

The Current

February 12, 2007

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1207

ANNOUNCEMENT

Student organization budgets due Monday

Student organization budgets are due January 12, online budget forms are accessible from the Student Life Web site at <https://fusion.umsu.edu/studentlife/budgets/>

INSIDE



Take a look at Media Studies

The Current gives you an inside view of the new Media Studies degree program at UMSL.

See page 6



UMSL hockey players roll into St. Louis

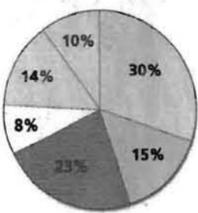
Jason Shields and Jeff Palliser came to UMSL from Louisiana to play inline hockey.

See page 12

ON THE WEB

The Current

Web poll results: What is your favorite type of movie to watch?



- Sci-Fi/Fantasy
- Thriller/Horror
- Romance
- Comedy
- Action
- Porn

This week's question Did you get what you wanted for Valentines Day?

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SGA pushes for more Metro pass support

BY SARAH O'BRIEN
Assistant News Editor

Quick Read

So far this year, the Cashier's Office has not reached its goal of selling 3,300 passes to keep its offer to sell passes at \$45 per semester. If the program ceases, students would pay \$125 per semester from Metro.

MetroLink passes may be on their way out of the UM-St. Louis system if a major response from the student population fails.

The program, which offers unlimited semester Metro rides for a \$45 fee has not hit its 3,300 sold mark in order to keep the current offer.

Some believe that there has not been a positive response to the new program because the Metro does not reach the residential areas of all the commuters, such as those coming to UM-St. Louis from the St. Charles area.

Student Government Association members distributed to the assembly

an in-depth schematic, which contrasted the prices that were offered by Metro with those that the UM-St. Louis program is offering.

With the program offered directly through MetroLink, roughly only 3,000 students would be eligible to receive the student-discounted price of \$125 per month.

The MetroLink passes became an issue two years ago when MetroLink

began charging the university twice as much as before for the free pass program.

"They were charging \$120,000, then bumped it to \$470,000. We can only speculate why," said SGA president Nick Koechig, senior, political science.

"We are not necessarily saying that the pass is gone," Koechig said.

The program, however, without a sudden influx of purchases, may lead back to harder negotiations, or the ending of the program.

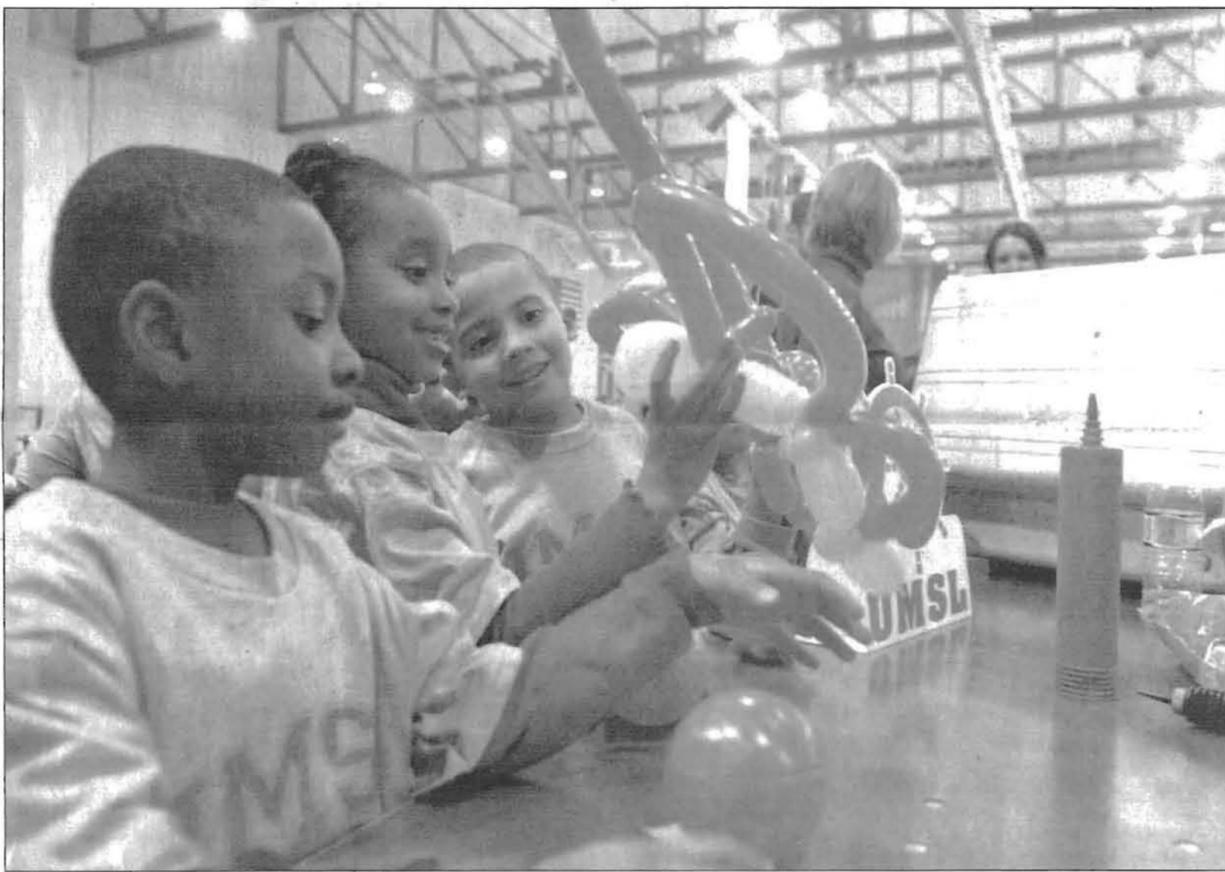
"We will do everything we can in order that this program not be cut," Koechig said.

See **SGA MEETING**, page 9

Metro pass program comparison

UM-St. Louis	Metro
Student status requirement: Currently enrolled students	Student status requirement: Full-Time
Student Age: No age restrictions	Student Age: Under 23
Costs: \$0.38 per day \$2.67 per week \$11.45 per month \$45 per semester	Costs: \$1.06 per day \$7.41 per week \$31.81 per month \$125 per semester

HAVING A BALL-OON AT THE BASKETBALL GAME



Adam D. Wiseman • Editor-in-Chief

During the basketball games at the Mark Twain this past Thursday night, children enjoy balloon animals during 'Pack the Stands' night. The night featured a face painter and a balloon contortionist. The women's basketball team lost to Southern Indiana 67-62 and the men's team lost by a score of 72-59.

Nickname suggestions are in

The Identity Project reaches phase two, but some question the cost invested in the search

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Managing Editor

Quick Read

The nickname committee for The UMSL Identity Project has narrowed down a list of six possible suggestions, including keeping the Rivermen. However, two anonymous suggestions asked whether the money used for the project is being well spent.

UM-St. Louis' search for a new or re-vamped identity and its Web site for submitted name possibilities generated not only six nickname options, but a bit of controversy as well.

At last Friday's Student Government Association meeting, Bryan Goers, chief justice for Student Court and student-athlete member to the Nickname Committee for The UMSL Identity Project, announced the six possible nicknames that had been narrowed down by the committee.

The new nickname choices, he said, were the Archers, Mudcats, Aviators, Tritons, and Red Thunder. The Rivermen, the university's current nickname, also is going to remain a possibility.

The six names will be posted on the project's site at www.nickname.umsu.edu. On March 1, students, faculty, staff and anyone else can go to the Web site to vote for the name they feel best suits the campus.

Those six names were brought up at the meeting, but nicknames were not the only things submitted and col-

lected in the project's processes. Two of the anonymous submissions expressed concerns over the amount of money being spent on the project.

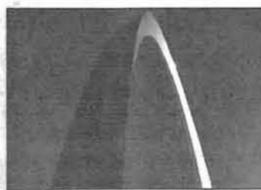
"Who cares?" one submission said. "Why don't you spend a little time worrying about the quality of the education and school experience rather than the stupid name the sports teams are called? THAT is what will improve the school's image."

The anonymous submission was from someone listed from the project as "other," from choices that also included faculty, staff, students or alumni.

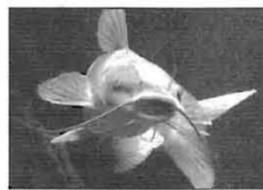
The other submission from a student suggested the nickname should be "The Biggest Waste of Money Ever."

See **IDENTITY COST**, page 9

Suggested Names for UMSL's Identity Project



Archers? The Gateway Arch is a symbol of St. Louis, and archers are usually precise at hitting their goals.



Mudcats? Holding tradition with a river theme, mudcats, found in the Mississippi River, are a unique name.



Tritons? The god of water in Greek mythology keeps with the tradition of river in the University's mascot while depicting players as warriors.



Aviators? St. Louis' strong association with aviation history and the fact that planes constantly fly over campus, make aviators a possibility.



Red Thunder? Associating the identity with the school's color of red and gold makes this another option.



Rivermen? Why break a 40-year old tradition when UMSL has been long known for being the Rivermen?

Pike house fire ruled accidental

■ Fraternity's fire emergency systems found inoperable three months prior

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

The fire at the Pi Kappa Alpha house that took the life of Brian Schlittler has been ruled an accident, according to sources in the Normandy Fire Protection District.

Ron Fritz, captain with the district, said no signs of foul play have been found at the house, and the ruling is the incident was "just a tragic accident."

"We know the fire started at the couch," Fritz said. "We are still thinking it was started by a cigarette. We know it wasn't electrical, and there are no signs of any accelerants at the house."

An accelerant-sniffing dog was even brought in to try and find any traces of accelerants, such as gasoline or even hard alcohol, but the dog found nothing.

"The [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms] even investigated," Fritz said.

More troubling, according to Fritz, was the fact that the house had been inspected just three months before the fire, and found to be lacking in several areas.

Fritz said every smoke detector in the house was disconnected during the yearly inspection, and fire extinguishers needed to be charged.

However, since the house was technically a private residence, the inspector had no sway over the actions of the students. Fritz said the inspector was concerned and did take some action.

"He stayed until the members had replaced all the batteries in the smoke detectors," Fritz said. "Were they operational at the time of the fire, we don't know."

The Normandy Fire Protection District conducts the inspections as a favor to the University. Fritz said when the University is inspected, the district lumps the fraternities in and inspects the houses. The sorority houses are owned by the University and subject to University rules.

"They're always really good about letting us in to inspect," Fritz said. "We've never had any problems before."

See **FRATERNITY FIRE**, page 9

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

STEALING UNDER \$500 - SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING ROOM 440A

The victim left his bag containing a text book and miscellaneous items in this room unattended. When the victim returned, the bag and contents were gone.

STEALING UNDER \$500 - BENTON HALL

Contractors doing electrical work in the Research complex reported that in the last few days, they have been noticing some copper wire missing from their work site area. The investigation is ongoing.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

STEALING UNDER \$500 - UNIVERSITY MEADOWS APT. 661

The victim reported that she had just placed her coat outside of her apartment on the back of a chair to air-out and, when she went back for it five minutes later, it was gone.

Anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

MyVIEW MAKES ITS DEBUT



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Students, faculty, and staff attend a kick-off celebration of the new MyView@UMSL. Project Manager, Jerry Hoffman explains the new features of MyView, which will replace CICS. Students will be able to access such things as registration, and financial aid information. MyView will not be fully implemented until Fall 2008.

The Current

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

STAFF

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Zach Meyer, Stephanie Soleta, Molly Buyat, Erin McDaniel, Melissa Godar, Mark McHugh, Tom Schnable, Rachael Yamnitz, Andrew Tonner

Staff Photographers

Valerie Breshears, Jennifer Clasquin, Angela Clouse, Matthew Hill, Jessica Morris

CONTACT US

Got a tip for a story or photo opportunity? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Are you interested in working at *The Current*? Please contact us:

Newsroom | 314-516-5174
Advertising | 314-516-5316
Business | 314-516-5175
Employment | 314-516-6810
Fax | 314-516-6811

Email | thecurrent@umsl.edu

Mail | 388 MSC
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

ON THE WEB

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http://www.thecurrentonline.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

ABOUT US

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All UM-St. Louis students, alumni, faculty and staff are entitled to free classified advertisements of 40 words or less. *The Current* also offers display advertisements at a rate of \$8.75 per column inch for off campus advertisers and \$7.75 for on campus organizations and departments. Various discounts may apply. To receive an advertising rate card, contact our advertising or business staff or download a rate card from our Web site at www.thecurrentonline.com/adrates.

AFFILIATIONS



What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Monday Noon Series

Cynthia Pachikara, assistant professor of art and design at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, will discuss "Shadow Work," an exhibit of her video installations at Gallery 210 in the auditorium. The discussion will begin at 12:15 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call 5699 for more details.

Chemistry Colloquium

Kevin Johnson, associate professor of chemistry at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, will discuss "Identification of Volatile Arsenical Compounds Produced During Phytoremediation Using a Novel Sampling and GC-MS Technique" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. Colloquiums are free and open to the public. Call 5311 for more information.

Student Performance: 'Unspeakable Acts'

UM-St. Louis students will perform "Unspeakable Acts," a seven-scene play that addresses the issue of sexual assault on a university campus at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House at the Millennium Student Center. A question and answer session will follow the play. The play is free and open to the public. Those who are unable to attend the play are invited to the final dress rehearsal on Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Pilot House. Call 5711 for more information

Bellerive is Accepting Submissions for Eighth Edition

Bellerive, a Pierre Laclède Honors College publication of UM-St. Louis student, faculty, and staff original artwork and writing is now accepting submissions for its eighth annual edition. Original artwork, poems, and short stories will be accepted through June 15. Submission forms are available in the English Department, the University bookstore, and the Honors College entrance. For more information, contact Nancy Gleason at 6629

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Social Work Colloquium

M. Denise King, a doctoral graduate student in social work at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md., will discuss "Religious Coping, Formal Service Use and the Perception of Gain Among African American Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's" at 10:30 a.m. in 331 Social Sciences & Business Building. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5632 for more information.

'Get Some'-Sexual Responsibility Week!

PRIZM and WAVES will sponsor this event. Stop by the second floor of the Millennium Student Center between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 13th and 14th for some fun, free items for Valentine's Day!

'Separation of Church and State'

Leaders from Catholicism, Judaism, Islam, and Lutheranism will discuss ideas of "Separation of Church and State," at 1 p.m. in 313 Millennium Student Center. The discussion is open to students, faculty, and staff. Call 4022 for more information.

Accounting Club Meeting

The Accounting Club will meet at 2 p.m. in the Student Government Chambers in the Millennium Student Center. They have invited guest speaker, Steven L. Harris, of the accounting firm Rubin Brown. New members may sign up and pay their \$15 membership dues. Refreshments will be available.

'A Day in a Professor's Life'

Elizabeth A. "Toby" Kellogg, professor of biology at UM-St. Louis, will discuss "What Professors Really do with Their Time" at 7 p.m. in Century Room C at the Millennium Student Center. STARS scholars, teachers, friends, parents and guidance counselors are welcome. A reception will follow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Mercantile Lecture Series to Feature KETC Host

Jim Kirchherr, senior producer and host of "Living St. Louis" on KETC (Channel 9), will discuss "St. Louis Media Milestones" at noon at the Deer Creek Club, 9861 Deer Creek in Ladue, Mo. The lecture is part of the St. Louis Mercantile Library's Lunch & Lecture series and is free and open to the public. Lunch reservations are \$20 for library members, \$25 for nonmembers. Call 7242 to register.

Diversity Issues Film Series

"The Story We Tell," an hour-long film will be screened at 4 p.m. in the Student Government Chambers at the Millennium Student Center. This film is episode two of "Race: The Power of an Illusion," a three part series that addresses the topic of race issues. A one hour discussion will follow the film. This event is free and open to all students, faculty, and staff. Call 5270 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 event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



File Photo

The International Business Club will hold its annual Valentine's Day Auction Feb. 14 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Pilot House.

Foreign Languages Open House

To celebrate Discover Languages Month, there will be an open house on Valentine's Day. The theme is "Fall in Love with Languages." Those who are interested can visit any of the 24 classes at several locations. Call 6240 for more information and schedule of classes that are participating in the open house.

Valentine's Day Auction

The International Business Club will hold a Valentine's Day Auction featuring UM-St. Louis students from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Pilot House at the Millennium Student Center. Starting bids will be \$10.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Book Reading, Signing and Reception

The University bookstore presents author Skip Yowell. He will be reading from and signing copies of his book, "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other Mountains: How JanSport Makes it Happen" This event starts at 4 p.m. in the University Bookstore and is free and open to the public.

'Cafe Europa' at the Touhill

"Cafe Europa," an evening of European desserts, wine, and entertainment will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater in the Touhill. The evening will also feature songs by acclaimed vocalist Thomas Meglioranza. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call 4949.

Irish Band to Perform

Misla, a traditional Irish Band, will perform at 12:30 p.m. in 205 Music Building. The event is free and open to the public. Call 7299 for more information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Critical Thinking Workshop

Faculty members Suellynn Duffey and Bill Klein will present "Conversations, Beyond the Tools: Uncovering Critical Thinking Through Writing" from 1 to 3 p.m. in 449 Social Sciences & Business Building. This free workshop will offer suggestions that encourage critical thinking and is open to faculty, graduate students, and teaching assistants. Call 4508 for more information.

Vocal Master to teach Class

Star of "Cafe Europa," Thomas Meglioranza, will conduct a vocal master class at 10 a.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Touhill. The class is free and open to the UM-St. Louis community. For more information, call 5814.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Final Home Basketball Games

The men's and women's basketball teams will face the Hawks of Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo. in the final home game of the season. The women's game will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. and the men's game starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for UM-St. Louis students who present identification. Call 5661 for more information.

