

The Current

April 20, 2009

www.thecurrentonline.com

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INSIDE



Mirthday 2009

Jack's Mannequin (above) tops off this year's edition of the Mirthday concert.

See A&E, page 8



One Night, Lots of Percussion

Todd Roach (above) is the Percussion Ensemble's special guest artist.

See A&E, page 9



Ousted from the top

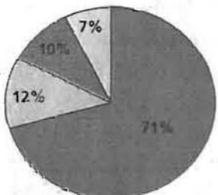
Softball team gets ranked 15th and then drops two in a row.

See Sports, page 10

ON THE WEB

The Current
online.com

Web poll results:
Should Chancellor George have taken a pay cut?



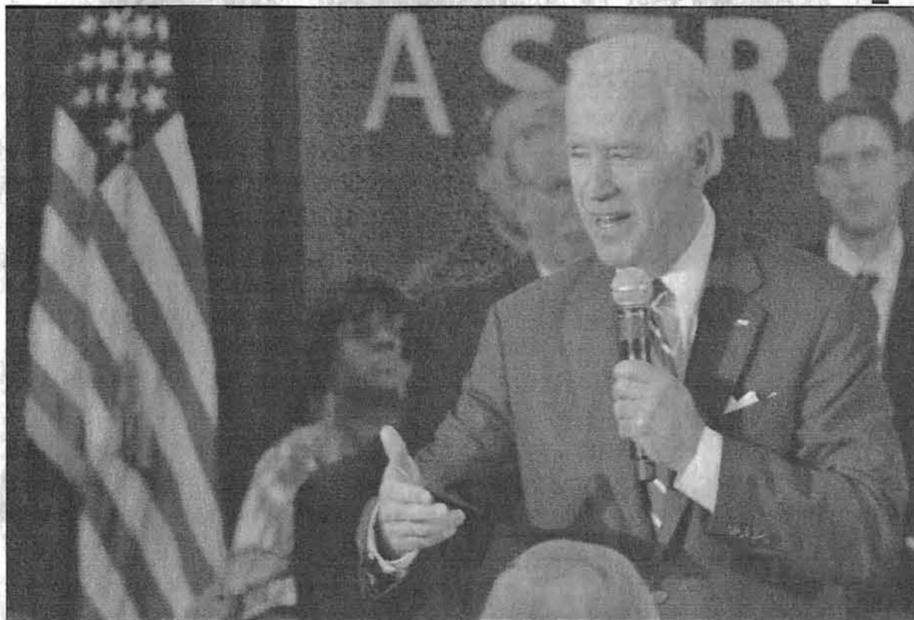
- Yes; he should set an example for the rest of us.
- Maybe; the guy does have to put food on his table.
- No; but he should do his part and buy a couple of cars from GM.
- Doesn't matter; inflation is going to wipe out most of what he makes anyways.

This week's question:
What do you want SGA to address next year?

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Biden comes to campus on a search



VP looks for answers from students, parents; faculty

By SARAH O'BRIEN
Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, April 17, Vice President Joe Biden came to UM-St. Louis accompanied by Secretary Arne Duncan, White House Economic Advisor Cecilia Rouse and Missouri's Senator Claire McCaskill.

They came to talk to students and faculty about college affordability for the middle class.

Touting "A Stronger Middle Class," Biden spoke about the American Recovery, the Reinvestment Act and its effects on college affordability.

"College is getting harder and harder to afford," Biden said.

For many of families, according to the Obama administration, the cost of tuition has doubled making it harder for lower and middle class families to afford college. Biden focused on the solutions that would make col-

lege affordable. Ideas that Biden discussed included giving bigger tuition tax breaks for middle-class families from the American Opportunity Tax Credit.

Before Obama, students and families could claim one of three tax breaks. To many, the tax breaks did not really provide enough help, as Biden stated.

Now, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be claimed for four years instead of just two and is partially refundable. Another solution that Biden presented would be to increase Pell Grants for low-income students.

"One of the problems with the Pell Grants is that people are unaware of the Pell Grant," Biden said.

