

The Current

February 26, 2007

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Helton steps down from SGA vice president office

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Managing Editor

Thomas Helton resigned from his position as vice president of the Student Government Association in an e-mail he sent last Wednesday.

"In the e-mail, he said he resigned 'purely from pressure and issues arising in the Office of Student Life.' He said the resignation was 'in no way' because of his responsibilities or duties in SGA.

Helton said he thought "appease-

ment" was "the best word to describe the relationship" between SGA and the administration and some of the concerns and ideas he has do not "fit into the realm of student government."

"There are many issues and problems [on campus] that I feel can be best solved if I am not involved [with SGA]," Helton said. "If I'm going out on a limb to try to question the system and question the administration and staff, I didn't want that to come down on SGA."

Helton said his decision to leave

SGA was a personal decision that would allow him to be more capable of addressing his concerns. "I'm willing to do that for the students," he said.

"I would just like to see students decide on the operations of Student Life in general, instead of staff and administration deciding that they know what is best



Thomas Helton

Quick Read

Thomas Helton resigned from SGA vice president last Wednesday. In an e-mail statement, Helton named "pressure and issues arising" from Student Life as the reason for leaving.

for students," he said.

According to an e-mailed statement from SGA's Executive Board, the board held an "emergency and mandatory session" to fill the void left by Helton.

The boards' members decided

Kelcy Siddall, chair of the assembly, would fill Helton's former position, in accordance with SGA's Constitution. Vice Chair Michele Landeau will fill Siddall's position.

Landeau's position will be filled by a vote of the SGA assembly during the next SGA meeting that will be held Friday, March 2 at noon.

These position changes will remain in place for the rest of the 2006-2007 term.

See **HELTON**, page 3

Future of ASUM gets resolved at summit

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

An emergency summit of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, held at UM-Columbia, has resulted in encouraging results, according to those in attendance.

The summit, which was held last Saturday, was called by Vice Provost for Student Affairs Curt Coonrod after problems within the organization reached a crisis point.

Coonrod said in the past that issues within the organization, which acts as a student-lobbying group, were constantly being brought to his attention.

The meeting at Mizzou's recreation center featured not only ASUM members, but the members of the Inter-campus Student Council and a moderator as well.

The meeting originally had the ASUM and ISC members together at the same time. However, Nick Koechig, ISC chair, said the meeting was not as productive with ISC present. The members of ISC left the meeting around 2 p.m., and at the time, Koechig was pessimistic about whether or not the issues would be resolved.

"At the time ISC left the ASUM meeting, I feel little to no progress was made in solving the problems with ASUM," Koechig said.

After ISC left, more was accomplished, according to an e-mail from ASUM Chair Ashley Warren that Koechig provided *The Current*. In light of the progress made in the second half of the meeting, Koechig said he is more encouraged.

"I'm very optimistic about the outcome of the second half of the ASUM meeting," Koechig said. "It looks like they are going to be working together as a cohesive group for the rest of the academic year and into the next school year."

David Dodd, ASUM board member and UM-St. Louis student, said he was encouraged by what was accomplished at the meeting after the ISC members left.

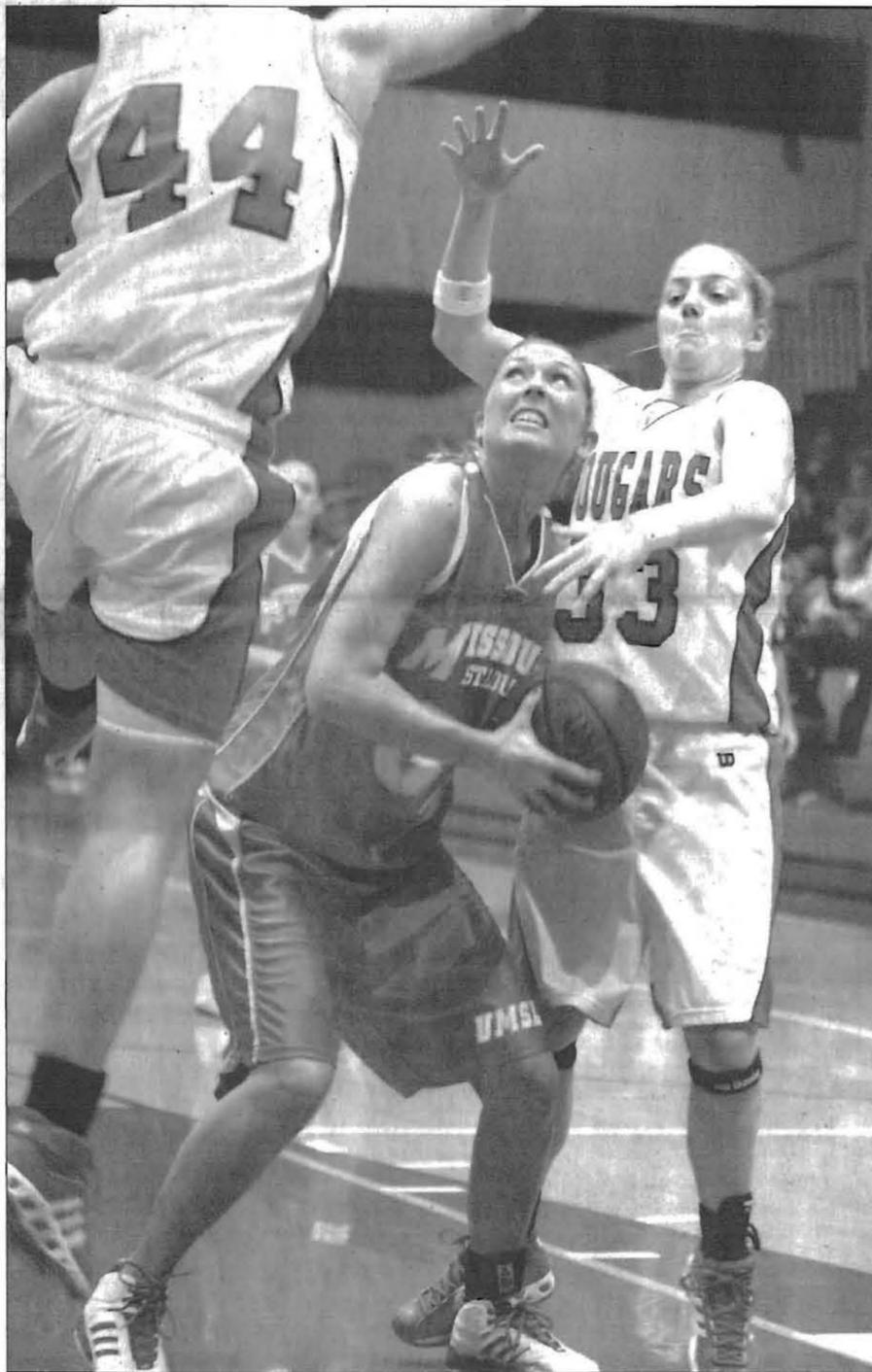
"I was pretty pleased with what we were able to accomplish," Dodd said. "The tone we left with after meeting together as a board was much improved, especially when you look at the tone we had gotten to in December of last year."

In her e-mail, Warren said she had never seen an ASUM meeting as productive as the one held Saturday in her three years as a board member.

"We had a tremendously effective and cooperative meeting," Warren said. "I am positive that we will resolve any last issues so that we can continue being the student voice in the state government for years to come."

see **ASUM SUMMIT**, page 13

BITTERSWEET FINAL GAME FOR SENIORS



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Jennifer Dewell, forward for the Riverwomen, is double teamed under the basket while playing her final game for UM-St. Louis at SIU-Edwardsville on Saturday night.

Res Life hires more security after recent dorm thefts

BY SARAH O'BRIEN
Assistant News Editor

In an effort to increase security in UM-St. Louis' dorms, security personnel have been hired to work desks at the doors of the buildings.

The office of Residential Life began hiring extra personnel after thefts at Seton Hall, including a set of master keys,

brought the security measures into question. The new personnel began training as desk assistants last Friday.

"Far too often we have people who aren't anybody's guests, or unaccounted for guests," said Jonathan Lidgus, assistant director of Residential Life. "The DAs will be there to put a check on that and to ensure a safe environment for both guests and residents."

The policy for guests has been amended, and this includes the hiring of desk assistants to monitor those entering the dorms. The policy has also changed the way that the dormitory buildings will operate.

"After nine every night, only one entrance and exit per dormitory hall will be accessible," Lidgus said. "All traffic will go through one door."

The DA will be at that entrance, prepared to check in guests as well as residents.

Residents must either present proper school ID, or if they have misplaced their ID must give the DA their full name, room number, and telephone number," Lidgus said.

Since the guest policy has been changed, all guests will be asked to leave some form of identification at the desk until they leave.

See **RES LIFE SECURITY**, page 3

Statehouse Sisters offer hope for diverse presidential ticket

BY SARAH O'BRIEN
Assistant News Editor

The "Statehouse Sisters" met in Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center to discuss the history that the 2008 presidential election could potentially bring. The panel, which originally was supposed to consist of four women in public policy, began with only Sen. Rita Days, 14th Senatorial District, and Maria Chapelle-Nadal, state representative of University City.

The meeting, called, "Pondering the Presidency: Is that a Crack in the Glass Ceiling?" directly discussed the possibility for a diverse campaign in 2008 with women, African Americans, and Hispanics all in the run.

The meeting was sponsored by the Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, and cosponsored by the Universities Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, and

Office of Multicultural Relations. The meeting began with a statement from Vivian Eveloff, director of the Shear Institute, who introduced the two women on the panel.

"As a part of black history month, we wish to highlight women who are making public policy because it is our job to encourage them," Eveloff said. "We are on a cusp of having a president [who is not a white male]."

She explained the premise that in order to be change the stigma of women in public light, it was necessary to care deeply about it.

The meeting discussed women's places in the legislature of not only the United States but in the state of Missouri, and the presidential election looming over the horizon. The panel mentioned the presence of Sen. Hilary Clinton, D-NY, and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

"The question is, 'are we going to make history in 2008?'" Eveloff said.

see **STATEHOUSE**, page 13



Matt Hill • Staff Photographer

Missouri Sen. Rita Days appeared on campus last Friday as mediator and one of the panelists in the discussion group "Statehouse Sisters".

INSIDE



Campus safety and how you can protect yourself

The Current takes a look at campus safety.

See page 6



Fallout Boy rocks in new album

New album gets a four star rating and rarely misses a beat.

See page 8

ON THE BACK



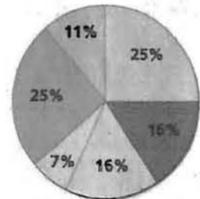
Clay time

See page 16

ON THE WEB

The Current online.com

Web poll results: What movie should have been nominated for Best Picture?



- Pan's Labyrinth
- United 93
- Children of Men
- The Feast
- The Pursuit of Happyness
- Pootie Tang 2: Electric Boogaloo

This week's question Which team will finish with a better record, softball or baseball?

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CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

**MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL -
OAK HALL**

One of the resident advisors found a loud party in the lounge area on the second floor of Oak Hall. When he entered the room, numerous people ran out of the room and left the building. The RA stated there were many beer cans left in the room. The suspect stated she was the only resident and UM-St. Louis student that was there. Once her identity was obtained, it was determined that she was under 21 and in possession of alcohol. She was issued a state summons for minor in possession of alcohol and released.

MONDAY, FEB. 12

**STEALING OVER \$500-
215 MARILLAC HALL**

The victim reported that she left her purse with cash and credit cards in her office unattended for a few minutes, and when she returned it was gone.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

**STEALING UNDER \$500-
133 OAK HALL**

The victim reported that someone stole \$160 from her wallet while she was in the shower. The victim said her purse was left on the counter while she took a shower at around 10 a.m. When she came from the shower, she noticed her wallet and purse were opened and the money was missing. The victim also said the roommate's friend who was on the couch when she went to take a shower, was no longer in the apartment after the theft. The investigation is ongoing.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

**STEALING UNDER \$500-
THOMAS JEFFERSON LIBRARY**

The victim reported that her purse was left unattended in the library for a few minutes when it was stolen by unknown unseen person(s).

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

**ROBBERY-ON THE CORNER OF OXEYE AND S.
FLORISSANT RD.**

Around 12:30 a.m., the victim reported that an unknown person put what was believed to be a gun to them and took \$300 and their I-Pod. The victim stated the suspect ran away after the robbery. The campus police are investigating the incident.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

**STEALING OVER \$500-
110 CLARK HALL**

The victim reported that she left her briefcase with purse, credit cards and her cell phone unattended in her office desk for about one hour, and when she returned it was gone.

The Current and The New York Times present News at Noon

In an effort to create a forum to discuss current events from multiple perspectives in a focused, informative, deliberate manner. These discussions will focus on the responsibility each of us has to be informed citizens, highlighting the press and its role in democracy. In order to increase out of class interactions between faculty and students

Schedule

**March 7- Immigration
Deborah Cohen, IWGS and History**

March 14
Media and the Middle East

March 21
The Changing Face of Political
Leadership

April 4
Africa in the American Media

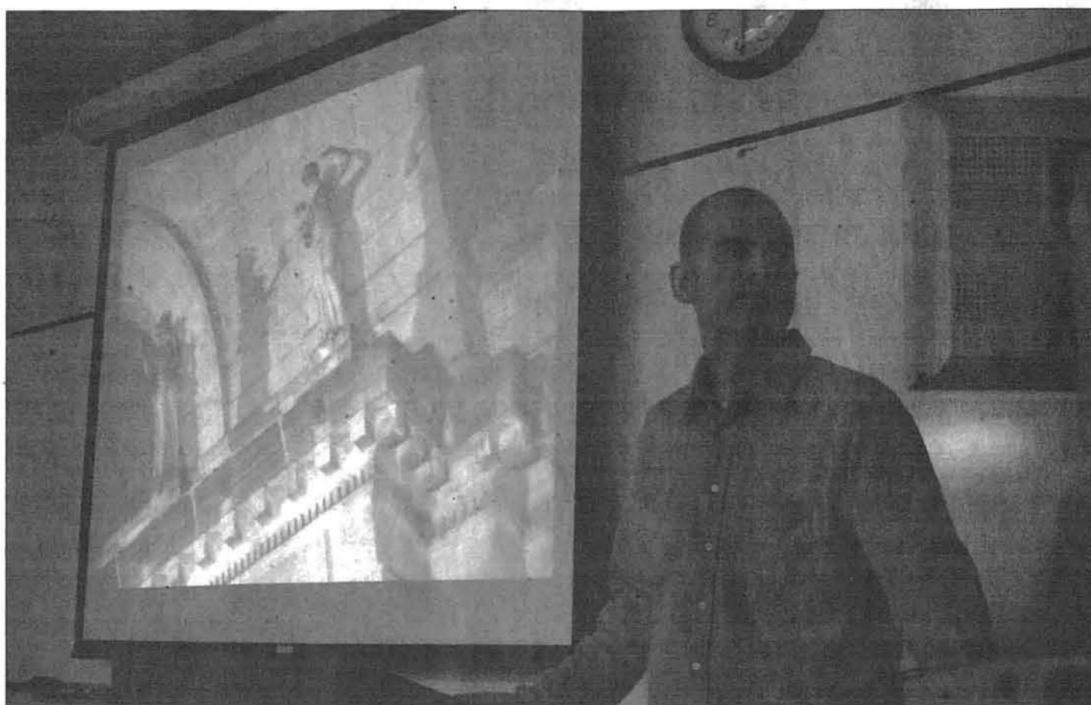
April 11
Stem Cells in the Spotlight

**Each program is scheduled from
noon to 1:00pm**

**Each program will be located in
314 MSC**

An American Democracy Project
Program organized by Dr. Laura
Westhoff, History and Education

LATE NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Photographer Eric Post presents photos from his book 'Ghost Town: While St. Louis Sleeps' using the Monday Noon Series on February 19. His book is full of night-time photography of St. Louis as an urban landscape at rest.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

"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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Monday Noon Series

Rita Csapó-Sweet, associate professor of media studies at UMSL, will discuss her 30-year career at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Csapó-Sweet has examined icons and symbols of conflicting ideologies of iron-curtained Eastern Europe and the United States. Refreshments will be served. Monday Noon Series are free and open to the public. Call 5699 for more information.