'High Score' Darts Tournament

Campus Recreation will host "High Score" doubles darts tournament at 9:45 p.m. at the Golden Greek's, 500 S. Florissant Road in Ferguson. Teams consist of two people. The tournament is free and open to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Refreshments will be provided.

Shuttle bus routes change for second time

New routes are combination of two previously proposed schedules

By Jason Granger & Stephanie Clines

News Editor & Staff Writer

More changes have been made to routes transporting students to and from class, in an ongoing effort to improve the UM-St. Louis shuttle system.

Some confusion arose as to whether the routes went back to the old system, however, Nick Koechig, Student Government Association president, said the new routes are more a combination of the two previous systems.

"This route is actually a little bit different," Koechig said. "The idea behind this was, a couple of people sat down with Leo [Gutierrez, director of parking and transportation] and talked to him to see if we could get students to class faster."

One of the biggest changes is actually a return to the old system, as Normandy Hall once again has a stop on the South Route, and the Benton-Stadler Hall stop has been eliminated.

The routes are no longer color-coded, in an effort to make them more understandable, and are now simply the north and south routes.

Other stops on the South Route are the South MetroLink stop, Marillac Hall, the Provincial House, the Nursing Administration building, Oak Hall, the Ward E. Barnes Library, University Meadows and the Millennium Student Center.

New routes often take some adjustment, but Koechig said he is pleased with the way things are running now.

"I like the route a lot," he said. "It gets students to class a lot faster, which is the goal."

The new northbound route starts at the Main Circle of University Drive, then continues to the Social Science and Computer Science Buildings, the General Services Building, Mark Twain Building, the Regional Center for Education and Work, Mansion Hills, the Fine Arts Building,

North Route

- Main Circle / University Drive
- SSB/CCB
- General Services Building
- Mark Twain Gym
- Regional Center for Education and Work
- Mansion Hills
- Fine Arts Building
- Hollywood Park
- North MetroLink Station
- Millennium Student Center

South Route

- Normandy Hall
- South MetroLink Station
- Marillac Hall
- Provincial House
- Nursing Administration
- Oak Hall
- Barnes Library
- University Meadows
- Millennium Student Center

Hollywood Park, the North MetroLink stop and the Millennium Student Center.

Koechig sees the new routes as an improvement over the previous route and said that students are finding them more effective and making use of them, but he has heard some complaints from the student body.

"I've heard all good things about the morning route," Koechig said. "The only complaints about the afternoon routes are there can be a bit of a wait, plus having only one shuttle after 3:30. There's only one shuttle after 3:30 p.m., so that's led to some complaints."

Koechig said cost was becoming a



Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

Kesley Ortmann, freshman, English, boards the shuttle bus to go to her dorm after classes on Friday, Feb. 2.

factor in running the shuttles after 3:30 p.m., so a new plan had to be constructed.

"There definitely was a higher cost with last semester's routes," Koechig said.

In addition to transportation to and from class, shuttles are now being

offered to take students to and from the store to do their weekly shopping.

For more information about the shuttle routes, students can call 516-4190 or visit the Department of Parking and Transportation's Web site at www.umsl.edu/~asd/parkingand-transportation.

Emerging Leaders program will expand to two semesters

New program will require students to complete two service projects

By Paul HackbARTH

Design Editor

Becoming a leader on campus just got more involved as the emerging leaders series is expanding its programs to turn average students into student leaders on campus.

The emerging leaders series is the provost's program, which initially focused on teaching leadership and service skills to a handful of students, explained Tobias Shorts, Student Affairs adviser for the Office of Student Life.

The series, initially an eight-week long program started in the 2005-2006 school year, "has grown to incorporate two separate programs," he said.

The first part, called the emerging leaders campus series, has become a 10-week program held in the fall semester to develop students into strong leaders at the University, according to Shorts.

"It incorporates a mentor-mentee program that utilizes previous program participants to help create a strong and active college experience," especially in leading and developing student organizations, Shorts said.

The second added aspect, called the emerging leaders community series, will be held for ten consecutive weeks during the winter semester. Students in this program will conduct "a semester-long service project working with a local agency to foster strong skills in both leadership and community development," he said.

The new program is designed to

provide students leadership experiences beyond the classroom and campus.

Starting this academic year, the mentors and mentees will do hands-on service projects, a day-long project for the fall and a semester-long project for the winter.

Another addition to the emerging leaders series is a weekend trip to Columbia where the mentors and mentees sit in on a lecture about service learning and participation in teambuilding activities at UM-Columbia.

No schedule of the lectures has been set "until guest lecturers have a confirmed teaching or work schedule for the upcoming year," Shorts said, "but the program is firmly set to take place on Fridays in the afternoon when classes are typically not scheduled."

Shorts said the split of allowing two semesters instead of one was in response to earlier program participants.

While about six current leaders have been chosen as mentors for next fall, the applications for future mentees will not start until the summer. Applications require a short written essay and an interview.

"Students interested in participating in the program will have the opportunity to apply for the emerging leaders campus series throughout the summer and students interested in the community series will be able to apply late in fall semester '07," Shorts said.

Admission is limited to about 20 students each semester, he added. Students who complete the program will wear the provost's cord at graduation.

NEWS BRIEFS

Water main break in MSC causes evacuation

A water main break last Monday at the Millennium Student Center forced the evacuation of students, faculty and staff into the cold weather.

The break prompted emergency sirens and lights to activate, alerting the building to the problem.

The building was evacuated for approximately 20 minutes before the maintenance crews could determine there was no threat from the water main break.

Damage was limited to the first floor of the MSC.

Transformer problem causes gym to lose power

Power was restored to the Mark Twain Gymnasium last Tuesday in the afternoon after it had been out since last Monday.

The power went out Monday as the result of a malfunctioning transformer. The building remained closed for the duration of Monday and power had still not been restored Tuesday morning.

The power outage led to the cancellation of Monday's and Tuesday's recreational activities and the movement of the men's and women's basketball games to Fontbonne University. Although, power was restored Tuesday afternoon, those activities remained cancelled and a few classes that were to be held in the gym were moved to other locations on campus.

Normal activities resumed at the

gym last Wednesday.

College of Education receives \$150,000 gift

The Sigma-Aldrich Corporation contributed \$150,000 to UM-St. Louis' College of Education at the end of last month. The money will go support the establishment of the college's Science and Math Education Central.

The Central will be located on South Campus in Marillac Hall and will feature a science laboratory, updated computers with Internet accessibility, a library with science resources, a mathematics education lab and a rooftop observatory for astronomy. In addition, Sigma-Aldrich's contribution will pay for a mobile science outreach van and it will enable the college to expand its available online course options and provide specialized workshops.

According to Sigma-Aldrich's Web site, it is a St. Louis-based life science and technology company that produces biochemical and organic chemical products and kits. These products are "used in scientific and genomic research, biotechnology, pharmaceutical development, the diagnosis of disease and as key components in pharmaceutical and other high technology manufacturing."

RHA petitions for parking

At last Friday's SGA meeting, Carlo Manaio, senior, psychology, said the Residential Hall Association members are petitioning for a resolu-

tion to provide solutions to parking problems of residents.

Manaio said many students do not drive to and from their classes, but they still have to pay for a parking pass. This fee does not apply to residents living in the University Meadows Apartments, who currently do not have to pay for a pass.

The idea behind the resolution, according to Manaio, is to have a nominal fee for or provide free parking to all residents. He said there would still be a fee for any other parking done by these residents on campus.

Jonathan Lidgus, assistant director for Student Life said the goal was not to take away parking for students that are paying for it, but to make more spots. "We do have a really big parking problem," Lidgus said.

University Development, University Relations merge

The offices in University Development and University Relations have been merged into a single division called University Advancement. The offices include alumni and constituent relations; development; media, creative and printing services; and special events.

The new division reports to Vice Chancellor Tom Eschen. Vice Chancellor for University Relations Dixie Kohn retired from that position Dec. 31, 2006. Kohn remains at UM-St. Louis teaching and coordinating as well as directing the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The Touhill now reports to the Office of the Provost.

What's black and white and read all over campus?

The Current

Pick one up every Monday or check us out online at www.thecurrentonline.com



Are you an energetic, hard working person?

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Get your summer job early!

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION



Movie passes, Schmovie passes

We here at The Current are proud to offer the students, faculty and staff of UM-St. Louis the opportunity to go to the movies each week. We are well aware of the fact that movies have become increasingly expensive, and many folks cannot afford it. And for that we are happy to say, "Go to a movie on us."

As pleased as we are to offer this service, there are some things we need to clear up, and we have some rules we are introducing in order to receive a movie pass, for we feel there is some confusion regarding this most excellent of programs.

1.) Anyone who cares to pick up a movie pass must sign a legally binding contract guaranteeing The Current receives your first-born child. This is important, for the office does get messy, and we, five or six years down the line, will need cheap labor to help keep things clean.

2.) Anyone who calls asking for Norbit passes will automatically be subject to death by tickle torture. Unfortunately, it has come to this, and we feel we have no further recourse. Do not call. All that information is on our Web site, www.thecurrentonline.com.

3.) One pass per person please. You are not the only one who wants to go to the movie. Anyone asking for "a pass for their friend downstairs" will

be thrown from the balcony to join said friend much quicker, sans movie passes.

4.) We have a staff meeting every week at 2 p.m. in our office, we ask that you respect that fact and leave us alone for a while. Anyone who knocks, know that during this time, an electrical charge will be passed through your body, sort of like in the movie 'The Green Mile'.

5.) The process is first come, first served, so if you come to get the passes the day of the movie, odds are good we will be out of them. We cannot control your procrastination. Do not complain to us. If you cannot get a pass from us, you will just have to go out and spend the money, or wait until it comes to Redbox.

6.) We get the passes when we get the passes. No, we do not know when they will get here. No, we cannot get them here faster. No, we do not care that you made a special trip to the third floor of the Millennium Student Center for the passes. It's just the MSC people, it's not Everest.

7.) We do not care if you want a movie pass or poster or shirt or hat or coaster or whatever. However, we cannot allow you to take 12 Black Snake Moan posters. You are not the only one who wants to see Christina Ricci chained up by Samuel L. Jackson.

All we ask is for a little understand-

ing about this. We offer this program as a service, a favor if you will, to the fine folks of this University. But it must be understood that it can become quite tiresome to have our news line tied up by people wanting to know if the new movie passes are in.

In the past, The Current has gone so far as to require anyone wishing to pick up a ticket to present a student i.d. card. Any person without one was turned away. We do not want to do that this year, we just ask for a little understanding. There are times when it is inappropriate, for we are a newspaper, and we do have to go about the business of collecting the news.

The above rules were just modest proposals in the strictest Swifitian sense of the term. The point here is we need everyone out there in UMSL-land to understand that sometimes there are factors beyond our control. We do not have a pass for everyone on campus, and we post all pertinent information about the movie passes online. Any questions you have about them can be answered there, not by tying up our main phone line. We even post ticket availability on the Web site.

Each year, The Current even goes so far as seriously considering discontinuing the program. We do not want to have to do this, we just ask that you respect what we are doing, and show some basic decorum.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Valentines day brings love, and awareness

By MONICA LAUER FARRELL
Guest Commentator

Valentine's Day, 1995, will linger in my memory for a long, long time. The four month old baby who squirmed in my womb had a heart defect, and my neonatologist said that her odds of survival were slim.

However, he encouraged me to seek a second opinion. That is how I found myself spending Valentine's Day with Dr. Angela Sharkey, pediatric cardiologist at St. Louis Children's Hospital, as she waived her magic wand over my stomach, bring-

ing ghostly images of a tiny body and tiny heart into focus.

"The neonatologist told me there is no aorta," I said in a sad voice. "Oh, I can usually find one," she said, and she did, although it was small and not functional.

My baby had no left ventricle. "Why do we hear more about hypoplastic left heart syndrome than hypoplastic right heart syndrome?" I asked her. "The people on the left are more outspoken," she joked, her eyes never leaving the screen. I needed that humor, and I needed good news!

On Valentine's Day 1995 I learned that my daughter had a fight-

ing chance at life, even with only a single, weaker ventricle (the right side). A holiday that celebrates romantic love evolved to have a secondary meaning for me, as a holiday of hope.

When the Congenital Heart Knowledge Network (affectionately known to its members as "CHIN", www.tchin.org <http://www.tchin.org/>) decided to commemorate Valentine's Day as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day," it echoed the silent celebration I held in my heart every February 14.

See HEART, page 16

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

Is flag desecration wrong? Or a Right?



BY ADAM D. WISEMAN
Editor-in-Chief

"I definitely expected people to be upset, but you know what? I don't really care what they think of us desecrating the flags of terrorists." Leigh Wolf, a member of the College Republicans at San Francisco State University, said this past October while talking with a reporter from the student newspaper, the [X]press.

Controversy sparked when the College Republicans at SFSU decided to stand and walk on the flags of Hezbollah and Hamas in protest against terrorism.

The group did not realize at the beginning of the protest that several of the symbols on the flags represented Allah, or God, in the Islamic faith.

Some heated exchanges took place between some students and the College Republicans, and the flags were altered in order to take the religious significance out of the protest.

"The goal was to desecrate Hezbollah and Hamas, not Islam," Wolf said in the article.

The protest went forward and the members of the College Republicans walked on the flags amid the protesters.

Unfortunately, these events led to a resolution by the student government at SFSU in November of last year, stating that the College Republicans tried to incite violence. If the group is found guilty of the allegations they could be sanctioned to apologize or even full removal from the University.

Just this past January the organization's members held a similar protest against Terrorism and they stepped on

an Al Qaeda flag. The reaction was not met with as much hostility, if any, like it was during the protest of Hezbollah and Hamas.

These events are similar to many concerns that people have over the desecration of the American flag. Is it right? Should we let it happen? My family has fought and died for the flag, how dare they desecrate it?

The same can be said for the flags of Hezbollah, Hamas, and Al Qaeda, if they represent you.

But the action of the Student Government at SFSU is nothing but a reply to try and make everyone happy, and their actions to reprimand the College Republicans is wrong.

I do not enjoy seeing the American flag burned, walked on, spit on, or any other act to desecrate. But, if some one wishes to, they can.

Just as everyone has the right to do the same to a Hezbollah flag in its entirety. They altered the flag to not include Allah, but did they need to? Is it now a prerequisite to not offend a religious group, in order to protest?

That is the thing that allows us to be Americans. We can be different. We do not have to agree. You can live your life, and I can live mine.

The College Republicans of SFSU have the right to protest the terrorists, as much as others have to protest the war in Iraq.

Even if the protest offends some people, it is our right as citizens to protest freely.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Communication is key, not negativity



By MYRON MCNEILL
Opinions Editor

It is another blistering cold day in St. Louis and I am diligently trying to compile thoughts into words that look like sentences.

I then hope that these sentences are cohesive enough to be considered a family of paragraphs with the last name editorial.

Mental block, writer's block and many other blocks, however, are preventing me from forming this family.

I am peeking over at life inspiration's workspace, hoping that it will assist me in this compilation. However, life is so complex and meaningful that words sometimes come up short of their attempt at description.

So, where do I go from here? I do not want to write a "complaint editorial," something detailing a flaw in our flaw-oriented society.

At times, it feels as if one has to be pessimistic and inclined to see only the negative, and then write about it.

It is true that negativity draws readership and the sensation that comes from hearing something "bad" spawns curiosity, but I opt to do

something else or at least take the week off.

And now, I am brought to my topic of choice -- communication. Communication can be defined as the art of speaking and listening with the hopes of delivering a message or receiving a message, depending upon which side of the

fence you are on.

From here, I am drawn to think of the beauty of communication and how it relates to the current state of society.

I must say that we have come a long way and still have quite a distance to travel.

One unique thing that is often said about communication is that it is 90 percent nonverbal.

Communication seems to be action-driven, oriented and inspired.

In thinking of communication and its relation to Black History, I must say I have multitudes of things to smile about.

See COMMUNICATION, page 9

UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

If you could name a new disease, what would you name it?



Faisal Pervais
Junior
Business/Pre-Med



Mayuko Kinno
Senior
Political Science



JoJo Bello
Junior
Graphic Design



Amanda Swelle
Senior
Biology



Jake Kennedy
Sophomore
Business

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

"They should name a disease 'Your Disease' so if someone asks you what you have you could say 'I have your disease.'"

"I would name it after me so I'd be famous"

"The Scurge-of-Jojo. You can't cure this with a bandaid."

"Idiocrazy for all the people that just do stupid things, it's a pandemic."

"Eightcitis, an infestation of eighties music."

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

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.

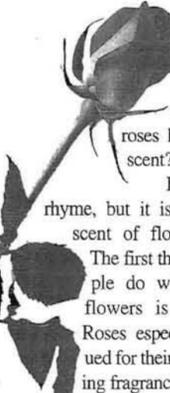
CONTACT US

Mail: One University Blvd. Room 388 MSC St. Louis, MO 63121

Email: thecurrent@umsl.edu

SCIENCE COLUMN

Is a rose without its fragrance still the same?



