367-1970.

### Civil rights pioneer memorial

A memorial service celebrating the life of Charles Oldham, lawyer and civil rights activist, will begin at 3 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Parking will be available in Lots A, B and C. Reception immediately following the service. Call

### Business and Economics Seminar

Gaiyan Zhang, assistant professor of finance at UM-St. Louis, will discuss "Institutional Equity Investment, Asymmetric Information, and Credit Spreads" at 11 a.m. in 401 Social Sciences Building.

The event is free and is open to the public. Call 6142 or e-mail [moehrl@umsl.edu](mailto:moehrl@umsl.edu) for more information.

### Physics and Astronomy Colloquium

Boncho Bonev, postdoctoral research assistant at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, in Greenbelt, Md., will discuss "Comets as Chemical Fossils and 'ad-hoc' Physics Laboratories: The Infrared Window" at 3 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 4145 for more information.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

### Basketball Home Openers

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams will open their home schedule with a doubleheader.

The women's game will start at 5:30 p.m. against the Bearcats of McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill.

The men's game will follow at 7:30 p.m. against the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis.

Both games will be played in the Mark Twain Building. Admission to the games is free with UM-St. Louis student identification. For more information call 5661.

### 'World's Fair' opens at Gallery 210

"World's Fair," a video exhibit by Brooklyn, N.Y., artist Paul Amitai, will open today and run through Feb. 9 in the lobby of Gallery 210.

His exhibit is the latest installment in Gallery 210's new video series.

This exhibit is free and open to the public. Gallery 210 hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 5976

# Male vs. female 'Showdown' offers chance to pick brains of opposite sex

By KRISTI WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

Participants in this year's male vs. female summit, titled "The Showdown," were treated to a rare look into the minds of the opposite sex.

The Helping Hands Organization sponsored the event that was held in the Pilot House last Thursday.

Helping Hands Organization President Brandis McCollier said the event gives students an opportunity to "rant and rave" on a variety of issues about people of the opposite sex.

McCollier, sophomore, social work, said the event is also a way for students and other attendants to "get things off their chest" in a relaxed, anonymous setting.

Students submitted questions they wanted to ask the opposite sex, and those questions were put in a bucket.

This was to keep the writer unknown, as no one else in the room knew who submitted each question.

McCollier said this was to give each person a chance to ask questions they may not have had the courage to ask in a different setting. Capuchina Taylor, office support

staff member of the Center for Student Success, and MK Stallings, graduate student, sociology and student activities coordinator for Student Life, were on hand at the event to present the questions to the audience.

They also interpreted the questions, when needed, and kept things in order because some of the subject matter discussed was sensitive and led to strong opinions on both sides.

Before things got underway, Stallings told all participants that the most important thing to keep in mind was to be respectful of others' opinions and avoid name-calling or other derogatory remarks.

The topics discussed ranged from questions such as "Why are men obsessed with video games?" to commitment issues, honesty in relationships and sexual stereotypes given to men and women.

Men in the audience had a strong reaction to the age-old question of "Why don't men call when they say they will?"

The women's side said they felt that the men needed to just say they

want to get off the phone with them or at least give an indication of what "I'll call you back" actually means, and the men's side said they felt that

women should not dwell so much on the issue.

Student reactions after the event were decidedly positive. Most said they seemed to feel that some of their questions had been answered in a way that satisfied their curiosity.

Ashley Winston, freshman, psychology, said she felt the event was entertaining and worthwhile.

"I learned a lot about how dudes think," Winston said.

Lakisha Cohen, junior, business administration, said she enjoyed the event and she felt the event was interesting, but said some of the issues did not apply to her in terms of her age and life experiences. Despite that, Cohen said, "It was helpful to see the males' point of view."

David Petty, senior, studio art, said he enjoys going to summits because you "always learn something new" and it is a way to get an "extra step on things, and expand your knowledge."

"You grow from it," Petty said. "Something new may come up."

# First Transgender Awareness Week kicks off with candlelight vigil event

By KRISTI WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

PRIZM will be hosting UM-St. Louis' first ever Transgender Awareness Week with events, presentations and a speaker to help educate students about what it is to be transgender.

The weeklong observance, from Nov. 13 through Nov. 17, will be co-sponsored by PRIZM, UM-St. Louis' Queer-Straight Student Alliance, and the GLBT & Allies Resource Center. The week will coincide with the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, a day that memorializes people killed by anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

PRIZM President Brian Rails, senior, marketing, said the main purpose of these events is to educate all students and promote awareness. "Even gays and lesbians aren't very informed about transgender people and the issues they face," he said.

PRIZM's spotlight event of the week will be "Reading Rainbows: An Evening with Transgender Librarian Debra Davis." This event will be held on Tuesday Nov. 14 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center.

In May 1998, according to "The Lavender Letter," Davis, a former high school librarian, "literally left school on Friday as a man and successfully returned on the following Monday as the woman, Debra Davis."

Her highly publicized transition of a transgender person working with children in secondary education is believed to be one of the first successful transitions in the nation. Davis

managed to avoid the press throughout this period of transition. She said she felt that for her the most important part of it was being "true to herself."

For Davis, it was more important to just be a teacher, and be able to continue doing something she was passionate about. She continued working in the public school system until she retired in 2001, after 32 years of teaching.

In the last 16 years, Davis has presented over 900 workshops. She has also traveled to many college campuses in an ongoing effort to draw attention to LGBT issues.

In her presentations, Davis said she feels that she truly represents a "new face of diversity." She said by the end of the presentation everyone in the audience will be able to say with confidence that they know a transgender person.

She said she accomplishes this by sharing her experiences as a transgender individual in a gentle way. Davis said being a transgender person is only "a small part of who I am."

On Nov. 13, an information booth will be set up in the Rotunda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. That evening, a candlelight vigil will also be held in the North Campus Quad from 7 to 8 p.m. If there is a weather problem, the event will be held in the GLBT & Allies Resource Center in MSC Room 366.

On Nov. 15, a panel discussion in the SGA Chambers from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. will focus on the many facets of transgender culture. Panelists include psychotherapist Mark Schwartz and UM-St. Louis associate professor Susan Kashubeck-West.

On Nov. 16 a discussion will focus on how transgender individuals are portrayed in the media from 7 to 9 p.m.

## Transgender Awareness Week Schedule of Events

**Monday, Nov. 13:** An information table will be available in the MSC rotunda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A candlelight vigil will be held in the Quad from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 14:** "Reading Rainbows - An Evening with Transgender High School Librarian Debra Davis" will be held in the Century Rooms at 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 15:** A transgender panel discussion will be held in the SGA Chambers from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 16:** Discussion of transgender in the media will be held in the GLBT & Allies Resources Center, 366 MSC at 7 p.m.

**Friday, Nov. 17:** Safe Zone Brown Bag Seminar will be held on transgender issues in 315 MSC from noon until 1 p.m.

in the GLBT & Allies Resource Center in MSC Room 366.

Finally, on Nov. 17, there will be a Safe Zone Brown Bag: Transgender Issues from noon to 1 p.m. in MSC Room 315.

The UM-St. Louis Safe Zone program serves to identify and train faculty, staff, and students who are sensitive and affirmative to the needs of sexual minorities.

This includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and intersex persons.

## STUDENT FEES, from page 1

The student law center would provide free legal advice to students, ranging from landlord/tenant disputes to traffic tickets and driving under the influence charges.

"The person working in the law center would not represent the student, the student would represent themselves," Montague-McGhee said. "But the student would have legal advice coming from a professional, so they would have someone behind them."

The topic has been researched extensively, she said. Student law centers at UM-Columbia and UM-Kansas City were contacted to determine what types of questions the attorney might face. Montague-McGhee said the Rolla campus predominantly faced landlord/tenant disputes.

Montague-McGhee said the remaining \$79,000 raised from the fee increase would go to the Office of Student Life reserve funding.

The other fee increase presented

was a nine cent increase to the student service fee. This fee covers items such as computers, Internet access for campus clubs, capital items and paper for banner printing, among others.

Montague-McGhee said the Office of Student Life is going to try and move as quickly as possible to get these measures to the Board of Curators so they can go into effect next year. If there is a delay, she said the changes wouldn't go into effect until fiscal year 2008.

"We just wanted you all to know what we were planning," Montague-McGhee said.

Vice Provost for Student Affairs Curt Coonrod reiterated that the decision ultimately lies with the board of curators, not with student activities or SGA.

"This is just a recommendation" at this point, Coonrod said. "It's the board of who makes the decision. It's important to make that distinction."

Also on the agenda was a discus-

sion of SABC and how exactly the people selected to serve on the committee are chosen.

Shanna Carpenter, SGA comptroller, said ultimately the decision is hers, but she is going to ask for input from other members of the SGA executive committee.

"The comptroller is in charge of coordinating the selection process of SABC," Carpenter said. "According to the bylaws, I am responsible for the selections, but I am going to ask for

other opinions."

There are certain characteristics Carpenter said she is going to look for when selecting committee members.

"I want a diverse group of people on the SABC," she said. "I am going to look at level of involvement, GPA, integrity and personal reliability"

The assembly also voted to change meeting times to noon effective next semester to try and make them meetings more accessible to students representatives.

## CHINA SUMMER PROGRAM

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includes tech fee

OR Non-Credit charge - \$640.00

AND Program Fee - \$1,520.00

### INCLUDES:

- Housing (double occupancy in Beijing, Nanjing, South China and Hong Kong)
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- Textbook

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### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 31, 2007

### FINANCIAL DEADLINES:

January 31, 2007

\$500 non-refundable deposit

February 23, 2007

\$1,020 balance of Program Fee

UPON REGISTRATION

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### CONTACT:

Hung-Gay Fung: 314-516-6374, [fungh@umsl.edu](mailto:fungh@umsl.edu)

Carol Cradock: 314-516-6983, [ccradock@umsl.edu](mailto:ccradock@umsl.edu)

University of Missouri-St. Louis

DR. Martin Luther KING Jr.

Essay Contest



Theme: "Dr. King's Dream: Have WE changed the perception socially, culturally or psychologically?"

### Qualifications for Contestants

1. Contestant must be an enrolled UMSL student for Fall 2006 and Winter 2007 semesters. Registration for Winter must be made by December 8, 2006.
2. Previous essay contest winners are not eligible.
3. Winners must be present on January 15, 2007 at the MLK Holiday Celebration to receive cash award.
4. Contestant must compose an original essay.

### Essay Rules

1. Essay must speak to the theme: Dr. King's Dream: Have WE changed the perception socially, culturally or psychologically?
2. Essay must contain at least 500 words but no more than 1000 words and will be judged on content and writing ability.
3. Deadline for submission is December 8, 2006.
4. Include a cover sheet with name, address, telephone number, student ID number and e-mail address with the essay submission. Include address and phone where you can be reached during the semester break.
5. Submit essay by electronic submission in Microsoft Word format to [willsc@umsl.edu](mailto:willsc@umsl.edu)

Winners will be presented with their cash awards on Monday, January 15, 2007 at the annual MLK Holiday Observance.

First, second and third place winners could receive \$500, \$300, or \$200 based upon quality of essay.

For any additional help, the writing lab (409 SSB) is available to review your essay. Please contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5261 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 516-5695 for more information.

OUR OPINION

"With a trusty companion, it is not hard to get the sheep to do what you want."



# Let all students vote on student fee increase

Has the Student Government Association become a rubber-stamp organization for UM-St. Louis administrators?

After the meeting on Friday, the SGA should seriously ask itself that question, because it has clearly not acted in the best interest of the constituents it is charged to represent: the entire student body.

The proposal to increase student activity fees by 58 percent requires some serious consideration. Charging an additional \$2 per credit hour may not seem too extravagant, but added up, it represents an increase of \$450,000, which is hardly chump change.

Yet, the matter was given less attention than many requests for far less. Last year, the requests for increases in the athletics, health services, University Center, and Recreation/Facility fees which would total \$1.01 were discussed at great length. Whether it was 15 cents for the athletics fee or 24 cents for the Recreation/Facility, each was given plenty of time for discussion.

In addition, last year's SGA made it a habit to give time between discussion and voting on fee increases.

This year, representatives limited discussion to ten minutes and gave no time for representatives to bring their student group members a report of the discussion in the meeting and come back a meeting later for a vote.

But, perhaps the larger question is, why isn't this fee increase going to a student-wide referendum?

Orinthia Montague-McGhee, vice provost for student affairs, said at the meeting that one of the main goals of the increase was to guarantee the University Program Board an annual allotment of \$315,000.

Montague noted that SABC cut funding to UPB last year, from \$269,000 to \$241,000. She said UPB needs steady funding because it is one organization which holds major events for the whole campus.

True, UPB does a great job, and deserves to get more funding. SABC gets many more requests than it could possibly fund, so it certainly had a tough choice to make if it cut funding to UPB.

But it seems suspicious that administrators are essentially bypassing the SABC process in granting UPB a still

**The issue:** Administrators have proposed a \$2 per credit hour student activity fee increase (58 percent higher than the \$3.46 we currently pay) that would give UPB a 'guaranteed' \$315,000, give Student Life \$79,000 and provide \$50,000 for a legal clinic for students.