Chemistry Colloquium

Matt Leevy, postdoctoral researcher in chemistry at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, will discuss "Zinc(II) Coordination Complexes Target Fluorescent Probes to Bacteria in Vitro and In Living Mice," at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5311 for more information.

Resumé Mania

UMSL students can e-mail their resumes to resumemania@umsl.edu through March 2. Resumes will be critiqued and e-mailed back to students within 24 hours. This is an excellent opportunity for students to get resumes ready for the UMSL Spring Internship & Job Fair on March 16. Call 5111 for more information.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Accounting Club Meeting

The Accounting Club will meet at 2 p.m. in the Student Government Chambers in the Millennium Student Center. The guest speaker will be Michael Brown, lecturer at UM-St. Louis. New members may sign up and pay \$15 membership dues. Refreshments will be served. E-mail mlgrzf@umsl.edu for more information.

Peer Academic Leaders

The Peer Academic Leaders Program will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. in 314 Millennium Student Center. The program introduces tutors to campus policies and procedures and to a variety of instructional strategies. It is open to graduate students who work with undergraduates. Pre-register online at the Center for Teaching and Learning home page.

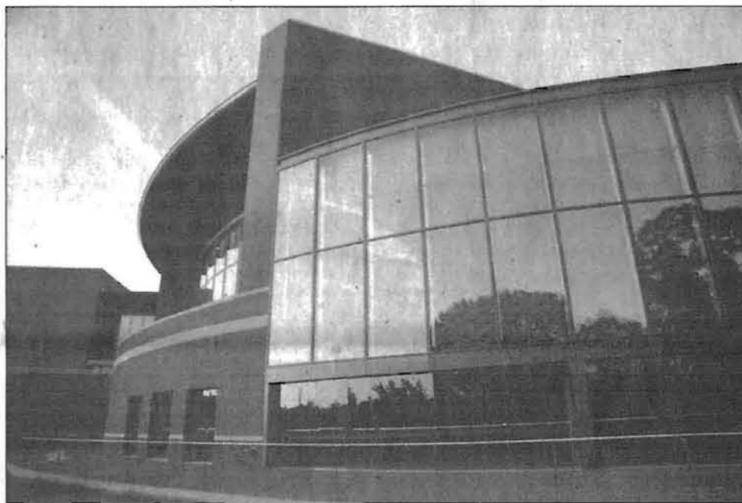
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Clarinet and Saxophone Festival At Touhill

The Warren Bellis Clarinet and Saxophone Festival will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Blanch M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Students from schools throughout the St. Louis Region will rehearse with UMSL music faculty and professional musicians, including Kansas City Jazz musician Kim Park. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 2263.

Librarian-In-Residence

Betsy Richie, reference librarian at the Ward E. Barnes Library, will staff the Student Solution Office at Oak Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a trial project sponsored



File Photo

The Arianna String Quartet will perform "Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets" at 4 p.m. Sunday March 4, in the Lee Auditorium at the Blanch M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

by UMSL Libraries. Students seeking general information about library services or those who need help finding articles should stop by. Call 5576 for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Community Building Conversations

This month's Community Building conversations will be held at noon in 427 Social Sciences and Business building. Sean Thomas, Executive Director of the Old North Restoration Group, will discuss revitalization efforts in his neighborhood. Joining him will be UMSL representatives John McClusky and Kay Gasen. Bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided. Call 5269 for more information.

Procurement Demonstration

Procurement Services will provide a demonstration of eProcurement at 10 a.m. in the Summit Lounge at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. E-mail tangie_brooks@umsl.edu to R.S.V.P. or for more information.

Matisse Piano Trio Concert

The Matisse Piano Trio will perform from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Lee Auditorium and the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Robert Meyer, of the Arianna String Quartet will perform also. This concert is free and open to the public. Call 4257 for more details.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Key to Business Success is Setting Profitable Prices

Alan Hauff, small business program specialist for the Missouri Small Business Assistance Center will share his seven-step pricing template from 1 to 5 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. He designed the template to help business owners price their products and services profitably. The fee for this workshop is \$250. Register by calling 5908. Call 6135 for more information.

Senior Art Students Plan 'Attack'

Senior art students will hold exhibit called "Attack" at the Fort Gondo Compound for the Arts in St. Louis located at 3153 Cherokee St. from 7 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served opening night. Music will be provided by The Province. The exhibit will run through April 26 and is free and open to the public by appointment only. Call 7291 for more information.

Open Mic Poetry Night

Nailah Diallo, host of SistahSpeak, will host an open mic poetry night at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center to celebrate Women's History Month. LiquidMoon, a quest performance poet from New York will be featured. There will be door prizes and free food. Call 5270 for more information.

Aptitude Testing for Intensive French, Spanish

Aptitude testing for the courses Intensive French and Intensive Spanish for the summer semester will be held at 10:30 a.m. in 554 Clark Hall. Call 6240 to register for the aptitude test.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Arianna String Quartet to Perform at Touhill

The Arianna String Quartet will perform "Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets" at 4 p.m. in the Lee Auditorium at the Blanch M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for Seniors, and free for students. Call 4949 for more information.

Baseball vs. Grand Valley State

The UMSL baseball team will face the Lakers of Grand Valley State University, at noon at the Roy E. Lee Field at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at noon. UMSL students are admitted free with valid identification. Call 5661 for more information.

The Current

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

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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

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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

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AFFILIATIONS



Lawsuit looms for Rolla's student paper, editor says

By Jason Granger

News Editor

The UM-Rolla Miner, the official student newspaper at that University, received a response to its ultimatum to reinstate funding last Monday.

In a letter sent to the newspaper staff, the University system, which handles legal matters, said it could find no evidence of restricted content or attempted censorship against The Miner.

Chris Stryker, editor-in-chief of The Miner, said the response also includes half-truths and misleading statements.

For instance, Stryker said the system attorneys said The Miner missed budget deadlines and filled out their budget request incorrectly.

"We turned in what we were told by the people in student life was the correct way of filling the form out," Stryker said.

Additionally, the system said many other organizations had cuts in their budget as well, but Stryker said that is only partly true.

"What actually happened was, the organizations were told there were less dollars to go around, so the organizations asked for less," Stryker said. "So in reality, they got what they asked for."

More troublesome, according to Stryker, is the fact that the system did not address accusations made by The Miner staff that the cut was based on content, including editorials and grammatical errors.

A 2000 Supreme Court case ruled that student newspapers cannot have their budget cut over complaints

regarding content or printing issues.

"They [the administration] completely ignored the point of editing and grammatical issues," Stryker said.

Another problem he sees is, no one from the system came to the leadership of the paper to get clarification about the issues raised. Stryker said if someone had just asked questions, then the newspaper would not have to be looking at a lawsuit.

"We were never contacted," Stryker said. "No one ever tried to get our side of the story. They got one side, and took it as gospel."

With the response from the UM System, Stryker feels the situation is sliding inevitably towards legal action, a step neither he, nor the rest of his staff, wanted to take.

"We are headed towards a lawsuit," Stryker said. "That is something no one wants."

The Miner has been working closely with the Student Press Law Center, according to Stryker, in order to make sure they are in the right. While he did not want to discuss specifics, Stryker said the newspaper will not back down from the lawsuit.

The SPLC is a pro-bono legal institution that aids student media when situations like the one The Miner faces arise.

In light of the budget cut and subsequent UM System response, The Miner has begun taking measures to protect what money they do have. Stryker said the paper has had to cut back on the number of pages it prints, and it no longer uses color every issue.

"We will continue to print," Stryker said. "They won't stop that."

HELTON, from page 1

The SGA executive board also, "discussed and selected" Bryan Goers, chief justice of student court, "to serve as a member of the Intercampus Student Council for the remainder of the 2006-2007 academic school year."

In the board's e-mail, members thanked Helton for his service and wished him luck in all of his future endeavors.

Helton said he planned to con-

tinue to be involved on campus, and although he will no longer be a member of SGA, he still plans to be a part of the Relay for Life event that will be held April 13-14 and a member of SGA's Greeh Committee.

"All previous issues and subjects pertaining to Student Government Association will continue as planned," according to the e-mail from SGA Executive Board.

CHINA NIGHT IN THE PILOT HOUSE



Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

The St. Louis Modern Chinese School performs the "Lion Dance" during China Night at the Pilot House on Sunday.

RES LIFE SECURITY, from page 1

Residents, additionally, will only be allowed two guests at any time.

"If they don't have identification, they aren't allowed in," Lidgus said.

The DAs will be required by a University mandate to sign a confidentiality statement because they will be in contact with the individual's personal information.

The DA's hours are from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m., with an undetermined number of DAs holding the shifts.

"Their main job is to supplement the RAs," Lidgus said. "The RA's job is not going to change, except that they no longer have to do desk

duty." The DAs will aid the resident assistants in case of an emergency. The RAs also will aid the DAs in case of emergency.

Twenty-five people are currently hired for the position, including desk shift alternates in case scheduled DAs are unable to make their shift. The DAs are expected to be on time for their shifts, check people in, and help the RAs if needed.

"We want to make sure we know who's in the building in case of an emergency," Lidgus said.

Desk Assistant Alternate Kenny

Newell, senior, accounting, said he was interested in position because of the situations that would be presented.

"I want to show I'm capable of keeping our residents and their friends safe," Newell said.

Residential Assistant Sean Hanebery, senior, international business, said he believes the new program will be beneficial.

"I think it's a great idea," he said. "It will definitely increase resident safety."

Resident Ron Yonker, sophomore, biotechnology, however, had a

much different opinion.

"I think our administration is anti-student, because I haven't seen any policies yet that have made the students feel at home," Yonker said. "We're really paying a lot to live here and not getting what we're paying for. The desk assistants are unnecessary. I don't see a gaping problem with safety, strangers only get in if they're let in by a student. They should spend the money they're paying the DAs fixing numerous other problems."

The DAs will begin working on Monday, March 5.

www.thecurrentonline.com

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



It's ResumeMania Week!
Monday, February 26, 2007- Friday, March 2, 2007

Get your resume in shape now for the upcoming job fair.



UMSL Spring Internship & Job Fair
Friday, March 16, 2007

A professionally written resume will help you make a great first impression.

Starting Monday, February 26, 2007 until Friday, March 2, 2007, Career Services invites you to submit your resume on-line at resumemania@umsl.edu for a resume critique.

Your resume will be critiqued and e-mailed to you within 24 hours!

Don't miss this opportunity!

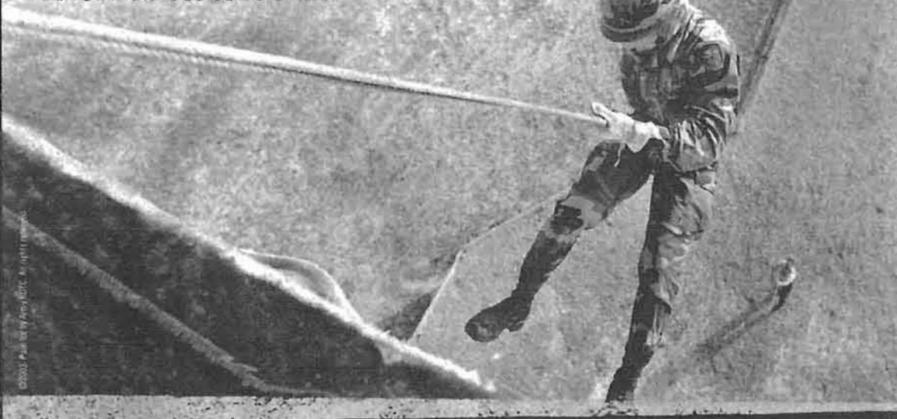
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OUR OPINION

Can ASUM ever be fixed? Yes.

Last week's summit proves ASUM may be heading in the right direction

This is not the first time this has happened, that is what is important to remember. The Associated Students of the University of Missouri have once again had to do battle with themselves just to stay in existence.

Several years ago, infighting and petty attacks within the organization, specifically against members David Dodd and Elizabeth Grindstaff, nearly brought the student-lobbying group to its knees, as the UM-St. Louis chapter was targeted by then Board Chair Sarah Jackson.

This year the problem started up all over again, as the St. Louis chapter once again was targeted for attack, specifically Dodd.

This time around, Tara Banaszek, ASUM representative from UM-Rolla made the move to have Dodd kicked out. The vote did not go her way, as a two-thirds majority is needed to remove a sitting member of the ASUM board. Board Chair Ashley Warren was also in favor of the move, and tried to orchestrate the vote to meet her desires.

In order to resolve the issues that consistently plague the organization, Curt Coonrod, UM-St. Louis' vice provost for student affairs, convened a summit at UM-Columbia to

try to get to the bottom of these ever-present issues.

Coonrod said previously that if he did not see some sort of progress made at the summit, he would recommend UM-St. Louis pull out of ASUM and start its own student advocacy group.

The summit, which was held last Saturday, was productive, according to Dodd and an email sent by Warren. This is a good step, getting everyone together to talk cannot be a bad idea. Coonrod seemed happy with the outcome, happy enough not to go forward with the recommendation that the St. Louis chapter pull out of the organization.

However, we have serious skepticism that this will work. We doubt sincerely that ASUM was able to get past the hurt feelings and the petty attacks. When someone attempts to stab you in the back, as Banaszek and Warren attempted (and nearly succeeded) to do to Dodd, those feelings do not heal quickly. Warren and Banaszek will be bitter that their efforts failed. Dodd will be bitter because several members of the group he has served faithfully tried to kick him out. This plot will continue to thicken.

Despite the fact that the board has recommended changes in the

way members are removed from the board, hard feelings will linger. The change, however, is a good one, one with which we agree. No longer can the board decide who is removed. Finally, they came to the realization that if the students are elected to the board by their university, it should be that university's students who make the decision to remove them.

In the past, efforts have been made to fix the problems at ASUM, only to have the infighting take control once again. Despite the obvious issue that it makes the board look weak and ineffective, this backstabbing and infighting takes the board's focus away from their mission.

Rather than focusing on their real duties, the ASUM board spends time arguing over constitutional changes or how much money each campus should pay. These are valid issues, but they should not be the board's only focus. They receive money from the students to lobby on behalf of the students. How is ASUM supposed to work on the student's behalf if they cannot stop arguing?

Here is hoping that the changes take hold and actually work.

The summit was a positive first step. Now we shall wait and see if they take the changes to heart.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Signs of the times



By MYRON MCNEILL
Opinions Editor

When I think of Black History and how people wish to recognize prominent black people, I don't recall sexuality being a part of the revolution.

From slavery to the Civil Rights movement, I never recalled leaders aligning the forefront of their agendas with the sexual orientations of individuals. That is not to say that certain aspects of what these individuals were fighting for was exempt from sex. Of course, violence towards African-Americans has occurred and rape was one of the acts. This is clearly sexual. However, Civil Rights and slave abolitionist focused on the bigger picture taking place in society, which was the treatment of Blacks and African people as inhuman.

When slave masters were selling family members to different parts of the world and pulling out whips to discipline (definitely a lack of better word choice), sexuality was not a common thought for abolitionists. I doubt if slaves and slave abolitionists cared whose master was inclined to have sex with outside of rape.

