

The Current

September 10, 2007

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ROXANA RETURNS FROM RUSSIA



Photos by: Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Graduate student reunites with friends, supporters in St. Louis

By SARAH O'BRIEN
News Editor

Roxana Contreras, the UM-St. Louis student now freed from charges in Russia, returned home last Wednesday.

Contreras was welcomed back at Lambert International Airport by friends, her fiancée and news reporters ready with cameras.

Charges against Contreras were dropped in court last Friday in Ramon, a town outside of Voronezh, Russia where Contreras was being held under city arrest.

Contreras was on her way home from a conference and visiting friends when she was apprehended at the airport.

Customs agents in Voronezh found Soviet era war medals on her person, whose worth was around thirty US dollars, as well as some Russian currency. Contreras was found guilty of purchasing the medals, but not guilty of intentionally violating Russian Article 324.

Required only to pay a \$600 fine (about 1500 Russian rubles) for purchasing the medals, Con-

treras was finally allowed to return home after an 85 day holdover in Voronezh.

Contreras arrived at around 8:30 p.m. and was intercepted by news reporters and their questions.

Quick Read

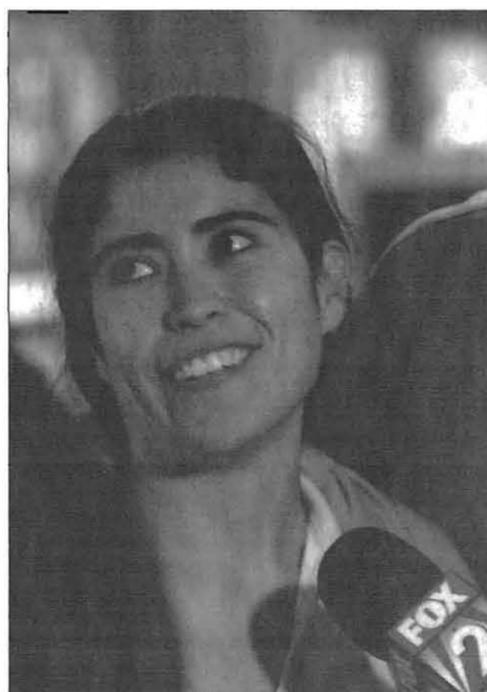
Roxana Contreras returned to St. Louis last Wednesday after being held in Voronezh, Russia for more than 80 days. Contreras had to pay a \$600 fine for trying to export military coins.

Bahar pursued media attention to Contreras' detention after Contreras' case continued to move at a slow rate.

Sources say that her detention was unusual, and that tourists caught with such contraband are normally only fined.

"The entire situation was like being on a strange planet," Contreras said to one of the television reporters. "I'm surprised people were paying so much attention to something so silly."

Dr. Sonya Bahar, Contreras' thesis advisor and friend, rushed down the gate to meet Contreras and carried her backpack.



Roxana Contreras was interviewed by local media as soon as she stepped out of security at Lambert International Airport Wednesday.

"The entire situation was like being on a strange planet."



(TOP) Roxana Contreras was welcomed home last Wednesday night at Lambert Airport. The UM-St. Louis student was freed by Russian authorities on Friday, Aug. 31 after being detained for over two months for the purchasing and attempting to export Russian war medals.

(ABOVE) Sonya Bahar gets word that Roxana Contreras' plane has arrived. Bahar is Contreras' senior thesis advisor at UM-St. Louis and was integral in raising awareness of her arrest and detention in Russia.

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Stella Mora at Lucas School House

See page 10

Triton soccer teams have tough weekend

Both the men's and women's soccer teams lost to Drury University over the weekend during their home stand. The women's team record falls to 2-3-1 and the men's team lost its first game of the season, making its record 3-1.

Check out the photos of the games from Sunday and for more photos, check out our web galleries at www.thecurrentonline.com

See pages 6-7

Tritons end four game losing streak against Drury on Saturday.

See page 8



ON THE WEB

Web poll results:
How do you feel about the punishment Contreras received?



This week's question:
Who would you like to see come to the Touhill PAC?

Stay Current with this week's weather	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hi/Low:	83/62	78/58	81/62	83/61	65/48	64/46	70/60
Precip:	30%	30%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%

Weather predictions taken from NOAA national weather service.

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
PARKING LOT JJ

A license plate was stolen from a parked car in Lot JJ. The offense had occurred sometime overnight. The license plate was simply unscrewed and taken.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7

STEALING OVER \$500 -
JC PENNEY BUILDING

Sometime during the day on Sept. 7, three more computer projectors were stolen from three separate rooms. Two of the units were taken from the ceiling where they had been mounted, and the other one was taken from on top of a desk.

The ITS personnel discovered the missing units when they went to secure the classrooms during the afternoon shift. The ITS personnel indicated that classes were held at various times throughout the entire day. The scenes were processed for evidence, and comparisons are being made to connect the crimes and develop a suspect(s).

If anyone remembers seeing anything out of the ordinary in the JC Penney area from about noon until 3:30 p.m. on Friday, they are asked to contact the Detective Bureau of the UM-St. Louis Police Department.

STEALING UNDER \$500 -
MANSION HILL APARTMENTS

The victim reported that a few weeks ago her cousin took a camcorder without her permission. He later called and said that he did take it and would return it. After a couple of weeks she learned that he had taken the camcorder to a pawn shop and sold it. She then decided to make a theft report.

The UM-St. Louis Police Department is open 24 hours a day. If you see anyone that looks suspicious or out of place you are encouraged to call the UM-St. Louis Police at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police.

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. To report any corrections that need to be made, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by email at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

In the Sept. 4, 2007 issue of The Current, the following corrections need to be made:

Regarding the article 'Recreation director fired, then not fired,' the fourth paragraph insinuates a new building to be built on South Campus. In fact, the renovations would be on an existing facility. The sentence should read, "The building is located next to the observatory and would have a swimming pool, showers and a workout facility."

In the same article Curt Coonrod was said to not support a student based facility. The sentence should read that Coonrod does not "support a student-fee based facility" instead.

Regarding the article, "Contreras free to leave Russia," the amount Contreras was fined was incorrect. The correct amount of her fine was \$1,500 rubles, or \$600 U.S. not 15,000.

Got a
news tip or
story idea?
Call
516-5174

CRYMES FILLS UP BOOKSTORE WITH BOOK SIGNING



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

A.R. Crymes reads a passage from her new book *Uncensored Temptation of Lilith and Adam*. Crymes signed copies of her book in the MSC bookstore on Thursday.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

MONDAY, SEPT. 10

Monday Noon Series

Bill McClellan, columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, will discuss "Characters I've Met" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Monday Noon Series events are free and open to the public. Call 5699 for more information.

Chemistry Colloquium

David L. Bryce, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, will discuss "Solid-State NMR Studies of Inorganic and Bioinorganic Model Systems in Ultra-high Magnetic Fields" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Call 5311 for more information.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11

Small Business Workshop

Understanding Financial Statements, a workshop for entrepreneurs, will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The fee is \$99. Call 6121 for more information.

Transatlantic Partnership

Simon Serfaty, the Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., will discuss "The Transatlantic Partnership at 60: Beyond Bush and Iraq" at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C at the MSC. Call 7299 for more information.

Study Abroad Info

The Center for International Studies will hold a study abroad information session at 3:30 p.m. in 261 Millennium Student Center. Students considering studying abroad should attend the session as a first step. Call 5229 for more information.

Newman Center Mass

The Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge Road, will celebrate Mass at 5:30 p.m. The event will be followed by a meal of soup and bread. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12

Voiceover Workshop

An Introduction to Voiceovers: Getting Started in Voice Acting will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The workshop will introduce voice acting, which includes narrating radio and television commercials, documentaries and audio books. The fee is \$59. Call 5974 for more information.

Beethoven Concert

The Arianna String Quartet will perform three Beethoven string quartets at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis. The concert is the fourth performance in a six-part series in which the quartet ultimately will perform every string quartet composed by Beethoven. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for seniors and free for UMSL students, faculty and staff.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13

Irish Election Discussion

Timothy J. White, professor of political science at Xavier University in Cincinnati, will discuss "The Irish Election of 2007: Change and Continuity in Irish Politics" at 12:30 p.m. in 331 Social Sciences & Business Building. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 7299 for more information.

Ultimate Frisbee League

Today is the sign-up deadline for Campus Recreation's coed, six-on-six Ultimate Frisbee League. Games will be played Wednesday afternoons, beginning Sept. 19, at the Mark Twain Recreation Field. The league is open to UM-St. Louis faculty, students and staff. Register at the Campus Recreation office, 203 Mark Twain/Athletic & Fitness Center. Call 5326 for more information.

Pre-Vet Meeting

The UM-St. Louis Pre-Veterinarians Club will hold its first meeting of the year at 4:30 p.m. in 111 Benton Hall. Call (636) 578-2770 or e-mail alip4b@umsl.edu for more information.



File Photo

"An Introduction to Voiceovers: Getting Started in Voice Acting," will be held Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

'Waffles and Wiffleball'

The Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge Road, will hold "Waffles and Wiffleball" at 5:30 p.m. Participants will play wiffleball games and then enjoy waffles. The event is free and open to UMSL students, faculty and staff. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14

Party on the Patio

Party on the Patio, a fundraiser for the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Ninth Street Abbey, 1808 S. Ninth St. in St. Louis. It will feature a raffle, T-shirt sale and music. Admission is free. Call 5581 for more information.

Newman Center Mass

The Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge Road, will celebrate Mass at noon. The event will be followed by a meal. UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff are welcome. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

Japan America Potluck

The Japan America Student Association will hold an international potluck at 6 p.m. in the Pilot House, followed by a trip to the City Museum, 701 N. 15th St. in St. Louis. Registration for membership will be held. Annual dues are \$5. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Call 6517 or e-mail beckelkamp@umsl.edu for more information.

Texas Tech Speaker

Phil Smith, professor of mathematics and statistics at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, will discuss "Computing good and best approximations" at 2 p.m. in 133 Social Sciences & Business Building. Call 6355 for more information.

SGA Meeting

The second Student Government Association meeting of the year will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the SGA chambers.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

Newman Center Mass

The Catholic Newman Center will celebrate Mass at 8:30 p.m. in the Provincial House Chapel. Also, the center is seeking choir members, Eucharistic ministers and lectors. Call (314) 385-3455 or e-mail cnc@umsl.edu for more information.

MONDAY, SEPT. 17

Monday Noon Series

The Monday Noon Series discussion will explore "Is the Constitution Green Enough?" from 12:15 to 2 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the Millennium Student Center. Light refreshments are served. Faculty who plan to attend with their classes should e-mail ctl@umsl.edu with an estimated number of students. Call 5699 for more information.

The Current

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

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ON THE WEB

The Current

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

ABOUT US

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. The Current requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current, its staff members or the University. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current. First copy is free; all subsequent copies are 25 cents and are available at the offices of The Current.

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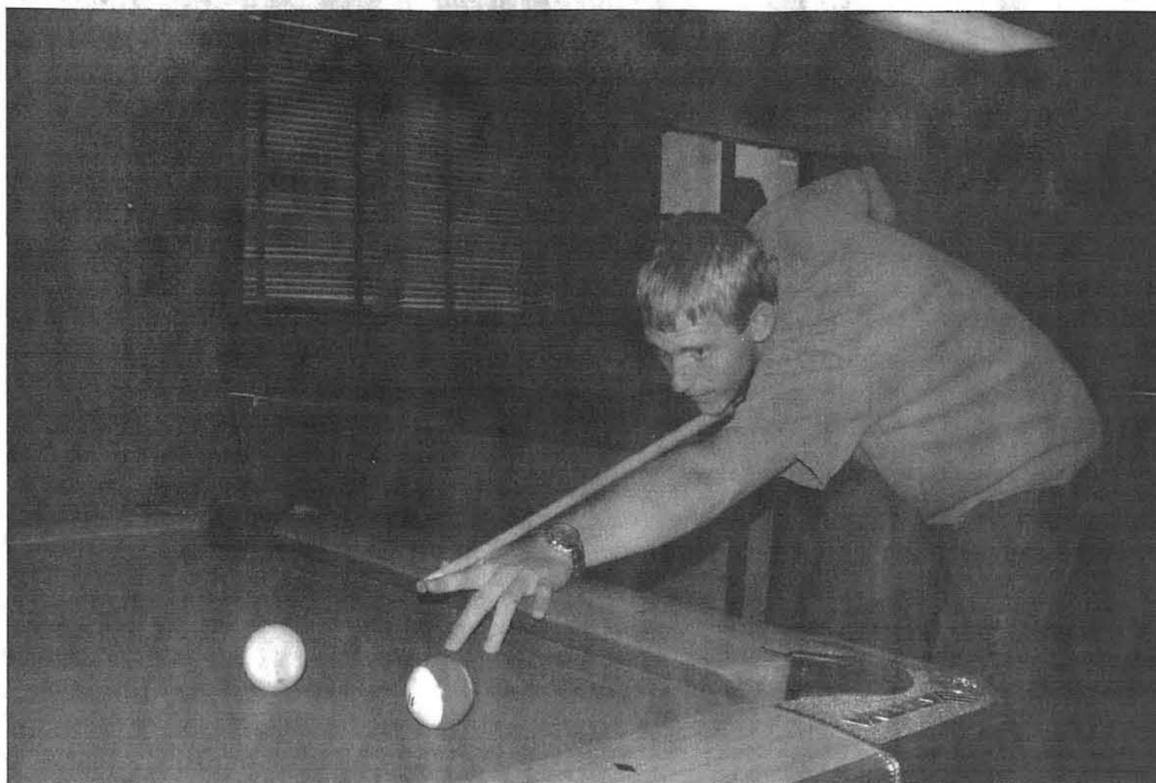


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HAVING A BALL AT THE PLHCSA LUAU



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, PLHCSA, hosted its third annual Welcome Back Luau on Friday. Open to new and returning Honors students as well as any campus residents who wandered by, the Welcome Back Luau offered pool, ping pong, free food and a chance to socialize outside of class. Due to inclement weather, the luau was moved to Seton Lounge. Here, Stephen Leuhrman, junior, music performance, plays pool at the social. This was the first year the luau would be held by the Oak pool instead of in front of the Honors College.