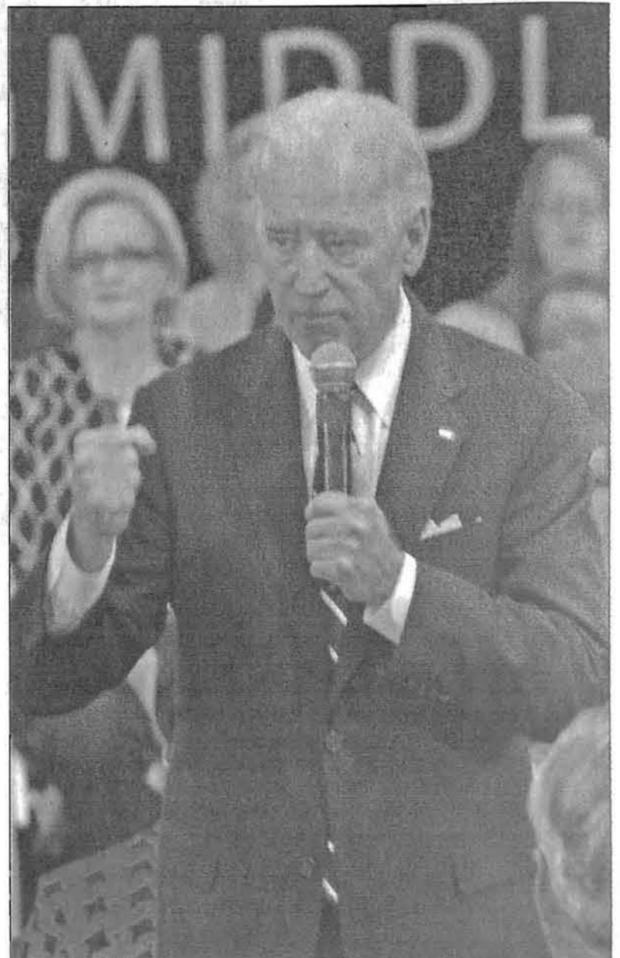
In the past, Pell Grants failed to keep pace with fast rising tuition costs. Biden also discussed possible initiatives where the government would loan money directly to students

and ensure the loan's availability. By shifting over entirely to direct lending, the government would save four billion dollars a year and re-direct the savings into the hands of the students and families instead of the lenders.

"One of the problems of the Pell Grant is that the people are unaware of them. It's about expectations. Use them and go to a four-year college. Part of it is letting parents know to let them know there is a path," Biden said.

Biden suggested that by lowering the campus' operating costs, colleges could become more affordable for students. For example, by collaborating with other schools, universities could reduce their "output per hour" and double their class sizes.

Duncan spoke after Biden had finished talking, speaking about the importance of starting kids off early with hopes of furthering their education.



Photos by Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Vice President Joe Biden spoke in the MSC Century Rooms at UM-St. Louis Friday about the changes that need to be done to make a college education affordable to everyone who wants to go.

"Its a passion in making a difference in student's lives," Duncan said. "access is huge. This is going to be fought, we need our fourth to sixth graders on campus and it's hard to lose when you don't dream."

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George was present at the event. Among things he mentioned about the speech, he said of Biden's plan to

make college more affordable that, "it makes a difference. Now is the time to do it. I'm confident we can do it."

One student in attendance, Jonathan Eflink, junior, political science commented that Biden's visit and speech "gave me hope that I can actually stay at the University."

See BIDEN, page 3

JAZZ FESTIVAL

UMSL holds 6th Jazz Festival

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN
Staff Writer

As students may or may not be aware, April is "Jazz Appreciation Month." University of Missouri-St. Louis helped celebrate this by co-sponsoring a jazz festival, as they have for the last five years. This year, the festival featured guitarist/vocalist John Pizzarelli, trumpeter Jon Faddis, drummer Peter Erskine, and Blues Brother icon Lou Marini. The UM-St. Louis Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jim Widner, also made an appearance. The clinics and classes during the daytime of the festival were free, and tickets for the evening professional concerts were \$10-\$15-\$25.

The festival took place from Thursday April 16 until Saturday April 18, (but the nights on which professional musicians performed were Friday and Saturday) at the Touhill Performing Arts Center and the Anheuser-Busch & Lee Theaters on UM-St. Louis campus. This year, the festival was co-sponsored by alumni Steve Shankman, president of Contemporary Productions, who donated 50,000 dollars. Contemporary Productions is an entertainment booking and special event company.

