

The Current

March 19, 2007

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THIS WEEK

News at Noon looks at 'Changing Face of Political Leadership'

This Wednesday, March 21, Vivian Eveloff and Dayna Stock will talk about "The Changing Face of Political Leadership" at noon in room 314 of the MSC.

INSIDE

March is Women's History Month at UMSL

See page 6-7



'Firebird' dances into the Touhill

The Alexandra Ballet misses the mark in 'The Firebird' performed at the PAC last weekend.

See page 8



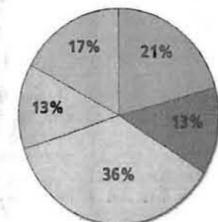
Roller Hockey gets ready for nationals

See page 10

ON THE WEB

The Current
online.com

Web poll results:
If you caught a leprechaun, what would you wish for?



- Cash. Lots of it.
- Love.
- Super powers.
- World peace.
- More leprechauns?

This week's question
What are your plans for Spring Break?

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Parking issues come to a head at SGA meeting

By **SARAH O'BRIEN**
Assistant News Editor

Frustrations over student parking boiled over at the Student Government Association meeting last Friday.

Bryan Goers, chief justice of Student Court, said the court has received complaints that faculty can park in spaces in lot X, spots specifically reserved for residents.

"Faculty senate voted themselves the right to park wherever they want many years ago, so faculty can still park there, they ticketed them one time and the faculty raised a lot of noise about it, and

they don't ticket them anymore," Goers told the assembly. "If residents cannot find a spot to park in X, XX should be open. That's not to say there will be spaces there because faculty can park there too."

Parking on South Campus for students and residents has since been reduced, as lot KK was reassigned as "faculty only" parking.

Since then, parking enforcement has written several tickets to students and residents using the designated faculty/staff spots.

"I don't go down to South Campus too much, but last time I checked students pay to go here and faculty get paid

Quick Read

Student Court has received numerous complaints regarding the fact that faculty and staff can park in students' parking spaces, but not vice versa. Parking rearrangement on South Campus has turned some lots into faculty-only, leaving students to find parking elsewhere.

to go here," Adam Wiseman, SGA representative for *The Current*, said. "I'm using my voice in the SGA assembly, and I guess the thing is I pay a lot of money to park on this campus and I think I should be able to park wherever

I deem possible, and if the faculty believe they should park anywhere maybe they should pay more for their parking passes."

Faculty parking is \$62 per month for full-time faculty, and \$31 for part-time, according to Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of managerial services.

"However, the campus overtime has saved money to pay for it, the employees are not directly charged," Krueger said.

Among distress about parking issues, discussion changed to distress with the shuttle systems.

See **SGA MEETING**, page 16



STUDENTS LIVING IN MAKESHIFT SHANTYTOWN. LEARN THAT HOME, SWEET HOME

HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING FOR THE HOMELESS IN ST. LOUIS

STORY BY PAUL HACKBARTH • DESIGN EDITOR

As students created cardboard beds to sleep in to recreate the feeling of homelessness last Thursday night outside the Millennium Student Center, about 1,000 people in the St. Louis region were doing the same for real.

"As you huddle under your boxes ... there will be somewhere between 5,000 and 10,000 people in the St. Louis metropolitan area who the federal government would consider to be homeless," said Tom Mulvihill, director of special initiatives and projects at St. Patrick's Center. "They're not all living out in boxes. They're not all in shelters."

Mulvihill said the homeless cannot be labeled. "If I were to ask you to conjure up in your mind a picture of the homeless, a lot of us would think about the folks we see downtown ... huddled under [boxes]," Mulvihill said.

The reality is that about one-tenth of those people are "chronically homeless."

"So it begs the question, who are the other 9,000 people?" Mulvihill said. "Well, frankly, they look a whole lot like us." These 9,000 other people are what Mulvihill called episodically homeless.

See **SHANTYTOWN**, page 13



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Mike Ruzycski, freshman, undeclared, and Laura Riley, graduate student, biology, build a multi-person condo during the Homeless Shantytown event on March 14 outside the Millennium Student Center. The event was hosted by the Catholic Newman Center in observance of Social Justice Month.

■ Some of the causes of homelessness are lack of affordable housing, low-paying jobs, mental illness, domestic violence, unemployment and changes and cuts in public assistance.

■ Between 5,000 and 10,000 people living in the St. Louis metro area are considered homeless by the federal government. One-tenth of those are considered "chronically homeless."

■ About 25 people living on the streets die each year in St. Louis city and county.

Student Life office limits pro-card use

By **JASON GRANGER**
News Editor

At last week's Student Government Association meeting, new procedures were introduced regarding use of the Office of Student Life procurement cards, or pro-cards, as they are commonly called.

Nick Koechig, SGA president, presented the changes to the assembly. The changes were brought about after former SGA Vice President Thomas Helton raised questions regarding pro-card use, and *The Current* followed up these questions with an investigation of its own.

The procedures are meant to restrict use of the pro-cards by student groups. *The Current's* investigation into pro-card use over the last two years showed several charges on the credit cards of several thousand dollars at a time.

The new procedures include limiting purchase amounts to \$500 and under. These purchases must be approved by the Office of Student Life, and students wishing to use a pro-card must meet with Fiscal Manager Jan Mayer 48 hours prior to using the cards.

Additionally, gifts and/or giveaway purchases must be stored in the Office of Student Life until the winner or recipient comes to pick up the prize. Purchases over \$500 are subject to review by Mayer, and if approved, a student life employee or



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Brian Rails, senior, business administration, talks about the limits placed on pro-cards at the SGA meeting Friday.

organizational advisor may be required to accompany the student group to purchase the item.

In an interview conducted with *The Current*, Curt Coonrod, vice provost of Student Affairs, and Orinthia Montague, associate vice provost for Student Affairs, detailed some of the changes and also said they had concerns of their own.

Coonrod said he does not believe pro-card use has been extreme, in that he does not believe people within the Office of Student Life are going home with prizes, but he does believe changes were necessary.

Quick Read

The Student Government Association presented possible changes that would limit purchase amounts on pro-cards to \$500 and under. According to pro-card records, in May 2005, *The Current* found purchases made at Best Buy for almost \$5,500.

"I don't think there is anyone that has gotten an iPod or an Xbox," Coonrod said. "I don't think anything has gone to students who shouldn't have gotten them. We think that the process needs to be tightened up."

In its investigation, *The Current* found several large charges on campus-issued pro-cards at Best Buy, particularly in May of 2005. During that time, \$5,456.43 was spent at Best Buy, including charges of \$2,689.77 and \$2,029.85.

"I think what Student Life tried to do was make it easier for student organizations to function," Coonrod said. "Because, I don't think our students have their own resources that they can go out and buy these things and be reimbursed. But, we're going to look at that, and that way, it's much tighter."

The new changes could have an adverse affect on student organizations, Coonrod said, and he worries about the organizations' future abilities to put on programs.

See **PRO-CARDS**, page 16

Credit card theft prompts ID policy change at bookstore

By **SARAH O'BRIEN**
Assistant News Editor

The University Bookstore has changed its policy regarding credit card use after a wallet was stolen on South Campus in the early morning hours of Friday, March 9 from a LeGras hall office.

Because of this event, the policy changed so that whenever a credit card is used, signed or unsigned matching identification is required.

According to Michael McGee, assistant department head for the bookstore, the cashiers at the University Bookstore were previously required to check an ID for credit card use if the card isn't signed.

The wallet was taken out of Executive Director of the Sigma Beta Delta Honors society Sandra Estep's purse, which was under her desk in her office on the ground floor of LeGras.

"I guess [the suspect] just came in here and looked around, and there my purse was on the floor, so she took my wallet out. It's been a huge hassle restoring my identity all over the place," Estep said.

Estep realized her wallet was missing when a friend came in and asked for

Quick Read

On Friday, March 9, Sandra Estep's credit card was stolen from her office in the Provincial House. The suspect reportedly used the credit card at the MSC bookstore to buy more than \$600 worth of merchandise, including an MP3 Zune, a Playstation game system and a game.

change and she realized the wallet was gone.

"I called the corporate offices around 3 p.m. of my credit card company and they asked me if I had just made a purchase for \$600 at the University bookstore, which I definitely had not," Estep said.

Sandra called Officer Gregory Bingham of the University police and went to the bookstore.

"The suspect purchased an MP3 Zune, a PSP and a game," Michael McGee, assistant department head for the bookstore said. "After she purchased that she asked if she could leave her bag there and shop some more, then she bought \$400 more in sales clothing."

See **CREDIT CARD**, page 16

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

PROPERTY DAMAGE-PARKING LOT K

The victim discovered damage to the passenger's side door lock on her 2003 Dodge Ram pickup. The damage is believed to have occurred between 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. while the victim was attending a performance at the Touhill Sunday March 4. The victim was unable to use the key to open the door. It appears some damage to the lock occurred, but no entry into the vehicle was made.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

STEALING UNDER \$500-MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER ROOM 319

The reporting party stated a microphone belonging to the University was stolen from room 319 between 1:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

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

AUCTION FOR HOCKEY



Ben Lambert, sophomore, political science, (right) auctions off a jersey that is held by Scott Kincaid, junior, secondary education, (left) during the UM-St. Louis inline hockey appreciation dinner and silent auction and raffle Friday.

Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

The Current

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

ABOUT US

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AFFILIATIONS



What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, MARCH 19

University Orchestra To Perform

The University Orchestra will perform at the Touhill at 7:30 p.m. This concert is free and open to the public. For more information call 5980.

Fair Trade Awareness Week

Free samples of fair trade coffee will be available on the Millennium Student Center bridge from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students, faculty, and staff should stop by for samples and information about fair trade. Call 9314) 385-3455 for more details.

Monday Noon Series

Malcolm Gay, staff writer at the Riverfront Times, will discuss the early 20th century chop suey craze in "St. Louie Chop Suey" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 5699

Film Screening

"God Sleeps in Rwanda," a documentary about five women affected by the 1994 Rwandan genocide, will be screened at 6 p.m. in the Marillac Hall auditorium. A discussion will follow the film. The event is free and open to the public. Call 5871 for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Fair Trade Chocolate

Free samples of fair trade chocolate will be available on the Millennium Student Center bridge from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

'Dark's Stripped and Teased'

Kimberly Dark will give a lecture called "Dark's Stripped and Teased," to expose the issues of gender (in)equality, sexuality, body image, social construction of gender, and the economic being of females. Call 5291 for more information.

'Without Words'

"Without Words" a senior thesis exhibit will open today and run through April 5 at Gallery FAB. A reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit will feature paintings, drawings, prints, and installation pieces. For more information and normal gallery hours, call 7291.

Holocaust Film: Screening

"One Survivor Remembers" will be screened at 3 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. This is the story of Gerda Weissman Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty during the Holocaust. The film will be followed by a discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5581 for more information.

KWMU to air special on Middle East

KWMU (90.7 FM) will air an "America Abroad" special, "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Stability of the Middle East," at 8 p.m. Ray Suarez is the host of "America Abroad." For more information, visit <http://kwmu.org>.

'Ending Silence'

"Ending Silence," an evening of theatrical and spoken word performances will be held at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center. Featured performers will be actress Shawn Guy-Pitts and poet and author Floyd Boykin Jr. Call 5291 for details.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

'Women in Islam'

Maysa Albarcha, volunteer with the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, will discuss "Women in Islam" at 2 p.m. in the Pilot House at the Millennium Student Center. This event is free and open to the public. E-mail da7vb@umsl.edu for more information.

News at Noon

News at Noon will be held in 314 Millenium Student Center. "The Changing Face of Political Leadership" will be the topic. Free pizza and an article from the New York Times will be provided. Call 5692 for more information.

Great Big Sea to Perform

Folk-rock band Great Big Sea will perform at the Touhill at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$20, and \$30. Call 4949 for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Scholar to Perform Irish Music

Tim Collins, visiting scholar of Irish studies at New York University, will perform from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in 205 Music Building. This event is free and open to the public. Call 6495 for more information.

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



Photo Courtesy Sonic Entertainment

Folk-rock band Great Big Sea will perform at the Touhill at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21.

Fundraiser at Chevy's

The Catholic Newman Center will hold a fundraiser at Chevy's Fresh Mex Restaurant, 9119 Olive Road in Olivette, Mo. from 3 to 10 p.m. Fifteen percent of each bill will benefit the center.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Deadline for Barcelona Tour

Today is the registration deadline for a summer tour of Barcelona, Spain. The tour will be from June 28 through July 4. The rate is \$1,399 per person and a \$400 deposit is due at time of registration. Call 5974 for more information.

CARMA Web cast

Item Response Theory," a Web cast presented by the Center for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., will be shown at 11 a.m. in 121 Research Building. For more information, e-mail fletcher@umsl.edu.

Chemistry Colloquium

Chris Orvig, professor of chemistry at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, will discuss "Carbohydrate Conjugates in Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry" at 1 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 12:45 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5311 for more information.

Baseball vs. Lewis University

UMSL's Baseball team will play against the Flyers of Lewis University in a home opener at 7 p.m. at GCS Ballpark in Sauget, IL. Call 5661 for more information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Observatory Open House

The Richard D. Schwartz Observatory will hold an open house at 8 p.m. to view Venus, Saturn, Pleiades and Orion Nebula. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5706 for more information.

The Current and The New York Times present News at Noon

News at Noon is a weekly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events. Each Wednesday discussion will be led by a faculty expert. Living in a democracy carries the responsibility of being an informed citizen. Join friends and faculty members on Wednesdays to consider how current events are presented in the media.

Schedule

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

CORRECTIONS

In the March 12 issue of *The Current*, the following correction needs to be made:

In the article titled "Featured films of UMSL's Foreign Language Week," the story was incorrectly credited to Rachael Yamnitz, staff writer for *The Current*. The article should have been attributed to Cate Marquis, A&E editor and science columnist for *The Current*.

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

Please let us know of any correc-

tions that need to be made and we will print them in next week's issue.

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

Presidential search committee visits campus

By PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

What does UM-St. Louis want to see in the university system's next president?

Curators Marion Cairns, David Wasinger and vice chair Cheryl Walker as well as student curator Maria Kerford held a discussion forum last Monday to answer that question. The Board of Curators is searching for the system's 22nd president. Outgoing President Elson Floyd accepted an offer to become president at Washington State University in December.

Also on hand to answer questions was Jerry Baker, of Baker &

Associates in Atlanta, the search firm hired to help with the presidential search. Baker has more than 30 years of experience dealing with executive searches and has conducted more than 800 searches, including 400 for academic and nonprofit clients.

"We're looking for the perfect human being," Baker said. He and university administrators developed a leadership statement, which lists the qualifications and characteristics they have agreed on that next president should have.

One characteristic that Student Government Association President Nick Koechig is looking for is if the next president would "keep the interest of students at heart in [their]

search for the next president," in terms of increased student enrollment.

Walker said she wants the next president to continue the momentum of Floyd's work with increasing enrollment, but said that task is not easy.

"You have to pare that down to the different academic degree offerings for each campus and which programs are in a position to expand today and which need more infrastructure to expand tomorrow," she said.

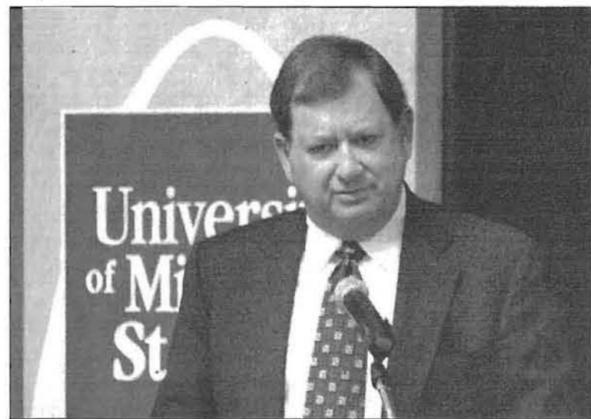
Mark Burkholder, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, asked what the curators meant when they said the president should have an appropriate academic background.