Faculty Senate discourages Columbia name change

By ANGIE SPENCER

Proofreader

In a resolution on Sept. 4, Timothy Farmer, chairman of the Faculty Senate, signed a resolution passed that day stating its opposition to the UM - Columbia name change.

In the resolution it states, "...whereas the name 'University of Missouri' is not owned exclusively by any one of the four campuses but rather, is shared by the four campuses..." as a reason to reject the name change.

In a quote given to *The Kansas City Star*, Farmer said, "Our position is we are not trying to stop them from changing their name, but the issue is that this is a name that is al-

ready in use by other campuses, and they don't have a right to take it."

The faculty at the UM - Columbia is pushing for the name change.

In a previous interview, UM system interim president Gordon Lamb said that the thought behind the change stemmed from the idea that UM - Columbia used to be the only school before the system began in 1963.

The UM-St. Louis faculty has responded to the motion from UM-Columbia faculty with this resolution.

When asked about the significance of the same group, Cadence Rippeto, vice president of the Student Government Association said "It's important because it's the same body of people. It was an adequate

response by our faculty to a push by Mizzou faculty senate."

At the last SGA meeting, students discussed the name change for most of the meeting. Feelings were mixed, but all agreed that the name change was a bad idea.

Rippeto said that Student Government Executives will present the resolution at the next SGA meeting this Friday, but it will be up to the assembly to take action.

Few University bodies and administrators have taken a stance on the change, likely waiting to see what the response will be from the Board of Curators.

Tony Luetkemeyer, student representative to the UM Board of Curators, said, "I haven't heard a whole lot about it, it has not been a

discussion item yet. I am not certain if it will be taken up, but I assume it will at one point in the future."

The name change idea has recently gotten attention, but Luetkemeyer says that it is not something that is new.

While it was the first time he has heard the idea come out, Todd McCubbin, director of the Alumni Association at UM-Columbia, has said that the proposal has been in the works for a while.

The Missouri constitution gives the Board of Curators the power to pass propositions made by UM system schools.

The next Board of Curators meeting will be held on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5 in Columbia, Mo.

UMSL police arrest suspect in sexual misconduct cases

By PAUL HACKBARTH

Editor-in-Chief

Campus police are currently investigating two related sexual misconduct cases that took place in residential halls on campus, one allegedly more than two years ago.

The police arrested a male suspect believed to be involved in both cases.

Two weeks ago, a male student approached a female student, made sexual comments and attempted to have the girl go with him to his or her room.

After the incident, another female student came forward to campus police with information claiming that the same male student involved in the sexual misconduct incident had allegedly raped and sodomized her in 2005.

Sgt. John Schupp of the campus police said the male suspect was arrested for rape and sodomy, but his name will not be released until charges are filed against him.

According to the campus crime log, a male suspect approached a female student at the Oak Hall pool at about 10 p.m. on Aug. 25.

The suspect was allegedly touching the victim inappropriately and then attempted to persuade the female student to go to her room or his room with him. The suspect also asked sexually suggestive questions to the student.

The female student was able to leave the pool area, but did not report the incident until Aug. 30. According to the police, the student felt uncomfortable and delayed telling the police.

After hearing about the Oak Hall incident, another female student decided to come forth and report a rape and forcible sodomy, in which the same suspect may have been involved in two years earlier.

According to the campus crime log, in March 2005, the same suspect forced the female student into

her room in Seton Hall and allegedly raped and sodomized the female student before she was able to push him off of her. The student did not report the incident because she initially felt uncomfortable and did not know what to do.

The investigation into both incidents is ongoing, according to Sgt. Thomas McEwen of the University Police. Police are also looking for anybody who had similar incidents with the suspect.

No charges have been filed against the suspect as of Sunday, Sept. 9, but he could face criminal charges by the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

McEwen said no notice was released concerning the incident because police did not consider the cases as an ongoing threat.

"In the case of a sex offender, there was a description made and immediately after the fact, an arrest was made, so no notification was sent out," McEwen said.

He said notifications about campus crime are sent out on a "case-by-case" basis. If only one building or a certain part of campus, such as residential dormitories, is affected, that section of campus is notified and no campus-wide notification is released.

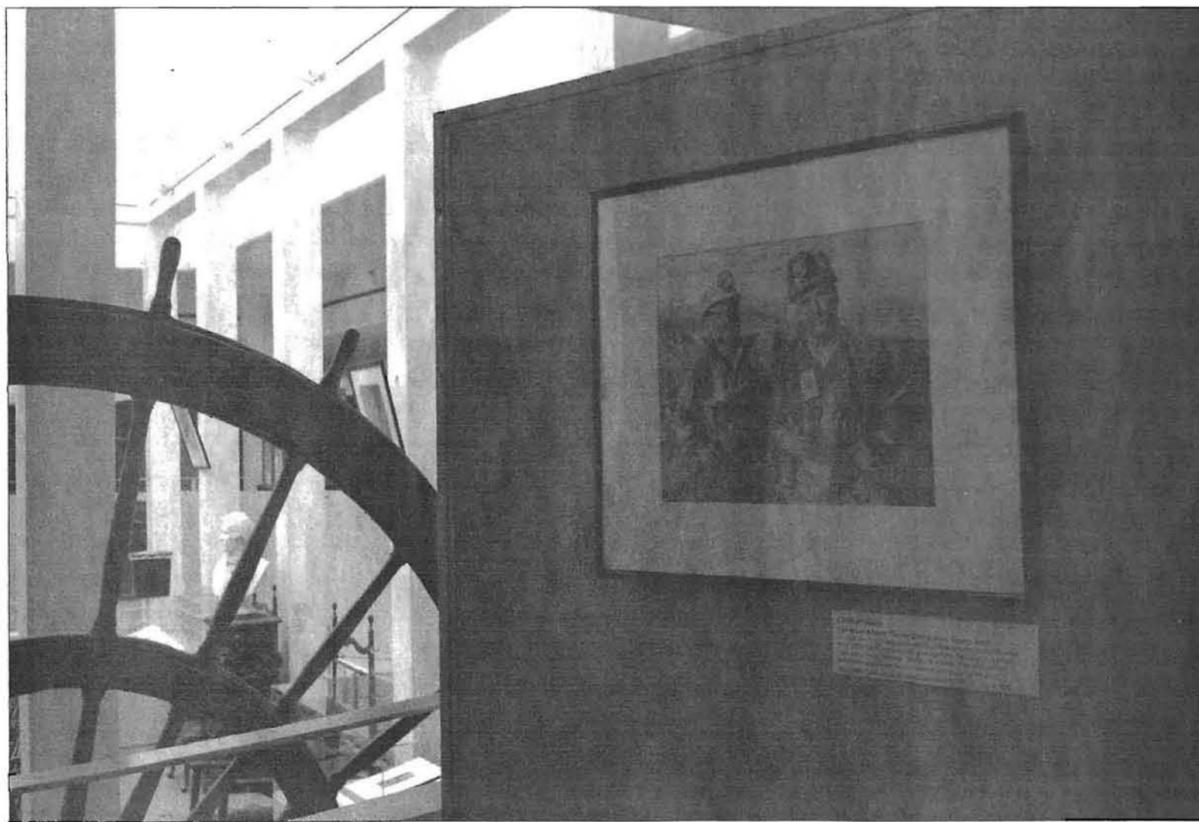
Jonathan Lidgus, assistant director of Residential Life, could not comment on the incidents, but said safety is a high priority for Residential Life.

"We do everything necessary to keep our residents safe. For instance, [residential assistants] had a week and a half of training before school started, and they spend a full, intense day working with the police department," Lidgus said.

He added that the RAs are trained not to act on criminal incidents but instead, to report them to the police.

McEwen suggested tips for avoiding future similar incidents, including walking in groups, knowing self-defense and being more aware of an individual's personal space.

LABORS OF LOVE



Photos by Maria Jenkins • Staff Photographer

(ABOVE) Photographic portrait "Fathers and Sons, Consol Emery Mine, Emery, Utah" from the exhibit "Faces of Labor" showcased in the Mercantile Library. The photographer responsible is Lee Buchsbaum.

(LEFT) These two prints are from the exhibit "Faces of Labor" at the Mercantile Library. The prints are by artist Lee Buchsbaum, entitled, "Frank Shook, Engineer, Paducah and Louisville Railway, Paducah" (top) and "BNSF Conductor, Gillette, Wyoming" (bottom). The exhibit ends Nov. 18, 2007.

ROXANA from page 1

"They told her not to contact her consulate," Bahar said. Contreras did not know whether the customs agents wanted a bribe. "They said they wanted to handle it without involving the police," Bahar said, relating the story that Contreras had told her of her initial detention.

The battle for Contreras' return continued from there. Judge Yuri Petrovich Sukhov, who was her trial judge, refused to validate her student visa, forcing Contreras to break the law.

"The last few weeks have been absolutely insanely frantic," Bahar said of her rush for publicity.

"Everything happened because of the [media] pressure," Contreras said of her return.

"Otherwise, I guess I would be still waiting there."

Fiancée Fred Scherrer, holding a bouquet of lilies, welcomed Contreras back with an embrace.

"She's home," Scherrer said. "It's a good feeling. We'll take it slow and just get back in the groove."

Contreras said that she could not wait to have fresh tomatoes from her garden and was ready to return to work with the Physics department, while Bahar insisted she first take time to rest.

NEWS BRIEFS

Normandy hospital demolition pending

The old Normandy Hospital was set to be demolished soon after February 2007. Because of a delay, however, it still stands today.

"The only problem I've been aware of is funding for the demolition. It's a costly project," said Bob Samples, director of marketing services.

"The estimated cost to tear down the building and clear the property is about \$2 million."

The hospital was closed in 1993 and reopened in 1997 by local doctors who ran the hospital until it permanently closed in 2000. UM-St. Louis purchased and closed Normandy hospital in fall of 2001 for \$2.6 million.

"The most recently approved campus Master Plans indicates that the area could be used for athletic facilities," Samples said. "A demolition date is not set in stone, but could occur within the next 12 to 24 months."

The Zeta Tau Alpha sorority was required to leave their house in January 2007 due to the pending demolition of the hospital and house.

An official date for the demolition has not yet been set.

Marillac Dedication

On Wednesday, the dedication of the newly remodeled lobby of Marillac Hall took place.

Dean Charles Schmitz of College of Education, described the lobby prior to renovations to be ugly. "Students hated to be there, we [faculty] hated to be there."

Jennifer Hatton of media services said the two Deans began conversation last year with ideas of how to make the lobby of Marillac more welcoming to students.

Schmitz and Dean Larry Davis, Dean of College of Optometry decided that they needed to create a better environment for the students. "There were no campus resources available, so between the two colleges, we pooled funds to make it happen," Schmitz said.

Teams were set for planning and renovating the lobby. As a result of collaboration the lobby was cleaned, painted and new furniture was added as well.

"We have seen a tremendous increase since the remodel," Schmitz said. "We were able to create a nice environment for students to relax, study and have a cup of coffee."

Schmitz said that he was delighted to be able to do something for the students.

"This is a good example of two colleges working together to take care of the interest of the students," Schmitz said.

OPINION

OUR OPINION

Recent crimes prove need for improved alert system

Two weeks ago a very frightening event occurred at the UM-St. Louis residential halls. A report of alleged recent sexual assault and alleged rape and forcible sodomy two years earlier can be found in last week's Campus Crimeline. These reports stated that the same suspect was involved in both cases.

What should shock students of the University even more is that there were no warnings, no alerts, and no noise at all about this devastating event until its required publication in the campus crime log.

The University's residential halls are a place that should foster trust in those people who are protecting not only resident's belongings, but their safety as well. Administration should advise residents when potentially detrimental activities are going on or have occurred.

However, no residents were told, except through rumors, which are, of course, only rumors.

The University Police claim that no notice was made because the alleged suspect had been arrested and they felt that he was no longer a threat to residents.

On Monday, April 16, 2007 at a little after 7 a.m., student resident Seung-Hui Cho entered a dormitory at Virginia Tech with a gun, and

killed Ryan Clark, a residential assistant, and Emily Hilscher, a resident.

More than two hours later an e-mail was sent to Virginia Tech students. At the time police believed that the shooting was an isolated incident, twenty minutes later Cho entered Norris Hall killing 30 students and injuring 17 more.

Rehashing the events of Virginia Tech may be hard to swallow, and in a completely different ballpark than the events at our residence halls, however, the value of what happened between 7:00 and 9:30 that horrible day should speak volumes to administrators across the academic board.

While the death of 32 students may be gauged differently than sexually motivated crimes the importance of communication to every student about possible dangerous events on campus has been neglected here at the UM-St. Louis, just as it was on April 16 at Virginia Tech.

With such staggering forms of communication at hand on campus, there is no excuse for not being able to notify students. Some colleges around the country even have text message capabilities to alert students to such happenings.