Roses are red, violets are blue, but have you noticed that roses have lost their scent? It may not rhyme, but it is true and the scent of flowers matters. The first thing many people do when receiving flowers is smell them. Roses especially are valued for their big, intoxicating fragrance. But lately, if you sniff those roses, the scent is very faint. Where did it go? Why have roses lost their scent? People buy flowers for their fragrance as much as their beauty but modern commercial flower breeding has been focused on durability and the ability of flowers to be shipped long distances rather than their smell. Like commercial fruits and vegetables that have lost their flavor, the

scent of roses has been lost to breeders who are far more concerned about how it looks. Commercial cut flowers rarely come from local greenhouses anymore so the industry is more concerned with how flowers survive shipping. Often they travel from South America, Asia or Africa, another industry gone global. Other plant characteristics have trumped scent, like producing flowers continually, adapting well to greenhouse conditions, resisting disease and producing larger, attractive blooms. All have ranked higher in growers' agendas. Appearance has been the top



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

priority so scent simply has been overlooked. It is not clear how exactly roses lost their scent, but there are some hints. The pigments that give us all those varieties of color have the same biochemical precursors as the scent compounds. Once, roses came in relatively few colors but all roses were fragrant. Now we have lots of color varieties, but few with fragrance. An article in Science News from September 2005 points to that connection, while also citing the complex nature of the genetics of scent as being one of the problems. Many genes contribute to scent, making it more diffi-

cult to breed for. Floral scent is produced by an assortment of volatile organic chemicals, including benzenoids, alcohols, fatty acids and others, which are produced by an array of enzymes and cellular reactions controlled by multiple genes. The enzymes are in a few functional categories, such as synthases, methyl transferases, and carboxymethyltransferases. By manipulating the mix of various enzymes and substrates, the compound an enzyme acts on produces another compound. By having them react in various sequences, researchers can produce a variety of secondary compounds. Over a thousand scent-specific compounds have been identified, but a particular scent may be a combination of as many as a hundred compounds, although a few particular ones may dominate. See ROSES, page 14

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Show me the money, or at least where it's going

UMSL is spending lots of money on projects on campus, but is the money being spent appropriately?

"Follow the money." This motto sounds like the task or lead for a good investigative reporter, but students should take this advice every now and then. Have you ever stopped to think about how much money is being spent at this



By PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

University? I went back and looked through all of the stories in the past four weeks of *The Current*, where monetary figures were mentioned in regards to UM-St. Louis and costs of some amount. Below are my results and the dates when they were mentioned:

- The estimated cost for help from Creative 501, the consultant in the Identity Project, is \$17,000, according to D'Andre Braddix, Identity Project committee member (Jan. 22).
- With an annual 9 percent interest rate, the University is racking up a bill of about a little less than \$10,000 per month to pay in its lawsuit settlement to baseball head coach Jim Brady (Jan. 22).
- The homecoming committee has already rebooked Chase Park Plaza to hold this year's homecoming with a price tag of \$49,000 (Jan. 29).
- To demolish Old Normandy Hospital, the University will fork out an estimated \$2 million, but bids are still being accepted (Feb. 5).

From this, we know where the money is going, but it begs the question, "where is it coming from?" The answer: various parts of the University's operating budget. Students may argue that the money being used for these things is theirs, but the dollars going into and out of the budget are not tracked, so it may be the students' money or it may be from another source.

Is the money going toward these things worth it? When asking why things cost so much nowadays you get answers like competitive bids, inflation, cost of living, and the plain and simple fact that we are just willing to pay more. Everything has a price tag, including things like using the help of a consultant firm with the Identity Project, what some may call a mere \$17,000 compared to say, \$2 million to tear down an old building. After all, what's \$17,000 to help find our campus identity? First off, let me clarify that I am in full support of either finding a new identity for the campus or helping to promote the current identity more on campus, but just for fun, what else could \$17,000 buy? The funding for renovations to Benton and Stadler Halls got short-changed from the sale of MOHELA's assets last fall. \$17,000 would not make up for the full promised amount, but could it help in one lab? The Metro pass program, which may be extinct come next semester, needs funding so the University can offer the pass to students, who reap the benefits of MetroLink. The pass program costs \$441,000. With \$17,000 subtracted from that total, the remaining balance would be \$424,000. That may not be much of a difference, but while the University cannot change the prices on certain things, it should at least consider alternatives. Whatever UM-St. Louis sets as its priorities, be it science labs, Metro passes, or the Identity Project, the money should follow those priorities. So, UM-St. Louis, ask yourself, what are your priorities?

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Dobson, Evangelicals are detrimental to society

The other day, I happened to be channel surfing and settled upon Fox News (shudder) and the show Hannity and Colmes. Dr. James Dobson, founder of "Focus on the Family" was on the show, and what he had to say was not only anger provoking, but intriguing. I wanted to see what this guy was all about and what he really believed. Therefore, I went to the Focus on the Family Web site, and therein found some of the most vile, hate-filled propaganda I have ever had the displeasure of reading. First and foremost, on the Focus on the Family's Web site, endorsed by Dobson, is an attack on gay culture. In the eyes of these folks, homosexuality is a sin, an abomination. Citing Leviticus 18:22, Focus on the Family, as is the modus operandi of evangelical Christians and right wingers nationwide, they believe that God views being gay as a sin. What these people fail to mention is that pretty much everyone else in the world falls into some form of abomination.

Elsewhere in Leviticus, there are passages saying that wearing clothes of mixed blends is an abomination, as is planting two types of seeds in the same field. So, according to this, I am going to hell, because I have a poly-cotton blend Beatles T-shirt, and so is the farmer in Kansas who has corn and wheat in the same field. I doubt Dr. Dobson would stand behind these points, as I am willing to bet those wonderful, expensive suits he has are not 100 percent cotton. All this belabors a point that Evangelical Christians constantly hammer home. If you do not believe part of the Bible, they say, you do not believe any of it. They view it as the word, not open to interpretation. Take this belief, for instance. Man sprung from the loins of Adam and



By JASON GRANGER
Staff Writer

Eve, not from evolution. So, we're all cousins? I need a shower. The most distressing aspect of all this is Dobson and his Evangelical ilk are so closed-minded and so opposed to hearing other viewpoints, they become as dangerous as extremist Muslims who strap bombs to their chests. Granted, there is not much in the way of modern history that shows Evangelical Christians carrying out violence or acts of terrorism (although it should be noted that the Ku Klux Klan believed they were doing God's work and many of them are Southern Baptist). They do, however, attack through words. Quick to judge, they cast their hatred at those who disagree, boldly claiming that they are "right" and you are "wrong" if you disagree.

Never mind the fact that Muslims believe they are "right," Jews believe they are "right," and Buddhists believe everyone is "right." Now, I do not want this to sound like an anti-Christian creed. In fact, I am a Christian. However, the Evangelicals are taking the religion and perverting it, twisting it to fit their own agendas, such as trying to marginalize the gay community, one of the most vibrant, fascinating communities in our country today. Dobson and his brethren, men such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, believe they are doing God's work. Something tells me, however, that God would not welcome the spread of intolerance and hatred. God is love. I do not think he would abide by these beliefs. I have grown weary of having to listen to their venom-filled diatribes against those who do not believe as they do. Perhaps if they came to the understanding that nothing about religion is factual, that it is faith and faith only, they would begin to see the light.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SGA Responds

Many students on our campus will say that Student Government doesn't do anything. Others argue they do work, but not in the interest of the students. Others, a select group, see the inner-workings of Student Government and criticize decisions we as a body make. While any action made by the SGA will be interpreted as an action of all of the members of SGA, it is normally the vision of an individual backed by a better part of the body that makes headlines. Relay for Life started with one person, the President Nick Koechig, and has now

encompassed the entire campus. Relay for Life is going to be the largest Big Event we have had on campus. It was the vision of Student Governments before us that the Big Event be a requirement for philanthropy every year, SGA decided this year to try and set the bar higher by bringing the entire UMSL community together. The Green Committee is accomplishing so much and has had record attendance. This committee was the vision of SGA Parliamentarian William Smith. The Winter-Warm Up with free coffee and hot chocolate on

the bridge was the idea of Michele Landeau, the SGA Vice-Chair. There are so many bright, ambitious, and wonderful student leaders on campus. It is the case in any government that 10 great accomplishments can be offset by one mistake, one failure. Each member of SGA tries to listen to students concerns on a daily basis. As much as we would love to address every concern and to alleviate all problems for students on campus, we do work within limitations. For example, the MetroLink pass program has been championed by student government representatives in every meeting with

administration. However, the hands of both the administration and the student government are tied at this point as we continue to go into debt on the program due to a huge increase in prices by MetroLink. We as SGA will continue to try and communicate as clearly and effectively with the student body. We are always open to suggestions and criticisms, so please never hesitate to contact us. 314.516.5105 or sgacomment@umsl.edu.

Nick Koechig-President
Thomas Helton-Vice President
Shanna Carpenter-Comptroller

Discrimination

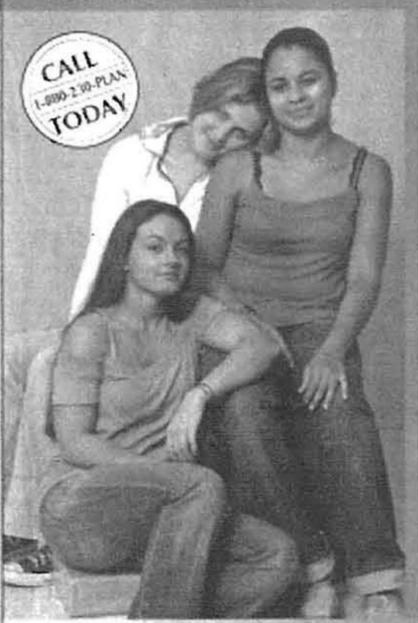
Ms Pernell's comment about my "different agenda" is typical of her attitude. Instead of implying a nefarious intent why not stick to the facts. I had to produce a doctors note to get a handicapped sticker at UMSL. UMSL, therefore, considers me to have a handicap. How many times should an individual have to prove to the university that a handicap exists???? Am I the only one who found her comment about the quadruplegic offensive? The one thing that I asked for was a two sen-

tence e-mail be sent to four of my professors, and she refused to do that. I wonder what else they would refuse to do if asked by someone else. To be clear, if a quad was rolled into their office, after supplying a doctors note, they would require another doctors note to send out a note like the one that I requested. Shame on you.

John McGahan
Senior
Secondary Education

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New media studies degree approved for UMSL

Professors show what media studies are and what it means to students pursuing majors

By AMY RECKTENWALD
Features Editor

Last week, the Board of Curators voted to approve a new bachelor's of science degree in media studies to be offered on the UM-St. Louis campus. This naturally raises questions for the students. What are media studies? What will the degree entail?

The official definition for media studies is this: "Media Studies is a discipline that examines, in a critical fashion, a vast range of media technologies as well as the necessary skills to produce media messages in a variety of platforms and genres, including the Internet." (Courtesy of the UM-St. Louis Dance, Theatre and Media Studies Web site and Dr. Kristi

Tucciarone, adjunct assistant professor in advertising.)

On a more basic level, what this means for students is that there will be more opportunities to study media, how to use it effectively and how it is used to communicate a mass message.

"It's not just TV and radio, it's a lot more than that," said Tucciarone. "It can be any medium to communicate a mass media message."

As Dr. Tom McPhail, Center for International Studies fellow and international communications fellow, explained, media studies is the "applied side" of communication.

When they formed the department out of the communications department, they took out the mass communication portion of the department to create media studies as a part of the theatre and dance department.

Media studies "encapsulates the arts and sciences," said Tucciarone. "It is a science because we can measure the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the media."

McPhail called the the classes are "a mix of theory and practice."

The media covered by the University include print, radio, television, film and Internet. Included in the media studies classes are courses in advertising, including advertising copywriting and advertising technique.

"Advertising is hot right now," Tucciarone said. "That's according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

for 2006 and beyond. Advertising is a hot career."

McPhail confirmed this by using google.com as an example.

"It's not even 10 years old and it made \$1 billion last year," McPhail said.

He also pointed out that Anheuser-Busch has an army of people working on their media. For just the Superbowl advertising alone, the company is spending \$2.6 million per 30 seconds of advertising.

What this means for UM-St. Louis students is that there is an array of job opportunities available to them with media studies. Jobs, not restricted to production alone.

It can be in advertising or at, any company with any sort of marketing, public relations or media communications department. It can also include all the jobs available at television or

radio stations, including engineers and writers. Other possibilities are art directors, creative directors and media buyers, with regional newspapers, Internet news sources and specialized magazines.

The media studies proposed degree is designed so that the students are not entering the workforce without experience.

"It's important for students when they go out to have experience," said McPhail.

The degree requirements include the following coursework: Introduction to Media Studies, Introduction to Information Technology, Media Theory, Introduction to Theatre Technology and a choice of Introduction to Cinema, Introduction to Advertising or Introduction to Radio and TV. Six hours of practicum or internship will be required also, as well as nine hours of electives in areas of the student's interest.

See MEDIA STUDIES, page 8



Media studies chair says degree is long overdue

By PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

With the success of UM-St. Louis alumni Mike Owens and Frank Cusamano, both from KSDK Channel 5, viewers may be surprised to know that those reporters did not graduate with a degree in media studies.

The UM Board of Curators recently approved the new degree on Jan. 26, a degree Mike Murray, chair of the theatre, dance and media studies department, says is long overdue.

"This is a long time coming for us," Murray said. "Anytime you can provide a better focus to what you're doing, it helps you define yourself a little better. In the field of communication, you may not know what that means, and it can mean a lot of different things to different people."

Murray has been teaching media studies classes, including Broadcast Writing and Reporting, Media Law, Media History and an introductory mass media course, since 1982. He became chair of the media studies department this year.

"My old strategy used to be to teach the large lecture class, the large introductory class, to get to know the students, and hopefully have them in either Media Law, Media History or

Broadcast Writing and Reporting," Murray said.

Murray said media broadcast writing and reporting is one of his two favorite classes to teach.

"For a lot of our students, it's a transformative experience, in a sense, that it does get them involved in the community because of the strategies I've been using, of having them inter-

view people in the city," Murray said. "I always joke that it's almost like a team taught course ... with people who [are] leaders in the community."

Murray tries to demystify the process of broadcast writing and reporting in his class.

"The attempt to have them interview people, news makers, sources and reporters, forces them out of their comfort levels, and makes them think about how the news is gathered and processed," Murray said.

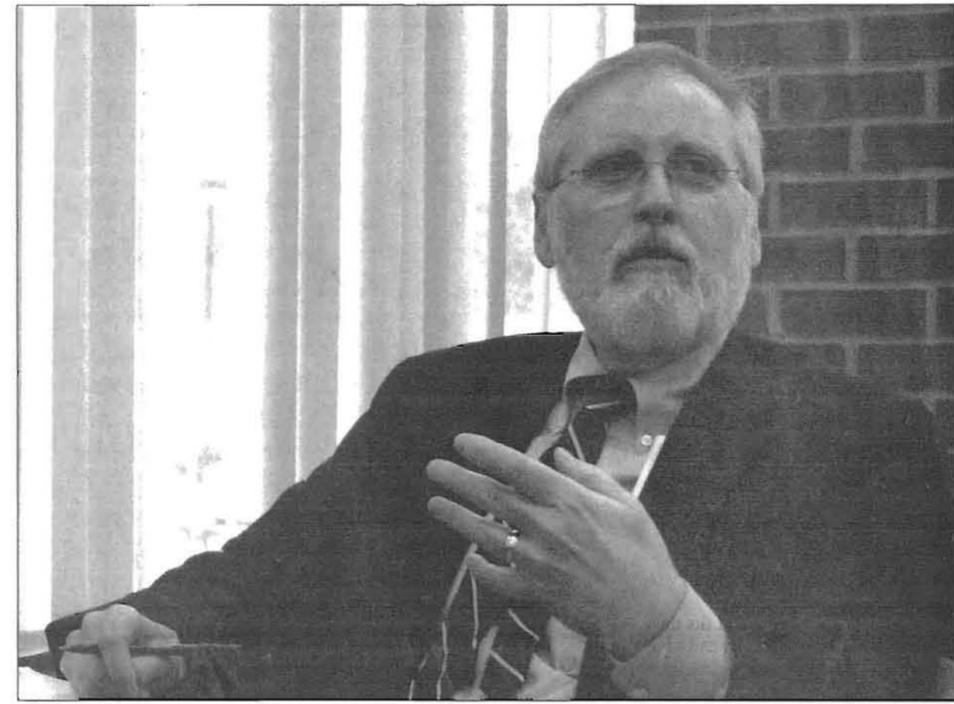
Media history, his other favorite class, has always been an interest of Murray's.

"I worked for Channel 5 on the occasion of their 40th anniversary in 1987 and wrote their history. ... I had the opportunity to interview all of the remaining people who were involved in that program from 1947."

As a student, Murray worked for CBS and the News Election Service

“Believe it or not, I once covered Richard Nixon at the Kiel auditorium...it was very surreal and covering it with the national press was funny.”

— Michael Murray, commenting on covering the 1968 elections as a student journalist



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Michael Murray, chair of the media studies department, talks to his broadcast writing and reporting class on Feb. 1. Murray has taught media classes at UM-St. Louis since 1982.

during the 1968 elections. He covered mostly minor stories, although he did speak of a larger one.

"Believe it or not, I once covered Richard Nixon at the Kiel auditorium," Murray said. "He did a rally for high school kids. It was very surreal and covering it with the national press was funny. While I was covering the story, I was interviewing the national reporters, asking them about their backgrounds."

Murray said that keeping in contact with people in the media field has been useful to him.

"A lot of times when I'm working on a research project, which really

revolves around broadcasting, having those contacts with people who are still alive and available to talk about is helpful," he said.

To better understand the field of media studies, Murray said professors often go elsewhere in the country to see how things work in other areas.

Murray spent time in Cambridge, England, and the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, for visiting appointments and fellowships.

Despite his travels, Murray is a local professor.