When racist cops and firemen were spraying hoses and using dogs to sick Blacks for trying to get voting rights, sexual orientation was not thematic of the event. Civil rights leaders were not interested in who was sleeping with who. No! Leaders like Malcolm X, The Black Panthers and Martin Luther King were trying to stop racism and alleviate the moral ills of society by instilling power in the minds and hearts of deprived African Americans. Sexual orientation was miniscule then.

Fast forward. The world has changed tremendously. The world is becoming

more tolerant to gay men and women. Some gay African American men and women no longer need to hide their sexuality while there are other homosexual people who prefer to keep it concealed. However, a forum for support and society is changing its views about gay men and

women. Whether or not you accept homosexuality, is on you. It is your choice. I am not here to dispute right or wrong along the lines of sexual orientation or activity. To me good people are good and bad people are bad, no matter what label society puts on them. I deal with the good.

More importantly, this underlying theme in today's society feels like we should know about everybody's sex life and sexual inclination. People feel that sexual orientation and lifestyle should be at the hands of the public.

How does this tie in to Black History? I guess someone thought that we should know about the sexual orientations of prominent black men and women and this person compiled a list and titled it "blacklist." Isn't that clever. It already reeks of creativity... you think. I think I read somewhere that this artist pondered naming it "Chicken and watermelon" but it was not universal enough.

So, what does all of this mean? Now, that gay rights and activists are vying for social justice and these themes are becoming prominent in our lives, some people feel that certain attributes of this struggle are aligned with the African American struggle.

See **SEXUALITY**, page 9

Why is Anna Nicole Smith everywhere?

I have a question, and I am not trying to offend anyone with this question, but this has been on my mind for a few days and I can not take it anymore.

Why is Anna Nicole Smith's death more important than other deaths in the country?

Did she contribute any great gifts to the world? Did she ever hold a political office? Did she risk her life on a daily basis to protect others? I do not think she did.

That does not mean that her death is not important. For some reason, people are captivated by the story of her death. I just want to know why.

I was watching "Sports Center" the other night and found out Dennis Johnson, coach of the Austin Toros, died last Thursday. Johnson was an NBA player for Seattle, Phoenix and Boston during his NBA career that lasted 14 years. Johnson won three NBA titles and he was voted Finals MVP in 1979. But I heard about his death once.

Every time I turn my TV to CNN, I see a story about Smith, so I was not surprised when I saw so many articles about her on CNN.com. I was surprised, however, when I



By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

searched the site for an article about Johnson, and I found another article about Smith. How crazy is that? Johnson's death was covered on SI.com, which means a sports media outlet covered a basketball player's death. So, shouldn't Smith's death be covered only by entertainment publications and not be the main focus of our news?

I do not mean to sound harsh and I am not saying I do not care that a woman has died because that is not the case. I just do not think it is necessary to see this much coverage of Smith's death or her baby's father. We have lost soldiers, firefighters,

police officers and many other people who actually used their lives to protect others. Icons in sports, music and American culture have passed away in recent years, but none of them have received as much coverage as Smith.

I will ask again, why is she so important?

I truly feel that every life on this earth has equal value. That does not mean that everyone will receive the same media coverage when they die. Your time in the spotlight may determine how people remember you, or at least how long people remember you.

This should be a time of mourning for those folks who were close to Smith and knew her personally. It should not be the hottest story of the week. Although, maybe that is why people become famous, they want their lives and deaths to be a topic of discussion. There is no need to point out the irony in this article. I know I am giving more coverage to something I said has too much coverage already. That does not change the fact that I still wonder why Anna Nicole Smith's death is more important than other deaths in the country?

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

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

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- ASUM
- Anna Nicole Smith
- Science Education

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UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

What would you give up for 40 days?



Jennifer Lewis
Senior Finance

"Sex, I've already given it up for longer than that."



Sharon Anderson
Senior Business

"I'm Catholic and I'm not giving up nothing. If you give up something, you have to follow through."



David Dodd
Senior International Business

"Heroes, as long as they have a marathon show so I can catch up afterwards."



Catoria Roper
Sophomore Communication

"I would give up MySpace. It's addicting."



Scott Nesham
Junior Computer Science

"I could probably do with giving up calculus for 40 days."

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.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Music hath charms...

When I was a kid, maybe seven or eight, I stumbled upon my parents' record collection. At this point in my life, I predominantly listened to kiddy stuff, "The 50 States that Rhyme" and so forth.

My parents were products of the '60s and '70s; hippies at heart and their musical tastes reflected that with Cream, The Rolling Stones, Simon and Garfunkel, and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

As a child, I was fairly visually oriented, in that colorful things caught my eye. That is why I grabbed a copy of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," the landmark album by The Beatles. I popped it on the record player (for those freshmen and sophomores out there, records or "vinyl" was what we used to listen to before the days of tapes and CDs), and my eyes opened to a new world.

From that moment on, I was a music fanatic. I soaked in as much music as I could.

To this day, I blame music for taking up the space in my brain that was supposed to house math. Mind you, it was not all music. Specifically it was rock 'n' roll, what I believe to be the purest of all art forms.

It was because of rock 'n' roll that I insisted on learning to play the guitar, to



By JASON GRANGER
News Editor

this date, it was one of my best decisions. Rock 'n' roll opened my eyes not just to music, but a new realm of thought.

Through the work of The Beatles, The Stones, The Who and U2, I began to appreciate the plight of the world. Protest songs gripped my attention in my mid-to-late teens. Indeed, this music helped shape my political beliefs.

If John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Bono and Barry McGuire felt it was worth mentioning (war, poverty, oppression), then I should probably take heed.

On more than one occasion, I have been accused of being a musical snob. I tend to look down my nose at other forms of music, such as country, rap and teeny-bopper pop. However, I must add a caveat to my views on other music. I love rock 'n' roll, however, my love of rock 'n' roll does not diminish other people's love for their favorite genre of music.

If you love country music, that is great. If you are a rap fan, play it loud. If you think Justin Timberlake or Nick Lachey are phenomenal, wear your T-shirt proudly.

Some say math is the universal language, but I beg to differ. I believe music is the universal language. The old adage is true; it hath charms to soothe the savage beast.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Is ESI's building really eco-friendly?

By **DOUGLAS DUCKWORTH**

Guest Commentator

While the new Headquarters for Express Scripts may be a green building, its design is anything but eco-friendly. The HQ, which is placed equidistant from both North Hanley and North Campus MetroLink stations, is completely pedestrian inaccessible. There are no sidewalks, so unless someone plans on climbing fences, traversing hills, or walking down busy streets, the only way to access the HQ is with the automobile. The large parking garage is evidence. I simply do not understand how Express Scripts, McEagle and Paric, or UMSL itself, could allow such a missed opportunity for Transit Oriented Development, or TOD, to occur? Urban planners and academics are well aware of its benefit, yet perhaps this is not on the agenda?

Transit Oriented Development, along with other Smart Growth policies, improve the environment and our quality of life. The Environmental Protection Agency notes in their study: Our Built and Natural Environments, "there is significant evidence that compact, mixed-use development focused around transit can reduce vehicle travel and air pollution from motor vehicles... Enhancement of the pedestrian environment also can encourage people to walk rather than drive for short distances." The EPA

also elaborates that vehicle miles of travel (VMT) have increased 63 percent from 1980 to 1997. They indicate that VMT growth has outpaced both employment and economic growth. Buildings with mixed uses, as in New Urbanism, averaged 3 percent more commutes by transit than buildings containing only offices. This obviously decreases VMT, and associated emissions, since automobile dependency is reduced.

Citizens for Modern Transit notes that a full MetroLink train at rush hour removes 125 cars from the highway while saving a commuter over 200 gallons of gas per year. Not only is MetroLink convenient and cost effective, but also it helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, implementing Transit Oriented Development thus New Urbanism would entail a walkable environment consisting of retail, residential, and restaurants. The Employees of Express Scripts, and also UMSL students, would be able to go out for lunch without the use of a car. Not only does this again reduce emissions, but also it is simply more fun to walk down the street, sit outside, and enjoy the scenery while eating lunch. No doubt, employee morale increases when they do not have to deal with congested roads simply to get a bite to eat.

Finally, Express Scripts' employees are dependent on the automobile, yet what about those without one? This is actually a problem in St. Louis

and many cities of the United States. Specifically, the recent East-West Gateway Where we Stand report says, "...St. Louis...limited transit capacity, ranking...20th among...35 regions" while having "91,500 households without a vehicle...transit system...not provide adequate frequency and coverage for those without cars." Political Scientists Joseph Lau and Cathrine Chiu elaborate, in their 2003 Cities journal article: Accessibility of low-income workers in Hong Kong, "The United States has undergone a shift from manufacturing jobs to service sector jobs. Many of these manufacturing industries which remain have located in the suburbs, yet mass transit has not developed symmetrically. Thus low income workers in the urban core can not easily reach jobs with their skill set due to this gap." This phenomenon, coined 'spatial mismatch' by Harvard sociologist William Julius Wilson, is a problem in many US cities, as inadequate mass transit availability limits access to jobs. With Express Scripts the availability of transit is omnipresent, yet the physical design of the building inhibits pedestrian access from MetroLink stations. Express Scripts new HQ, while being a green building, has none of the TOD features which redress environmental problems and improve job accessibility. A great opportunity is missed! This building clearly is not maximizing its full utility.

SCIENCE COLUMN

UMSL encouraging science education

Effort is to raise awareness of sciences in high schools

National debates on science topics such as global warming and teaching evolution and state debates on funding for certain kinds of biotech research can often make one feel that science and science education are under siege.

But one thing is certain about science in Missouri: UM-St. Louis is a strong supporter of high school science education programs.

The Department of Biology has a strong outreach program supporting high school science and teachers, while the School of Education continues to lead in preparing math and science teachers. Now our campus is taking another step in leading the way in high school science education.

The School of Education will be adding a new center devoted to helping prepare teachers in science and math, and provide community education as well.

The Science and Math Education Central, which will be located on the South Campus, is being made possible by a grant from Sigma-Aldrich. Sigma-Aldrich is a locally-based company that produces chemical and biochemical materials used in research and biotech industries.

The Science and Math Education Central will contain a science laboratory, library with resources for science learning, mathematics education lab, and a computer lab. It will



By **CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**

Science Columnist

be a resource and training center for math and science teachers.

A rooftop astronomy observatory will also be part of Science and Math Education Central, as will a mobile science-outreach van.

The new science teaching center will be a boost to an already strong commitment to training math and science teachers.

The University's involvement in high quality science teaching does not end with graduating math and science teachers. Over on the North Campus, the Department of Biology has a long-standing program to help teachers teach science in the classroom.

The Missouri Science Teaching and Education Partnerships, or MO-STEP, brings together academics in

the Department of Biology, Science Education Programs and the Whitney Harris World Ecology Center (formerly the International Center for Tropical Biology) on campus.

MO-STEP brings these programs to area high schools and conservation groups, by placing graduate and undergraduate students in biology classrooms in those schools.

The idea is to offer high quality science programs for high school students and provide program enrichment and professional development for teachers.

The National Science Foundation funds MO-STEP. Other partners in the effort are the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo.

The partnership offers a number of research programs, such as "Seeds to Wings: Butterflies and Their Plants" and "Sparrow Invaders." It also offers a number of curriculum programs, outdoor activities and after-school programs. Campus faculty involved in the program includes Charles Granger, University of Missouri Distinguished Teaching Professor of Biology and Education.

No matter which way the wind blows for science in Missouri, it is nice to know teachers and future teachers can count on our campus to support math and science education.



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FEATURES

TOP 10

Ways to Protect Yourself and Your Stuff On Campus

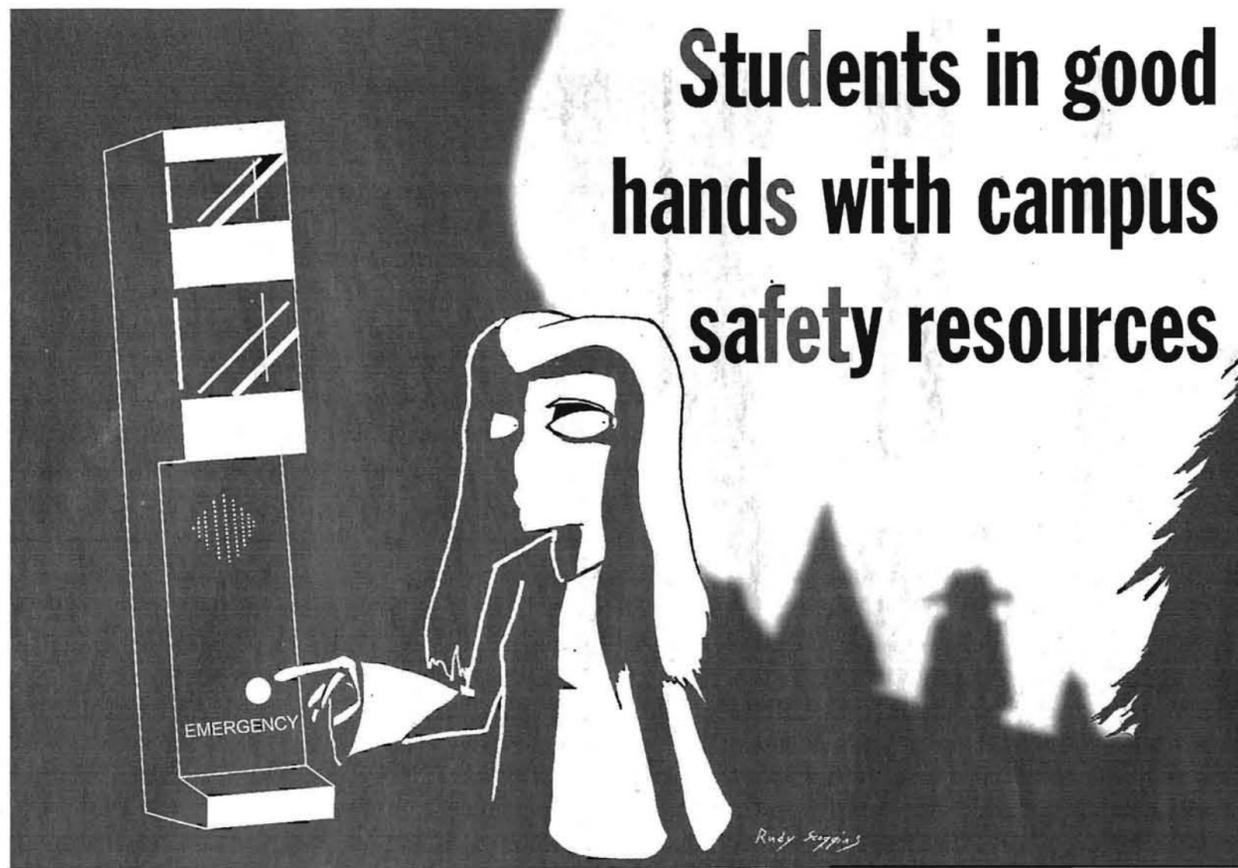
1. Don't walk around campus alone after dark.
2. If riding the MetroLink, ride with a friend, or have a friend meet you at the Metro Station.
3. Don't leave valuables where they may get stolen--i.e. tables at the Nosh or the library.
4. If you are a resident: Do not let strangers into your building/hall.
5. If you are a resident: Lock your doors to your dorm room or apartment.
6. Always know at least three ways of exiting the building in case of an emergency.
7. If you spot trouble, contact campus police immediately at 516-5155.
8. If you have a gut feeling that something is wrong, don't hesitate to move to safety.
9. Have at least two emergency contacts in your cell phone who can be reached if something happens to you.
10. Use common sense at all times.