Administrators said student groups would be able to get some of the \$241,000 that UPB previously received from SABC.

**The problem:** This proposal was billed as a simple increase to the student activity fee, rather than a new fee, which is normally required for a fee dedicated to a particular organization.

This way, administrators don't have to get a vote of the whole student body—just the SGA.

Little discussion was allowed, and there was no time for reps to discuss the issue with their groups.

**What we suggest:** Chancellor George can put a stop to this and allow for a thorough examination of the issue, and request a campus-wide vote.

hefty increase in its portion of student activity funds.

Last year, UPB requested \$315,000 and got \$240,000. Now, administrators are pushing to get UPB that full \$315,000 and another \$79,000 in additional funding for the Office of Student Life.

It is surprising that this usurping of SABC is basically being green-lighted by SGA executives.

It should be noted that *The Current* recognizes that student organizations work hard to bring events and activities to the campus. We are, in fact, one of the student organizations who would be able to apply for additional funds under the new proposal (all of the money UPB used to get from SABC would be up for grabs by other student groups).

But, we have a major objection to the

way this fee has been pushed through by campus administrators and student government executives.

Since this is essentially earmarking the majority of funds to one organization, even through an informal "understanding," this fee increase should be brought to the campus student body as a whole.

Do students want additional programming on campus? Are they willing to collectively invest an additional \$450,000 for it?

These are questions that all students should have the opportunity to answer, in a referendum of the student body.

Montague-McGhee said they wanted to get the vote done as soon as possible so the changes could be approved by the UM Board of Curators and be implemented in the fall of 2007. She said a referendum would postpone the implementation to at least fall 2008.

Well, what's the hurry? Also, shouldn't the SGA be more concerned with getting the pulse of the whole student body, rather than worrying about administrators' timetables?

By coming before student organization representatives at the eleventh hour and pushing for an immediate vote, the administration and the SGA have effectively prevented any meaningful discussion of the issue.

So, where does this proposal go now?

It now goes to Chancellor Thomas George. If the Chancellor approves the fee increase, it goes to the Board of Curators.

So, Chancellor George, in the interests of students as a whole, please consider pushing this proposal back to the SGA, and insist on a referendum vote.

It may take time, and student affairs may have to wait for additional funding, but some issues should not be pushed through haphazardly. This issue deserves serious consideration, and since the SGA was unwilling to get organized and allow for a full discussion, don't make the rest of the student body pay for their mistake.

In the spirit of democracy, civic duty and stewardship of public funding, allow students some time for critical examination and debate about the issue, and a chance for all students to be able to be heard.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

## Changes for the better are everywhere at UMSL

Have you noticed the school's new mid-term alert systems for classes? If you have not, it is a system designed to warn and also help students who may be on the verge of failing.

Did you notice all of the extra student planners available for use? Some departments and other places on

campus still have them piled in corners and on desks waiting to be used.

By now you are thinking, "and, get to the point." Well, this is my point. These two upgrades in the UM-St. Louis operations are some of the many changes for the better that have taken place. However, if cynicism and pessimism are our guides for observation, we will overlook some of these as subtle changes.

More importantly, the changes previously noted were recommendations from students to faculty and administrators. In 2005-2006, three Student Success Workshops were implemented and took place on campus. These workshops were an opportunity for students, faculty and administrators to have open dialogue and make suggestions on what could be done to make life at UM-St. Louis better.

Yolanda Weathersby, of the University's Welcoming Center, helps coordinate and execute these workshops. She oversees the events and keeps track of ideas suggested at the meetings. She also keeps track of the new ideas that are implemented.

At past workshops, students felt that more planners were needed. The recommendations were made for



BY MYRON McNEILL  
Opinions Editor

more, and now, thanks to Student Affairs and Financial Aid, we have more planners.

Also, some of the students wanted more personal information about professors and possible mentoring programs. This year I think I've learned way too much about the greatness of my professors (just a joke)

and the events/groups that have made these incentives possible: Multicultural Relations, the Women's Mentoring Program and IS Mentoring programs.

As you can see, success does happen in the face of pessimism and cynicism. I know it is easy to bombard ourselves with criticisms of what goes wrong with life here at UM-St. Louis. However, let us not forget the fact that some things are taken care of. Many things are voiced and resolved. Many things are planned and executed. Whew!

This is the time where administrators, faculty, staff and students can pat themselves on the backs for jobs well done. Although, some of us may not have helped institute something significant, somewhere along the lines we have contributed something great to the University.

Sometimes we drive ourselves insane with what is wrong with our current circumstances or what does not take place.

However, let us not forsake the fact that sometimes we exemplify greatness when we execute things. And yes, there are some good things to see about the campus.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

## Changing political tide harkens back to the past

BY SARAH O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer

Without even knowing, Americans honor the soldier for civil liberties and non-conspirator Guy Fawkes.

By voting against the intimidation that radicals in office try to instill in our daily lives, we rebel inside of the system. Although Fawkes rebelled in a more extreme fashion, the idea is still the same.

By winning back the people's hand in the House and Senate, we are fighting back and reacquainting ourselves with the original ideals of democracy and the foundation of the United States.

"V for Vendetta," a major hit in the United States that portrays a world where the people are afraid of the government and lose their civil liberties. The character V in the movie takes on the persona of a guy similar to Guy Fawkes.

On Nov. 4, 1605, Fawkes attempted to explode Parliament with barrels of gunpowder. He was caught and tortured until he confessed to plotting against Great Britain.

V, like Fawkes, wished to bring the power back into the hands of the people, much like the people of America have taken the power back

into their own hands during the 2006 Senatorial elections.

This timing is not coincidental. Politically we have seen the loss of civil liberties with atrocities such as the Patriot Act, which restricts personal privacy as well as the freedom of the press. This week, rather than a Gunpowder Plot of 1605, the founding fathers have given us a chance at renewal by way of the Senatorial elections.

Although you may not agree, the Gunpowder Plot and Fawkes seem relevant also to September 11, especially since it was after this horrible incident when civil liberties began to disappear.

History repeated itself on September 11, 2001, and while this may sound like a conspiracy theory I believe that Fawkes was a set up for the fascist control that followed Nov. 5. This resulted in the loss of liberties in Great Britain for the next two decades.

Luckily, Americans would not fall victim to this deviation from the original ideals of democracy.

It did not take very long to realize the slippery slope from the Patriot Act, to Immigration laws, to racial profiling on which we had been treading and redirect ourselves towards once again bettering our great nation.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

As a forum for public expression on campus, *The Current* welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from students, faculty, staff members and others concerned with issues relevant to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. *The Current* reserves the right to deny letters.

Guest commentaries are typically longer (generally 400-600 words) on a specific topic of interest to readers. If you are interested in writing a guest commentary, please contact *The Current's* editor-in-chief.

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thecurrent@umsl.edu

## UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

What are you looking most forward to having a week off of school?



Segen Teame  
Junior  
Nursing



Bryan Smith  
Junior  
Business Management



Prasanna Lakshmi  
Graduate Student  
Biochemistry



Matthew Haneberry  
Sophomore  
International Business



Marissa Lightner  
Freshman  
Secondary Math  
Education

What do you think? Send your own response to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu). The person who submits the best response each week wins a free T-shirt.

"Hanging out with my family and eating a lot."

"Resting and catching up on assignments."

"For Thanksgiving I am going to Virginia to visit my brother."

"I'm looking forward to looking for a girlfriend all week."

"I'm looking forward to not having to do homework and eating lots of pumpkin pie."

# What will become of the campus observatory?

Lovers of astronomy fear new baseball field on South Campus will force UMSL's observatory to relocate

Every month, the Department of Physics and Astronomy host an Observatory Open House, where members of the public are invited to observe celestial sights through the UM-St. Louis telescope located on the South Campus. On the selected Saturday night, the public gets to gaze through the campus telescope to see the moon, planets and a selection of galaxies, nebulae and other heavenly objects.

When plans were announced to locate a ball field and relocate a driveway on the spot now occupied by the campus observatory, the question naturally came up: What will happen to the observatory and the Open House? The Observatory Open House was scheduled up through Oct. 28, 2006, but not after that. "Are they going away?" worried astronomy buffs

asked.

"The Observatory Open House is not going away," said Dr. Erika Gibb, Assistant Professor in Physics and Astronomy.

Dr. Gibb is one of two astronomy faculty members who oversee the Observatory Open House, although it is principally run by students. "I suppose you could call me an astrochemist," said Dr. Gibb about her own work, which involves star formation. "I study chemistry towards young stars and also comets, which are the most ancient and unprocessed bodies in the solar system. I look for organic molecules, things like hydrogen cyanide, which are the really early molecules you need to build up more complex molecules like proteins and amino acids." In this respect, she is looking for the basic molecules of life in the

stars.

"The Observatory will be moving; we are not going to get rid of it," said Dr. Gibb. "Plans for moving it are very preliminary right now but our first choice is for it to go up in front of the Fine Arts Building."

The spot offers several advantages for an observatory. The Fine Arts building is located on a hilltop, just east of North Campus, across Florissant Road. "It is up high, with very few obstructions," she said. It might also



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

have fewer lights, while being just as accessible to visitors.

The Observatory Open House has been popular this year. "Attendance has actually been pretty good this year. One night that I was there, there were at least sixty people. I just did a count at one point but we were open for two hours and people could have come and gone,"

"Contractors are looking into whether the building needs to be re-built or if they can just pick it up and move it to its new location," said Gibb. "The telescope will need to be re-aligned after its move," she said "Other than one telescope that is permanently mounted, everything else is pretty transportable."

When the move will take place is also still to be decided. "It will probably depend on what is going on at the current site. Depending on what is decided, the move will probably take place in the spring," said Dr. Gibb.

The reason the open house is not scheduled for the next several months is due to the weather, not future of the observatory at any location.

"We normally don't hold the open house in the winter," said Dr. Gibb. "There will be more open houses in

the spring. If the observatory is in the process of being moved, we have portable telescopes that we will set up"

"The observatory is unheated because heat waves would interfere with viewing. Essentially, you would be viewing the sky outside in the cold. We don't think many people would come to the open house in winter." So even though there are interesting things to see in the winter night sky, it is basically too cold to count on enough people to make it worthwhile.

You can read more about the observatory and the open houses at its page on the physic department Web site at <http://newton.umsl.edu/astro/>.

You can also read more about Dr. Gibb's work with the chemistry of new stars and ancient comets at her Web site at <http://newton.umsl.edu/gibbe/>.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

## Does stability exist in politics?

Do you like stability? Would you agree that stability is something we need, especially in politics and life? Well, as we all know, stability is not always present, although it is needed. Just like the next few paragraphs written, I will be as stable as America is.

Here we go. Oh, yeah ... don't mind if I jump from point to point. This is what stability is made of, but should not be.

The day after Election Day, President Bush addressed the nation, from the White House East Room. Here he discussed the clobbering he and his cronies suffered from the mid-term election results.

He also told us that he accepted Denise Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation. Hmmm ... this was probably the first time that he ever had to face the music of loss and accept it.

Let's just say that reality in America changed, as did his.

Oh, yeah. I forgot to mention that he gave us the usual "the people



By MARK MCHUGH

Staff Writer

have spoken" Bush slogan. Except this time it was a concession.

The next day, Democrat senatorial candidate James Webb won a squeaker in Virginia, netting a victory over GOP incumbent George Allen, with slightly over 7,000 votes out of 2.37 million ballots.

This gave the Democrats the majority in the Senate, 51-49. Bernie Sanders and Lieberman will want to send tiebreakers to Vice President Cheney in the next two years.

Amendment 2, the amendment about stem cell research, also won with a not-too-large margin of 45,352 votes out of more than 2 million cast. The minimum wage increase amendment passed, too.

So far, how is this for stability? Do you see a central point? Figures. Well, let's go for some more of this middle ground.

October was a strange month. The Cardinals won the World Series, even after they were told they didn't have a chance against the mighty Tigers.

The death toll in Iraq climbed. President Bush campaigned across America for his party. He even had the audacity to say when Americans vote for Democrats, "the terrorists win and America loses."

Meanwhile, here in Missouri, several political groups informed us of the hidden and sanctioned immoralities that lurked between the lines in Amendment 2.

See **POLITICS**, page 14

STAFF VIEWPOINT

## The results are in, the people have spoken, but will anything change?

By BRIAN E. OLIVER

Staff Writer

Election Day 2006 has come and gone. The end result is a dramatic power shift in both the U.S. House and Senate. Prior to the elections, America spoke with anger over the war in Iraq and political scandals driving voters. Now Democrats hold a majority in the House of Representatives and a 51 to 49 majority in the Senate.

But what exactly has changed? While one change is Donald Rumsfeld's resignation as Secretary of Defense (the day after the election). Leaders from both parties have stated that there will be a show of bipartisan

work on issues affecting America. However, I remain skeptical that this will happen, as do many political analysts who have also been following these issues.

The elections are over, but they were so brutal to the point that I doubt the partisan ugliness will end.