Part of Shankman's donation will be used to pay for artists who appeared as guest players at the festival and part of the contribution will also be used towards scholarships for music students as well as music equipment for students to play and practice on.

Shankman also started the Meynard Ferguson Music scholarship at UM-St. Louis in a past donation to the music department of UM-St. Louis of 50,000 dollars. In a media release to the public on the St. Louis Greater Jazz Festival Shankman said,

"With this being the sixth year of the Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival and the desire to bring jazz to St. Louis, I want to help professionally and financially to perpetuate jazz in the greater St. Louis Region."

In the media release, Jim Widner, director and creator of the festival agreed and said that Shankman's "contin-



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

The Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival Friday night at the Touhill featured the UM-St. Louis Jazz Ensemble with special guest artists Peter Erskine on drums and Lou Marini on saxophone.

ous generosity has gone a long way in helping us give the best education possible to our jazz students and provide a unique learning environment."

This year, UM-St. Louis' Greater Jazz Festival is the only jazz festival in St. Louis. There are over 750 students from 45 different groups and 33 different schools who participated as well as several professional players as well. The festival has grown so large, and attracted so much positive attention that in previous years, a wait list for participating schools had to be created.

See JAZZ FESTIVAL, page 3

SGA DEBATE AND ELECTION COVERAGE

Debate sets up elections

By KIMBERLY HUDSON
Staff Writer

Every year, the campus votes to decide who the next Student Government Association President, Vice-President, and Comptroller are going to be. This year, two of the positions are uncontested and the third has two people running against each other. On Thursday, the candidates came together for a debate hosted by *The Current* in the SGA Chambers. While there are four total candidates, one for president, one for Vice President and two for comptroller, only three of the candidates showed up for the debate. The lone person missing was one of the candidates for the comptroller position.

The first person to respond to questions at the debate was incumbent SGA President Grace Marie Ritter, junior, liberal arts, who is re-running unopposed, for a second term. One student who was running against Ritter dropped out of the race. Ritter was asked questions about how she was going to implement her goals for the ER Difference, which is her slate's name. After being asked three questions from moderator Sarah O'Brien, junior, anthropology, the vice president was up next.

The vice president race is another uncontested one with Greg Meyer, junior, business administration, being the only candidate. Meyer is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity on campus and was asked about how his affiliation with the

fraternity would effect his handing of the position. Meyer responded by pointing out that the fraternities on [our] campus do a lot more than just the stereotypical ones do. He felt that his experiences within the fraternity would aid him as the vice president. The only position that does have more than one person running is the comptroller race. At the debate, only Dann Rosner, junior, accounting, showed up.

Terry Spina-Clossen, junior, business administration, was absent from the event. Rosner was asked only one question from the moderator and a few others from member of the audience. Then, the debate was brought to a close.

This year has seen one slate work hard for election. The ER Difference has been campaigning. They have a board in the quad and a few wooden signs around campus. They also have chalked the sidewalks and handed out flyers. The slate also has a website at erdifference.com and has a group on Facebook. Spina-Clossen has been absent from the campaign trail this year. No flyers, chalk, or website has been found so far. The Election committee has not put out any statements about Spina-Clossen therefore he will still be on the ballot.

Voting begins Monday, April 20 and ends Friday, April 24 at midnight. Voting will take place online and links will be posted on the SGA website or the Office of Student Life's.

See DEBATES, page 3

Stay Current with this week's weather	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Weather predictions taken from www.weather.com
	Hi/Low: 65/43 Precip: 20%	Hi/Low: 60/43 Precip: 20%	Hi/Low: 68/50 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 80/61 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 84/63 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 84/57 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 76/56 Precip: 0%	

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

PROPERTY DAMAGE 2ND DEGREE OAK HALL

The staff at Oak Hall had a delayed report of property damage. Persons unknown threw several chairs and tables off of the 5th and 6th floor balconies from Oak Hall onto the pool deck, causing damage to the furniture. This incident occurred on 4-9-2009. There are no suspects in this incident. The investigation is ongoing.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

HARASSMENT/DRUG REFERRAL VILLA RESIDENCE

The custodial staff at the Villa Building reported that a student had been harassing one of the workers for the past several months. When the UMSL Police went to his room to question him, they observed a pipe used to smoke marijuana in his room. The student admitted to recently smoking marijuana. The contraband items were destroyed. This matter will be referred to Student Affairs for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. It is very necessary for everyone to lock their doors when they are out. Even if it is only for a minute or two, a simple locking of the door will prevent most thefts from occurring. As a reminder, please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or the main number of 314-516-5155.

