

The Current

August 27, 2007

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1221

INSIDE

UMSL welcomes new, former students

Cast members from MTV's 'Real World' made their debut at last week's Beach Party, one of the many events of Welcome Week.

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Going Greek at UMSL

UM-St. Louis is home to three fraternities and three sororities.

See page 7



Guido's brings a taste of Spain to St. Louis

Check out our review of Guido's Pizzeria and Tapas on The Hill.

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ON THE BACK



Tritons kick off soccer season

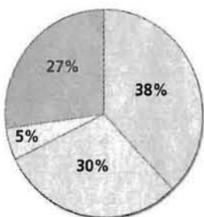
The women's soccer team open this year's season at home with a tie and a win.

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ON THE WEB

The Current
online.com

Web poll results: Have the past few weeks of intense heat caused you to believe in global warming?



This week's question: What was your favorite part of Welcome Week?

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TRAPPED IN RUSSIA: ROXANA CONTRERAS AWAITS COURT HEARING

Student detained in Russia

Physics graduate student attempted to export old military coins, medals



By SARAH O'BRIEN
News Editor

A UM-St. Louis student is facing a trial in Russia this week. If found guilty, Roxana Contreras, a physics student from Chile, could spend seven years in a Russian prison.

Contreras, 29, was on her way home from visiting friends in Voronezh, Russia on June 13, when she was stopped at customs for having Soviet era war medals and some old Russian currency in her luggage.

Contreras' thesis advisor Sonya Bahar, director of the Center for Neurodynamics at UM-St. Louis said, "Her description, which was maybe not too clear because she was just so terribly upset, was that she was pulled aside with 10 custom agents all yelling at her in Russian."

According to Bahar, Contreras speaks decent Russian and studied in Voronezh in 2001 and 2002. "She lived there for a year. She speaks Russian, but not completely fluently, and she hadn't been to Russia in five or six years," Bahar said.

The customs agents took away her passport and told Contreras that she might face jail time.

"They also told her not to contact her consulate," Bahar said. That was "one of the most terrifying and disturbing things" about Contreras experience with the customs agents.

"They said they wanted to try and help her without involving the police," Bahar said. "We didn't know if it was at that moment that they wanted a bribe," Bahar said.

Contreras did not contact her consulate until a few days after being told that she could not leave Voronezh.

"They've been very sweet and helpful," Bahar said of the Chilean consulate, Sergio Valdés. "But they haven't really been able to do too much as far as I can tell. They've given her a lot of conflicting advice."

Valdés told her she would have to stay with her friends in Voronezh and advised that she could not leave their

residence without one of them accompanying her.

"She was initially told for about the first week that she was basically under house arrest," Bahar said.

When the charges against Contreras were brought to the police, the original charges included numerous errors concerning the crime and Contreras' personal information.

"There are some really gross errors in the original charges. We're talking about describing one of the medals as a thirty year anniversary medal of the Great Patriotic War, which was World War II, issued in 1947, which doesn't make sense," Bahar said.

The charges also misspelled Contreras place of nationality Chile, as "Santiago, Chili" and charged her for "a willful illegal acquisition of USSR state honors, i.e. the crime under the article 324 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code."

Article 324 of the RFCC states the illegal acquisition and selling of official documents such as the medals is punishable by fines, not seven years in prison.

Bahar said Roxana Contreras has never claimed she did not buy the medals, only that she did not know it was illegal.

Bahar was asked to send a character reference letter to the police investigator to vouch for Contreras. "So I thought OK, fine, I'm going to get everybody to write a letter," Bahar said.

Faculty members from the physics department, the chancellor of UM-St. Louis and colleagues from all over the world sent letters to Nikolai Serenko, the Russian police investigator who had dominion over Contreras' case.

After they received the letters, Serenko began to threaten Contreras with extending an already tedious investigation. Bahar and her colleagues received letters from Valdes saying "no noise" about Contreras situation for fear that such letters would do more harm than good.

After the investigation was completed, Serenko became convinced that Contreras was not guilty of deliberately breaking Russian law.

See CONTRERAS, page 12



Roxana Contreras



Roxana Contreras has been living in an apartment in Voronezh, Russia since June. Her trial is set for Tuesday, Aug. 28 in Ramon, 1 a.m. St. Louis time.

What the law says:

Article 324 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code reads, "Illegal acquisition or sale of official documents which grant rights or release from duties, and also of government awards of the Russian Federation, the RSFSR, and the USSR, shall be punishable by a fine in the amount of 100 to 200 minimum wages, or in the amount of the wage or salary, or any other income of the convicted person for a period of one to two months, or by corrective labor for a term of up to one year, or by arrest for a term of up to three months."

Rolla's Missouri Miner may pursue legal action

By SARAH O'BRIEN
News Editor

UM-Rolla's newspaper *The Missouri Miner* may be engaging in a lawsuit against its university for alleged censorship.

Problems arose when UM-Rolla's Student Activities Finance Board, or SAFB, cut the newspaper's budget from around \$30,000 to \$13,000 because students claimed they wanted a better quality publication.

A letter from the Student Press Law Center to *The Missouri Miner's* Editor-in-chief Christopher Stryker stated that, at an "open forum" meeting of members of the UM-Rolla community, a handful of students had voiced negative opinions of the publication.

According to an e-mail sent between one unidentified SAFB member to another, the SAFB was concerned that student fees were being used to pay newspaper staff's salaries, and the student body was not getting their money's worth.

"We need to have a game plan," the e-mail said. "As for the breakdown are reasoning is that students approached us about if they are payed positions on the miner such as editor, article writers and reviewers."



The Missouri Miner, the student newspaper of UM-Rolla, may pursue a lawsuit against the university and the student government after the Student Activities Finance Board cut the newspaper's funding, citing problems with content.

Courtesy The Missouri Miner

"The reason we want the info is that they believe since the students money is paying these, if they are they want better quality papers (no errors, original articles, better pictures)," the e-mail reads. "Just say a student approved us about if they get payed and how much. [sic throughout]"

According to Stryker, *The Missouri*

Miner is run on both an advertising budget and student fees allocated by the SAFB.

Stryker said student fees did not necessarily pay for worker's salaries because they have an advertising income as well.

See ROLLA MINER, page 7

MOHELA LAWSUIT

Funding for Benton-Stadler may be delayed

By SARAH O'BRIEN
News Editor

The proposed sale of \$350 million of Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority student loans is under attack.

A class action lawsuit claims that Missouri Senate bill 389, which was signed into action by Gov. Matt Blunt in June, is unconstitutional. The bill allocated \$350 million to renovations for universities and colleges all around Missouri including \$28.5 million to renovations at UM-St. Louis.

The lawsuit seeks to completely halt the sale of the MOHELA loans that would pay for the aforementioned renovations by declaring the sale illegal.

The suit was filed on behalf of Michael McGennis and Aaron Izadi-Moghadam, two Columbia residents and borrowers from MOHELA, in a Cole County courtroom.

One of the lawyers for McGennis and Izadi-Moghadam, is John Lichtenegger, a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators appointed by former Gov. John Ashcroft.

Lichtenegger believes the MOHELA loan sale could ignite one of the largest class action lawsuits Missouri has ever seen.

Claimants also cite that selling MOHELA loans goes against MOHELA's purpose, which is to offer student borrowers loans with stable and low interest rates.

See MOHELA LAWSUIT, page 12

The issue:

A class-action lawsuit has been filed to stop the transfer of \$350 million from MOHELA to fund Gov. Matt Blunt's initiative for renovations at several college buildings in the state.



File Photos

The lawsuit may stall the \$28.5 million Benton-Stadler renovations from going forward. Blunt's plan was due to take effect Aug. 28

FACULTY PAY RAISES

Faculty could see 3 percent salary raise

By JUSTI MONTAGUE
Assistant Copy Editor

The University of Missouri system faculty may be receiving a larger salary in the near future.

Recently, Brady Deaton, chancellor at University of Missouri-Columbia proposed a plan called "Compete Missouri" which will help the UM system raise faculty salaries.

Former UM President Dr. Elson Floyd had, comparatively by campus, one of the lowest salaries among university presidents in the state. In contrast, Dr. Barbara Dixon, president at Truman State University, made an estimated \$190,850 in the 2005-2006 school year to Floyd's \$87,501 per campus.

Harris-Stowe State College's President Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. was paid \$175,000; and Dr. Carolyn Mahoney, president of Lincoln University made \$145,000.

Compete Missouri is a three year plan, where in the first year the UM system is expected to gain seven million dollars, which most is expected to come from faculty and staff positions being eliminated and wholly cutting some programs at the university.

The UM Board of Curators voted on and approved this proposal at their meeting in July.

Proposed budget cuts at University of Missouri-Columbia include \$2 million from Campus Operations, \$4 million by keeping some teaching positions open, and \$1 million by increasing summer school and long distance education programs.

See PAY RAISES, page 12

Average Faculty Salary Comparison

UM-St. Louis:
• Professors: \$90,300
• Associate Professors: \$66,500
• Assistant Professors: \$57,400

St. Louis University:
• Professors: \$99,800
• Associate Professors: \$67,500
• Assistant Professors: \$57,900

UM-Columbia:
• Professors: \$100,700
• Associate Professors: \$68,500
• Assistant Professors: \$56,600

UM-Kansas City:
• Professors: \$98,200
• Associate Professors: \$67,900
• Assistant Professors: \$56,800

UM-Rolla:
• Professors: \$98,500
• Associate Professors: \$73,000
• Assistant Professors: \$65,600

Washington University:
• Professors: \$145,100
• Associate Professors: \$93,300
• Assistant Professors: \$77,200

-Chronicle of Higher Education

Stay Current with this week's weather	Monday Hi/Low: 92/69 Precip: 0%	Tuesday Hi/Low: 96/74 Precip: 10%	Wednesday Hi/Low: 94/73 Precip: 30%	Thursday Hi/Low: 85/68 Precip: 10%	Friday Hi/Low: 85/68 Precip: 10%	Saturday Hi/Low: 86/69 Precip: 10%	Sunday Hi/Low: 88/71 Precip: 10%	Weather predictions taken from NOAA, national weather system.
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CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SUNDAY, AUG. 19

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
7840 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD

A vehicle was broken into while parked in the Millennium Student Garage North. A window was discovered to be broken out of a vehicle and stereo contents were stolen from inside. This incident occurred sometime between Aug. 10 and Aug. 19. The victim also reported that a license plate tab and his garage door opener were also stolen.

MONDAY, AUG. 20

PROPERTY DAMAGE -
PARKING LOT W

The victim reported damage to a vehicle. This incident occurred on Aug. 17 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. while the vehicle was parked on Lot W on South Campus. Person(s) unknown scratched the victim's car with an unknown object on one fender and headlight area.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
LUCAS HALL

The victim reported that on Aug. 21 between noon and 12:30 p.m. someone stole two textbooks. The textbooks were left in a classroom after class and when the victim went back to get them, they were gone.

STEALING MOTOR VEHICLE -
NURSING ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The victim's vehicle was stolen from the rear of the building. The victim had left her purse containing vehicle keys in her office unattended and a suspect took the purse and subsequently the keys, then located the vehicle using the key fob, and simply drove away. Witnesses to the incident provided a description of the suspect and during an area canvass, the stolen purse was located in a nearby restroom. The only thing missing from the purse was the victim's keys and some money. Evidence has led the UM-St. Louis Police to the name of a possible suspect. At this time neither the suspect nor the vehicle has been located.

SATURDAY, AUG. 25

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
UNIVERSITY MEADOWS APARTMENTS

A student was at a party in University Meadows on Aug. 17 from 10:30 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.. His wallet was found in the complex and turned into the office and subsequently returned to the owner. A few days later, the victim was checking his credit card account and discovered that an unauthorized charge occurred sometime while the wallet was missing. One purchase for gas was made at a nearby gas station. The UM-St. Louis Police are still investigating this incident and are checking into possible suspects at this time.

The UM-St. Louis Police Department is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and always has Police Officers working every shift. If you see anyone that looks suspicious or out of place you are encouraged to call the UM-St. Louis Police at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.

The UM-St. Louis Police would like to take this opportunity to once again remind all faculty, staff, students and visitors to this campus to take the extra precautions to secure your personal possessions. Please keep all valuables with you at all times. Do not leave items in your vehicle in plain view; secure them at home or in the trunk if possible. Do not leave any item unattended while on this campus. Most of our thefts occur when the victim leaves them for only a minute. This includes in a classroom, lunch table, computer station, library, gymnasium and even at your own desk. Faculty and staff members are asked to lock your office door, work area or desk every time you leave it for any reason.

The few seconds it takes to grab your keys and lock your door will save you a lot of aggravation and time in the long run.

Let's continue working together to make UM-St. Louis a safe place to work and learn!

300 DRIVES IN BIG CROWD OUTSIDE MSC LAKES



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

A group of international students hang out watching '300' at the drive-in on Thursday during Welcome Week. The giant inflatable screen was set up outside the MSC in parking lot C. Catholic Newman Center volunteers acted as carhops during the show.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, AUG. 27

Chemistry Colloquium

Keith Stine, associate professor of chemistry at UMSL, will discuss "Monolayers as Models for Interactions at Membrane Surfaces and as Tools for Surface Modification" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. The colloquium is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Call 5311 for more information.

CNC Welcome Dinner

Swing by the Catholic Newman Center for some FREE dinner and fun as we kick off the new school year! All students are welcome! Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Stay afterwards to play some games and hang out!

Touhill Tickets

Comedian Don Rickles opens the Touhill's 5th season. Subscribers can choose from a variety of packages. Single tickets are on sale. Call 4949 for more information.

TUESDAY, AUG. 28

Ice Cream Social

The Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge Road, will hold a Volleyball and Ice Cream Social at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to all UMSL students. Call (314) 385-3455 or e-mail cnc@cncumsl.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29

Gerontology Open House

The Gerontology Program will hold an open house from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Century Room C at the Millennium Student Center. Thomas Meuser, the program's newly appointed director, will greet students, faculty and staff. The event is open to students, faculty and staff. Call 5280 for more information.

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes.

To report any corrections that need to be made, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by email at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

THURSDAY, AUG. 30

Gallery Visio Presents

"Back to School," a collection of recent works by regional artists Sunny Santos, Dinise Mustain and Alicia Scolarici will open today and run through Sept. 21 in Gallery Visio, 170 Millennium Student Center. Gallery hours are: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday; and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. An opening reception will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the gallery. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Gallery Visio Student Association. Call 7922 or e-mail galvisio@umsl.edu for more information.

FRIDAY, AUG. 31

Taste of Teaching Fair

The Taste of Teaching and Technology Resource Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center, 100 Marillac Hall. Topics will include MyGateway, teaching with audio and video, student expectations and Microsoft Office 2007. The fair is open to faculty, staff and teaching assistants. The fair is sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning, Division of Continuing Education, Information Technology Services and E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center. Call 4508 for more information.