Remember the television ads? Jim Talent reminded Missouri voters that Claire McCaskill cheated on her taxes. Nancy Pelosi called George W. Bush "dangerous" and an "incompetent leader." Bush warned that "terrorists win and America loses" if the Democrats win on Election Day.

Those are tough words that cannot be taken back.

Obviously, too much hatred and

too much animosity remains in Washington to take it all back and start fresh. Yes, I would love to see Republicans and Democrats unite, with the shared goal being a better America. I would also love to see politicians in Washington put their partisan differences aside and really work together on issues.

I would love to see that. But I doubt it will happen because the bitterness is too strong and the wounds are too deep.

Although, we have new leadership on Capitol Hill with a new legislative agenda, I think little will change.

Change? Soon, the elections will be a lost memory, and it will be back to politics as usual.

LITTER TO THE EDITOR

Voting Machines

After reading the column "The science of electronic voter machines" by Ms. Marquis-Homeyer on the morning of the mid-term elections I became quite concerned. Her column made me question whether or not my vote

would indeed be counted. I found her statement that the new machines "do not produce a voter-verified paper ballot that can be saved for a recount" to be quite troubling. However, I still opted to use the new machine to cast my vote. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that while I was pushing the screen to choose the candidates there was a printout of every selection I made

right beside the screen. Perhaps Ms. Marquis-Homeyer should check her facts before she writes her next column. And perhaps the so-called "science columnist" should stick to real science next time.

Anthony Kuhn  
Sophomore  
Business Administration

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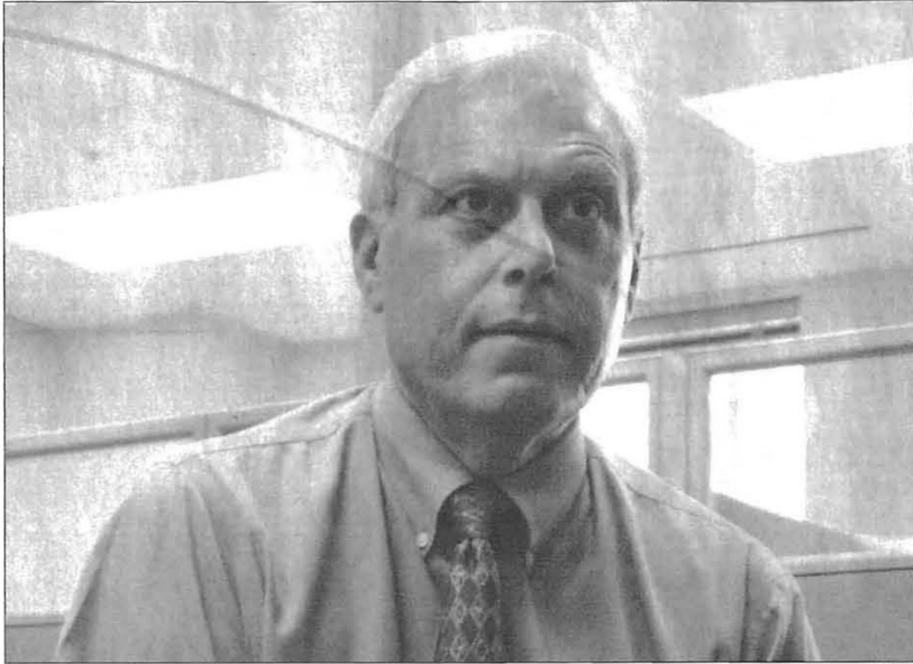
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FEATURES

# Student, professor run for local elections



Carrie Fasiela • Associate Photo Editor

Joe Passanise, a doctoral student in political science, ran in last week's election for the position of St. Louis county executive, against incumbent Charlie Dooley.

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

Design Editor

Like most Missouri registered voters, UM-St. Louis student Joe Passanise went to vote in last Tuesday's election. However, unlike most students, Passanise was voting for himself.

Passanise, a doctoral student studying political science at UM-St. Louis and adjunct teacher at St. Charles Community College, ran in last week's midterm elections for the position of St. Louis county executive.

While some students get involved in the elections by volunteering at polling places or helping post campaign fliers, Passanise took one step further and decided to run for one of the top St. Louis County government positions.

This year's run for county executive is not the first time Passanise ran on the ballot.

"I ran in the same contest in '98, but against [Buzz] Westfall," he said.

This year, he ran against incumbent

Charlie Dooley. Passanise received 31 percent of the vote, while Dooley got 67 percent.

Passanise received media attention from local news stations, particularly surrounding campaign money. According to The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Passanise raised \$14,758 to Dooley's \$1.35 million.

"It's evident that if I had the money, I would've been able to market myself better. If I had \$1 million, I knew what I was going to do with it," he said.

While watching the results on election night, he said, "The results of the absentee ballots showed I had 30 percent of the votes, but that was before any of the precincts reported. When about 50 to 70 percent of the precincts reported and nothing had changed, I knew [Dooley] had won the race."

However, UM-St. Louis students were not the only local candidates running. Michael Carter, senior lecturer in marketing and attorney in St. Charles County, also ran for a circuit judgeship in the Fourth District of St. Charles County.

This election marked Carter's first time running, though, last year, he tried to be a write-in candidate for a judicial position in a different division," he said.



Michael Carter

Ran for circuit judgeship in St. Charles

See ELECTIONS, page 11

## Students prepare for 'Explosions of Movement'



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Brendan Gartland, junior, theater; Arica Brown, junior, dance; and Courtney Gibson, senior, theater/dance; practice at the Touhill for their upcoming performance. 'Explosions of Movement' will be performed on Nov. 17 and 18 at 8pm at the Touhill.

TOP 10

### Reasons to not get a football team at UMSL



1. Considering we don't have a baseball field, where would a football team play?
2. We would lose.
3. We would always have to play Mizzou in a scrimmage game, and that would give them one more reason to think they are better.
4. The 12 soccer fans would be cut in half, therefore giving 6 fans for soccer, and 6 for football.
5. Is the Riverpup going to scare any other teams?
6. Did you know that Wash U has a team? Didn't think so.
7. The average age of students at UM-St. Louis is 27.3, that is way too old to play football.
8. We can't afford it.
9. If we get a team our unbeaten streak will come to an end.
10. Upon entry into the Big 12 conference, it would screw up the 12, and they would have to change it to the Big 13.

Send your top ten idea idea to us: [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu)

## 'Reconciliation' is heart-wrenching story of grief and forgiveness

BY TOBIAS KNOLL

Proofreader

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, a mother and one of the men responsible for the death of her daughter met in the Student Government Chamber in the Millennium Student Center to share their stories of reconciliation and individual growth.

"I wanted to share my story of growth and possibilities," said Linda Biehl. Biehl started the Amy Biehl Foundation with her husband Peter after the death of their daughter Amy. Amy was killed on August 25, 1993 just outside of Cape Town, South Africa by an angry mob of South Africans. The mob beat and killed her because she was white in response to their anger over white landowners and apartheid.

The death occurred in 1993, when South Africa was in turbulent times on the verge of ending apartheid. Amy was in South Africa on a Fulbright scholarship to help develop voter registration programs for South African blacks and women for the nation's first all-race elections that were approaching in April, 1994. She was 26 years old at the

time of her death. Ironically, Amy was attacked by the same people she was trying to help.

Linda Biehl appeared with Ntobeko Peni, one of four men charged with the stabbing of her daughter, to discuss how the negative incident has transformed their lives and produced a positive outcome. Biehl is an advocate for restorative justice and the discussion was titled "Reconciliation: A Choice You Can Live With." Thirty to 40 members of the UM-St. Louis community attended the discussion.

Biehl and Peni work together with the Amy Biehl Foundation to provide life-enhancing programs ranging from HIV/AIDS education to music and dance. Biehl and her now close friend Peni divide their time between the United States and South Africa running the foundation and presenting their story of reconciliation and growth over the last ten years.

The discussion opened with a short video montage of news stories about the incident and the political environment in South Africa at the time. The ending quote of the montage was "she came to fight racism, but died for color of skin." At the end of the video, Linda Biehl

commented that she was "in awe of how my daughter affected people and their life." She described her own personal acts of forgiveness and reconciliation as a "different way of looking at crime."

Biehl described the time after her daughter's death and explains how she came to forgive the killers and come to this reconciliation. She said her world was "turned upside-down" when she met one of the mothers of the killers. After seeing the violent world of South Africa at the time, she decided to work to help the community that had produced these killers.

Biehl talked about their transformation from understanding to forgiveness and reconciliation. She said they were "asked to come to South Africa and see what their daughter was involved in." When the family saw the political environment of South Africa, they came to understand the military stance the people and killers of her daughter had to take.

The Biehl family tried to "engage people but not put blame," said Linda. She said she was impressed at how the South Africans tried to deal with all of the atrocities and work to promote international healing. By dealing with the

issues this would lead to acts of reparation for the crime committed.

"When you forgive, when you open up, your physical being is going to do better," said Biehl.

Biehl said many ask if this led to closure. She responded that it was not so much about closure, but the "process opened the door for a personal reconciliation. [It] opened the door for different ways to deal with these sorts of events."

Ntobeko Peni was sentenced to 18 years in prison for participating in the killing of Amy Biehl. He served five years of his sentence but was released early through petitioning by the Biehl family and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission formed by Desmond Tutu. He has worked for the Amy Biehl Foundation for seven years.

"I did not exist as an individual," said Peni about his early military upbringing. "I was a person in a collective organization." He said he was raised purely as a soldier and had no individual feelings about himself: "It was easier to be a militant and have no remorse."

"The process is not just of healing," said Peni. "By provoking first and then healing, people are able to bridge over

the past. Through the process, as an individual, I was able to forgive myself and reconcile." Peni added that other people in violent situations can learn from his story.

"People need to find a way to pull out and remedy [their] situation," said Peni. We need to "see light, it's not all darkness." Peni also talked about the great changes that have happened in his life since meeting the Biehl family after his release from prison.

Biehl talked about solutions to some of the problems in South Africa and the world today. "We need to look at our curriculum, what we teach people at an early age. We need to work with kids at a very young age about handling conflict." An important goal for her and the Amy Biehl Foundation is the "role to create a peaceful society," said Biehl.

Every day more than 8,000 underprivileged South African children take part in Amy Biehl Foundation Trust programs, according to the Foundation Web site. Through the work of her mother and the transformation of the lives of two of the four men who played a role in her death, the work and legacy of Amy Biehl continues to touch many lives.

# Latino culture, traditions are on display at Visio's 'Accumulated Material'

By MABEL SUEN  
Features Editor

## 'Accumulated Material'

**What:** Art exhibit curated by Jesus Macarena-Avila, featuring works by Giselle A. Mercier, Elvia Rodriguez-Ochoa and Edra Soto.

**Where:** Gallery Visio (First floor of the MSC Near the Pilot House, Room 170)

**When:** Exhibit runs until Nov. 18. For this exhibit, the gallery has extended hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

gallery made such a collaborative effort with the school and community.

"Overall, I think it's an extremely strong show," she said.

When asked which installation piece in the exhibit was her favorite, Gallery Visio volunteer Katie Fernandez, junior, art history, said, "I can't really just pick one. There is a congruity between them. They all interact in the space and are inseparable. The ofrendas tie into everything that surrounds them."

Rodriguez-Ochoa's piece "Ofrenda to Carlos and Marianna (Drogitis) Cortez and Michael Piazza" reflected the friendship she shared with highly influential people in her life.

"These people constantly made efforts to reach out and to connect with people from a variety of backgrounds and be about art that can bring people together," Rodriguez-Ochoa said. "It's not about something that's verified and only for galleries, but something that enriches everyday life."

The ofrenda honored their memory with a traditional table setting that welcomed the honorees to the community. The table included place settings of Greek food and was surrounded by traditional colorful banners and paper cutouts. Cigarettes, salt and water, as well as decorative sugar

Art possesses the amazing capability to bring people together, and Gallery Visio's latest exhibition featuring the work of three Chicago-based artists did just this and more by involving people on campus and incorporating a week of events that stretched beyond the university into surrounding communities.

"Accumulated Material: Contemporary Altares and Ofrendas," curated by renowned international artist and lecturer Jesus Macarena-Avila, made its debut in Gallery Visio on Nov. 7.

Featuring three separate installation pieces by Giselle A. Mercier, Elvia Rodriguez-Ochoa and Edra Soto, the exhibit explores contemporary issues about the tradition of Day of the Dead as well as other facets of Latino traditions.

The week of pre- and post-exhibit events included educational lectures and presentations, workshops with cultural craft and food-making and the building of community ofrendas at Novak's Bar and Grill and Cherokee Street.

In the days leading up to the opening of the exhibit, several students and gallery volunteers worked closely behind the scenes with the artists. Anton Kozieja, senior, art education said he enjoyed learning from the artists firsthand and watching the whole process of the installation come together.

"I think the best time I remember is sitting on the floor eating lunch with all the artists," Kozieja said. "Giselle had a part of her installation dedicated to Cesar Chavez and noted something about how much he would have appreciated artists dining and conversing together that way."

Gallery Manager Pat Johnson, alumni, said this was the first time the



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Shaunee Price, Senior, Accounting, takes notes on a painting for a class during the opening of 'Accumulated Material: Contemporary Altares and Ofrendas' in Gallery Visio on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

skulls, flowers and candles occupied the table.