It is understandable that the utmost care be taken in keeping the suspects and victims anonymous,

however, the crime log proves every week that students can be alerted without jeopardizing the privacy of those involved, and in the bigger picture, what is more important? Alerting a possible victim of sexual assault or keeping a possibly dangerous situation under wraps for privacy reasons?

Our most sincere empathy is felt for the victims of such horrible crimes such as sexual assault, and any manner of rape. We also hope that if any reader has experienced a similar occurrence, that they go to the campus police and report them immediately.

The University Police cannot be held responsible for not ending the trail of victims if they are not aware of the crimes. It is imperative that the victims come forward immediately after any sort of attack. Any time that passes between an attack and reporting the crime could lead to subsequent incidents.

The more students and residents know about what is happening on their campus, the more aware they will be. Alert should be given immediately after a crime that could be a possible threat to students has been reported to the police, not at the beginning of the next week after crime could have gone further.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

Diversity, vouchers, ICS and Soulja Boy

Mix travel expense forms, resilience theory, recruiting, online management programs with soggy scrambled eggs, s'mores, Triton frisbees and paddle boats and what do you get? The Student Leadership Retreat sponsored by Student Life.



By PAUL HACKBARTH
Editor-in-Chief

Student leadership was on display this weekend at the Tan-Tar-A resort at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Among the group of students that attended this year's Retreat, more than 80 student organizations were represented.

Whether the representatives were there to learn more about leadership qualities, to bounce ideas off other leaders about how they do things in their organization or to make sure their organization's budget did not get frozen this year, student leaders got a chance to show off their leadership skills.

When I refer to leadership skills, I am not referring to keg stands or jet ski races. Leadership comes in many varieties.

This year's group was divided into four teams: black, blue, gray and green. I was on the black team.

"U-M! S-L! Black team! Best hur!"

We yelled that every chance we could. That was our mantra, one of the new things I learned about during one of the sessions. Every organization should have a mantra, a statement about their organization that is short and sweet.

I learned other things as well. I learned about diversity in organizations, travel vouchers, recruiting tools, ways to deal with difficult people, a new online management system for clubs called ICS for short and a new dance called the Soulja Boy.

I admit I was a little nervous attending the retreat. I did not know most of the other student leaders, but getting out of my comfort zone was good for me. As leader of the school newspaper, it is important for me to know who will be leading the student body that *The Current* serves.

To report on a community, a journalist should know who makes up that community and who will lead and represent the different aspects of that community.

However being editor-in-chief of the student paper also had its downsides. Other student leaders were not short on jokes when it came to what they did and said around me, careful that their words or actions might end up as front page news in next week's paper.

Other leaders warned me to not include certain things in *The Current*. I was told that what happens in Tan-Tar-A stays in Tan-Tar-A.

That may be true for some things, but what student leaders learned during the retreat should not stay there. Bringing the leadership lessons back to their student organizations could prove invaluable this year.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

At least I was not a Boston Red Sox fan

Last week I decided to take a mini vacation to New York City, NY, a place I have wanted to visit since I was very young. Since I am a New York Mets fan, it was perfect. I would see them play the Houston Astros in the midst of a tight division race at where else but Shea Stadium in Queens.



By THOMAS HELTON
Design Editor

For all of the three days and two nights I was there, I wore my David Wright New York Mets jersey. With a hotel on Times Square, it seemed just as likely to run into a Mets fan as a Yankees fan, but it was not until the day I left that I ran into three Bronx Bomber fans, all of whom were very nice and had a fun laugh about the whole rivalry.

When wearing a Mets jersey around St. Louis, it is likely that I get called "pond scum," or hear the famous confused one liner: "The Mets?!"

What I found most interesting about New York was the absolute lack of stereotypes in Manhattan, with baseball and otherwise. I expected to be panned more than in St. Louis, especially at Times Square or in the subway stations. Not once, however, did someone ask me for my spare change or try to pickpocket me.

Not that I expected every person I ran into to try and steal my wallet or to beg for money, but if I only trusted Hollywood and rumors from other visitors, I sure would have been worried.

Not once did I run into anyone who was rude or mean. Everyone was friendly, at least in the places I visited around Manhattan and Queens, and the accents everyone had just made it all that more exciting.

Cab rides in New York are supposed to be scary, smelly and not much fun at all. While I only took a cab twice, the cabbies were polite, the cab had no odor and it was cheap.

New Yorkers are often projected as rude and impatient, but not once did I feel rushed or looked down upon.

If I was driving around Times Square, my middle finger would be in a fixed position and my head beating down on the steering wheel.

From what I saw, however, that never was the case. Sometimes the cabbies honk when some random tourist tries to run across the street, but it was deserved.

One New Yorker stood out from them all while on my trip. An older male wearing a fancy brown suit and a half-smoked cigar in his mouth gave me two Mets tickets on the spot just because I was a Mets fan, and he was not going to be going to the game.

No questions were asked. The tickets were legit and they were better than the ones I had in advance, so I saw the game from two different sections in the stadium.

Do not trust stereotypes. While sometimes they can be based on some sort of factual evidence, it is better to ignore them all and draw your own conclusions. Whether it is stereotyping by region, race or sex, it is good to always trust your own observations over others. Each person witnesses the same event in different ways and draws their own conclusions. It is still funny to poke fun at some stereotypes. However, make sure you do your research before becoming the talk of the town.

SCIENCE COLUMN

When bees disappear...

There is a quote going around, attributed to Albert Einstein, along the lines of, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man." The quote is apparently not from Einstein, but the importance of bees is undeniable.

Many are curious and even worried about why bees have been disappearing. Bees play an essential role in both agriculture and in nature. Wild bees have been disappearing, but the commercial suppliers of domesticated European honeybees are the most important pollinator for American crops.

The U.S.D.A. estimates that "one mouthful in three" of food is produced, directly or indirectly, with the help of bee pollination. More recently, domesticated bees have been falling prey to an unknown malady called "colony collapse disorder" or CCD.

In colony collapse, the worker bees fly away and never return. Hives are left empty. It is estimated that 50-90% of commercial beekeepers have been affected in the U.S.

The cause of this syndrome has been a mystery. Suggested causes have included cell phones that interfere with bee navigation, climate



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

change, genetically modified crops, pesticides and unknown pathogens.

Now scientists have a new possibility: a virus found in Israeli bees.

The results of the soon-to-be-published study were announced in the scientific journal "Science." Lead author Ian Lipkin of Columbia University in New York, Diana Cox-Foster, of Pennsylvania State University in University Park and other study scientists sequenced all the microorganisms living inside bees as part of a comparative sequencing project.

Among the bacteria, viruses and fungi in the bees, they made another discovery. The researchers found that genes of the Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV) that may have originated

in Australia, infect Israeli hives, matched extremely well with hives with the disorder. They found that there was a 96% chance that hives where they found IAPV genes also had CCD.

The researchers cautioned that the correlation does not establish IAPV as the cause, as it could be a secondary infection that followed an unknown pathogen.

Further study is needed to establish causation, but the results offer at least a possible solution to the mystery.

Other researchers expressed caution, as did another study by author Jeffery Pettis of the USDA Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. He noted that most likely CCD has multiple causes and noted in an article in *Nature* that the controls were much healthier than the hives experiencing CCD.

Israeli scientist Ilan Sela, a virologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, recently discovered the IAPV virus. However, Israeli hives infected with this virus experienced bees dying inside the hives, rather than the U.S. pattern of worker bees simply failing to return.

IAPV may not be the solution to the disappearing bee mystery, but it has offered the best clue so far to the answer. More work is still needed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Welcome Week Photo

Ted Gatlin's letter to the editor in the Sept. 4 issue seems to be a desperate reach to find something wrong with *The Current*. He cites the fact that a photograph appeared in the Aug. 27 issue that portrayed African-American students eating fried chicken. He calls this "overtly stereotypical" and "seemingly racist."

I agree with Gatlin that the photographs of Welcome Week were lacking in substance and failed to portray the full extent of the great activities that took place, but I find the fact that he complains about the photograph of the black students eating fried chicken to be somewhat ridiculous.

After all, it is not as if the picture was posed, drawn, or otherwise fabricated -- the students were actually eating the fried chicken! How is publishing a photograph of actual events "racist"?

Lindsay Perkins
Sophomore
Sociology

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

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

UNDERCURRENT

By Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

How many classes have you skipped so far this semester?



Stephen Luehrman
Junior
Music Performance



Beau Woodall
Senior
English



Patrick Bergin
Senior
Music Education



Madison Hayes
Sophomore
Physics



Molly Striler
Senior
Secondary Education

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

"I never skip class."

"Well, last semester I missed about 30 but this semester only three so far."

"Two, unless you count rehearsals. Then it is more like five."

"None, yet."

"One. I had to go shopping with my great-grand mother."

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

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

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

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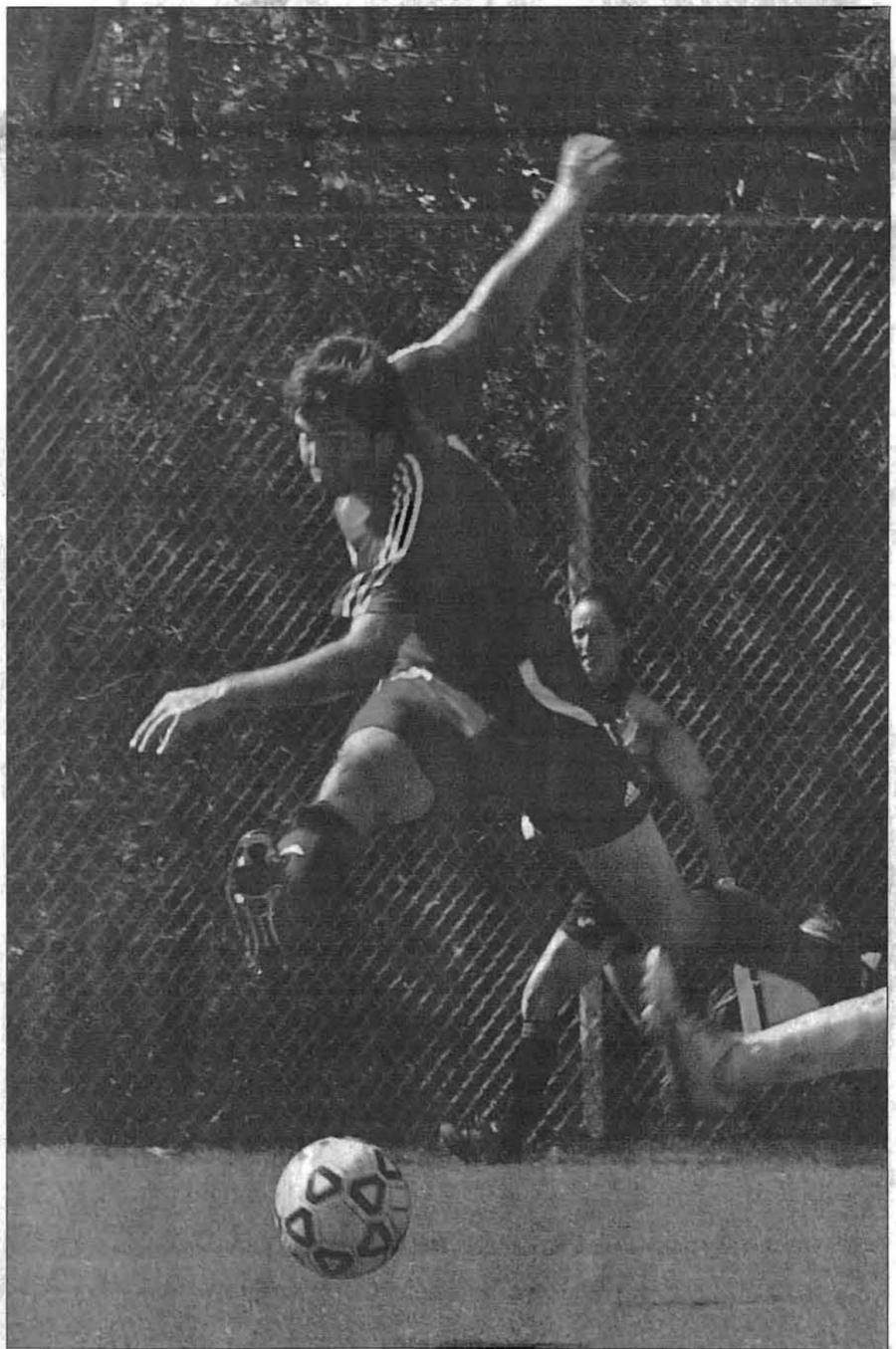
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Photos by: Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Jared Smith, forward, works his way up the field during the game against Drury University on Sunday. The Tritons lost their first game of the season to Drury by a score of 1-0.

KEEPING YOUR EYE ON THE BALL



(ABOVE) Matt Burch, midfielder, gets ready to pass the ball to one of his teammates during Sunday afternoon's game where Drury shut out the Tritons.