Small-business Workshop

Financing Your Business, a workshop for entrepreneurs, will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. It will cover grant and loan programs, commercial lending process, applying for funding and making the banking relationship a positive one. The fee is \$49, and the workshop is sponsored by the Small Business Development Center and Division of Continuing Education. Call 6121 for more information.

"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 even listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



Elle Photo

The Touhill Performing Arts Center provides many student discounts and opportunities for free tickets throughout the semester. For more information, see the posting in 'What's Current'.

Vendor Fair

"Show-Me Shop," an E-Procurement virtual shopping mall, will be held Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Summit Lounge at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. It is a vendor fair and will feature raffles, giveaways and refreshments. It is sponsored by Procurement Services. Call 5363 for more information.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 2

Catholic Mass

The Catholic Newman Center invites everyone: students, faculty and staff to celebrate mass in the Provincial House Chapel at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, September 2. A reception will follow immediately. Call (314) 385-3455 or e-mail cnc@cncumsl.org for more information.

MONDAY, SEPT. 3

Labor Day

Classes cancelled due to United States federal holiday. Since 1882, this holiday has been observed every first Monday of Sept. For many, it signifies the symbolic end of summer. Classes resume Tuesday, Sep. 4.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4

Campus Wellness Class

Campus Recreation's Fall Aerobics Classes begin today and run through Dec. 8 in the aerobics room at the Mark Twain/Athletic & Fitness Center. Classes are free today through Sept. 8. Two half-semester sessions will be offered. Each session is \$25 for students, \$35 for faculty, staff and alumni, and \$45 for the general public. The fee allows participants to attend any class at any time for the entire session. Stationary cycling classes are offered for a separate fee. Register at the Campus Recreation office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 5326 for more information.

Japanese Culture

Author Liza Dalby will discuss "East Wind Melts the Ice" at 2 p.m. in the Student Government Chambers at the Millennium Student Center. Dalby is an American anthropologist and novelist specializing in Japanese culture. She will discuss her soon-to-be published collection of essays exploring how the Japanese calendar has grounded her awareness of time and place. The lecture is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Professorship in Japanese Studies and Center for International Studies. Call 7299 for more information.

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The Current

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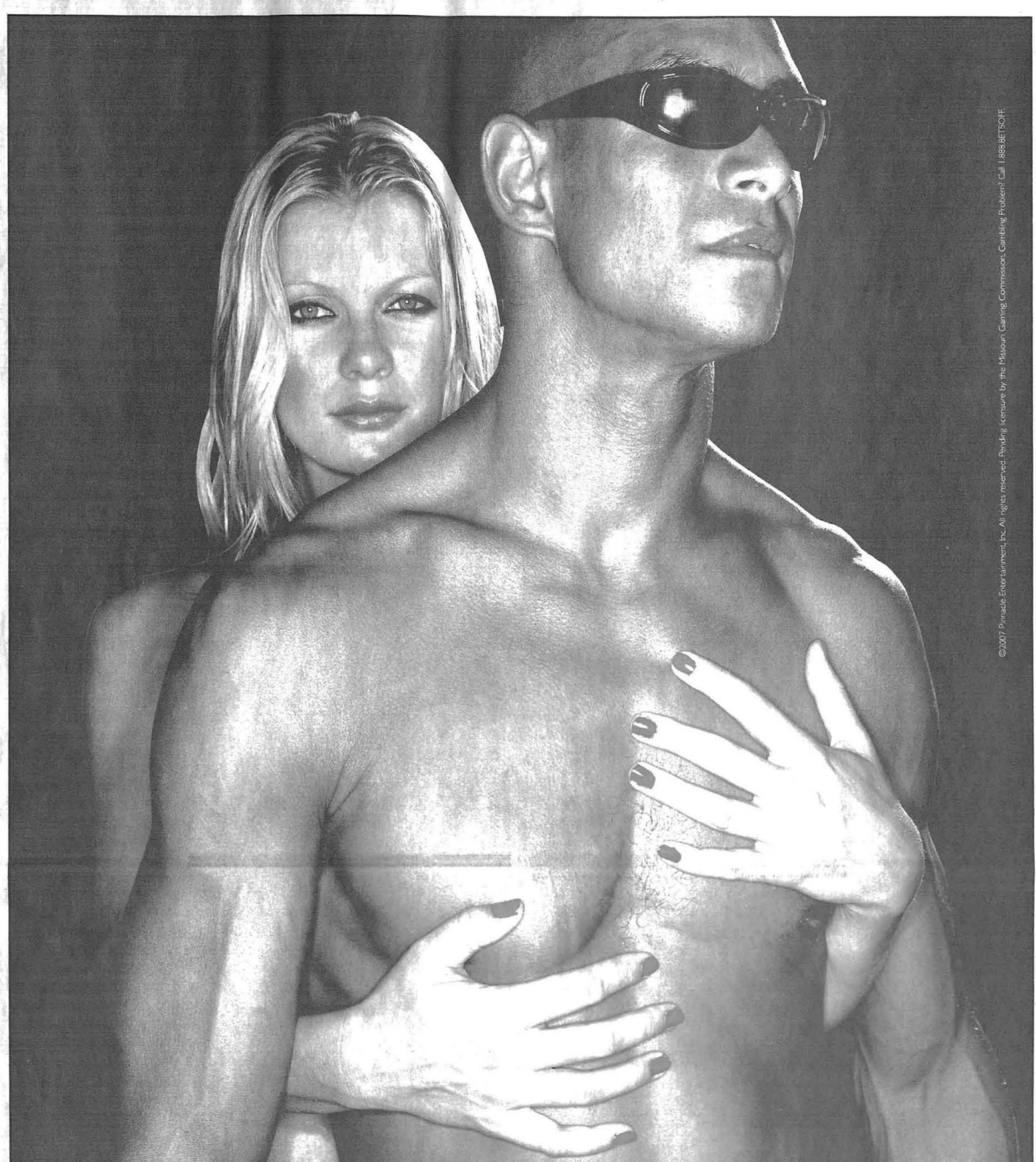
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OPINION
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OUR OPINION

Stranded student needs support from all of UMSL

It seemed like a harmless purchase, a few souvenirs from a flea market in Voronezh, Russia.

Now, those souvenirs worth about \$30 may cost 29-year-old, UM-St. Louis graduate student Roxana Contreras up to seven years in prison. Her friends and supporters are left asking, how could something like this happen?

Contreras, a graduate student in physics, has been studying at the university since 2004.

In early June, Contreras, along with Sonya Bahar, UM-St. Louis director of the Center for Neurodynamics, presented her research at a conference in Dresden, Germany.

Before returning to St. Louis, Contreras decided to visit some friends in Voronezh, where she previously attended school. While there, she purchased some military coins and medals from a street vendor as a couple of souvenirs.

She intended on bringing them home with her but was stopped by airport security for illegally exporting the souvenirs. According to Russian law, only the "honored person" or heirs can export military medals and coins legally.

Contreras thought her mistake

would mean simply paying a fine, but this Tuesday, she has a court date to determine whether she will be set free or spend the next seven years in a Russian prison.

Seven years in a prison for exporting some old war medals while in similar cases, authorities usually just confiscate the contraband and individuals involved in more severe offenses are usually detained.

A look at headlines around the nation shows that pirating software, fighting in a bar and pulling a gun during a road rage act get people seven years in prison, but buying some old currency and medals and taking them back as some souvenirs?

It was only last week when a court date was finally set. For the past two months, Contreras has been waiting, not knowing what would come next for her. She has struggled to contact law enforcement about setting a court date.

In addition, immigration officials have been harassing her about renewing her visa, which expires every 10 days.

Because she is a citizen of Chile, the process has been that much harder to help Contreras from a United States standpoint. Her supporters in

the physics department feared that anything they did to try to help would just make things worse.

Chancellor Thomas George and U.S. Representative Todd Akin have each written letters to authorities in Voronezh, encouraging the release of Contreras.

Students, faculty and staff in the physics department have written letters of support for their fellow researcher.

This Monday and Tuesday, a petition will be available to sign on the MSC Bridge, supporting Roxana Contreras. Show your support for your fellow UM-St. Louis student.

Whether you had a class with her, were in one of her classes, saw her around campus, maybe passed her in the hallway or know anything about her research on synchronization in brain activity in traumatically brain injured patients, Roxana needs your help now more than ever.

Seven years without Roxana is not only a major loss to this campus because she cannot further her research and work as a graduate student that may some day lead to medical advances, but also it leaves a loss in the heart of those she has affected while studying here in St. Louis.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

Hurting Rolla's paper hurts community, too

The freedom of the press. Is it really as simple as the First Amendment spells it out?

"Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..."

The answer is yes, even when it concerns the student press. While the Missouri Miner, UM-Rolla's

student newspaper, knows all about First Amendment protections, UM-Rolla's student government is learning about it the hard way.

The Student Council at UM-Rolla may be facing litigation by the time this paper is printed after a year's battle between the student press and student government.

It all started in October 2006 when the Student Activity Finance Board (Rolla's version of our Student Allocation Budget Committee) held an "open forum" where the UM-Rolla community voiced their opinion on the way student organizations like *The Miner* were funded.

A few stated their dislike of the paper's content and because of the "poor quality," they felt the paper's staff salaries should be cut.

One month later, a vice chancellor at UM-Rolla offered *The Miner* a deal: part of their funding could be restored if certain conditions were met, among them were "more accountability" for mistakes, "better" topics for articles and the real kicker, "less opinionated" articles.

In February, *The Miner* asked Marvin E. "Bunky" Wright of the University of Missouri General Council to restore the funding. The paper's request was denied a week later.

What this legal babble translates



By PAUL HACKBARTH
Editor-in-Chief

to is that a university, including its student government, cannot cut funding to another group based on its content. UM-Rolla and its student government's decision to cut funding based on content is exactly the kind of thing the First Amendment makes illegal.

A handful of Supreme Court and lower court cases support this notion. In fact, in 2000, the Supreme

Court ruled that the use student fees to fund campus groups must use a system that is viewpoint neutral. In the case of *The Miner*, this means the student government cannot make a decision about allocations to a group based on the views it expresses.

The Miner is demanding that SAFB at UM-Rolla consider viewpoint neutrality when deciding what organizations get a portion of student fees. If the student government does not reconsider, *The Miner* has suggested the possibility that legal action will be taken.

For Rolla's student government, this may be learning a lesson about journalism the hard way.

The role of a newspaper and the press is to provide as accurate and informational stories as possible to serve its community.

Editors do have some weight in terms of a newspaper's coverage and content, but they also have a responsibility when it comes to making those decisions. Freedom of press has to come with a responsibility.

When student government inhibits the job that a newspaper is supposed to do, it does not just hurt the newspaper staff, but also the community it serves.

That also means it affects the community the student government serves, as well.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

What can you look forward to in life after college?

Fellow Tritons, I assure you the date on the masthead is correct, it is indeed still August.

We here at *The Current* thought a change up might be nice. Instead of wishing the graduating seniors farewell in May, we thought we would jump start the year with a forecast, perhaps even a warning, of what your post undergraduate days hold for you.

Do not fear, the following comes from someone who completed a bachelor's degree, prepared to take the "real world" by storm, and promptly ran back to the safe, nurturing arms of academia.

For starters, that place so ominously referred to as the real world is not all that bad.

At first, if you were lucky enough to convince Corporate America that you and your English degree had something to offer in the boardroom, get down on your hands and knees and thank sweet 8 lb 9 oz baby Jesus. You have pulled off a coup!

You will double over with shock when looking at your first paycheck and realizing that there are more than

three digits to the left of the decimal point. With that new found fortune, trips to the grocery store that once resembled scavenger hunts during college will turn into adventures in culinary creation!

Refrigerators will no longer resemble barren wastelands whose only purpose was to store beer and keep mustard fresh. In fact, the refrigerator will transform as if by magic into a place where Styrofoam boxes of take out and failed kitchen experiments go to die!

Speaking of food and beer, a night on the town will no longer be hitting the shady taco stand on the corner or chugging cans of Pabst. Instead, it's

sirloin and scotch for as far as the eye can see.

Then there is work. At first, you will not believe that what you do is called work. It seems more like a game called "avoid the paper cut." Long lunches and schmoozing with clients, or better yet, being wined and dined by vendors, fall from heaven. After a long day at the office, you have nothing but free time.

Did you happen to gain the freshman fifteen, and then ten more? No problem, you can now afford to go to that swank new health club with the no-cal vodka flavored smoothies and jump on the treadmill with your favorite magazine. But why read? You did plenty of that in college. You can just get a Video iPod and watch the latest episode of your favorite reality show. After all, you worked hard, and by Jove, you've earned it!

Then the alarm goes off at 6 a.m. This is where it begins. As you sit through a staff meeting at 8 a.m., you begin to muse suddenly that the 10 a.m. Lit class you were always late for, is looking pretty good.

See **LIFE AFTER COLLEGE**, page 5



By STUART REEVES
Staff Writer

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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.

CONTACT US

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STAFF VIEWPOINT

I could have gone to the University of Phoenix

I came to college expecting lectures, late night cram sessions and running late for mid terms. I wanted to cheer for the sports teams and in some way become an important part of the campus.

The most important thing I wanted out of my college experience was an actual college classroom experience.

Maybe the movies I saw during my adolescence about college life warped my opinion about what college was really like. It made parties, basketball games and boring lectures seem like daily activities.

During my college career I have graduated with an associate's degree, stayed up all night the day before a test and almost joined a fraternity. Now that I have reached my senior year, I want to make sure that I experience every aspect that college life has to offer.

This semester, 75 percent of my classes are online and 100 percent of that is not by choice. There are classes which are only offered online and if I want my degree, I have to take these classes.

I did not come to UMSL to stay at home and take classes. I came to this university to be part of a university.



By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

If I wanted to complete my studies online I would have enrolled at University of Phoenix. Internet courses are great for people who are unable to get to campus, but I think they should be an option, not the only choice.

On the first day of classes, like many students, I sat in front of my computer and was ready to see what my

first assignments were, and to my surprise, My Gateway was down.

Any students who tried to log last week probably ran into the same problem I did. So here's a question: what do you do for an internet class when the website does not work?

We still have to buy books for internet courses and form groups, but the one thing that we do not have is the classroom experience. That is why I am in college, for the experience.

Even though I am not in favor of online courses, they seem to be a growing part of the educational process.

Professors can save a lot of time, and not to mention trees, just by putting their syllabus online instead of handing out paper copies in each class.

See **ONLINE CLASSES**, page 5

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've covered?

- Roxana Contreras
- Online classes
- Life after college

You can make your voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit our online forums

UNDERCURRENT

By Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

What do you think of the changes in the Nosh?



Rachel MacNamara
Freshman
Sociology



Josh Bira
Junior
Nursing



Joel Pottebaum
Senior
Accounting



Sara Asmus
Sophomore
Political Science



Clinton Brant
Senior
Finance

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu or talk about it in our online forums at www.thecurrentonline.com

"It's a little pricey but a good place to eat."