Rodriguez-Ochoa said in an ofrenda, items included are those that the person enjoyed in life.

"The essence of the items nourishes the spirit as it comes through," she said.

Mercier's piece, "The Grotto of Revelations," consisted of a cultural collection of treasures, trinkets and traditional items. The interactive wall of the grotto consisted of stenciled flags of "heroes," including contemporary cultural critics and controversial American social activists.

The sand and seashell lined "walls"

of the grotto surrounded an archway decorated intricately with small items including keys, nails and jewelry. The inside of the grotto accentuated a lavish collage of faces, faith and family.

"I grew up in a home that didn't have many resources, so my mother was always recycling things," Mercier said. "You wouldn't throw things away. You would think of a way to create another life for that object. In this piece, I wanted to talk about how you can make a statement with just recyclable materials."

"Documentation 2004: A Year in Review (Ornamentos)" by Edra Soto took a contemporary approach

inspired by Mexican folkloric art. By taking on the task of a "narrow-minded historian," Soto documented the year 2004 by tracing images from the Chicago Sun-Times onto sheets of metal in shades of gold, silver and bronze.

Gleaming interpretations of photojournalism captured everything from images of victory and defeat to items of politics and pop culture. The exhibit challenged viewers to identify and recognize popular images from the press.

"I really hope that people take the opportunity to come visit the work," Mercier said. "If they come in with

questions and leave with even more questions, I think that then we have done our job because the whole idea is to ignite discourse and also have people go back and research some of things they have seen here."

"Accumulated Material" will be on display at Gallery Visio in room 170 of the Millennium Student Center until Nov. 18.

The gallery's extended operating hours for this exhibit are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday by appointment. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, call (314)516-7922.

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Bryce Arndt  
Second-Year Student

UNIVERSAL The Current

Visit The Current at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) to find out how you can pick up a pass to see

**LET'S GO TO PRISON**

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 has been rated R (RESTRICTED - under 17 requires accompany parent or adult guardian) for language, sexual content, some violence and drug material.

welcome to the slammer

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

HUGH JACKMAN RACHEL WEISZ

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This film has been rated PG-13 by the MPAA for Some Intense Sequences of Violent Action, Some Sensuality and Language.

**OPENS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

# A&E

## A&E ON CAMPUS

- Nov. 13:** Monday Noon Series: Satiric printmaker Tom Huck will speak at 12:15 p.m. in room 229 of the J.C. Penney Conference Center.
- Nov. 14:** "Evening Of Jewish Cinema" at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill.
- Nov. 17-18:** UMSL Dance Concert 2006 at 8 p.m. at the Touhill.
- Nov. 18:** Gospel Christian Music Fest at 2 p.m. at the Touhill.
- Nov. 27:** Powers & Seabaugh Recital at 7 p.m. at the Touhill.
- Nov. 29:** East Winds Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill.
- Nov. 30:** Student Chamber Recital at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill.
- Now-Nov. 18:** "Elegant City" photo exhibit at Gallery 210.
- Now-Nov. 18:** "Vat" video exhibit at Gallery 210.
- Now-Nov. 30:** "Influences in Japanese Traditional Pottery" exhibit at the Mercantile Library.
- Now-Dec. 9:** "Cuba Journal" art exhibit at Gallery 210.
- Now-Jan. 5:** "Point-of-View: Think Tank" photo exhibit at the Public Policy Research Center.
- Now-June 30:** "History Uncorked: Two Centuries of Missouri Wine" history exhibit at the Mercantile Library.

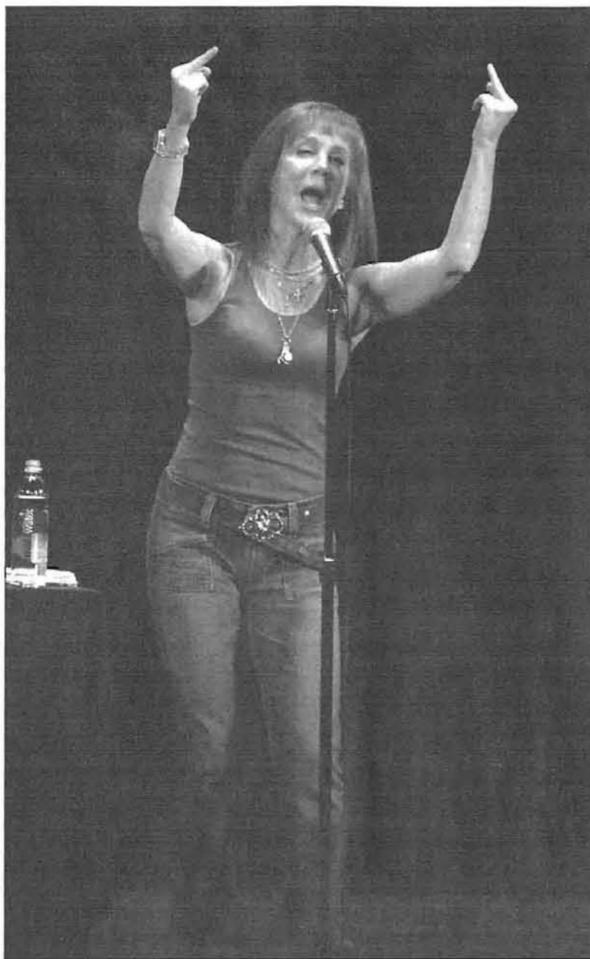
## TOP TUNES DOWNLOADS

1. My Love - Justin Timberlake featuring T.I.
2. Fergalicious - Fergie
3. Irreplaceable - Beyoncé
4. Smack That - Akon



5. Show Me What You Got - Jay-Z
6. It Ends Tonight - The All-American Rejects
7. How to Save a Life - The Fray
8. Lips of an Angel - Hinder
9. Chasing Cars - Snow Patrol
10. White & Nerdy - "Weird Al" Yankovic

## AT THE TOUHILL



Photos by: Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Comedian Kathy Griffin re-enacts her reaction to losing an Emmy during her performance on Monday, Nov. 6 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

# Kathy Griffin's D-list tour gets A-plus

Comedian ruthlessly pokes fun at Hollywood during her routine

BY SARAH O'BRIEN

Staff Writer

"Politically incorrect" and indifferent to herself, Kathy Griffin's "My Life on the D-List" comedy tour is the perfect dose for the stuffy attitudes of Hollywood and the entertainment industry, as well as just what the doctor ordered for audiences bored with gentle humor.

On Nov. 6, the Touhill Performing Arts Center hosted Kathy Griffin, legendary comedian from shows such as "Suddenly Susan" and "Celebrity Mole." Ok, maybe not so legendary, yet.

A Chicago native, comic Kathy Griffin started in improvisational troupes in order to build her résumé, and eventually landed roles on series such as "ER" and "Seinfeld."

Griffin's most recent television series, as well as the name of her new comedy tour, "My Life on the D-List," humorously describes Kathy's life as a so-called D-List celebrity.

However, in Griffin's case the D-List connotation, which is usually associated with soap opera stars and other less-than-luminaries, denotes her hardcore beat-down humor towards celebs like Star Jones and Mel Gibson, who was a gift to comedians after his last run-in with the authorities.

Griffin's fast paced act had the audience in the Anheuser Busch Auditorium wiping tears out of their eyes and stifling laughter as not to miss



Kathy Griffin came to the Touhill as part of her 'My Life on the D-List' tour, named so because she is called a D-List celebrity.

the next punch, or rather stab, towards helpless Hollywood.

Griffin, in the words of Howard Stern, "does the Lord's work" of comedy when she is ruthlessly outspoken towards the extreme diets, "questionable" drug uses and party habits of celebrities such as Lindsay Lohan and Whitney Houston.

Griffin uses her interactions with Hollywood's brightest for most of her

show, and the joke is always at their expense. With all of the humor based around such easy targets as Paris Hilton, Clay Aiken, and Lohan, the reason for her D-listing is obvious: everyone hates her.

All kidding aside, often Griffin would explain that she was actually friends with people like Aiken despite her aggressive act on Aiken waving from the glass closet about his sexuality.

During the performance, Griffin listed all the talk shows she has been banned from, which include "The View" (formerly) and "Jay Leno."

This comes as no surprise, considering her volatile behavior in social situations. One incident she described at the Emmys ended with her giving the finger to the entire crew of "Extreme Home Makeover" and shouting expletives at them.

Of course she had good reason, as she explained how her show "My Life on the D-List" had lost to "Extreme Makeover" in the Outstanding Reality Program category.

At her purest form of "doing the Lord's work," Griffin's comedy is turning the separate dimensions of Hollywood upside down with her crude humor, and her enjoyment in their displeasure.

She joked about the outstanding number of attorneys she needs in order to save her from the consequences of her words.

Sometimes, even she forgets what she said.

## AT THE TOUHILL

# Puccini's 'Madame Butterfly' delights Touhill audience

BY MYRON McNEILL

Opinions Editor

"Madame Butterfly" is an opera about customs, marriage, lies and deceit. It is based on an American play that premiered essentially in New York City in the early 1900's.

Famous actor Blanche Bates had the title role, and the playwright was the "Bishop of Broadway," Mr. David Belasco.

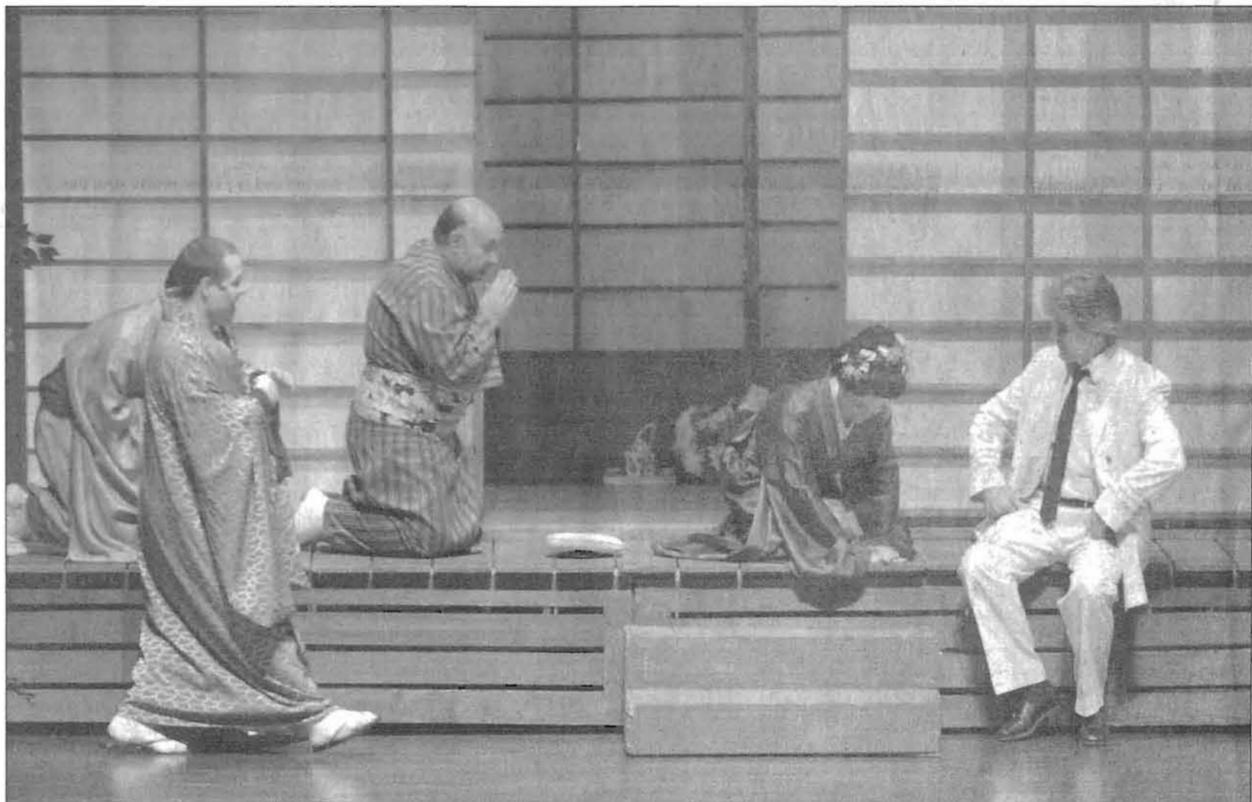
Puccini's opera "Madame Butterfly" was performed in front of a sold-out audience at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Saturday night, a show saturated with tones of emotions, anger and deceit.

The show is put on by Teatro Lirico d'Europa, a European opera touring company formed in 1988 by one of the co-founders Giorgio Lalov. Lalov is the stage director and general manager of the tour.

Scheduled to make 80 performances in the fall of 2006 and winter of 2007, the show was performed last Saturday at the Touhill.

The backdrop of the theater piece was contemporary Japan. The set consisted of a timber frame house with sliding doors and a walk up deck. Trees lined the house and the walkway to give it an aesthetic yet simple look.

Cio-Cio's wardrobe consisted of kimonos, sandals and several robes.