If you have an idea for the next top ten list or any suggestions of what you would like to see us cover in our Features section, please send your ideas to us:

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The Current
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What do you think about campus safety? Go online and write in our forums to tell us how you feel.



Rudy Scoggins • Illustrator

Students in good hands with campus safety resources

With red, blue emergency phones around campus, help is just a phone call away

BY ANDREW TONNER

Staff Writer

Several safety resources and services across the UM-St. Louis campus are available in the event of problems or emergencies.

Various practices and protocols have been taken to ensure the well-being and security around the University's grounds and residential areas.

Many kinds of safety resources are already a common sight around UM-St. Louis.

Numerous red telephones, located inside every major building and residence hall on campus, reach just about any room or office and can be utilized to contact campus police.

Dialing "5155" connects to the campus police department's main desk, but for emergency situations, dialing "911" will bring the caller to the university's emergency phone line.

The blue telephones, which are the phone stands indicated by a blue light, are located outside near parking lots and buildings.

Picking up a blue phone automatically connects to the emergency line without having to dial, so that police can dispatch immediately.

"I know about the red phones. I see them all over. I've had to use them one time to call the police when I locked my keys in my car," said Dana Heggs, senior, business. "I don't know about the blue phones, though. I think I've seen them around, but never really knew how to use them."



UM-St. Louis Police Officer Greg Bingham checks in with the police dispatcher during his foot patrol of Seton Hall last semester.

Bingham is one of the police force's crisis-intervention trained officers, who helps students, faculty and staff in times of need.

File Photo

Buildings and residences are also equipped with fire extinguishers, alarms and sprinklers to deal with any kind of threat brought on by fire.

Automated defibrillators are also available in some buildings. Residence staff is trained on proper use of these health and safety procedures to ensure the knowledge remains ready and fresh.

John Klein, director of

Residential Life, said. "We do look at ways of improving safety in all aspects of things every year. I think that each year, we make improvements and that's what keeps us safe."

The UM-St. Louis Police Department is the center of all safety matters around campus.

The primary goal of the department is to ensure a safe environment, maintain peace and order, and to enforce the law.

The department is internationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, or CALEA, and is available for service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

UM-St. Louis police also believe in contacting students and faculty by face-to-face encounters.

See **CAMPUS SAFETY**, page 7



Fire Safety:

Prevention is best protection, practice is best escape in fire emergencies

BY AMY RECKTENWALD

Features Editor

Following the November fire that took the life of a UM-St. Louis student, concerns have been raised about fire safety on and off campus. What do you need to know about fire prevention? And more importantly, do you know what to do should you need to get out?

Getting out takes practice, according to Tom Harwin, fire chief for the Normandy Fire Protection District.

"No matter what your plan, when smoke fills the hallway, you become disoriented," said Harwin. "Practice in perfect conditions."

He said that practicing an escape plan is important so you become used to what to do. He compared it to driving in snowy conditions. At the start of the snow season, there are a lot of accidents because people are out of practice, but by the end of the snow season, people have gotten into the habit again.

While in perfect conditions without a fire, know your route, and count the doors from where you are to the hallway or exit.

"Count the doors, so then you can feel and not see," said Harwin. "Then it's not chaos, but organized when exiting."

Harwin had additional advice for dealing with a fire escape.

"Don't use elevators. Use designated stairwells," he said. He also said that if you happen to hear an alarm, do not roll over and go back to sleep or wait and see if it is a real situation or just a drill.

"If you hear the alarm, get out of the building," said Harwin.

Smoke is the greatest risk in a fire situation. Heat and flames are not normally the cause of death. Fires give off several gases, including carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide.

See **FIRE SAFETY**, page 7

STAFF VIEWPOINT

It's 10 o'clock, the gates are open, who's in your apartment complex?

After being accepted to UM-St. Louis last summer, I decided to live on campus because I did not want to drive 45 minutes to school everyday.

I chose an apartment in the University Meadows, a gated complex on South Campus, because it seemed like a safe place to live. However, after living there for six months, I realized the gate created a false sense of security.

The entrance gate allows cars to enter if the driver has card access to the apartments, or if they use the call box outside the gate to contact a resident who can grant them permission to enter the gate.

These measures were put in place so only residents and permitted visitors can enter the Meadows. Even with these measures in place, however, there are other ways of getting past the gate.

People in cars, sometimes up to three cars at a time, will wait outside the gate for someone else to open it and they will follow them inside.

If no one enters the gate for some time, people have resorted to bumping or hitting the gate in order to force it open, often causing damage to the gate.

The damage to the gate causes the Meadows to keep it open, allowing anyone to enter. The gate is broken so often that I am more surprised to see it closed than open.



BY CARRIE FASISKA

Assistant Photo Editor

These gate problems can allow anyone who wishes to come in, and this could increase crime.

This semester, University Meadows has been the scene of nine crimes reported in The Current's Campus Crimeline. The complex has been listed in this section every week incidents have been reported.

The crimes include stolen purses, textbooks and coats, broken windshields, disturbances of peace and property damage caused to the University Meadows' gate.

There is no way of knowing if a working gate could have prevented all of these crimes, but the reports show the Meadows does have an issue with safety. I do think a working gate could have helped.

According to the Meadows' lease, the gate may be left open at the discretion of the apartment complex's staff and they will not be liable for the operation or malfunction of the entrance or exit gates.

It is ridiculous to me that I am paying almost \$8,000 a school year to live in a gated community that never has to even have a working gate. I would rather be a dorm resident and pay half of what I pay now to live in a supposedly safer environment.

The bottom line is, this false sense of security is not worth the money.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Compared to other urban universities UMSL campus is by far the safest

While campus safety has recently been questioned due to theft in the Seton dormitory halls and handfuls of car break-ins, on a whole, I feel as if I am in a very safe part of St. Louis.

The area of UM-St. Louis' campus sits in between Bel-Nor, Bel-Ridge and Normandy municipalities -- all with their own separate and anxious police forces (anyone who has driven at 36 miles per hour down Natural Bridge and gotten a speeding ticket should know what I am talking about).

Even outside of these three townships, within about one mile there are a handful of more municipalities with police teams. This specific area of St. Louis is absolutely crowded with the enforcers of law. Even UM-St. Louis has an accredited police force of its own.

This characteristic of the campus is often sighed about because of the cops' eagerness to ticket anybody at the end of the month, in addition to their sneaky hiding places in the parking lots of the businesses up Natural Bridge.

Perhaps, however, it should begin to be celebrated instead, because the product is a relatively safe environment.

Sure, someone's iPod may have been stolen, but the number of serious felonies such as murder, kidnapping, rape and armed robbery has either significantly dropped, or has not reached the campus.

This, however, does not indicate that it is one hundred percent safe to



BY SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor

walk down Natural Bridge or Hanley by oneself after dark. It is actually not even safe to do that in areas like St. Charles or Chesterfield.

Just because these police are around does not mean that people should not use common sense. For instance, if an individual lives on campus, he or she should lock their doors. If an individual rides the MetroLink alone, somebody should meet him or her at the station.

The protection of the police can only help people if they do their part first.

There is one problem, however, that I feel needs to be addressed -- campus law enforcement. Too often, I feel as if I see them on the weekends sitting and talking with residents at the weekend dining hall.

Not enough of them patrol, protecting the property of the residents, such as their vehicles. There have

been way too many car break-ins.

This is the sorest subject when it comes to safety because resident's vehicles are an easy target.

They are parked in a dark lot at the bottom of hills, shielded by buildings, less than a quarter of a mile from the MetroLink stop where many a desperate soul could easily come from out of the area to conduct such a crime.

The police force, while I have been told is at its maximum capacity due to cost, needs to be on top of this, constantly patrolling those areas as well as the MetroLink stop, specifically on South Campus since the North Campus stop is adjacent to the police station.

There is absolutely no excuse for the myriad of cars broken into. While I understand that the police need to patrol other areas, perhaps one or two should take a night off from stalking drivers running through stop signs to protect the property of their citizens: us.

Their motto is after all "to protect and serve," with "protect" being the first word.

Campus safety as a whole is, in my opinion, better than the majority of other urban campuses because of the unique crowded municipality situation.

While our young police force may need a guiding hand at protecting our possessions and vehicles, they do an excellent job next to the other handful of forces keeping the crime from reaching the UM-St. Louis family.

SHADOW PUPPETS



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Students Stephen McCoy and Amber Rodebaugh create shadows during the opening of the interactive art *Shadow Work: New work* by Cynthia Pachikara. The show will be going on through May 26 in Gallery A of Gallery 210.

CAMPUS SAFETY, from page 6

"One of the things that we have really tried to stress is having the officers get out among the community, within the community, so that there will be a personal contact," said Bob Roeseler, chief of UM-St. Louis police.

"It's my philosophy and the officers that are here, that if we can get to know you by the first name, and you get to know us by the first name, you're going to be much more readily available to come to us for us to go to you for information," he said.

The UM-St. Louis Police Department is also available to carry out assistance for those who need or request their service. There are phone numbers for emergency vehicle service, rape and suicide counseling, police escort services and more.

A complete list of police service phone numbers can be found on the UM-St. Louis police department Web page at

<http://www.umsl.edu/~asd/InstStfy/Police/Police.htm>.

The UM-St. Louis police department also employs officers with specialized training. Crisis Intervention Trained, or CIT, officers are specifically qualified to deal with people who possess thoughts of, or who may be attempting, suicide.

These specially trained police know how to handle situations like these and can help give students or staff necessary help.

Some officers are trained to help read and analyze environmental health issues, such as sampling for clean air and asbestos, and performing lead paint tests.

UM-St. Louis has many different kinds of safety and security resources made available to everyone. Buildings and residences are prepared with all kinds of ways to seek aid from facilities quickly from certified and experienced law enforcement.

FIRE SAFETY, from page 6

"Smoke is hazardous, for inhalation, and because it blinds you," said Harwin. The smoke can disorient you, then the carbon monoxide can impact your body's systems, making an escape more difficult to achieve.

"This is your home, you can navigate it in the dark," he said. But in smoke-filled conditions, people can get lost in their own homes.

The best escape from a fire, according to Harwin, is to prevent one. Common sense measures such as keeping flammable items away from heat and flame are well known. Harwin said the best prevention is to protect yourself.

"Smoke detectors are the best protection we have. And they do work as long as they are maintained," he said. In that maintenance, the batteries should be checked and the detector regularly tested.

Fires can occur at any time of day, but according to Harwin, nights are usually worse than days. People are asleep, so there are less people around when the fire is still at the incipient stage and able to be seen from first signals. There is also the trouble of rousing individuals to get out.

Early detection products, such as smoke alarms, can help act as a witness to a developing fire when people are not awake or around to do so. Aside from smoke detectors,

sprinkler systems are some of the best protection against fire available. According to Harwin, 95-97% of fires that are sprinkled are contained to that area. He said that most fires can be contained with no more than three sprinkler heads.

If a fire is between two, two will activate, at most three. The sprinklers keep the developing fire in check until the fire department can arrive.

Harwin said that the majority of fires happen in the kitchen, which is primarily why there are not kitchenettes in most dorms.

People will set something on to cook late at night, sit on the couch while the food is cooking, then doze off.

"Usually the food is just smoking, but people have perished in kitchen fires," he said.

Of all kitchen fires, Harwin said, "Grease fires are terrible." If using an open skillet instead of a contained heating coil, such as one found in a fry daddy, the oil can splash over the side and ignite. The entire pan of oil then combusts into flame and can easily catch the cabinetry nearby.

According to Harwin, the best prevention for any fire is some good common sense, a dose of caution and some well maintained smoke detectors. Just remember the three P's: prevent, protect and practice.

'Unspeakable Acts' breaks silence on sexual assault

By ERIN MCDANIEL

Staff Writer

On Feb. 12, eight UM-St. Louis students performed "Unspeakable Acts" in the Pilot House.

The event brought to light an epidemic that affects most university campuses at one point or another -- rape and sexual assault.

The play's director, James Linsin, a counselor at the Health Services Center said, "We wanted to break the silence about sexual assault. We live in the kind of society where people are afraid to come forward because the victim is often put on trial."

This was the theme portrayed throughout the evening in the actual acts, followed by a question and answer period.

The main focus of the evening was that it is never the victim's fault in a rape or sexual assault case, which is an all too common misconception from many sexual assault victims.

Also strongly spoken on was that victims of sexual assault are not alone.

According to national statistics, one in four women will be sexually assaulted in their life, and this most often happens within a woman's first six weeks at college.

The statistics are shocking, but not so much so as the stories that come with them.

According to Counseling Services at the University, every victim comes to terms with or learns to live with their assault in a different way.

Justin Riddler, sophomore, the-

ater and dance, felt this was an important play to participate in because "it happens to average people. It might not happen to the extreme of rape or physical sexual assault, but it does happen."

Another cast member, Matthew Scott Steiner, junior, theater, was asked to join the cast after one member decided to drop out, and did so without even questioning it.

During the question and answer period, many students asked about self defense in regards to protecting oneself from rape.

Counseling Services stressed the fact that even if you do know self defense, that it is not always a guarantee that you will not be sexually assaulted.

Some of the points discussed during the question and answer are also points Linsin wished to stress: peo-

ple need to be educated on sexual assault, communication is key to helping a victim of sexual assault and to preventing sexual assault, survivors should do everything in their power to get help and that an increased awareness of what actually is considered sexual assault.

Which leads to the question, what does count as sexual assault? Sexual assault can be considered any sexual action performed on a person without his or her expressed consent of the action.

Essentially, if you do not ask someone if you can or cannot advance on in a sexual manner, then it can be considered sexual assault.

The cast and director have also stated that if any club or class would like to see this play, they may contact James Linsin in the Counseling Services office.

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ART REVIEW

Warhol, Hodges exhibit makes splash at Contemporary

'I Remember Heaven' offers intriguing pairing of artists

UMSL art professor curates display

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Sidewalks outside were packed with people in fancy dress. Places to park nearby could not be found, so the walkways leading to the venue were also full of people making their way to the opening.

Two art-covered vehicles, a sports car and a bus, were parked in front of the art venue. As people squeezed their way inside the crowded gallery, silver rectangular balloons floated by.

Inside, across from an enormous mural on the gallery wall, a long table was manned by a line of tuxedoed bartenders dispensing bright green martinis to the well-dressed throng.

Every area notable seemed to be occupied, with famous faces everywhere, but what was striking was the great number of young people in the crowd. As the crowd milled around, chatting, viewing the art with martinis in hand, light reflected off an enormous mirrored artwork on the wall.

Was this an art opening in New York? No, it was opening night at the Contemporary Art Museum's exhibit "I Remember Heaven: Jim Hodges and Andy Warhol." And heavenly it was, to see such a big art event in St. Louis.

"I Remember Heaven: Andy Warhol and Jim Hodges" features selected works of both '60s icon Andy Warhol and contemporary artist Jim Hodges, whose work was inspired by Warhol and is gaining more recognition.