"Overpriced, but I can't compare the quality to last year."

"The carpet makes me dizzy and the prices make me feel like I'm getting ripped off."

"Way too expensive for what you get, but the decor is nice."

"It's not the first time that I've been ripped off by UMSL."

SCIENCE COLUMN

Glass is the clear choice for recycling

What if the grocery bag question "paper or plastic" could be expanded to include a "glass or plastic" choice for food jars?

Of course, the answer to the grocery store question is "neither." Consumers should bring their own reusable cloth bag. Re-using and recycling are both important parts of limiting waste of resources and energy.

With public attention on global warming, the issue of recycling has resurfaced as well. Let us take a look at a comparison of two choices for food containers: plastic or glass.

Pre-plastic and even up until very recently, glass was a very common container in stores. Now, clear jars on the shelf are more likely to be plastic than glass. There are a number of reasons why we might want to rethink that trend but here are a few: recycling, safety and energy consumption.

Glass containers are an often overlooked recycling choice. Most clear food jars and beverage bottles in grocery stores were once made of glass. Glass is a natural product, made from an abundant, cheap material - essentially, sand - which has some admirable properties.

It is non-reactive with food,

stores food safely, cleans easily and can be sterilized. It can be easily reused and recycled because of its durable nature. In the lab, glass is used to store strong acids, because it is so resistant to corrosion.

Two reasons are often given for the replacement of glass with plastic in food containers: safety and shipping. The danger of broken glass is often cited as a reason to shift to "safer" plastic.

Glass does break, something also true of brittle forms of plastic, and glass can cut, but the image of consumer carnage often evoked in arguing for a switch to plastic ignores that glass jars were rarely a major hazard in pre-plastic times. Reasonable care and careful clean-up, in the case of an accident, takes care of sharp bits.

Plastic may not be as safe as one might think, although for a different reason. There is another concern with plastics in our environment: growing scientific evidence that points to concerns over health effects and



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

the pervasiveness of plastics in our bodies and our environment.

People who are quick to avoid exposure to second hand tobacco smoke or who routinely avoid food additives have not paid much attention to this issue, but that may change.

We will look at the evidence for this concern about plastics in food in the next column. For now, we will just discuss whether we should have a choice in packaging.

The consumer safety reason is often the first one cited in a change from glass to plastic but the other common reason - weight - is more often the real manufacturer concern. Glass is noticeably heavier than plastic. As gas prices rise, the cost of shipping rises, with both distance and weight.

Foods and beverages were once bottled near the area where they were consumed, in regional bottling facilities. As manufacturers moved

to eliminate regional factories and started shipping over great distances, the weight of products became more important, but the money saved by a distant production center might increasingly be outweighed by rising fuel prices.

Companies might start to rethink the cost advantage of a central facility. A return to local bottling could save fuel and add local jobs. The shorter shipping distances might make eco-friendly glass more appealing.

Plastics, on the other hand, are made from increasingly scarce and expensive petroleum. With the shift away from fossil fuels and concern about greenhouse gas carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, all uses of petroleum products are less appealing.

The costs of plastics are bound to rise, while glass will remain inexpensive to produce and recycle. Glass is made from abundant natural material, recycles and is biologically inert.

Companies like to talk about giving customers choices. That should not just mean the size of a jar or the flavor of juice. We should have a choice of glass or plastic for food packaging, for health and for environmental reasons.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

The pros and pros of global warming

"The warnings about global warming have been extremely clear for a long time. We are facing a global climate crisis. It is deepening. We are entering a period of consequences."

This quote by former Vice President Al Gore exemplifies many people's take on the 'threat' of global warming.

Maybe it is true that the ozone layer is being depleted rapidly, temperatures around the globe are rising and the polar ice caps are melting, and sure, it has been proven that higher ocean temperatures have led to stronger and more frequent hurricanes.

My question is: Why does no one look at the benefits of global warming?

Although I am a rather rotund fellow and get sunburned faster than an albino on his annual trip to the sun, I love the beach. The ocean air, the surf, the sand, the cooler full of adult beverages, a trip to the beach is a great way to spend a day.

The problem is that I live in St. Louis, which leaves the nearest

beach (that isn't attached to a fairly disgusting river or lake) approximately 600 miles away, and that is to the Gulf of Mexico, which still does not really count. As ocean levels rise, wouldn't that just bring the ocean closer?

Think about it. You look eastward through the wondrous Gateway Arch, and where Sauguet once stood is a vast ocean. St. Louis is notorious for its summer heat and humidity. What better way to combat that heat than with a nice, cool ocean breeze?

An ocean in St. Louis would be a huge economic boom as well. A renewed tourism industry would provide many new jobs, and with the location near the beach the blight that is north St. Louis City would become valuable property.



By CHRIS BAUM

Staff Writer

Who wouldn't want a condo with a view of both O'Fallon Park and the Atlantic Ocean?

I am sure by now many of you are asking why I do not just pack up and move to the coast.

Well as strange as it may seem, I like St. Louis. I have been here my entire life and it is home. There are many things in this city that would be hard to leave; the Cardinals, the Rams, my friends, my family, and the St. Louis Blues. If I cannot drive to a Blues game in 20 or less minutes, I am a very unhappy guy.

There is also the question about remorse for all of those cities and states that would no longer exist. New York City is obviously a great and iconic city, but it is also inhab-

ited by Mets and Yankees fans, so it can go. Boston is historical, sure, but it is full of Red Sox and Patriots fans, so it too can take a hike.

As for Washington DC, yes it is our capitol and the history there would be hard to recreate, but there is precedent as it has already moved twice during our history.

What would be so hard about moving it again?

Most of the other states and cities are fairly inconsequential, as the ones like Florida that used to have beaches will just be replaced by the 'New East Coast'.

For those of you that may be aghast at my seeming lack of respect for United States history please consider the words of one Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."

The future is coming, and that future is global warming. I will be the guy out in the front lawn spraying aerosol at the ozone layer.

All in the name of progress, of course.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Identity Crisis

I wonder if any of you are upset by the identity crisis UM-St. Louis still faces.

After months of hard work on committees, a campus-wide vote as well as the money paid to a consulting firm, we still face a crisis. The crisis I refer to is that we still do not have a mascot.

We have a symbol, a trident (you

know, the three pronged fork) but no graphic representation of a Triton. This begs the question: Are we the Tritons or the Tritons? My hope is that the UM-SL community will receive delivery on the promise of a new mascot.

In LaGuan Fuse's article "A Mascot by any other name" (The Current, August 2007: Pg 10) he suggests that more announcements be made so as to notify the uninformed. More importantly, he asks

what we will call the players who are female.

This is quite a bind and possibly why we currently do not have a mascot which represents our name. Although Triton is not as obviously male-centered as RiverMEN, Triton is usually conceived of as the god of the sea.

Obviously gender equality was not the reason for the name change. I think many will agree that Mudcats would have been superb and gender-

neutral.

However, since we are now the Tritons let us truly be Tritons. All we need now is to put our sports stars, faculty, students and staff in front of a camera with a Trident and Viola! We have our Tritons!

Daniel Cohen
Graduate Student
International Studies

LIFE AFTER COLLEGE, from page 4

But then again, any literature would look good to you since the most riveting read you have glimpsed lately was the back of the cereal box while you choked down some Sugar Flakes before hitting the door because you tapped the snooze button one too many times and now you must suffer morning rush hour.

But won't you read at work? Who cares, your boss will tell you you are wrong anyway. Why bother? Oh, and that rousing game of "avoid the papercut?" Judging by the econo-size box of band-aides next to the computer with which you cannot even check your personal e-mail, you have lost. Badly.

No time to bleed though, you now have to sit through another meeting with your supervisor in which you will have nothing to say. Why? Because management will be too busy, a) instilling the fear of layoffs in you and reminding you to say the pledge of allegiance to the company letterhead daily, or b) blaming for last year's numbers being unacceptable, all the while, forgetting you have only worked there for three months.

About that paycheck, it disappears faster than your cap at graduation. Turns out it is spent before you even get it. For starters, you have student loans to repay. And health insurance. Oh, and do not forget Social Security! But, you will get that back when you retire, right?

Surely the one thing you learned during college was that social security was a myth similar to Santa, the Easter Bunny, or the Cubs winning a World Series? Thus, you get to invest your money, pre-tax of course, in the market's most flaccid 401k. By the way, taxes? Much like death, hard to avoid.

It is all okay though. At five o'clock you can do your best Fred Flintstone impression, scream, "Yabba Dabba Do" and enjoy some quality "you time." Maybe you will read, maybe you will work out, maybe you will contemplate the design of a whiskey bottle that does not seem to always leak from the top. Do not worry about the freshmen fifteen and the additional ten going anywhere. They are about to get some good company from the

other fifteen pounds you are going to put on from sitting on your ass for eight hours a day and playing with paper.

It will be around this time that you have the closest thing to a scholarly thought since you took your last final exam. Why is it you are ready for a good coma after sitting in an air-conditioned office, in front of a computer and looking at numbers all day? You will call it something fancy like "The Inverse Productivity-Nap Theory." Do not tell it to your boss. It turns out they are soulless and incapable of warmth, humanity or humor; not unlike some professors. You will take strange comfort in this one element of familiarity. Alas, it will not be enough.

Finally, one day, you will recount to a friend who stayed in your college town after graduation, and now works at the local coffee shop for minimum wage, that the intellectual peak of your day was reciting all of the people, places and events in Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start The Fire" while stuck in the afternoon rush hour. Of course, you were terribly off key the entire time, but who gives a damn? Your friend, the college townie, seems to have more figured out about the real world than you, and he is a barista, whatever the hell that is!

So, here it is, you have two options. One, succumb to the scenarios above. Or, two, have some chutzpah. Sit down one night after class and think really hard about the things you love. Think about your passions, and chase them relentlessly. If you want to take your business degree and go to Guatemala to start implementing micro-financing strategies to foster local business growth, do it.

If you want to join Teach for America and show some inner city kids what hockey and J.D. Salinger are all about, go forth then young man. If you want to be a trophy spouse...well, that is another column. The point is, you spent twenty plus years being told what you had to do. You had to get into extra curriculars. You had to ace the ACTs. You had to take this or that sequence of classes. What is life after graduation? For the first time in your life,

ONLINE CLASSES, from page 4

I am sure that Captain Planet and the PlanetEers would be proud of us.

I am not alone in embracing the idea that college classes should be held in classrooms and not on a website. I have spoken with students on campus and there are some who agree while there are some students who love the fact they can stay home while taking classes. The bright side to not having a class in

an actual classroom is not worrying about being late to class.

I see my internet classes as a personal challenge. I have to change my opinion of what my college experience should be. I have done a lot of things while being here at UM-SL just for the experience. And now internet courses will be my next chapter. I guess all that I can do now is sit back and wait for My Gateway to start working again.

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FEATURES



Carrie Fasiska • Managing Editor

Lauren Dixon and Oti Bamfo-Agyei participate in the wing eating contest during the MTV beach party on Friday, Aug. 24. Lauren beat out the three other participants for a portable DVD player.



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Joe Ruggieri, senior, finance and member of Sigma Pi fraternity, plays volleyball outside of Oak Hall.

Welcome Week

UPB launches another success, despite storms and heat wave

BY CANDACE ANDERSON
Assistant News Editor

The University Program Board starts each school year with a Welcome Week with events to get students familiar and involved with UM-St. Louis' social aspect.

"Welcome Week was a complete success because we reached our target audience," said UPB Executive chair, T Ryan, junior, communication.

Welcome Week kicked off Monday, Aug. 20 with Spirit Day. The event was hosted by UPB and the Welcome Center. Students were able to enter their names into a raffle for a wide range of prizes including UM-St. Louis paraphernalia from the University Bookstore, DVDs and gift cards.

Tuesday, hypnotist Dale K packed the Pilot House with the help of student volunteers who participated in his presentation.

On Wednesday, over 50 booths were set up in the quad for UMSL Expo, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.. Some student organizations and departments

distributed literature and giveaways at their booths during the event.

The Catholic Newman Center partnered with UPB in providing free popcorn and soft drinks at Thursday's drive-in movie. Students gathered in parking lots C and D, directly in front of the MSC lakes, to watch the movie "300."

Welcome Week culminated with a Beach Party event, but the weather had a different agenda. At 5 p.m., Curt Coonrod sent a student-wide e-mail informing all that because weather conditions were not conducive, the Beach Party would be moved from the University Meadows to the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center. The party was held from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.

"Though we had a good turn out, this year was only a fraction of what we usually do for beach party," said Kimberly Edwards, graduate assistant advisor of UPB

Because the party was moved indoors, some of the elements planned for the party were postponed until a later date.

"We anticipated on having a foam dance floor, a 40 foot slip and slide and a 40 foot video screen that would have been used to project music videos and candid shots of action on the dance floor," said financial chair of UPB Dorian Hall, sophomore, accounting.

But other things did go according to plan. Irlan Wilson and Steven Hill from MTV's Real World: Season 12 hosted the beach party. Free food and drinks for all were provided as well as a mechanical bull and a team of DJs.

"Even though the beach party was moved, the attitude towards it and the energy put into it did not change," Ryan said.

During the event, several contests were held including a wing eating contest, bull riding contest and a dance-off between men and women. Prizes for the contests were a portable DVD player, Nintendo DS and a gift card.

"Overall, welcome week went well," Edwards said.

"Students still supported the event and had a good time," Ryan said. "That for me defines success."

TOP TEN

Bored in class?

10. Stare at the attractive people.
9. Text your sweetheart.
8. Sleep.
7. Think of things to put on the Top Ten list.
6. Watch Potter Puppet Pals on your iPhone
5. Do your homework for another class
4. Calculate the square footage of the room.
3. Throw sharpened pencils at ceiling tiles
2. Read The Current.
1. Crush your teacher's head with your thumb and forefinger. (BELOW)



'African Politics' dispels negative stereotypes of impoverished continent

BY AMY RECKTENWALD
Features Editor

Politics. It is one of those taboo party topics that people try to avoid when looking for a good time. But not all political discussions are bad, and the classes on them can be outright fascinating. For example: African Politics?

But wait; does Africa really even have politics?