CORRECTIONS

On page 6 the Riverfront Times career fair story was incorrectly titled with 'X'. It should have read 'Riverfront Times Career Fair.'

On page 7 the picture of the guitarist was not captioned. He was a member of a band called Nothing Still, and was unidentified.

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made.

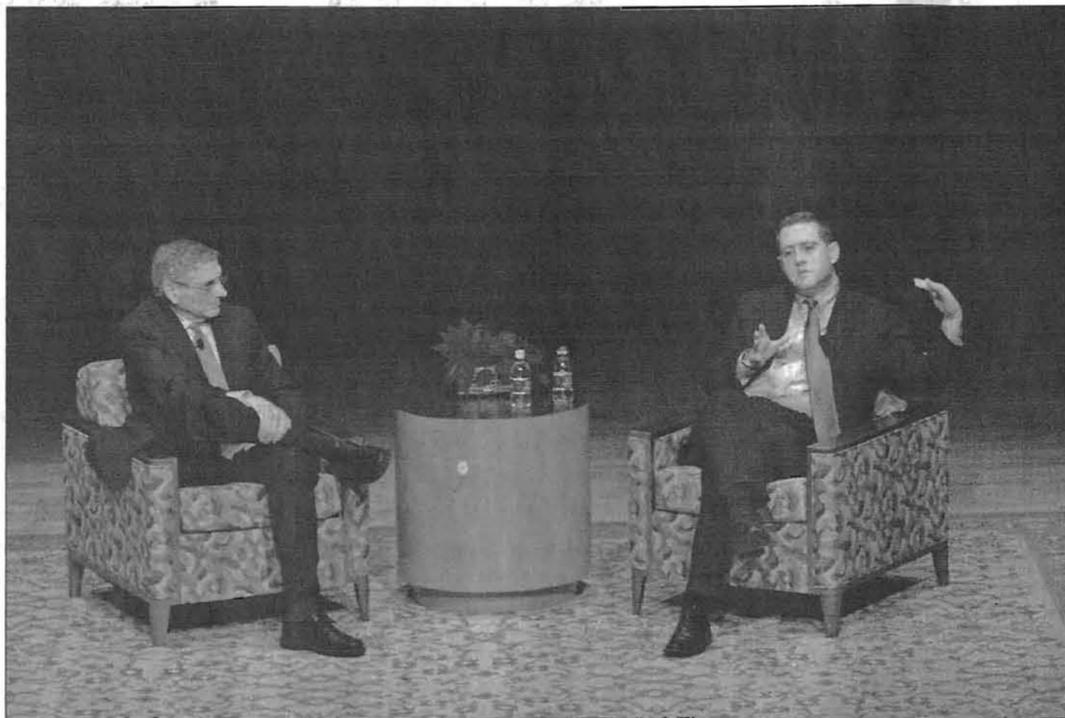
To report a correction, please contact *The Current* at 314-516-5174 or by e-mail at thecurrent@umsl.edu

To work for the best after graduation. Work for the best before graduation.



The Current:
Best in State three straight years.

BANK ON IT: CEO LECTURES STUDENTS



Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

UM-St. Louis College of Business Administration Dean, Keith Womer, Ph.D., held a reception and lecture with Dr. James Bullard, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis on Tuesday April 14.

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. Listings may be edited in regards to space availability and style. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu with the subject "What's Current." Only e-mailed submissions will be accepted. For more information, call 5174. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Swimming on Highway N

Mary Troy reads from her novel, *Swimming on Highway N*, and describes the genesis of it and other writing, how people, places, and ideas merge into stories, and the differences between writing a novel and a short story.

April 20, 2009 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., 222 J. C. Penney Conference Center. For Info: Karen Lucas at 5699.