To Walker, it means "someone whose training represents a high level of academic[s]. A high level doesn't necessarily mean a termination degree, but it does mean someone who has excelled in their field of study." However, Cairns said she places a high emphasis on a Ph.D.

Baker said an academic background can be controversial in a presidential search.

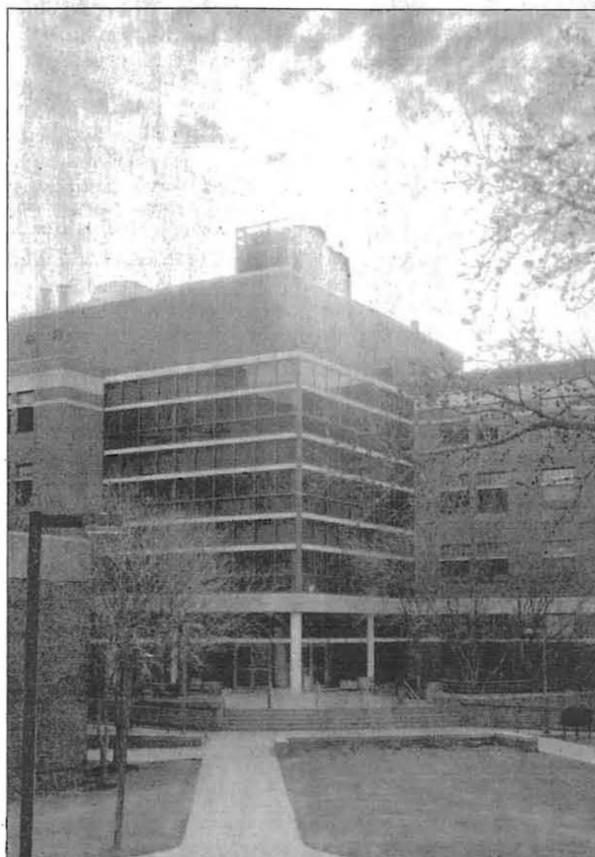
"They may not hold a doctorate [degree]," he said. In his last presidential searches at the University of North Carolina and the University of Georgia, Baker said neither president chosen had a doctoral degree.

See **PRESIDENT**, page 12



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Jerry Baker of Baker-Parker, Inc. has been hired to conduct the search for the university system's next president. Nominations for the next president can be made online at www.umsystem.edu/presidentialsearch.



Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

Benton-Stadler Hall would receive \$28.5 million of funding under Gov. Matt Blunt's MOHELA proposal. Missouri legislators are on spring break this week, so the vote on the MOHELA sale will be delayed.

MOHELA vote on hold until after spring recess

By JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Plans to sell \$350 million worth of student loans will be delayed until after the legislature's spring recess, according to sources within the UM System.

According to Scott Charton, director of media relations for the UM System, legislators would like to take time to review the legislation more in depth.

The legislation in question, proposed by Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt, would restore funding to several buildings originally excluded from the sale of the loans, held by the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority.

Included in these buildings is Benton-Stadler Hall on the UM-St. Louis campus. The building houses UM-St. Louis' science departments, including chemistry, biology, physics and psychology.

Benton-Stadler Hall had been removed from buildings that were to receive funding from the loan sale due to pressure from pro-life and anti-stem cell research groups, such as Missouri Right to Life. The groups have said the buildings would indi-

rectly fund embryonic stem cell research by potentially housing the research.

Under Blunt's proposal, Benton-Stadler would receive a full allocation of \$28.5 million. The money is needed, according to UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George, to renovate the building, including completely reworking the electrical systems.

"In general, the situation is very fluid," Charton said. "The parties are going to take the spring break to review the information."

Persons within the system remain optimistic about the proposal, Charton said, and are excited to see the outcome.

"The University of Missouri believes the capital project needs are great," Charton said. "Benton-Stadler has long been a priority."

Despite the delay in legislation, Student Government Association President Nick Koechig said he was happy to hear the news of Benton-Stadler's funding.

"I was very happy to hear that Benton-Stadler will receive a full allocation," Koechig said.

See **MOHELA VOTE**, page 14

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Must have valid Student ID and FDA approved eyewear. Level 1 beds only. See store for more details. Valid at participating locations only.

Etiquette Banquet

Wednesday, April 11, 2007
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Century Hall Room
UM-St. Louis Millennium Student Center

Who says you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ears?

Maria Everding, a nationally recognized etiquette consultant, will guide students through a four-course meal.

Tickets are:

- \$10.00 for students who are registered with Career Services
- \$20.00 for all other UM-St. Louis students

Visit Career Services to register by **Wednesday, April 4, 2007.**

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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Think safety this Spring Break!

The time for sun and fun is upon us once again, as spring break is just one week away.

Many UM-St. Louis students will head for warmer environs, trying to shake off the rust from a long, cold, at times sloppy, winter.

We are envious, for while many of you will be soaking up energizing sunrays, we will be stuck inside *The Current* offices putting together the annual Stagnant, our parody issue. However, for those of you heading to other locales, we have some advice.

First of all, have some fun. We all know how long and hard a slog the school year can be, and we also know everyone needs a break every now again. Spring break can be the antidote needed to make getting through the rest of the school year just a little easier.

We also would like to advise the noble professors of this fine institution to try and get away, as well. We

know students do not make it easy on you, and surely you need a chance to relax under a palm tree with a margarita with a little umbrella inside. Like students, it might be just what you need to recharge the batteries and come back bright eyed and bushy tailed.

There are some things to watch out for, especially if you are headed to the beach.

First of all, beware of sharks. If you happen to hear a cello playing low, ominous tones, it would be best to vacate the premises post haste. Also, if someone tells you you are "gonna need a bigger boat," you might want to make sure your floaty wings are inflated.

Also, to the ladies amongst UM-St. Louis' population, beware any bus that has any of these words in any order: girls, gone or wild. Guys, incase you have not watched Comedy Central at 2 a.m., there is a

new danger for you, as well. For some reason unknown to us, someone felt a good idea would be to create a "Guys Gone Wild" franchise. So just keep that in the back of your minds.

For those of you headed to Mexico, we hate to be the bearer of bad news, but there is a beast run wild down there. You may have heard rumors of this creature, known as the chupacabra, from his many appearances in the supermarket tabloids and the frequent specials about him on the National Geographic channel. All we are saying is, do not go out at night alone.

Otherwise, have at it folks. As professional students, we are all burdened with a lack of free time, stress and headaches.

While spring break offers a chance to unwind, we would like to take the time to ask everyone to be safe this spring vacation.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

SGA needs discussion, not an easy way out of meetings

To be lazy is one thing, to be detrimental is another.

This past Friday the SGA meeting was in good form. The regular run of elected students, one after another, told us what was on their particular agenda for the week.

The chambers had to listen to the 'Reports' from the various individuals and although some of the information was relevant to the entire campus, most of it wasn't.

The two issues that poked their heads out from under the thick brush of words and sentences were parking (big surprise) and pro-card use by student organizations.

In both instances there was some discussion coming from the assembly. Bryan Goers, student court chief justice, had to field several concerns over parking on south campus. Several representatives from different student groups voiced their concerns over the fact that faculty and staff can park anywhere, and students have to park in student parking.

This issue seems small, and through some discussion with the faculty senate probably could be resolved and the two representative bodies could come to an agreement.

But the small issue was getting a lot of feedback from the assembly that represents the students. Questions were being asked, and answers were being given. People were talking when called upon, and Goers was answering their concerns.

But then, Nick Koechig, SGA president, quelled the conversation by just telling the assembly that we could "talk about for this for hours" and instead of telling our elected student officials our



BY ADAM D. WISEMAN
Editor-in-Chief

problems that we should call or email Leo Gutierrez of parking and transportation. Koechig then shared the email and phone number of Mr. Gutierrez and told us to voice our concerns with him.

Why does the SGA President not feel it is his job to take care of student concerns? I did not see Koechig wielding a pen and writing down any of these concerns, in fact I don't know if Koechig even cares about the concerns raised in SGA meetings.

Why would our own elected student officials tell the students to go somewhere else? He was elected to represent the students on this campus. He should represent them and allow the conversation to continue and allow the students he represents to show their frustration and for him to act on them.

Later, but not too much later, discussion was being developed on the use of the procurement cards by student organizations. Pro-cards (the slang term) are used for purchasing items for student organizations and bring an ease to the groups that need items. In other words it makes purchasing faster and easier for supplies and giveaways.

In the middle of a line of questioning by concerned student representatives, David Dodd, student senate representative, motioned to close the floor for discussion. There was a quick second, then a quick call of members in favor, and a loud in unison "Aye," and the discussion was over.

Yet again, the discussion was over.

See DISCUSSION, page 13

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Coulter shows remaining homophobia

Recently, conservative mouthpiece Ann Coulter created a controversy with her comments regarding Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards.

While addressing a large crowd of conservatives, Coulter called Edwards a "faggot." The context was not so flattering for Coulter.

"I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate, John Edwards, but it turns out that you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot,' so I'm - so, kind of at an impasse, can't really talk about Edwards, so I think I'll just conclude here and take your questions," she said at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference.

After the comments, there was the usual round of condemnations, with everyone from members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, to Republican presidential candidates John McCain and Mitt Romney denouncing her statement.

While Coulter's statement alone was offensive enough, her defense of the use of "faggot" was even more reprehensible.

On Fox News' "Hannity & Colmes," Coulter defended the statement by saying the slur was not actually a slur, but a school yard taunt analogous with "wuss."

Right, a word that has historically been used to demean gay men is actually terminology for a weakling? When did this happen?

So what does this prove? It proves that Republicans are just as



BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Glen Beck calling Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks fat, you see a trend.

The Republican Party attempts to paint itself as the party of morals and conscience. They say their beliefs are rooted firmly in Christian teachings, yet they constantly show their ignorance with comments such as these.

This is not a sweeping judgment of Republicans. There are plenty of them out there who found Coulter's comments offensive and reprimanded her.

Republicans say the Democrats are filled with hate, that they go out of their way to attack and demean President George W. Bush. This is partly true. It is part of the joys of politics.

However, while the Democrats have called Bush a liar (he is), secretive (he is) and arrogant (three for three), they have never stooped to the level of lobbing petty comments like "faggot" at him.

In a culture that is supposed to be at least somewhat enlightened, isn't it time we lay off the gays and lesbians?

"Faggot" to that population is as offensive as "nigger" is to African Americans or "spic," is to Hispanics.

If Ms. Coulter's childish comment accomplished anything, it's that we all still have a long way to go in our tolerance.

We have taken strides, good ones, in civil and women's rights, isn't it time we extended gays and lesbians the same courtesy?

big of hypocrites as Democrats (and the Democrats are, make no mistake about it).

However, coming from one of the most popular voices of the "moral" political party, this shows that Republicans still have a long way to go in their campaign of tolerance.

The Republicans have actively been trying to recruit blacks, Hispanics and other minorities to come to their party. However, how are minorities supposed to embrace a party that bashes other minorities? Unfortunately for Republicans, this is just another mistake in a long line of offensive comments (once again, the Democrats have their own skeletons in the closet, but not quite on this level).

If you look at some of the other comments, like Rush Limbaugh's statements about Parkinson's Disease stricken actor Michael J. Fox, Michael Savage's assertion that anyone who speaks out against the war in Iraq is treasonous and

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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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What's your opinion?

- How do you feel about the topics we've covered?
 - Discussion at SGA meetings
 - Ann Coulter
 - Global Warming
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UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Who would you like to be our next UM System President?



Jeanne Patrick
Senior
Secondary Education

"Bozo the Clown, its all a big circus anyway."



David Castro
Graduate Student
Chemistry

"Sam 'Ace' Rothstein, Robert DeNiro's character in Casino because he was in control of a whole casino, he could handle the UM System."



Joy Mukwada
Senior
Bio-Chemistry

"Lil John, because he would make the schools crunk."



Ted Gatlin Jr.
Junior
Political Science

"Chris Rock, because he knows issues and knows how to make people laugh."



Nicole Byerley
Graduate Student
Pre-Medicine

"We shouldn't have a president, we should just be anarchists."

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Hip-hop artists live it speak it and share it...with us

What do you think of hip-hop? What is its current state in your mind? Are you one to believe that its impact is valid and you can see glimpses of its global influence everywhere? Or are you one to dislike it because of misogynist messages sent by many hip-hop artists?

When you think of hip-hop, do you think of young men with fetish for violence, half-naked or sometimes fully nude women, drugs, money and flamboyant lifestyles? Do these crazed men appear to be lifeless, full of hatred or angry?

Perhaps these details are a correct reflection of the current class of hip-hopsters, or perhaps not is what one might say, believing that hip-hop encompasses more than negativity and that the men who portray these images in the media are simply a reflection of society.

Regardless, it makes for a good conversation. Speaking of conversation, let us discuss a conversation, that took place, but normally does not take place. This sounds strange, I suppose.

How does something take place, but normally not take place? Well, it is common for conversation about the negativ-



BY MYRON MCNEILL
Opinions Editor

ity of hip-hop to occur.

Everyone has seen it. Rapper is slain! Rapper is imprisoned! Hip-hop influences kids to be violent! Women are viewed as sex objects in hip-hop videos! These are usual headlines many associate with hip-hop, and are mostly negative.

There was, however, a conversation that took place about hip-hop that was not negative. A story highlighted a hip-hop forum that sought to give advice about finances to minorities or anyone in the vicinity on the front page of "USA Today" from March 9.

The forum featured several artists, executives and others in the industry who talked about their financial woes, hardships and learning experiences.

It was a good article and I was glad to hear something good for a change, especially since the newest craze in hip-hop is "beef," and everyone wants to discuss it, market and sell it.

I was drawn specifically to a comment made by none other than Russell Simmons.

See HIP-HOP, page 14

SCIENCE COLUMN

Global warming faces ever-shifting arguments against it

What would it take to convince some people of the realities of global warming?

Back in the '70s, scientists started finding evidence that the average temperature of the planet was changing. Most of the evidence suggested the world was getting warmer but fluctuating temperatures made the picture unclear. Some people, mostly non-scientists, argued for the opposite conclusion, that fluctuating temperatures might instead mean the planet was headed for another Ice Age. They called for more data to prove it was global warming.

Scientific data continued to accumulate and by the '90s, the evidence made it pretty clear that the globe was warming. Now the argument against the growing scientific evidence became that while the planet might be getting warmer, it might be a natural phenomenon, and that there was no reason to think man's activities were the cause. Again, opponents of the idea of global warming called for more data, this time to prove

mankind was the primary cause.

With the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's survey of the scientific evidence of global warming early this year, we now have not only sufficient data that global warming is happening but that the most likely cause is human activity. How do global warming doubters respond?

They now say global warming is a "hoax," and that essentially all scientists are lying about it.

Does it seem reasonable that there is a wide-spread conspiracy among scientists to manufacture false data on global warming? That all scientists are liars?

One wonders how many of those who consistently resist the facts on global warming maintain the same suspicion on other scientific research.



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Is cancer a hoax? Is your doctor just looking for money if he gives you that diagnosis? Are you willing to take that chance?

Up to recently, the arguments against global warming have sounded like the arguments of tobacco companies about cigarettes and cancer, as several people have pointed out. The arguments against the realities of global warming often originated in "think tanks" funded by oil and other energy companies whose profits would be negatively impacted if we try to reduce greenhouse gases contributing to global warming. But the "hoax" idea goes beyond what even the tobacco companies claimed.