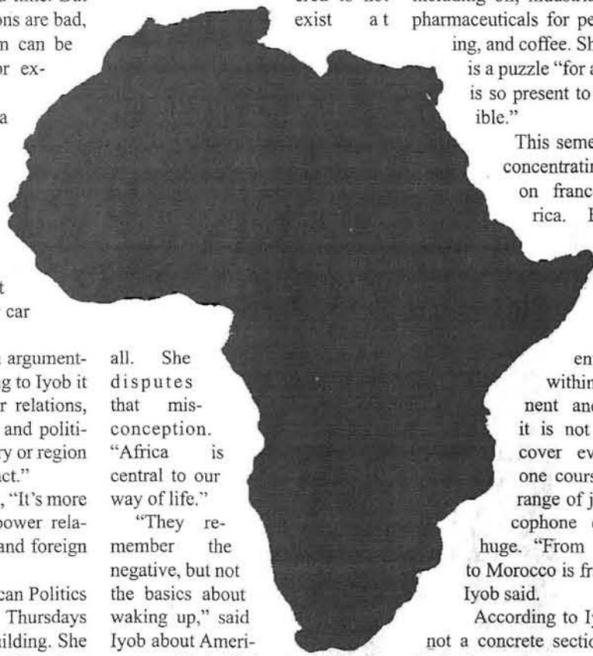
"People assume there's a policy of aid," said Ruth Iyob, associate professor of political science, "But where is the gas in your car coming from?"

Politics is not just an argument-inducing topic. According to Iyob it is to "understand power relations, institutional capabilities and political economy" of a country or region and "how all these interact."

She further explained, "It's more than parties; It's how power relations impacts daily life and foreign relations."

Iyob teaches the African Politics class on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Social Science Building. She said that one of the goals of the class is for students to "get an understanding of the centrality of Africa."

Iyob said, "When we talk about any country, we're talking about power relations: local, national, international." Further, African politics are misunderstood or considered to not exist at



all. She disputes that misconception. "Africa is central to our way of life."

"They remember the negative, but not the basics about waking up," said Iyob about Americans and their Ethiopian coffee drinking.

"We only hear about the poor in

need, never the transactions."

In the class, Iyob illustrates the inclusion of Africa into everyday existence by naming imports that people do not commonly consider, including oil, industrial diamonds, pharmaceuticals for perfume making, and coffee. She said that it is a puzzle "for a culture that is so present to be so invisible."

This semester, Iyob is concentrating the course on francophone Africa. Because of the sheer expanse of the continent, and different regions within the continent and countries, it is not possible to cover everything in one course. Even the range of just the francophone countries is huge. "From Madagascar to Morocco is francophone," Iyob said.

According to Iyob, there is not a concrete section of Africa that is francophone.

See AFRICAN POLITICS, page 9

A closer look at Chancellor George

BY CANDACE ANDERSON
Assistant News Editor

"I always had a passion for jazz," Chancellor Thomas George said. At the age of six, George began taking classical piano lessons which he continued through out his college years.

"During my graduate studies at Yale, I began taking lessons from John Mehegan who is credited with starting the jazz program at the Juilliard School in the 1950s."

While studying at Yale, George said he was urged by his mother to continue his pipe organ studies.

"When I approached the School of Music there, a master's student named Barbara Harbach was recommended to me," George said. During the first six months the two studied together, and eventually began to date.

"While my organ playing kind of slacked off, her career as a musician continued to soar," George said. "Now she is considered one of the premier harpsichordists/organists in the world, with many CDs to her credit, and is also an accomplished composer."

Barbara Harbach is now a professor of music at UMSL and wife of Chancellor George.

George is also an accomplished jazz pianist. He continued his studies with the faculty at Berkeley College of Music in Boston and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. "I eventually starting playing gigs at various venues, which I have been doing since the 1980s."

George has performed at the Sheldon Hall, St. Louis Jazz and Heritage Festival and Finale in addition to UMSL's own Touhill Performing Arts Center.

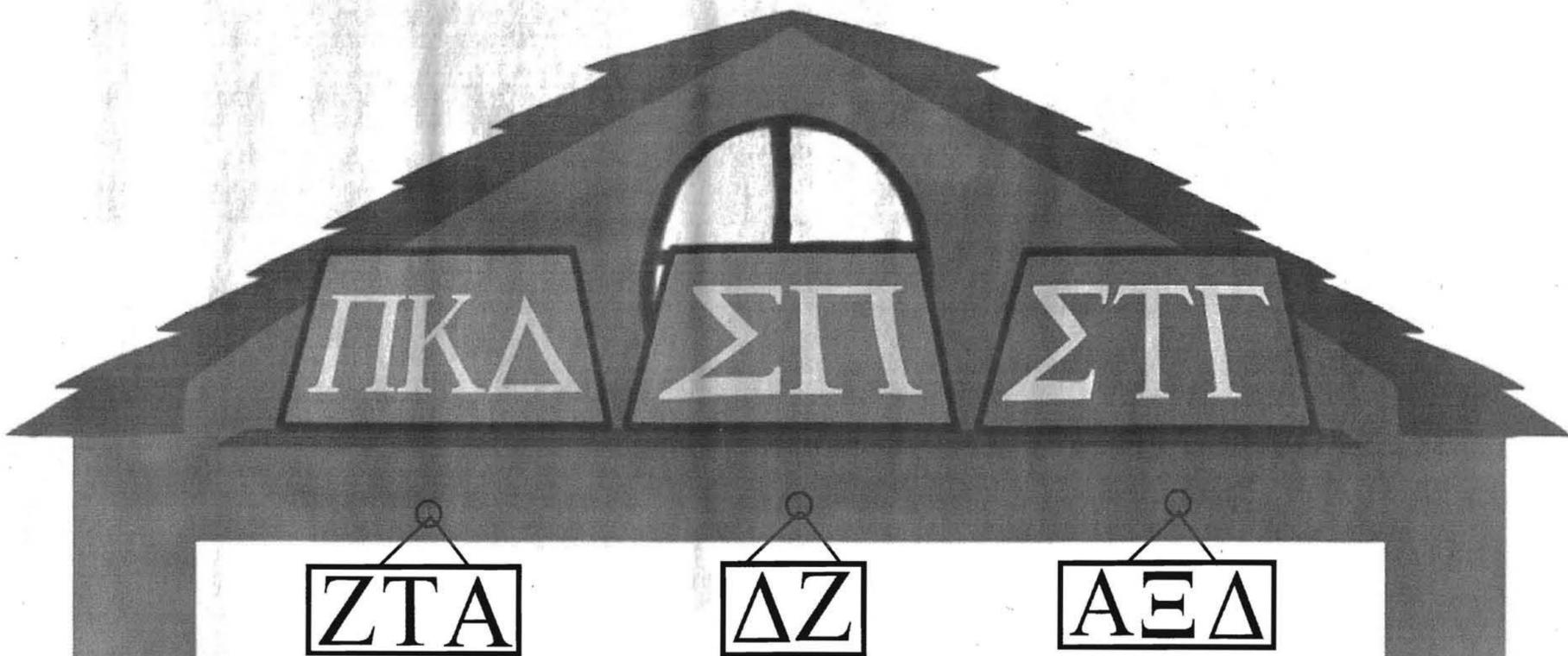
George has also performed overseas Szegeed, Hungary and also at Njing at the University of China.

George was appointed UM-St. Louis' 7th chancellor in September 2003. George received his Bachelor of Arts in 1967 from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania where he double majored in chemistry and mathematics.



Chancellor Tom George.

See CHANCELLOR, page 9



Fall semester kicks off Greek Rush

By CHRIS BAUM
Page Designer

They are coming, and they can soon be seen in the Millennium Student Center and the Bridge. With the start of the fall semester comes an important time for the fraternities and sororities here on campus: rush.

There are three social fraternities and three social sororities at UM-St. Louis. These are Sigma Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma on the fraternity side, and Alpha Xi Delta, Zeta Tau Alpha and Delta Zeta on the sorority side.

The start of classes signifies the beginning of rush, or recruitment, for these groups, and while there is a spring rush,

the fall rush is the most important.

What occurs during rush? At some of the larger universities, rush lasts only one to two weeks. At UM-St. Louis, however, rush normally lasts four to five weeks so groups can find suitable candidates.

Students interested in joining a fraternity or sorority are urged to find which one suits them the best, and then spend time hanging out with the members of the group to get to know them better. To accomplish this, the fraternities throw various barbecues, get-togethers and themed parties, while the sororities have various recruitment events.

"Rush is the time to get to meet new people and have a good time. It is a way for us to show our brotherhood and give

others the opportunity to be a part of the experience," said Sigma Pi member Clinton Brant, senior, business administration.

After the rush period, the fraternities and sororities choose which of the potential candidates they would like to become pledges.

So why join a fraternity or sorority? These groups get students involved in many activities that they might not otherwise experience. Fraternities and sororities are also involved in many community service projects each semester.

For students who are new to the area, or just want to meet new people, Greek life can be rewarding. It presents an opportunity for those unfamiliar with the

area and the campus to make friends and get involved.

"Joining Sigma Pi has been the best thing I have ever done. I have made many lifelong friendships, met many people and the leadership skills I have developed are priceless. I could fill a 10 page paper with all of the benefits of joining a fraternity," said Sigma Pi member Joel Pottebaum, senior, accounting. "I just wish we wouldn't lose to the Sig Tau's every single year in Greek Week."

Those interested in Greek life can keep an eye out for members from each fraternity and sorority around campus, show up at one of the parties or just check with the Office of Student Life for more information.

ROLLA MINER, from page 1

"Our salary budget is less than half of our advertising revenue," Stryker said.

"Their complaint [was] that the newspaper staff was paid in light of what the complaining students felt was poor quality journalism," the letter from the SPLC stated.

Stryker claimed the budget cut was an underhanded way of an attempt to censor the newspaper and that such censorship is illegal under the First and Fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution.

In an e-mail sent to interim president of the UM system Gor-

don Lamb, the Board of Curators, the new student curator and others, Stryker demanded "the reconsideration of the budget process in a content-neutral way." Stryker continued, "This is the final opportunity to settle things amicably."

This ultimatum is similar to one

last February when Stryker and the Student Press Law Center, a legal firm that aids student media organizations, requested a solution to the budget cut of \$13,069,666, roughly one-third of their requested budget.

"We're used to putting up with a lack of respect from the student

body," Stryker said.

We've grown used to the lack of respect, but through this process, the administration has showed a tremendous lack of respect. They made it clear that they didn't see any sort of justification. They showed no respect for us," he said.

According to the e-mail, a response is expected by Aug. 27 at noon. However, Stryker does not believe they will hear a response at that time. "We will get a response," he said. "Just not by that date."

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In Theaters September 7

A&E

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TUESDAY, AUG. 28

"NOISES OFF" AUDITIONS
Auditions for UM-St Louis' Oct. 16-20 production of play "Noises Off," 7 p.m. at Touhill. Info: (314)516-4850 or cannonja@umsl.edu.

THURSDAY, AUG. 30

"BACK TO SCHOOL" ART EXHIBIT
Gallery Visio's first exhibit of the semester features three regional artists. Reception Aug 30 at 4-7 p.m. Exhibit through Sept. 21. Free.

"DANIELA MARX POSTERS" ART EXHIBIT
Silk screen posters at Gallery FAB, through Oct. 6. Free.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 1

NIGERIAN DANCE
"National Dance Troupe of Nigeria," at Touhill, 8 p.m. Sept. 1 & 2. Sponsored by Center for International Studies. Tickets \$7-15. Info: (314) 516-4949.

ONGOING

MERCANTILE LIBRARY EXHIBIT "A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE FIRST WAR OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE -1857,"
Through Sept. 30 at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. Prints depicting scenes from the year-long Indian Rebellion of 1857, which influenced attitudes toward British rule of India. Free.

GALLERY 210 PHOTO EXHIBIT "EXPOSURE 10"
In Gallery A, through Sept. 15. A long-running program, originated by the St. Louis Gallery Association but in its third year at Gallery 210, is a juried photo competition. Free.

GALLERY 210 PHOTO EXHIBIT "SAINT LOUIS THROUGH THE LENS: IRVIN SCHANKMAN MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST"
In Gallery B, through Oct. 6. A competitive exhibition that shows changes in the city of St. Louis over the past 50 years. Collaborative effort of Gallery 210 and Public Policy Research Center. Free.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY PHOTO EXHIBIT: "FACES OF LABOR"
Photographic Portraits by Lee Buchsbaum and Dan Overturf, through Nov. 18 at the St. Louis Mercantile Library, located on the second level of the campus Thomas Jefferson Library. Free.

PPRC PHOTO EXHIBIT: PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER STAFF PHOTOS
Photography exhibit by PPRC staff members, through Sept. 28. Free.

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS

1. Stronger - Kanye West
2. Crank That - Soulja Boy Tell 'Em
3. S.O.S. - Jonas Brothers
4. Rockstar - Nickelback
5. Beautiful Girls - Sean Kingston
6. The Way I Are - Timbaland featuring Keri Hilson & D.O.E.
7. Me Love - Sean Kingston
8. You Are the Music In Me - Gabriella & Troy
9. Gotta Go My Own Way - Gabriella & Troy
10. Big Girls Don't Cry (Personal) - Fergie

CONCERT REVIEW



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Jake of the Dead City Dregs performs during a show Aug. 19 at the Creepy Crawl.

Dead City Dregs: St. Louis' finest punk

By ELIZABETH STAUDT

Staff Writer

For a grand total of 35 audience members, Dead City Dregs opened for nationally touring bands Mad Marge and the Stonecutters, Far from Finished and Left Alone on Sunday, Aug. 19 at The Creepy Crawl.

Fans of The Creepy Crawl have probably caught a Dead City Dregs set, as they have opened for bands such as The Tossers and Street Dogs.

Despite the poor turn out, Dead City Dregs put on a solid set, playing songs from their self-released demo CD and throwing out new music to the fans.

The music of Dead City Dregs is straight-up punk. There are no pop melodies or hardcore screams, just hard fast punk rock hearkening back to the underground strength that punk began with.

Even without the pop influence, however, Dead City Dregs could definitely find a niche on mainstream radio. Their songs are catchy and fun like The Offspring, without crossing the pop-punk line.

While diversity is generally something I look for in my music, every genre has its place and true punk is being lost between hardcore and punk pop. For St. Louis, Dead City Dregs is performing month-to-month on the dying local punk scene with a set of songs that do not all blur into one sound but stand alone as individual musical creations.

Dead City Dregs is a well balanced band. No one band member outplays the group and no one is holding back the rest. Tom Valli

gives a fine performance on drums with Shane McNeil and Bryan Zych blasting out Rancid like riffs on guitar. Jake Lloyd completes the group on bass.

Lead singer Zych tried to get the audience motivated even with a low turn out. He did not get on the bar, as Far from Finished's overly enthusiastic lead singer did, but Zych also plays guitar which would make bar dancing fairly difficult.

For a local band, Dead City Dregs has quite a solid following. They had more fans singing along and jumping than Mad Marge and the Stonecutters, who immediately followed Dead City Dregs.

Dead City Dregs' rapport with the audience definitely beat out the following band whose lead singer, aptly named Mad Marge, first tried to get the fans involved and then got upset when no one

responded. She ended up swearing at the audience for not knowing her music and then trying to play it off as a joke, which no one took well.

Far from Finished put on quite an impressive live show, but the music took on the pop and ska influenced sound of radio punk. Left Alone, musically, fell into the same category as Far from Finished, being good but not amazing, something we have heard on the radio over and over.