Graduate School Research Fair

To celebrate Missouri Graduate Schools Week, the Graduate School and Sigma Xi will co-sponsor the annual Graduate Research Fair to recognize graduate students' research. This event provides advanced graduate students the opportunity to present their scholarly and creative work to faculty, staff, administrators, students, family members, and community members. The students' research is presented in poster format so that visitors may interact with presenters directly. Judges will determine which studies deserve awards and special recognition.

April 20, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., MSC Century Rooms. For Info: Mary Ellen Heckel at 5898.

Political Science Academy Meeting

Speaker will be Thomas Schweich, visiting Professor of Law at Washington University and Former U.S. Ambassador. Schweich will be discussing the topic, "Unity and Clarity in Afghanistan."

Join for a lively discussion of what is emerging as possibly the #1 problem in U.S. foreign policy.

Food and refreshments will be served. Maps and directions to Dr. Glassberg's home can be found at the Political Science Dept. office, 347 SSB or by calling 5521.

April 20, 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Prof. Andy Glassberg's home. For Info: Mark Bacon at 314-495-1971.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

University Orchestra & Singers Concert

University Orchestra & University Singers will be presenting Franz Joseph Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass."

April 21, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Touhill Performing Arts Center, Anheuser-Busch Hall. For Info: Julie Hutchison at (636) 634-5857.

Prayer Group

Join the Catholic Newman Center for prayer each week. Alternate praying the rosary and doing a variety prayer (suggestions are always welcome!) Join anytime!

April 21, 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., Catholic Newman Center. For Info: Liz Detwiler at 314-358-3455

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Winning the Battle with Procrastination

How many times have you gotten sidetracked from doing an assignment? College students can easily fall into a cycle of procrastination. Getting at the reasons behind the procrastination is the key. This workshop will illustrate the steps and techniques to become a person who does not procrastinate.

April 22, 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., 225 MSC. For Info: Chad Hoffer at 5300.

Missouri Energy Summit

There is no cost to attend the first day of this two-day event; however, to attend both days, there is a registration charge of \$25, which includes meals for both days and the reception on Wednesday.

April 22, 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. University of Missouri-Columbia. For Info: Bob Samples at 5665.

Time Management

Learn how to improve grades, improve your quality of life and

divide time between work and recreation. This workshop will help you examine how you spend your time and how you might be able to become more efficient in your role as a student.

April 22, 3:30 PM to 4:15 p.m., 225 MSC. For Info: Chad Hoffer at 5300.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

It's Who You Know: Successful Networking

Your job search network is larger than you think. Find out how to capitalize on it! Visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshops" for more information and to register.

April 23, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 278 MSC. For Info: Career Services at 5111.

UMSL Alumni Student Connection Mentoring Appreciation Event

Join us as we thank mentors and students for a successful year in the mentoring program.

April 23, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Summit Lounge, JC Penney Conference Center. For Info: Jennifer Black at 4738.

Information Systems Programming Club

A Full Automation Reporting Pattern in the Healthcare Industry using VBA and SQL by Jian Wang.

April 23, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., 103 CCB. For Info: Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 7354.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

IC Short Course - File Transfer & CD Writing

This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of how to save and access your files on a PC or to a CD. Learn how to use several tools, storage devices and drives for creating storage spaces, folders and files that may be required for classes, your job or for your own computing purposes. Topics include: what is my 'K' drive, how to save files to a USB Memory stick or a CD, how to access files

through a secure method, etc.

April 24, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., SSB 134. For info: visit the ITS website.

2009 Spring Seminar Series in Business & Economics

Mr. Shaji Khan, Ph.D. student in IS University of Missouri-St. Louis Topic: The Moderating Effect of Top Management's Collective Mindfulness on the Relationship between Top Management Support and IS Function Performance.

April 24, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 401 SSB. For Info: Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 7354.

Tips and Strategies for Test Taking

Do you prepare for tests only to find you completely blank out when the test is placed in front of you or that your grade did not meet your expectation? Learn tips about taking certain types of tests: ex. multiple choice, essay, true/false, etc. Get information to make your test preparation more productive and on how to better manage test-taking jitters.

April 24, 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. 225 MSC. For Info: Chad Hoffer at 5300.