"Some of our professors used to brag how long they've been here and I would always joke that I caddied here

when it was a golf course," Murray said.

Murray called St. Louis a centerpiece for media in the state, which he said is beneficial to students studying media studies. Murray said students living in a big market such as St. Louis can get experience at internships early on, so they can ask themselves, "Is this the kind of deadline pressure I enjoy?"

"It's not unusual for professors to tell their students 'don't expect to get a job out of an internship,'" Murray said, "but we've actually had instances where people [at UM-St. Louis] do get jobs out of them."

TOP 10



Audio and video technicians are just some of the jobs you can get a degree in media studies.

Professions to get with a degree in media studies

1. Advertising and Promotions Manager (average annual salary: \$66,560)
2. Art Director (\$63,750 per year)
3. Director (\$52,440 per year)
4. Producer (\$52,440 per year)
5. Copywriter (\$45,460 per year)
6. Film and Video Editors (\$44,750 per year)
7. Public Relations Specialist (\$44,390 per year)
8. Camera Operator (\$38,900 per year)
9. Audio and Video Technicians (\$33,130 per year)
10. Radio and Television Announcer (\$22,820 per year)

If you have an idea for the next top ten list, send your idea to us:
thecurrent@umsl.edu

KSDK reporter shows inside look at broadcasting profession

By PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

KSDK Channel 5 reporter Ann Rubin said she was not sure at what age she wanted to become a reporter, but she was very young.

"When I was very little, when bombs were going off in Beirut for the first time, I remember I wanted to be the one reporting with bombs going off behind me," she told a group of about 15 media studies students.

Rubin visited a Broadcast Writing and Reporting class at UM-St. Louis on Feb. 1, when students held an open discussion about the field of broadcast reporting and journalism.

Rubin started at KSDK in February 2003. She recalled her initial interview with Ava Ehrlich, executive producer of special events at KSDK, being somewhat unusual.

"She gave me 10 minutes," Ruben said. "I was in the lobby and I didn't even take my coat off but I handed my tapes off and a few months later, she called me."

Rubin started off as a reporter at KVVU in Las Vegas, Nev., and a reporter and bureau chief at KIDK in Pocatello, Idaho. During her first interview in Pocatello, "the news director asked me, 'why should I hire you?' and I said, 'because I can start right now' and he said 'OK,' so I had to call my parents to tell them to send me some

clothes," Rubin said.

At KIDK, Rubin said she was a one-person band, taking the photographs, writing the stories and doing most of the work by herself.

Rubin discussed what goes into producing the stories she files. Rubin and other reporters at KSDK participate in daily story budget meetings, where they bring story ideas from news releases or from talking with their sources.

"It's decision by committee," she said. "We see what people are interested in from our little room and what generates discussion."

Rubin works with reporter interns in helping them create résumé tapes.

"Interns go out on stories with me and they practice what is called the stand-up, where they are in front of the camera," Rubin said.

She said while some reporters, especially weather forecasters, speak from spontaneity, Rubin said, "I script everything and then memorize it."

Rubin said it takes a lot of time to write and produce a story for television.

"For a one and half minute story, I spend about eight hours putting it together, calling and setting up the interviews," Rubin said. "And I try to allow myself one hour for writing."

Rubin is a general assignment reporter, which means she covers many different stories. She recently covered the story of an 8-year-old Shiloh, Ill. boy killed after an 84-year-old woman drove into a Shiloh school. Rubin inter-

viewed the boy's friend and mother.

"It's hard covering those stories, but what's harder than that is talking to the victim's family versus their neighbors," she said.

Rubin said she covers many stories dealing with death or destruction, but the types of stories she likes to cover best are "the ones that make a difference for that one person."

Rubin also answered questions about a reporter's relationships with sources and how they are changing in today's markets.

"Some of my sources aren't just sources," Rubin said. "They're people I keep in touch with, almost friends."

She noted, however, that nowadays it is harder to protect journalists when it comes to confidential sources.

"The shield laws designed to protect journalists aren't holding up in court," Rubin said.

At the end, Rubin left the following advice for students interested in pursuing careers or internships in the broadcast field: "Find something that makes you unique, whether you're a good writer, you're a harder worker."

(RIGHT) Ann Rubin, reporter for KSDK News Channel 5 tells the Broadcast Writing and Reporting class about how she ended up as a TV reporter for a St. Louis station. Rubin visited campus Thursday, Feb. 1

Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor



Job outlook for media field includes more than TV

By **AMY RECKTENWALD**
Features Editor

What students may think of when they hear media studies are jobs in television or radio. Yet the field encompasses so much more.

So what jobs could a media studies degree holder expect to find? How do they find and earn those jobs?

"They can really go into any industry," said Teresa Balestreri, director of career services. "They need to narrow their focus into what function they want to fill in that industry."

Some of the fields of employment Balestreri named include advertising, public relations, marketing, sales, acting, graphic design, television production, broadcasting, hospitality, writing and editing.

Balestreri said that media studies students are different from other majors. Students who study nursing can expect to become a nurse. With media studies, "the title of the major doesn't equal the title of the career. There's not a specific job title for media studies."

The job opportunities are surprisingly open, especially for any company that has a public relations, advertising or media relations department.

Local examples of such companies include the St. Louis Science Center, the Missouri Historical Society, the Boeing Company, and even UM-St. Louis. Jobs can span from the corporate world to non-profit, from higher education to government jobs to working for a municipality, like Hazelwood or O'Fallon.

The key to finding job prospects is to do some research. Students should evaluate their skills, interests and values to narrow down what career appeals to them and fits their lifestyle. Talking to faculty and advisors is a good resource to determine what the possibilities are and what steps are needed to break into their field of choice. Talking to people working in that industry is also suggested.

Once the preliminary research is done, students need to put their education into practice.

"To get into this field you have to have some experience — internship, part-time employment, shadowing," Balestreri said. "It's a trend in just that field."

Emily Rapko McEneny, assistant director of career services, said that the most important aspect to getting into the media studies field is degree related experience.

"The more samples or experience you have, the better your chances," McEneny said.

The field is competitive to enter, but research into wage and employment trends through Onet Online or the Occupational Outlook Handbook (both available through the career services Web site) show positive trends.

General media and communication workers are paid \$41,900 per year in the United States, with a projected growth of job availability of 16 percent over 10 years.

The average national income for producers is \$53,900 with a 17 percent projected job growth.

For advertising and promotion managers, the U.S. average salary is \$68,800 per year, or \$72,800 in Missouri, with an average U.S. job growth of 20 percent.

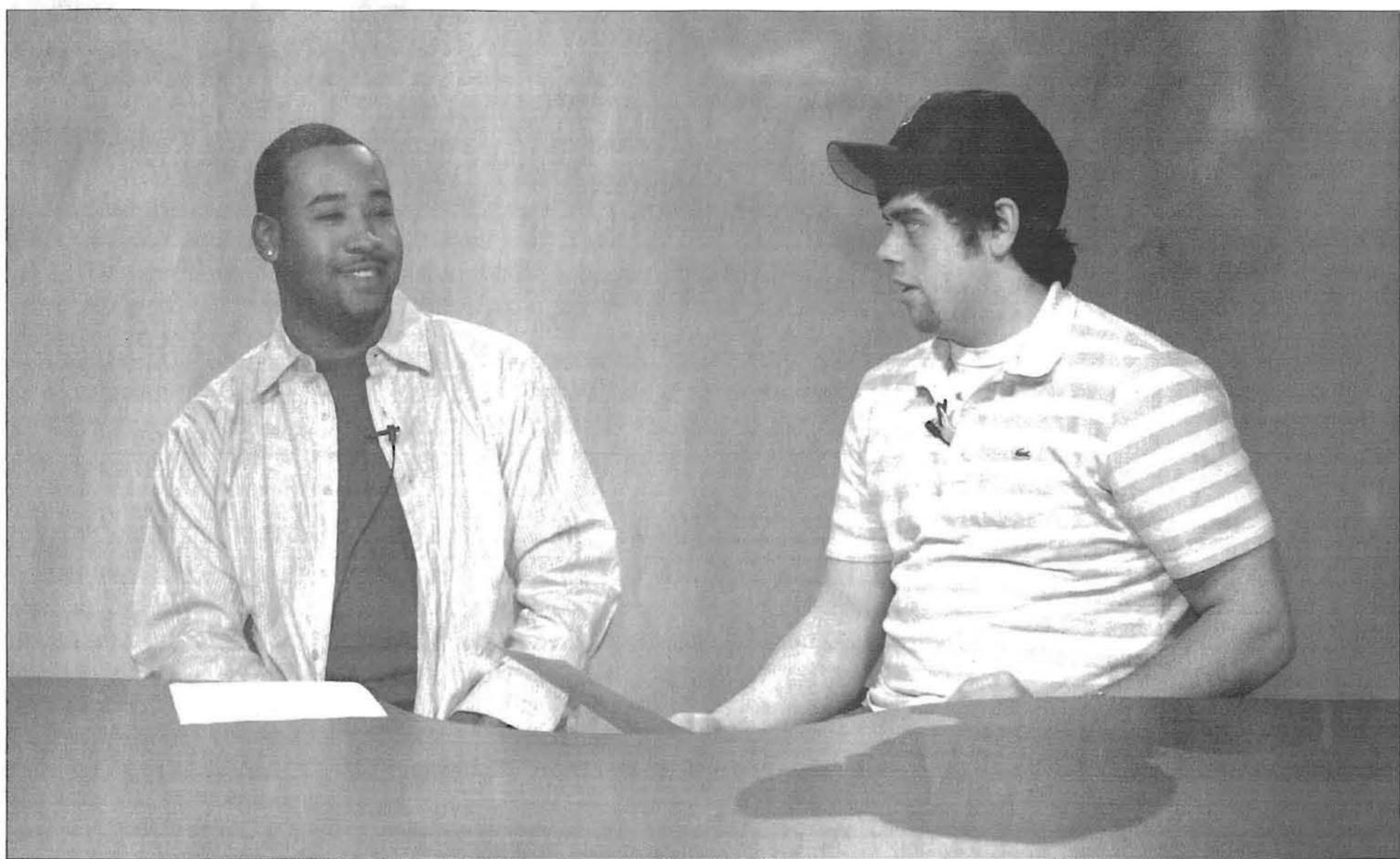
Salary and prospects depend on the actual job title and where the job is located. Career prospects are not limited by geography, with the exception of jobs in the directing, editing and film industries.

According to Balestreri, small independent producers are everywhere, but major productions are going to be limited to the east and west coasts within the United States.

Most careers utilizing media studies only require a bachelor's degree. Graduate work, either a master's or doctorate degree, is only necessary for individuals looking for jobs in higher education as instructors.

The student's personal interests have the greatest impact with applying an education in media studies to post-graduation career possibilities. Job prospects start with a decision.

"Focus the degree either at production or critical examination," McEneny said. From there, students should research and get practical experience in the field to pave the way to a media studies career.



Photos by: Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

Alphonso Hines, junior, biology and Tom Matz, sophomore, science and media studies were Thursday's talent in the TV Productions class that meets in Lucas Hall.

TV production class puts students in anchors' seats

Hands-on lab lets students be producers of TV show

By **AMY RECKTENWALD**
Features Editor

If media studies is a balance of theory and practice, then TV Studio Production, taught by Sharon Reus, is the poster child class for media studies.

TV Studio Production is offered every semester, for students with an interest in the process behind how studio programming is produced.

The class starts with half an hour of lecture, followed by two hours of hands-on practical experience working in the video production lab in the basement of Lucas Hall.

"Students get a basic understanding of how studio TV productions are made, from creative development all the way through the editing process. It's an interesting mix of book learning and hands-on experience, both technical and creative," Reus said.

According to Reus, the goal for the students is to have a broad understanding of how TV production is done, and to know enough of the verbiage and techniques to go out and get an internship at a TV station. The students perform almost every portion of the production process.

"I do some directing, so they can see how it's done, but during the third class, they start directing, and from there on out, it's all them," Reus said.

"Most of the time, we are working in a hands-on situation. They learn to operate the cameras, run audio, direct and edit. In addition, they write treatments and scripts and ultimately produce their own four minute video segment," Reus said.

The course describes itself as a survey class and lab combined. It starts with an overview of the studio production process, including reviewing various types of studio productions. It briefly covers audio and lighting techniques as well as crew stations.

Then, practice sessions and group productions give the students the opportunity to direct and serve in all studio crew positions in rotation.

Daniel Duncan, sophomore, communications, said, "It's a good class. You learn a lot more than in a normal classroom setting. It's hands-on and you get to see behind the scenes."

Duncan said that the time goes fast because the class is fun and they get to use what they learn.

The class focuses on shows that can be created

within the studio environment, as opposed to going out with a camera and shooting and coming back and editing it. Studio productions can be live or taped.

Reus said in this class, the students learn how to direct as if they are directing a live TV show.

TV studio production differs from movie production, said Reus. The difference is that multiple cameras usually tape the same program from different angles and are "switched," or directed, on the spot.

Movies, however, shoot each scene over and over again, with just one camera from different angles that are later edited together.

Students have a functioning studio with just about everything needed for a full production. Equipment includes a switcher, audio mixer, tape decks, TelePromter, cameras, lighting and microphones.

For editing, they use FinalCutPro, which is state-of-the-art digital editing. Reus said that some of the equipment is not as sophisticated as some studios, but that it is a full working studio used during the week for some university programming.

In the lab, students get a good basic working knowledge of how to operate in studio. Reus said that the class requires a lot from students in initiative.

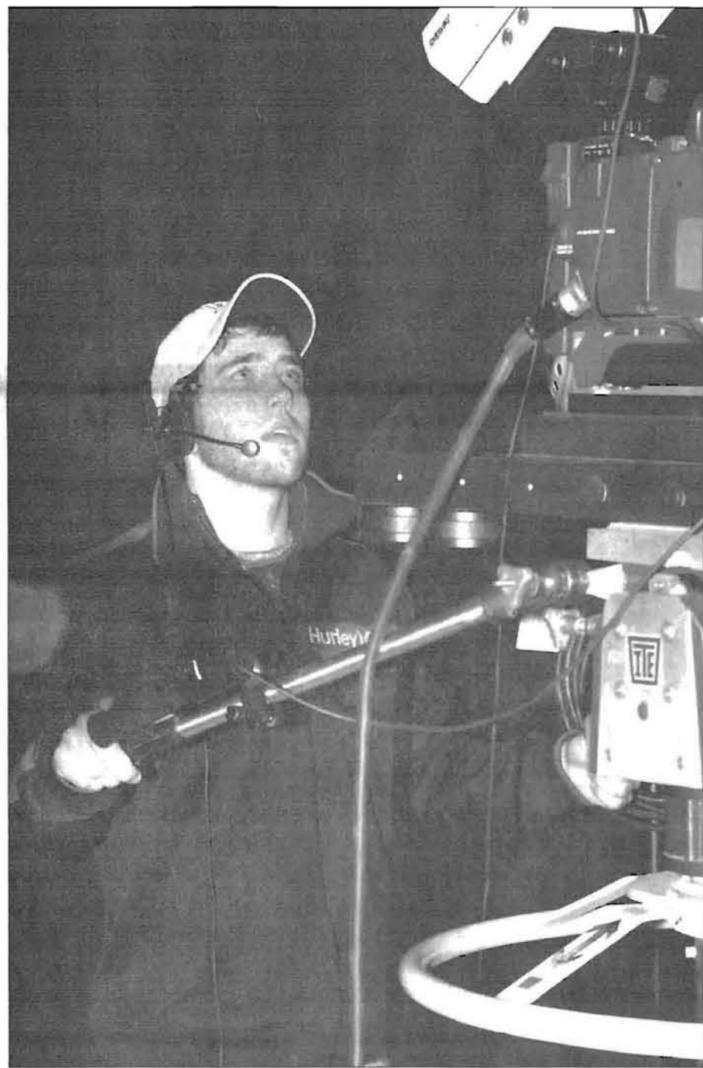
"They dig in and get involved in the process. It makes the class more interesting and they learn more," Reus said.

Reus has worked in media for 25 years, and when she does hiring, she looks for people with internships and real world experience.

"It's invaluable," she said. "It makes a difference when someone can tell you to plug the cable into the snake and you know what they're talking about."

Students take turns in all aspects of the studio crew. Some of these functions include producer, director, writer, floor director, tape operator, talent, editor, and camera operator. Each job fills a different role in the production process, so the students get a broad range of practical experience.

"This is a fun class to teach, and I think it's fun for the students too because they really get a taste of what it's like to make television," Reus said. "I've worked in various TV settings and I try to give them as much real world knowledge as possible."



Danny Duncan, sophomore, media studies, operates camera 2 during the TV productions class that meets in Lucas Hall from 1 to 3:30pm on Thursdays.

Professional voiceover actor offers quick course to ins and outs of job

By **MYRON MCNEILL**
Opinions Editor

For those imagining what a career in voiceovers would be like, the lecture in the J.C. Penney Center Room 72 on Feb. 1 offered a glimpse into this profession.

Mike Elmore, a noted voiceover actor, presented 25 students with an introductory course on the voiceover industry. He discussed the ins and outs of working in an industry that he says, "has millions of jobs, for thousands of workers."



Mike Elmore

The lecture started at 6 p.m. Those who filed in early were treated to the sounds of Sarah McLachlan. Simulating what was to be described later on in the lecture as a "cheap home studio," Elmore set up his microphone, speakers, computer, interface and headphones.

Reading from a newly revised outline of his presentation, which coincided with the handouts he gave to the audience, Elmore

tackled issues that dealt with an industry that is lucrative, but requires what he calls "tons of leg work" for those in the beginning stages.