It is true that Dead City Dregs are almost always compared to Rancid, but the group is like the "Let's Go!" Rancid era rather than the later self-titled Rancid sound.

Dead City Dregs is definitely a band to catch, so remember to hit up punk shows early because not all of the openers in St. Louis suck.



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Dead City Dregs played Sunday, Aug. 19 at the Creepy Crawl.

MOVIE REVIEW

No rockets or science: Just lessons learned from high school

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

There are no rockets and no science in "Rocket Science," but there are life lessons and ironic humor in this quirky indie-style tale about an unlikely candidate for a high school debate team in suburban New Jersey.

"Rocket Science" opens with a debate team nightmare - a complete meltdown at the critical last competition. Thwarted in her quest for the trophy, ambitious Ginny Ryerson (Anna Kendrick) is now faced with finding a replacement for her brilliant debate partner.

She focuses on an unlikely candidate: Hal Hefner (Reese Daniel Thompson), an awkward high school freshman, with a debilitating stutter and an overbearing, strange older brother named Earl (Vincent Piazza). Hal's high school ambition seems to be to escape the notice of bullies and maybe get the lunch he wants in the cafeteria.

Shy but bright, Hal can hardly get a sentence out, even if he does know the answers in class. At lunch, he settles for the less desirable cafeteria choices, due to his inability to spit out the word "pizza." His parents have recently split up and things are a bit chaotic in their cramped, modest suburban home.

Ginny is his complete opposite, hyper-verbal, confident and relentless in pursuit of her goals.

Hal is floored when he is singled out by the beautiful, brainy, rich-girl senior, the star of the debate team,

to replace her legendary debate partner Ben Wekselbaum (Nicholas D'Agosto).

Ginny fixes on the speech-challenged freshman partially because he vaguely resembles her old teammate Ben and partially because she believes that Hal's speech difficulties mean he has a deeper well of anger to fuel a desire to succeed.

Ginny campaigns for what she wants but Hal is simply smitten. Seeing more possibilities than debate in the attentions of this beautiful girl, Hal eventually, reluctantly but hopefully, embarks on the impossible dream.

"Rocket Science" follows the quirkier path of "Napoleon Dynamite" and other more off-beat indie comedies about teenage angst and romantic dreams. But what starts out like another in comedy in that mode evolves into create a more interesting and less predictable story.

Instead of rolling down the familiar road of romantic comedy, "Rocket Science" veers off course to far funnier and truer territory.

"Rocket Science" has more realism and a bit more of a touching serious side than the sillier "Napoleon Dynamite." It has much more bitter-sweet coming-of-age reality than you might expect, but the tale is also told with a dark humor twist. Hal also faces a daunting array of problems that might echo other teenage experiences for many.

His bullying bizarre older brother, his parents' recent divorce, the school's incompetent speech therapist and his mother's odd boyfriend all present both comic opportunity and slice of life realism.

"Rocket Science" is the feature film directorial debut of Jeffrey Blitz, who helmed the award-winning spelling bee documentary "Spellbound." That experience means the director knows something of the real realm of high school competition, ambition and drive.

Inspired by the cult classic "Harold and Maude," director Jeffrey

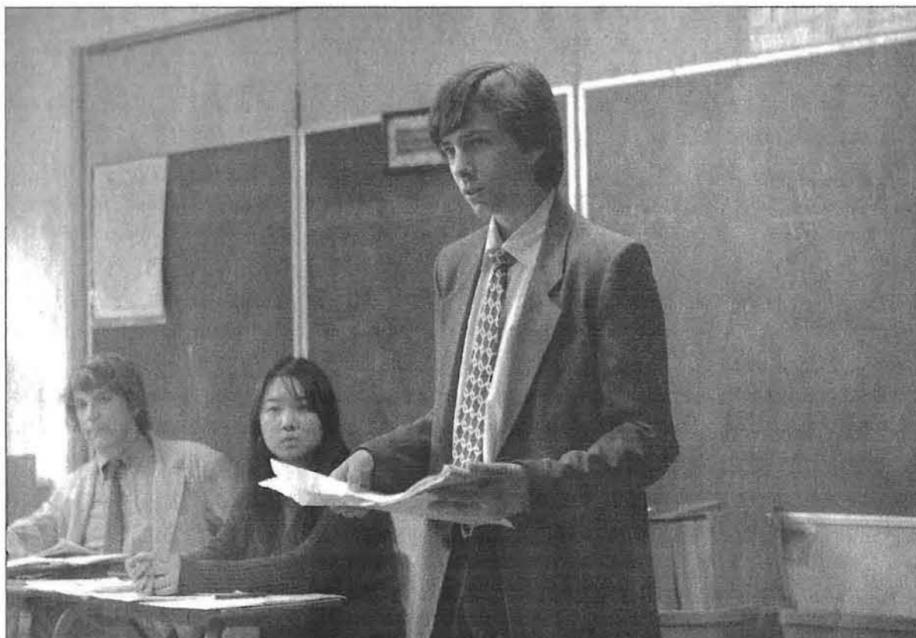


Photo Courtesy of Picturehouse

Reese Daniel Thompson plays Hal Hefner, an awkward high school freshman, in "Rocket Science."

Blitz set out to create a film that had a foot in reality and a foot in comedy. Beyond his experience working with real high schoolers in "Spellbound," Blitz also drew on his own childhood experience with stuttering.

Blitz uses a straightforward approach to the film, choosing to focus on the actors rather than camera tricks.

The film gets credit for being more real-life than the usual clichéd Hollywood fare and the acting is respectable enough. Actor Reese Daniel Thompson nails the teenage angst of high school romantic dreams perfectly, a universal theme that is one of the film's strong points.

Anna Kendrick's Ginny is wound very tight and her single focus means she is largely unaware of her own seductive effect on Hal.

While the characters are well-rounded, they are never irresistible enough to transcend the story's loopier and unlikely aspects to lift



Reese Daniel Thompson and Anna Kendrick star in "Rocket Science," directed by Jeff Blitz.

"Rocket Science" into a must-see film. "Rocket Science" is fresh and entertaining enough, with worthy ambitions and some telling nuggets of truth. By staying with certain indie film boundaries, "Rocket Science" unfolds as more a quirky little gem

than a coming-of-age classic. Still, the film is worth seeing and a very promising feature debut for its director Jeffrey Blitz and introduction for its unknown star Reese Daniel Thompson. "Rocket Science" is now playing at the Hi-Pointe cinema.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Guido's: 'A Taste of Spain in the Middle of Italy'

By SHANNON McMANIS

Page Designer

In the classic and liturgical language of Sanskrit, "tapas" means "heat."

For those of us who are not familiar with this ancient tongue, tapas are the appetizer delicacies of Spanish cuisine. They can be prepared either hot or cold, and the Spanish restaurant Guido's serves them up both ways.

The Carretero family hails from Madrid and ended up settling in St. Louis. They wanted a place where they could lovingly craft familiar Spanish recipes, and settling on the Hill, found a way to incorporate both the old and the new.

They opened Guido's, named for their son, Miguel, as a pizzeria and tapas bar.

This self-proclaimed "Taste of Spain in the Middle of Italy" is just that and more. Located in the heart of the Hill, Guido's full menu combines both Italian and Spanish cuisine.

All of the usual favorites can be found on their Italian menu. There are pastas, salads and sandwiches, but the pizza warrants a try. Made with St. Louis-style crust and baked in stone ovens, this pizza has all the necessities for greatness.

I suggest a combination of mozzarella and provolone cheeses, and the slightly spicy Spanish chorizo

Guido's Pizzeria and Tapas

★★★★☆

Located at 5046 Shaw Ave on The Hill (314) 771-4900

Hours:

Sunday - Thursday
11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday-Saturday
11 a.m. - midnight



Miguel Delgado serves customers of Guido's Pizzeria & Tapas Sunday. The restaurant specializes in tapas.

makes a first-rate alternative to pepperoni. Close to thirty other toppings are available, not to mention specialty options such as the popular taco pizza.

The Spanish menu is where the Carretero family really has their chance to shine. The cold tapas include potato dishes, marinated olives and cured Spanish ham, to name a few.

The boquerones were particularly good but not for the faint of heart. Anyone who avoids anchovies should do the same for these laid out tiny white fish, which are marinated in vinegar and served with olive oil, garlic and lemon juice.

The highlight of the meal was definitely spent with an assortment of the hot tapas. Seafood lovers will delight, as several squid, cod and shrimp selections available.

For those frightened of tuna, forget the canned stuff, and take one bite of Guido's tuna empanadillas.

A rich mixture of tuna, cheeses and spice is stuffed into pastries, and have no doubt, your heart will melt right alongside your taste buds.

Another favorite is the Queso de Cabra, or baked goat cheese immersed in a tomato, pepper and basil sauce.

The only thing lacking was great bread. Generic Italian bread comes with the meal, but the lack of palatability takes its toll on those portions which really need it, such as the goat cheese.

Patrons walking into Guido's Pizzeria and Tapas are immediately engulfed by a feeling of hospitality.

The atmosphere is comfortable and inviting, and on the way to the table, regulars laugh with the bartender. Part of this ease comes from

the undeniable fact that this is a family joint.

Advertisements from Madrid adorn the walls, along with an eclectic arrangement of both Italian and Spanish banners, pottery and figurines.

There may be white tablecloths in the dining room, but that is not reflected in the pricing. Guido's also offers a private room for events, along with a specialty menu if required.

Guido's is located on The Hill at 5046 Shaw Ave. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to midnight.

For more information, call Guido's at (314)771-4900.



Photos by: Courtney A. Strong • Staff Photographer

Guido's Pizzeria and Tapas is located in the Italian neighborhood of The Hill, but is owned and operated by the Carretero family, who hail from Madrid. Proud of their heritage, they lovingly combine their menu to include both Italian and Spanish cuisine.

CD REVIEW

King Thief's 'The Inferno' is burning up the local scene

By ELIZABETH STAUDT

Staff Writer

On June 2, 2007, St. Louis local band King Thief welcomed into the world their album "The Inferno" in Blueberry Hill's Duck Room. King Thief, formerly known as Ultra Blue, has created quite an epic feeling album along the same lines of emotional rock bands like Muse along with Ours.

In a recent interview, the band described their sound as "almost stadium rock with a lot of piano and organs." King Thief is Brooks Bracken on vocals, Sam Hill on guitar, Jon Hill on bass, Louis Wall on Drums and Al Kent on keyboard.

The CD opens with a melancholic piano and strings intro before moving to the extremely catchy song

"New England Hellcat." Lead singer Brooks Bracken nearly chants the final lyrics which come across as more frightening with his nearly apathetic tone. This song sets up the whole CD with a pumping beat, dark lyrics, emotionally-charged instrumental breaks and an ironic attitude.

"Mahogany," with its simple "hey oh" chorus line that let Bracken involve the audience, serves as a slightly harder follow-up to the poppy "New England Hellcat." Beware the poppy rhythm, however, as



King Thief

"The Inferno"

★★★★☆

King Thief's lyrical content tends toward the dark side of life as choruses twist signs of love into "XOXO I hate you."

"XO" is actually the only song to survive the band's name change coming off of Ultra Blue's "Maya" release. The song's popularity cannot be denied at shows and the melody is catchy even if the lyrics are full of an ironic hate.

Do not be put off by the lyrics, most of which take on the gothic, Poe-like quality, because King Thief does have a great sense of humor, including some fart jokes in the interview.

When asked where the members met, they said "in the trenches of a toy store. We all worked together selling 'Tickle Me Elmos.'" According to the band, the new name is "like a dichotomy. It's like the richest of

the rich and the poorest of the poor."

The strings take over at key points on the CD and add an epic tone, which allow the lyrics to evade a melodramatic "emo" feel. King Thief does not stop at just adding strings to their music but uses chains in buckets to introduce "Exitus," a dark song which gives way to the poppy "Serpentine."

"The Inferno" as a whole flows incredibly well and the production is clear. This is not a "recorded in the drummer's basement" release but a solid, potentially career-jumping album.

King Thief is a crazy live show, and the CD release party came complete with its own fight in the crowd, an unusual sight at Blueberry Hill. I would highly recommend picking up a copy of "The Inferno" at Vintage Vinyl, as the CD is not available in

CHANCELLOR, from page 6

He earned his Master of Science in 1968 and doctorate of philosophy degree in 1970 in theoretical chemistry from Yale University. Post-doctoral appointments followed at prestigious institutions such as MIT and University of California - Berkeley.

At the age of 29, George was promoted to a full time position as professor of chemistry. He then became dean of natural sciences and mathematics at State University in New York. Thereafter, George served as provost and academic vice president at Washington State University. Prior to accepting the position as chancellor at UM-St. Louis, George served as chancellor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for seven years.

George is also an active researcher in the science community. He is also a professor of chemistry and physics here at UM-St. Louis.

"Lately, I've been conducting research in laser chemistry and laser physics," said George.

George has been working with a group doing small scale science research. "Most recently I've also

been doing some medical research on lasers killing tumors and cancer cells," he said.

UM-St. Louis is the only public research university in the Greater St. Louis Area. George said that without this institution, most people would not have the opportunity to pursue higher education.

"We are the main provider of the workforce for the St. Louis community, and we have a number of nationally and internationally recognized academic programs," George said. "We tend to think out of the box as evidenced, for example, by Express Scripts, Inc., the second largest corporation in the state, locating its headquarters on our campus."

George said he hopes to continue to build on the accomplishments of the school. He also wants to continue to secure more resources of the state to keep tuition as low as possible and retain outstanding world renowned faculty.

"UMSL drives St. Louis, and we want to accelerate even more as we strive to serve the citizens of our state and beyond," George said.

AFRICAN POLITICS, from page 6

There are countries in north, east, west and central Africa that all are included. "That's what's interesting is the diversity," said Iyob.

The diversity lies not only in the sheer number of countries, but also their economies and ecologies. According to Iyob, there are some countries that are pastoral, petro-states, or have diamond-rich economies. In the ecological diversity, there are deserts, mountains, coastal areas and jungles.

Diversity is not the only focus in the course. Iyob said that she tries "to bring in the Pan-African element, and to examine the globality of it. Africa is in the whole world: African peoples, cultures, economies."

The involvement of Africa in the world economy isn't a new development. It has played an important part in history for the Persians, Greeks and Romans, as well as others. African culture, people and economies have circulated throughout the world since ancient times.

"Africa has always been a part of the global wave, in both positive and negative ways," Iyob said. "There's no way to look at international relations without Africa."

The class will look at past and present politics, including Euro-African relations. "It's central to the world economy, culture and international relations, but it's not politically central," said Iyob. "There's an absence of acknowledgement, which makes it possible for us to ignore it."

She said that she goes into some

American politics in the class. She starts with the familiar and works from there to get her students so they do not view the African politics as exotic.

She said that she "makes it relevant" and by doing so, acknowledges the relevance of Africa to the world. "It's so central to our way of life, why don't we acknowledge it?"