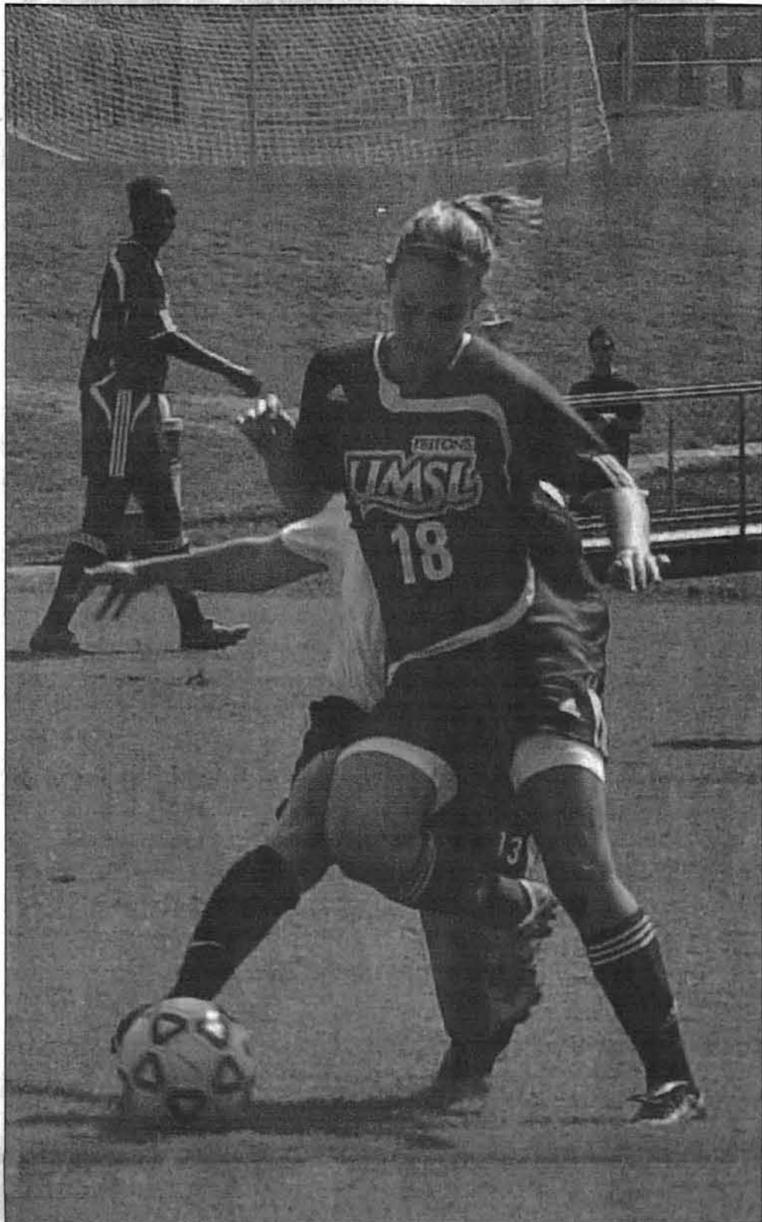
(RIGHT) Chris Clarkin, midfielder, hops over one of Drury's defenders during the game on Sunday afternoon. The Tritons men's soccer team is now 3-1 on the season.



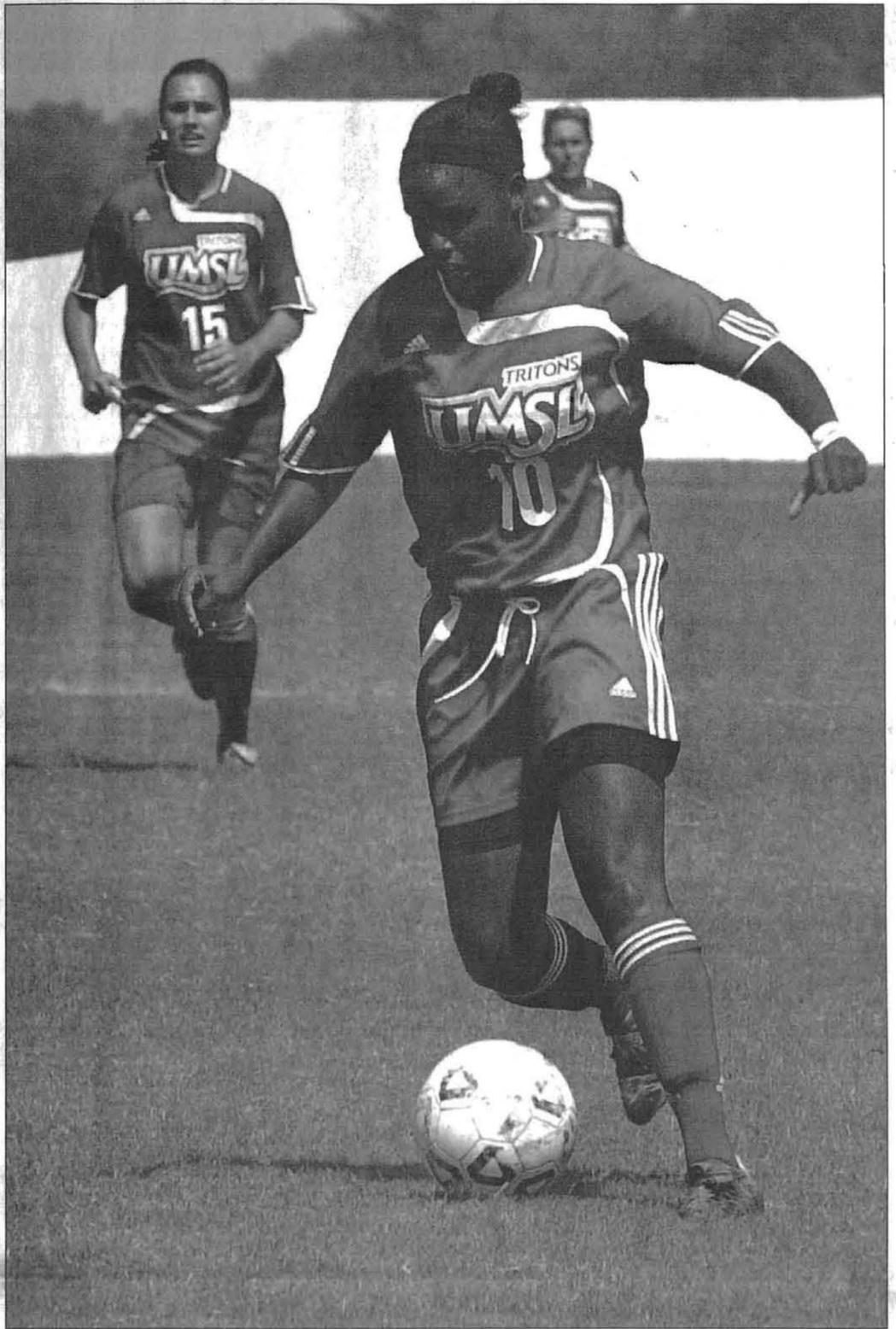
(ABOVE) Colin Huber, forward for the Triton men's soccer team, takes a shot on goal during the game against Drury Sunday at home.

(LEFT) Jack McKenna, midfielder for the men's soccer team, moves the ball downfield against a Drury defender. McKenna was one of four new recruits for the men's team this season.

TRITONS GET THEIR KICKS



Caitlin Farrow, forward, blocks a Drury player Sunday. The women's team lost to Drury 2-0. The team record now falls to 2-3-1.

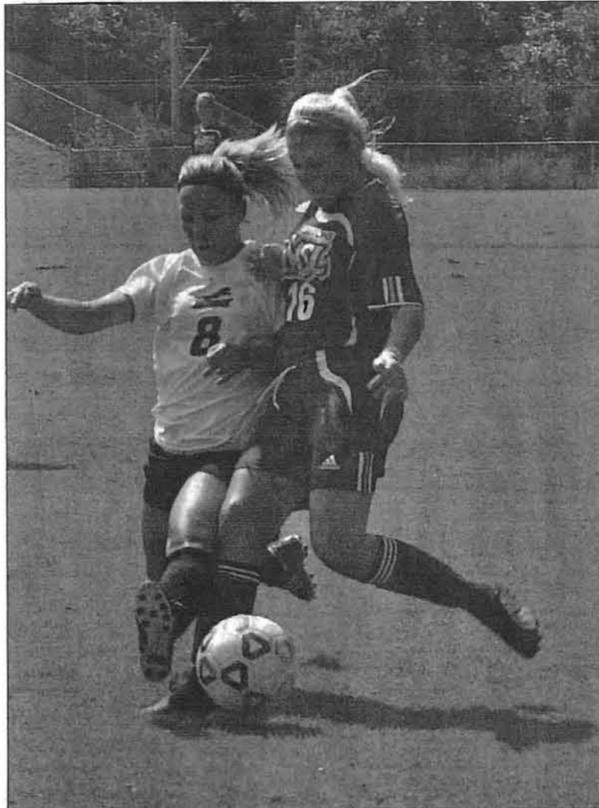


Jessica Hampton, forward for the women's soccer team charges against Drury Sunday afternoon at home.

Photos by: Danny Reise • Staff Photographer



Krisie Muesenfechter, midfielder and defender, boots the ball into the air during the game against Drury.



Jamie Clark, midfielder for the Tritons women's soccer team, goes up against a Drury defender.

I WANT TEAM SPIRIT GLORY

AND NOT TO SHOW UP IN FULL
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SPORTS

Women's soccer team plays hard, comes up short

BY LAGUAN FUSE Sports Editor

The Current online.com

Visit thecurrentonline.com for a photo gallery of last weeks men's and women's soccer games at UM-St. Louis.

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team record stands at 2-3-1 (0-2 GLVC) after losing the first home conference games of the year. The Tritons lost to Rockhurst 2-1 on Friday and then 2-0 to Drury on Sunday.

The Tritons faced off against the Rockhurst Hawks on a rainy Friday night in a game that ended in overtime. Overtime in this game started after a half an hour rain delay. The score was 1-1 at the end of regulation and Rockhurst scored quickly in OT to get its fourth win of the season and



also its first conference win. The first half remained scoreless and both teams looked to take an early advantage in the second half. Chelsey Schumacher scored first for the Hawks in the 56th minute of the game with the assist coming off a corner kick from Lisa Schwarz. Sierra Ellis quickly answered back for the Tritons, scoring 29 seconds later. Maggie Gabris assisted the goal

scored in the 57th minute of the game.

Regulation time ended with the Tritons pushing the pressure of the game. UM-St. Louis led in total shots during the game 12-8, but in overtime, Rockhurst was able to outshoot UM-St. Louis 2-0. Danielle Boyce assisted Lauren Baer to score the game winning goal for Rockhurst 2:34 into overtime.

"I think we definitely had a moment at the end of the game," Head Coach Beth Goetz said. "She [Baer] did not have any pressure. We had a mental letdown."

"Mentally, we were unorganized," said Triton's midfielder/defender Tara Reitz. "[Losing] puts pressure on us to win the rest of the games."

Gabris ended the game with two shots, both on goal, and one assist. Ellis finished with one goal on three total shots.

Mary Behrmann started the game at goalkeeper and played 45 minutes and recorded one save. Courtney Carmody played the remainder of the game and finished with four saves while allowing two goals.

"Mentally, we have to be tougher," Goetz said. "In this league, you don't get a day off."



Danny Reize • Staff Photographer

Tara Reitz could not get the team organized enough to make her way around Megan Darby of the Rockhurst Hawks at Friday's women's soccer game.

Tritons' defender Danielle Dahm and Hawks' defender Schumacher left the game after colliding near the goal. According to Goetz, Dahm suffered a mild concussion. Information on Schumacher was unavailable.

The second conference game of the weekend was a 2-0 lost to Drury.

The Tritons were able to outshoot the Panthers throughout the game, recording 17 total shots to Drury's four. Thirteen of the shots made by UM-St. Louis came in the second half of the game.

Micah Little scored the first

goal for Drury in the 33rd minute of the game with the assist going to Aly Reynolds. Mandi Little recorded the second goal for Drury in the 48th minute of the game with the assist going to Little. "We made a couple of mistakes on defense and they were able to capitalize," Goetz said. "The opportunities are there, but we are struggling to put the ball in the back of the net."

Both Behrmann and Carmody played 45 minutes and both recorded one save while allowing one goal.

The Tritons suffered another

injury to a player during the game against Drury.

Midfielder/defender Lynn Cerny was taken off of the field due to an injury of her right knee. According to Goetz, Cerny is scheduled for an MRI on Sept. 10.

Goetz said that losing Cerny and Dahm is a huge loss on the field. Dahm is expected to return in about a week and the team is still waiting on a diagnosis.

The Tritons will be on the road next weekend when they travel to Lewis on Sept. 14 and to Wisconsin-Parkside on Sept. 16.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Christy Trame

Christy Trame, junior, nursing, is the Athlete of the Week.

The 6'1" middle hitter is leading the Triton Volleyball team in many categories with 183 kills, 17 service aces, and 17 blocked shots.

This week against Drury, she recorded a team high 19 kills and her 21 total attempts were the second highest of the team.

The highest number of kills for a Drury player was 9.

In a 3-1 loss to Rockhurst on Sept. 7, she recorded the most kills of either team, with 11.

Last season she led the team in total kills and blocks, and was a second team Great Lakes Valley All-Conference selection.

Trame will face off against UM-Rolla later this week at UM-St. Louis.

SHORT FUSE

One win, four losses: is this how we start a season?

This past weekend, the Tritons opened up for conference play in men and women's soccer as well as volleyball. It was great to see all three teams play on Friday night, even though no one could pick up the win.

Rockhurst and Drury both have great programs in all three sports, but out of the five

games played this weekend (men's soccer on Friday was postponed due to weather), UM-St. Louis only won one game. Way to go volleyball!

Women's soccer head coach Beth Goetz and midfielder/forward Tara Reitz both said that the team needs to be mentally tougher. There are a lot of opportunities that the team did not capitalize on and they also gave opponents too many chances to score.