Elmore discussed issues the many types of voiceovers present, including agents, voiceover coaches and demos, marketing and script reading. Simply put, this lecture could have been considered the first chapter of, or introduction to, a voiceovers how-to manual.

The lecture was hands on, as the advertisements claimed. Each attendee received a script that was read and recorded twice for coaching and critiques from Elmore. More are to be given by a follow-up call from his boss, who is as serious as Elmore is about introducing people to the voiceover industry.

Elmore delved deeply into the idea of "cold readings" of scripts, which he felt was important for beginners who are not versed and knowing of certain concepts like "studio etiquette." Elmore defined studio etiquette as one's behavior in the studio, and the proper ways of dealing with the client, studio engineers and sound crew.



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Danny Brown and Katy Beck practice a commercial at the Introduction to Voiceovers: Getting Started in Voice Acting seminar on Thursday night at the J.C. Penney eConference Center.

Ad Corp helps turn students into creative ad consultants

By Andrew Tonner
Staff Writer

For students interested in gaining some practical experience and working creatively with others in the field of advertising, there is an organization on campus that will help fulfill those particular needs.

Ad Corp is the advertising club for the UM-St. Louis. It offers opportunities for students to advance their knowledge and skills in advertising, ad development and creation and networking with organizations both on campus and within St. Louis.

Members of the organization are able to utilize their creative skills in the work that is presented to the club. The group mainly offers advertising services to other UM-St. Louis organizations and events presented by the Office of Student Life.

Once Ad Corp has collateral officially set up, however, it intends for its services to be made available to small businesses or any other prospective organization.

Ad Corp plans to offer a free advertising campaign to these businesses based on what specifics they want, what is available on the client's budget and the type of targeted audience.

This could be something along the lines of an on-site promotion, event marketing and planning, brand management, and printed material like posters, invitations, mailings and so on.

These kinds of business arrangements between the members of Ad Corp and the clients will help give the

students hands-on experience similar to that of a real advertising corporation.

Those experiences include client/service relations, teamwork, copywriting, graphic design and communications via multiple channels.

"It's the best resource if you want to get into advertising," says Ad Corp president and co-founder Sharon Schweizer.

Ad Corp is in a cooperative affiliation with the Ad Club of St. Louis, which allows its members to gain special knowledge of the advertising industry. Ad Club of St. Louis is an affiliate of the American Advertising Federation which represents more than 50,000 advertising industry professionals.

Ad Corp members will find themselves participating in events that are involved with the Ad Club of St. Louis, such as charity work, Ad Stock battle of the bands consisting of only advertising professionals, Art Uncorked (wine tasting and art auction/art only by advertising professionals), the Ad Club Annual Golf Tournament and the Addys, an advertising award ceremony.

Meetings for Ad Corp are held on both the first Wednesday and Thursday of every month in the Pilot House, located in the Millennium Center, at 2 p.m.

For more information about Ad Corp, contact President Sharon Schweizer at ses2fc@umsl.edu, Vice President Adriana Hughey at aohy83@umsl.edu or faculty advisor Kristy Tucciarone at tucciaronek@umsl.edu.

GOING TO SKI SCHOOL



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

A group of students prepares for their first ski lesson at Hidden Valley Ski Resort outside of Eureka, Mo. last Friday evening. Campus Recreation sponsored a 'Ski Hidden Valley Rec Trek,' one of four Rec Treks the organization will hold this semester.

Research Studies for Adults with Amblyopia

You are invited to participate in research studies conducted at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry and Washington University School of Medicine.

In studies at UMSL (450 Marillac Hall) you will be asked to look at patterns on a computer screen and make perceptual judgments. Study sessions last 1-2 hours and 10-20 hours are needed to complete the study. You will be paid \$12.00 per hour of participation.

In studies at WU (Neuro-Imaging Center) you will be asked to look at patterns on a computer screen during a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scan. Study sessions last 2 hours and 6-8 hours are needed to complete the study. You will be paid \$25.00 per hour of participation.

If you are age 18-60, have amblyopia ("lazy eye") and are interested in participating in either research study please contact:

Dr. Erwin Wong (Principal Investigator) at 314-516-6516 or wong@umsl.edu



MEDIA STUDIES, from page 6

Since the degree is a bachelor's of science, it does not require students to take a foreign language class.

Degree approval has been a long process. It first needed approval from the College of Fine Arts and Communications.

Then it went to the Faculty Senate for approval. From there, it was sent to the UM-System for approval.

The other three campuses were allowed to review and approve and comment on the degree proposal.

Then the degree was sent to the Board of Curators, who approved the degree during their Jan 25 and 26 meeting on the UM-St. Louis campus. The final step is to get approval from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

McPhail said it is likely that the degree will likely be on the agenda for the CBHE in March or April. If it meets with approval

then, the first class of incoming freshmen and transfer student majors in media studies will be the Fall 2007 semester.

Tucciarone said that she had enjoyed working with the curriculum person to determine what the students will need.

"I'm excited for the students," Tucciarone said. According to Tucciarone and the department Web site, the curriculum will "focus on the role of media technology and their historical, cultural, social, international, legal, ethical or economic implications."

McPhail feels that in 10 years time, media studies will rank as one of the top five majors in enrollment at UM-St. Louis, on campus.

"I think it's going to be a terrific degree and many students are going to want to major," McPhail said. He anticipates enrollment in the media studies classes to increase over time, especially now

with the final degree approval coming. The department will also be hiring more instructors as the enrollment increases as well.

McPhail said that as the enrollment grows, the department is also going to need more state-of-the-art media labs with digital equipment, so students receive ample hands on experience in the classroom.

McPhail said that media studies is now more relevant than ever to students.

The importance of media studies to the students is that "the media permeates our lives," McPhail said.

"It provides us with our world view. Our students should be focused on global or international events, which we learn about through mass media," said McPhail. "Media plays a prominent role in the lives of modern society, like agriculture did 200 years ago."

VOICEOVERS, from page 7

Script reading involved cold reads (which are reads without practice or pontification) and "script interpretation," which is merely the way an actor or client determines how a script should be read properly to convey a message.

Following this, attendees formed groups and performed in front of each other as they were recorded.

Groups were first assigned stations, so Elmore could hear them read and offer insight into how cer-

tain characters should read certain lines. He even showed some of the attendees how to add movements with verbal aspects of reading for better effect. Groups were then called to the front to record on his "home studio."

In concluding his lecture, Elmore hammered home the points that motivation and persistence were strong factors which determine one's success in the industry.

He also reiterated the idea that

anyone with a voice could do voiceover acting. Mr. Elmore went to the lengths of playing several minutes of clips of different voice types, from the eight major categories of voiceovers, to support his point.

The night concluded shortly after 8 p.m., with a brief question and answer session, and Elmore wishing the attendees luck with their pursuits of a career in voiceover acting.

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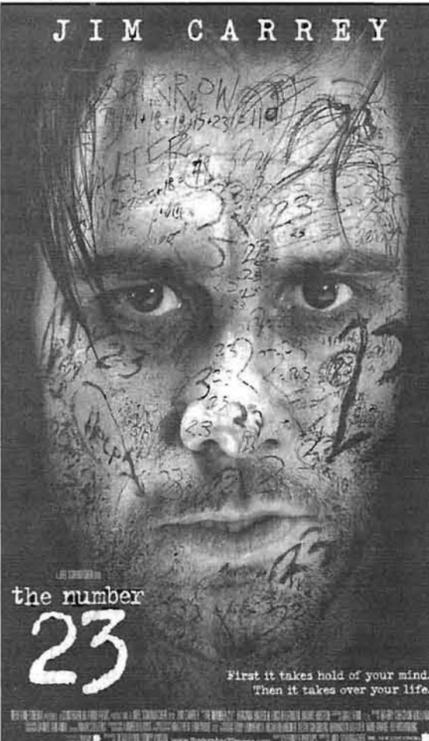
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IDENTITY COST, from page 1

In the submission, the student said, "believe that the seventeen grand UM-SL forked over for his less-than-spectacular website, and any of the other crap included, could have perhaps been better spent on improving the quality of the sports teams (or any other groups) here at the school, and not wasted on deciding which new fancy mascot should be pictured on their uniforms."

The \$17,000 estimate from 501 Creative, a Missouri-based firm, was announced last month by D'Andre Braddix, senior, criminology and criminal justice and student representative to the Nickname Committee.

According to 501 Creative's proposal to the University \$3,500 is the price to "facilitate committee discussions, attend meetings and to create

[the project's] plan."

Seven thousand dollars will go toward the "design and development of web pages for initial idea submissions, finalist voting and logo voting."

Five thousand dollars will cover the campus staff with promoting the project, according to the contract, would cost \$75 an hour or an undetermined amount depending on what is needed by the campus at the end of the project.

Additional charges for assisting the campus staff with promoting the project, according to the contract, would cost \$75 an hour or an undetermined amount depending on what is needed by the campus at the end of the project.

Braddix said this had been estimated at approximately \$1500, which may or may not be needed, so the project could cost a little more or a little less, but the \$17,000 was a fair estimate.

Braddix said the cost to get this project completed was a "necessary expense," and he did not agree with arguments he had heard about the cost.

He said "it is so short-minded" because anybody can say any money being spent on campus should be spent on other projects around campus.

"Are [they] really looking at the bigger picture?" Braddix asked. "You're getting people affiliated with the campus, you're building an alumni base."

I think the best way to look at it is as an investment."

Braddix said the committee chose to bring in the outside company because things had not previously gotten done in prior nickname committees and campus resources are

also limited.

He said as an example, a set amount of people work in the Information Technology Department at UM-St. Louis and those people already have a certain amount of work to do.

"It isn't a good idea to throw [a project] like this in their face on top of that," Braddix said. "Even if you're utilizing campus people, there is going to be money associated with it."

He said campus employees would have also had to be paid to work on this project, the same as paying the professionals at 501 Creative.

"It is a small expense to pay to build a campus community," Braddix said. "If we didn't think it was worth it, we wouldn't be doing it."

FRATERNITY FIRE, from page 1

Inspections at the fraternity houses did not begin until another fire in 1999 at UM-Columbia took a student's life.

From 1973 to 2003, 77 students died in 49 dorm and Greek housing fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The fraternity's past casts some questions about the fire, Fritz said. He hopes the fire will spur the other UM-St. Louis fraternities to take fire prevention seriously.

Also, Fritz hopes the members of the Greek organizations will take steps to plan for an emergency.

Chief among these steps is knowing how to get out of the building, Fritz said. While it may sound childish, he said one of the most effective ways to prepare is to have fire drills.

If the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity had taken these steps, Fritz said Schlittler may still be alive.

"You have to know how to get out. Odds are good, in a fire, you won't be able to get out the way you normally do," he said. "If he

[Schlittler] had have made a right turn instead of a left, he'd be with us today."

Jonathan Lidgus, assistant director of residential life, agrees that the fraternities and sororities need to take steps to prepare for an emergency.

However, unlike the sororities, the fraternity houses, including the old Pi Kappa Alpha house, are not subject to University rules.

"We cannot enforce it on Sigma Tau or Sigma Pi either," Lidgus said. "Because we don't own the building, we can't really enforce anything."

Lidgus said he hopes other students have learned a valuable, if tragic, lesson, from the fire.

"University wide, I'd like to encourage them to be safer," Lidgus said.

Two members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity were displaced in the fire. Lidgus said one of them is living in Oak Hall, and one is staying with a friend.

SGA MEETING, from page 1

Will Smith, freshman, business administration, suggested that the passes be offered at a flex rate, as opposed to being purchased in bulk form.

The Metro pass program has been offered to all St. Louis area universities in its path for a flat rate, however, Washington University is paying more per person, per pass for access to the Metro.

"We know that Washington University pays much more per person, per pass than UM-St. Louis does," said Thomas Helton, junior, political science, and SGA vice president.

"The Metro has commandeered their shuttle system."

With 800 passes still needing to be sold by the end of the semester, the committees and MetroLink could be back at the drawing board, refiguring the program.

second Thursday in February," as described in the General Election Rules for SGA, cited as the official guideline for the conduction and election of officers and representatives at the University.

The second Thursday in February passed last week, and dates have been amended in order to legalize the would-be unconstitutional elections.

"I'm just going to be honest about this," Helton said, "We're not really following the rules, we ran into some lag time."

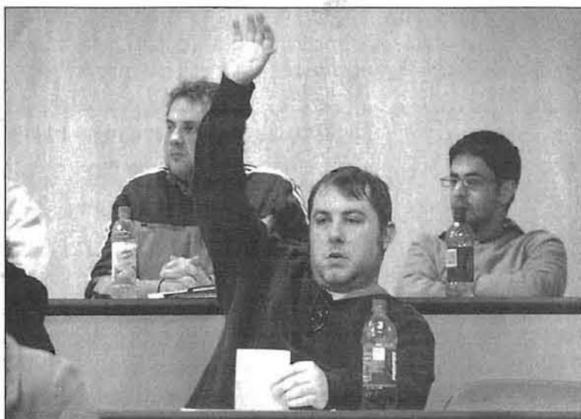
The election dates have been rescheduled, however, and applications will be made available on Monday, Feb. 12.

Brian Rails, senior, marketing, expressed his concerns with the continual tardiness of the executive board.

"I feel like you guys haven't read the constitution," Rails said. "We haven't met the budget deadline, we're behind on elections, and it concerns me that you haven't read your own constitution."

Mark Bacon, junior, public policy agreed with Rails and expressed his own concerns.

"Everything has been late," Bacon



Mark Bacon, senior, political science, raises his hand to speak at the SGA meeting this past Friday afternoon.

Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

said. "And the constitution has been amended for the last two years in order to legalize the election. My concern is that students aren't aware of the campaigning dates if they are in flux, students become misinformed and are discouraged, which essentially leads to illegal campaigning."

Campaigns will begin after the filing process, slated to take place from March 5 through March 23. Elections will be held April 18 and 19.

"This oversight was obviously not done purposely," Helton said. "As soon as we realized that we'd made a mistake, we sent it straight to the committee."

Other Business

Also discussed at the meeting were election dates for Student Government officials. The date was originally set for "no later than the

COMMUNICATION, from page 4

Through discovery from research, I must say that many inventions, creations, ideologies and feelings were created out of love and the cold, stark environments of negativity that many African Americans faced and lived in.

Universities, medicines, civic groups, chants, ways of being and more -- all of these were created and utilized while African Americans faced negativity.

I see where their actions communicated and continue to communicate the idea that negativity as a mindset or way of thinking is counter-productive to achievement.

Universities like Bethune-Cookman College, scientists like George Washington Carver, intellectuals like W.E.B. Dubois, and authors like James Baldwin and Langston Hughes communicate many messages with their historic footprints that we all can learn from.

They communicated the idea

that negativity is not always the best way to draw inspiration or analyze a circumstance.

I know it is hard to not think of negativity in a society that seems to focus on things closely associated to loss, punishment, scandal, death, have-nots, and hatred on a daily basis.

However, we can see good things. I am realist, but I recognize the need for a good sigh of relief on occasion, and sometimes reality is an illusion.

More importantly, we can learn from the accomplishments of many who excelled directly in the face of racism, hatred, lynching, lack of opportunity and many other things that were pit against them harmfully.

We should learn that negativity in a world where communication, verbal or nonverbal, will always exist. We must choose, however, the way in which we will think.

We understand the true meaning of "study group."

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Make Valentine's Day memorable with one of these romantic movies

The Current suggests great date movies, either at home or the theater

By CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

A romantic movie for Valentine's Day is a familiar favorite date for the day, but that raises a question — what are you going to see? Whether you are going out or staying in, here are some good movie choices for valentines.

Choices for romantic date movies in theaters are surprisingly thin right now, so here are several rental movie suggestions, for a variety of tastes.

The suggested films have "eye candy" for both genders and are not just chick flicks. This is not the definitive list of romantic movies. Rather, they are just a few suggestions, some of them familiar, some not.

If you are going out:

"Painted Veil" — This best choice film for most couples features beautiful photography, a romantic setting and strong drama with fine acting from Edward Norton and Naomi Watts.

"Blood and Chocolate" — For supernatural lovers, this stylish werewolf thriller has a surprisingly romantic theme, plus very imaginative and visu-

ally appealing effects, especially for the transition from man to beast. This is a better date movie than one might expect, for the right couple.

"Blood Diamond" — This adventure thriller, featuring terrific acting from Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly and Djimon Hounsou, is about conflict diamonds also has a romantic story, with tinges of classic films such as "Casablanca" and "King Solomon's Mines."

"Music and Lyrics" — Opening on Valentine's Day, this stars Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore. This seems like an unlikely romantic pair, but they are surprisingly cute in this romantic comedy about a has-been pop singer who persuades a reluctant writer to collaborate on writing a song that might be his key to a comeback.

This is the only decent romantic comedy choice in theaters right now. Someone posed "Norbit" as a date movie (actually, it was supporting actor Terry Crews, in a recent phone interview), but go that route only if your date thinks mean and tasteless jokes about overweight women are hilarious.

"Déjà Vu" — Still in theaters but probably also on DVD, this science fiction thriller starring Denzel Washington is also a great love story. It is one of the best date movies from last year.

If you are staying in:

Classic drama: Classic Hollywood's "Casablanca" is the iconic love story set against the backdrop of WWII, with the incomparable pairing of Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

If the '50s are your romantic ideal, pick "Breakfast at Tiffany's," worth seeing just for Audrey Hepburn.

For thriller or Hitchcock lovers, pick "Rebecca" (Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine) or "Notorious" (Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman). Another classic with great romance is the film where Humphrey Bogart met future wife Lauren Bacall, "To Have and Have Not."