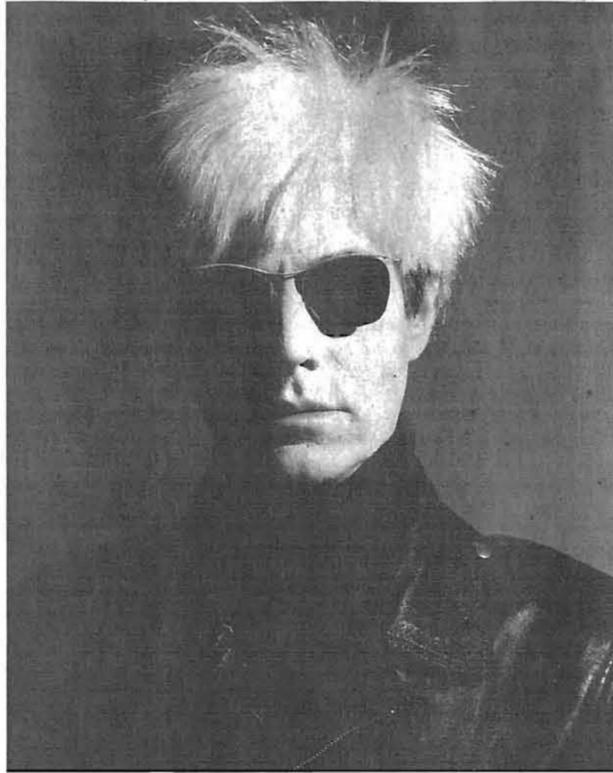
The exhibit runs through April 8 at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, which is in Grand Center at the corner of Washington and Spring Avenues.

The exhibit is a must-see for fans of Warhol and wonderful introduction to Hodges.

This hit art event was curated by Dr. Susan Cahan, the Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Contemporary Art at UM-St. Louis. Cahan also teaches the UM-St. Louis class "The Legacy of Andy Warhol."

Warhol seems to be everywhere these days and is receiving renewed interest by a new generation. Besides this exhibit at the Contemporary, Warhol is featured in an exhibit at the Pulitzer Foundation gallery and at the St. Louis Art Museum.

"Factory Girl," in movie theaters now, is about Warhol's studio, with



Legendary artist Andy Warhol, along with Jim Hodges, is the focus of a new exhibit at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis.

Warhol as a lead character, about Warhol protégé and benefactress Edie Sedgwick.

Many artists have been paired with Warhol, one of the most influential art figures of the mid-20th century, but the Hodges pairing is fresh and appropriate. The title of the exhibit is from the title of one of Jim Hodges' art works, but it also intended to evoke images of remembrance and paradox.

Heaven is something you do not see until after death, but it is something you learn about in childhood and earthly things are often described as "heavenly." The exhibit is filled with references to life and death, dark and light.

One of the most surprising things about the exhibit is the choice of earlier '50s Warhol works, finding a warmer side to an artist most famous for his cool detachment and mechanical-like art.

The exhibit includes some iconic Warhol works as well. Set next to more emotional and personal works by Hodges, they are given a new interpretation.

The layout of the exhibit can be seen as a metaphor for life. It begins with light colors and more art works by Hodges, whose work is human and personal, and becomes increasingly darker while adding more Warhol

pieces, which are less warm.

Hodges' works share things in common with Warhol's, such as camouflage prints and the use of common "found" objects.

The exhibit was laid out in a curved fashion, so the observer could not see what was around the next corner in the next room until he or she entered it.

The exhibit starts with those partially inflated silver balloons, a Warhol work titled "Silver Clouds." The effect is light, bright, and airy. Since balloons are associated with childhood, it can be interpreted as symbolizing the beginning of life.

As you step down to enter the gallery, you see a mosaic mirror work by Hodges, reflecting the silver of the balloons. In the next room, light-colored Hodges wallpaper is the backdrop for Warhol flower-themed paintings that show an unusually warm side of that artist.

The artworks' light colors evoke images of youth. The facing wall is covered in a large Hodges 2002 mural of a darker muted-tone camouflage print, "Oh Great Terrain," with an inset of a Warhol self portrait silk-screened on a primary-color camouflage background.

See WARHOL, page 14

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

UM-St. Louis art professor Susan Cahan thinks Andy Warhol might be more popular now than he was in his lifetime.

Cahan is curating a joint show of the works of '60s pop artist Andy Warhol and contemporary artist Jim Hodges, called "I Remember Heaven: Jim Hodges and Andy Warhol," at the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis.

The exhibit's recent opening was a huge success.

"The attendance at the opening broke the Museum's record," said Cahan, in a recent interview with *The Current*.

"Actually there were two Warhol look-alikes there, too," Cahan said, laughing. "Of course, we had a lot of the lenders to the exhibition, who are people who are on boards of major museums all over the country, come to St. Louis for the opening, which was great."

Both public and critical responses to the exhibit have been positive, including a good review in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

"It's been a little bit of a love fest, and the artist, Jim, is thrilled too," Cahan said.

The art opening was a big event, with a diverse crowd, including many younger people and a host of local luminaries.

"I think Warhol is an artist who has a lot of appeal for younger people because of the pop sensibility in his work and also because he is so famous," Cahan said.

Hodges' work is less well known in St. Louis.

"What I found even more gratifying is that many people seem to be coming to the museum because Warhol has name recognition, then when they arrive, they discover they enjoy the work of Jim Hodges as much or more than Warhol's work," Cahan said.

Several exhibits have paired Warhol's work with other artists, and usually when two artists are paired, the exhibit comments on a relationship between the two.

"Warhol's influence is so pervasive that ... any number of artists could have been paired with Warhol to produce an interesting show," Cahan said.

"In Hodges' case, I'm not just interested in his similarity to Warhol or his differences from Warhol but in the specific content of his work, what it can tease out of our perception of Warhol.

"I think Hodges' work brings out a tender side in Warhol that is sometimes overlooked in popular concep-

tions of Warhol's work," Cahan said.

"That is one of the things that I think is exciting about the combination of the two artists, the way in which each artist's work teases out certain things from the other artist's work and makes more apparent certain things in that artist's work."

Warhol was a pivotal artist of the 20th century, whose concepts about mass media and art transformed the art world of the 1960s and also made art part of pop culture, not just for the few.

"One of the things that Warhol did so amazingly was he found art everywhere," Cahan said. "He found art in the most unlikely sources, in mundane cartoon imagery, in magazine photos.

"That curiosity about the world led Warhol not only into different subject matters but different media, like his work in painting, drawing, film, photography. He was an impresario for the Velvet Underground," Cahan said.

"That rapacious appetite for manifesting his presence in so many different forms is incredible to me. The more I learned about his work, the more respect I gained for, not only his artwork but his drive, his commitment and his work ethic. I think that is something we don't typically associate with Warhol, the idea of him as a hard worker, but he really was. He worked all the time, that's pretty much all he did."

This exhibit at the contemporary is, at present, the only place locally where the public can see Jim Hodges' work, although a few local private collectors have some of his art.

"This is the first time his work has been shown here. I am hoping that by introducing his work to the St. Louis community that he will become more well known," Cahan said.

The design of the exhibit itself is interesting, because the visitor to the gallery is a central figure.

"The exhibit was designed to make the physical presence of the spectator central," Cahan said. "I envisioned the movement of the viewer through the space as being supreme, and crafted the relationship between things in a very deliberate way. It is an installation that is highly designed and highly choreographed."

Cahan also commented on the intriguing title of the exhibit.

"The source of the title is a work by Jim Hodges, but which is not in the exhibition," Cahan said. "The significance of the title is not dependant on any one work of art but it is a beautiful phrase that Jim had come up with and that it seemed to encompass so many threads that inform this exhibition."

See CURATOR, page 9

A&E ON CAMPUS

Feb. 26: Monday Noon Series: UMSL media professor Rita Csapó-Sweet will discuss her career at 12:15 p.m. in room 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center.

Feb. 27: Prelude Performances piano concert to feature Pianists Kris Pineda and Robin Jenkins at 7:30 p.m. in the Touhill Lee Theater. Tickets \$6 and \$3 for students.

Feb. 28: Warren Bellis Clarinet and Saxophone Festival from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Touhill Lee Theatre.

March 2: Poetry Night to celebrate Women's History Month: An open mic poetry will be held at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House in MSC. The event is hosted by Nailah Diallo, who also hosted of SistahSpeak, the only lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender spoken word event held in St. Louis.

March 2: Student art exhibit at Fort Gondo Compound for the Arts: 41 UM-St. Louis art students' work will be on display at 3153 Cherokee St. Opening reception will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the galleries. The exhibit runs through April 26.

March 4: Ariana String Quartet will perform Beethoven at 4 p.m. in the Touhill Lee Theater. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and free for UMSL students, faculty and staff.

CD REVIEW

Fall Out Boy has become the new kings of emo-rock with 'Infinity' CD

BY PAUL HACKBARTH

Design Editor

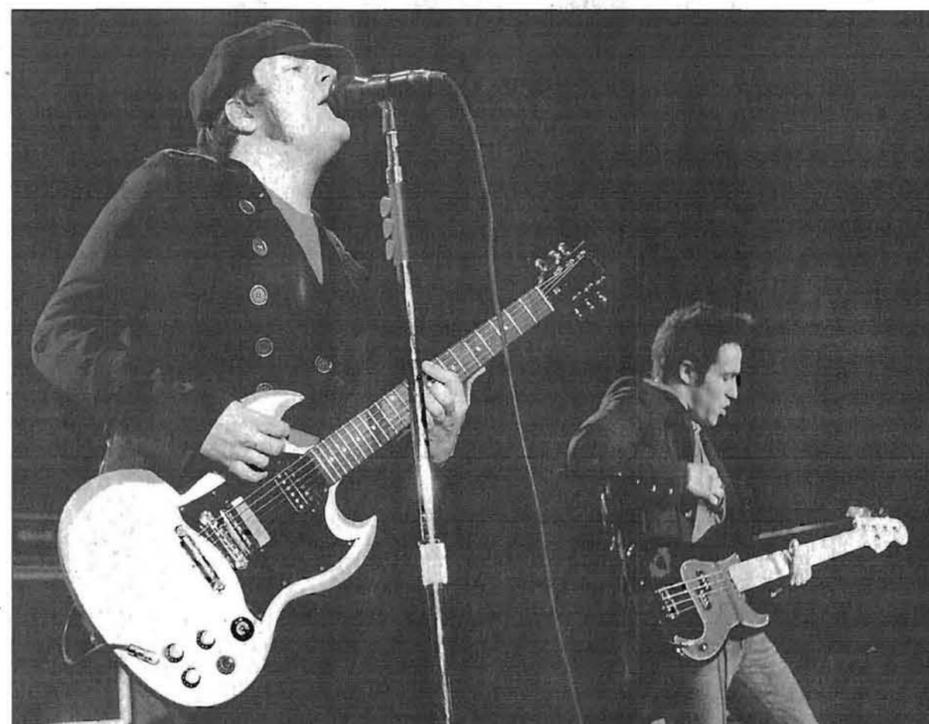
It is hard to imagine the words "Fall Out Boy" and "R&B" in the same sentence, but in the Chicago-based band's newest album "Infinity on High," the foursome has branched out to include R&B in a few of its songs.

Fall Out Boy knew they had a good album when they got Jay-Z to introduce the first song on the album, appropriately named "Thriller." While the first song is named after Michael Jackson's infamous video, it also describes the feeling listeners get throughout the entire CD.

You may have thought that Fall Out Boy was only good at pop-punk or emo, a term so loosely used to describe a genre of music, it includes everything from Fall Out Boy to its originator Guy Picciotto of Rites of Spring.

What those two have to do with each other is beyond my understanding.

The first single hit off the album, "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race," is actually a mixture of the growing emo sound and the band's obsessions with having lovers and haters, especially with the lyrics



Fall Out Boy's new album, "Infinity on High," is a triumph, blending rock, rhythm and blues and punk. Their music can routinely be seen at the top of the iTunes 'top downloads' chart, as well as the Billboard charts.

"Bandwagon's full / please catch another."

Most bands or solo acts either fear to try a different sound or branch out into other genres and fail miserably. Take Garth Brooks' rock star alter-ego Chris Gaines, for instance.

When R&B producer Babyface

comes in for a few songs, Fall Out Boy's stretch into R&B is not all that bad after all. Ironically, the two songs attributed to Babyface are the best songs on the album.

One of his songs, "Thx fr th Mmrs," which translates to "Thanks for the Memories" when you buy

some vowels from Pat Sajak, with its mix of R&B, banging drumming, and even Spanish mariachi sounding guitars thrown in, easily make it the best track of the album.

"Thx fr th Mmrs" is about band members moving forward despite those events in the past, including

Pete Wentz's nude photos and suicide attempts.

Despite his past, on "Infinity on High," Wentz, who plays bass and backup vocalist, stars with his lyrics throughout the CD.

In fact, Wentz's pun-filled lyrics along with Patrick Stump, lead vocals and guitar, make for a dynamic duo. Stump's voice has grown over the years, now making Wentz's words sound like pure sweetness, not the rough sounds he had on previous albums.

Babyface's other song, "I'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I'm Always Trying to Get You Off (Me + You)" just goes to show that it has now become cool in pop-punk culture to title songs with long names (think Panic! At the Disco).

The song is the perfect example of the super-smart choruses. However it falls into the category of older songs, especially on the album "From Under the Cork Tree," where songs slowed down after the two-minute mark, something "This Ain't a Scene," contradicts.

Most of the songs are good, but the only drawback to album is the placement of songs, as "Golden," with its soft piano intro, sounds more like it belongs at the end of the album. Instead, it's placed smack dab in the middle of "Hum Hallelujah" and "Thanks fr th Mmrs."

In the end, "Infinity on High" is full rock-on and one of Fall Out Boy's best, thanks in part to its solid song writing.

This shows Fall Out Boy knows the difference between selling albums and making fans, or nonfans in their case.

TOP iTunes

DOWNLOADS

1. This Is Why I'm Hot - Mims
2. Don't Matter - Akon
3. Break It Off - Rihanna and Sean Paul
4. This Ain't a Scene, it's an Arms Race - Fall Out Boy



5. Cupid's Chokehold - Gym Class Heroes feat. Patrick Stump

6. What Goes Around... Comes Around - Justin Timberlake

7. It's not Over - Daughtry

8. The Sweet Escape - Gwen Stefani

9. Say It Right - Nelly Furtado

10. Here (In Your Arms) - Hellogoodbye

'Music and Lyrics' proves to be good date night movie

By ERIN McDANIEL
Staff Writer

Okay, here is the break down. "Music and Lyrics" stars Drew Barrymore, as Sophie Fisher, who temporarily waters houseplants, and Hugh Grant as Alex Fletcher, an ex-boy-band singer.

This film also costars Kristen Johnston of "3rd Rock from the Sun" fame as Barrymore's neurotic sister, who runs a national weight loss conglomerate, and newcomer Haley Bennett as the seductive Cora Corman, who produces pop hits based solely on dance moves that rival Rachel McAdams' "Mean Girls" little sister Kylie George.

The music of "Music and Lyrics" is not really what one would call spectacular, but it serves its purpose as the flow to the movie.

If nothing else, I would recommend this movie for the insane Hugh Grant boy-band intro, the

somewhat hilariously awkward moments, and the actual comedic timing.

While sometimes off a bit, the movie stands strong and should be a favorite for this month of romance, as it does portray a real chemistry between Grant and Barrymore.

This is the romantic comedy that gets the audience to want a happy ending for everybody involved. You cheer for Grant's character even through the odd comment or two that completely distracts and confuses the audience.

Then again, it also confused other characters in the movie so, all in all, it was a writing choice that maybe Grant was not the best choice for, but he did the line regardless.

However, a plethora of other lines had the audience and me in absolute stitches.

Overall, "Music and Lyrics" is a great date movie, a great relax and enjoy yourself movie and just really entertaining.



Hugh Grant as Alex Fletcher, an ex-boy band singer, and Drew Barrymore, as Sophie Fisher, who temporarily water house plants, star in the romantic comedy 'Music and Lyrics.'

One word of warning, if you are like me and you can not stand seeing a boom microphone drop into a scene, then maybe you should wait for the DVD to come out so they can rub it out.

CURATOR, from page 8

"The source of the title is a work by Jim Hodges, but which is not in the exhibition," Cahan said. "The significance of the title is not dependant on any one work of art but it is a beautiful phrase that Jim had come up with and that it seemed to encompass so many threads that inform this exhibition."