In my opinion, this is a great team and all they need to do is play up to their ability. It is like we have forearms and biceps, but we are missing the elbows. There is a missing piece to this team and as soon as it is found, they will be unstoppable, hopefully.

The women's soccer team took the field this weekend and two players suffered injuries which required medical attention. I hope that both Danielle Dahm and Lynn Cerny recover from their injuries.

Yes, it is true that players are important and their presence will be greatly missed, but their health is more important.

Dahm is reported to have a mild concussion, and for those of you who have never had a concussion, let me tell you, it hurts.

Another thing that hurts is knowing that the men's soccer team broke down after starting the season 3-0. I

am not going to be too hard on these guys because I think practice next week will be hard enough.

I never had Dan King for a coach, but his facial expression after the game gave me the impression that practice next week will be far from fun.

The team fought hard during the game, but only getting one shot

in the first half does not look good for the rest of the season. True, the men's soccer team started the season on a three-game winning streak, but they also started conference play on a losing streak.

The volleyball team is the only UM-St. Louis team to have a GLVC win so far this year. The game was exciting and I really think this season's team has a great chance at making it back to the GLVC tournament.

The team was swept 3-0 in the first conference game against Rockhurst, but came back and swept Drury 3-0 the next night.

Head Coach Josh Lauer said that they are expecting great things against great teams.

He also said that the Tritons "are not playing against cupcakes or powderpuffs." Roughly translated, this year is going to be tough and if the team wants to win they have to step it up every game.

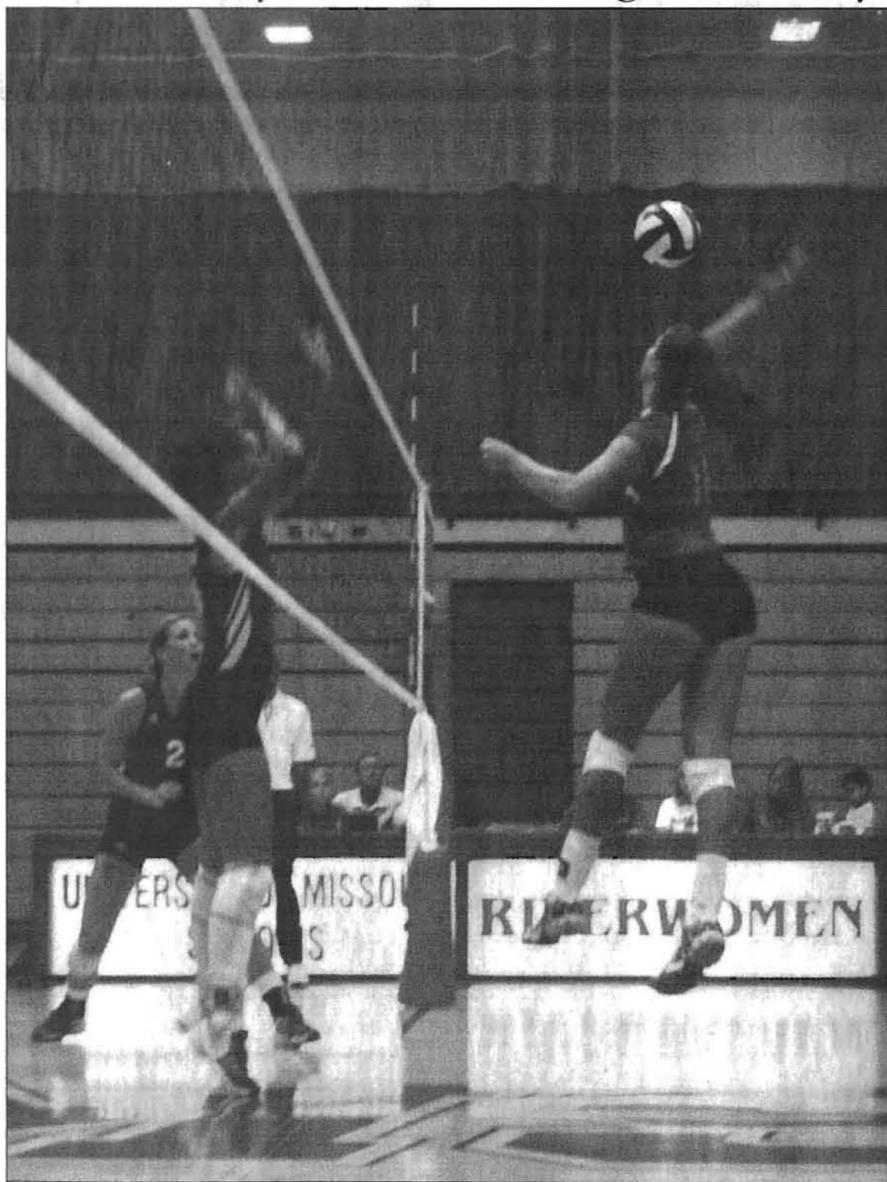
Volleyball has three home games this week, two of which are conference games. The only non-conference is going to be against a team ranked in the top 10.

Lauer also said that UM-St. Louis needs a winning streak, and seeing how volleyball is the only team that walked away from the opening conference weekend with a win, I will be looking to them to deliver it.



BY LAGUAN FUSE Sports Editor

Tritons volleyball team wins big over Drury



Danny Reize • Staff Photographer

Christy Trame spikes the ball in hopes of getting the serve back from Rockhurst during the game on Friday, Sept. 7.

BY LAGUAN FUSE Sports Editor

Christy Trame recorded 19 kills on 21 attempts in the Tritons' 3-0 win against the Drury Panthers on Saturday. The UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team's record now stands at 4-6 (1-1 GLVC).

The Triton volleyball team won its first home game of the season by defeating the Panthers. The Tritons won the first game 30-12 and recorded 18 kills on 32 attempts. The Panthers finished with only seven kills on 40 attempts and recorded nine errors.

The second game was closer than the first, but the Tritons were still able to come away on top.

UM-St. Louis won the second game 30-27 and had 23 kills on only 56 attempts. Drury finished the second game with 14 kills on 49 attempts.

The Tritons won the third game 30-22 and finished with 18 kills on 36 attempts. The Panthers were close with 15 kills on 39 attempts.

Sarah Eisnagle ended the match with 10 kills on 20 attempts while only playing in two games. Heather Nichols and Joslyn Brown both finished the game with 15 digs each. Elizabeth Cook was right behind

them with 13 digs. "The respect we have received in the conference is amazing," head coach Josh Lauer said.

"We are a much better team than we were in the past. I am really pleased with the way they played. Hopefully now we can start a winning streak. UMSL could use a winning streak."

The Tritons were unsuccessful in their attempt to win the first conference game of the season against the Rockhurst Hawks on Friday night. The Tritons lost the game 3-0.

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Soccer

Sept. 14 at Lewis 2:30 p.m.

Sept. 16 at Wisconsin-Parkside 2:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Sept. 14 at Lewis 12 p.m.

Sept. 16 at Wisconsin-Parkside 12 p.m.

Volleyball

Sept. 11 vs. Missouri - Rolla 7 p.m.

Sept. 12 vs. Central Missouri 7 p.m.

Men's soccer shut out in first GLVC conference game

By **LAGUAN FUSE**
Sports Editor

1 GLVC).

The Panthers controlled the tempo for most of the game and prevented the Tritons from getting a shot until the last few minutes of the first half. Drury was able to outshoot UM-St. Louis 11-4 during the game. UM-St. Louis was able to get four corner shots during the game while holding Drury to only two.

The only goal of the game came unassisted in the 43rd minute from Marco Cherisma. Cherisma finished the game with one goal and five total shots for the Panthers.

The Tritons finished the game with four shots, but none of the shots were on goal. The Panthers controlled the ball during the game and recorded seven of their shots during the first half.

UM-St. Louis goalkeeper Mike Bober played 90 minutes in the game and finished with four saves and allowed one goal. So far this season, Bober has two shutout games and has

only allowed two goals.

"We couldn't score goals," said Bober. "We worked good as a team. We just did not get results."

Bober is in his third year with the team and before this season, he only had five career saves with the team.

"I think our team chemistry is coming together," head coach Dan King said. "We had difficulty defending as a unit. This conference is very competitive."

The last time these two teams faced off, both games ended in a tie. In 2006, the game ended 0-0 and in 2005, the final score was 1-1.

The next games for the Tritons will be next weekend on the road against Lewis and Wisconsin-Parkside. The makeup date for the postponed game against Rockhurst has yet to be rescheduled. The Tritons will not have another home game until Sept. 21 when they host Bel-larmine and then on Sept. 23 against Northern Kentucky.

The first home conference game for the men's soccer team was scheduled to be against Rockhurst on Sept. 7 and experienced several delays before being postponed indefinitely.

The game started late due to the women's soccer game going into overtime followed by a half an hour rain delay. When both teams finally took the field, they only played for three minutes before the game was halted due to lighting.

After an hour and a half delay, the teams took the field again, this time for only 15 minutes, before the game was officially postponed due to weather.

UM-St. Louis hosted Drury on Sunday, Sept. 9, in what was scheduled to be the second conference game of the weekend. Drury won the game with a final score of 1-0. The Triton's record now stands at 3-1 (0-

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Are you ready for some football? Me neither

It is supposed to be the best time of the year for sports fans. We have gone six long, hard months without a direction. They have teased us with free agent signings, draft picks and training camps. We have finished all our fantasy drafts and know all the scouting reports.

But now, the time has arrived: the kickoff of the National Football League season is upon us. So why could I not care less?

Actually, that is really a stupid question because the answer is quite easy. Maybe it is because football never left us in the first place. In today's day and age, even after the last football season concludes, the pundits and talking heads begin bombarding us sports fans with what next year will be like.

There is absolutely no off-season in the NFL anymore because football is these people's meal tickets. So, they have to discuss it until they are blue in the face.

No one is guilty of this more than ESPN. The worldwide leader in sports, as ESPN has proclaimed itself to be, has a show called "NFL Live." During the season, it makes sense that this show is on twice a day, but once the season is over, like all other



By **TOM SCHNABLE**
Assistant Sports Editor

shows ESPN has, it should go away.

Instead, it stays on two times a day with the same three people talking about the same thing everyday. Good luck finding "Baseball Tonight," another one of ESPN's shows, on in December, or a basketball show on in August.

This off-season, if you can even use that term any longer, has been one of the worst in league history. At this point in time, everyone who has ears knows about the Michael Vick dog fighting scandal. But if that

was the only person who has been in trouble with the law over the past few months, it might not be such a big deal. This is not the case, however, and in no other sport do players seem to have more trouble with the law than in football.

A good example is the Cincinnati Bengals, who since the kickoff of last season and the start of this year has seen 10 of its players get arrested. It is hard for a league to retain credibility with its fans when every time you look up you see someone going to jail.

I am not trying to convince you guys that football is bad or anything like that.

As a matter of fact, I am sure in no time at all I will be arguing with someone about who the best quarterback is and who is winning it all this year.

The thing that makes sports so great is the climax to the season, whether it is the World Series, Stanley Cup or Super Bowl. Then, the sports go away for awhile, so you have the opportunity to get excited about the start of the next season. I guess it is a little harder this time to get hyped up about something that never actually went away.

VOLLEYBALL from page 8

The final score for the first match was 30-20 with Rockhurst getting 14 kills on 40 attempts. UM-St. Louis finished the first match with 16 kills on 52 attempts.

The second match ended 30-23. The Tritons were able to pull off 12 kills on 55 attempts, but the team also recorded 12 errors in the match. The Hawks finished the match with 12 kills on 51 attempts with only six errors.

The Tritons came close but were unable to turn things around in the second match and lost 30-28. The team finished with 16 kills on 52 attempts. The Tritons finished the

match with 10 errors.

UM-St. Louis finished the game with 31 total errors while Rockhurst only had 16.

"We made a couple of mistakes," Lauer said. "We need to eliminate our unforced errors."

The Tritons have played two games in a five-game home stand and the next game will be on Sept. 11 against UM-Rolla.

Number seven ranked Central Missouri State will face off against the Tritons in a non-conference match on Sept. 12. GLVC play will resume on Sept. 15 when the Tritons host Southern Indiana.