Classic romantic comedy: Once, romantic comedies were the best of Hollywood, before they became formulaic genre films.

See VALENTINE MOVIES, page 11



Audrey Hepburn starred in the classic "Breakfast at Tiffany's," one of the great romantic movies of all time.

A&E ON CAMPUS

Feb. 12: Video artist Cynthia Pachikara talks about her "Shadow Work" exhibit that contemplates the notion of "body-as-screen," at 12:15 p.m., Gallery 210 auditorium. Light refreshments. Free. Info: 314-516-5699.

Feb. 12: "Unspeakable Acts," a seven-scene play addressing the topic of sexual assault on a university campus, 7 p.m. in the Pilot House at the MSC. Question-and-answer session follows. Free. Info: 314-516-5711 or e-mail james@umsl.edu.

Feb. 14: Romantic Valentine's Day concert by Grammy-winning husband and wife team, 7:30 p.m. at Touhill. Tickets \$45, \$40, \$35. Info: 314-516-4949.

Feb. 14: Mislá, a traditional Irish band, in concert, 12:30 p.m. at rm 205 Music Building. Free. Info: 314-516-7299.

Feb. 14: "The Story We Tell," an hour-long film from a three-part series called "Race: The Power of an Illusion," 4 p.m. in the Student Government Association Chambers at the Millennium Student Center. Discussion follows. Free. Info: 314-516-5270 or e-mail oayes@umsl.edu.

Feb. 14: Deadline to submit to campus publication, Litmag II is Feb. 14. Essays, fiction, poetry, photography and artwork are accepted.

Feb. 15: 'Café Europa' at the Touhill - 7:30 p.m. in Lee Theater at the Touhill. Tickets \$40. Info: 314-516-4949.

TOP iTUNES DOWNLOADS

1. This Ain't a Scene, it's an Arms Race - Fall Out Boy



- 2. Glamorous - Fergie
- 3. Cupid's Chokehold - Gym Class Heroes
- 4. Say it Right - Nelly Furtado
- 5. The Sweet Escape - Gwen Stefani
- 6. It's not Over - Daughtry
- 7. Here (In your Arms - Hello Goodbye)
- 8. Don't Matter - Akon
- 9. Irreplaceable - Beyonce
- 10. Fergalicious - Fergie

OPERA REVIEW

The riddle of Turandot: What does it take to get good actors?

By SARAH O'BRIEN
Assistant News Editor

Teatro Lirico D'Europa performed Giacomo Puccini's master opera, Turandot, Sunday night to a full house in the Anheuser Busch Theater at the Blanche M. Touhill.

Turandot is Puccini's operatic twist on the famous Greek myth of Oedipus and the Sphinx. The Opera, however, is set in ancient Peking, China, and not the entry gates of Thebes.

Turandot is the name of the leading female role, who plays the Ice Princess of Peking, and the sphinx character of the Greek tale.

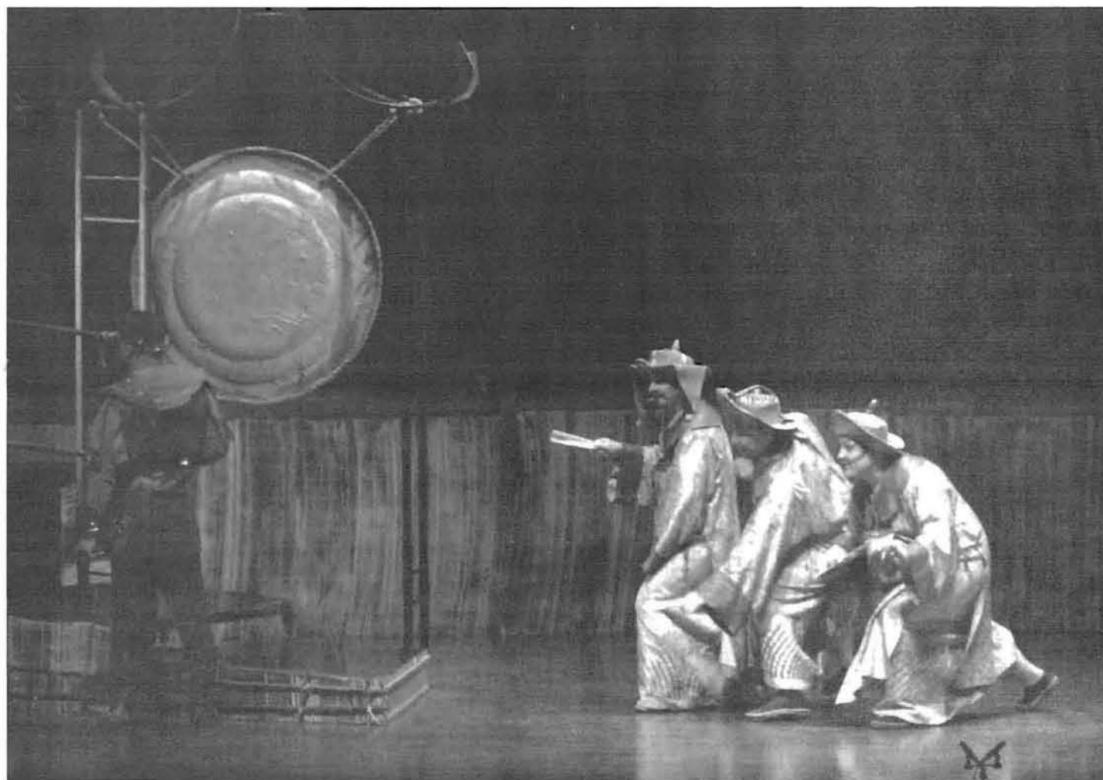
Turandot, translated from Persian as the daughter of Turan allows any who wishes to be her suit-or three riddles, however, if one is answered incorrectly their heads are removed and placed on bamboo sticks for all to see.

Turandot swears that no man will ever possess her, and avenges the death and debauchment of an ancestor torn from her palace by a rival prince.

After many deaths, a stranger comes along and falls in love with the cold-hearted girl. Taking a chance with the girl's riddles, he surprisingly answers them correctly, but to Turandot's dismay.

The princess begs her father to break the vow that she has killed so many by, and collapses in despair over thoughts of losing her purity.

In order to win Turandot's heart, the stranger bargains with her, if she can find out his name by daybreak he



Based on the "riddle of the sphinx," Puccini's final masterpiece, 'Turandot,' is set in the ancient, forbidden city of Peking. The opera was staged at the Touhill Performing Arts Center last Sunday.

Jessica Morris • Staff Photographer

Turandot

★★★★☆

Synopsis: Puccini's twist on the Greek myth of Oedipus and the Sphinx set in ancient China

will quit her presence, and surrender his life to her. However it is not until a faithful servant ends her life, for love and protection of the stranger's name does the princess' heart melt. She reciprocates the love of the stranger, whose name she finds to be Calaf, and presents their unity to her father in the court, declaring, "His name is Love."

Teatro Lirico D'Europa has done a brilliant job botching this popular

opera by Puccini. The music is there, the story is definitely there, however the acting—if you can call stumbling around stage in costume and makeup acting—was continually poor.

Even the lead male, Calaf, managed to merely trump around on stage looking more like Conan the Barbarian than any self respecting Tenor.

The atmosphere was broken almost

continuously, not only by offstage nuisances such as a moving curtain, or a viewer's sneeze, but by chorus performers on front and center stage! The performers, while properly trained in singing, seemed to have skipped out on acting class.

Not only were on stage performers breaking character almost constantly, the leading roles completely lacked character (again, unless you idealize

stomping around on stage in makeup a character).

I have never performed opera, so I am not familiar with the task of singing loftily and staying in character, however, if you're the best the company has to offer—shouldn't that be on your résumé?

See TURANDOT, page 11

AT THE TOUHILL

Hungarian State Folk Ensemble thrills PAC crowd with first-rate show

By CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

It is always a treat when Dance St. Louis brings one of its first-rate performances to the Touhill stage.

The Touhill Performing Arts Center is a beautiful venue and few programs highlight that as well as Dance St. Louis' performances.

Dance St. Louis brought the Budapest-based Hungarian State Folk Ensemble to the Touhill on Feb. 9 and 10. The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, established in 1951 to preserve ancient folk dances, is considered one of the world's greatest folk dance groups.

The performance showcased the dances from across the country. This included the peoples around Europe's largest river, the Danube, which bisects present-day Hungary, to the central, rolling plains of the country, to the Carpathian Mountains and isolated, mountainous Transylvania, which was traditionally part of Hungary but is now part of Romania.

Hungarian dances and culture were influenced by its peoples and history, its founding in the Middle Ages by the Magyar peoples who traveled from the East, the Gypsy minority that originated

in India, its history in repelling the Mongol invasion, conquests by the Ottoman Turks and then by Austria.

With authentic dances, folk costumes and music, the troupe of dancers and musicians took to the bare stage with a backdrop of stylized, modern art projected images that included film of the Hungarian countryside, a hand tracing sand artwork or shadows of dancers. The visual effect was both evocative of the past and contemporary.

A group of musicians playing violin, drum, bagpipes and other traditional instruments added to the total image of the Hungarian culture. The clarinet-like tarogato and the hit-gardon, a stringed instrument carved from a tree trunk and played percussively, complemented the dancers.

The first half of the program, which was titled "From Father To Son," featured a black and white, with an occasional splash of red, color scheme of both the backdrop and the dancers' costumes.

Black and white stills of a winding dirt road on an open plain, mountain-ringed valleys and black and white close-up footage of a flowing river created images of the physical lay of the land, a backdrop for dances that looked both forward and back in time.

The visual scheme for the second half, "Our Treasures," shifted to brilliant color, for both the costumes and the backdrop images.

The dancers performed a series of group and solo dances, couples dances and dances for men or women. Each piece moved smoothly into the next without a pause, as dancers ran on or off stage, sometimes after a quick costume change.

Hungarian dances from a number of areas were presented but nearly all the dances showcased the performers' athleticism. The dances were often staged as if they were being performed around a village square or a campfire. Musicians played in a tight grouping on stage, and other dancers looking on, clapping and calling out, as soloists danced.

Most were high energy, high kicking, stomping dances, and often involving fancier legwork than any "Riverdance," but with leg and boot-slapping tossed in.

The dancers' movements were often a high-speed, dizzying blur of hip-twisting, back-kicking, high-stepping dances.

Some dances made one think of Cossack dances and other East European high-jumping dances, while other dances showed more German or



Matthew Hill • Staff Photographer

The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble at the Touhill Performance Art Center Friday and Saturday night.

Tyrolean elements from the Alps on the western border of Hungary.

Gypsy dances were represented as well, as the Gypsies, or Roma, had a heavy influence on Hungarian national culture.

Among the dances were men's mili-

tary recruiting dances called Verbunk. Verbunk are quick, athletically stunning dances that were performed at parties in the 18th century as a way to recruit young men into the military life.

See HUNGARIAN, page 16



Courtesy rottentomatoes.com

"Letters from Iwo Jima" is the companion piece to "Flags of our Fathers." Both films were directed by Clint Eastwood, the legendary actor and director behind such movies as "Unforgiven" and "Million Dollar Baby."

'Letters from Iwo Jima' is a triumph

BY CATE MARQUIS

AE&E Editor

A film in black and white, in Japanese with subtitles, told from the viewpoint of our enemies in one of the most brutal battles of World War II hardly sounds like a film that Americans would universally embrace.

Yet, that is what has happened with Clint Eastwood's "Letters From Iwo Jima."

Although "Letters From Iwo Jima" and "Flags Of Our Fathers," Eastwood's film telling the other side of the battle, can stand on their own as films, it is best to watch them as a pair.

"Flags," the American perspective, should ideally be seen first, and then the other side of the battle "Letters" because the mirror-image nature of several of the shots deepens their meaning in each film.

Another reason is that, in truth, the second film "Letters' From Iwo Jima" is the better film.

Unlike "Flags of Our Fathers," which primarily deals with the experi-

ence of American soldiers involved in the famous photo of the planting of the flag, "Letters From Iwo Jima" focuses more on the battle and the time just before it, again making a perfect book end.

The film starts, in color, on a placid, green modern-day Iwo Jima, where historians explored the caves, Japanese soldiers made their final stand and uncovered a bag of letters from home.

This discovery takes us back to the days before the fateful battle and, more importantly, into the personal lives of the soldiers. The film finds the common human element in all wars where the individual soldier is patriotically fighting for his country, regardless of what the schemes and plans of his country's leaders may be.

At this point, the Japanese soldiers all know the war is lost, and they are truly defending their homes, as Iwo Jima was considered part of their homeland, albeit a far outpost.

We follow the lives of a few enlisted men and officers sent on a desperate mission to defend this small island from a foe they have been told is bare-

ly human.

Countries demonize the enemy in warfare to make them as inhuman as possible. Because this is the second half of a more familiar story, director Eastwood is able to hold up a mirror to us and allow us to see the humanity of the enemy.

Because the war is already lost, their personal heroics in a last stand seem honorable and right. We get to know enlisted men, some fervently patriotic, and others fighting for more personal reasons, through their actions leading up to the battle and through flashbacks to their earlier lives at home.

We especially get to know a young enlisted man, a baker who has a pregnant wife back home, whose story is a common thread in the whole tale.

Often the story of these Japanese soldiers is like that of any soldier in any war. Many of the elements are universal to war, like dreams of home, and others are more specific to the Japanese Imperial Forces and their society.

See IWO JIMA, page 16

VALENTINE MOVIES, from page 10

One of the best films of the classic era is "Philadelphia Story," with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart.

Another great classic is the original "screwball" comedy "Bringing Up Baby," with Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant again and featuring a tiger named Baby.

There is another film often at the top of "best movies" lists — "Some Like It Hot" with Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis.

Love needs no words: Two great silent films that are also great romantic comedies are Charlie Chaplin's "Gold Rush" and Buster Keaton's "Seven Chances."

"Gold Rush" is a bit more bitter-sweet and "Seven Chances" is more comic in tone, but both are great films. Chaplin considered "Gold Rush" the film he wanted to be remembered by.

When watching the jaw-dropping stunts in Keaton's "Seven Chances," remember that it is Keaton, not a stunt man, doing all those daredevil tricks. If you have trouble finding "Seven Chances," Keaton's most famous film "The General" is also romantic too. Music and motion tell it all, plus a few title cards.

Romance in a romance language:

Foreign films offer some of the best romantic movies. One of these is the 1990 French "Cyrano," the

best version yet of this classic tale of romance and tragedy, starring the great actor Gerard Depardieu in classic form, plus Vincent Perez and gorgeous Anne Brochet.

A more comic French romance is the color-filled, offbeat romance "Amelie," or the tragic, comic, Fellini-directed Italian "Nights of Cabiria."

French but no subtitles: "Chocolat" is set in France but it is in English. While not exactly a romance, this film with Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp is still all about love.

Shakespeare and love: You can pick "Shakespeare in Love," but I prefer the film adaption of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" — Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson are perfect in this fun frolic through Shakespeare's comedy.

Laurence Fishburne's hot and sexy version of "Othello" is a good choice too, even if it does not end well for the lovers.

Love in costume:

For fans literature or historical films, "Impromptu" is a winner. This is a fun and romantic film about an unlikely attraction between composer Frederick Chopin and a noble woman named Aurora, who publishes as writer George Sand. This stars a very young Huge Grant and Judy Davis.

Another good one is the more

recent, magic-themed "The Illusionist."

Overlooked and costumed romance:

An overlooked but surprisingly charming costume romance is "Stage Beauty." Set in Restoration England, it focuses on a rivalry between an actor and an actress, when the law that only men can legally portray women on stage is starting to give way. It is sexy, dramatic and romantic, starring Billy Crudup in a remarkable performance.

Another more comic, overlooked romantic costume film is Heath Ledger's "Casanova," which is not a list of conquests but about the woman who is the downfall of the great lover.

Contemporary love:

Hugh Grant's commitment-phobic romantic comedy, "Four Weddings and a Funeral," is about love and death, sort of.

If you do not hate Woody Allen, his "Manhattan" and "Annie Hall" are bittersweet masterpieces about love.

Offbeat romance:

Some of the best offbeat movies about romance include "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "Garden State" and the German-language "Run Lola Run," or the lesser known film by the same director "Heaven."

TURANDOT, from page 10

The only value of Teatrco Lirico D'Europa was its comic relief—well, the intended comic relief. The characters Ping, Pang, and Pong—ministers to the royal family—semi-succeed in creating a whole character—and I mean one character.

The three most likely attempted separate personalities, yet they blended into the only thing enjoyable about the performance.

Ping, Pang and Pong lament

Calaf's decision to take Turandot's riddles, and then sing about the pleasures of the wedding night, and of women—assuredly to the princess' dismay. The princess, who is obsessed with purity, and freedom from the wicked ways of men, fights sort of hard against the traditions of marriage. This theme is used a lot, most likely to encourage free-thinking women to submit to "love."

Turandot is an excellent opera, derived from an excellent myth, with

beautiful music. However the poor acting skills of this company are excruciating, and very difficult to miss. Everything was in place for a successful opera: setting, story, music and costume. It is easy, however, to ruin the good with just a tidbit of bad—you know what they say, one bad apple ruins the bunch. Yet in this case, it was more like one huge, important, bad apple, ruins the classic opera.