By using the internet and current technology, Iyob can make a point about how alive and widespread African politics are.

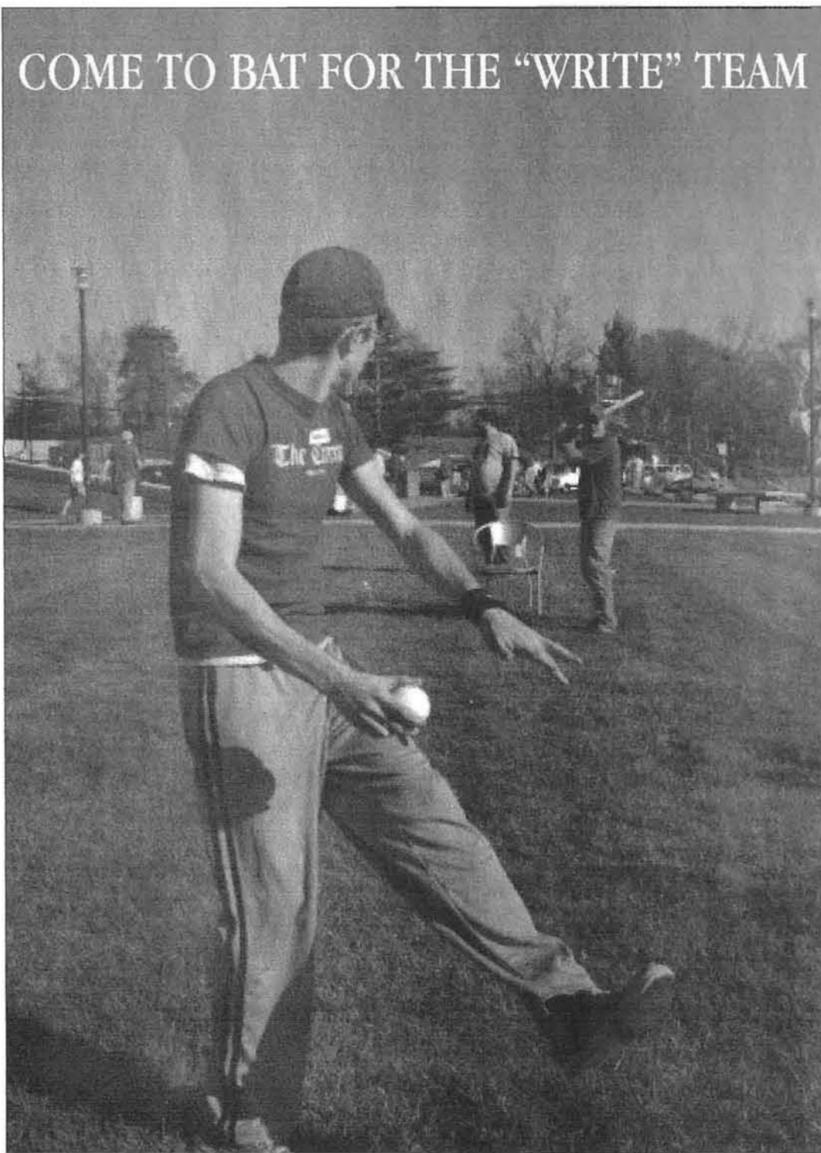
She said the cartography exercise used to take a week to do, but now students can do a google search and come in with a printed map of the African countries, but no two students will have identical maps.

"Students get excited," Iyob said. She likes the enthusiasm of the students for the subject once they really start to see how broad it is. "The class is in the afternoon, but everyone was attentive and they didn't leave at 1:45." In fact, students linger in the room afterwards, discussing the class.

"Africa is so many things," Iyob said in explaining how a tea she could once purchase only in South Africa is now available in the United States at Target. "We're discovering more African oil and diversifying our purchases."

And since our industrial economy is based on what we import, Africa becomes vitally important in providing "the basic derivatives we need for post-modern life."

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SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEF

Christy Trame looks for tournament repeat

Last year on September 2 Christy Trame, junior, middle hitter/blocker, was named to the All Tournament Team after putting up 35 kills over three matches with 18 blocks at the Quincy Nike/McDonald's Tournament.

On Friday August 31, the UM-St. Louis Volleyball team will open at the Rockhurst Tournament.

In the past two matches for UM-St. Louis, Trame has put up a team leading 42 kills. Trame is averaging 4.35 kills per game this season already. Trame ranked 5th in the GLVC last year averaging 3.73 kills per game.

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Soccer

Aug. 27
at Concordia, N.Y.
(Bronxville, N.Y.)
2 p.m. (ET)

Aug. 31
vs. Lyon
7 p.m.

Sep. 7
vs. Rockhurst
7:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Aug. 31
at Grand Valley State
(Allendale, Mich.)
4 p.m. (ET)

Sept. 2
at Ferris State
(Big Rapids, Mich.)
12:00 p.m. (ET)

Sept. 7
vs. Rockhurst
5:00 p.m.

Volleyball

Aug. 31 - Sept. 1
at Rockhurst
Tournament
vs. Grand Canyon
vs. Colorado
vs. Washburn
vs. Wayne State
(Kansas City, Mo.)

Triton golf coach tees off fourth year

By LAQUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

Dustin Ashby is entering his fourth year as the head coach for the men's golf team. Last season, the team finished ninth in the GLVC tournament. This year, the men's golf program is ranked 16th in the nation for Division II programs by Golf Digest.

"As a coach, it tells me I am doing something right," Ashby said. "Over the past three to four years we have been kind of rebuilding everything," said Ashby. "We have a lot of fresh faces in the golf program. We are a very young, young team."

"The question is going to be, how quickly can our sophomores help the freshmen of today transition in and how well our leadership, Matt Thomas and Tim Swoboda, lead the team," Ashby said.

According to Ashby, the men's golf team has a bright future. The team is comprised of mostly sophomores and juniors and Ashby believes that his team could be a top contender in the GLVC.

"While we are excited to see what the young guys have to bring to the table, we are also cautiously optimistic because I know what they are capable of. There is a transition when you get to the college level," said Ashby. "I expect better things than last year. If we play up to our capability, we can compete with anybody in the conference."

Ashby recently won the St. Louis District Amateur Championship for the second time. The first time Ashby won the award was in 1996.

"I won it 11 years ago when I was actually still at UMSL," said Ashby. "It was nice to come back a little bit older, a little bit more experienced but still compete with a lot of the young kids that we compete against on the college side. There are a couple of student-athletes that we compete against, whether it be Rockhurst or Quincy College or the University of Missouri for that matter."

Ashby went on to say, "It is still nice to be able to go out and compete against the best amateurs."

Ashby said even though his passion is golf, he does not get too many chances to play. Ashby hosts a golf radio show and says that outside of his family life, golf is about 90 percent of his life.

"Whenever I am out there playing, I am competing not only on the behalf of myself, but the school," said Ashby.

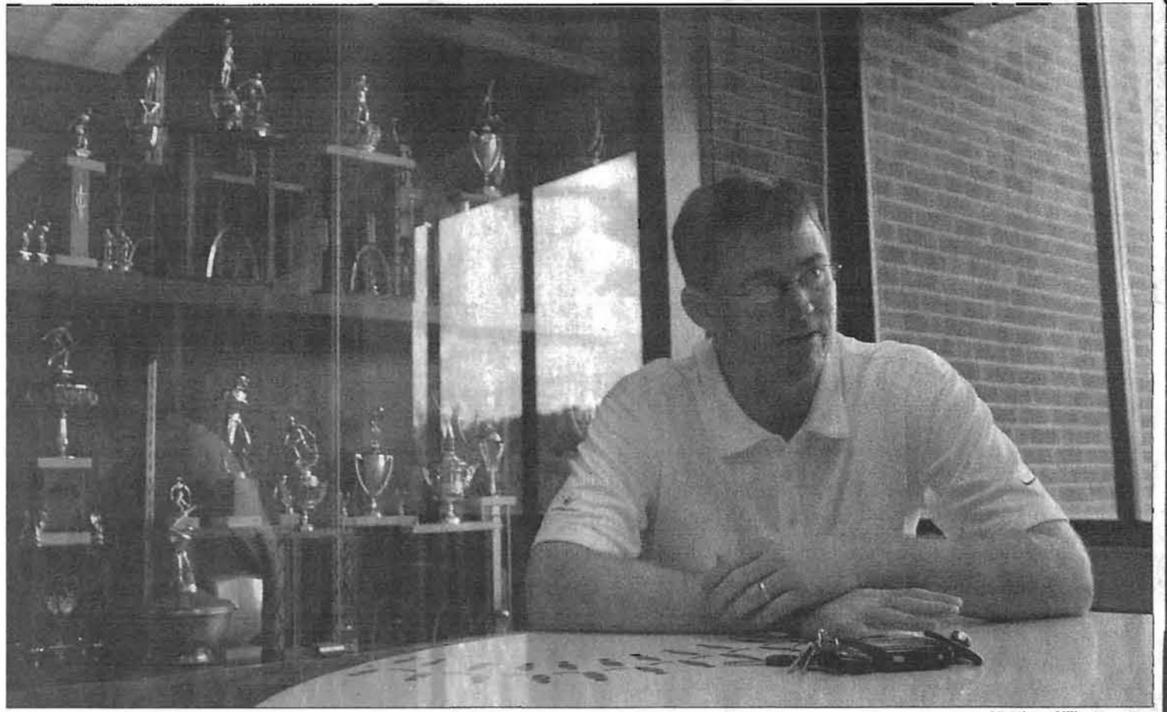
Ashby said if he could play golf

against anyone in history it would be Tiger Woods. Ashby said that he actually played junior golf against Woods years ago.

"As he was traveling around, doing his junior golf thing, we came across each other in a couple of junior tournaments. He was still Tiger Woods back then. Everybody knew who he was and everybody knew how good he would be," said Ashby.

"Golf is a wonderful game because you can play the game for years and years and while you may not be as competitive as you once were, when you where 19 or 20, you are still able to enjoy the competition. On any given day I could go out and shoot a good score and compete against the best players, but day in and day out they are going to thump me. But that is what makes golf special."

Golf Digest ranks UM-St. Louis 16th in the nation in Division II

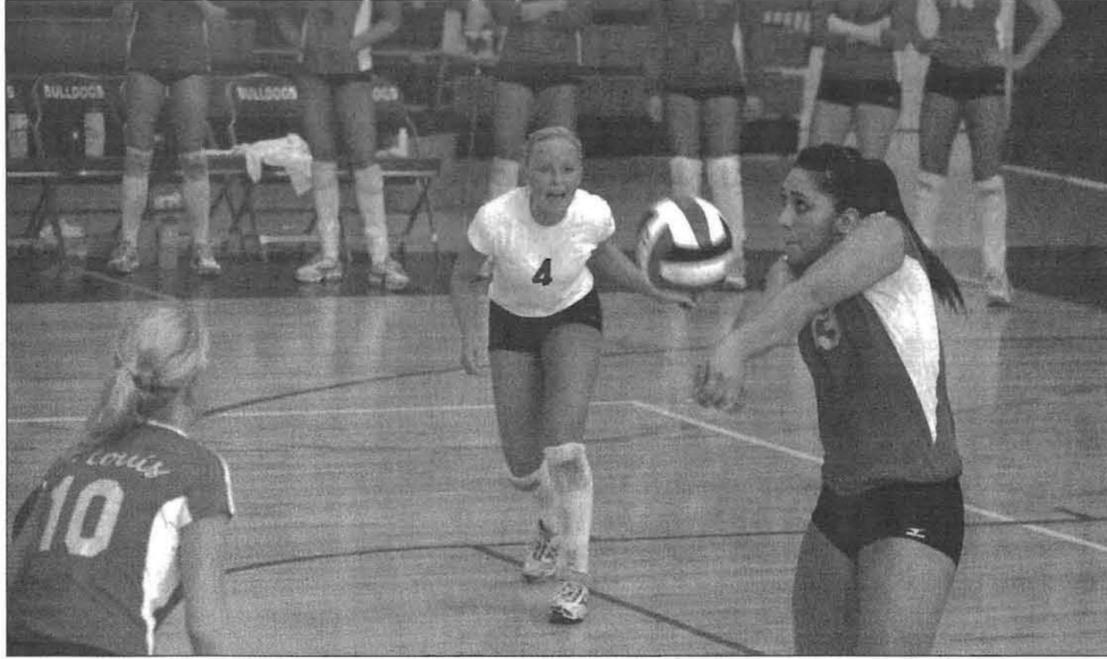


Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

UMSL Golf coach Dustin Ashby and his team have high expectations going into the new season.

UM-St. Louis ranks 16th among Division II, and 161st over all Colleges

- Overall, Stanford ranked 1st with a score of 90.9. UM-St. Louis was given a 58.4.
- The overall score takes into account player growth, golf only ratings, and academics.
- In player growth, UM-St. Louis .27, compared to #2 Duke's player growth of -.01.
- The full ratings and details can be found online at the www.GolfDigest.com.



File Photo

UM-St. Louis Volleyball players Joslyn Brown, 4, libero, and Claudia Medina, 13, outside hitter, compete last year against SIU-Edwardsville.

Triton Volleyball splits four games at Missouri Southern Tournament

By TOM SCHNABLE
Assistant Sports Editor

Going into the season, the UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team identified starting out fast as a team goal. Well, if the first day of the Missouri Southern Tournament in Joplin did not count, then it did just that. The Tritons dropped both their matches on the first day, only to see themselves rally to win both their matches on day two.

On day one, they opened up play against Emporia State. Another one of the goals the women made before the season was to improve on matches that went five games. The Hornets, however, were able to break the Tritons' hearts in a five-game thriller. UM -St. Louis took a two games to nothing lead, only to see ESU storm back to win the next three.

In the second match of the day, the Tritons took on the Griffons of Missouri Western. MWSU was able to dispatch UM -St. Louis in only four games to win the match. Going into the second day, things were not looking too good.

But the Tritons were able to reverse their luck. They started out with a match against the host school, Missouri Southern. The Lions were able to capture the first game and UM -St. Louis came back and won the second. The Tritons took the third game with MSSU rallying for the fourth to square the match at two games to two.

Then the Tritons were able to accomplish something they were not able to accomplish all of last season; they won the match in a fifth game. The victory was sealed by freshman Carolyn Holstein's service ace. No game

in the match was decided by more than four points, and the combined difference in scoring between the two schools was only three points.

Riding the high of their first victory of the year, UM-St. Louis made quick work of Southwest Baptist, winning three games to none. Junior Christy Trame led all Tritons for the weekend with 74 kills, and junior Lisa Brinker's play was honored with a selection to the all-tournament team. Her 171 sets were also a team high for the weekend.

For the tournament and the season, the Tritons have their record at an even two and two. The team next travels to Kansas City, MO this weekend for the Rockhurst Tournament, before returning home to start off their home schedule on September 7th with a visit from Rockhurst.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Who's up for a little Wallyball?