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

The opera "Madame Butterfly" written by Giacomo Puccini was performed on Saturday night at the Touhill.

See BUTTERFLY, page 12

## A&E ON CAMPUS

# Touhill hosts night of Sinatra without Frank

BY MYRON McNEILL

Opinions Editor

With Steve Lippia singing and the Jim Widner Big Band performing, it is possible to enjoy a night of Sinatra, without Frank Sinatra.

On Nov. 7 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, a nearly sold-out audience listened to big band classics and jazz music performed by the Widner band. They also listened to many hit songs of Sinatra performed by Steve Lippia.

At times, it felt as if Lippia was lip-syncing to Sinatra records live. Dressed in classical performance attire, a tuxedo and bow tie, he came to the stage to a full set of instrumentalists.

The Widner Band entertained the audience for about half an hour as they played a few songs from their upcoming album "Flying High."

Once Lippia entered the stage, he warmed up with two brief songs and went straight into his Sinatra act. He sang songs from Sinatra's extensive catalog like "I Can't Get Started," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "My Way" and "That's Life."

Lippia announced the actual composers of the songs before singing them throughout the night. He repeatedly reminded the audience that Sinatra sang most of these songs at The Sands in Las Vegas.

Lippia was not shy about letting the audience know that his favorite album of Sinatra's was "Sinatra at The Sands."

Throughout the night, the show was performed like a scene from the Big-Band era, where music is accompanied by humor and the personal testimony of the performer.

See SINATRA, page 14

## A&E ON CAMPUS

# 'Both Sides Political Film Fest' presented political documentaries from both parties

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Both sides of the political debate got to have their say in the pre-election "Both Sides Political Film Festival" which ran from Nov. 4 - 7 in the Gallery 210 auditorium.

"Both Sides Political Film Festival" was a unique idea to present political films that represented both sides of the public debate, back-to-back wherever possible.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the film fest began with documentary screenings of "Unconstitutional," about the 2000 election, followed by "Uncovered," about media coverage in the run-up to the Iraq War. Next were "Unprecedented," about the 2000 election, and "Faith in the White House," about George Bush's deep faith.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, the program

continued with "Fahrenheit 9/11," Michael Moore's 2004 satire about Bush's response to 9/11, followed by "Celsius 41.11," a response to Moore's film, and "Fahrenhype 9/11," another response to Moore's film. The day concluded with Michael Moore's award-winning "Bowling for Columbine," about guns and the United States.

The films featured on Monday, Nov. 6, included "Outfoxed," an expose about the Fox News network. This was followed by the pairing of "Going Up River," a pro-John Kerry film about his Vietnam War experiences, and "Stolen Honor," a "Swift Boat Veterans For Truth" anti-Kerry version of the same topic. Afterwards there was a screening of "Iraq for Sale," a look at war-profiteering in Iraq.

Also on Tuesday, Election Day, the "Both Sides Political Film Festival" took part in the documenting of the election process by participating in the "Election Transparency Project '06."

In this project, citizens were encouraged to video tape the events at the polls and share their videos online on YouTube. The "Both Sides Political Film Festival" streamed footage and showed Election Day coverage, along with the documentary screenings.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the featured films were the controversial, six-hour TV mini series "The Path to 9/11," followed by "Why We Fight," a documentary about how military spending drives policy. This film replaced the originally scheduled Al Gore film "Inconvenient Truth," which was unavailable.

The School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Fine Arts and Communication, and Gallery 210 sponsored the event.

"Both Sides Political Film Festival" offered an unmatched chance to see some of topical political films and, most importantly of all, a too-rare chance to see both sides of the debate in one film festival.

THEATRE REVIEW



Michael Siberry as King Arthur (center) and the ensemble of the National Tour of Monty Python's 'Spamalot.' The play is part of the Broadway Series at the Fabulous Fox Theatre.

## They ham a lot in 'Spamalot' but you still enjoy it

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Monty Python fans and Broadway fans will both find something to make them smile in "Spamalot," which is playing at the Fox Theater until Nov. 26.

Inspired by the movie "Monty Python's Holy Grail," "Spamalot" translates the film into a musical, in much the same way Mel Brooks transformed his movie "The Producers" into a Broadway musical.

For those living under rocks or such, Monty Python, or more properly "Monty Python's Flying Circus," was the British comedy troupe of the '60s and '70s who were noted for TV routines and movies that were both silly and brainy. Eric Idle, Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones and the lone American, animator Terry Gilliam made up the troupe.

### Monty Python's 'Spamalot'

**When:** Through Nov. 26

**Where:** The Fabulous Fox Theatre at 527 N. Grand Blvd

**Tickets:** Call Metro-Tix at 314-534-1111 or 1-800-293-5949.

One of their famous routines involved a song about spam, hence the name's pun on King Arthur's Camelot. Silly songs were always part of the Python's comedy, so a musical seems like a logical development.

Curiously, the spam song is not among those that former Python Eric Idle chose to include in the score for "Spamalot," which he co-wrote along with composer John DuPrez.

However, you can buy a souvenir can of spam in the lobby, if you wish, which might get you a sense of how the evening's silliness will go.

Directed by Mike Nichols,



David Turner (center) plays Sir Robin during the national tour of Monty Python's 'Spamalot,' which is playing at the Fox Theatre through Nov. 26.

"Spamalot" opened on Broadway before migrating Across the Pond to London, and it is a British-American blend, both in its humor and its cast.

We do get the Camelot song, complete with knights dancing on the table, and "Look On the Bright Side Of Life," an upbeat tune for the end of the world, but, alas, no "Lumberjack Song."

No matter, because "Spamalot" has lots of the hilarious comedy routines from "Holy Grail" such as the Knights Who Go "Ni," the taunting Frenchman, the killer rabbit, and muddy-spattered peasants debating economics, plus new silliness, such as the Finland routine that opens the show. Actually, it is surprising how

much of the movie's comic bits are included.

"Spamalot" has been a big hit on Broadway, maybe in part because it is not just for fans of Monty Python. Besides generally following "Holy Grail" while incorporating other Python bits, "Spamalot" is also a parody of Broadway musicals, poking gentle fun at the conventions of the genre.

At times, "Spamalot" strays from Broadway musical into Las Vegas show but it still entertains. The blend of Broadway and Python does not always completely work, with the more caustic and sly Python material sometimes not meshing with the more affectionate ribbing of

Broadway. Still, "Spamalot" offers enjoyment for both Python fans and fans of the Broadway musical.

This is a multi-talented cast that really delivers on entertainment. Most of the cast plays a variety of roles, just as the Pythons did.

However, the leads are played by Michael Siberry as King Arthur, Pia Glenn as the Lady of the Lake who is often attended by her Laker Girls, and Bradley Dean as Sir Dennis Galahad.

Siberry does fine as the singing, dancing Arthur, who is on stage through a large part of the play. Siberry and Dean are funny and good in their roles, but Glenn's comic singing and big voice nearly steal the show.

Other major roles are played by Tom Deckman, as the historian narrator and "Not Dead Fred" and Jeff Dumas as King Arthur's loyal servant Patsy. Christopher Gurr plays Sir Bedevere, Rick Holmes plays Lancelot, and David Turner is Brave Sir Robin, the not-so-brave, in addition to their other roles. All have a great comic touch and are wonderful in their signature songs, although I thought Dumas was especially good with his acrobatic dancing and spot-on comic timing.

One of the best routines is when Glenn did her diva turn playing the Lady of the Lake and sings a solo bemoaning her absence from the stage and threatening to call her agent. The song is almost a showstopper, showing both great vocal range and style and Glenn's terrific comic sense. She was clearly the audience favorite by the end of the evening, and was greeted by thunderous applause for her curtain call.

Some Python fans may be a tad disappointed that the evening is not pure Python, but the spoof on musicals offers a something for everyone aspect that is probably part of "Spamalot's" wide success. You will not leave without laughing if you go see "Spamalot."

ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## STL Film Fest continues showcasing new, latest talent in film making

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Last week kicked off the start of the annual St. Louis International Film Festival, which featured post-Halloween treats that film aficionados crave.

The festival offers more delectable films and special events through Nov. 19.

From Nov. 9 to Nov. 19, the St. Louis International Film Festival presents 10 days of the best of new international cinema, festival winners, documentaries, shorts, and indie films getting festival buzz.

The festival also offers a first look at new releases from renowned filmmakers, noted and award-winning documentaries, animated films, restored silent films and retrospectives.

The festival is packed with special events, parties, seminars for filmmakers, and the chance to meet directors and stars.

You can see one of three restored silent films that are part of the festival without even leaving campus.

"Evening of Jewish Cinema," scheduled for Nov. 14 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, offers a rare look back in time to Jewish life in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The restored silent film "Judith Simon" will be presented with live musical accompaniment of a score composed by Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UM-St. Louis.

The next silent movie screening, also with live music, is "Show People" a comedy starring Marion Davies, who was Williams Randolph Hearst's mistress. Hearst's attempts to mold her into a dramatic actress are the basis for much of "Citizen Kane" but "Show People" shows Davies' flare for comedy. The film will be screened at the St. Louis Art Museum on Nov. 15 at 8 p.m.

Big releases in the second half of the festival include "Summer Palace," a controversial metaphysical drama from China, and the Mongolian "Cave of the Yellow

Dog." Other worthy foreign language films are "Changing Times" and "Stolen Life."

Some films will return as Oscar season studios releases. Debuts include "The Aura," "Family Law," "Chronicles of an Escape," "Gray Matters," "Rescue Dawn," "Starter For Ten" and "Three Times."

If you are avoiding subtitles, in English you can see the Quay Brother's "Piano Tuner of Earthquakes" or you can see "Ten Canoes" in English and the Aboriginal language from Australian director Rolf De Heer. You might sample the prize-winning "Man Push Cart" about a lonely vendor in New York whose days as a pop singer in his native Pakistan are long forgotten.

Other films with good festival buzz or from renowned directors include "Lives of Others," "Citizen Dog," "Canvas" and "U-Carmen e-Khayelitsa." A local film you might want to catch is the parody "A (anonymous)" with the chilling short "Knife Girls."

Documentaries of note include "Maquilapolis," a film about a manufacturing town in Mexico near the U.S. border. "Ghosts of Cite Soleil" takes you into the underground world of a lawless slum in Haiti. "Always For Pleasure" takes a look at music in New Orleans, a city of musicians, and features some live music from jazz pianist Tom McDermott. There are also several programs of short films, always a good choice and a rarely seen treat.

Special events at the film festival include tributes to directors Albert Maysles and Les Blank.

The annual St. Louis International Film Festival is a presentation of Cinema St. Louis, which hosts a number of other film events throughout the year.

The whole schedule and list of films and events, along with descriptions, ticket prices, times and venues, is available at the Cinema St. Louis Web site at <http://cinemastlouis.org> by clicking on the St. Louis International Film Festival link.

CD REVIEW

## Sleepy Brown album makes sleepy debut

BY MYRON MCNEILL

Opinions Editor

Sleepy Brown is a sleek dresser. He is charismatic. He is easygoing and appears very gentlemanly. He is baldheaded (me too). All of these outside characteristics make for a modern superstar or an R&B crooner.

However, to be a soul singer and/or great artist, one needs a lot more.

Sleepy Brown's debut album "Mr. Brown" makes you sleepy, hence his name. Sounds harsh but it is reality.

The album feels very experimental-like. Some of the songs have good ideas. Others do not. Some of the songs sound "well." Others don't. What is sad is the songs that sound well (well, not good) are the songs with bad or mediocre concepts. And the songs that have okay concepts have horrible music.

This album is a musical experiment. Sleepy tries, but the CD falls short. Soul music gets confused with persona and not texture or feel for the music. For instance, his lead song "I'm Soul," a song that reminds one of Curtis Mayfield's "Superfly," is about how he can drive a Cadillac and treat a woman romantically. He performs using a Curtis Mayfield-like whisper, yet there is no soul in it. It feels contrived. In the hook he sings and exclaims "I'm Soul." Nonetheless, the feel isn't present and it doesn't translate.

"Margarita" is the next song,

which features Pharell and Big Boi. Guess what? Big names do not always mean good songs. Same here. Need I say more?

"One of Dem' Nights" is a good song. Why? He tries what every man tries while taking a shower. He tries to sing with a soprano like voice. I love it! It is the only part of the album that is entertaining. Sometimes I wish I could hit that Minnie Ripperton note in "Loving You," but I can not. And this song lets me know that I can sing soprano.

Finally, we have an ode to Curtis Mayfield. In "Till" he sings using vocals reminiscent of Mayfield. Once again, it does not translate. It sounds soulfully contrived. It is an attempt but it does not sound like Sleepy himself.

Overall, the album feels contrived and experimental. It does not feel like Soul from the stomach or experience. It does not reek of soul music: the style, presence, feel and aura that is synonymous with the '60s and '70s. The majority of the album is up tempo and I think he should have tried a slow jam or two.

If you want sleep, not soul, "Mr. Brown" is a good album to choose. I give it one star out of five. It is a sure-shot attempt. Soul is from the heart, not the surface.