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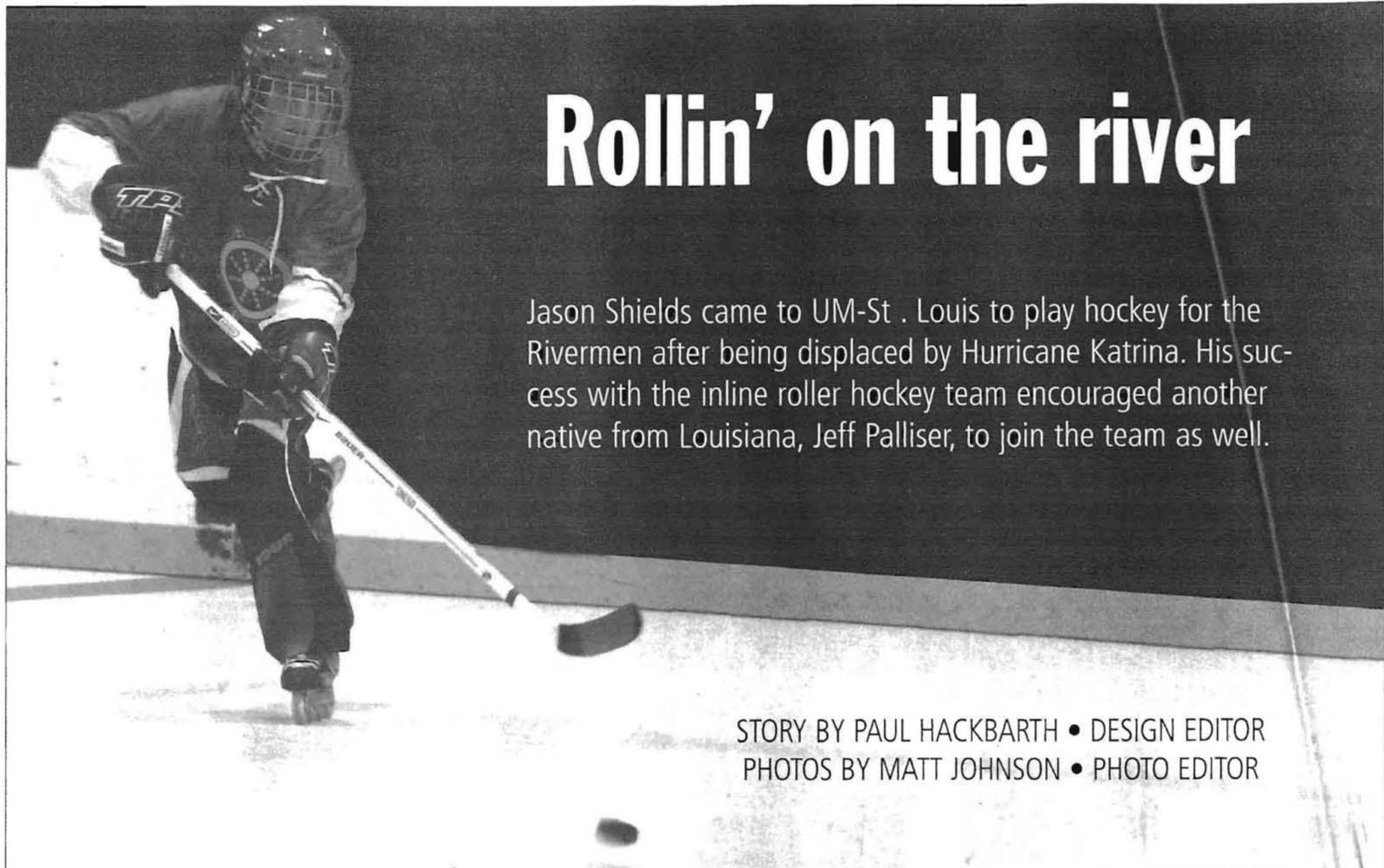
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Rollin' on the river

Jason Shields came to UM-St. Louis to play hockey for the Rivermen after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina. His success with the inline roller hockey team encouraged another native from Louisiana, Jeff Palliser, to join the team as well.

STORY BY PAUL HACKBARTH • DESIGN EDITOR
PHOTOS BY MATT JOHNSON • PHOTO EDITOR

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jeremy Scott

Jeremy Scott, junior, forward, for the Rivermen inline hockey team, led the team's forwards with goals, assists and points in the first 10 games of the season.

Currently, Scott has 16 goals, 13 assists and 34 points so far this season.

Against SEMO last Sunday, Scott recorded two goals and four assists and against Western Kentucky, he scored one goal and had one assist.

Scott graduated from St. Charles West High in 2004.

SPORTS BRIEF

Dewell, Ledbetter named Student-Athlete of the month of January

Jennifer Dewell, forward for the Riverwomen basketball team, and Brett Ledbetter, forward for the Rivermen basketball team, were named student-athletes of the month.

Dewell led the team with 9.7 ppg and was perfect from the free throw line in January.

Ledbetter had an average 18.6 ppg in January and led the team in scoring in four of nine games.

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Basketball

Feb. 15
vs. Drury
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 17
vs. Rockhurst
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 15
vs. Drury
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 17
vs. Rockhurst
5:30 p.m.

Jason Shields, forward for the Rivermen roller hockey team, has always loved hockey so much that playing would often take priority over other events.

"I would miss a lot of school to go play. It really was much of my life in the summer," said Shields, sophomore, English.

Shields, who has been with the team since December 2005, came to UM-St. Louis to play after leaving Louisiana when Hurricane Katrina left him without a home and school.

"My house and school, University of New Orleans, was flooded. I transferred to LSU [Louisiana State University], but they only had temporary places," he said.

While looking for other schools to attend, Shields found out about the Rivermen roller hockey team at UM-St. Louis.

"I thought I'd try it out and I made the team," Shields said.

Tom Schneider, head coach for the A team, said Shields started out on the B team and "worked really hard at practice and earned his spot on the A team. We're really lucky he came up to St. Louis," Schneider said.

Shields' decision to come to St. Louis paid off as the Southside Snipers, a team in the Professional Inline Hockey Association, recruited him last November. Shields plays with defenseman Adam Clarke of the Rivermen.



Jason Shields, forward for the Rivermen, slides past a Washington University player last weekend.

"We have four pro players on the team and had another one, but he was injured this year," Shields said.

Shields said that playing in college and in the pros is not that different.

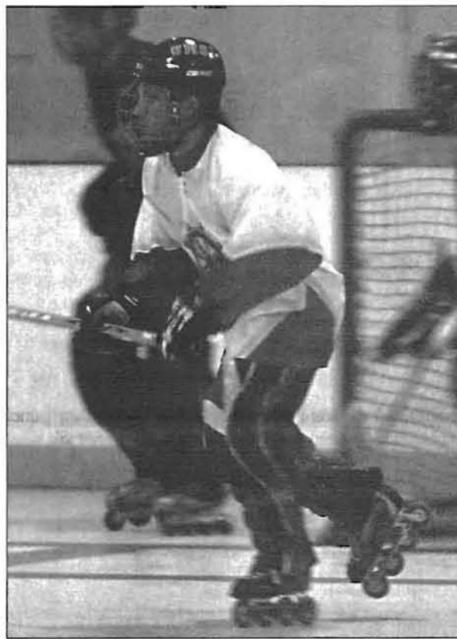
"In college, it's very close to what I

play with in the pros, but then again, the majority of pro players are in college," Shields said. The games with the Snipers are usually closer in the score than in collegiate games, he added.

Shields was not the only player to

come out of Louisiana. Back at LSU, Shields met his future teammate, Jeff Palliser, junior, pre-med.

"We played hockey together and we hung out in a club league together," said Palliser, assistant team captain and



Jeff Palliser, forward for the B-team, skates toward the puck during a game against UM-Rolla.

forward for the B team. When Shields transferred to UM-St. Louis, "he told me he was going to try out and then he made [the team]."

Shields encouraged Palliser to come to St. Louis and play for the Rivermen. Palliser was hesitant at first but he had no ties keeping him in Baton Rouge.

"I'd seen all there was to see in Louisiana, so I came up," Palliser said. After he joined the team, Palliser noticed some differences in playing for the Rivermen.

"The skill level is just amazing," he said. "Up here, you have to know what you're going to do before you get the puck."

Palliser said he and Shields differ in their backgrounds when it comes to hockey.

"I grew up playing ice hockey whereas Jason grew up with roller hockey," Palliser said.

As for the future of the Rivermen teams, Schneider said he would like to see roller hockey become a school-sponsored sport and receive funding from the Student Government Association.

The roller hockey team won the national championship during the 2003-2004 season and has been to every championship since. The team was undefeated last year, but they lost in the national championship. So far this year, they are rated second in the nation.

Inline hockey wins over Kansas State after mercy rule called in 10-0 shutout

By **RACHAEL YAMNITZ**

Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen inline hockey team has reason to be confident in its ability, with a 12-1-1 record.

Going into Saturday's game against Kansas State, who had a record of 1-12-2, the Rivermen were feeling more than confident, and they did not disappoint.

The Rivermen made quick work of the Kansas State Wildcats, scoring six goals in the opening period. The game was called in the second period, due to the "mercy rule," after UM-St. Louis scored four more goals within the first seven minutes, giving the Rivermen a 10-0 lead.

The scoring did not start for the Rivermen until the third minute of the first period when forward Wally Iverson scored with an assist from forward and assistant captain Ben Lambert.

Less than a minute later, defenseman Eric Thompson scored with an assist from forward Tim McFarland. Shortly after that, defenseman James Wetton scored his first of three goals with an assist from defenseman Doug Purk, to give UM-St. Louis a 3-0 lead.

Wetton received his first of two assists on the next goal, which was scored by Ben Lambert on the power

play after Kansas State forward Nate Buckner got two minutes for boarding.

Wetton's second assist came on the Rivermen's next goal by forward Jeremy Scott. Defenseman Cory Purk rounded out the first period, scoring with an assist from defenseman Eric Thompson.

The first goal of the second period came at 1:03, when team captain and defenseman Adam Clarke scored with an assist from McFarland. Lambert then scored his second goal of the game with an assist from Iverson.

James Wetton finished the game strong, scoring the last two goals. The first came unassisted at 5:40 into the second. Wetton scored the final goal of the game less than a minute later, with an assist from McFarland.

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen needed only about 20 game time minutes to put down Kansas State. Clarke, sophomore, education, credited the team's success to the "people behind the scenes who have been so supportive this year."

The Rivermen hockey team's success on the ice can be attributed to the team's chemistry off the ice.

"A lot of the guys are friends outside of the arena and hang out together," Clarke said.

The Rivermen are looking to return to their National Champions



Adam Clarke, team captain and defenseman for the Rivermen inline hockey team, attempts to keep a Truman State player away from the goal during a game last weekend. In the game against Kansas State on Saturday, Clarke scored the team's first goal in the 10-0 shutout.

status. That tournament takes place April 4 through April 7 at the Matteson Square Gardens complex in St. Peters, Mo. The Regional tournament will take place March 4 at the same complex.

In addition to their National Championship goal, the Rivermen are grasping at another brass ring. They are working for a sponsorship from the Athletics Department at UM-St. Louis, and move from being a club to

being a recognized sport. Official recognition from UM-St. Louis would make the University only the second school university in Missouri to have a recognized inline hockey team.



Adam D. Wiseman • Editor-in-Chief

Jennifer Martin, senior, center for the Riverwomen, drives to the hoop against a Southern Indiana player this past Thursday at Mark Twain gym. Martin finished the game with 9 rebounds and 22 points.

Riverwomen suffer fifth consecutive loss

BY LAQUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen lost their fifth consecutive game on Feb. 8 to the University of Southern Indiana 67-62. UM-St. Louis' record falls to 5-16 and 1-13 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

UM-St. Louis started the game strong and went a 7-0 scoring run in the first two minutes of the game.

The Riverwomen held on to the lead for most of the first half, but the Screaming Eagles went on a 14-0 scoring run, bringing the score to 27-24. UM-St. Louis continued to battle back to try to regain the lead before the end of the half, but USI would go into the locker room leading 37-29.

The Riverwomen continued to play catch up during the second half. They started a 15-4 scoring run with

8:27 left in the game, and tied the score at 60 with 3:06 left in the game.

USI went up by three after shooting 3-4 from the free throw line and held on to the lead for the rest of the game.

"We have yet to put together a complete basketball game from beginning to end and have all the stats in our favor," said Coach Shelia Hering.

"We have pulled out some really close ones and just have not been able to pull it all together," said Jennifer Dewell, UM-St. Louis forward.

Center Jennifer Martin finished the game with 22 points and shot 8-16 from the field and 6-10 from the line. Martin led the team with nine rebounds and finished with four blocks and six turnovers.

"We are fortunate to have a go-to

player like that," Hering said.

"I was looking to attack the basket more," Martin said. "I missed a lot of shots, even though stat-wise it looked OK, I missed shots that I should have made."

The Riverwomen were able to out-shoot the Screaming Eagles throughout the game. UM-St. Louis finished the game shooting 42 percent and USI finished with 34.9 percent.

The Riverwomen grabbed 31 rebounds in the game while the Screaming Eagles dominated the boards, pulling down a game total of 45 rebounds.

"I think we played a lot better last night," Hering said. "We played a much better team game. It was the rebounding that killed us."

"In the last couple of games we have played more team ball and

came together and played like we did last year, which is a good thing, but it kinda stinks it is towards the end of the season," Dewell said.

Dewell finished the game with six rebounds, six points and three assists.

Forward Taylor Gagliano finished the game with nine points and led the Riverwomen with five steals. Gagliano shot hit two shots from behind the arc and made three out of four from the free throw line.

Guard Leslie Ricker finished the game with nine points, six rebounds and three assists.

"We need some definite momentum going into these last five ball games," Hering said.

The Riverwomen have five games left in the season. The next home game will be on Feb. 15 against Drury. The last home game for the Riverwomen is against

Men's basketball loses to S. Indiana during 'Pack the Stands' night

BY TOM SCHNABLE

Staff Writer

"Pack the Stands" night last Thursday turned out to be a disappointment on the court as the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team fell to Southern Indiana 72-59. The game was another setback as the Rivermen struggle to find consistency in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

UM-St. Louis got double-digit point totals from four of their players, a more balanced scoring attack than the 40-point games the team received from Brett Ledbetter and Troy Slaten in the previous two games. Along with Ledbetter's 12 points and Slaten's 10, David Ward had 11 points and Stanley Boateng had 10.

The Rivermen got off to a marginally better start than the 13-0 score USI started out with in last week's game, answering the Screaming Eagles first bucket with one of their own. UM-St. Louis failed to capitalize on early chances around the basket in the first half, however, and USI had amassed a comfortable lead only 11 minutes into the action.

Coach Chris Pilz credited the team's defensive effort and thought the problem was on the offensive side of the court, especially USI's defensive pressure on leading scorers Ledbetter and Slaten.

"They took Ledbetter and Slaten away outside, and are other three guys

couldn't get in the offensive flow," Pilz said. "We just were not strong enough or tough enough on the offensive end to get really good shots."

Southern Indiana's defense stifled the Rivermen attack, and the Screaming Eagles were able to convert 19 UM-St. Louis turnovers into 19 points. That, and a decisive advantage of 32-18 for points in the paint, were the keys to victory for the USI attack.

The second half brought out a much different UM-St. Louis team, one that was able to control tempo more and finish the opportunities they could not finish in the first half. Whereas Southern Indiana had an 11 point advantage in the first half, they were only able to outscore the Rivermen by two in the second.

Pilz hopes the second half intensity can give the team momentum going into the remaining part of the schedule. He sees the team's effort as being the key.

"We'll have to have a lot better effort offensively and the same defensive intensity," Pilz said. "If we get that [effort] and we can execute, we should have a little better luck down the stretch."

With five games remaining before the GLVC tournament, the Rivermen would have to pull off an impressive streak to qualify for the postseason. The Rivermen's games at home on Feb. 15 against Drury and Feb. 17 against Rockhurst may be the last chance to see this year's group of seniors play.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

The proof is in the trophy

We have all seen it by now. Oct. 27, 2006. Adam Wainwright strikes out Brandon Inge to give the St. Louis Cardinals their 10th World Series championship. Ecstasy is what followed.

More than 100,000 people gathered for a downtown victory parade. Baseball fans spent hundreds of dollars to see who could accumulate the most championship gear. The team even made a visit to the White House. And yet, somehow it still seems like it has not completely sunk in.

For those of you still needing proof, perhaps you have found your way to a local U.S. Cellular store in the last few months, to take in the ultimate prize of our triumph as members of Cardinal Nation. I am talking about the Commissioner's Trophy, awarded to the Cardinals after winning the 103rd Fall Classic.

The World Champions Trophy Tour has given fans a chance to see the trophy up close and personal and the opportunity to get their pictures taken with it. Although it does not cost anything to have your picture taken with the trophy, donations are encouraged, with the proceeds going to Cardinals Care, Beyond Housing, and Women's Safehouse, all organizations that help different groups of people.

Liz Vickerman, who works for the marketing firm that arranged the tour,



BY TOM SCHNABLE

Staff Writer

says people have come in for all different kinds of reasons.

"Right around Christmas, we had lots of people coming in getting their Christmas card pictures taken," Vickerman said.

Certain fans have requested an even more unusual request.

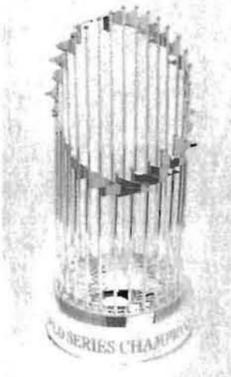
"[People] bring their pets or pet families in to have their pictures taken, and they've all been dressed in their Cardinals garb," Vickerman said.

UM-St. Louis student David Cline, senior, communication, said seeing the trophy in person was the icing on the cake.