"Allusion to life and death, implied by the use of the word heaven, the allusion to memory, implied by the word remember, and also the conundrum of 'remembering heaven.' Heaven is something we would conventionally associate with the afterlife. We are living beings so we don't have a memory of the afterlife, so there is a kind of play in time between now and then, past and present or future that I was interested in invoking."

Cahan said that Warhol's Jackie silk screens, which are part of the exhibit, illustrate that.

"The Jackie paintings depict images of Jackie Kennedy immediately before and immediately after JFK's assassination but they are never intended to be installed in chronological sequence," Cahan said. "They are always intended to be installed in a way that jumps back and forth in time."

Many feel that the Contemporary

Museum has been a great addition to the St. Louis area art scene. Cahan shared that sentiment.

"Were it not for the Contemporary Museum St. Louis, this exhibit would not be here," she said.

UM-St. Louis also has classes connected to the exhibit.

"We offered two classes in conjunction with the show," Cahan said. "The first one was offered as a winter intersession course and involved 10 students in executing the giant mural 'Oh Great terrain' that is in the exhibition."

"The students were trained in mural painting and executed the painting. The students worked under the direction of Louise Honeycutt, who is the professional mural painter who executes all of Jim Hodges murals. She came and lived in St. Louis for three weeks and worked with the students and guided them."

"As part of that course, the students also met with about six or seven

representatives of museums, staff members who work in museums, to learn about the inner workings of the institutions and to find out what kinds of roles people play in them," Cahan said.

"Every lunch period, I had someone else from a museum come and give a talk called 'what's my job.' The staff members were fantastic," Cahan said. "The students met with the director, the deputy director, the installation coordinator and the registrar, special events coordinator, and the curatorial staff. It was absolutely fantastic. So they really got to see how a museum functions."

"The second course that I am teaching is called 'The Legacy of Warhol,'" Cahan said. "What we are doing is looking in a great deal of depth at Warhol's work during the first half of the semester and the sec-

ond half of the semester is devoted to investigating different artists and different aspects of contemporary art that have been greatly influenced by Warhol."

The class meets at the Contemporary so students have direct access to the works they are discussing.

"Yesterday we were talking about the silk screen paintings and we could just go downstairs and look at the Jackies," Cahan said. "The exhibition is also lending itself well to a class that looks at Warhol in this much depth because it includes work from all periods of his production, beginning in the '50s and continuing up through the time just before his death."

The camouflage prints that are in the exhibition were the last works that he made, and they were actually in process when he died."

This exhibit was done under the auspices of the Desmond Lee program, which Cahan described as "a fantastic program" because of way in which it brought resources into the community and the campus together to offer something that benefits both.

In this case, it offered students a real-world, hands-on experience in an art gallery.

"There is no replacement for that," Cahan said. "It is indispensable."

“The exhibit was designed to make the physical presence of the spectator central.”

— Susan Cahan, Associate professor of art and art history

SEXUALITY, from page 4

I am sure the creator of this list felt the same way. He composed a list of prominent African Americans, who were gay. Then this list was used as a shrine complimenting African Americans who were gay for Black History month.

But, I am confused. Why? When I think of a person's contribution to struggles of oppressed people that was more social than sexual, I do not see a connection.

Me saying I am confused, does not say that I reduce homosexuality and homosexual relationships to mere sex. No, but I am saying that sex has nothing to do with those who fought for the rights of oppressed people.

I am African American or Black, depending upon how you choose to define it. I am both. However, when I think of prominent African Americans who fought racism, oppression, slavery and all of the brutalities of social oppression and marginalization ... I am sorry but anything associated with sex, simply is not a factor.

People did this a while ago, with outing Jesse Jackson, Elijah Muhammad, Martin Luther King and others for extramarital affairs and hidden kids. The media thought it was unique to acknowledge that these men had sex lives that we should know about, but did not. I beg to differ. The names mentioned above were African American men first, who fought social injustice. And I must say they did a damn good job when you think about the context of societies they were born and lived in. Therefore, when I want to think of Black History or chat about a historical African American of prominence, I incline myself to think and speak on the struggles they fought and their contributions, outside of their sexual relationships.

I must also discuss the list and the possible "outing" of people who (from my knowledge) never "came out" or openly admitted to being gay. Next, I must discuss slightly, what determines one's credibility as being prominent enough to be mentioned or listed. I'll start with the latter.

I am appalled that the list had RUPAUL on it. Give me a break. Come on, need I say more? Let's see ... Booker T. Washington, W.E.B

DuBois, Nina Simone, Ramona Africa, Harriet Tubman, RuPaul. Okay, he is gay ... and? He may be a successful person who had to overcome hardships. I am sorry, but his contributions do not add up. Not in a million years. Have any of RuPaul's contributions to society lived up to the contributions of someone that should be mentioned. Hell no, and not even the greatest philosopher in the world could expound. That is an atrocity. If the media did not seek to use his sexuality as entertainment, I doubt if we would know who he was. He would be a gay man. Being gay and Black is not a strong enough contribution.

Finally, there is the question of some of the names mentioned and if they admitted to openly being gay. I grew up in the church and I know church culture very well. I know the taboos and silent factor that was applied to certain issues. I also remember hearing the great singers and learning about the prominent preachers. Rev. James A. Cleveland was and is a well known figure in the African American Church. He did not admit openly. It wasn't characteristic of his era. It didn't happen. Furthermore, I cannot recall his contribution to the historical significance of African Americans that measure up. He was a preacher and a great singer. I can't dispute that. However, I am not sure if his work measures up. This is a confusing scenario. How do we determine what measures up and what doesn't? Is the sexual orientation of someone important when discussing their contributions to society? I don't know.

Should we compile a "jungle fever" list being that interracial dating is still taboo and was back then? And should we name all of the prominent African American men and women, who date outside of their race because they were ostracized but contributed to the struggle? No.

For future reference, think deeply before you associate, link and present information as factual, related and relevant. And please stop this chain e-mail as fact passing on non-sense, because this is what it leads to. This is a great e-mail, but I am not sure if it measures up as a presentation for Black History.

Now you can look forward to Mondays.

The Current

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Rivermen seniors finish careers at UMSL with sixth loss in a row

By TOM SCHNABLE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team ended its season on Saturday with its sixth consecutive loss and its eighth loss in the last nine games.

For the season, the Rivermen finished 9-18 overall, and 4-15 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Last Thursday, UM-St. Louis fell to the Quincy Hawks 80-70. Quincy had jumped out to a large lead in the game, scoring the first 11 points before finally stopping at a 20-2 opening deficit.

UM-St. Louis was able to claw its way back, cutting the lead to as few as seven points midway through the second half. They were unable to get any closer, however, and the Hawks won by 10.

Senior Brett Ledbetter led the scoring for the Rivermen with 29 points, and he was helped by junior David Ward's 18 points, which included going a perfect 7-for-7 from the field.

Also in the game, senior Troy Slaten had 11 points, including three 3-pointers. This gave him the UM-St. Louis single season record for 3-pointers, with 70. He would add two more in the season finale to finish with 72.

This brings us to last Saturday, where the Rivermen were soundly drubbed by the Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Cougars by a final score of 92-63.

UM-St. Louis was able to hold down the SIUE attack in the early going, but the Cougars used a 16-2 run to take control of the game. The Rivermen were able to cut the lead to nine at the half, but SIUE blew out the scoring in the second half. The Cougars shot a whopping 62.5 percent from the field in the second half, whereas the Rivermen only mustered up 34.5 percent.

In their final games as Rivermen, seniors Troy Slaten and Brett Ledbetter finished with 18 and nine points respectively. Sophomore Nathan Whittaker and freshman Cody Kliethermes each ended the game

with double figure scoring, Whittaker with 11 and Kliethermes adding 10 points of his own. In the end, SIUE was way too much for UM-St. Louis, and the game finished with the Cougars up 29 points.

The six consecutive losses the season ended with was not UM-St. Louis's first six-game losing streak of the season.

After a 5-4 start, the Rivermen had a six-game losing streak which they eventually halted with a win over Wisconsin-Parkside.

Making matters worse for the Rivermen was that both losing streaks occurred in GLVC play, which was a big reason the team finished with 15 conference losses.

With only two seniors graduating, albeit the team's two leading scorers, continuity will be the key with this Rivermen team next season.

It will need to find new go-to-guys in the clutch, but nine of the team's 11 players will have another year of service under their belts in the Coach Pilz system.



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Brett Ledbetter, senior, forward, tries to beat a SIU-Edwardsville player on the baseline Saturday night. The team ended the season with a 9-18 record overall and a 4-15 record against GLVC teams.

Season ends on sour note for Riverwomen

By RACHAEL YAMNITZ
Staff Writer

The last chance for UM-St. Louis women's basketball team to end the season on a high note was stopped by the SIU-Edwardsville Cougars last Saturday.

The Riverwomen lost 71-86 in the final game of the season.

The outlook of the game looked promising for the Riverwomen early on. The team built up a 10-0 lead in the first four minutes of the game.

The Riverwomen maintained their lead until less than six minutes to play were left in the first half of the game.

SIUE battled back and tied the score at 25-25 with 5:49 to play in the half. The Cougars then took the lead and kept it for the rest of the game.

The two teams fought to keep their scores close during most of the game.

After losing the lead late in the first half, the Riverwomen were within four points of SIUE at the end of the half as the teams headed into the locker rooms with the score 35-31.

During the first few minutes of the second half of the game, the Riverwomen evened the score with the Cougars to 37 points each.

Although the teams' scores remained close, the Riverwomen eventually fell to a 10-point deficit with a little more than 14 minutes left to play.

The Cougars took advantage of a stall in Riverwomen scoring when the UM-St. Louis bench was charged with a technical foul during the Cougars' scoring run that consisted of 13 unanswered points in four minutes of play.

This built the team up to a 19-point lead approximately halfway through the second half of the game.

The Riverwomen fought to pull within 15 points, but could not get any closer to the Cougars, losing by 15 points.

One major contributor for the Riverwomen was forward Taylor Gagliano. She was three for five from

the field and near perfect at the free throw line, making six of seven baskets for a total of 12 points for the Riverwomen.

Jennifer Martin, another major contributor, played her final game on UM-St. Louis' team that night, racking up 18 points.

Martin was six for 13 in field goals and shot over 50 percent at the free throw line, making five of eight baskets. She also added four blocked shots to her record.

This season, Martin became the all-time blocked shots leader, finishing her UM-St. Louis career with 133 blocked shots.

Senior Megan Alberts finished the game with eight points, going three for six from the field and two for four at the free throw line.

Senior Jennifer Dewell also ended her UM-St. Louis career, going two for five in field goals and making one 3-pointer.

The loss to SIUE put an end to a difficult year for the Riverwomen basketball team.

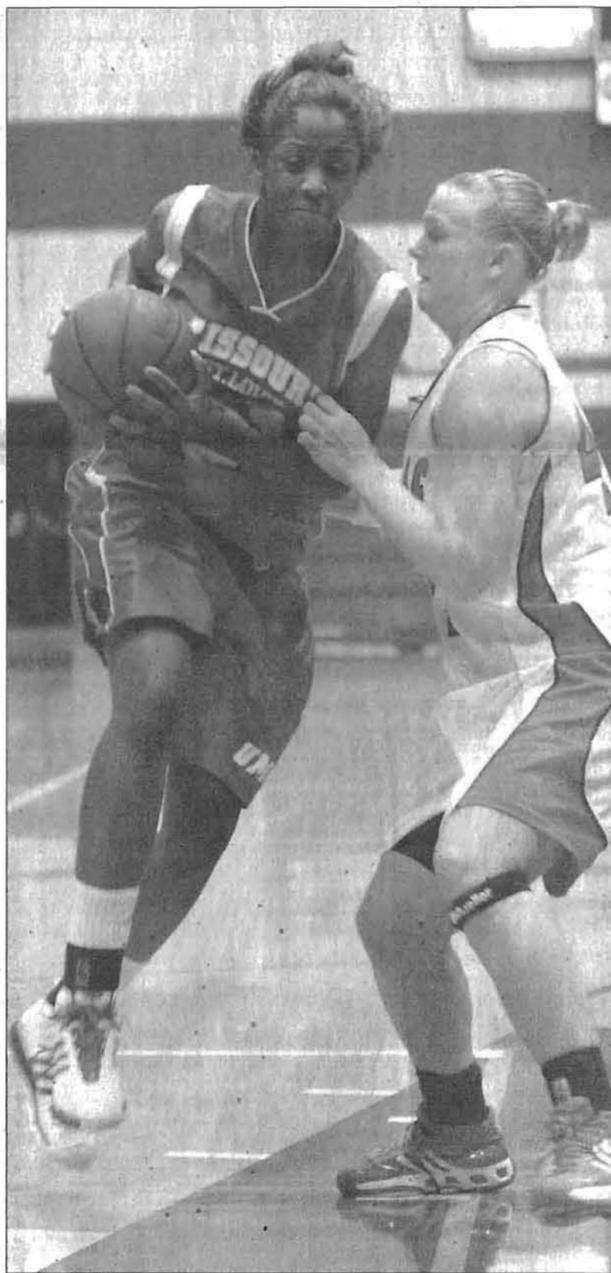
They finish with an overall record of 6-20, and a Great Lakes Valley Conference record of 2-17.

Jennifer Martin goes to the basket hard on Saturday night during the last game of the season at SIU-Edwardsville.

Martin became the all-time blocked shots leader this season with 133 career blocks.

The women's team ended the season with a season record of 6-20.

Matt Johnson • Photo Editor



Women's team unable to play catch-up versus Quincy Hawks

By RACHAEL YAMNITZ
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis' all-time blocked shots leader, Jennifer Martin, could not help the Riverwomen basketball team to a victory.

Thursday night's game against Quincy began with the Riverwomen stumbling out of the gate. The slow start would end up ultimately costing the team the game.

The Riverwomen scored first and early, on a layup by Taylor Gagliano 20 seconds into the game.

It was the only time UM-St. Louis had a lead. Within a minute, the Quincy University Lady Hawks would tie it up and just over a minute later, Quincy would take the lead and never relinquish it.

After the initial score, the Riverwomen would not score again until over five minutes later.

The points continued to come at a slow pace. The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen did not break double digits in points until over halfway through the first half.

Meanwhile, the Quincy Lady Hawks continued to build their lead. By the time UM-St. Louis scored 10 points, Quincy was leading by 14 points. The Lady Hawks would ultimately end the first half with a 17 point lead.

The last part of the first half looked promising for the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen.

They scored 17 points in just over eight minutes, but they could not make up the deficit they had been struggling with throughout the half. They entered halftime trailing 44-27.

see RIVERWOMEN page 13

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Casey Dierkes

As No. 25 for the Riverwomen softball team, Dierkes, junior, catcher and infielder, Dierkes helped lead her team to a win over Lindenwood last week.

Dierkes hit her fourth home run of the season, a two-run blast that put UM-St. Louis ahead 4-1.

In a previous game against Delta State, despite the team's 5-1 loss, Dierkes solo home run in the sixth inning was the lone run scored for UM-St. Louis.

As of Feb. 20, Dierkes leads the team in slugging percentage (.696), runs scored (5), as well as home runs, with a current total of six.

Dierkes played four years at Mehlville Senior High School and two years at St. Charles Community College.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball picks up two wins in makeup games

The Riverwomen softball team improves to a record of 4-6 with two wins against Lindenwood and William Woods last Friday.

The team beat Lindenwood 4-2, with each of the first four hitters in the Riverwomen lineup collecting two hits each. Pitcher Casey Moran picked up the complete game win, striking out six players in seven innings.