If coal and oil industry-back groups say global warming is a

"hoax," are we expected to believe them? Ironically, one of the arguments of the "hoax" is that scientists stand to profit if they "convince us that global warming is real." On the other hand, we should not suspect the motives of oil and coal companies.

There are a number of problems with the "hoax" idea but a big one is the assertion that scientists are lying about global warming because they will profit from it. One major flaw with that idea: whether scientists say global warming is happening or not, they still get paid. There is no shortage of scientific work, and the only risk is if they were to, say, falsify data.

Some global warming opponents argue that government pressures scientists to say global warming is real. The evidence points to the opposite: several government scientists have resigned due to administration pressure to take out or dilute findings pointing to global warming.

See WARMING, page 13

STAFF VIEWPOINT

A+B= A Well Rounded Person

It is apparent to me that people often do not want to be accountable for anything. I work at a food establishment, which I will not name out of respect to my bosses.

If a person shows up late, it is the ride's fault, or traffic even though home is 10 minutes from the establishment, or the

bus driver was being "crazy." Forget that if you take an earlier bus, or leave with 20 minutes to spare instead of 11 minutes, you probably would have been on time.

My favorite is when people just decide that working is applicable only when they feel like it. So if a customer is unpleasant then it is ok to just leave on break and never return. Or not show up at all when scheduled.

Obligations become optional, and the other people remaining are left holding the bag, making up for the fact that one employee decided "Me. I don't care. It's just a job."

It is NOT just a job! It is a responsibility that people take when they decide to join the workforce. People like to pretend that just because they are in high school or under the age of 28, they are protected from the "real world" and the experience of living.

The "real world" is not some fictitious place that magically appears when people decide they are "adults." Participating in responsible actions such as jobs, college and relationships puts people into the "real world."

The real world happens all the time. Acting like the real world is elu-

sive and "yet to come" is hiding from the real world.

As mentioned, college is a real world situation. This means that an integral part of the college experience should be learning to be accountable for the actions you as a student take.

If some students stay up partying with friends and oversleep, missing class on a regular basis, then it should be of no surprise that their grades suffer. If studying takes a backseat to recreational activities, then a lowered GPA should come as no real surprise.

Life takes effort. People are responsible for their own actions or inactions. Things cannot always be someone else's fault.

People are not made of Teflon. Being an adult is more about responsibility and experience rather than age. The biggest aspect of responsibility is being accountable for the decisions made. Experience is living and gaining knowledge.

The most useful knowledge is knowing yourself. Knowing your own limitations is important for a balanced life, especially in college. Students can not study all the time, but they also can not never study.

Anyone who has ever tried to use a scale in a science lab knows that balance takes effort. It is not easy or simple, but if life were easy it would not culminate in death.

So, suck it up, own up to mistakes or miscues and learn from them. That is what they are there for. Life is a learning experience, so embrace it.



By RACHAEL YAMNITZ
Staff Writer

STAFF VIEWPOINT

America's obsession with Anna Nicole Smith is gross

What the hell is going on? Has this country's entertainment value dropped so low that anyone can get a movie made about them?

For those of you who have not heard, there will be a movie about the life of Anna Nicole Smith that will possibly be filmed and released for TV as early as June. The movie might even make it to theaters.

There are already blogs where people are discussing who should play Smith in the movie. I saw one blog that said Tori Spelling should play the role and another one suggested Charlize Theron. It does not matter to me who plays Smith in the movie I just know I will not watch it. In fact, I will not even waste my money on the bootleg copy.

I tried to let her rest in peace, but maybe I was the only one.

I did not think Smith's life was one of great accomplishments, but I guess

that is a matter of perception.

There is no doubt that Smith's is one of the hottest stories out there right now, and apparently, she will continue to be in the spotlight for at least a few more months.

Are we not still at war? I am only asking because I need to find a new news medium to watch because according to CNN, the stories about Smith are still considered "breaking news."

I haven't spoken to a few people about Smith and the news coverage about her death, and unfortunately I have heard the same thing from several different people. Could it be that Smith was viewed as an American sex symbol and her death is overstated



By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

because she was another "blonde-haired, white woman?" I really hope that is not the case.

Smith died over a month ago, but it does not seem like it because of all the new stories that are popping up daily concerning her daughter and possible fathers.

Smith's death seems more like a new prime time drama.

Is that why this is still the most gripping story of the year? Is Smith's saga the greatest of our time? Will we tell our children and grandchildren the great story of Anna Nicole Smith?

I sure hope not. In fact, I hope that something hap-

pens this week to get news coverage off of Smith. I do not want anyone else to die or anything major like that to happen, but am I the only one who is tired of hearing about little baby Dannielynn and who her father may be?

How many children in this country do not know who their fathers are? How many adults? I know there is more than one. Right now Dannielynn seems to be the most important.

I thought this would be over by now, but I was wrong.

I thought I would be able to ignore it, but Smith is everywhere. I hope that Smith's family and friends are able to get the custody issues sorted out and I hope that Dannielynn grows up happy and healthy.

With that aside, I hope that news coverage actually goes back to covering news and not just another "blonde-haired, white woman."

2007
May
Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 12
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

- 10 A.M. - College of Nursing
- UMSLWU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- Bachelor of General Studies
- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
- UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
- Master's in Gerontology
- Master's in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Optometry
(BLANCHE M. TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER)

SUNDAY, MAY 13
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

- 2 P.M. - College of Education
- 6 P.M. - College of Business Administration

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UMSL Celebrates Women's History

Trailblazer ceremony honors seven women 'moving history forward'

BY AMY RECKTENWALD

Features Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Office of Equal Opportunity celebrated Women's History Month on Tuesday, March 13, with the naming of the 2007 Trailblazers.

This year's theme was "Generations of Women Moving History Forward." The celebration started with a performance by professional storyteller Karen Young.

Young's performance told the tales of generations of women in history that faced the issue of women's suffrage. Her presentation quoted from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat in 1920: "That voice has been costly, prize it."

Olivia Ayes, graduate student in creative writing, was the first Trailblazer presented. She is a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Life and involved in event programming for the Women's Resource center.

In her speech, she said she was "privileged to have rights previous generations haven't." She continued to say that while there is a perception of her generation being apathetic to issues, there are still enough in her generation to question them.

Ann Chisholm, graduate student in social work was the second student Trailblazer. She serves on the student senate and is co-chair of the committee on Student Affairs.

She found the earlier storytelling presentation touching and said, "I am privileged to reap the benefits of many generations who have gone ahead." She encouraged the audience by saying, "We all have to seize opportunities."

Tracey E. Hart, the first female to become president of a major general contracting company in St. Louis, was the third Trailblazer to be honored.

She has been named one of the 25 Most Influential Business Women in St. Louis. She is the president of Tarlton Corporation and established the Tarlton Corporation Endowment at UM St. Louis. Her speech spoke of people who have an open mind to move forward.

"While moving history forward seems daunting, it's one step at a time," she said.

Lynda Lieberman, senior manager at UHY advisors. UM-St. Louis alumna and board member of the St. Louis chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth, was the next Trailblazer recognized.

She said when she first entered the work force, she thought she had to act like a man.

"It's ok to act like a woman. We can just be ourselves," she said.

Nancy Magnuson, assistant vice provost for Student Affairs, was the fifth Trailblazer named. Her work includes University Health, Wellness & Counseling Services.

She said that she learned these three things: "Service to others, embrace



Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

Storyteller Karen Young was the guest speaker at the 2007 Trailblazers Ceremony.

change and never give up."

Orinthia Montague, associate vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, was presented next. She expressed her thanks to her staff and other supporters.

Nanora Sweet, associate professor of English and director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies from 1997 to 2000, was the final Trailblazer announced.

According to Cynthia Wells, administrative assistant for the OEO, nominations for Trailblazers are accepted from

the whole campus. From there, the selection committee reviews the nominations and makes their selections.

"This year, we had the most nominations we've ever had," Wells said. The nominations totaled 42.

The ceremony recognizes women's achievements, both past and present. Many of this year's Trailblazers expressed that they felt humbled and surprised at their honor.

"I was really surprised, actually, and definitely honored to be chosen along with such admirable and outstanding

2007 Trailblazer Recipients

- Olivia Ayes, graduate student in creative writing.
- Ann Chisholm, graduate student in social work.
- Tracy E. Hart, president of Tarlton Corporation.
- Lynda L. Lieberman, a senior manager at UHY Advisors.
- Nancy M. Magnuson, associate vice provost for student affairs.
- Orinthia T. Montague, associate vice provost for student affairs.
- Nanora L. Sweet, associate professor of English at UMSL.

women," said Ayes.

"I truly don't believe I've moved history forward as an individual. I certainly haven't impacted lives or changed existing policies in ways that has affected society, which would then culminate in changing history. But I do believe that my path in life will reflect my ideals," she said.

Chisholm expressed similar feelings. "I am so honored, and I feel so humbled," she said. She said when she read about some of the other awardees, she felt "humbled by the company I'm in."

She admitted, however, that she has formed a pathway for non-traditional students, having started college after four of her five children had graduated from college. She said it was inspiring for others to see a non-traditional student.

"It helps people dream about what they can do," Chisholm said.

Ayes said her advice to women is "to continue being empowered and informed so that we can, individually and collectively, overcome societal constraints."

According to Chisholm, "Moving things forward seems daunting, but people who want to make the most of themselves will try anyway. Sometimes, obstacles are the greatest opportunities."

'Women on the Move' exhibit soars above tradition and prejudice

BY MABEL SUEN

Assistant Copy Editor

Over 100 visitors attended the opening of Gallery Visio's fifth annual "Women on the Move" exhibit in honor of Women's History Month.

This display of artwork by UM-St. Louis women students, staff and alumni boasted the largest turnout in the history of the event, said exhibit curator Annette Crymes, senior, art.

"There is a true artistic talent which exists within the UMSL community," Crymes said. "We want to support the arts and especially want to support our emerging artists."

A variety of pieces filled the gallery space, ranging from handcrafted elephant dung baskets and a colored wood etching to charcoal drawings and a larger than life manipulated photograph of a nude woman, created to question concepts of beauty.

Student pieces were juried by Mallarie Zimmer, founder and executive director of Venus Envy, and Katherine Poss, adjunct professor at Washington University and member of Venus Envy.

In addition, Kathleen Butterly Nigro, lecturer for the Institute for Women's and Genders Studies, awarded Lebecca Peterson, senior, painting, with the Ruth Butterly Emerging Artist Award.

Nigro named the award after her mother, who always encouraged her to appreciate the arts.

"This is just a coincidence, but the name of the painting is called 'Cleo,' a chair that my mother owns," Peterson said. "I thought it was interesting that both of us honored our mothers."

"Women on the Move" also featured a mixed media piece from guest artist Gina Alvarez, of the Fort Gondo



Matthew Hill • Staff Photographer

"Women On The Move" is an annual UMSL event now in its fifth year. The exhibit includes includes faculty, staff, alumni and student work from women artists on campus. The exhibition will be running through April 13 at Gallery Visio in the MSC.

Compound for the Arts, and a Kate Chopin corner with arrangements and notes by Nigro.

According to Nigro, the corner has been a part of the exhibit for three years. The exhibit is dedicated to a different celebrated St. Louis woman every year, and showcases artifacts, documents, traditions and sometimes clothing.

Nigro, who is president of the Kate Chopin Society, said she aimed to showcase some aspect of feminist novelist Chopin besides her masterwork, "The Awakening."

Gallery manager Pat Johnson said she hopes to break tradition by expanding "Women on the Move" to include work from male artists next year.

Male artists will have the opportuni-

ty to submit work displaying perceptions of women in a contemporary setting in order to create a dialogue.

"I think it's important that we don't focus on the gender issue, but rather on the fact that people who have been reluctant to perceive themselves as artists have an opportunity to showcase their talent," Nigro said.

"I want to encourage the UMSL

community to go and view the exhibit because it enhances our self image as being a multi-faceted, talented community," she said.

"UMSL Women on the Move 2007," on display until April 13, is free and open to the public. Gallery Visio hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Women's roles in religion

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN

Managing Editor

Are interpretations of sexuality and gender differences creating a struggle for women's equality in religious roles?

"Women and Religion," part of the "Conversations and Controversy" series sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center, was held last Tuesday in room 313 of the Millennium Student Center at 1 p.m.

The event was a conversation with religious leaders from the Catholic, Lutheran and Muslim faiths during which the leaders discussed the role of women in their religion.

M. Waheed Rana, professor of the Center for Anatomical Science and Education at St. Louis University's School of Medicine, said Muslims fol-

low the scripture of the Koran "without any question."

However, he said the equality of the genders in the Islamic religion is not represented properly by what is seen on television. "Whatever they show you on TV is totally cultural," he said.

Rana said, according to the Koran, all mankind needs to equally be conscious of their "lord, be conscious of Allah," and demand their rights from one another. He said women who are seen being mistreated in the public eye are not aware of their rights.

"These people doing these things don't let the women know what their rights are," he said.

According to Rana, the treatment of women was that of equality when he was growing up in India.

"The women were all the same," he

said, which came from local traditions. Although the Muslim cultures differ greatly in their followers' treatment of women, he said, "the people take these [traditions] very rigidly."

"The local traditions sometimes overshadow the religious factors," Rana said.

Local traditions and interpretations of scripture have also plagued the roles of women in the Catholic and Lutheran religions. "It's not easy, God speaks through scriptures and also through community," said Rev. Karen Scherer of Unity Lutheran Church in Bel-Nor.

Scherer said interpretations can "all get mixed up" and from a Lutheran perspective, the scriptures of the Bible are not taken literally.

"We do not interpret it literally. We interpret it culturally," she said.

How barriers can be broken and the problems with cultural interpretations

Teresa Roberson-Mullins, Chaplain of Pastoral Care for SSM DePaul Heath Center in Bridgeton, said the Catholic theory of "in persona Christi" which teaches "that Christ is the groom and the church is his bride" is a stumbling block for women's roles in her religion.

"This is where the church struggles. Do we take this literally or figuratively?" Roberson-Mullins said. "If we do [take it literally], does that mean the congregation should be all women?"

Roberson-Mullins said new Catholic teachings on the theology of the body will help followers understand how to interpret the scriptures through discussion of gender differences and sexuality.

"We've got to come out of the closet and admit that we are sexual beings," she said.

"Dealing with sexuality, we don't

know what to do with that," Scherer said. When men and women are around each other, she said, "there is that desire to touch one another," it can take the focus off prayer.

Desire and loss of focus on prayer accounts for the only time a woman cannot perform a religious rite in Islam. Rana said when men are present during a prayer, a woman should not lead it.

"When [a man is] standing in the front, the woman would bend over and this will distract [him]," he said.

Aside from this one condition, Rana said "women can excel anywhere they want" in Islamic religious responsibilities, careers and life in general.

Roberson-Mullins said women's roles in religions can become "unstuck" if we simply learn from each other's religions and cultures.

TOP 10

Influential Women in History

1. Queen Elizabeth I of England (1603) - Sometimes referred to as The Virgin Queen.
2. Rosa Parks (2005) - U.S. Congress referred to her as "Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement."
3. Sappho of Lesbos (570 BC) - Ancient Greek lyric poet.
4. Susan B. Anthony (1906) - Helped secure women's suffrage in the United States.
5. Pocahontas (1617) - Native American who became a celebrity in London after marrying Englishman John Rolfe.
6. Cleopatra (30 BC) - Co-ruler of Egypt with her father.
7. Empress Tz'u-hsi of China (1908) - Ruled over China for 47 years.
8. Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-?) - Served 25 years on the US Supreme Court.
9. Mirabai (1547) - Famous Hindu mystical poetess.
10. Isabella I of Castile and Aragon (1504) - Founded Spain.