SPORTS BRIEF

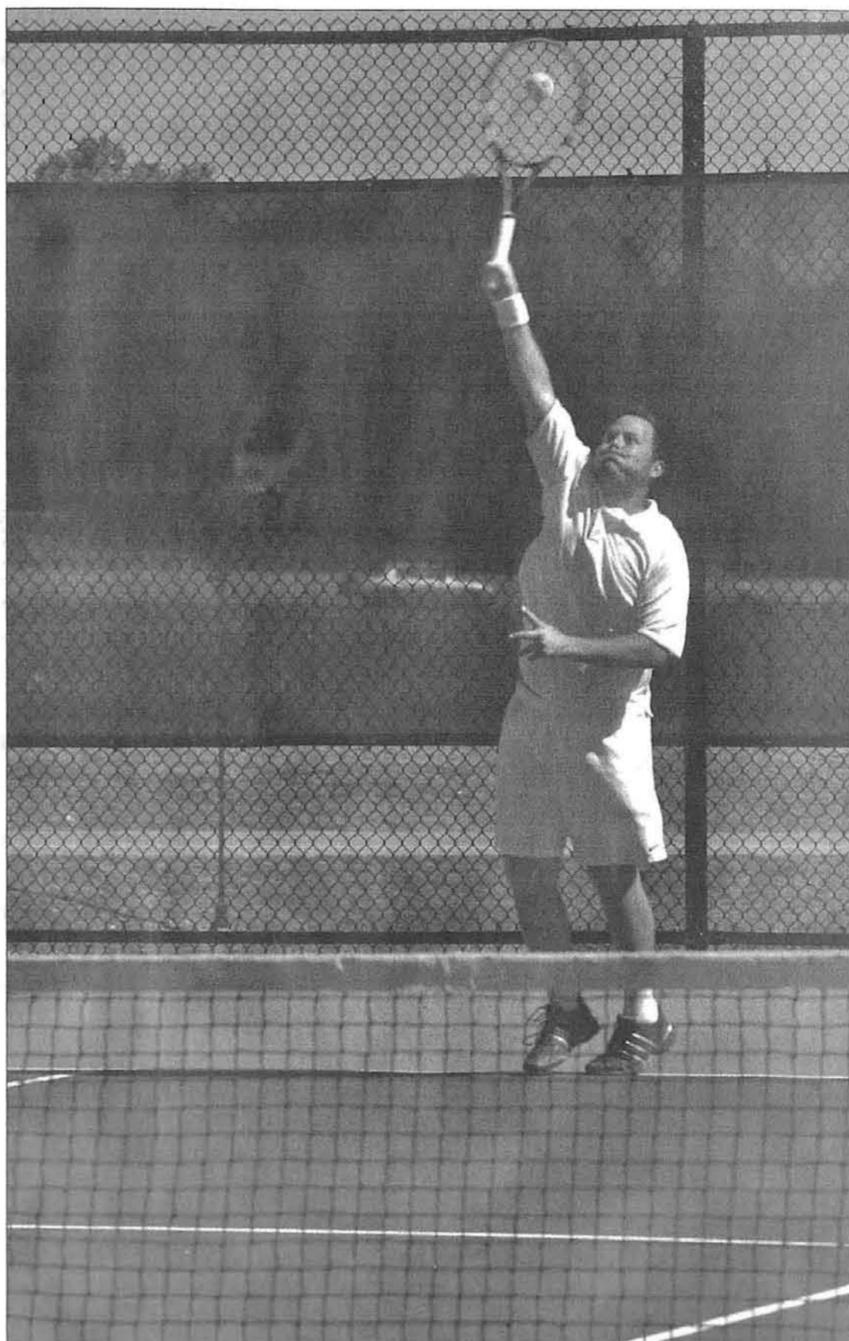
Coach Pilz announces walk-on tryout date

The men's basketball team will have walk-on tryouts on Sept. 17 starting at 3 p.m.

Head Coach Chris Pilz invites all full-time students who are interested in playing basketball to come to the tryouts.

Any student interested in joining the team can stop by the Athletics office in the Mark Twain building or call 516-5662 for more information.

ALUMNI MAKE A RACKET



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Ryan Trela class of 2002 serves to his fellow alumni during the annual alumni tennis exhibition.

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Monday Noon Series: Bill McClellan - Columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch discusses "Characters I've Met," 12:15 p.m. in room 229 of J.C. Penney Conference Center. Free.

ONGOING

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

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

UPCOMING RELEASES

VIDEO GAMES

NHL 2008 BY EA GAMES
SEPT. 11
PLAYSTATION2
PLAYSTATION3
XBOX 360

BALLS OF FURY BY DESTINATION SOFTWARE
SEPT. 18
Wii

SKATE BY EA
SEPT. 11
XBOX 360

MOVIES
THE BRAVE ONE
SEPT. 14
RATED R

MR. WOODCOCK
SEPT. 14
RATED PG-13

IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH
SEPT. 14
RATED R

EASTERN PROMISES
SEPT. 14
RATED R

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
SEPT. 14
RATED PG-13

GOOD LUCK CHUCK
SEPT. 21
RATED R

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS

1. Crank That - Soulja Boy Tell 'Em



2. Stronger - Kanye West

3. How Far We've Come - Matchbox Twenty

4. Rockstar - Nickelback

5. Bubbly - Colbie Caillat

6. Me Love - Sean Kingston

7. The Way I Are - Timbaland

8. Shut Up and Drive - Rihanna

9. Big Girls Don't Cry (Personal) - Fergie

10. So Small - Carrie Underwood

Stella Mora rocks at Lucas School House

BY ELIZABETH STAUDT

Staff Writer

In the chilly upstairs room at Lucas School House in Souldard, local St. Louis band Stella Mora headlined a unique show on Sept. 1. The music started with solo artist Jason House, a relaxed folk rock musician, and modulated into the psychedelic rock of People Noise, a group out of Kentucky.

Pushing the experimental envelope even further from the acoustic opener, even beyond the Foo Fighters on hallucinogens sound of People Noise, Stella Mora opened with "Lucid Dream," a song that takes the audience soaring over a psychedelic landscape of flickering color. No, the band does not use, or need, a light show to create their trippy feel but simply relies on their dissonant and artistic sound to create the psychedelic ambience.

The evening's line-up included tracks off Stella Mora's website and demo CD, including "Safe Word" and "Daguerreotype," in addition to bring back to life some of the band's older works like "So Alone."

While their music will never please everyone with its extreme sound, Stella Mora has created a strong select fan base here in St. Louis, playing with other local bands such as Ashborne, Daybreak Boys, and Troubadour Dali.

The song "Sputnik" moved the set away from its mellow opening and into a harder ending with more rock and less pop.

Reminiscent of the Irish band My Bloody Valentine, Stella Mora falls



Danny Reise • Staff Photographer

Stella Mora's band members from left to right: Patrick O'Bryan, Syrhea Conaway, Laura Sisul, Dave Burnett and Greg Braun.

into the nearly forgotten genre noise pop and the closely related shoegazing.

They have a heavily distorted Smashing Pumpkins feel with female vocals. Every instrument and vocal is distorted with the exception of Patrick O'Bryan's drums, which regulated the distortion.

The two vocalists, Laura Sisul and Syrhea Conaway, amped up the

reverb on their microphones before the set began. Greg Braun and Laura Sisul cranked out distorted guitar riffs with Syrhea Conaway playing a fuzzy bass line and Dave Burnett going crazy with his keys and antennae.

The vocal performance also recalls the early nineties pop with a Cranberries' feel. Sisul presented a steady, nearly monotone sound that

was countered by Conaway's powerful and beautiful voice.

The vocal performance of the evening was not of as great a quality as their recorded sound. Sometimes the music and voices were not always entirely compatible as the faster rhythms were thrown off by the same slow vocalization that had blended well with the mellow opening songs.

Stella Mora is heading into the studio this October, but until their album is finished, fans will have to be content with their demo CD.

You can catch them anytime, as the band plays regularly in the St. Louis area at venues including Cicero's and Off Broadway. Stella Mora also opened up the latest St. Louis venue, The Bluebird, in the downtown area this summer.

Wii breaks out with sports

A review of Tiger Woods PGA Tour 08; golf is not just for the rich and famous

By THOMAS HELTON

Design Editor

Five months ago, Electronic Arts (EA) Games came out with Tiger Woods Golf 2007 for the Nintendo Wii. EA is known for releasing games one year ahead of the real seasons, which is why everyone expected Tiger Woods Golf 2008 before the end of the summer.

The Wii offers a dynamic and groundbreaking way to interact and play video games.

The controls are little more than two sticks, some games use one, some use two, and with many games and activities not even requiring buttons to play.

For anyone who loves sports, this is the greatest invention of all time. The Wii allows avid sports fans to play the sports, indoors, away from the mosquitoes, and gives them the ability to grow as a player. Consoles such as the Playstation and Xbox require timing and precision of clicking buttons to master a game while the Wii requires, well, it is hard to say.

Tiger Woods Golf has extraordinary game play that takes into account how you swing the Wii controller and also the history of your player. The ideal shot is 110% power and straight. However by just tilting the controller

while swinging, the player can put a hook or slice on the ball and make it severe or light.

Tiger Woods 08 improved a few bugs from Woods 07 in swinging. In 07, sometimes the character would swing when the player was not even holding the Wii controller, and the slicing and hooking was very sensitive. While just as difficult to master, Woods 08 fixed those issues.

EA fixed most of the bugs from the 07 game, the slice/hook sensitivity, the non-swings and the power sensitivity. While it still re-

quires some finesse to get the power just right, like real golf, this game requires consistency. EA has added a new shot confidence meter in 08. In 07, there were player attributes for luck and confidence/concen-

tration but 08 took that to another level.

The confidence meter and shots allow the player to improve their game. The game seems to learn how a created character shoots in clutch situations and helps the player tweak the shot. If you are hitting for two out of the sand, and you put that extra spin on the ball, the game responds with deep heart beat sounds and a wide screen TV-mode.

However, the interface is mediocre. Tiger Woods Golf still fails to integrate the Mii into the game, even though it allows you to create your own player.

Creating a player takes more patience and time than playing 72 holes of golf in real life with that person who likes to take about ten minutes before each drive.

What will be most disappointing to fans is the lack of online play. EA did add, in the 08 game, a taunting technique for multi-player but there still is no way to play with your friends in Japan.

Creating your character involves about 10 levels of altering facial features, 10-15 body features and a wide range of free clothes. Of the features to change, very few have much of an effect on what your player looks like in the end. Also, after creating what you might think as being a good-looking player, just wait until in game when they smile and frown.

Nonetheless, the unprecedented amount of control the player has is fun and mostly optional. While it takes some time to learn, as it should, players can put any type of spin on the ball, slice and hook it accordingly, use a wide range of clubs, and in some cases, use clubs that are not even used in golf anymore just to work on skills.

As far as cheats in the game, there is a password option built into the game but the cheats available are all to just unlock items at the Pro Shop. Ah yes, the Pro Shop.

Here is where you can spend your winnings to buy new clubs, balls, shirts, pants, shoes, gloves, hats - you name it, they have it. The variety is also very impressive, and some higher priced items will show what effect they will have on your character's ability, many adding luck or concentration.

Throughout the season, characters can earn sponsorships through season play and the Pro Shop has a fairly easy to see sorting feature to look for all of the Nike products, or whatever the sponsor might be. Players receive money per item that is used or worn during the season.

The graphics are decent. Many games try to push the envelope and usually end up over the top with something surreal. Tiger Woods Golf has simple but very good graphics.

More detail is paid to the height of grass and wind than interactive world map graphics, like many games.

For example, in many first person shooting games, you can shoot anything and the graphics make it seem more realistic. The graphics do not fall short on this game at all.

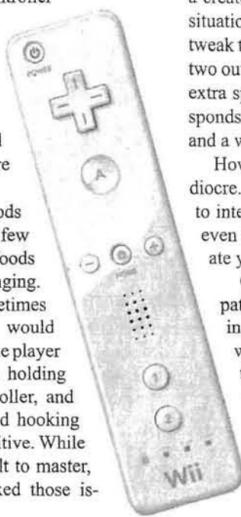
Tiger Woods 08

Gameplay: ★★★★★

Interface: ★★★★★

Graphics: ★★★★★

Overall: ★★★★★



Hidden treasure: Oscar's Café is worth the hunt

By SHANNON McMANIS

Page Designer

Oscar's Café can only be described as a diamond in the rough. Located at 7520 Natural Bridge Rd., about a half mile east of campus, it is a little hard to find and not very well marked, mostly because it occupies the first floor of a larger building. It is well worth the extra five minutes it takes to find it though. Walk inside, and you are engulfed in warm colors, dark wood furniture, wrought iron accents and white linen tablecloths. Not to mention hospitality!

Every server in the place was friendly and had a smile on his or her face. It was so infectious; I could not stop smiling myself. The family owned and operated restaurant has only been open for about 18 weeks.

The family, however, has been in the neighborhood for 22 years. They live just across the street from their place of business, and you can tell just by walking in the joint that they are proud of what they have created. And rightly so.

Oscar's offers a different menu for lunch, dinner and from the bar. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and covers

soups, salads, sandwiches and pastas. Tomato soup is homemade and the salads use the freshest ingredients. The sandwiches are good, but nothing I could not make at home. The three pastas are totally different, a separate comfort food for every mood. They boast slightly spicy Cajun pasta with chicken, andouille sausage and peppers, Mediterranean pasta with chicken, feta, olives, tomatoes, artichokes and spinach, and finally tri-colored tortellini carbonara with prosciutto ham, peas and mushrooms in a rich cream sauce.

Dinner is served Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Sundays, although it is available to rent for private parties or brunch on that day.

The dinner menu is slightly more

comprehensive, including starters and mid-size plates, as well as entrees.

Starters and mid-size plates range from \$5 to \$12, which is all too reasonable for items such as Wild Mushroom Risotto, Crab Cake Oscar or Spinach and Mushroom Gnocchi. My favorites are the Grilled Scallops, served with a delicate fruit salsa and star anise orange aioli.

Entrees are a bit pricier as they extend from \$13 to \$24. The reasons for the slight price hike are menu items like Tenderloin of Beef encrusted with bleu cheese and topped with a red wine reduction, or Roasted Duck which is chili baked and finished off with an orange sauce.

If you cannot decide what you want, maybe you would like to try

Oscar's rendition of surf and turf, including blackened filet, grilled shrimp and andouille sausage.

Have I mentioned dessert yet? You can finish your meal with apple crisp or chocolate cannolis, but I will be having the white chocolate and banana bread pudding smothered in an Irish whiskey glaze. Yum.

If there is a game on, take a seat in the bar area, and watch from there. A flat panel TV is visible from every seat in the bar, and there is a fine selection of bar food from which to choose.

In fact, they have their own menu. Pretty much anything you are in the mood for is available, from burgers to chicken Caesar wraps, from tempura shrimp to scallops with mango salsa. Do not worry about breaking the bank, because nothing on the bar's menu exceeds \$12.