By TOM SCHNABLE

Assistant Sports Editor

School is in full swing now, and if you are like me, you have way too many responsibilities on your plate. Between school, homework, internships, extracurricular activities, jobs and whatever, it never seems to stop piling up. But it is always important to find the time to blow off a little steam. One thing to do that is really easy, a lot of fun and most important, absolutely free, is campus rec. sports.

Campus rec. sports, for those of you who do not know, are available at the Mark Twain Building, and allows you to compete with your fellow classmates in everything from wallyball to floor hockey. Want to one up your buddy? See who can get braggin' rights at the bingo extravaganza.

For those of you who played sports all throughout high school and are sad that the glory days are now behind you, recapture the magic in any number of flag football, basketball and soccer competitions. If you are not someone who played sports for whatever reason, did not have time or were afraid of getting cut, campus rec. sports is a good place to start.

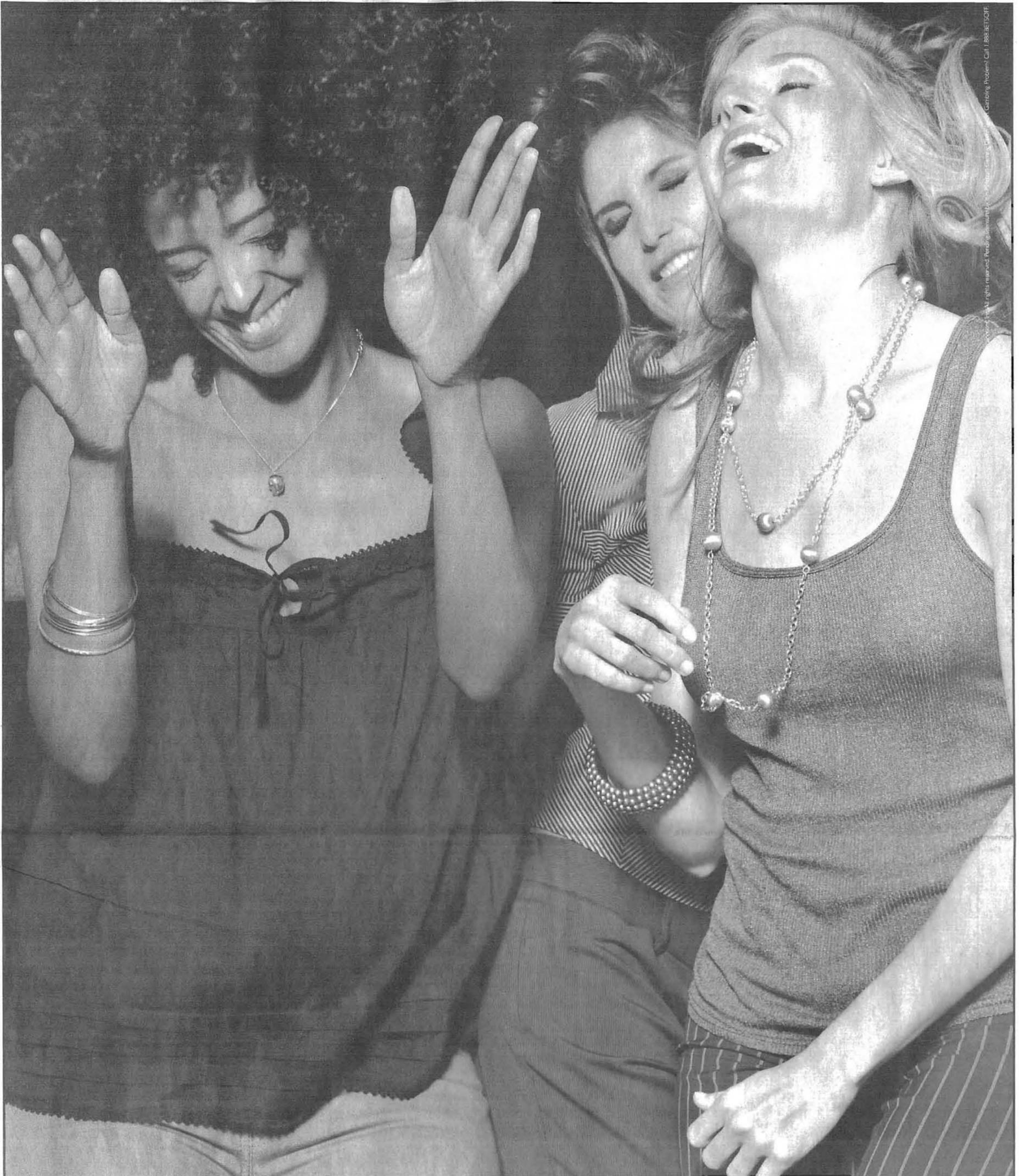
Can you imagine an entire life going by without ever playing racquetball? Fortunately, there are four courts available, so this nightmare of a scenario can be averted. If playing sports is not your cup of tea, another great way to spend the time in between classes is to go swim some laps in the pool. For those of you into Pilates or yoga, courses are offered by certified fitness instructors for a small fee.

The courteous staff at the MTB will help you with any questions you might have, and they are waiting on pins and needles for you to come on down and say hello.

Honestly, coffee is great and all, and I am sure studying for class is a real trip, but opening up some time to utilize one of the many sports or programs campus recreation has to offer can be just as important as your next test or paper.

Remember what Ferris Bueller says: "Life moves by pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you might miss it."

So the next time you are sitting in the student center racking your brain reading your chemistry book, think about the many opportunities campus rec. sports has to offer. If not for your sanity, than maybe for your fellow students. And maybe your professors.



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SHORT FUSE

Vick should not be banned from NFL

Dog fighting is wrong. It is not a sport and should not be a hobby or a business. If Michael Vick lived by those rules, he would be getting ready for the upcoming season instead of getting ready for a possible jail sentence. Criminal charges aside, Vick is a great football player and over the past few days



By LAQUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

my personal opinion about this situation has gone back and forth.

Should Vick go to jail? If convicted, I say yes. He committed a crime and even though am not a dog lover, I agree with those who say Vick should do time. However, Vick has agreed to help prosecutors in dog fighting investigations, so if he does go to jail, it may be for a short time.

Vick's career with the Falcons is probably over and his entire career might be on the line as well. I do not think Vick should be banned from the game forever, but ultimately, the decision is not mine to make. As a fan of the NFL, I think the loss of Vick as a player will change the excitement of the game. Face it; the Falcons will not be the same team without Vick. They might pull together as a team and win a few games, but overall, Vick will be greatly missed.

What NFL team would think about signing Vick with such a tarnished reputation?

Answer: any team who wants to cause a match up problem for opposing defense. I think Vick could have a few teams looking to sign him and he would be a great addition to many of

fenses. Too bad he has more problems than just worrying about where to play.

Vick lied to the NFL commissioner in April when asked about his connection with dog fighting. That may be a big deciding factor in Vick's suspension. On the other hand, if Vick had told the truth, he would more than likely have run into a different list of problems.

It is too early to know what will happen to Vick. He has said that he was involved with the dog fights, but how will his involvement affect his career? Vick is going to need to remake his public image if he wants to keep the fans that he still has and win back some of the fans that he lost. I do not think a public apology will work; Vick needs to show, not tell, that he is remorseful. Maybe opening dog shelters or speaking out against animal cruelty will help, but I do not think PETA will let the public forget about this anytime soon.

Vick should be punished for his crime, but that does not mean that he should not be allowed to play football again. If he worked at Burger King, I am pretty sure he could find another one to work for if he was fired. This is going to come down to the NFL's public image. How people look at the NFL will be a deciding factor in this situation.

The NFL has been weeding out the bad seeds in the league and depending on the results of the investigation; Vick may join players such as Reggie Williams and Adam "Pacman" Jones in the list of exiled NFL players.

STATS CORNER

WOMEN'S SOCCER

MEN'S SOCCER

Aug 24 game at home: T (1 - 1)

Aug 25 at Nyack: W (1 - 0) OT

Player	Sh	SOG	G	A
3 Stone, Sarah	1	1	1	-
8 Reitz, Tara	5	4	-	-
9 Lee, Rachel	2	1	-	-
12 Fox, Amy	6	1	-	-
14 Cerny, Lynn	1	-	-	-
15 Gabris, Maggie	-	-	-	1
Totals	15	7	1	1

Player	Sh	SOG	G	A
2 South, Ryan	1	-	-	-
5 Horan, Dennis	1	-	-	-
7 Smith, Jared	2	2	-	-
9 Huber, Colin	2	2	1	-
10 Spencer, Blair	3	2	-	-
12 Muesenfechter	1	1	-	-
17 Wogtech, Kyle	1	-	-	-
20 Wania, Mike	-	-	-	1
21 Schaul, Andy	1	-	-	-
Totals	12	7	1	1

Player	Min	GA	Saves
00 Behrmann, M.	45:00	1	2
23 Carmody, C.	65:00	0	0

Player	Min	GA	Saves
1 Bober, Mike	105:00	0	3

Sh - Shots A - Assists
SOG - Shots on goal
G - Goals GA - Goals allowed

GLVC standings:

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Drury	1	0	0	1.00
Indianapolis	2	0	0	1.00
Lewis	1	0	0	1.00
UM-Rolla	1	0	0	1.00
UM-St. Louis	1	0	0	1.00
Northern KY	2	0	0	1.00
Rockhurst	1	0	0	1.00
UW-Parkside	1	0	0	1.00
Quincy	1	0	1	.750
S. Indiana	1	1	0	.500
Saint Joseph's	0	0	0	.000
SIU Edwardsville	0	0	0	.000
KY Wesleyan	0	1	0	.000
Bellarmine	0	2	0	.000

VOLLEYBALL

GLVC West standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.	Streak
SIU Edwardsville	4	0	1.00	W4
Quincy	3	1	.750	W1
Rockhurst	3	1	.750	W1
UM-St. Louis	2	2	.500	W2
Southern Indiana	2	2	.500	L1
Drury	1	3	.250	L3
UM-Rolla	0	4	.000	L4

Aug 26 game at home: W (4 - 0)

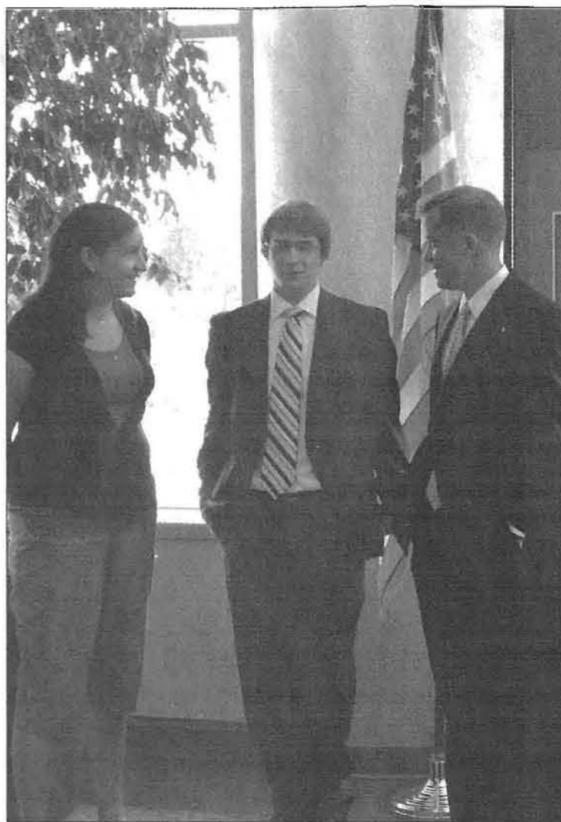
Player	Sh	SOG	G	A
4 Nesbit, Anne	1	1	-	1
8 Reitz, Tara	2	1	1	2
9 Lee, Rachel	2	2	1	1
10 Hampton, J.	1	1	-	-
12 Fox, Amy	2	2	1	1
14 Cerny, Lynn	-	-	-	1
15 Gabris, Maggie	1	-	-	-
18 Farrow, Caitlin	4	1	1	-
Totals	13	8	4	6

Player	Min	GA	Saves
00 Behrmann, M.	45:00	0	2
23 Carmody, C.	45:00	0	1

GLVC standings:

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Northern KY	2	0	0	1.00
Quincy	1	0	0	1.00
Rockhurst	2	1	0	1.00
UW-Parkside	1	0	0	1.00
UM-St. Louis	1	0	1	.750
Bellarmine	1	1	0	.500
Drury	1	1	0	.500
Lewis	0	0	0	.000
Saint Joseph's	0	0	0	.000
SIU Edwardsville	0	0	0	.000
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000
KY Wesleyan	0	1	0	.000
UM-Rolla	0	1	0	.000
S. Indiana	0	1	0	.000

NEWS BRIEFS



Maria Jenkins • Staff Photographer

Governor Matt Blunt paid a visit to the MSC Wednesday. UM-St. Louis student government officials Bryan Goers and Cadence Rippeto spoke with Blunt after his speech.

Blunt visits UMSL

Gov. Matt Blunt visited UM-St. Louis on Wednesday.

According to Bryan Goers, SGA president, the governor spoke about the scholarship increases that the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority loan sale has given to students of the UM system and students at other public universities in Missouri.

This \$350 million sale in loans will go to building new complexes, renovations and increasing scholarship aid to public colleges and universities in Missouri.

Blunt signed the bill in June that set the sale in motion after it went through the Missouri legislature as Senate Bill 389.

In addition to funding for an increase in the university's scholarships, the MOHELA loan sale is backing the cost of the Benton-Stadler complex renovations.

Traci Clark, senior, nursing, spoke at the event about how financial aid has helped her pay for tuition at the university.

IB program ranked among top in nation

U.S. News and World Report ranked UM-St. Louis' International Business program number 13 in 2008's listing which was released Monday, Aug. 20. It was the only International Business program to

receive a ranking in Missouri.

The UM-St. Louis program began as collaboration between the Pierre Laclède College and College of Business Administration in 1999.

"Our fifth consecutive year in the top 20 is just a confirmation of the fact that we have established a top-notch program," Allan Bird, director of International Business Program said. "The outstanding reputation of our program continues to grow and is known both nationally and internationally."

"We continue to attract and retain high quality students and faculty," Keith Womer, dean of College of Business Administration said. "As part of our ongoing mission, we are constantly looking at ways to better our program."

The program highlights include more than 70 study abroad programs in over 40 countries. American students have interned overseas at companies including Japan Airlines, Emerson Electric and General Motors. In addition, foreign students have interned for companies such as Monsanto Company and Anheuser-Busch Companies Incorporated.

In 2005, UM-St. Louis launched its International Master's of Business Administration program. The University has created partnerships with international universities. Students in the program study abroad the first year and spend the following year interning in the same country.

MOHELA Lawsuit from page 1

According to Sen. Gary Nodler, noted as the "architect" of SB 389, the MOHELA loans that were sold were not the loans of Missouri students. Nodler also said nothing about the loans would change.