For more about these women and others, visit www.about.com.

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:

To talk about Women's History Month go online thecurrentonline.com/messageboard/ or e-mail us thecurrent@umsl.edu

Institute of Women and Gender Studies celebrates women's history through arts

By AMY RECKTENWALD
Features Editor

"Art matters. It enriches our lives and gives it pleasure, but opens our eyes," said Kathy Gentile, director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

As part of the celebration of Women's History Month, the IWGS presented a four part presentation of "The Art of Women's History" on March 14 in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center.

The first presentation was of general studio art by Sharon Callner, affiliate assistant professor of art and art history.

Callner's display included drawings, posters and a display of costumed dolls. She commented on the history of dolls, which have been a young girl's way of playing and caring for others until recently.

Callner said, "It's not about caring about someone anymore. Now it's about how you look."

Today's dolls, such as Bratz and MyScene, focus on being sexy and good looking.

According to Callner, these dolls are "stealing childhood" from little girls.

She said that dolls absolutely reflect how women are viewed in society. With companies catering to young girls, including making thongs for four year olds, society is starting to sexualize girls at younger and younger ages.

To express how she feels about the sexualization of young girls, she designed doll costuming to represent what society is doing to young children.

Selecting Terry Lee dolls from the 1950's, which have chubby faces and rounded bodies modeled after a four-year-old girl, sexualized costumes were designed to reflect how modern women and children are dressed and viewed.

Selections of costumes included pasties, pointed cone bras, garters, fishnet hose and other provocative and revealing garments.

Callner said when the dolls are displayed, parents are horrified.



Carrie Fasiska • Assistant Photo Editor

Julianne Wise, sophomore, graphic design, looks through information about 'Witness' by Sharon Callner during 'The Art of Women's History at UMSL' March 14. The program featured poems by Curator Cheryl Walker, videos by filmmaker Jill Evans Petzell, and song by Barbara Harbach.

However, the kids want one. "Historically, dolls have undergone a metamorphosis," said Gentile. She felt the presentation of the arts involved the audience more than a straight historical presentation would have.

"Art can more directly point to historical and political issues. It brings our attention to issues in illuminating ways," she said.

Poetry

"In my view, women can find inspiration in poetry. Hearing about other women, they can find encouragement. They find inspiration," said Cheryl Walker, poetess and member of the Board of Curators.

Walker presented her poetry during the second hour of the "Art of Women's History" program.

Her readings included "The Song of My Psalm," "I am We," "The

Power of a Praying Woman," "We Can't Attack the Fruit Until We Address the Root," "1959," "God Doesn't Give us Any More Than We Can Handle," "AntiCauslessFallenLeadership Blues," "She is Music," "I Wanna Stay Up All Night Long," "Can I?" and "i wanna b."

Left Bank Books carries anthologies containing Walker's poetry, selling "Break Word With the World," "St. Louis Muse" and "Drumvoices Review." "Music Caprice and Other Poetic Strategies" is available from Red Hen Press.

Along with her readings, Walker discussed how she developed each of the poems. Her family has numerous musicians, including her father, so she grew up surrounded by music. The musical background was reflected in her poetry.

Kathy Gentile, director of UM-St. Louis' IWGS said that Walker was

suggested to her because she uses her family and her own life and transforms it into poetry. Gentile wanted the presentation to show "how others take lives and transform it into art."

According to Walker, poetry has an element of truth to it because a poet tries to be creative without being too realistic. She said she finds inspiration for her poetry in music and current events.

"I find liberation in it, purging negative thoughts. It's very cleansing," Walker said. She said that it also allows others to find connectedness and inspiration from the lives of people.

"We are all connected. What I do in life impacts you," Walker said. "We as humans sometimes forget the connectedness between us."

She was raised in a background where testimonies were shared at her grandmother's church, allowing people to share their experiences which

might uplift or connect someone else in the congregation.

"That spiritual connectedness continues in the poetry," she said.

Film

"If you look back at the earliest art, it is also history," said Kathy Gentile. She referenced cave paintings found in France. "Originally, art was linked to history," she said.

The art of filmmaking is no less linked to history, especially the documentaries created by Jill Evans Petzell, four-time Emmy award-winning filmmaker and writer.

Petzall presented two of her short documentaries for the third segment of the "Art of Women's History Program:" "Veronica's Story" and "Dedication."

According to Gentile, the films were selected from all Petzell's works because they were short and would allow Petzell the time to comment afterwards.

"Veronica's Story" was taken from a story written by an 11-year-old girl who had been sexually abused. The script was the girl's actual writing, chronicling the events of her abuse.

Five minutes in length, the script was read in two voices, layered against each other so that the sound could be both inflamed and impassive.

"Dedication" was based on a poem written by Petzell, developed into a six minute video of women's efforts to heal the world.

During the presentation, Petzell said, "Popular documentaries fail to remind viewers that what is on the screen is an artifice."

Even documentaries based off historical events are influenced by a particular viewpoint, as the script, scenes and cuts are all selected and presented.

Despite the reminder that even documentaries are also an art, Petzell's work is used at symposiums, counseling services and other venues.

Poetry reading features work from Cherry Pie Press

By ANDREW TONNER

Staff Writer

Various women poets and authors from Cherry Pie Press, an independent series of chapbooks, poetry reviews and mystery reviews, participated in a poetry reading titled "Sweeter than Cherries (and a Little Sour too)."

Sponsored by PRIZM, UM-St. Louis' Queer-Straight Student Alliance and the Institute for Women & Gender Studies, the event took place on March 15 at 3 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall.

The presenting readers shared many of their more emotional and entertaining pieces, as well as a few that expressed lesbian/bisexual ideas, thoughts and feelings.

The participating authors were Colleen-McKee, Helen Eisen, Nanora Sweet and Martha Ficklen. The poetry reading was set up and managed by McKee and Kathleen Nigro.

Many of the readings that were selected portrayed personal views, experiences and thoughts from the standpoint of a lesbian or a bisexual woman living and growing up.

Among these particular pieces, performers also chose to read other pieces of their own work, including stories and poetry that ranged from lighthearted and entertaining to dark and deeply emotional.

Each of these authors also had their own distinct style in how they wrote and presented their work to the listening audience.

The first reader to speak for "Sweeter than Cherries (and a Little Sour too)" was Helen Eisen. She began with a poem called "Failure is Impossible," which was dedicated to Women's History Month, and to Susan B. Anthony in particular.

Another poem she chose to read was "New York, 1971," which was written as a coming out poem. Eisen read another poem that served as the prequel to this one.

see ART, page 12

see WOMEN'S POETRY, page 12

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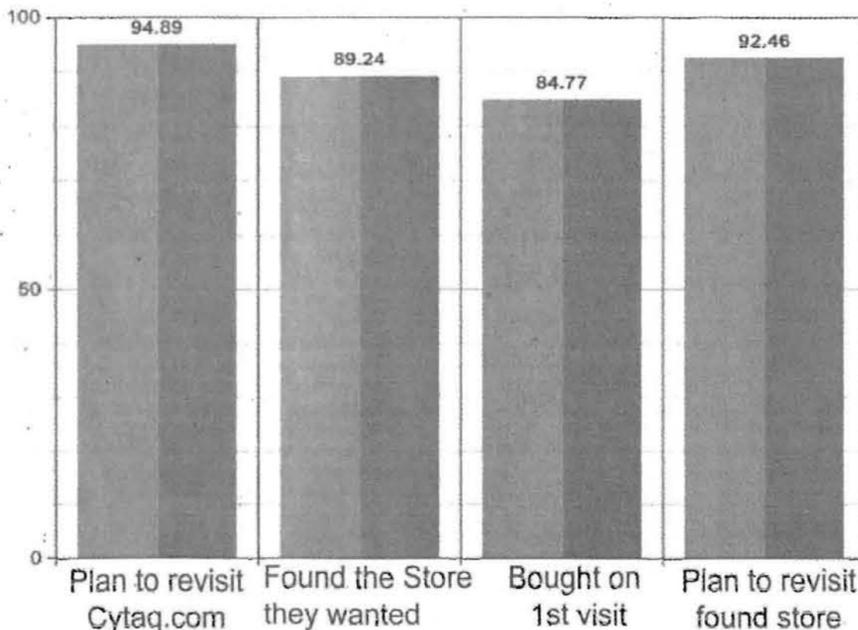
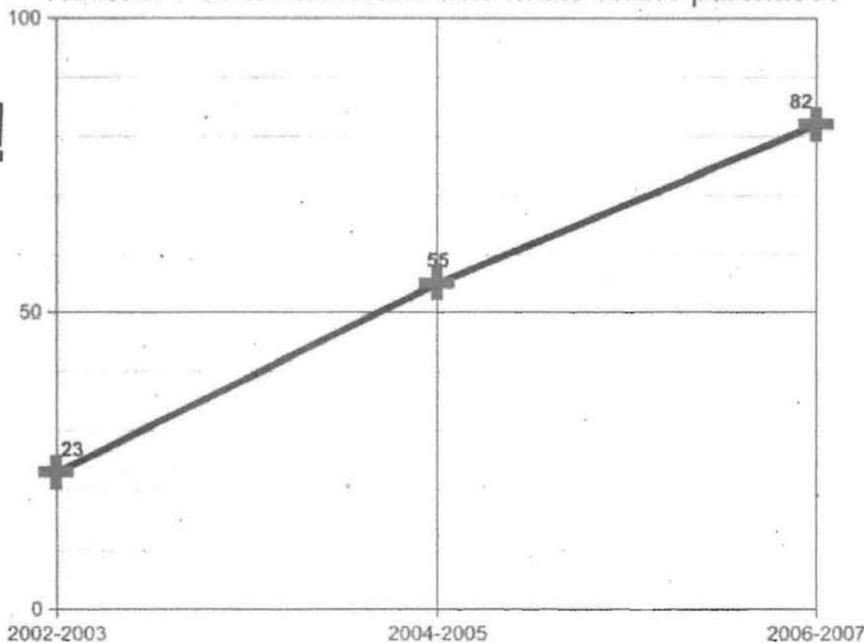
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A&E

CONCERT PREVIEW

Great Big Sea debuts at Touhill for first STL show

By STEPHANIE CLINES

Staff Writer

Great Big Sea is scheduled to perform at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on March 21 at 8 p.m. This will be their first-ever performance in St. Louis.

Great Big Sea is a folk-rock band from the Canadian island of Newfoundland. They have been nominated for several Junos, which are considered the Canadian Grammys.

The band will be performing music from their eighth album, "The Hard

and The Easy." The 12 track CD is a compilation of traditional folk music. The band normally likes to create an album with their original music and some traditional folk music, the music they grew up with.

On this album, listen for instruments like the mandolin, bodhran, fiddle and concertina. They combine these instruments with their vocals to create their own unique sound that has earned them a fan-base since their self-titled debut album in 1993.

Sean McCann, Bob Hallett and Alan Doyle met in their hometown of St. John's when they were in high

school and have been performing together for more than 13 years.

"This is actually our fourteenth year," said Hallett, in a phone interview with *The Current*.

Hallett describes their music, which is referred to as folk-rock, as a mixture of pop music and traditional folk music. He says as a child, he grew up listening to the music of his ancestors. People would come to his house and sing music that was more than 400 years old.

See GREAT BIG SEA, page 9



Sean McCann, Bob Hallett and Alan Doyle of Great Big Sea will perform at the PAC Wednesday, March 21 at 8 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Sonic Entertainment

AT THE TOUHILL

ALEXANDRA BALLET COMES TO TOUHILL



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Kotschei, *The Immortal*, played by Sean Strycker, sentences Prince Ivan to be turned into stone during the Alexandra Ballet production of *'The Firebird.'* *'The Firebird'* played at The Touhill on March 17 and 18.

'Firebird' lacks good choreography, timeless costuming

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor

The Alexandra Ballet, a Chesterfield-based school of ballet, performed to a rather small audience last Saturday at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The performance was Igor Stravinsky's "The Firebird," a less traditional ballet, as well as a handful of shorter dances such as a scene from "Napoli," "de l'innocence" and a dance to the "Moldavian Suite."

The three nonheadlining dances were choreographed well enough, but the dancers seemed a tiny bit stiff and in effect lacking that polished grace which is most admired in a good ballet.

"The Firebird," however, was performed gracefully by the leads, with some of the younger, perhaps more inexperienced, dancers lacking sync and flowing grace.

"The Firebird" is a story of a young prince named Ivan, who manages to catch a firebird in an enchanted garden. The firebird fights furiously to be set free, and offers Prince Ivan a red feather for him to use if ever he needed her aid.

The enchanted garden belongs to an immortal tyrant, who has captured a number of princesses, and holds them captive, letting them only out into the garden for a brief time.

When the princesses enter the garden and see the prince, one of them falls in love with him, and the prince falls in love with her in return. The tyrant, named Kotschei, enters the gar-

den, catches Ivan, and then sentences him to be turned into stone.

Ivan reaches for the feather and instantly the firebird appears, hypnotizing Kotschei's gang, and weakening Kotschei himself. Ivan, poking around the garden, finds the egg in which Kotschei's soul is in and crushes it, killing Kotschei. The princess and Ivan marry and live happily ever after.

If it sounds short and relatively uncomplicated, you're correct. This specific version by the Alexandra Ballet took only 36 minutes to perform.

The other suites in the program were about 10 to 20 minutes in length maximum. The evening's performance was simply a hodge-podge of short pieces thrown together into one night.

"The Firebird" was the headlining show, and was probably the most well-polished. The set was beautifully made, with the forest resembling a watercolor painting of a wooded scene. The set was simple, with only

the backdrop and a ramp with scattered "rocks," but made well for such a crowded stage ballet.

The costumes in "The Firebird" were a touch too modern for me. When Kotschei's army came out, it looked as if they had bicycle garland attached to their arms, and even the Firebird's costume had the same neo-sparkly-gift-ribbon appeal to it.

The princesses' dresses were simple, white and long. They flowed gracefully and balanced the young dancers' lack of sync. The male's costumes were typical of male ballet costuming, a jacket and those tight white or skin-toned pants which show every bump and muscle.

Dancing by the leads was well done on a whole, with the exception of the princess, whose part did not seem well choreographed.

See FIREBIRD BALLET, page 9

CONCERT REVIEW

Against Me! plays perfectly, but lacks push at Creepy Crawl

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor

The southern sounds of punk rock band Against Me! rocked the Creepy Crawl on the night of March 12.

Doors opened at 7 p.m., and fans stacked themselves, along the sidewalk in front of the cramped Creepy Crawl to listen to the Florida band known for its ballad-like political tunes, incredible sound, and genuine interaction with fans.

Against Me! played last in a set of three bands that are together for the entire tour. The show opened with Fake Problems, an indie/rock band from Naples, Fla. Fake Problems' southern-style punk rock was a little rough next to the refined thrash of Against Me!, and struggled to get the

crowd's attention (as goes with most first bands at a headlining concert).

The Riverboat Gamblers, a punk rock group from Austin, Texas, was the second band on stage.

The band had the energy, and the music did not sound bad.

Lyrical, however, the songs played were extremely repetitive, and lacked ingenuity. The lead singer of The Gamblers worked the crowd by walking all over the bars and rails around the Creepy Crawl, and talked to the crowd in between songs, raising the excitement for Against Me!.

Against Me! opened their set with the song "Pints of Guinness Make You Strong," a song about an Irish husband who died on St. Patrick's Day, and the effects on his wife. This song was a power-point in the arsenal that Against Me! had chosen for this show—the perfect jumping off point. The song brought the crowd into a fist-pumping frenzy, and was performed perfectly.

Yet it seems that when Against Me!