Sleepy Brown "Mr. Brown"

★☆☆☆☆

CD REVIEW

## Traditional Celtic CD transcends time

BY MICHAEL BRANCH

Staff Writer

When listening to the locally-based Celtic music duo of Jessica Haines and Mark Kaiser, one is instantly swept away to a far off grassy knoll across the great Atlantic. On their first full-length album "So Here's To You," Kaiser and Haines play a mix of both Celtic and American folk music.

According to their Web site, [www.markkaisermusic.com](http://www.markkaisermusic.com), they choose songs they both enjoy performing; their favorites are "murder ballads, sea shanties, and songs that feature strong, dynamic women and men." Then they create an arrangement for the song they feel best brings out the range of emotions behind the meaning of the song. The outcome tends to be soothing one minute and then picks up into a bouncy jig-like

frenzy the next. This is stripped down music expertly mastered at Sound on Site Audio Studios right here in St. Louis to produce an intimately warm feeling. It is almost as if people are hearing the band live in the confines of a dimly lit pub.

The sparse arrangements of each track mainly feature guitar and voice, often backed by percussionist Scott Gardner on bodhrán and doumbek, a goblet shaped drum. Kaiser plays his guitar with a majestic touch on the softer numbers and rhythmic strumming on the harder songs. He is a very talented musician, which is fortunate when

considering the structures of each song are based off of his plucking.

Haines's voice is equally touching. Her alto vocals contain powerful dynamics that pull in the listener with their sheer might. Haines's father provides violin playing on two tracks showing off the obvious music talent that runs in her family. Other guest musicians include Don Grahler playing "Grahlerphonic" dobro (sadly this took me a second to realize the joke), Jerry Tumbow on fiddle and Don Beck on standing bass.

The stories told in sing-songy fashion on each track are fascinating in and of themselves. The bluegrass ruckus of "Caleb Meyer" tells the tale of a hermit who has an unhealthy addiction to whiskey. He later tries to rape the narrator, who smashes his own bottle over his head in fitting retaliation, turning him into a bloody mess before killing him which leads to

the refrain "Caleb Meyer your ghost is gone/ I wear them rattling chains/ But when I go to sleep at night/ Don't you call my name."

In the beautifully melodic "The Grey Selchi," Haines softly sings the confusing tale of a selchi, a mythical half man, half beast from the sea who it seems kills the narrator and her son. Other highlights include the traditional gospel folk tune "Poor Wayfaring Stranger," which features the fancy dobro pickin' of the aforementioned Grahler. In the laidback backwoods melody, Haines mournfully grieves "I'll drop this cross of self-denial/ And I'll go singin' to God."

The combo of Haines and Kaiser is tunefully spectacular. The two performers complement each other well and their love and dedication to Celtic music, as demonstrated on their latest release, is a nice escape from your everyday modern musical trends.



Jessica Haines and Mark Kaiser "So Here's To You"

★★★★☆

# SPORTS

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Lisa Brinker

Brinker was named an ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District Third Team selection for the 2006 volleyball season.

Brinker, a sophomore, played in all 29 matches and all 105 games on the season and led the team with 1,198 assists. She recorded 61 kills and had 16 service aces. She was third on the team with 284 digs.

Brinker is the first UMSL student-athlete to receive ESPN the Magazine academic honors this school year.

## UPCOMING GAMES

### Men's Basketball

Nov. 15  
at Missouri Southern  
7 p.m.

Nov. 21  
Harris Stowe  
7:30 p.m.

Nov. 24  
Central Bible College  
5 p.m.

Nov. 25  
Grand Valley St.  
5 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Nov. 17  
at Pittsburg State  
7:30 p.m.

Nov. 18  
at Southwest Baptist  
5:30 p.m.

Nov. 21  
McKendree  
5:30 p.m.

Nov. 25  
at Oakland City  
1:00 p.m.

## Q&A

# Women's basketball coach Lee Buchanan talks about his roots

STORY BY LAGUAN FUSE • SPORTS EDITOR

**The Current:** When did you start coaching?

**Buchanan:** I actually started coaching when I was 15 years old. I was in my sophomore year of high school and I started coaching little league baseball during the summer.

I just wanted to try it and I really liked it. I coached little league baseball for seven years, all of the way up until I was in college.

When I was in college, I even coached soccer for 10 to 12-year-olds. Then when I got out of college, I knew I wanted to coach at the high school level.

I became an assistant boy's basketball coach and I was also named the head track coach for boys and girls at a small high school in Kentucky. That was the first opportunity that I had to work with female athletes.

The next school year the girl's basketball coach asked me if I wanted to come over and help him.

At that time it was actually more

money to go help with the women so I actually switched. In my second year as a teacher, I was assistant girl's basketball coach and once again I was the head track coach. That's kinda where my coaching background started.

In 1985 I had a chance to leave the high school ranks and go to the collegiate ranks as an assistant women's basketball coach. That's what I did I went to Brescia College.

I was the assistant women's basketball coach from 1985 to 1986. At the end of that year, the head coach left and I took over program.

So in August of 1986 I became a college head basketball coach at the age of 25. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

**The Current:** How has your coaching style change changed over the years?

**Buchanan:** The biggest difference when I became a head college coach in '85, of course I thought I knew everything about the game. It was my way or



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Women's Coach Lee Buchanan gives the Riverwomen a pep talk during a time out at the basketball game against St. Louis University on Nov. 3.

the highway, I was always putting those teams on the line to run.

We make a mistake and we run and I was very hard on them. After two years of doing that and not being very successful, I decided to change my philosophy a little bit and try to work more on the caring aspect of it. If the players care about one another, care about the coaching staff, care about what we're going to do then they would work hard-

er. That's what I found coaching females, that care factor, that nurturing factor. They want to please. So when I realized that, I used that kind of psychology to make us a better basketball program.

So nowadays I'm still hard on my players, but we talk a lot more about team and caring. And really my basketball team here at UMSL is an extension of my own family. We are a very close

knit group. We care about one another. We care about the players because they are people not because they can shoot a jump shot.

**The Current:** Describe your coaching philosophy.

**Buchanan:** There's a tremendous amount of passion that goes into my style.

See BUCHANAN page 12



## Rivermen hockey team rolls into new season

Jason Shields scores on a slap shot against Truman State on Saturday during the opening weekend of the season. The Rivermen placed second last year in the Collegiate Roller Hockey National Championship tournament.

Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

## Exhibition games give glimpse of upcoming GLVC season

BY LAGUAN FUSE

Staff Writer

Exhibition games are used by coaches to get a better feel for the team in a real game environment without it counting against the team's record. This year, two teams from the Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference had the opportunity to examine their play against a Division I team.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis and Quincy University both played exhibition games against St. Louis University. UM-St. Louis played SLU on Nov. 3 and SLU won the game 84-50. Quincy and SLU played against each other on November 11 in SLU's home opener. SLU defeated Quincy 79-55.

Due to NCAA scheduling, the game was an exhibition game for D-II Quincy, but a regular season game for D-I SLU. The loss did not count for the Hawks as their record remains 0-0, but the Billikens start the season 1-0.

Neither UM-St. Louis nor Quincy were able to defeat SLU in their respective exhibition games, but each team has had the chance to see how they match up against a D-I school and apply that to conference play.

Quincy has been victorious over UM-St. Louis in seven out of the last eight games. UM-St. Louis' last victory against Quincy was on Dec. 4, 2004.

The last time UM-St. Louis and Quincy faced off was Feb. 11, 2006 and

the Hawks were victorious in the game 75-68.

The Rivermen have four players on the current roster who played against Quincy last year, Troy Slaten, David Ward, Nathan Whittaker and Aaron Jackson.

Ward scored 16 points in last season's game against Quincy and grabbed seven rebounds. Ward was perfect from the free throw line shooting 8-8.

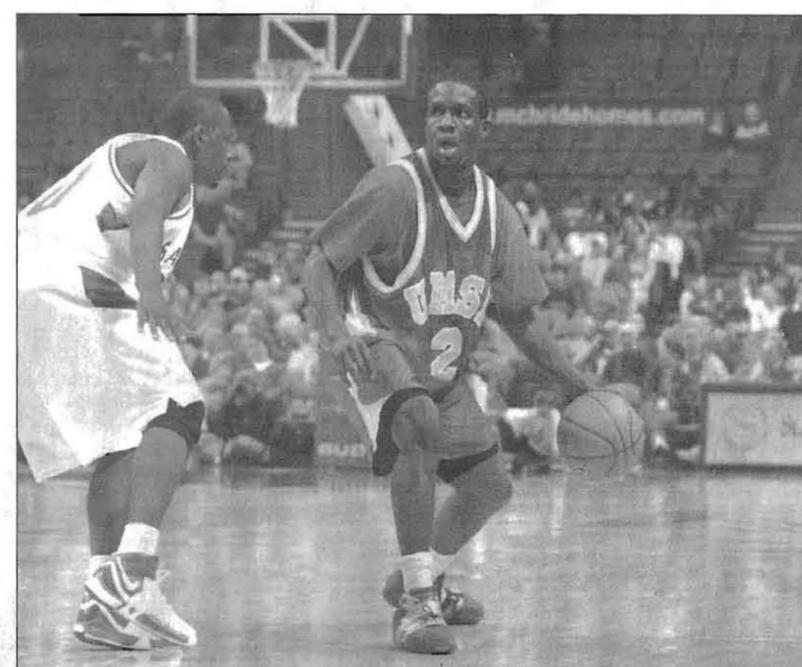
Against SLU, Ward scored 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds. He also had the only block and the only steal for the Rivermen in the game.

Slaten scored 10 points in last season's game against Quincy and had no rebounds. Against SLU Slaten was cold from the field shooting 2-12 and 1-7 from behind the arc.

Andre Muse, guard for the Hawks, scored 17 points and grabbed five rebounds in last season's game against UM-St. Louis. Against SLU Muse scored 20 points but was held to two rebounds.

In UM-St. Louis' game against SLU, the Rivermen were able to hold their ground and rebound well against the Division I Billikens. At the end of the game, SLU only had two more rebounds than UM-St. Louis.

Quincy, on the other hand, could not keep pace with SLU in rebounding. SLU finished the game with 44 rebounds while holding Quincy to 31. The Quincy versus SLU game resembled Quincy's



Stanley Boateng, guard for the Rivermen, drives to the basket during the Nov. 3 game versus the St. Louis University Billikens.

Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

game last year against UM-St. Louis because each team dominated on defensive rebounds.

On Saturday night, three of Quincy's 31 rebounds were offensive and only seven of SLU's 44 rebounds came from

the offensive end.

When UM-St. Louis and Quincy faced off last season, 26 of UM-St. Louis' 32 rebounds were defensive and 29 of Quincy's 38 rebounds came off of missed UM-St. Louis shots.

UM-St. Louis is ranked fifth in the GLVC preseason poll and Quincy is ranked fourth. The two teams will not meet in action until January and only time will tell if the D-I exhibition games were a prelude of things to come.

# Catching up with soccer's Van Dillen

By LAGUAN FUSE  
Staff Writer

Ryan Van Dillen, a senior defender for the Rivermen just closed out his last season on the UM-St. Louis soccer team. *The Current* spoke to Van Dillen about his years at UM-St. Louis and what the future holds for him.

**The Current:** What is your most memorable moment as a Riverman?

**Van Dillen:** My most memorable moment would probably be when we were on the bus at St. Joe' and we found out that we made the tournament. That was just a relief of knowing that all of the hard work that we have done as a team was finally paying off. It was one of our goals, our main goal, and we reached it.

**The Current:** Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

**Van Dillen:** Ten years from now I see myself working for Bass Pro Shop, the corporate office, having a family, the simple things, the American Dream I guess.

**The Current:** Where will you soccer career take you?

**Van Dillen:** Soccer now, as far as playing at the next level, the only thing I have to look forward to is the Premiere League out at Anheuser Busch soccer park. It's were college players go either while they're playing or after they've played. It's a big deal; there are a lot of good teams out there. I probably won't go anywhere beyond that.



Ryan Van Dillen

brought an experience to the team just to show the younger guys how it's supposed to be. How much hard work you're supposed to put in to get to the top at the end of the season.

**The Current:** Where do you see in the future for the men's soccer team?

**Van Dillen:** I think next year they have a chance to be one of the top five teams in the conference. We were young this year, but I think through playing time and experience we have gained the knowledge and experience they need to take their game to the next level. I think they will be a very competitive team. The conference tournament is very reachable every year.

**The Current:** You were injured for the last few games of the season, but you continued to play. What injuries did you suffer during the season?

**Van Dillen:** I had a concussion against Bellarmine and that lasted for two weeks. After that I pulled my groin against Rockhurst and that lasted till the end of the season. Against Rolla, I broke two of my ribs. All of the injuries just make it harder for somebody to play at the top level. You have to go beyond the pain and stay focused. I thought I did that pretty well.

**The Current:** Choose one word to describe you playing time here at UMSL.

**Van Dillen:** Satisfying. I pick satisfying because of the year I had to wait around and then the year we had this year, a successful year and making the tournament and having a winning record. It was just satisfying to me to go out with a winning record.