Oscar's offers \$1 off all drinks during happy hour, which takes place Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This includes any of nine bottled beers, four draft beers, nine house wines by the glass or seven frozen daiquiris.

If you have trouble finding Oscar's Café, you can call them at 314-584-4455 or visit their website at www.oscarscafe.net.

Oscar's Café

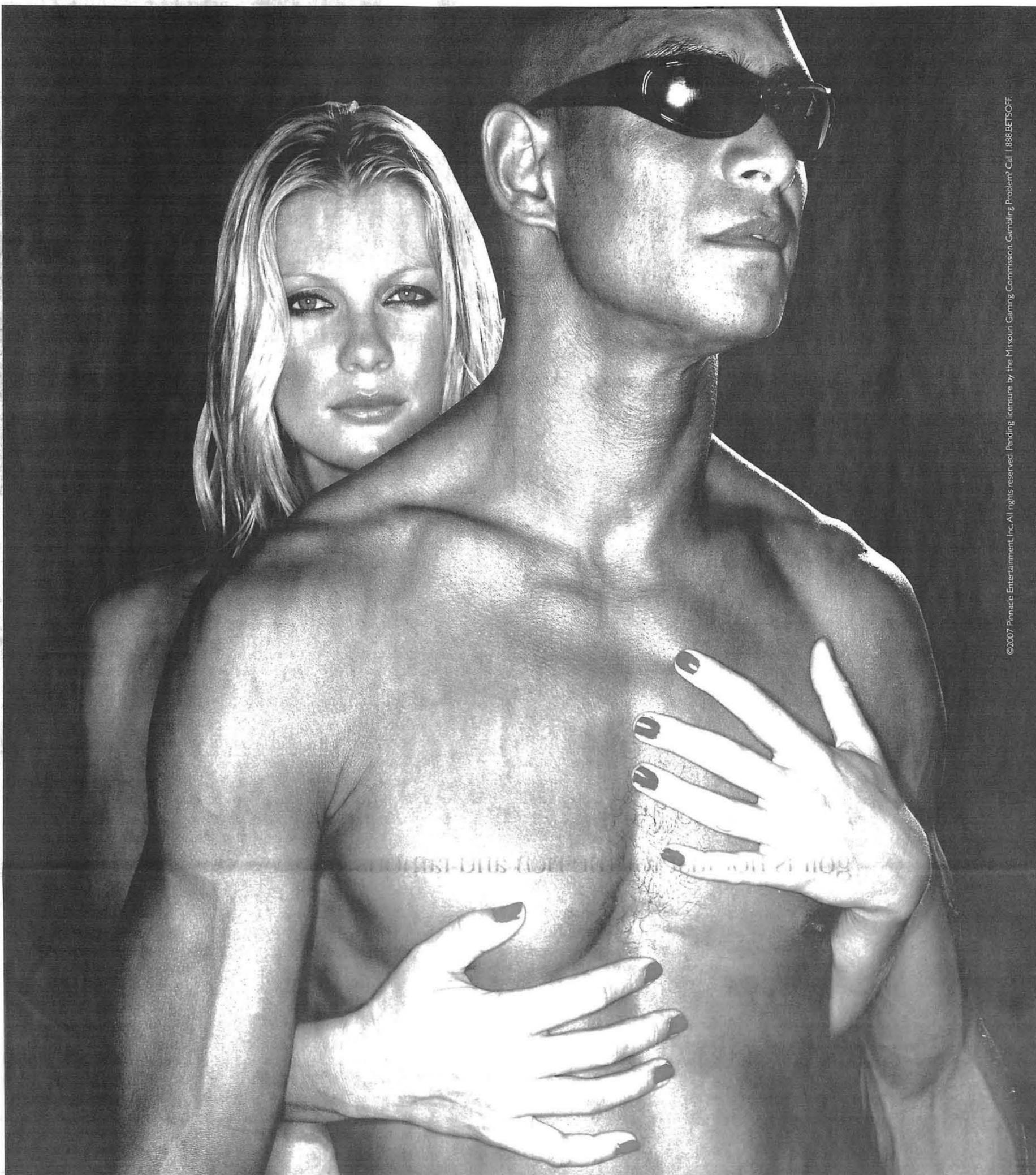
★★★★☆

Located at 7520 Natural Bridge Rd. south of campus

314-584-4455

Hours:
Mondays - Thursdays
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fridays-Saturdays
11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays

Happy Hour:
Mondays - Fridays
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

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

Toy Store Hiring. LagoonaMagoo Toys is looking for extremely outgoing people for multiple sales positions at St. Louis Mills mall location. We offer a flexible schedule ad a very positive work environment. Please contact Beth and bring resume. 314-227-5335

Hannegan's Restaurant is now hiring happy day and evening servers. Server positions pay well and have flexible schedules. Experienced applicants only. Apply in person. 719 N second st.(Laclede Landing) 314-241-8877

Graders/Tutors Wanted. A west county Mathematics and Reading learning center is hiring part-time graders/tutors helping children ages 3 to 15. We offer flexible scheduling, fun and rewarding working environment. Interested candidates please call 636-537-5522 E-mail: jwchan@earthlink.net

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CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS needed for UMSL Indoor Pool: Mon-Thurs 11:30AM-2PM & Weekends 12-5PM. \$7.50/hour. Apply in the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain, 516-5326.

MISCELLANEOUS

BOWLING ANYONE? Join UMSL's BOWLING Doubles League. Bowl every Thursday 3:30-5:00PM (Sept 13-Nov 16) at nearby North Oaks Bowl. Only \$2/week for 3 games. 2 people per team. Register in the Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain by Sept. 20.

FOR RENT

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STATS CORNER

WOMEN'S SOCCER

GLVC Standings

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Northern KY	5	0	0	1.000
Rockhurst	4	0	1	.900
Quincy	5	1	0	.833
UW-Parkside	4	1	0	.800
Drury	3	1	0	.750
UM-Rolla	3	1	0	.750
SIU-Edwardsville	3	1	1	.700
Saint Joseph's	2	1	0	.667
Bellarmine	3	2	0	.600
Lewis	2	2	0	.500
UM-St. Louis	2	3	1	.500
Indianapolis	1	3	0	.250
KY Wesleyan	1	4	0	.200
Southern Indiana	0	4	0	.000

MEN'S SOCCER

GLVC Standings

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Northern KY	6	0	0	1.000
Drury	4	0	0	1.000
UM-Rolla	3	0	0	1.000
UM-St. Louis	3	1	0	.750
Rockhurst	3	0	0	1.000
Quincy	4	0	1	.900
Lewis	4	1	0	.800
Indianapolis	4	1	1	.750
UW-Parkside	4	2	0	.667
Bellarmine	3	2	0	.600
Southern Indiana	3	2	0	.600
SIU-Edwardsville	1	1	0	.500
KY Wesleyan	0	3	1	.125
Saint Joseph's	0	3	0	.000

VOLLEYBALL

GLVC West Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	Streak
Rockhurst	9	1	.900	W7
Quincy	9	3	.750	W2
SIU-Edwardsville	8	3	.727	W2
Southern Indiana	5	4	.556	L1
Drury	5	5	.500	L2
UM-St. Louis	4	6	.400	W1
UM-Rolla	1	10	.091	L1

Sept. 7 vs. Rockhurst: L (3-1)

Player	Attack			
	K	E	TA	A
1 Brinker, L.	1	1	8	39
2 Baumstark, C.	4	6	19	0
6 Nichols, H.	10	6	37	0
12 Cook, E.	8	9	33	1
13 Medina, C.	14	3	37	3
14 Trame, C.	10	8	35	0
4 Brown, J.	0	0	1	1
5 Holstein, C.	0	0	0	0
15 Mattingly, K.	1	0	2	0

K - Kill E - Error A - Assist
TA - Total attempts

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

Sept. 7 vs. Rockhurst: L (2-1 OT)

Player	Sh	SOG	G	A
10 Hampton, J.	1	1	-	-
11 Muesenfechter, K.	2	1	-	-
12 Fox, A.	4	2	-	-
15 Gabris, M.	2	2	-	1
17 Ellis, S.	3	1	1	-

Sept. 9 vs. Drury: L (1-0)

Player	Min	GA	Saves
00 Behrmann, M.	45:00	0	1
23 Carmody, C.	55:00	2	4

Sept. 9 vs. Drury: L (2-0)

Player	Sh	SOG	G	A
2 Hoff, R.	1	1	-	-
3 Stone, S.	2	1	-	-
4 Nesbit, A.	1	-	-	-
8 Reitz, T.	2	1	-	-
9 Lee, R.	2	1	-	-
11 Muesenfechter	1	1	-	-
12 Fox, A.	3	1	-	-
14 Cerny, L.	2	1	-	-
17 Ellis, S.	3	-	-	-

Sept. 9 vs. Drury: L (2-0)

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

Sept. 9 vs. Drury: L (1-0)

Player	Sh	SOG	G	A
7 Smith, J.	1	-	-	-
9 Huber, C.	2	-	-	-
17 Wogtech, K.	1	-	-	-

Sept. 9 vs. Drury: L (1-0)

Player	Min	GA	Saves
1 Bober, M.	90:00	1	4

Spotlight Game

Volleyball:

Sept. 22 at SIU-Edwardsville (8-3)

SIU-Edwardsville ranked first in 2006 GLVC Standings

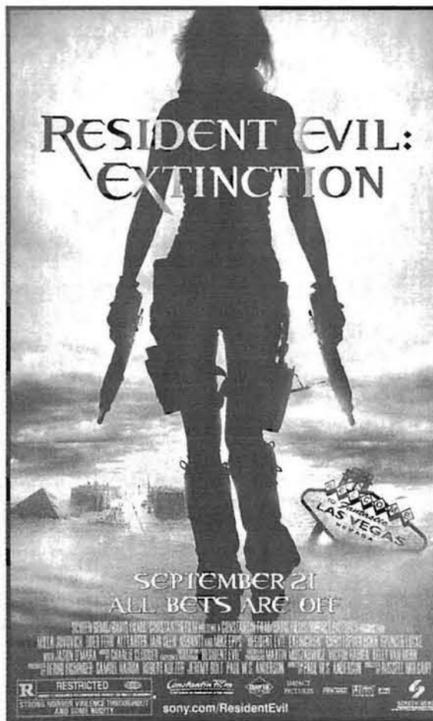
History vs. SIU-Edwardsville:
9/22/2006: UM-St. Louis L (3-0)
10/29/2005: UM-St. Louis L (3-0)

In the 2006 game, Joslyn Brown contributed almost half of the defensive digs for the entire game. In the 2005 game, Lisa Brinker had 33 of the 34 defensive digs.

See page 6 for highlight of Christy Trame, this week's athlete of the week.

Sept. 9 vs. Drury: W (3-0)

Player	Attack			
	K	E	TA	A
1 Brinker, L.	3	0	3	28
6 Nichols, H.	4	1	17	0
8 Williams, S.	6	2	13	1
12 Cook, E.	12	5	26	4
13 Medina, C.	3	1	14	0
14 Trame, C.	19	0	21	1
2 Baumstick, C.	2	0	4	0
3 Eisnagle, S.	10	3	20	0
4 Brown, J.	0	0	0	2
7 Kinzinger, K.	0	0	2	17
10 Pratl, B.	0	0	1	0
11 Walker, M.	0	1	3	0



RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

SEPTEMBER 21 ALL BETS ARE OFF

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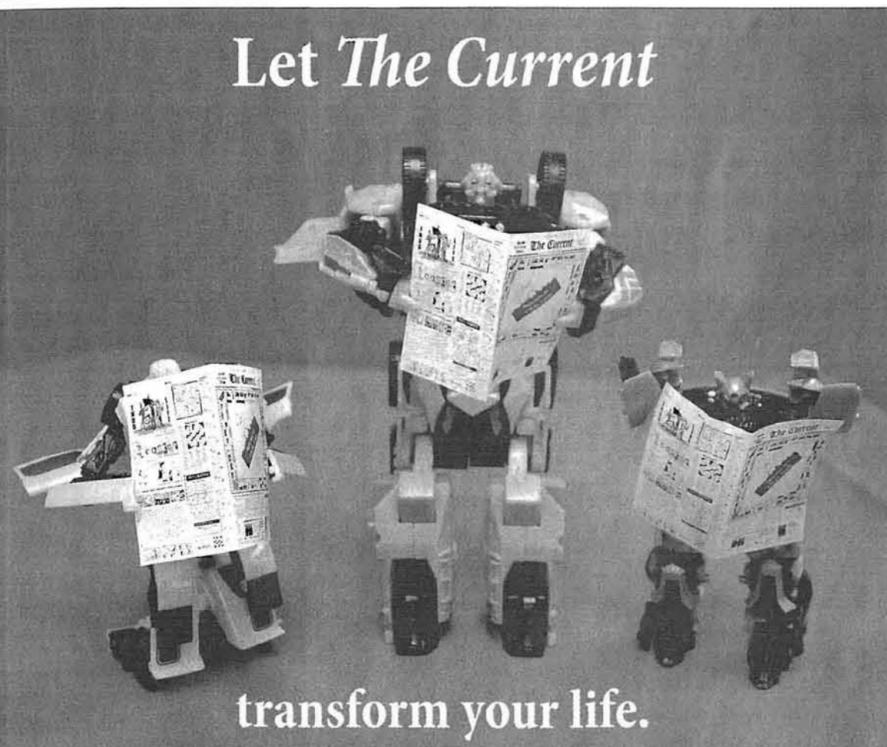
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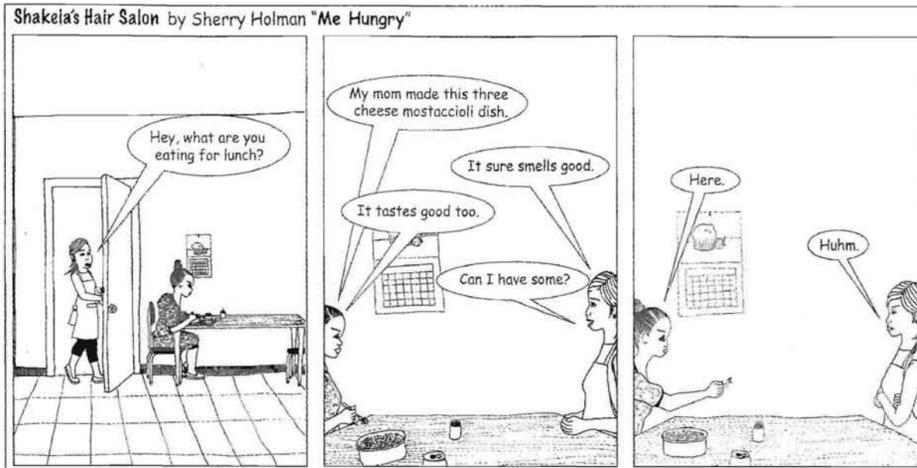
HELP, I NEED SOMEBODY. HELP, NOT JUST ANYBODY. HELP, YOU KNOW WE NEED SOMEONE. HELP.