Tom Bremer • Staff Writer

One pawnbroker untangles umpteen wart hogs, because one obese dwarf quite comfort

jumped off with "Pints of Guinness Make You Strong" they fell, and fell quickly.

The remaining songs lacked excitement, and when they played

"Sink Florida Sink," another fan-favorite, the result was the laziest sing-along song I have ever heard.

See AGAINST ME, page 12

A&E ON CAMPUS

Celtic band hits all the right notes... and then some

By RACHAEL YAMNITZ

Staff Writer

There was no luck of the Irish needed on Saturday night, as the Pierre Schryer Quartet performed at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater in the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The Canadian Quartet gave a rousing performance, lasting about three hours. The members of the group are acclaimed fiddler Pierre Schryer, pianist Julie Schryer, piper Pat O'Gorman and guitarist Ian Clark.

The performance was sponsored by the Smurfit-Stone Corporation Endowed Professorship in Irish Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Center for International Studies.

UM-St. Louis music professor Dr. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin acted as emcee, beginning with a short explanation on the history of Irish music in North America.

Then, Dr. Ó hAllmhuráin handed the stage over to the performers as fiddler Pierre Schryer and piper Pat O'Gorman made their entrance from the rear of the auditorium.

They filled the cozy theater with sound as they walked up to the stage and joined the other two members Julie Schryer and Ian Clark there.

The band mixed traditional Irish music with music from Scotland, as well as music with French Canadian roots. Not only were the four talented musicians, they were also skilled performers.

The quartet's performance was enriched by the skillful use of visual lighting effects to highlight the moods of particular reels, jigs or airs. Colors would blend seamlessly as the music flowed from one song to another. If a slower lament was being played, the stage was backlit with soft blue light which ultimately added to the overall effect.

The lighting, however, only highlighted an amazing performance by the quartet. The four seemed well at ease with each other, as well as with the audience, although cohesiveness could be expected considering that fiddler Pierre Schryer and pianist Julie Schryer are siblings.

Piper Pat O'Gorman, who was seemingly the most versatile of the group, played a host of instruments and played host to the audience. O'Gorman's laid-back attitude and joking manner continued to keep things light and fun like the music of the evening.

One major strength of the performance was that the performers did not contain themselves to the music of a specific area. Guitarist Ian Clark originally came from Scotland, so a portion of the performance centered on tunes from the Shetland Islands, Clark's homeland.

Overall, the performance was fulfilling because it seemed as if it was a joy for the musicians to be playing because they love their craft.

When Pierre was playing, Julie and Pat would be bouncing along, dancing in their chairs, or one of the members would get into a tune and whistle or whoop. The true enjoyment was not lost on the members and that attitude translated to the audience.

During the break after the first set, members of the audience headed out to the lobby to purchase CDs and got the chance to get their purchases signed by Pierre and other members of the Quartet. The audience was even granted an encore and the entire show wound down with a performance that included Dr. Ó hAllmhuráin.

When the concert came to a close, the musicians returned to the lobby to greet the exiting crowd, offering those in attendance the chance to personally thank the quartet for an amazing performance.

A&E ON CAMPUS

March 19: "God Sleeps in Rwanda" screening and discussion at 6 p.m. in the Marillac Hall auditorium.

March 20: The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra percussionists and the innovative Nuclear Percussion Ensemble will perform 'Explosions' concert at Touhill at 7:30 p.m.

March 20: "Without Words" art exhibit at Gallery FAB, 201 Fine Arts Building, will feature UMSL art seniors' work through April 5. The opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m.

March 21: 'Great Big Sea' Celtic folk rock band will perform in its first-ever St. Louis show at Touhill at 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance/\$32.50 at the door.

March 22: Concertinist Tim Collins of Irish Music Today series, will play at 12:30 p.m. in room 205 of the Music Building.

March 22: Fresh Air Tour will come to the the Nosh at 11:30 a.m. Bands include Minneapolis-based Catchpenny and Chicago band The Year After. There is also opportunity to participate in virtual tree planting initiative Trees for The Future, and a soda sampling booth.

March 23: Russian, Gypsy and Celtic influenced Les Folies Russes combines virtuoso dancing with stunning visual effects in performance at the Touhill at 8 p.m.

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2. This Is Why I'm Hot (Edited)- Mims
3. Don't Matter- Akon



4. Girlfriend- Avril Lavigne
5. Cupid's Chokehold (featuring Patrick Stump) - Gym Class Heroes
6. This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race- Fall Out Boy
7. Glamorous (explicit edition)- Fergie
8. Throw Some D's- Rich Boy featuring Polow Da Don
9. It's Not Over- Daughtry
10. The Sweet Escape- Gwen Stefani

Source: www.itunes.com

THEATER REVIEW

'Woman Before A Glass' paints portrait of art patron Peggy

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

"Guggenheim" and "modern art" are synonymous in some minds. "Woman Before A Glass" is a play about modern art and a Guggenheim, but it is not the man for whom the Guggenheim Museum in New York is named.

This play is about that Guggenheim's niece, modern art collector Peggy Guggenheim.

The one-woman play "Woman Before A Glass" is the current production in the smaller studio space by the Repertory Theater of St. Louis in Webster Groves. It runs through April 1.

Chutzpah is the word for Peggy Guggenheim, a collector of modern art and of modern artists. Peggy Guggenheim was known for her bold and brassy personality as well as her appetites for art and the men that created the paintings she bought.

The play is highly entertaining and engrossing, by turns funny and tragic, even if you do not know who Peggy Guggenheim was.

Peggy Guggenheim came from a wealthy Jewish-American family. Some people may be familiar with her father, Benjamin Guggenheim, who gave up his seat on a life boat to go down with the Titanic, or her grandfather, mining tycoon Meyer Guggenheim.

Those with an interest in art are more likely to be familiar with her uncle, art patron Solomon Guggenheim, for whom the New York Guggenheim Museum is named.

The play is a tour de force by actress Glynis Bell, who charmed and moved the audience with her distinctive character. The play runs 90 minutes, without an intermission, covering Peggy Guggenheim's life from 1963 to 1968.

In her Venice home on the Grand Canal, she tires to decide what will become of her fabulous art collection and faces personal heartbreaks.

Bell creates a memorable stage character, flawed but fascinating and ultimately winning the audience's sympathy.

Decked out in couture and with ever-present cocktail and cigarette, Guggenheim reminisces about her



Photo Courtesy St. Louis Repertory Theater

Glynis Bell stars as Peggy Guggenheim, who has a voracious appetite for art, men and the men who make art, in the Rep's Studio Theater's production of "Woman Before a Glass: A Triptych in Four Parts." The show runs through April 1.

life and talks about her art collection. She tells funny, sometimes bawdy stories, in surprisingly salty language, but there is sadness here too.

Peggy whines about her servant taking vacation and drops designer dresses on the floor but talks with self deprecating humor about her plain looks and with great affection about her family and especially her art and artists.

Among the memories she recounts is her beloved father Benjamin Guggenheim, whom, she

tells us, someone described as "the handsomest Jewish man in the world."

Peggy recounts the devastating effect of his death on her and the close bond it forged between her and her older sister Bonita, in one of the most touching scenes of the play.

The play has four parts, and the Rep handles the changes of time and place with its usual creative style. The sets are both simple and wonderfully imaginative, creating four perfect locations with the rearrang-

ing of curtains and backdrops, and the addition of a few perfect props.

The right table, chair or phone creates the '60s of Venice in unerring fashion. The costumes are perfect as well — as elegant, colorful and brash as the character herself.

Actress Glynis Bell crafts an intriguing "Mrs. Guggenheim," as she liked to be called, and conveys her love of modern art with vibrancy. Guggenheim collected her pieces based on her personal tastes, and she affectionately refers to her art collection as her children.

She appears to have had good taste, for her collection is regarded as one of the world's best, with works by the giants of 20th Century art like Jackson Pollock, Paul Klee, Marcel Duchamp, Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, Man Ray and Max Ernst, to whom she was briefly married.

Guggenheim married at least twice and had two children with her first husband, writer Laurence Vail. While she is far fonder of her artist daughter than her son, and really has nothing good to say about her ex-husbands or her son-in-law, it is her other passions that dominate.

In her quest for a place for her art collection, the main focus of the play, she rejects her uncle's Guggenheim Museum, due to a grudge with her Uncle Solomon's secretary-mistress.

During the late thirties, Peggy Guggenheim helped people, fellow Jews and artists, to escape the Nazis, but when she tried to enlist her uncle's aid, his secretary mistress, who was German, rejected her requests for money and sponsorships. Peggy never forgot.

The play includes a chilling description of Peggy Guggenheim's encounter with a Nazi officer in Paris, as the city fell and she prepared to flee with artist Max Ernst.

Some critics have noted that this play leaves out the most unflattering parts of Guggenheim's life, like her disregard for others in satisfying her own sexual appetites. Like a memoir, a biographic play is allowed to paint a sympathetic portrait, although sticking to the facts. Not inventing them is preferred.

In the end, the play must be evaluated as a theater piece, not as historical record. As a piece of theater, "Woman Before A Glass" is enlightening and satisfying.

A&E ON CAMPUS



Photo Courtesy Larry Marsh

German rappers Bates (left) and Clueso (right) held a workshop for students about German rhyme and rhythm March 12.

Musicians give campus a taste of German rap

BY ERIN E. HENSLEY

Staff Writer

Up-and-coming German rapper/songwriter/singer Clueso has become a big name in Germany. With more than six singles albums and three full albums, Clueso has become quite accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

Clueso and fellow musician, Bates, held a free workshop for students of all ages on March 12 in the J.C. Penney Building on the UMSL campus. The purpose of the workshop was to develop skills in German rhythm and rhyme.

Clueso and Bates took an incredibly interactive approach by walking through the aisles, pulling people up on stage, and working one-on-one with audience members.

At one point, Clueso knelt down next to a high school student, taking a personal interest in his understanding of the exercise.

During the course of the workshop, Clueso even had students breakdancing, although this writer was not one of them. No one needs to see that.

Despite my personal fears of being chosen to perform, the workshop was a lot of fun. The artistic atmosphere really seemed to help one retain what was being taught. For example, in German rap songs, English words are sometimes substi-

tuted in the place of German words because they flow better.

One of several exercises was writing out ten German words that could be recited to the beat of a rap remix. Clueso and Bates walked through the aisles and had audience members perform their small raps. It is no surprise that the Baywatch heartthrob, David Hasselhoff, was a frequent topic.

Luckily, they never made anyone feel stupid or silly, they made them feel as though they had just written a Grammy-winning song.

When it comes to learning difficult languages, there are usually two extremes. One extreme is when a student has a deep and personal interest in the language.

The other extreme being when the language is simply taken for the course credit or to fulfill a requirement. Unless there is a major inner desire to learn a new language, there is not a lot of incentive to succeed.

However, taking part in such an interactive workshop, however, can really give one a renewed interest in the German language.

Seeing a fresh perspective was a huge motivation to really dig in and take more of an interest.

Having never taken a great interest in German rap before this workshop, I must say now that I have every intention of purchasing Clueso's latest CD, titled "Weit Weg" which translates as "Far Away."

GREAT BIG SEA, from page 8

That ancient music is a combination of French, Irish and English songs. Hallett said he and the other band members wanted to bring the music that they grew up loving to the world.

When I asked where the band got the name Great Big Sea, Hallett said that they took their name from a song titled "A Great Big Sea Hove in Long Beach." The song originated after a tragic tidal wave hit the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Although many people died as a result of the storm surge, the song was full of puns and irony, according to Hallett. He says that the band is sort of

like the ying and the yang. The name fits because it is obvious. They grew up so close to the ocean.

"We didn't want to be like any of the other bands. We didn't want to have 'the' in our name, like The Beatles or The Rolling Stones," he said.

Hallett described each of the band members, including himself, in one word: "Alan is relentless, Sean is enigmatic and I'm a genius."

When asked what it was like to perform in front of his fans, Hallett said, "There is no greater privilege in the world than to play music for the people

who love it. Every night is like Christmas. It never gets old."

He said that makes up for all the long hours they spend on tour buses traveling to different cities.

One of his most memorable performances was New Year's Eve of the millennium. They were performing for a national television special in Newfoundland. Hallett says that the crowd exceeded more than 100,000 Newfoundland natives. He said there were people as far as the eyes could see.

"I wanted to take it all my head and never forget it," he said.

FIREBIRD BALLET, from page 8

For such an important role, she had very little in the way of extravagant movements, and blended in with the other stiff-bodied princesses when she wasn't holding the prince's hand. The male leads danced fluidly and very strongly, somehow maintaining good character.

The Firebird itself was the most elaborately costumed role, and perhaps the showcase for this entire performance. The young lady moved in an extremely bird-like way, keeping an air of grace under pressure with her movements. Her legs, while remaining supple, twitched like the movement of a bird, and she kept her face pouted like that of a bird.

Her dancing was only the slightest bit too solid. The choreography for her part lacked in speed and consistency, and the movement of her character was too slow. Had it not been for her birdlike appearance, I believe the part would have been unfortunately lost.

Apart from the leads, it seemed as if the choreography was almost too boring, and was stuffed with random dancers on stage feigning dumbly with their arms, pretending to talk. I'm quite sorry, but that is not choreography — that is poor stage direction.

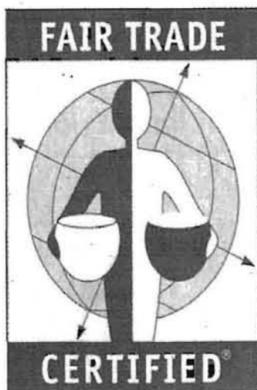
It is understandable that the dancers be a little green when it comes to doing difficult ballet. However, it seems entirely unacceptable to me that their "renowned" choreographer had the extras merely flail around unconnected to the major events happening within the ballet. Any cohesive movement done by the dancers in the nameless parts was brief, and a few of the

dancers were often behind or quicker than the group.

Nonetheless, "The Firebird" was a great ballet to see. It had a good

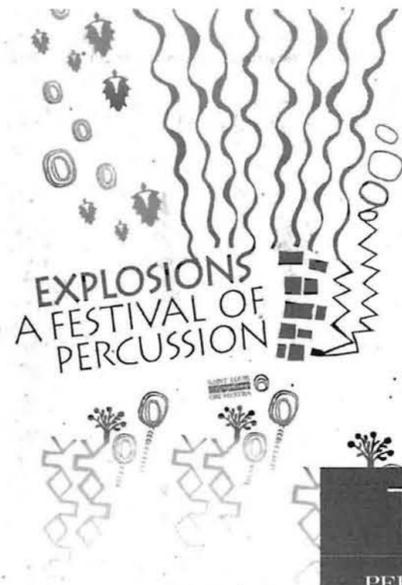
story, beautiful settings and one extremely talented brightly dressed ballerina who easily stole the stage from the under-directed others.

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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Alex Pepin

No. 14 for the Riverwomen softball team showed her power with not only a lead off homerun against Bellarmine, but also a grand slam to finish the game with a 10-1 win.

Pepin, senior, outfielder, leads her team with a batting average of .441 and a slugging percentage of .746 as well as leading in hits with 26 total for the season so far.

This is Pepin's first season with the Riverwomen. She previously played for SIU-Carbondale, where she went with her team to the NCAA tournament all three years.

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Men's Baseball

March 20 vs. UM-Rolla 5 p.m.

March 23 vs. Lewis 7 p.m.

March 24 vs. Lewis (DH) Noon

March 25 vs. Lewis Noon

Women's Softball

March 27 vs. Olivette Nazarene 2 p.m.