**The Current:** Do you ever see yourself coaching?

**Van Dillen:** Yeah I can see myself coaching. I don't know if I'd be able to take on a head coach job because it wouldn't exactly be my career, but I could see myself being an assistant one day because I would still like to be involved in the game. I still want to have that competitiveness.

**The Current:** What changes did you have to go through when switching from a community college to Quincy then to UMSL?

**Van Dillen:** I think it was more of an advantage more than a disadvantage. I played a lot of good teams. I've had the experience; I've been to a national tournament, conference tournament with Quincy. I think being where I've come from has just, for this year,

## ELECTIONS, from page 6

Carter received 43 percent of the vote compared to his opponent, Rick Zerr, who won with 57 percent.

While he did not get the majority of votes, Carter said he was happy with the results. "I took 43 percent of the vote, which means what I did make an impact," he said.

During the St. Charles judicial primaries in August, Carter said the county was split in that about 60 percent were Republicans and 40 percent were Democrats.

"I knew it was going to be an uphill battle," he said. When the election results came in last Tuesday evening, he said, "In my opinion, the first numbers are representative throughout the night. I pretty much knew it was over

by 8:15 or 8:30." Carter decided to run for judge because he "was interested in the judiciary process and how it relates to the community," he said. "I just wanted to create a higher respect for the law and a high level of awareness of judges. I don't think most people can identify a judge by name," he said.

Carter also agreed that money could be a major decision-maker in running for office. "When you start campaigning, you spend a lot more money than you hope. You hope to spend about \$10,000 and you end up spending \$25,000 to \$35,000," Carter said.

Besides money, "you need time and energy as you do with any campaign," Passanise said. In civic leadership

groups, where people can freely and openly discuss political issues from immigration to reassessment of real estate properties, Passanise reminded others interested in those issues that "someone needs to take a leadership role."

Carter said he encourages others to run for election but advised people interested in running for elections to "not be overly confident with your own marketing ability." Carter said he, himself, will "try, try again."

While both UM-St. Louis candidates lost in their respective elections, Reps. Clint Zweifel and Jim Avery, both graduates of UM-St. Louis, retained their seats in the Missouri House of Representatives.

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SINCE 1966 STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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**ON THE NEWS**

**THE CURRENT**

**NEWS**

# See your name in print.

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**BUTTERFLY, from page 8**

Meanwhile Mr. B.F Pinkerton, the deceitful bigamist, and his consul wore the attire of Americans, which were nice two-piece suits with fedoras to accompany the look.

From the beginning, we see and hear the mixed emotions of each character as the songs, musical accompaniment from the orchestra, which was located directly underneath the stage, and words. Subtitles in English appeared above the stage on a small screen, so we could follow the emotional flow from highs and lows repetitiously. The orchestra was conducted by Krassimir Topolov.

Mr. B.F Pinkerton, who was played by tenor Orlin Goranov, used his low tones of sound to confuse and convince Cio-Cio to marry him. Cio-Cio was played by soprano Victoria Litherland, used her voice to grasp any kind of certainty she can from her future husband.

The songs, lighting, characters, plot and musical accompaniment intermingle to keep the audience on the edge of their seats waiting to know what will happen to poor Cio-Cio San.

After the first act is finished, we see several wardrobe changes to depict the passing of time. Cio-Cio has officially been married for three years and is living with her child Sorrow, played by

Christian George. Mr. Pinkerton has been away and everyone is awaiting his return.

Emotions change as Mrs. Pinkerton anticipates his arrival and the possibility of deceit. Proclaiming death if she does not see her husband, she winds up getting just that. This is where Cio-Cio commands the stage and reveals the many emotions of a woman who is torn between truth and lies, reality and fantasy, love and death.

She sings about living in disgrace or ending the pain with death. She also sings in hopes of Mr. Pinkerton's return and how she cannot wait to see her husband. Her deliveries of these dichotomy-like emotions are extreme, yet accurate. They truly conveyed the feelings of a person torn between optimism and pessimism.

She eventually commits suicide upon the return of her husband, who has married back in the Americas. Mrs. Pinkerton, who is played by Liubov Metodieva, accompanies B.F Pinkerton back to his home in Japan. All of Cio-Cio's fears come to the surface and she kills herself after running everyone off so she can be alone.

The opera ended shortly after 10:30 p.m. to standing ovations as the audience was moved by this stellar performance.



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Goro shares a drink with Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton during the "Madame Butterfly" opera at the Touhill.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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**BUCHANAN, from page 10**

There's a certain style of intensity that I bring to the game. As far as the actual X'ing and O'ing, we like to play a man-to-man defense but we will also play some trapping zones.

We like to play up-tempo and push the basketball and play transition basketball. As much as anything we have a very team-orientated philosophy in the fact that we try not to build our program around one or two players. We're about playing a lot of players night in and night out. Every player has to bring their A-game every night for us to be successful.

The Current: In your own words, describe the role of a student-athlete.

Buchanan: Any college athlete, whether they are at UMSL or anywhere else in the country, they have some level of competitive spirit. They want to compete. But because

of that competitive spirit, they want to be competitive in other things, just not athletics. They also want to be competitive grade wise. They want to try to work hard in the classroom, they want to do well. So the sport then, it becomes a vehicle for young female athletes to help get a college education. Again that goes back to their competitive spirit. They want to get a college education so they can better themselves and better their family someday. Their responsibilities are pretty simple as far as they have to work extremely hard in the classroom, work extremely hard on the field of competition whether it is basketball or soccer or golf or tennis or whatever it may be. Because it is a very competitive athletic world. And if they don't work hard athletically then they are going to get passed over.

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- ★ Two small 1-topping pizzas
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**Rockwood School District Adventure Club has the right job for you!**

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**St. Louis Universities Focus Groups**

Student Loans Are The Topic... Must Have Some!

Participate in a Focus Group Nov. 16th in St. Louis

Focus Group #1: '07 Graduates @ 5:30 pm or Focus Group #2: '06 Graduates @ 7:30pm

**What you get: \$50 and free food and drinks!**

**What you have to do: Spend an hour of your time talking with students from area schools including your own.**

To Sign Up Contact Eric: (515) 471-1302 Or [eben@customer-ease.com](mailto:eben@customer-ease.com)

**Islamic Awareness Week!**

**JOIN MSA FOR ISLAMIC AWARENESS WEEK!**

MONDAY NOVEMBER 13: MOVIE NIGHT  
7:00 P.M. IN THE PILOT HOUSE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14: LECTURE ON ISLAM  
3:00 P.M. IN THE PILOT HOUSE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15: CHARITY DINNER  
7:00 P.M. IN THE JC PENNY SUMMIT ROOM

TICKETS ARE \$5

**CURRENT CARTOONISTS**

**NUTN BUT THE FUNK** By Rudy Scoggins

**"Queue and A"**

I'm standing here at a local Best Buy where numerous consumers are waiting in line for a PlayStation 3, which launches almost a WEEK away!

Excuse me sir, are you one of the many individuals looking to scam other would-be shoppers for personal gain?

Interestingly, it seems the majority of the buyers simply plan to resell it on auction sites for massive prices of more than \$2000!

I should say not!! Only a monster would take a retail-priced unit away from a deserving person, just for something as measly as a few thousand bucks!

Sir, your devotion is admirab-...

...And after I get done here, I'm going to donate all my remaining cash to the needy!

(Let's...let's try the store across town...)

Who needs money, anyway? Not me, that's for sure! I'm too busy CARING!

Hold on, I have a call!

...Oh Mr. President, no need to thank me! It was my DUTY to save all those children with cancer!!

Rudy Scoggins 11/13/06

"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

**SCONEBOROUGH** by E. Gearhart

HEY, MAN, WE PEMP CARS NOT ROBOTS.

... THAT'S IT?

THEY'RE NOT AIRING THIS, ARE THEY? PLEASE TELL ME THEY'RE NOT AIRING THIS.

I THINK THEY ARE.

... Noooo

IN RETROSPECT, IT WASN'T ONE OF MY BETTER IDEAS.

I'LL SAY, WHO WRITES THIS CRAP?

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart.

**SYNDICATED CARTOONS**

**KEEP UP!**

2008

OBAMA

KOERBA  
ORLANDO WORLD HERALD

**LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, EVERYONE... AT LEAST WE WON'T BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO GET BIRD FLU!...**

**THAT DOES IT... LET'S KILL HIM NOW!...**

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH BRADKINS

**Snapshots** at jasonlove.com

2 3 4 5  
7"  
6"  
5"  
4"

"No, it's not number four either, but he does look like my ex-husband. Yeah, let's go with number four."

© Love A348

"No, it's not number four either, but he does look like my ex-husband. Yeah, let's go with number four."



**MAXIMO PREDICTS**

Horoscopes for Nov. 13 - Nov. 26

**Aries**  
March 21-April 19

You will wish you had studied more for your classes. Fall break is here and you have not finished that paper yet. I foresee that you will not even finish the class!! Eat your turkey and remember, what's another couple years at UMSL?

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20

Why is it, that every time I look at you, I hate you more and more? Have an awful day.

**Gemini**  
May 21-June 21

Do you really think the people that fall into the Sarlacc Pit get digested for one thousand years? How do they stay alive? Who cares, Star Wars is better than you, yeah.

**Cancer**  
June 22-July 22

You might be a dork if you like Michael Jackson, Prince and RED Speedwagon. I am in so much denial.

**Leo**  
July 23-Aug. 22

Today will be glorious for you. Everything goes right, you get an A on that quiz, you meet the love of your life and you become beautiful.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you like greenbean casserole, you are the bomb! Don't let anyone tell you different. There is nothing like a hot spoon full of that yummy goodness plopped on your plate.

**Libra**  
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

I no longer despise you filthy Librans. In fact you are now my favorite zodiac sign. Let's Go Blues, Let's Go Blues!!

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way through the mall, the frigg'in' grocery, even your mom's house! No matter how hard you try, sick holiday music fills the air.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

What's the deal with a whole week off from school? Doesn't anybody realize that it only hurts our desire to get things done? Well, I, Maximo, challenge you to not let this break get you down. Oh, who am I kidding?

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Do you really believe the pilgrims ate with the indians?

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Your mom said gobble gobble last night.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - March 20

When can we talk? It has been so long since we just sat down and told each other how we feel. I miss you, Fluffy.

**DISCLAIMER:**  
Maximo Predicts is not gonna take it, no he ain't gonna take it, he ain't gonna take it anymore. Maximo is so happy that there is a week off to do absolutely nothing. No more trying to wear the right clothes, or put on the right makeup. The only thing to do is study, eat, watch TV, hang out, go see some movies. Have a great week off and please stay away from Auntie La-Las yams, they are not what they used to be.

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Half a 1960s quartet  
6 Skilled player  
9 Put away  
12 Insignificant one  
13 Oft-tattooed word  
14 Illumination measure  
15 Avian penthouse  
16 Superior in quality  
18 "- in the Wind"  
20 Eastern potatoe  
21 Greek vowel  
23 Fairway start  
24 Take as one's own  
25 Unaccompanied  
27 Step  
29 Man with all the answers?  
31 Penguin's adversary  
35 "If You Knew -"  
37 A few  
38 Michaelmas daisy  
41 Chart  
43 Catch red-handed  
44 "- there?"  
45 Peanut butter, e.g.  
47 Realty sign  
49 In any way whatsoever

**DOWN**

1 Harper Valley  
2 Shock partner  
3 Sheet material  
4 Carreras rendition  
5 Exhausted  
6 Magic charm  
7 Manage somehow  
8 North Sea feeder  
9 Crockett's last stand  
10 Tiny Tim's flower  
11 Work the muscles  
17 West Point newbies  
19 Classroom array  
21 "Guinness Book" suffix  
22 Anderson's "High -"  
24 Khan title  
26 Haunt one's mind  
28 As cross as -  
30 One side of the Ural Mts.  
32 Carter's veep  
33 "I - Camera"  
34 Kans. neighbor  
36 Block  
38 Terrible  
39 Coastline  
40 "Flying Down -"  
42 U.N. goal  
45 Thick chunk  
46 Fermi's unit  
48 "Eureka!"  
50 Actor Cariou  
51 Hallucinogen letters

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

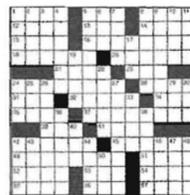
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Find the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and Sudoku at

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# Arianna String Quartet performs Beethoven's string quartets

This show marks first of six concerts in upcoming series

By MICHAEL BRANCH  
Staff Writer

Without a doubt, one of the most prolific composers in the vast history of music is Ludwig van Beethoven. Although the German musician was most famous for his masterpieces on piano, the music he composed for other instruments is also quite impressive; including the string quartets he wrote throughout his life.

Now for the first time in any concert hall in St. Louis, UM - St. Louis' own artists-in-residence, the Arianna String Quartet, will play the complete string quartets of Beethoven in a series of concerts.

On Nov. 4, the Arianna String Quartet entered the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center to much applause as blue lights shining in from outside were dimmed through a sheer cloth stretched over the windows to set a picturesque comforting scene.