The lawsuit claims MOHELA has stockpiled millions of dollars from student loans over the years that should have been used to keep interest rates down and fund other MOHELA programs.

"They're simply changing hands," Nodler said in June when Blunt signed the bill. "The rates will not increase or anything."

The approved plan for the sale of the loans would sell the loans to the state as opposed to a private holder.

After being approved by the Missouri legislature, SB 389 will take effect on Aug. 28.

The bill has been revised numerous times since Blunt first announced it in January of 2006,

and was the subject of a filibuster before passing to the hands of the governor to be finalized.

In a statement, interim president of the University of Missouri system Gordon Lamb said, "The university is monitoring this litigation because the issues it raises are obviously important to the university and to Missouri's other public institutions of higher education."

According to the governor's office, building projects funded by the loan sale are still set to receive that funding.

"Surprisingly, I have not heard that much about it," said Bryan Goers, president of the Student Government Association at UM-St. Louis.

If the lawsuit was going to be a big issue, it would be discussed at the chancellor's cabinet meeting Tuesday, Aug. 28.

Millions of dollars worth in MOHELA loans have already been sold.

PAY RAISES from page 1

This year UM-St. Louis will be implementing a 3 percent salary increase for faculty, which according to Chancellor Thomas George, will come from a lack of increase in the equipment and expense budget.

UM-St. Louis wanted to raise the salaries above the appropriated 3 percent to bring them closer to peer institutions in the salary range, possibly even to 4.2 percent.

The university proposed a plan to increase the salaries in a three-part system.

One-third of the increase would come from the operating budget, the state of Missouri would be responsible for the second-third, and the last third would come from an increase in tuition.

The proposed plan was not

approved by the Board of Curators because, as George said, "the Curators did not want this on the backs of the students".

The proposal that was approved calls for a fifty-fifty split of the increase between the university and the state.

If approved by the state, for the next three years, the university will add one million dollars per year into the operations budget "dedicated solely to adjusting faculty salary issues" says George.

UM-St. Louis has already begun preparing for the salary increases by "eliminating positions, mainly administrative positions, and not rehiring into them" George said, "but really, it all comes down to what the legislators and the governor decide."

CONTRERAS from page 1

Contreras has been in contact with her lawyer Aleksei Andreevich Andreeshev, who attempted to negotiate for Contreras' freedom on the basis that she claimed herself guilty of purchasing illegal items under the idea that Contreras did not know she was breaking the law.

According to Bahar, cases where tourists are stopped with such contraband are rarely handled in this manner. "Normally, the medals were taken out of the tourists' luggage and they were told 'Sorry, you can't take these out of the country,' but they have never not been allowed to get on their flight," Bahar said.

After a trial date was set for Tuesday, Aug. 28 in Ramon, Russia, at 10 a.m. Russian time, which is 1 a.m. St. Louis time, Bahar and supporters of Contreras are convinced that any pub-

licity is good publicity.

"There is a news storm over in Chile," Bahar said. The story has also been covered in the "Moscow Times."

During Governor Matt Blunt's appearance at UM-St. Louis, Contreras' issue was brought up. Blunt has been cited as saying he would speak to his father about the matter.

United States Representative for Missouri Todd Akin has sent letters to Russian Ambassador Yuri Ushakov. Gordon Lamb, interim president of the UM system has also sent a letter.

Bahar, as well as many of Contreras' friends and colleagues hope to have Contreras home by the end of the week.

"Hopefully, the judge presides over her case with a cleared mind, and we'll have Roxana home soon," Bahar said.

CLASSIFIED Ads

HELP WANTED

Sigma Alpha Lambda, a National Leadership and Honors Organization with over 70 chapters across the country, is seeking motivated students to assist in starting a local chapter (3.0 GPA Required). Contact Rob Miner, Director of Chapter Development at rminer@salhonors.org.

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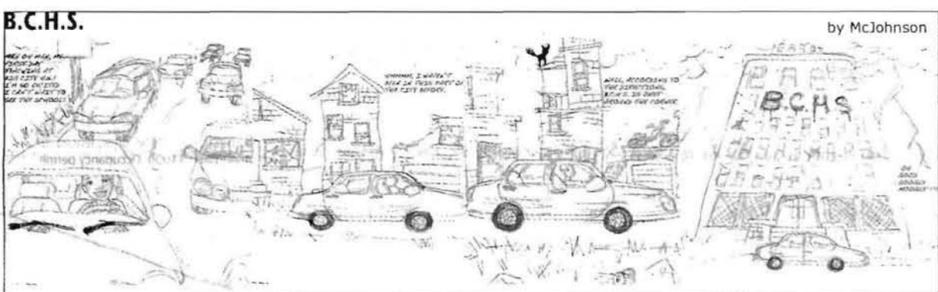
CURRENT CARTOONISTS



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart



"Shakeia's Hair Salon" is drawn by Current cartoonist Sherry Holman

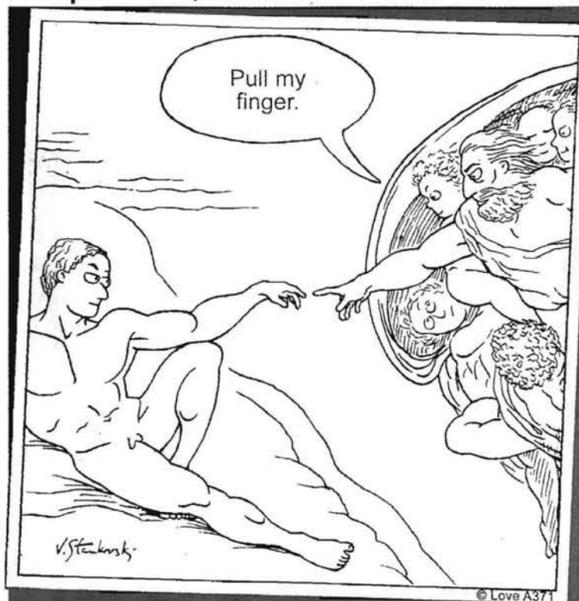


"B.C.H.S" is drawn by Current cartoonists Stazie Johnson and John A. McGrath

SYNDICATED CARTOONS



Snapshots at jasonlove.com



SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
 This week could offer more opportunities for ambitious Lambs-eager to get ahead. But do not rush into making decisions until you have checked for possible hidden problems.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
 Some light begins to shine on professional and/or personal situations that have long eluded explanation. Best advice: Do not rush things. All will be made clear in time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
 Although you might want to protest what seems to be an unfair situation, it is best to keep your tongue and temper in check for now. The full story has not yet come out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
 Work prospects are back on track. But watch what you say. A thoughtless comment to the wrong person -- even if it's said in jest -- could delay or even derail your progress.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
 A colleague might try to goad you into saying or doing the wrong thing. It is best to ignore the troublemaker, even if he or she riles your royal self. Your supporters stand with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 Sept. 22)
 Be careful not to let your on-the-job zealotness create resentment with co-workers who might feel you shut them out. Prove them wrong by including them in your project.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
 Although it's not quite what you hoped for, use your good business sense to make the most of what you are being offered at this time. Things will improve down the line.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
 A more positive picture of what lies ahead is beginning to take shape. But there are still too many gaps that need to be filled in before you make definitive plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
 Continue to keep a tight hold on the reins so that you do not charge willy-nilly into a situation that might appear attractive on the surface but lack substance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
 You still need to demand those answers to your questions. Remember, your wise counseling earns you respect, but it is your search for truth that gives you wisdom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
 You will find people are happy to help you deal with some difficult situations. And, of course, knowing you, you will be happy to return those favors anytime. Won't you?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
 Give that special someone in your personal life a large, loving dollop of reassurance. That will go a long way toward restoring the well-being of your ailing relationship.

BORN THIS WEEK:
 You are a delightful paradox. You like things neat and tidy. But you're also a wonderful host who can throw a really great party.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Bassoon's cousin
 5 Disfigure
 9 Galena is one
 12 Pub missile
 13 Shrek, for one
 14 San Francisco's - Hill
 15 Kerouac book
 17 Popcorn holder
 18 Quit
 19 Bonfire residue
 21 Biz abbr.
 22 Ball VIP
 24 Sticky substances
 27 Actress Wray
 28 Gape
 31 27-Across's "King Kong" role
 32 Indivisible
 33 Debtor's letters
 34 Candle circler
 36 Strange
 37 Author Harte
 38 Precipitate
 40 Yours truly
 41 Bloodhound's clue
 43 Extra's role in "CSI"
 47 Army rank (Abbr.)
 48 1949

DOWN

1 Stench
 2 Anathema
 3 Bits and pieces
 4 Moral principles
 5 Sunrise time
 6 Past
 7 401(k) alternative
 8 Olympian's prize
 9 Broadcasting
 10 Libertine
 11 Recedes
 16 Id counter part
 20 Crafty
 22 Exchange, as words
 23 Watched closely
 24 School of whales
 25 Yoko -
 26 Fleeing from the cops
 27 Poetic measure
 29 Misfortune
 30 Enthusiast
 35 Solo of "Star Wars"
 37 "Big" gun of WWI
 39 Pillered
 40 Larry's pal
 41 Cicatrix
 42 Ice cream holder
 43 Crory
 44 Verse
 45 Trade
 46 Tackles' teammates
 49 Put the kibosh on
 50 Afternoon social

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

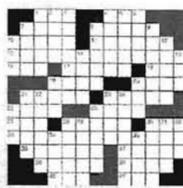
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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

The Current
 online.com



Tara Reitz helps Tritons open season 1-0-1



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

(LEFT) Tara Reitz heading the ball fielded from a teammate's corner kick. Reitz has a break through performance with one goal and two assists. (CENTER) Reitz moving up the sidelines after stealing the ball from Newberry last week. (RIGHT) UM-St. Louis' Jamie Clark, sets up for a one timer on Ashland.

By **LAGUAN FUSE**
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team opened the season with a 1-0-1 record after a 1-1 tie against Newberry and a 3-0 victory against Ashland.

UM-St. Louis started the season with a home game against Newberry on Friday Aug. 24.

Newberry scored the first goal on a penalty kick in the 37th minute by Inga Woiwode. The Tritons would not go down easily in the second half and tied the game 1-1 in the 78th minute of the game.

Sarah Stone recorded the first goal of the year for the team and was assisted by Maggie Gabris.

Regulation time ended and neither team was able to score again, forcing the game into overtime. UM-St. Louis was able to outshoot Newberry 2-0, but was not able to score another goal, ending the game with a 1-1 tie.

UM-St. Louis recorded 15 shots and seven were on goal, while holding Newberry to 10 shots and only three on goal.

The Tritons were able to defeat the Ashland Eagles 3-0 on Sunday, Aug. 26, by controlling the action for most of the game. Tara Reitz was a big factor in the team's momentum, scoring one goal and earning two assists.

Rachel Lee scored quickly in the game giving UM-St. Louis a 1-0 lead in the second minute. The goal was assisted by Reitz and Amy Fox. The Tritons continued to press the action and were able to take an early 2-0 lead after a goal in the 11th minute by Fox. Reitz recorded her second assist of the game on the goal.

The first half ended with UM-St. Louis leading Ashland 2-0. The Tritons were able to control the pace of the half and recorded seven shots during the first half. Three were shots on goal. The Eagles were held to only two shots, both on goal.

The Tritons came close to scoring in the second half when Reitz passed two Ashland defenders and had an open passing lane to Fox. The shot ricocheted off of the top of the goal saving Ashland from another possible goal.

UM-St. Louis continued to press the action and Reitz was able to pass defenders and the goalkeeper for her first goal of the game in the 59th minute, bringing the score to 3-0.

With time winding down in the game, Caitlin Farrow recorded a goal for the Tritons with four minutes left in the game. The assist went to Lynn Cerny and Anne Nesbit. UM-St. Louis held on to the lead and won the game 4-0.

"I think our team played awe-

some," said Reitz. "We had a lot of combinations and we all worked really hard. It was an awesome game."

Head Coach Beth Goetz said that even with the 4-0 win, the team still needs to focus on consistency.

"We are going to find a way to finish better," said Goetz. "I know it didn't look like it today, but we missed some easy finishes in front of the net."

Goetz also mentioned that a major focus for the team is being "able to keep that level of competitiveness, keep of speed of play and move the ball around the midfield."

"We are just trying to step it up and work on combinations and trying to get those down," Fox said.

"We have been training. Everyday we train different things" said Rachel Lee, sophomore, business administration.

"And finally, we have been combining everything we have been training. It's paid off with tons of opportunities. We didn't finish every one, but four goals isn't bad for a game."

UM-St. Louis travels to Grand Valley State on Aug. 31 and to Ferris State on Sept. 2. The next home game will be the first conference game of the season against Rockhurst on Sept. 7. The Tritons were ranked seventh in the GLVC preseason poll and Rockhurst was ranked eighth.

Huber scores men's game winner in OT

By **LAGUAN FUSE**
Sports Editor

Colin Huber scored the only goal in the men's soccer team's first win of the season. The Tritons traveled to New York to face off against Nyack on Saturday. The team was able to pick up the 1-0 win in overtime.

Huber scored the goal in the 96th minute of the game and was assisted by freshman Mike Wania. Huber recorded his fifth game-winning goal while at UM-St. Louis.

"It was cool," Huber said. "It is always great to score, especially a game-winner like that in overtime. We should have scored earlier in the game, so it was a relief to finally get it."

Both teams were close in overall shots for the game with UM-St. Louis getting 11 shots and Nyack 10. UM-St. Louis' goalkeeper Mike Bober was able to get the shutout in the first game as starting goalkeeper for the Tritons. Bober recorded three saves during the game.

"It was a good win because you always want to get the first one out of the way, especially playing in a state like New York," said team captain Jared Smith. "You have a lot going against you. You won't get the calls you normally would at a home game or even a conference game. Teams

don't want to lose on their home turf, especially to a city like St. Louis coming all the way up here. It was a really tough fought game."

The Tritons have one more game in New York against Concordia before returning home to face Lyon on Aug. 31.

"We've got a couple of kids up front, a couple of numbers that we are really going to watch," said Smith. "If we play as good as we did against Nyack, we should be able to pick up another and be able to come home with two wins on the weekend."

"We always want to go 2-0 for the weekend and start the season off right," said Huber. "It's always good to start off 2-0 and show the other teams in our conference what you have to offer. That's pretty much our motivation right now, to start strong."

The first home game of the season will be on Aug. 31 against Lyon and the first home conference game will be on Sept. 7 against Rockhurst.

"I can't wait for the home opener," said Smith. "Even though it's not a conference game, everyone would like to play in front of their own fans."

Especially with it being Labor Day weekend, we are going to have a lot of guys that have their parents having a chance to come home and see the team play for the first time."

“You won't get the calls you normally would at a home game or even a conference game.”

— Jared Smith
UM-St. Louis team captain

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