March 29 Central Missouri Noon

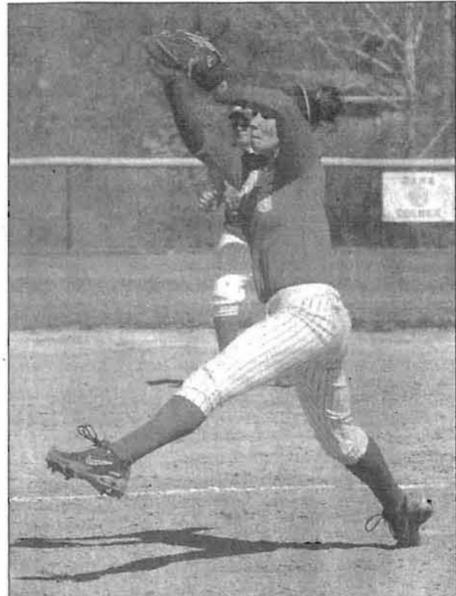
Women's Tennis

March 20 vs. Washburn 1 p.m.

March 21 vs. Lincoln 3 p.m.

Men's Tennis

March 20 vs. Washburn 1 p.m.



Photos by: Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

(LEFT) Alex Pepin crushes a grand slam against Bellarmine on Sunday afternoon.

(ABOVE) Dana Essner prepares to pitch the ball to a Bellarmine player on Sunday afternoon.

Pepin leads Riverwomen in weekend series split

By LAQUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen improved their record to 10-12 (2-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference) after splitting their weekend games.

The Riverwomen lost the first two conference games of the season to Northern Kentucky on Saturday, but came back to win both conference games against Bellarmine on Sunday.

"It would be great if we were 4-0, but 2-2 is definitely better than 0-4," said outfielder Alex Pepin. "I think we are

right where we need to be and hopefully take off from here."

NKU defeated UM-St. Louis 9-3 in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. Emily Wagoner pitched five innings, giving up four earned runs on nine hits. Alex Ogle pitched two innings for UM-St. Louis and gave up five earned runs on six hits.

NKU scored the first run of the game on an RBI single to third in the first inning. They added three runs on four hits in the third inning. In the sixth inning, Ogle came in to pitch for UM-St. Louis and gave up a home run to the second batter she faced. Ogle would go

to give up five runs on five hits in the inning, including another home run.

The Riverwomen offense did not produce any runs until the bottom of the sixth, when the team was trailing by nine. Three batters scored on two hits in the inning but two runs were unearned, after a fielding error by NKU's second baseman.

Neither team scored in the seventh inning, although UM-St. Louis stranded three runners on base.

NKU started the second game scoring two runs in the opening inning but UM-St. Louis answered back quickly, scoring two runs in the second inning

after a sacrifice fly by outfielder Corie Jones and then an RBI single by Pepin.

NKU scored solo runs in the third and fourth innings, but UM-St. Louis scored twice in both the fourth and fifth innings. Outfielder Megan Brussman hit a solo home run and pitcher/shortstop Dana Essner hit a RBI double in the fourth to tie the game 4-4. In the fifth inning, Essner and catcher/infielder Katie Bartlett added RBIs to give the Riverwomen a 6-4 lead. NKU rallied in the last inning of the game and scored three runs ending the game 7-6.

"We were up two runs in the last inning and we just could not finish it,"

said Head Coach Chuck Sosnowski. "We gave up three in the top of the seventh and we just came up short. We could not tie it up and that is just the way it goes."

Sunday's games went a little smoother for the Riverwomen as they gave up only one run in two games. UM-St. Louis defeated Bellarmine 10-1 in the first game and 6-0 in the second game.

Pepin started the game for UM-St. Louis with a leadoff homer to left field.

See RIVERWOMEN, page 13

Roller hockey gears up for national championship series

By MABEL SUEN

Assistant Copy Editor

An amped audience packed the stands at the Great Plains Intercollegiate Inline Hockey League regional game. The smell of a season's worth of sweat-filled toil saturated the air, while fanatical, thunderous back-and-forth chants of "U-M! S-L!" reverberated throughout the rink from an army of supporters.

After trouncing Washington University in a semi-final game with an impressive score of 10-1, the Rivermen victoriously claimed the GPIHL Division II regional title after defeating Truman State 7-3 in the final game. The games took place at the Matteson Square Gardens Triplex in St. Peters, Mo. on March 4.

"Everyone was standing on the bench the whole night because we were so pumped up," said captain Adam Clarke, junior, education, who helped lead the team to victory.

"It's so much help to have a big loud crowd that gets under the skin of the team. Everybody feeds off of everybody else's energy," said alternate captain Ben Lambert, junior, political science. "Having a crowd there is like having an extra player ready."

The team consistently receives support from family and friends, but this particular night's crowd especially encouraged the team. An additional 30 or 40 individuals, including Sigma Pi fraternity brothers and friends, filled the bleachers.

Student services advisor Toby

Shorts, along with Sigma Pi member Bryan Goers, junior, secondary education, collaborated with Lambert to generate the support network.

"It was really great to see everyone get riled up, cheering and really enjoying the game," Shorts said. "It's just something that we don't get to see as often as we'd like with UMSL sports."

According to Goers, team member and Sigma Pi brother Joel Pottebaum's reports about the team's progress ultimately led to continued interest and encouragement.

"This is the first game we got everyone to come out to," Goers said. "It's fun to come out and watch UMSL dominating at a sport."

Although the Rivermen have proven victorious, their path financially has not always been a stable one. According to Shorts, the UM-St. Louis inline roller hockey team receives funding through student life rather than from athletics due to the dynamic between NCAA and club sports.

Lambert explained how problems with budgeting last year led to the team setting up a support network. Contributions generated from the players, their parents, fundraisers, Sigma Pi fraternity and the Student Government Association all combined to help the team fund this season.

"I can't say how much SGA and Sig Pi have come through for us," Lambert said.

While the team won the regional league championship for the second time in three years, they still look to the future with bigger goals in mind. They move on to compete in nationals

April 4-7.

"Our challenge after regionals is to not to lose sight of the goal. It's really easy to take our eyes off the prize," Lambert said.

After losing to the Neumann Knights from Aston, Penn. in a close national championship game last year, the Rivermen are determined to make a comeback.

"If people come out to nationals this year, they're going to see this isn't rec. league fun times. They're going to see teams from Maine to San Diego. The sport itself is up and coming and the people are really dedicated," Lambert said.

In addition to having an extremely well-trained and close-knit team from top to bottom, Lambert credits the team's success to the amount of support it receives.

"Just go to the games and show the administration that we have a viable sports program, and we're going to try to keep it going," Lambert said. "That's more valuable than anything you could do."

"This is a high level of play, and once people show up, they'll be hooked," he said. "We're committed and ready to go win the national championship, not just for us, but for the school as a whole."

The UM-St. Louis community can support the inline roller hockey Rivermen from April 4-7 as they work to claim the national title.

Games will be played at the Matteson Square Gardens Triplex and The Omni.

Visit www.greatplainshockey.com for more information.



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Ben Lambert, forward for the Rivermen inline hockey team, skates during practice before his team won the regionals March 4.

SHORT FUSE

When it comes to losing weight, I am not a nutritionist, but I saw one on TV



By LAQUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

Every time I watch TV I see some new way for people to lose weight.

What ever happened to the old fashion way of eating less and working out more?

I am sure millions of people made a New Year's resolution to start working out and start losing weight, but I wonder how many people have actually started.

One thing that gets me upset when I hear people talking about losing weight is using those miracle diet pills.

I am upset because unless a person has a serious medical condition, losing weight is a matter burning more calories than you intake. Diet pills may say that they will help with losing weight, but

what about all of the other side effects?

Is losing 15 pounds really worth high blood pressure, fatigue, hyperactivity, heart arrhythmias and palpitations? Or how about dry mouth, vomiting, diarrhea or constipation and intestinal disturbances?

I even saw something about overdosing on diet pills causing tremors, confusion, hallucinations, shallow breathing, renal failure, heart attack and convulsions. Just so you know, those are only a few possible side effects.

I am not a nutritionist, but I saw one on TV and they were saying something about eating healthy foods. I just want to let everyone out there know that just

because you eat at Subway, you will not lose weight. I do not care what Jared says on the commercials, it just will not work unless you exercise too.

Do some push-ups, run a lap or two, or how about just stop eating so damn much. That is how you lose weight. You do not even need to spend hundreds of dollars on a personal trainer.

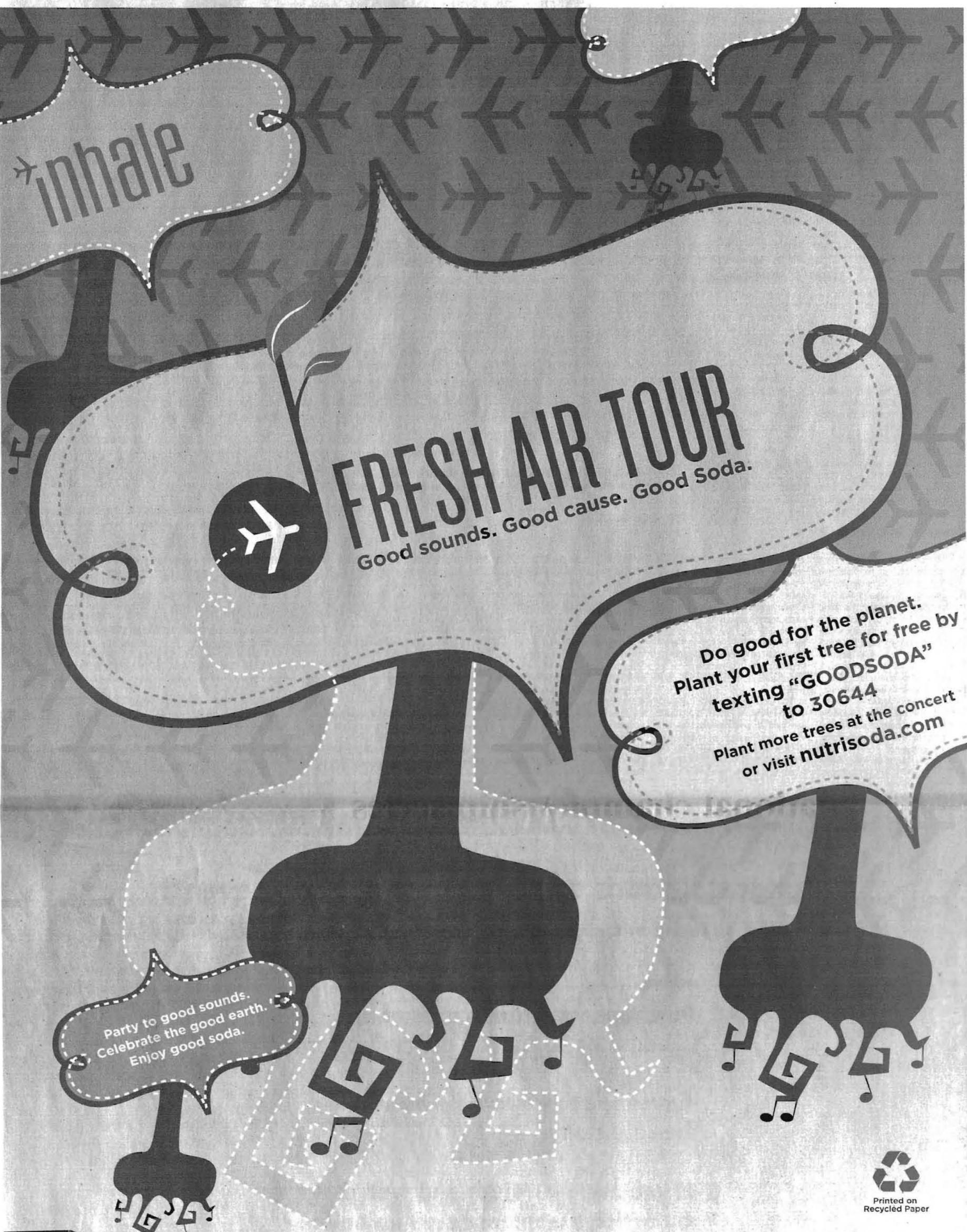
I am not the best person to give workout information, but this concept is easy-so follow me for a second. To lose weight, one must become active. Thinking and doing are two different things so just watching a workout tape just will not cut it.

The more you eat the more weight

you gain. So basically, stop eating just to fill a void in your mouth. I know you are not supposed to talk in the movie theater, but that does not mean stuff your face with nachos and popcorn.

Once again, I am not a nutritionist and I am not too sure if I am qualified to give another living creature medical advice. I am a person who notices patterns.

When people lose weight, they eat healthier and they become more active. When people talk about losing weight, they buy overpriced exercise equipment and diet pills that do not work. When people do not lose weight, they make it next year's New Year's resolution.



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 or visit nutrisoda.com

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 THE WAY TO GET AROUND IT



University of Missouri at St. Louis

LOCATION The Nosh

DATE March 22nd

TIME 11:30 am

COST FREE

In partnership
 with the SGA Green
 Committee at UMSL



★ **CATCH PENNY**



WOMEN'S POETRY, from page 7

Among other pieces she read was "The Break Up," as well as other selections from her poem chapbook that describes her life growing up with her parents, who survived Hitler's Europe.

Colleen McKee presented some of her poetry next. Her first poem titled "Simkhele," meaning "delightful" in Yiddish, was a highly visual piece that tells of her spending time with a woman in her house one day.

Another thought provoking poem she recited was "Carve Yourself from Chocolate," which described a woman making a bust of herself out of a large block of chocolate, based on a piece of artwork by Janine Antoni.

McKee also read some of her other works, including "Four Sleeping Blue Eyes," which she described as a film noir themed poem, and "At the Flick of a Switch," inspired from a bisexual poet and department store catalog model, Anne Sexton.

Martha Ficklen read from a piece of her prose, describing a time about her growing up while living with her family and Aunt in a house in North Carolina.

She described that story as somewhat close to her actual experience, but all of the names of the characters have been changed.

Ficklen also read another poem, which she described as being a "silly one", called "Banana Observations." This entertaining poem made many references to bananas as having a part of everyday things, events, people or the different ways they fit into peo-

ple's lives.

Nanora Sweet read last, beginning with a piece called "The Critique of Pure Reason," describing it as her "blue stocking" poem that themes itself on femininity and logic.

Sweet also read another work called "Father's Desk," about all the aspects about it that provoked different thoughts, feelings and actions.

Another poem she read, called "Credit," tells about how Sweet believes she has been given a lot more credit than she deserves for being a "sexual outlaw." She also read poems and excerpts from a previous book, titled "Mix of Securities."

Colleen McKee said, "I think it went really well. It was comfy, cozy and had a nice variety of work. It is empowering to have a place where one can read lesbian poetry."

Many of these and other poems from the authors can be found in the poetry chapbook series from Cherry Pie Press called "The Midwest Women Poets Series." Each of the four authors has her own chapbook available for purchase.

"The Palm Leaf Fan" is by Martha Ficklen, "Rotogravure" is by Nanora Sweet, "The Permeability of Memory" is by Helen Eisen and "My Hot Little Tomato" is by Colleen McKee.

Donna Biffar, who did not read during "Sweeter than Cherries (and a Little Sour too)," also has a book called "Kiss Me Cold." Eisen's and McKee's chapbooks will be available later in March of 2007.

AGAINST ME, from page 8

The lead singer lead the crowd into the chorus, but the beat was somehow lost and the song slowed, and lost almost all of its power.

Throughout the show, the band spoke perhaps eight words to a crowd cramped in the sweaty, stinky Creepy Crawl to see them. The band, with the most competent political arguments in the history of rock music, played their instruments well, but did not seem to have anything to say to a paying crowd.

Their political songs, normally venomous and potent, also lacked edge and that little spit-in-the-face-of-authority manner.