- THE CURRENT

CURRENT CARTOONISTS



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart

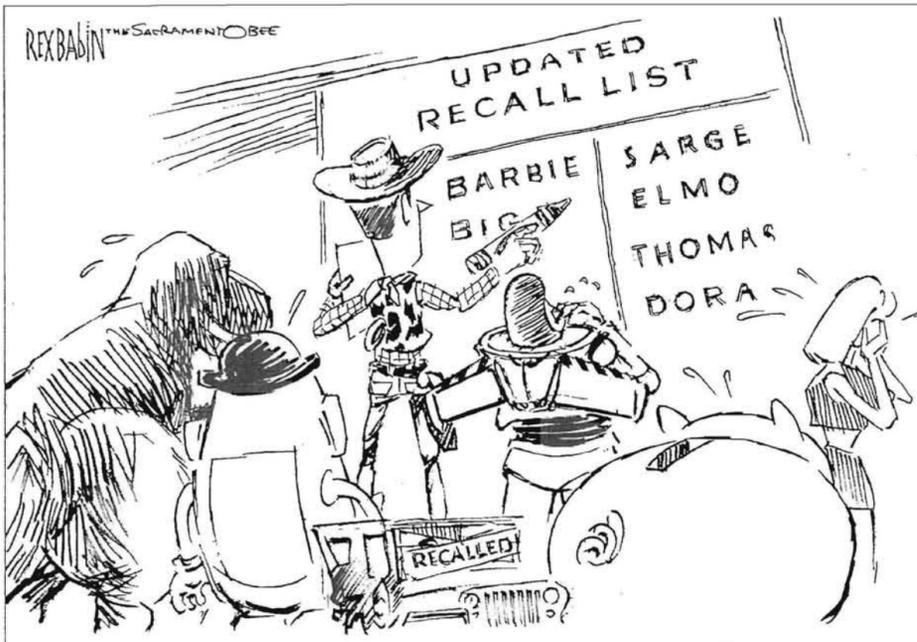


"Shakeia's Hair Salon" is drawn by Current cartoonist Sherry Holman

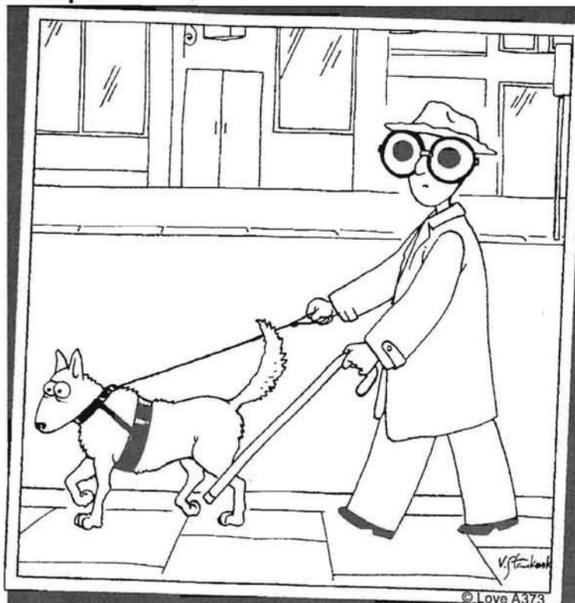


"B.C.H.S." is drawn by Current cartoonists Stazie Johnson and John A. McGrath

SYNDICATED CARTOON



Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Chuck had always found the black glasses thing a bit depressing.

King Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Beavers' construction
- 4 Follicle parts
- 9 Kitten's call
- 12 Irving Berlin's "What'll I -?"
- 13 Farewell
- 14 "got it!"
- 15 Where a fourdrinier is used
- 17 Cover
- 18 Big name in boxing lore
- 19 Coral rings
- 21 Dog's owner
- 24 Sweet potatoes
- 25 Pismire
- 26 Evergreen
- 28 Saltpeter
- 31 Uppity one
- 33 British rule of India
- 35 Ripped
- 36 Strengthened
- 38 Calendar abbr.
- 40 "Smoking or -?"
- 41 Dumbo's "wings"
- 43 Most ironic
- 45 Bow
- 47 Storm center
- 48 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 49 Alternative to paneling
- 54 Chum

DOWN

- 1 Party bowlful
- 2 Oklahoma city
- 3 Swab the deck
- 4 Motorcycle name
- 5 Fan
- 6 Roman 3
- 7 Pass the baton
- 8 Brunei bigwig
- 9 Huge burden
- 10 Wicked
- 11 Marries
- 16 Dine on
- 20 Leave out
- 21 Sail support
- 22 Domini
- 23 Be
- 27 uncooperative
- 29 Bankroll
- 29 Cupid's alias
- 30 Landlord's due
- 32 Thrash
- 34 He'll give you a ring
- 37 Tired
- 39 Underground vaults
- 42 1984 Kentucky Derby winner
- 44 Verily
- 45 Military hat
- 46 Ellipse
- 50 Meadow
- 51 Skillet
- 52 Recede
- 53 Mythical flier

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ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
A change that you hoped for is down the line. But you still need to be patient until more explanations are forthcoming. Continue to keep your enthusiasm in check.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
Your social life expands as new friends come into your life. But while you are having fun, your practical side also sees some positive business potential within your new circle.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
Your workplace situation continues to improve. Look for advantages you might have missed while all the changes were going on around you. That trusted colleague can help.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
Resist the urge to hunker down in your bunker until things ease up. Instead, get rid of that woe-is-me attitude by getting up and getting out to meet old friends and make new ones.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Now that you are back enjoying the spotlight again, you should feel re-energized and ready to take on the challenge of bringing those big, bold plans of yours to completion.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 Sept. 22)
A former friend would like to repair a relationship you two once enjoyed. Your positive response could have an equally positive impact on your life. Think about it.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Resist making impulsive decisions. Stay on that steady course as you continue to work out workplace problems. Be patient. All will soon be back in balance.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
You might feel confident about taking a promising offer, but continue to be alert for what you're not being told about it. Do not fret. Time is on your side.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
People dear to you might be planning a way to show appreciation for all you have done for them. Accept the honor graciously. Remember: You deserve it.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Congratulations. Your self-confidence is on the rise. This could be a good time to tackle those bothersome situations you've avoided both at home and at work.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
You feel obligated to return a favor. (Of course, you do.) But heed advice from those close to you and do nothing until you know for sure what's being asked of you.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
Your loving reassurance helped revive a once-moribund relationship. But be wary of someone who might try to do something negative to reverse this positive turn of events.

BORN THIS WEEK:
You are a wonderful matchmaker who can bring people together to form long-lasting relationships.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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'History Boys' has plenty about boys, not so much history



Courtesy Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

"The History Boys" shows (left to right) Adam Farabee as Timms, Steven Pierce as Crowther, Bhavesh Patel as Akthar and Charles Sydney Hirsh as Lockwood in a scene at the show.

By CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

What is the purpose of education? Two teachers offer different views, while vying for the affection of eight bright eighteen-year-old boys in the play "The History Boys." The Tony award-winning "History Boys" is the season opener at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

This British play by Alen Bennett won multiple awards and was made into a 2006 movie directed by Nicholas Hytner, who directed the first production starring the play's original cast. The Rep's production was the first regional production since the plays' Broadway debut.

Beloved, eccentric teacher Hector (Thomas Carson) taught general studies to a lively group of eight bright, working class boys at an English grammar school, a private but non-exclusive college preparatory school.

Hector's methods were as eccentric as he was, consisting of getting the boys to think outside the box while acquiring a deep cultural grounding. He taught them French by making them play out a visit to a brothel. He had them memorize po-

etry and quotes from famous authors, but scolded them if they used them in conventional ways.

They also memorized movie quotes and sang songs by Gracie Fields. The goal was to acquire knowledge of culture as a means to personal growth, or maybe to one day contribute to culture.

But the school's headmaster (Anderson Matthews) had other plans.

All these boys had to complete their end-of-school exams, "A levels," which gave them their equivalent of a high diploma and served as a first college entrance exam. They all scored remarkably well and could go to any of the ordinary colleges.

The headmaster had ambitions for these boys to try for Cambridge or Oxford Universities, and thus boost the prestige of the grammar school. All the boys returned for a final term as preparation for the further entrance exams needed to get into "Oxbridge," as the two universities were called.

The headmaster wanted to take no chances, so he brought in a contract teacher, Irwin (Bryant Richards), a recent Cambridge graduate, to coach the boys on test-taking techniques.

Thus, the play set up a conflict between goal-orientated teaching to the

test and education as a ticket to career success and the old-fashioned idea of education to enrich the individual. To represent the old and the new ways, the play utilized the flamboyant but tweedy, rotund and white-haired Hector, who rode a motorcycle to school, versus the business-like, very young Irwin.

It has to be set in the past because we know that the philosophical debate is over and the viewpoint of education as career preparation rather than personal enrichment won out.

The play is as much about boys coming of age, particularly growing up gay, as about education. Or maybe it is about education but not always the academic kind.

Either way, it is all about boys. The eager young classmates were always referred to as boys, although they were about eighteen and on the cusp of adulthood. The play never said if the institution was an all boys' school, but the college hopefuls are all male.

One marginalized woman teacher, Mrs. Lintott (Carolyn Swift) emerges, who ironically teaches history. When this oft-ignored soul characterizes history as the exploits of men, with women relegated to following behind with a bucket, neither the boys or the male faculty contradicted her or showed the least amount of interest in the topic.

What could have been a pithy point is largely a throw-away, lost in the real meat of the play, the sexual tensions of the classroom, as two gay teachers strive for the affections of the class and the boys work out their sexual identities while preparing for the challenging exams and dreams of "Oxbridge."

There is nothing overt or risqué on stage, but the subject is more often sexual orientation than the nature of education. The younger Irwin and older Hector, both secretly gay, vied for the affections of the class on an emotional and intellectual level.

The boys themselves dealt with the issue of sexuality and identity. Self-conscious Posner (Jonathan Monk) described himself as "not that tall, homosexual and Jewish" and longed for the attentions of either teacher or handsome, confident classmate Dakin (Eric Gilde).

Posner liked to sing and there was quite a bit of singing in the play, so be warned.

Hector's favorite, the sharp-witted Dakin was delighted to tell his religious friend Scripps (Matt Leisy) all about his exploits with the school secretary, but Dakin was also not opposed to flirting with either teacher.

The other students all had their signature hook, with Lockwood (Charles Sydney Hirsh) big on movies, Aktar (Bhavesh Patel) as the sole Muslim, and Rudge (Brian White) as the plainspoken jock who seems to have just squeaked into the class. Timm (Adam Farabee) and Crowther (Steven Pierce) rounded out the class.

Despite the title, references to history were nearly sparse as women in this play, apart from Rudge's description of history as "one damn thing after another."

Apart from the play itself, there were some entertaining performances, notably by Thomas Carson as the colorful Hector. His funny and sharp-tongued character was the highlight of the play, dazzling the audience with delight every time he took the stage.

Carolyn Swift was also excellent as Mrs. Lintott. Of the boys, Matt Leisy's Scripps had appeal, and Brian White made the most of his few lines as Rudge.

Jonathan Monk's Posner was fine, although Eric Gilde's Dakin seemed a bit too shallow. Anderson Matthews was well cast as the Headmaster, far more concerned about the standing of his school than the individual welfare of his students.

The production was the usual polished Rep effort. The set, while attractive, was not especially imaginative. The directing was good, if unremarkable, perhaps weighted down by the material itself.

Judging by its many awards, "The History Boys" has been wildly popular with some theater audiences. However, it may not be fascinating stuff to everybody. Just as "chick lit" might not appeal to all audiences, some might find this boys tale on the dull side.

As a whole, the acting was good and production itself was well executed. More focus on the play's education issues and less on sexual encounters could have made it more universal.

There is always some appeal in coming of age stories, but the boys-only story and the play's superficial treatment of the now-defunct debate on the purpose of education made the play rather unsatisfying to this reviewer. Some will find this a fun, gay romp, but some women and straight men might find it more dull than illuminating.

The History Boys



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