"I was downtown when they won, so I experienced that atmosphere, and I came down for the victory parade, but seeing the trophy here and getting my picture taken with it sort of validates it for me," Cline said.

He looks forward to being able to show his grandkids the picture one day and the opportunity to tell them all about the Cardinals' magical October run, a sentiment many others share.

The journey to defend the World Champion title will begin with the season starting in a few weeks, and the memories of last year will begin to fade as the Cardinals make new memories for us. The triumph Cardinal Nation shared in last fall and the memories and stories that the championship brought, however, will live with us forever.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Men's basketball falls to St. Joseph's 80-67

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team lost to St. Joseph's 80-67 Saturday night, dropping its record to 9-14 (4-11 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference).

Troy Slaten led the Rivermen with 13 points in the game. Slaten shot 4-13 from the field and 3-9 from behind the arc.

Brett Ledbetter finished the game with 12 points and led the team with six rebounds. Ledbetter shot 3-10 from the field and 5-6 from the line.

Ty Adams came into the game off of the bench and scored 10 points and grabbed three rebounds. Adams shot 5-7 from the field.

St. Joseph's dominated the rebounds during the game pulling down 48 while holding UM-St. Louis to only 29.

The Rivermen are currently sixth in the GLVC West, and play four more conference games this season. The team needs a win in each game in order to try to make it to the GLVC tournament in March.

The Rivermen play their last two home conference games this week against Drury on Feb. 15 and Rockhurst on Feb. 17.

Riverwomen bench leads team to victory

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team recorded its second conference win of the season on Saturday, defeating St. Joseph's 74-59.

Nichole Helfrich came off of the bench to lead the Riverwomen with 19 points, shooting 7-12 from the field. Helfrich finished the game with

two blocks, two steals and six rebounds.

Amanda Miller scored 14 points in the game and shot 4-5 from the line.

The Riverwomen were out rebounded during the game, grabbing 36 while the Pumas pulled down 40. The Riverwomen out shot their opponents, making 47.5 percent of the shots from the field while holding the Pumas to 33.9 percent.

After the win, UM-St. Louis' record improves to 6-16, and 2-13 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The team is currently tied with Rockhurst, who is currently on a seven-game losing streak, for sixth place in the GLVC.

The Riverwomen play their last two home conference games this week against Drury on Feb. 15 and Rockhurst on Feb. 17.

Softball starts off season with 2-2 record

The UM-St. Louis women's softball team starts the season 2-2 after opening weekend.

UM-St. Louis lost the first two games in a doubleheader against North Alabama on Friday. The Riverwomen lost the first game 11-1 and were shut out during the second game, losing 9-0.

The Riverwomen picked up two wins in a doubleheader against Arkansas Tech. UM-St. Louis won the first 6-3 and won the second game 13-12 after nine innings.

After the first four games, Casey Dierkes leads the team with two home runs. Katie Bartlett currently leads the team with five RBIs. Corie Jones currently leads the Riverwomen with two steals.

Emily Wagoner pitched in two



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Stanley Boateng, junior, guard, fakes a shot to get the Saint Joseph's player to jump out of the way on Saturday night during the game held at Washington University.

games over the weekend, allowing 22 hits while striking out seven batters in 11.1 innings. Her ERA currently stands at 4.32.

The first home game for the

Riverwomen will be on Feb. 22 against Olivette Nazarene. The first conference game of the season will be on March 17 against Northern Kentucky.

STATS CORNER

MEN'S BASKETBALL				WOMEN'S BASKETBALL				ROLLER HOCKEY				
GLVC standings:				GLVC standings:				GPCIHL standings:				
Team	Overall	W	L	Team	W	L	Team	W	L	T	Pts	
West Division				West Division				Division II				
Southern Indiana	23	3		SIUE	17	6	Truman State	16	1	0	32	
Quincy	17	6		Drury	16	7	UM-St. Louis	15	1	1	31	
Drury	16	7		Quincy	15	8	Washington U.	13	4	0	26	
Rockhurst	14	9		Southern Indiana	14	9	SLU	12	4	1	25	
SIUE	12	11		UM-Rolla	14	9	Missouri State	10	7	0	20	
UM-St. Louis	9	14		UM-St. Louis	8	15	SIU-Carbondale	7	10	0	14	
UM-Rolla	7	16		UM-St. Louis	6	16	SEMO	6	11	0	12	
East Division				East Division				Division I				
Northern Kentucky	17	6		Lewis	20	3	Kansas State	14	2	4	3	
UW-Parkside	16	10		Northern Kentucky	20	5	Western Illinois	11	5	1	3	
Saint Joseph's	13	9		Kentucky Wesleyan	17	6	Western Kentucky	11	5	1	3	
Indianapolis	12	9		Bellarmine	16	7	Box Scores:					
Lewis	13	10		UW-Parkside	14	9	February 11	1	2	F		
Kentucky Wesleyan	11	11		Indianapolis	13	9	UM-St. Louis(W)	3	8	1		
Bellarmine	11	12		Saint Joseph's	4	18	Western Kentucky	1	0	1		
Box Scores:				Box Scores:				February 11				
February 8	1	2	F	February 8	1	2	F	1	2	3	F	
Southern Indiana(W)	34	38	72	UM-St. Louis	29	33	62	UM-St. Louis(W)	3	5	3	11
UM-St. Louis	23	36	59	Southern Indiana(W)	37	30	67	SEMO	0	1	0	1
February 10	1	2	F	February 10	1	2	F	Team Leaders: Points				
Saint Joseph's (W)	30	50	80	Saint Joseph's (W)	22	37	59	Player	G	A	Pts.	
UM-St. Louis	31	36	67	UM-St. Louis (W)	27	47	74	James Wetton	15	22	37	
								Adam Clarke	18	19	37	

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TRAVEL

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Roses, from page 5

The scent of roses can be invoked by a drop of a specific compound, 2-phenylethanol.

If customers show interest in having fragrant flowers again, commercial growers will try to restore scent to cut flowers.

One approach for commercial flower producers interested in restoring the fragrance to roses is reclaiming the lost genes.

This will mean cross breeding with heritage varieties that still have

the scent genes.

Chances are good you will get at least some fragrant roses through conventional breeding, although perhaps not in all those colors. On the other hand, breeding to restore those genes might be slow or produce other less desirable effects for commercial growers.

One New Zealand biotech company's discovery, announced in fall 2006, might help point out the correct specific genes.

HortResearch researches flavor and fragrance of fruits and flowers. It is doing research into genes for scent and flavor, with the aim of producing natural scents by fermentation.

Most commercial flavors or scents are produced by either chemical means or by extracting from natural sources. Both have their drawbacks.

Chemically produced scents and flavors are never completely identical to natural ones, which may make them less desirable.

Naturally produced extracts require large quantities of the natural product and therefore are often expensive.

Although the technology for producing natural scents by a biofermentation process, which uses the genes that plants use themselves and produces the natural product, has been well known for some time, the limiting factor has been the lack of knowledge about the specific genes involved.

HortResearch now has amassed a large database of the specific genes involved in many flavors and scents for fruits and flowers.

Another biotech company, Novafloora, is among those working specifically to bring back the scent to flowers, or even insert new ones in to commercial cut flowers, also using a database of scent genes.

What if you want to buy fragrant flowers now? You still have an option. Buying heritage varieties, grown locally, is one solution.

Roses are always expensive for Valentine's Day anyway, and if you only get half the package, may be you might consider another flower that has retained more scent, although the effect has been found in most commercial cut flowers. Maybe the violets still have their scent.

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Darts

Date: 2/17
Time: Sat 9:45PM
Place: Golden Greeks
Sign up by: N/A
Division: Open

Trivia Night

Date: 2/22
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: Provincial House
Sign up by: 2/20
Division: Open

Skyzone Dodgeball

Date: 3/7
Time: Thurs 7:00-9pm
Place: Skyzone
Sign up by: 3/1
Division: Open

2 Ball Soccer

Date: 2/21
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: MT Gym
Sign up by: 2/15
Division: Open

Table Tennis

Date: 2/27
Time: Tues 6:30-9pm
Place: 221 Mark Twain
Sign up by: 2/22
Division: W & M

Basketball

Date: 3/8
Time: Thurs 6:30-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/1
Division: CoEd

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CURRENT CARTOONISTS

NUTN BUT THE FUNK Rudy Scoggins

"Sinister' is Latin for 'Left'"

Yo Coby, I need to report on how life is different being handicapped. Could you tell me how it is for you?

You got somethin' wrong with me, Oz?

Oh c'mon, left-handed people are put at a constant disadvantage by society!

What the hell are you talking about??

No, ma'am! I understand it sucks going through life with a defect

Wha... That's not a defect!

Scissors, computer mice, even learning the guitar becomes way harder.

He thinks being left-handed is a handicap

WHATT?

Hey, have fun struggling with this 'writing' thing! I hear that's pretty challenging for you people!

Kumbaya my lord, kumbayaaaaa...

How about beating your ass? What do they say about that?

crack

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

SCONEBOROUGH by E. Gearhart

SO, DID YOU FINALLY GET THE HANG OF PLAYING PIANO?

NO, BECAUSE I'M STUPID AND LAZY AND I NEVER DO ANYTHING.

NICKY...

SOMEDAY YOU WILL BE WRONG, AND WHEN YOU ARE, I'M NEVER GOING TO LET YOU FORGET IT.

JEEZ. MAYBE YOU'D GET SOMETHING DONE IF YOU DIDN'T SPEND THE WHOLE DAY WHENING.

HAH. YEAH, RIGHT.

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "Somethin' in my Eye"

Shakeia, what are you doing?

I'm trying to get this eyelash out my eye Tiffany.

I'll blow it out your eye for you.

Girl! why you didn't tell me you had DOG breath. I wouldn't have let you do that.

Um, um you wrong girl!

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

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MAXIMO PREDICTS

Horoscopes for Feb. 12 - Feb. 18

Aries
March 21-April 19

I really like that scarf you're wearing. It's so beautiful ... wait, it isn't beautiful. It's actually quite repulsive. I guess I was just comparing it to your face and I chose it as the lesser of two uglies.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

My grandma forgot where she parked you last week and she looked around hours for you. Why would you do that to my grandma, even though she smells like really old cheese, she's still a pretty swell lady. You're a jerk.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

I am still laughing about saying "doo-doo" in your horoscope from last week. Doo-doo is funny, can you believe I'm in college?

Cancer
June 22-July 22

Your butt and gut don't lie either.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

I still love the way your face looks all ugly and makes mine look better. So much better than it is kind of like Aries' scarf compared to its face. Oh, burn Aries, Aries isn't even a person, Aries is an it. Hahaha. Leo's a dumb.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Last week I said cow in your horoscope and I apologize, I didn't say "mo."

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Squirrels live in your underwear drawer. I don't know why they live there. I just know they live there. Maybe it is because you are nuts and squirrels like nuts.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's true, your only friend is your cat. Maybe if your breath didn't always smell like stinky fish you could have friends of the non-feline variety as well. By that same token, maybe you should stop eating kitty food and your breath wouldn't stink like that.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

If only you could stand a little farther away from me when we speak so I don't have to smell your breath.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You really used to name your pets really stupid names when you were a kid.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

I went back to your mom, your grandma smelled like really old cheese, just like my grandma does. I'm still in her will and you're not. Why does your grandma hate you so much?

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

I hear you made a splash at that party Saturday.

DISCLAIMER: *Maximo Predicts* cannot help you improve anything about your life or love life. If you can even call what you do having a life or a love life. I bet you will be spending Valentine's day alone on your couch watching your collection of *Star Trek* DVDs. Actually, I don't need to bet with you, I KNOW that is what you will be doing. I can predict it.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Judicial garb
6 Embarrassed
9 Recipe meas.
12 Part of Hispaniola
13 Flightless bird
14 Genetics abbr.
15 Wedding musicmaker
16 Sasquatch
18 Sports coat
20 Booty
21 History chapter
23 Under the weather
24 Opium source
25 Ladder feature
27 Wickerwork willow
29 Governor
31 Bad-tempered
35 Rolls partner
37 Place
38 Post-nuptial kin
41 Drone
43 Hiatus
44 Agitate continuously
45 Source of Will Rogers' info
47 "So what?"
49 Giggly noise

DOWN

1 Plato's P
2 Scull prop
3 Explosion that started it all?
4 List-ending abbr.
5 Mideast peninsula
6 Insurrec-

7 Eastern potentate
8 Comprehended
9 Cavalry unit
10 Get nosy
11 Hamburger, e.g.
17 Rosy?
19 Polish silver?
21 Mess up
22 Wish undone
24 Each
26 He served between Richard and Jimmy
28 Become frozen

30 Without delay
32 VIP
33 "Luck - Lady"
34 "Uh-huh"
36 Like the White Cliffs of Dover
38 Permeate fully
39 Din
40 Hybrid feline
42 Subway
45 Wan
46 Jockey's handful
48 "Yipes!"
50 Schedule abbr.
51 Kreskin's claim

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

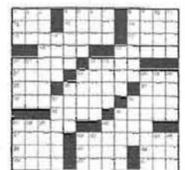
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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

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Cy·ber·pho·bi·a

n. An irrational fear and dislike of electronic and Internet communications and technology.*

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HUNGARIAN, from page 10

These dances involve jumping, stamping, kicking, and boot-slapping in complex rhythms, at a break-neck speed. The dancers wore spurs on their boots for some of these dances, creating a sound akin to tap-dance. For other dances, clapping was part of the mix.

The dances were inspired by ancient and medieval war dances, and preserved by isolated shepherds, which were also featured in the evening's presentation. While the shepherd dances are now performed

with a staff, they were originally done with swords.

Women's dances included the circle dance, which trace back to ancient Greece. One of the most striking dances was the bottle dance, a vigorous woman's dance from the Sarkoz region of Western Hungary, performed with a bottle of red liquid balanced on the dancer's head.

The couple's dances included Hungary's national dance, the Czardas. Numerous variations of this fast-paced, whirling 19th century ball-

room dance are derived from peasant dances of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The program opened and closed with a musical homage to Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, who was one of the founders of ethnomusicology, the study of music in its cultural context, and who collected peasant songs and folk music from across Eastern Europe.

The program as a whole presented a lively and entrancing evening and a peek at the vibrant culture of Hungary.

IWO JIMA, from page 11

There are stories of enlisted men grumbling about indifference of officers, officers who are faced with orders they know are wrong and stories of personal bravery to save a buddy or the whole company.

Eastwood's films are often very visually storing, and this one is no exception to that rule. The transition from color to black and white, by gradually desaturating the color, is brilliantly done.

Shot after shot is beautifully framed, and you often recognize shots that are perfectly matched to "Flags of Our Fathers," giving you a shiver of recognition, and revealing meaning to actions that seem puzzling in the other film.

The director skillfully blends several stories, but wonderful acting performances bring the humanity and poignancy to the tale to the fore.

Kazunari Ninomiya is the very

human face of the narrative, heart-breaking as the young baker Saigo. Tsuyoshi Ihara was simply wonderful as the inspiringly brave former Olympic horseman Baron Nishi, who seemed to be able to do what others could not.

Actor Ken Watanabe, who some of you may recognize from "The Last Samurai," is very compelling as General Kuribayashi, a man who had studied in America and knew that the barbaric picture that had been painted was not real, yet like any good man, loyally defended his country.

It seems surprising that the famously right-wing to libertarian Clint Eastwood drew these parallels between soldiers on either side of a war, but this may explain part of the film's across-the-board appeal to audiences, regardless of viewpoint.

The fact that our country is involved in a war, although a very different kind, also makes us open to the soldiers' tale. While recognizing his talent, I often find Eastwood biased or preachy, like his film last year, but there is none of that in this film.

HEART, from page 4

Eleven years later, my daughter is a veteran of three open heart surgeries, all performed before she was four years old. When people meet my sprightly daughter for the first time, they can't tell she has been through so much. It's the same for a growing number of children and adolescents who are surviving open heart surgeries at a young age and are emerging into adulthood, pioneers in a new medical world.

As the first generation to grow up with congenital heart defects (CHD), they are presenting new challenges to a medical profession used to battling clogged arteries and strokes.

As an academic advisor, I have worked with many of these young pioneers. It is for my daughter's sake and theirs that I spread the word every Valentine's Day about Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. This year its runs from February 7 through 14.

The students who have CHD, and the young people I know through our local family support group "Heart to Heart," have issues that adult cardiologists have never encountered before.

The oldest survivors with my daughter's condition are only in their mid-twenties. How long can their weaker right ventricles continue to do the job of the left ventricle? How long will the complex repairs that many of these young people have hold up? Can women with single ventricles have successful pregnancies? It's my hope that the awareness we raise each February 14 will result in additional research into the causes and cures for congenital heart defects.

I want my daughter and my college students with CHD to have an opportunity to make a difference.

The internet allows adults who have congenital heart defects to give each other support, information and opportunities to advocate for themselves.

Information on these resources is available at: <http://tchin.org/adults/index.htm>

The issues that concern them aren't always medical. I asked a cardiologist who works with this group what he found to be their biggest challenge. I expected the answer to be fatigue, or arthymias.

He said, "Health insurance."

It shouldn't have surprised me. I remember a student with CHD who told me he had to take an overload of courses to graduate by a certain date - when his parent's health insurance would no longer cover him.

So I wish all who read this column a "Happy Valentine's Day!" For those of you with congenital heart defects, know that there are resources available to you, and you are most certainly not alone. As for me, there are still lingering memories of that cold February day in 1995 when I discovered that there is hope for even babies with the most complicated heart conditions. Like my daughter.

Monica Lauer Farrell is a senior academic advisor in the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

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