When playing their song "From Her Lips to God's Ears," an extreme-

ly political piece with verses that criticize the Bush administration but a chorus that cries "Condoleeza what are we gonna do now?" and attacks Condoleeza Rice personally, no angry energy came from the stage.

The lack of poison for the government in the band's energy reflected negatively on the song, weakening it tremendously. The remainder of its set steadily lost momentum as it went on.

The feeling before the encore was disappointing, so many individuals had paid to see Against Me! and could have gotten a better (and cheaper) experience listening to the songs on their I-Pods. Normally vocal Against Me! spoke little, and

said nothing about politics.

The encore, which should have been an exciting bravo from a crowd wanting more, was really only a crowd feeling like they had been gypped, and pointedly so, since Against Me! played maybe 12 songs - not even a full album.

The excitement of the encore was lost, however, due to the sea of people leaving. The band did seem more excited doing the encore than they did when they performed the rest of the show. Perhaps they saw the end and got excited.

Their performance, however (on an instrumental-only level) was impeccable. Against Me! is popular for having the best chemistry (per-

haps in the history of rock 'n'roll) and that chemistry is most apparent with their stage mannerisms.

The band is all business when it comes to playing their music, although they enjoy each other, and making the music.

On a whole the show was fantastically put together. The collection of bands complemented the other's styles, and even made up for the other band's lack of crowd interaction.

The music was dead on, and sounded as good on stage as it does recorded. Despite the slight damper on the main event, not a word could possibly be said negatively about the music.

WOMEN LEADERS OVERCOME SEXISM



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Cynthia Brinkley, President of AT&T Missouri, speaks during the Distinguished Speaker Series in recognition of Women's History Month in the Lee Theater on March 6.

ART, from page 7

She said she was interested in film because "I liked the way I could use sound, image, language, rhythm and storytelling to send a message about the feminine consciousness."

According to Gentile, the importance of the arts for history is that they are "taking historical and real life experience and turning it into something special."

"Whenever we leave our mark on the world, we're adding to history," said Petzall.

Music

"For Women's History Month, IWGS does so much in the social sciences. This year, I wanted to do more with the humanities and arts," said Kathy Gentile, director of the IGWS.

The final portion of the "Art of Women's History" concentrated on one of the performing arts: music.

"Music chronicles what is happening in women's lives and the times they write," said Barbara Harbach, professor of music.

As an example, she cited the music of the 1960s and 1970s. Women were involved with issues of civil rights and equality at that time. Harbach said it "showed in the music."

Harbach's selections were an overview of women composers.

"There is a misconception that there were no women composers," she said. She chose romantics of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Clara Schumann (19th century), Gladys Rich (20th century), Liza Leighman (19th/20th century), Amy Beach (American 19th/20th century) and Gwenyth Walker (20th century).

The presentation concluded with a composition of Harbach's own called "Pioneer Women." The song was built from the journals and letters of the women who settled Alaska. Gentile said Harbach took the diaries and set them to music.

"The music is supposed to represent the women and the struggles they went through," Gentile said.

Gentile said that Harbach actually inspired the idea for this "Art of Women's History" presentation.

"Last year, there was a Women in the Arts conference run by Harbach," she said. The conference also included a playwriting contest which was very successful.

Gentile was very pleased with the student turnout this year and said that "student life was great about helping" with the program.

When asked if there was one thing Harbach wanted the participants to take with them, she said, "Celebrate women creators, the ones you know, the ones from the past and nurture the ones in the future."

PRESIDENT, from page 3

Leonidas Gutierrez, member of the Chancellor's Task Force on Diversity, asked if the search committee would consider a president who will work with minority groups and work to support the chancellor's diversity goals.

Walker said diversity would be considered "not only in the diverse candidates but also the candidates' ability to work with and deal with diverse groups."

"It will be an unacceptable search if we come to this floor with a candidate who doesn't recognize diversity in a broad way," Baker said.

Bill Conway, representative of the UM-St. Louis Friends Board, asked about the possibility of an interim president.

"The position will be vacated, if I remember correctly, at the end of April. Depending on where we are in

the search process, there very well could be an interim," Walker said.

Baker said everyone involved in the search is anxious to name the next president, but stressed the need for patience to make sure the system gets the right person to fill the position.

"Many of you are curious as to when we will have the next president, none more curious than I," Baker said. "We don't want to give the false illusion that this will be done quickly. It will be completed when we have a person that the board is completely comfortable with."

Baker said he hopes the next president will be announced within two to three months.

To nominate a person for the next UM president, go to www.umsystem.edu/presidentialsearch.

Join our campus community as we take up the fight against cancer!

Congratulations on the first year of this event!
As of March 15th we have 70 teams and 600 participants!

-Purchase your luminaries online to honor or support a cancer patient.

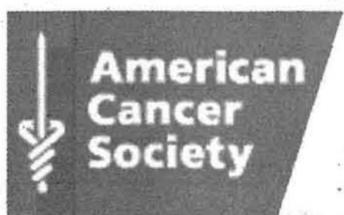
-Cancer patients will be honored at the ceremony.

-If you are a survivor and would like to participate, please sign up online.

It's not too late to sign up your team, as an individual, or as a survivor!

Please visit www.acsevents.org/umsl

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April 13-14, 2007

From 7pm to 7am by the MSC lakes

STATS CORNER

BASEBALL

GLVC standings:

Team	Overall	W	L	Pct.	Streak
Southern Indiana	12	6	.667	W1	
SIU Edwardsville	8	4	.667	W2	
UM-St. Louis	7	4	.636	L3	
UW-Parkside	5	3	.625	L2	
Quincy	11	7	.611	W3	
Rockhurst	11	8	.579	W2	
Drury	9	9	.500	L1	
Saint Joseph's	8	8	.500	L2	
UM-Rolla	8	8	.500	L3	
Indianapolis	6	10	.375	W1	
Bellarmine	6	13	.316	W2	
Northern Kentucky	4	12	.250	L1	
Kentucky Wesleyan	5	15	.250	W2	
Lewis	2	11	.154	L3	

Recent Scores:

March 17 R H E
UM-St. Louis 0 2 3 Win-McCorvie (1-1)
 Quincy 1 6 0 Loss-Prestia

March 17 R H E
UM-St. Louis 6 9 4 Win-Dunning (3-2)
 Quincy 16 11 1 Loss-Hargis

March 16 R H E
UM-St. Louis 1 3 4 Win-Alexander
 Quincy 3 9 1 Loss-Sanders

SOFTBALL

GLVC standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.	Streak
SIU Edwardsville	17	4	.810	W1
Lewis	11	4	.733	W10
Indianapolis	12	5	.706	W3
Northern Kentucky	15	7	.682	W3
UM-Rolla	10	5	.667	L1
Kentucky Wesleyan	12	8	.600	L1
UW-Parkside	9	6	.600	W3
Southern Indiana	11	9	.550	W1
Bellarmine	10	10	.500	W1
Saint Joseph's	7	7	.500	W1
Quincy	7	7	.500	L1
UM-St. Louis	8	12	.400	L2
Rockhurst	3	5	.375	L4

Recent Scores:

March 17 R H E
 N. Kentucky 7 14 1 Win-Smith (14-10)
UM-St. Louis 6 12 1 Loss-Prestia (1-2)

March 17 R H E
 N. Kentucky 9 15 1 Win-Smith (13-10)
UM-St. Louis 3 8 0 Loss-Wagner (4-6)

March 13 R H E
UM-St. Louis 19 18 2 Win-Ogle (1-1)
 Lindenwood 4 7 5 Loss-Vasquez

TENNIS

GLVC Women's West standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.	Streak
Rockhurst	4	0	1.000	W4
Drury	5	1	.833	W5
UM-St. Louis	3	2	.600	W2
Quincy	2	2	.500	L1
Southern Indiana	4	4	.500	W2
SIU Edwardsville	3	6	.333	W1

Recent Scores:
 March 17
 Lewis at **UM-St. Louis** L 8-1
 March 16
 Maryville vs. **UM-St. Louis** W 9-0

GLVC Men's West standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.	Streak
Drury	6	0	1.000	W6
UM-St. Louis	4	0	1.000	W4
Rockhurst	3	2	.600	L2
SIU Edwardsville	6	4	.600	L1
Quincy	1	2	.333	L1
Southern Indiana	1	8	.111	L8

Recent Scores:
 March 17
 Lewis at **UM-St. Louis** W 9-0
 March 16
 Maryville vs. **UM-St. Louis** W 9-0

RIVERWOMEN, from page 10

Essner scored later in the inning, bringing the score to 2-0. Danielle Votrian scored the only run in the second inning with a leadoff home run to left.

The only run of the game for Bellarmine was in the third inning after a home run by catcher Emily O'Bryan. Bartlett hit a two-run homer for UM-St. Louis in the third, increasing the lead to 5-0.

UM-St. Louis did not score again until the sixth inning when second baseman/outfielder Susanna Steimel drove in a run and then Pepin hit a grand slam to end the game 10-1.

"Hitting is certainly contagious, there is no question about that," Sosnowski said. "When you are hot and when you start driving the ball everybody is more relaxed."

"As a team, I think we have been hitting well these past couple

of games," Pepin said.

Wagoner pitched a shutout in the second game of the doubleheader, giving up only two hits. Essner started the game with the first RBI in the first inning and then third baseman Jessica Keim followed, giving the Riverwomen an early 2-0 lead.

Casey Dierkes, Riverwomen catcher and infielder, added another run to the lead with an RBI single to right field in the third.

In the fourth, UM-St. Louis added two more runs after RBIs by Jones and Essner. Essner hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth to expand the lead to 6-0.

"We bounced back today and played much better," Sosnowski said. "We had one [game] yesterday, we let one slip away. Certainly we would like to be 3-1, but we will take getting back to

.500 at this point and move on from here."

"I think we played really well today, coming off two losses yesterday," Wagoner said. "I think we came back and did what we needed to do to even ourselves within the conference."

Next weekend the Riverwomen travel to Southern Indiana for a doubleheader on Saturday before going to SIUE for a doubleheader on Sunday.

"Every game in this conference is big, there is no question about it," Sosnowski said. "We are just going to focus on Southern Indiana first and worry about SIUE on Sunday. We have to go down on the road and we have to work on splits. Those are two teams that are pretty tough. Whenever you are on the road, you have to look at a one game at a time."

WARMING, from page 5

Scientists by nature are cautious in their conclusions, even conservative. Scientific papers never conclude with absolute certainty; it is all probabilities, no matter how overwhelming the evidence. So it is not a casual thing if a study suggests that something is very probably the cause of an effect.

The scientific evidence on global warming is more certain than the general public assumes. Often, the general public is playing catch-up on the facts.

Those who deny global warming like to point to old evidence, years out of date, but scientists only use the most current accumulation of data. The recent IPCC report on climate change said there was more than 90 percent certainty that mankind was the primary cause of global warming. In scientific terms, that is pretty certain.

Certain enough not to risk inaction, and lose what window of opportunity we have to head off catastrophic climate change. Here are some

facts from the IPCC report summary. "Global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning many thousands of years."

Human activities are the source of these increases, according to the report. "The global increases in carbon dioxide concentration are due primarily to fossil fuel use and land-use change, while those of methane and nitrous oxide are primarily due to agriculture."

"The report cites carbon dioxide as the most important human-generated greenhouse gas and further states "The global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased from a pre-industrial value of about 280 ppm (parts per million) to 379 ppm in 2005. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide in 2005 exceeds by far the natural range over the last 650,000 years (180 to 300

ppm) as determined from ice cores."

And the problem is growing. "The annual carbon dioxide concentration growth-rate was larger during the last 10 years (1995 - 2005 average: 1.9 ppm per year), than it has been since the beginning of continuous direct atmospheric measurements (1960 - 2005 average: 1.4 ppm per year) although there is year-to-year variability in growth rates."

The primary source of the increased atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide since the pre-industrial period results from fossil fuel use, with land use change providing another significant but smaller contribution.

Annual fossil carbon dioxide emissions increased from an average of 6.4 per year in the 1990s, to 7.2 per year in 2000-2005."

Pretending all scientists are liars won't change the facts. But the world can no longer wait for the last skeptic to be convinced before we address this crisis.

DISCUSSION, from page 4

Dodd and his flock of sheep all came together again when a student raised some questions about policy and procedure on this campus, and shut down the meeting.

The questions revolved around how money is spent and where the money goes. This isn't some money that appeared all of the sudden in the different accounts of the University; this is money to which every student that attends this school contributes.

If we are to be involved we

should show the students, that we supposedly represent, the courtesy to do the right thing.

Every couple of weeks we owe it to the students of this University to discuss these issues, whether they are boring, tiresome, not our cup o' tea or whatever agenda one might have.

The assembly may think they are held hostage at those meetings and Dodd might be doing the popular thing, and Koechig might not want to hear it, but I wonder how the students

would feel about how their money is spent, how their parking lots are always full, and how their representatives could care less about them.

Do unto others as they do unto you. We want involvement on this campus?

It starts with the involved, and they are a poor example of what this campus has become. Are we being lazy or are we being detrimental to this campus?

Both.

SHANTYTOWN, from page 1

Mulvihill was a speaker at Shantytown, part of the Catholic Newman Center's social justice month, where students learned about homelessness in St. Louis and centers that helped the homeless.

"The goal is to understand what it's like to be homeless better and to put yourself in their shoes for one night," said Julie Schneider, senior, psychology, and president of CNC.

Mulvihill and other speakers from St. Louis shelters talked about how their organizations help homeless individuals. Attendants also watched a movie, participated in a candlelight vigil and some who braved the cold weather slept in cardboard boxes overnight.

Becoming homeless can result from living in overcrowded conditions, being kicked out or lacking of stability or family backgrounds.

Thomas Burnham, director of Shelter Services at Peter and Paul Community Services, told the story of "Million-Dollar Murray," a man Reno, Nev. police arrested many times, costing the taxpayers about \$200,000 a year to ignore him.

"The cops realized that if they put him in housing with around the clock nursing care for him, it would've been cheaper," he said.

Burnham, who works in a men's shelter, said for shelters to receive federal funding, their clients must meet Congress' definition of chronically homeless, which states, "an individual with a disabling condition who has been on the streets for one year or four episodes in three years."

"It's a stupid definition," Burnham said. "By that definition, Congress will tell you there is no such thing as a chronically homeless child." He added that the "narrow"

definition means federal funds make up 50 percent of the resources spent on helping the chronically homeless.

"I think some people have this notion that homeless people are lazy," he said. "It's a lot of work being homeless. It takes place every hour of every day."

Burnham said certain people look at the homeless and ask what is wrong with them.

"Sixty percent of the men in the shelter I run are working, making minimum wage. They're not able to afford housing," he said.

St. Louis city has lost several single occupancy housing units that could be used for the homeless, Burnham said. He suggested coding and zoning reform that would create part of the solution to the problem for the homeless population.

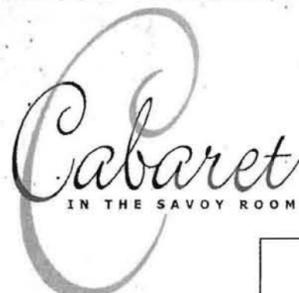
In the city and county, about 25 people living on the streets die every year, Burnham said.

However, happy endings exist for some homeless people, like Frank, a fictitious name of a homeless person who came to St. Patrick's Center for help, Mulvihill recounted.

"Every single day, for 19 years, Frank stood up for lunch with two black trash bags. ... Now you and I go through those bags and we say, 'Frank, why worry? There's nothing in there of value.' But for Frank it's everything, it's his entire life," Mulvihill said.