In the second game against William Woods, the Riverwomen won 5-3. Emily Wagoner pitched the complete game for the win with the help of Alex Pepin, who gave UM-St. Louis the go ahead runs, which allowed them to win the game.

The team's next home game is scheduled for March 7. UM-St. Louis will face Southwest Baptist College beginning at 3 p.m.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

It's time for the U.S. to embrace soccer

What better time is there to become a fan of soccer than right now?

Fresh off a World Cup disappointment, U.S. soccer has turned the page by going with more youth. The results showed with their recent 2-0 defeat of arch-rival Mexico. David Beckham is coming to play in the States.

If that is not enough, St. Louis is next in line to receive a Major League Soccer team. So I ask again, what better time is there to become a fan of soccer than right now?

If you are a soccer nut like me, you know the soccer landscape in the world right now. Club teams like Manchester United, Barcelona, and Arsenal are competing against one another in the Champions League, the FA Cup, the Copa Del Rey, and many other international club competitions.

These teams feature the likes of Brazilian Ronaldinho, Frenchman Thierry Henry, and Englishman Wayne Rooney, the people who truly make soccer what it is known as worldwide, "the beautiful game."



By TOM SCHNABLE
Staff Writer

For the majority of you, soccer is a sport that comes around once every four years and disappears just as quickly as it appeared.

You might hear a few stories about how great Brazil is, how passionate European fans are, and why the USA is so bad.

The truth is the U.S. is not so bad. It is just that they, like Mexico, are big

fish in a small pond. They beat up on teams the likes of Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Kitts & Nevis, and it does not properly prepare them for the European and South American powerhouses.

The team the U.S. is assembling right now is much younger, and the players are learning to play together.

Another reason now is the time to get on board the soccer bandwagon is the presence of David Beckham. Those of you who know the sport know his best days are behind him, but in America, he will be one of the greats.

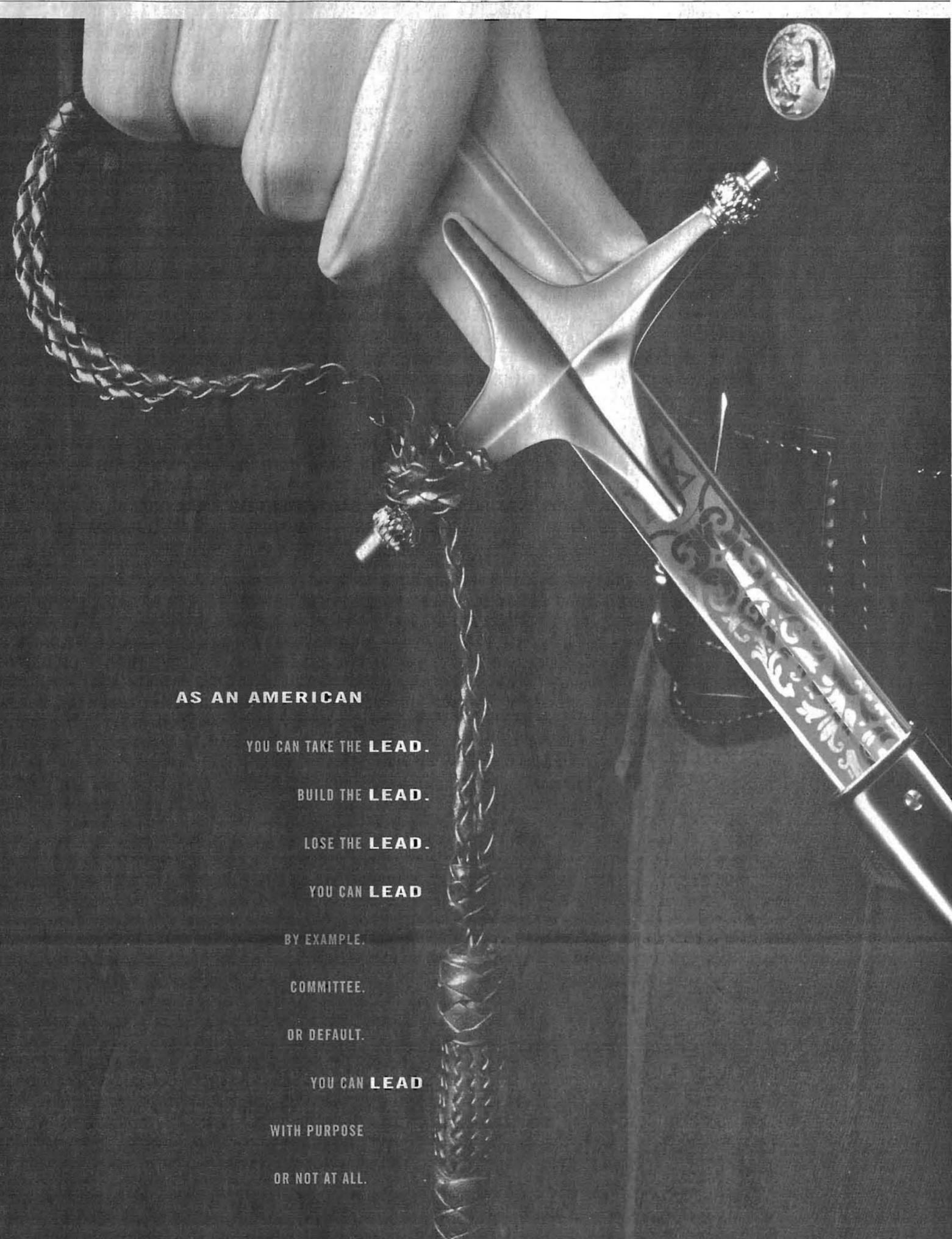
Not only will he be a joy to watch wherever he goes, but the amount of money he will bring to the soccer scene in this country will pay huge dividends, both for the MLS and the U.S. Soccer Federation.

One of the places "Becks" might be coming to is the new St. Louis expansion MLS team.

See SOCCER page 13

STATS CORNER

MEN'S BASKETBALL				WOMEN'S BASKETBALL				SOFTBALL			
GLVC standings:				GLVC standings:				GLVC standings:			
Team	Overall	W	L	Team	W	L	Team	W	L		
West Division				West Division				Women's Division			
Southern Indiana	25	5		Drury	20	7	Rockhurst		2 1		
Drury	20	7		SIUE	20	7	SIUE		3 2		
Quincy	19	8		UM-Rolla	17	10	UM-Rolla		1 1		
Rockhurst	17	10		Southern Indiana	16	11	Northern Kentucky		4 4		
SIUE	15	12		Quincy	16	11	Kentucky Wesleyan		1 2		
UM-St. Louis	9	18		Rockhurst	9	18	UM-St. Louis	4	6		
UM-Rolla	7	20		UM-St. Louis	6	20	Southern Indiana		2 6		
East Division				East Division				Box Scores:			
Northern Kentucky	20	7		Lewis	24	3	February 17		1 2 F		
UW-Parkside	19	11		Northern Kentucky	20	6	AL-Huntsville (W)		11 12 2		
Saint Joseph's	16	11		Bellarmine	18	9	UM-St. Louis	5	10 1		
Lewis	15	12		Kentucky Wesleyan	18	9	February 23		R H E		
Indianapolis	13	13		Indianapolis	16	11	UM-St. Louis (W)	4	11 1		
Kentucky Wesleyan	13	14		UW-Parkside	15	12	February 23		R H E		
Bellarmine	12	15		Saint Joseph's	5	22	William Woods		3 9 0		
Box Scores:				Box Scores:				UM-St. Louis (W)			
February 22	1	2	F	February 22	1	2	F				
UM-St. Louis	28	42	70	UM-St. Louis	27	36	63				
Quincy (W)	43	37	80	Quincy (W)	44	38	82				
February 24	1	2	F	February 24	1	2	F				
UM-St. Louis	31	32	63	UM-St. Louis	31	40	71				
SIUE (W)	40	52	92	SIUE (W)	35	51	86				



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40 Years ago, *The Current* embarked on a journey to serve this community, and through hard work and dedication we are proud to continue the tradition.



.....40 years of coverage.....

We hope that every week our stories bring you closer to the campus community. We also aspire to give every member of our community a free forum for expression without discrimination.

As we all look to the future, *The Current* will be there as UM-St. Louis continues to make its steps to becoming the great institution it has always been.

Thank you to our readers for the past 40 years for giving us the support and care we have needed to be successful, and we at *The Current* look forward to the next 40 years and beyond.

-The Current

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INSIDE

International Center for Tropical Ecology renamed
See page 7

Fall fashion preview
Find out what's in vogue on campus this fall.
See page 7

Detering Date Rape
Can rape be prevented at all? A professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is trying to find out.
See page 8

'House of Sand' tells saga of stranded women
See page 10

ON THE WEB

The Current
Web poll results: What do you think of the new Facebook.com news feed?
See page 11

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Sports 17

New shuttle route changes take effect Oct. 2
By JASON GRANNON
The new shuttle routes will be in effect starting on Monday, Oct. 2. The new routes will be in effect starting on Monday, Oct. 2. The new routes will be in effect starting on Monday, Oct. 2.

COACH PICKS UP 100TH WIN
The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball coach, Steve Donahue, picked up his 100th win on Monday, Sept. 25, against the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Donahue is the only coach in the history of the program to reach 100 wins.

University demands answers to floods in Oak Hall
By MELISSA S. HAYDEN
After a third semester of flooding, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is demanding answers from the Oak Hall building committee. The committee is responsible for the building's maintenance and safety.

Founder of campus honored at statue unveiling
By PAUL MANNING
The University of Missouri-St. Louis is honoring its founder, William Green, with a statue unveiling ceremony. The ceremony will take place on the campus grounds.

.....and into the Future

RIVERWOMEN, from page 10

In the second half the Riverwomen's performance was much improved, but Quincy kept rolling, not allowing UM-St. Louis to get back in the game. In the second half, the Lady Hawks outscored the Riverwomen by only two points. The percentages in all three major areas of field goals, 3-pointers and free throws went up in the second half for UM-St. Louis, but the Lady Hawks' first half lead was too great to overcome.

The Riverwomen's center Jennifer Martin had a big game, scoring 22 of the 63 points for UM-St. Louis. Martin was eight out of 11 in field goals and shot over 50 percent at the free throw line, sinking six of 11. She also had six rebounds and added another blocked shot to her university record. UM-St. Louis forward Nichole Helfrich also had a big game, scoring 15 points for the Riverwomen in

only 10 minutes of play. Helfrich went five out of seven in field goals and made the only 3-pointer she attempted. The benches helped out both teams. The Lady Hawks bench contributed 40 points while the UM-St. Louis bench pitched in with 25 points. However the larger scoring difference was in second chance points. Quincy scored 15 more second chance points than UM-St.

Louis. With a 6-19 record and a Great Lakes Valley Conference record of 2-16, the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen will have one more shot to end their season on a good note. Saturday's game against Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville will be the last of the season for the Riverwomen, since they were eliminated from playing in the GLVC tournament.

STATEHOUSE, from page 1

"We've all heard the rhetoric in the media of 'are we ready for a female president?' We have a women speaker of the house, and I don't think the world has turned around," Days said. The speakers discussed in depth both Clinton's campaigning as well as Obama's, and spoke highly of Clinton. "She was the only one I heard speak about the situation in Darfur, [Sudan]," Chapelle-Nadal said. Chapelle-Nadal was referencing

the ongoing genocide in the Sudan, where hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in an ongoing civil war. "Hillary is passionate and direct about what she wants, and with 17 women in the senate, you can understand how hard it is to get past dealing with smoky boardrooms and the folks who don't want to let a woman in," Chapelle-Nadal said. The panelists also expressed a disappointment in the amount of women

applying for public office. "If we can't get past the traditional roles of women, how can we expect anyone else to accept that we deserve higher positions?" Days asked. Part of changing public perception lies in education, but women must take responsibility for that education, Days said. "So many people talk about the Cat factor," Days said. She also said the ideology that women may be less

capable of running government because they are "always at each other's throats," is outdated and false. Both Days and Chapelle-Nadal believed that women in power fight for a common purpose, setting aside where they may disagree. "We can't say the same about our men colleagues," Days said. "Women who have a common goal can set aside their opinions and coalesce together—we have an agenda, and that doesn't split us."

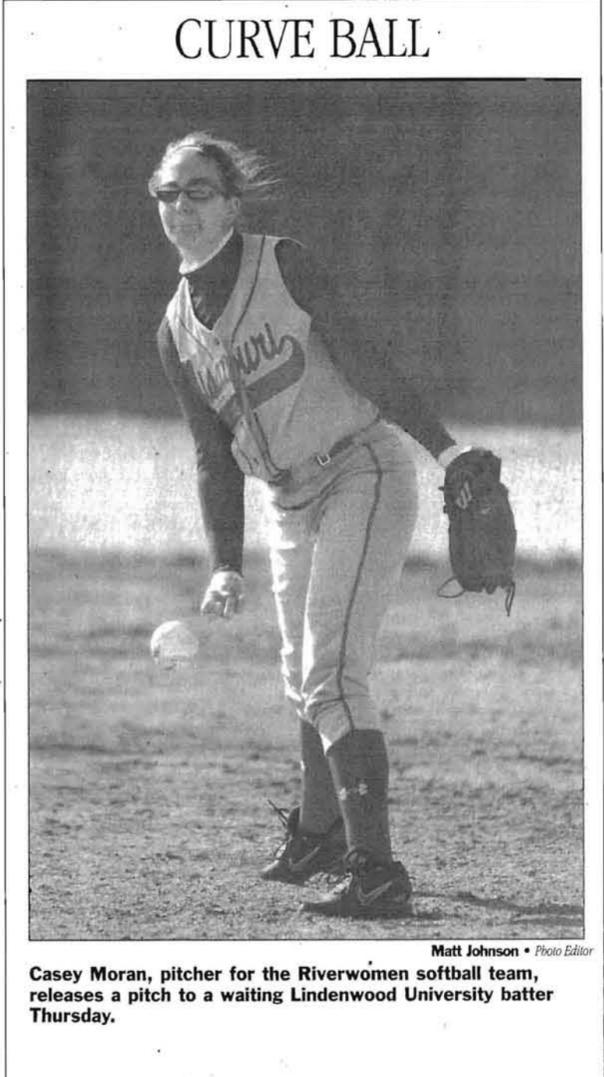
ASUM SUMMIT, from page 1

Dodd said some of the changes were made in confidence, however, he did say some changes were made that will be beneficial to ASUM as a whole. In particular, Dodd said changes will be made on how board members are removed. In the past, ASUM board members could be removed by a majority vote of the board. Recently, an effort was made to remove Dodd from the board in this

manner. The effort failed, but the move brought into relief the need to change the process of removing a board member, according to Warren. "Since we are elected by our student governments, we will be removed by them as well if needed," she said. "If board members feel that a board member needs to be removed, they will take a vote of no confidence on [said] board member." The matter then will be referred

to the board member's respective student government to take a vote on the matter. Dodd said the issue of his removal was never directly addressed, which he thought was odd, but he was glad to see the issue, even if indirectly, receive attention. "It's not going to be handled in the way it was handled in the past," Dodd said. "As far as I'm concerned, the status quo before the last meeting [in December] stands. I'm

still the vice-chair and I'm still a board member." Other organizational changes include having board meetings focus on intern and legislative issues, as well as sharing information across the four UM System campuses. The next ASUM meeting is scheduled for some time in March, and Dodd said the purpose will be to address and finalize budget concerns, specifically, how much each campus will pay.



Casey Moran, pitcher for the Riverwomen softball team, releases a pitch to a waiting Lindenwood University batter Thursday.