After the warm reception died down, the band took their respective seats and began playing the first piece of their whole elaborate feat, "Quartet in E-Flat Major, Op. 127." It was completed in 1824 during the last few years of Beethoven's manic life which is reflected in the many

emotional ups and downs presented in this intense piece. As soon as the song begins the quartet begin shifting back and forth together in their seats; arching their bodies to the sounds of the strings in unison in a display of the shared energy of the band.

Noticeable right away were the drawn out slides on the cello adding a mourning undertone to the spirited high notes of the violins.

The combined effect of the two accomplished a sound of pure beauty. The snaky fingering of viola player Robert Meyer put a sorrowful fragility into the piece. The quartet effortlessly changed tempos throughout the song going from fast and carefree one moment to slow and reflective the next.

After a brief intermission the band took the stage once more and began "Quartet in F Major, Op. 59, No. 1 'Rasumovsky'"; a piece written for Count Rasumovsky, the Russian ambassador to Vienna during the early 1800's.

The dramatic change in volume was one of the key focuses of this song as the players would lightly tap their strings with the bow to give the music a soft tenderness only to explode into a monstrous eruption a few seconds later.

Cellist Kurt Baldwin stands out in the last part of the piece as he calmly plucks his instrument before launching into high distressed notes.

Saturday's performance was the first in a series planned for UM-St. Louis' own artists-in-residence, the Arianna String Quartet, in which they will play the complete string quartets of Beethoven.

The group themselves are very excited about this chance to perform these classics in whole as violinist John McGrosso stated after the first concert in the series, "We've been together for fifteen years...these are the concerts we were formed to play."

"Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets" will be presented at the Touhill in six programs of two performances each.

The extensive lineup of shows, which began last week with Saturday's concert, will proceed all through next year with the final date set at Wednesday, December 12, 2007, with an average of three works per show.

The Arianna String Quartet is a group of true gentlemen and professional players of the highest caliber.

Throughout their performances they feed off of each other's energy as only a group that has been together

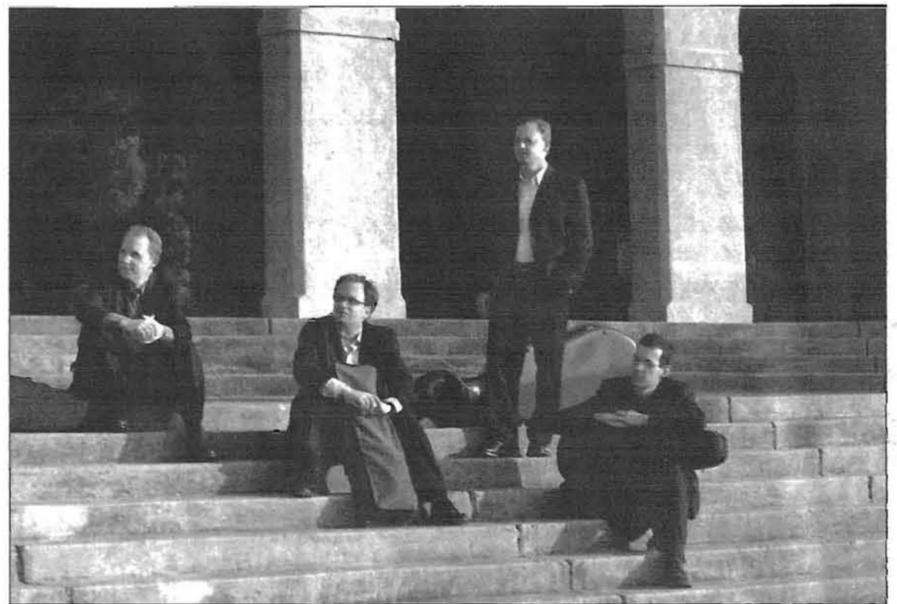


Photo Courtesy <http://www.ariannaquartet.com>

The members of the Arianna String Quartet, violinist John McGrosso, violinist David Gillham, cellist Kurt Baldwin and violinist Robert Meyer, are to perform a series of concerts featuring the string quartets of Beethoven at the Touhill.

er so long could keeping their shows captivating to the ears (and eyes).

The respect they have for Beethoven is obvious and if last Saturday's show at the Touhill was

any indication the Beethoven string quartet series will be a huge success.

It is highly recommended that anyone who considers himself a fan of Beethoven or classical and roman-

tic music in general come out and see this wonderful run of shows. For more information on the Arianna String Quartet, visit their website at <http://www.ariannaquartet.com>.

## SGA CONCERNS, from page 1

At last Friday's SGA meeting, Gross told Shanna Carpenter, SGA comptroller, that she had asked about how SABC members are chosen at the last two meetings.

Carpenter said the selection process is a combination of an application form, an interview process that is conducted by herself and other members of the SGA, but that ultimately she coordinates the selection.

Koehlig said he feels that having a certain few selecting the committee members is "perhaps" the best way for it to get done. He said if the Assembly decides, students would just get their friends to sit on SABC.

"A group of Assembly members could sway the decisions a lot if you get all of them on one side," he said.

Gross said the only thing she initially was concerned about was graduate students consideration and representation in the process.

"The budget committee has objectives for clubs and organizations to meet," she said. "It's not fair to have the same requirements for graduate students as undergraduates."

Koehlig said Carpenter was a graduate student and his goal was to have a graduate student representative as an ex-officio member of SGA. This would give graduate students a voice, but the ex-officio member would not be able to vote.

"It's all tentative, it's not set in stone, so [the goal] could change," he said.

Gross also said she thought SGA should increase their efforts in "being open about objectives and responsibilities" and how that relates to the entire population of the student body.

At the SGA meeting held last Friday discussions were limited to 10 minutes, and Gross said this had her concerned for all students on campus. "Someone limiting the discussion for a \$2 credit fee does not espouse the democratic values of this chamber," she said.

Koehlig said the motion to limit discussions, a motion that was made by David Dodd, St. Louis executive board member for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, "overwhelmingly passed."

He said someone could have made a motion to end the time limit if they wanted to discuss any issue brought up at the meeting further, but nobody did.

Dodd said he made the motion not only to keep the meeting from "going on for hours," but he also felt if anyone wanted to address concerns they should have addressed them earlier.

Koehlig said students had "ample time" to discuss any concerns they had about the fee increases. A packet breaking down the figures was given out to Assembly members at the Oct. 27 SGA meeting and a Student Fee Review Committee met on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Koehlig said Assembly members were informed of the committee date

and encouraged them to attend if they had questions, concerns or comments.

"If people had questions, they should have gone to the committee meetings, if there was a big issue," Dodd said.

Dodd said he thinks SGA is doing a "good" job. "I'm pretty pleased, it's never perfect, but they're doing fine," he said.

Jonathan Lidgus, assistant director for Student Life, also said he thought SGA was running things well, even though there was room for improvement. However, he said he felt that the ways SGA accomplishes goals is a two-way street.

"They're prioritizing what they would like to get done, what they

feel that they can get done and what they feel the students want," he said. "I don't know if the students are exactly, in the Assembly, giving them enough feedback."

According to Lidgus, SGA needs to go find out what students want, but the students also need to tell SGA what they want or if they feel SGA is doing something wrong. "[If] they're not meeting the students' needs, the students also need to tell them as well," he said.

Students can address their feedback and concerns directly to any member of SGA, e-mail them at [sgacomment@umsl.edu](mailto:sgacomment@umsl.edu) or anonymously drop them in an SGA comment box, such as the one located at the front desk of Student Life.

## SINATRA, from page 8

For instance, before Lippia performed "Come Fly With Me" he expounded on how he was set to perform in Florida and after arriving he was told of his lost luggage. He had three days until the performance, so he went to get fitted for a "high-school" tuxedo, as he calls it.

Staying in contact with the airlines, he called everyday and escalated every call to the highest level of management. He received no relief and had to perform with the cheap tux.

Therefore, in front of the Touhill audience he attributed the performance of "Come Fly With Me" as a sales pitch for American Airlines, because they will make your trip worth it.

This drew tons of laughter from the audience, which applauded and wooed all night to their favorite songs.

The show had two sets and one intermission, during which the artists sold their CDs and signed them.

The second set ended with the legendary song "New York, New York," the theme song from the 1977 Martin Scorsese film "New York, New York."

The night was truly spectacular and the audience was diverse, from young people to the elderly.

There was the occasional glitch when the orchestra and Lippia would fumble up as he would announce the performance of one song, when the orchestra was cued for another.

At times, it was hard to decipher if it was really Lippia performing and not Sinatra.

Only a few moments reminded the audience that it was Steve Lippia performing, and not "Ol' Blue Eyes."

## POLITICS, from page 5

So, what now? Pujols got his first World Series ring. Rumsfeld is looking for a job. Claire McCaskill, by a margin of 50 to 47 percent, is the new Missouri U.S. Senator. An organic farmer from Montana ousted a Republican incumbent senator for his job. Maybe this means someone will clone Bush, or, better yet, Pujols?

Perhaps the president and his administration have learned by now that political stability is hard to come by.

Americans, including those working two or three jobs without health benefits or guaranteed pensions, went out of their way on Nov. 7 between their plethora of duties to vote out people who don't care about them. Those were the candidates who should care about them, considering who voted them in.

A friend of mine, a UM-St. Louis student, will likely return to serve in Iraq by next spring. More than likely, it will interrupt his college career.

Once again, more instability.

A tide is changing in the United States, and people are no longer going to live amongst, take a guess... instability. We have been divided and conquered by the people we elect to represent us. However, their actions do not represent the ideas, will and hope of the people. Once again, that is if you agree that stability is what most people want.

Democrats now have to finish the fight they started. They do not need to fight fair. They need to know when to fight and when not to fight. They need to know when to work with their counterparts. They need to know about stability. Stability in life. Stability in the economy. Stability in social tensions. And finally stability in their actions.

They should remember to make sure their actions coincide with their words. Especially the ones they use to get elected with. Or life, the economy and everything else will be like the first part of this article - unstable.

## TOUHILL FINANCES, from page 1

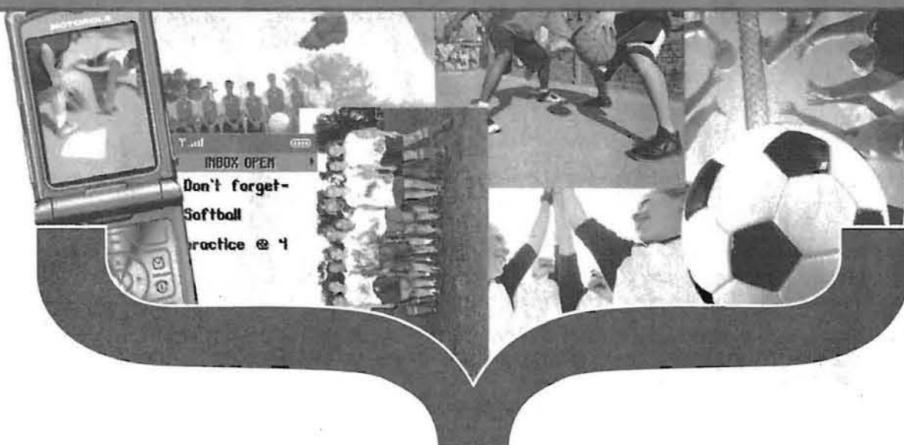
"We get calls all the time wanting space. We sometimes have to turn them down," St. Cyr said.

Student fees also support the operation of the Touhill. Students are charged \$10 in the fall and winter semesters and \$5 during the summer semester. Students' fees went to the 65

percent of Touhill usage that was for academic purposes, including classes and rehearsals for the Theatre and Dance department, performances and recitals for musicians.

"We have and continue to focus on student and want more students to use the facilities," Kahn said.

## CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



U.S. Cellular® gets me... so I can always get the score.

### 40-Yard Dash

Date: 10/3  
Time: Tues 1p-4p  
Place: MT Rec Field  
Sign up: Drop In  
Division: M & W

### Racquetball

Date: 10/23-10/27  
Time: Mon-Fri Flexible  
Place: MT Racquetball Courts  
Sign up: 10/17  
Division: M & W

### Indoor Soccer

Date: 10/25-5/6  
Time: Wed 7p-10p  
Place: MT Gym  
Sign up: 10/17  
Division: CoEd & M

### Volleyball

Date: 10/18  
Time: Wed 7p-10p  
Place: MT Gym  
Sign up: 10/17  
Division: M & W

### Floor Hockey

Date: 10/24-12/5  
Time: Mon 7p-10p  
Place: Mt Gym  
Sign up: 10/17  
Division: CoEd & M

### Wallyball

Date: 11/9  
Time: Thurs 6:30p-9p  
Place: MT Racquetball Courts  
Sign up: 11/7  
Division: CoEd Triples

### DemoBall/Laser Tag

Date: 10/19  
Time: Thurs TBA  
Place: St. Charles  
Sign up: 10/17  
Division: Open

### Volleyball

Date: 10/23-5/4  
Time: Tues 7p-10p  
Place: Mt Gym  
Sign up: 10/17  
Division: CoEd II

### Paintball

Date: 11/4  
Time: Sat 9a-4p  
Place: Off Campus  
Sign up: TBA 11/1  
\$10 per student



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