When the center put Frank in a small apartment, he showed up to the center nine days later, held his hands up and yelled; "Look, no bags!"

"By taking the bags out of his hands, we changed that man's life," Mulvihill said.



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UMSL MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

HIP-HOP, from page 4

Simmons, speaking on the negative attention that always follows hip-hop in light of the good things artist do, said hip-hop artists "[are] inspired by the things they see about America. They are poets who see violence and homophobia and sexism and racism and materialism, and they express that. They are holding up a mirror to America, and we don't like what we see."

If I might add my two cents, I would say he is correct and if you oppose, maybe one glimpse at current events will end your tenure on the opposing side's platform.

For instance, take a look at the topics of homophobia, racism, sexism, violence and materialism. The last time I checked, marketing campaigns flood 18-36 year olds with persuasions of better lifestyles by ownership of exquisite, expensive products they promote. Some people point the finger at hip-hop.

If you look at advertisements, television channels outside of music stations, magazines or any form of media, sex is there. People will use sex to sell a pencil, comb and toe file if it works - no hip-hop included.

Many television shows are a far cry from "The Wonder Years," "The Cosby Show," "Cheers" and one of my favorites "W.K.R.P. in Cincinnati." The

finger is still pointed at hip-hop. Finally, take a look at violence, racism and homophobia. Once again, no hip-hop is included. Just look at the war in Iraq, police brutality and the list goes on. Maybe Congress and all of these pro-war, pro-violence junkies are the real emcees of violence. They are just not as stylish and poetic.

Week after week, gays are verbally castrated by religious people and others for wanting simple rights, and African Americans and others still have to fight for promotions, getting hired and ownership of miniscule entities of life.

I know people do not want to fess up to that big r-word, but yes, it still exists in the minds of people, the workplace, Corporate America - everywhere.

Russell Simmons is right. Just look into the mirror of society that rappers hold up. Tell me what you see. I see what Simmons sees -- young poets writing about lifestyles they live and see.

Looking closer, I see current hip-hopsters poeticizing lifestyles that a lot of us currently live. What is funny and saddening is we blame them for holding the mirror, being the reflection, and maybe even being the creators of this negativity.
I guess.

MOHELA VOTE, from page 3

"It's long deserved."
Koechig said he tempers his excitement about the funding, as two other projects for UM-St. Louis were cut. The Center for Emerging Technology and the CORTEX building were cut in Blunt's proposal.

"I don't like the fact that our CORTEX and CET were cut," Koechig said. "However, when it comes to benefits to the students, students use Benton-Stadler more. They will benefit more from the funding to Benton-Stadler Hall."

Charnton said the UM System has

many projects in need of renovation or construction funds, including a new cancer and medical education building at UM-Columbia, funds for the pharmacy and nursing building at UMKansas City, and renovation money for Toomey Hall at UM-Rolla. Charnton said he hopes the legislature will find some way to fund the projects, even if Blunt's proposal fails.

"There need to be ways to pay for the infrastructure we need," Charnton said. "We need these funds to fulfill our mission of teaching, research and service to Missourians."

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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

Soccer

Date: 3/14-5/1
Time: Wed 630-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: Coed M

Floor Hockey

Date: 4/3-5.1
Time: Tues & Thurs 630-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/22
Division: Coed M

Bingo Nite

Date: 4/12
Time: Thurs 7-10pm
Place: South Provincial HOUse
Sign up by: Just be there
Division: Open

Team Handball

Date: 3/15
Time: Thurs 630-9pm
Place: MT Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: Open

Volleyball

Date: 4/9
Time: Mon 630-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 4/5
Division: M & W

Rock Gym 101

Date: 4/14
Time: Sat 1-3pm
Place: Upper Limits Gym
Sign up by: 3/29
Division: Open

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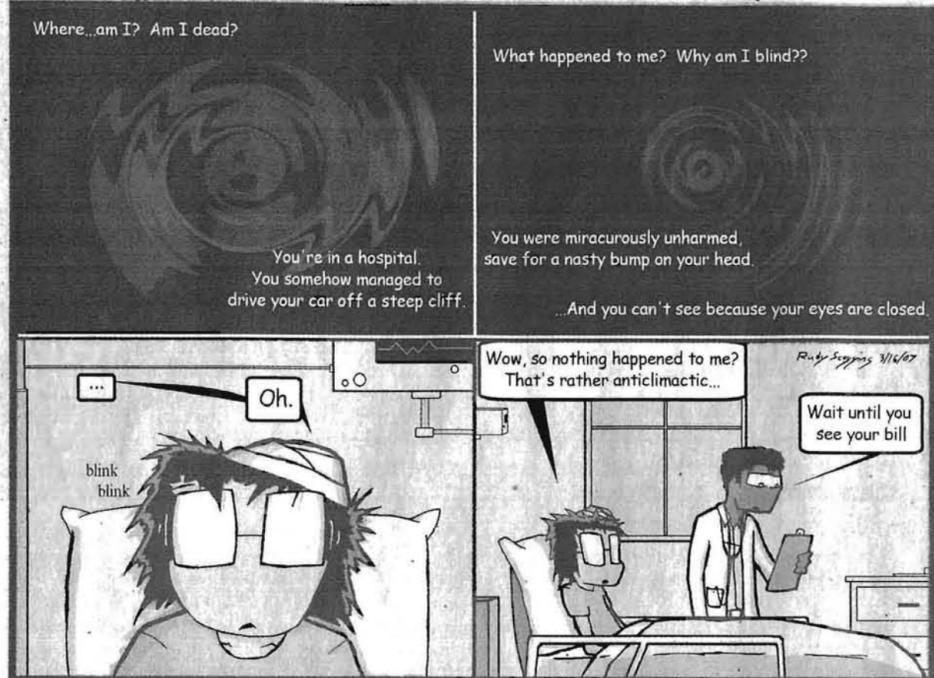
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NUTN BUT THE FUNK Rudy Scoggins

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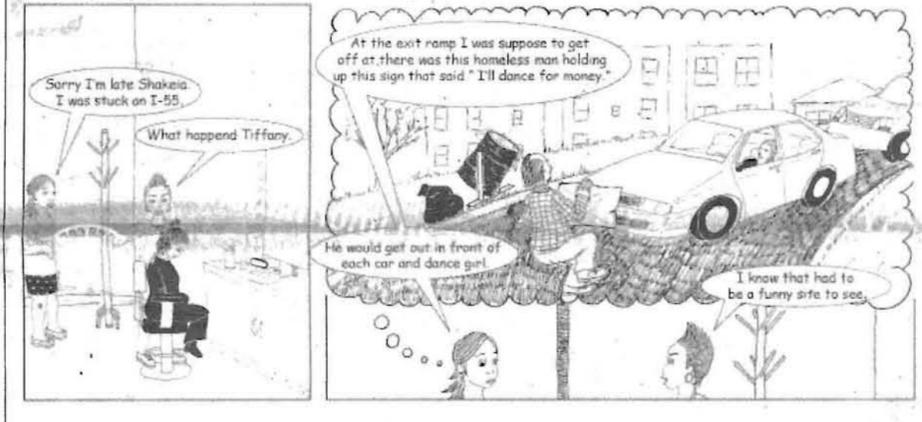
"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

SCONEBOROUGH by E. Gearhart



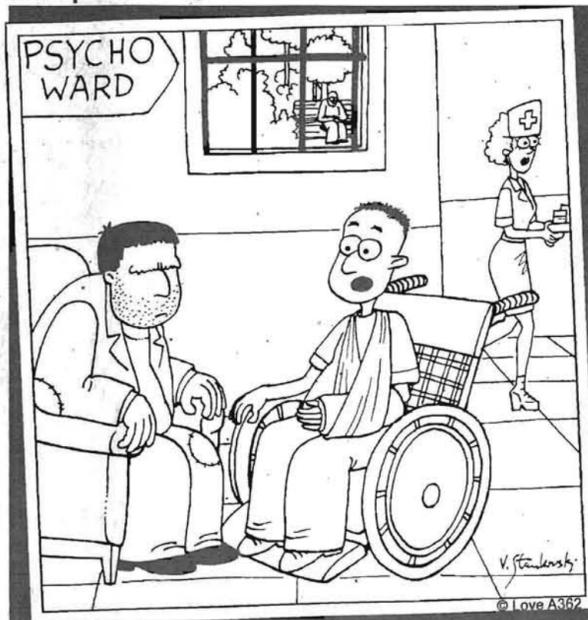
"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "Stuck in Traffic"



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

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"Anyway, Long story short. It turns out that I am not, in fact, Spiderman."

This is a public service statement!



Ordinarily in this space, you would be reading the legendary words of Maximo, the psychic who guides so many of your lives. Unfortunately, as painful as this is to say, Maximo has been abducted. As of Sunday night, no ransom demands have been made. However, we at *The Current* will do whatever it takes to get him back. Think of the movie *Ransom* with Mel Gibson.

Description:

Maximo is approximately two and a half feet tall and a slate gray color. He has a jaunty little hat that he wears to one side, as if to say he's "FABULOUS!" His twin, Moxima, is in shambles. She feels everyday Maximo is lost, another day goes by that Moxima may have to fill her brother's shoes. Honestly folks, she's not up to it. She just does not have the touch.

Contact info:

If you have any information about the whereabouts of Maximo, please contact The Current staff immediately. Without Maximo, *The Current* can accurately predict that it will be sad and tearful. While the members of *The Current* do not have...what's it called... oh yeah, money, we can offer you one free issue of the newspaper per week, as well as one free movie pass. We cannot, however, guarantee the quality of the movie.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Green gem
- Beta Kappa
- Hallmark offering
- The Wright stuff?
- Hodgepodge
- In-box fillers
- Philippine knife
- "- the season ..."
- Tin alloy
- Runway figure
- Karaoke prop
- Finished
- Melted-cheese recipe
- Wire measure
- Celebrated lavishly
- Deity
- Solved a cryptogram
- "David Copperfield" character
- Sediment
- "Hammerin' Hank"
- Read
- Shade source
- Physical
- Rubdowns
- Hairpieces
- Publicity
- Remain
- Entrance
- Follow relentlessly
- Supplemented, with "out"
- Off-tattooed word
- "Metamorphoses" poet
- Strike out
- Partners
- Cashed in, as a coupon
- Composer
- Stravinsky
- Corrida critter
- Adversaries
- Rather or Rowan
- Hardly agile
- Lustrous weave
- In addition
- Church furniture
- Way out
- Style of
- Indian music
- Game lover's channel
- Do some downsizing
- Pistol
- Before
- Wield a needle

DOWN

- Toast topper
- "Hail, Caesar!"
- Insult (Sl.)
- Time for an egg roll?
- Swine
- Weeding tool
- Brilliant
- Network that gets wiped out during sweeps
- Oodles
- Anger
- Recognized
- 27
- 29
- 31
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

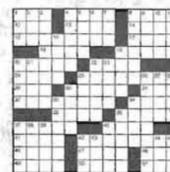
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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

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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, MARCH 30

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SGA MEETING, from page 1

Mark Bacon, senior, public administration, questioned the efficiency of the shuttles.

"How do we get a better shuttle system," Bacon asked. "It's ridiculous we don't look into that. There are two lots, why don't we have buses going to the garages? We pay 50 million dollars for new garages, millions for parking lots, why not better the shuttle program?"

Goers replied that the Parking and Transportation Committee had already been discussing having the shuttles stop at the garages.

"In terms of shuttles, one of the reasons why is cost," SGA President Nick Koechig said. "One of the reasons why the system from last semester changed back is cost."

Bacon said he understood concerns about cost, but he feels something needs to change.

"While I'm not trying to argue, it's

our job to represent the students and what the students are concerned with is parking," Bacon said. "We should do something in a very simple way, while maybe expensive, and instead of building lots of garages why don't we get a better shuttle system that is effective and efficient?"

Koechig assured the assembly that the SGA would take action on the parking issue before the end of the year.

More concern was expressed about the faculty's lack of attention towards student's problems. Brian Rails, senior, business administration, said much of the faculty does not care about the needs and concerns of the students.

"I am really concerned about how much the faculty and staff really care about students and not themselves at this university," Rails said. "We have people on student senate but the facul-

ty don't seem to care. Students are growing restless and they're getting very tired of the faculty not caring."

Rails went on to say that sooner or later, students are going to have enough of faculty apathy.

"You don't want that on campus. I would recommend hiring more security guards to watch over faculty cars—I'm not advocating vandalism, but students are angry and that's not a joke, if they did they would realize how much they affect Residential Life," Rails said.

Rails said he thinks faculty should recognize that if residents do not have parking privileges "they don't come back to live [on campus] the next year and RHA loses money."

Goers said he would work hard with Leonidas Gutierrez, parking operations supervisor to get at least one lot in which faculty cannot park.

CREDIT CARD, from page 1

"I guess she wanted to fit in with the UM-St. Louis students with the clothes so she could blend in," said Detective Anthony Griemel of the university police.

According to McGee, the cashiers at the University Bookstore are required to check an ID for credit card use if the card isn't signed. Due to this event, the policy changed so that whenever a credit card is used, signed or unsigned matching identification is required.

"The police came and fingerprinted the receipt, then fingerprinted Jill [Dobbs] and I to find the suspect's prints," McGee said.

Griemel said because of the descriptions provided by the workers, the

police department was able to develop a sense of the suspect.

"We've developed a suspect since then," Griemel said. "She's a black female, 32 years old 5'10, 180 pounds, brownish hair and open face gold tooth in the upper front, and she's pregnant."

The police called the bookstore employees McGee and Dobbs to identify the suspect on March 12.

Estep said the suspect has been determined, and a warrant is out for her arrest.

"She's done this before at UM-St. Louis and at Washington University," McGee said. "Going into people's offices and stealing things. Right now we're corroborating with Wash-U to try and prosecute her."

According to McGee, the suspect had just gotten out of prison. "We've seen her mug shots," she said.

"It's normal to have so much spent on clothing, it was sales clothing," Dobbs, a department assistant with the book store, said.

Along with the credit card use, Estep had irreplaceable nostalgic items in her wallet.

"They were probably just thrown away," Estep said. "There was a picture in there of my grandmother and I that my mother carried in her wallet, and then I carried in my wallet. The wallet was my mother's."

"I don't keep my purse here anymore, and I make sure my doors are locked," Estep said.

PRO-CARDS, from page 1

"I'm a little concerned that it could be harder for some organizations to function if they have to come up with the money and be reimbursed," Coonrod said. "But we'll just have to deal with that."

Montague said many of the purchases on the pro-card reports were made out of necessity. In particular, she mentioned the purchase of a Playstation 3.

"The rationale for buying it, we were checking the stores and checking the stores and checking the stores, and they kept saying, 'We don't have any,'" Montague said. "So if I'm out, and I'm there and I see and I get it,

because I don't want to the time to come and we don't have it. You have to get them when you see them."

At the SGA meeting, members questioned how far oversight would stretch, and whether our not Student Life was going to monitor what was purchased.

Brian Rails, senior, business administration, said there is a certain limit as to what Student Life can regulate.

"Student Life isn't technically allowed to tell us what we can and can't buy with the pro-cards," Rails said. "The only thing they can check is if we're not buying guns, alcohol, drugs, prostitution, stuff like that."

Jonathan Lidgus, associate director of Student Life addressed these and other concerns at the meeting, saying the leaders of Student Life felt it was time for a change.

"There are a lot of student groups that we don't know about that use the pro-card," Lidgus said. "For example, RHA would go out with my pro-card and by tons of stuff for Mr. and Mrs. RHA. What we wanted to do is the Student Life pro-card would have a \$500-a -day limit, however, you can spend more than that on the staff pro-card. We don't want you to not buy over \$500, we just want to inventory what you're getting."



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