SOCCER, from page 10

Investors from Illinois narrowly missed out on a bid to lure Real Salt Lake, a team featuring another soccer phenom, Freddy Adu, to the greater St. Louis area. But something the brass of the MLS told them was that if they build a stadium, a team will come. What that means is, sometime before the end of this decade, St. Louis should be home to a professional soccer team. With the recent disappointments of other sports teams in the area, a soccer team would be a great way to expand the St. Louis sports horizon.

Americans have a hard time grasping a sport that we are not the best at, which is why our first loves are baseball, football, and basketball. The talent and the desire are there. We can be great, but it is something that just takes time. Likewise, St. Louis was once, and in many ways still is, a hot bed of soccer. The game has been played competitively at the high school and college level for more than half a century. The potential fan base for a MLS team in St. Louis is huge, and it is about time we share in the glory of the beautiful game.

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The Current Classifieds
516-5316

WARHOL, from page 8

As you move closer to that mural, you see that the previously hidden facing wall displays Warhol camouflage prints in various bright colors.

Turning a corner to reach the next room, one finds a large Hodges screen of tiny, black silk flowers, the 1998 "The End From Where You Are."

Behind the screen, almost hidden at first, is a series of Warhol prints of Jackie Kennedy, before and after the assassination of the president, in tones of black and blue.

The tones in this room are dark, and death and mourning are the overriding

themes. The second floor of the gallery contains an interpretation room lined in shiny silver wallpaper, where last year's acclaimed "Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film," plays on a monitor on a continuous loop.

The room also has books about Warhol and his art, including a wonderful coffee table of Warhol's "screen tests" and series of photos of famous people such as Salvador Dali, Bob Dylan and Sedgwick.

It is a perfect way to end the visit to Warhol's world.

asthma study

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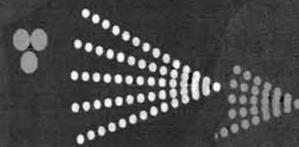
If you suffer from asthma you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study. The Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine is seeking volunteers for asthma studies. You may be able to participate if:

- You are age 6 or older
- You have been diagnosed with asthma by a physician
- You are Not Pregnant
- You use asthma medication

All study-related medical evaluations and study medication are provided to qualified participants at no cost. Volunteers will be financially compensated for their time and effort. Study staff will review additional criteria with you.

Contact Melissa at
314-362-1000

and leave a message.



Washington University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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

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

Weightlifting

Date: 3/8
Time: Thurs 1-4pm
Place: MT Weight Room
Sign up by: Just Be there
Division: M & W

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

Indoor Soccer

Date: 3/14-5/2
Time: Wed 6:30-10pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: CoEd & M

The Current

THE CURRENT IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2007-2008

Editor-in-Chief

- Applications will consist of a resume, cover letter, and three letters of recommendation.
- The deadline for applications to be handed in is Friday March 16, 2007 at 5 p m
- The applications need to be sent to Adam D. Wiseman in 388 MSC.
- Any questions can be emailed to adw42c@umsl.edu

All applicants will be invited to an interview in front of The Current staff. The interview will be facilitated by the current Editor-in-Chief.

After this process the applicants will be interviewed again by the Publications board. Then a decision will be made.

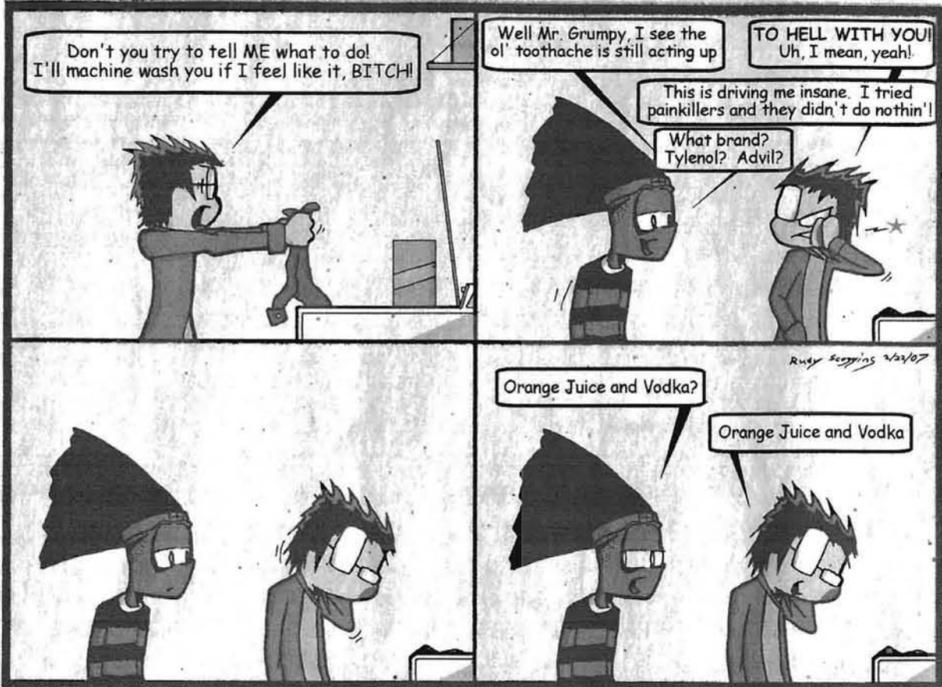
The Current is an equal opportunity employer

Did you miss an issue of The Current ?

Don't lose any sleep over it, check us out online at www.thecurrentonline.com. You'll find past articles as well as the week's latest articles, plus you can post comments, view photos and e-mail Maximo to your loved ones.

CURRENT CARTOONISTS

NUTN BUT THE FUNK Rudy Scoggins



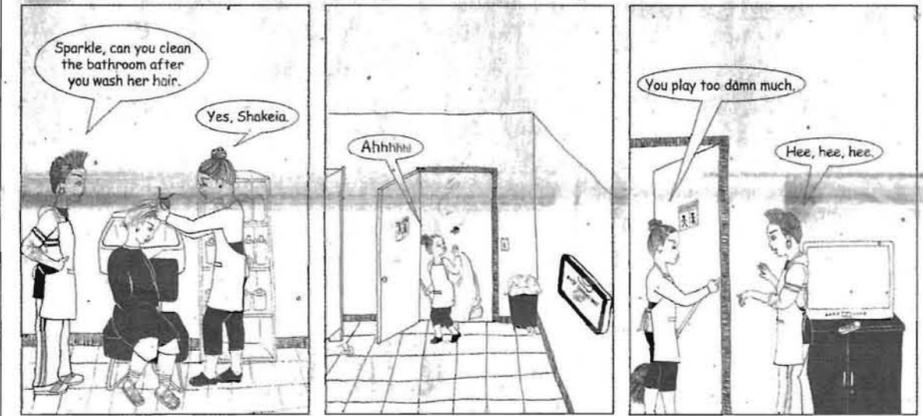
"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

SCONEBOROUGH by E. Gearhart



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "Really Funny"



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

SYNDICATED CARTOON



Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"How old? He's 14 months, 3 days, 7 hours, and 16 seconds ... 17 ... 18 ..."



MAXIMO PREDICTS

Horoscopes for Feb. 26 - March 4

Aries
March 21-April 19

Tomorrow will be the best day of your life and considering how much tomorrow is going to suck for you it doesn't really say great things about your life.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Your future is empty, like your head and your wallet. Both of those facts also lead me to predict that you will be lonely at least as long as your wallet stays empty.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

Today that ghastly zit on the back of your neck will burst and flood the campus. I'm guessing it will start with Oak Hall, that just seems like the most likely place for a flood on campus to begin. I'm just playing the odds here.

Cancer
June 22-July 22

Last week you wore ugly pants. I bet you weren't aware of my powers to predict the past.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

It would really be a great idea for you to dress up in a pink bunny costume this Friday. I cannot tell you why at this time, just trust me and do it. It will benefit the entire campus community if you fulfill your duty by honoring this request.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you do not stop shaking your groove thing, like I told you last week, you will wipe out Tokyo this week. Please stop, Tokyo is a pretty cool place to visit.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Your future is full of cuddly bunnies and fluffy gerbils, and all kinds of other crap-filled things you will have to clean up after so your life won't stink anymore.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

I predict you will makey with the sammitch now or you will be beaten with chicken nuggets!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

The stars, planets and entire universe are aligned perfectly with Uranus. Be prepared for things to be a major pain in your ass this week.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You might as well stop denying it now, Wednesday your mother will uncover that stash you keep under your bed. I don't know why anyone would hide their love for karaoke anyway, but you always have been a weirdo, haven't you?

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You will need to find yourself a new partner in crime after your last one left you high and dry last week without any warnings.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

This week the scales will tip in your favor.

DISCLAIMER: Maximo Predicts is actually full of predictions this week. I predict these predictions will not make you laugh because they are stupid, like your mom. Although, you do laugh at her.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15		16							17	
		18			19		20			
21	22	23			24					
25			26	27	28			29	30	
31		32	33	34	35					
36			37	38	39	40				
		41		42	43	44				
45	46				47					
48			49	50				51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

DOWN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15		16							17	
		18			19		20			
21	22	23			24					
25			26	27	28			29	30	
31		32	33	34	35					
36			37	38	39	40				
		41		42	43	44				
45	46				47					
48			49	50				51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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THE CURRENT IS SEEKING Sports Writers

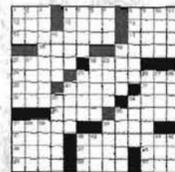
If you love sports and love to write, we want you!
Sports writers earn \$15 per story.

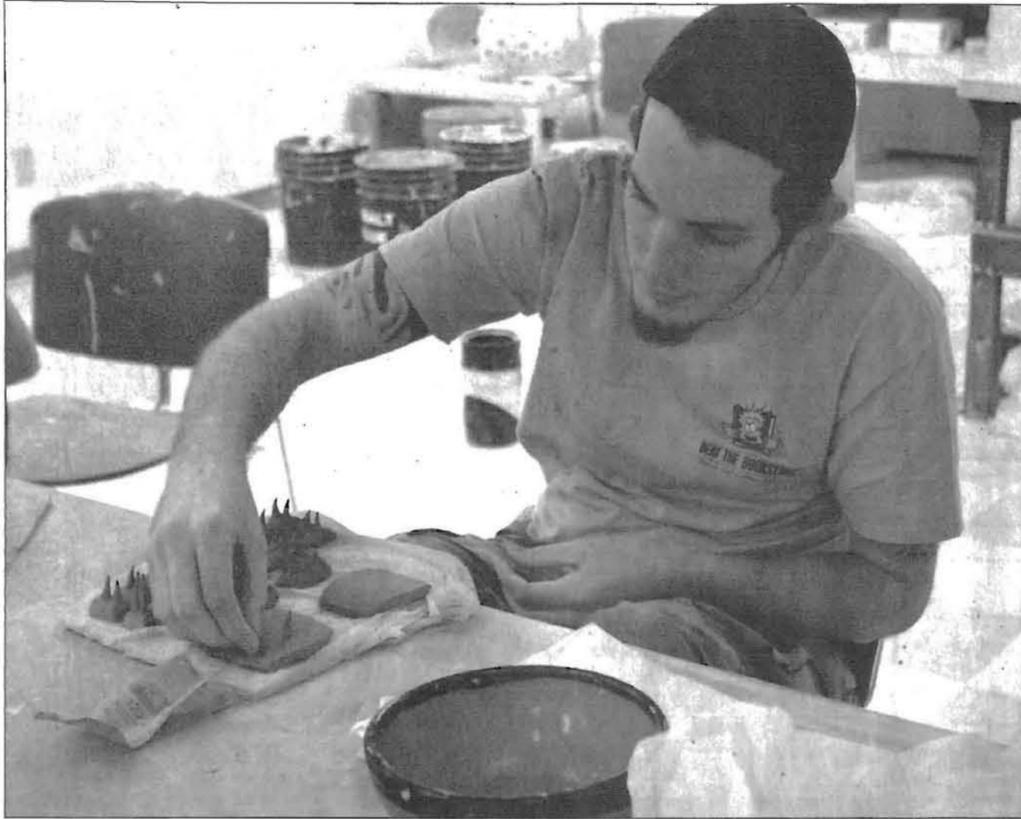
Please submit a cover letter and résumé to our Managing Editor at 388 MSC. Call 516-5174 or e-mail the-current@umsl.edu for more information about the position.



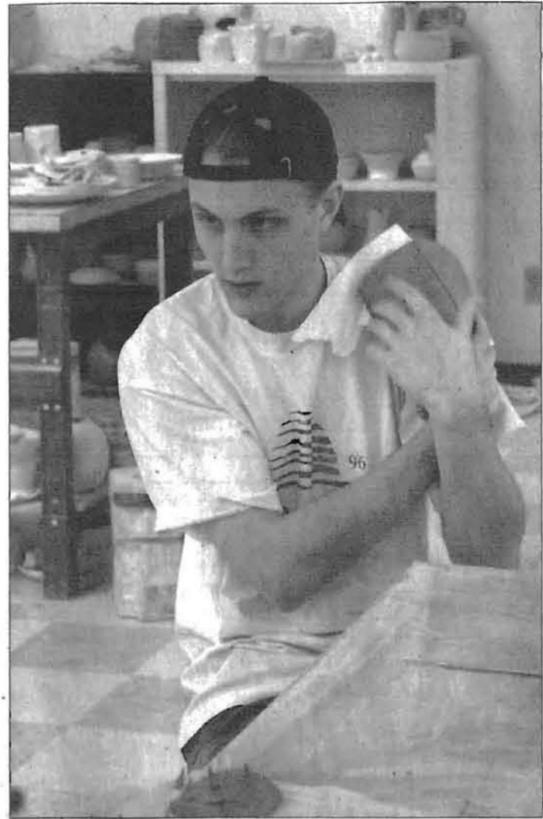
Find the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and Sudoku at

The Current
online.com





FAR LEFT:
Scott Stewart, senior, French, places spikes on his project during the hand building section of Ceramics I.



LEFT:
Brian Dick, graduate student, economics, places a slab of clay on his shoulder to test the size of it for his hand made armor.



Carol Robinson, senior, fine art, uses a tool to create a design in her cylinder as it spins around on the wheel.

CERAMICS CLASSMATES AREN'T AFRAID TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY WHEN

TURNING CLAY INTO CREATIONS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MATT JOHNSON • PHOTO EDITOR

What begins as a ball of clay quickly transforms into a personalized handmade keepsake for many students taking Ceramics courses in the Fine Arts program.

UM-St. Louis only offers a few ceramic classes for students. The ceramic classes share a building with the sculpture students along Florissant Road. The building is easy to drive past since the sign on the front drive only has lettering on one side of it.

There are two parts to the Ceramics I class. Half the class will learn how to create artwork by hand building, and the other half of the class starts on the wheel.

Before students begin working with the clay, they must first learn how to remove the air bubbles in a process called wedging. Pinch pots and coil pots are just two items a beginner will make during their hand building session of the course.

Many students prefer the wheel part of the course. On the wheel, the students start off learning how to

make a cylinder. After the cylinder is created, the students will learn how to make bowls, plates and lids for their projects.

Once their projects dry, they are put into the kiln so all the moisture is baked out of the clay. This is a moment of truth for the students because their projects are able to explode if they did not wedge the clay correctly and get the air bubbles out.

The student now chooses what color of glaze they would like to apply to their artwork. After the glaze is applied, the piece is placed back in the kiln for the last time.

Ceramics II is another popular class for students to take after they have completed the Ceramics I class. Students have a lot more freedom in this class.

The syllabus tells the students the different types of ceramic pieces that are expected at the end of the semester. The student now has the choice of creating it by using the wheel or building it by hand.



LEFT:
Joe Richardson, senior, graphic design, wedges clay to get the air bubbles out as he prepares it for wheel.

ABOVE:
Heather Clark, senior, education, applies water to the clay as she centers it on the wheel.