Online Courses

Are you thinking of enrolling in an online course, but you are not sure what it is and if it is right for you? Or, have you already enrolled in one and just want to learn how to succeed in it? In either case, you should check out this informative workshop, intended to give you a comprehensive look at online learning. Hopefully it not only answers some questions about online courses, but also provides the tools necessary to succeed in this new method of learning.

April 24, 2009 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. 225 MSC. For Info: Chad Hoffer at 5300.

Mentor/Protege Event

Topic: A Day in the Life of an IT Professional.

April 24, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Grace's Place (204 CCB) For info: Dr. Joseph Rottman at 6288.

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.

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AFFILIATIONS



The Current: Best in State winner for 3rd straight year

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Editor-in-Chief

Saturday night, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' student newspaper, *The Current*, attended the annual Missouri College Media Association conference at Saint Louis University where they took home the Best in State title for the third year in the row.

The title Best in State is judged in between the four divisions of schools who won in the Best Overall category of their division.

The Current is a division one

school and was up against other large universities such as University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Saint Louis University and Washington University.

At the conference, *The Current* was judged on submissions from 2008, in multiple categories by volunteer judges.

Former advisor for *The Current*, Judith Linville, was the presenter for the awards after Kent Ford could not make the ceremony.

Linville, who retired in 2008, was named as Advisor of the Year for all

of her dedication to *The Current* and to the MCMA.

The Current took home awards in multiple categories including Feature writing, News Photography and Page One design in addition to the Best Overall and Best in State awards.

In addition to the awards ceremony that was held Saturday night, there were workshops during the day that focused on different fields in journalism that members of *The Current* attended.

The conference, which was based mainly out of the Busch Student Center at SLU, included a Friday

night social gathering at Salsaritas and a free buffet lunch on Saturday at Vito's.

The annual awards banquet was held on Saturday night beginning at 7:00 with a cocktail hour that lead into a keynote speaker address from Margaret Freivogel, the Editor of the St. Louis Beacon, an online-only news publication. Freivogel had worked for the St. Louis Post Dispatch years before leaving to begin the Beacon.

MCMA is held yearly.

Next year it is going to be held in Kansas City.

The Current's 2009 Awards

- Best in State
- Adviser of the Year

1st Place

- Feature Writing
- News Photography
- Entertainment Cartoon
- Illustration
- Page One Design
- Feature Page
- Photo Page
- Best Overall Newspaper

2nd Place

- Sports Column

3rd Place

- Editorial Writing
- Sports Page

Honorable Mention

- Feature Writing
- Sports Writing
- In-depth Reporting
- Entertainment Review
- Feature Photography
- Sports Photography

NEWS BRIEFS

Report issued on professors' salaries

The American Association of University Professors released their annual report on faculty salaries from Universities around the Nation.

Gary Forsee, President of the UM-System announced salary cuts earlier this year for UM faculty.

According to the AAUP's newsletter, which accompanied the release of the report, "the most salient feature of the higher education landscape in the last three decades has been the increasing insecurity of faculty employment".

Faculty salaries are public knowledge and can be viewed at the Thomas Jefferson Library.

Student awarded Fulbright Grant

Angela Toole, an Anthropology student at UM-St. Louis, received a Fulbright grant for her research on "The Owl and Woolly Monkeys" in Ecuador. The Fulbright grant will fund her research for 2009-2010.

Danielle Lee, a biology masters student was named the American Institute of Biological Sciences Diversity Scholar for 2009. Lee was given the award based on her undergraduate research as well as her dedication to science education and animal behavioral sciences.

JAZZ FESTIVAL, from page 1

"The interest from participating schools has exceeded our expectations," Widner said.

Shankman explained that he feels the festival is important because it gives students and community members an opportunity to attend jazz concerts. Shankman also explained that the festival can be conducive to students who are in the music program at UM-St. Louis and it can help to open new doors for them.

"The main reason for the jazz festival is to educate and inspire young musicians to continue with their music and become the next breed of jazz musicians in this country," Shankman said.

Jon Faddis will be one of the several professional players that audience members of the Jazz Festival will have the chance to hear. Faddis made a similar statement to that of Shankman's explaining that he too felt that festivals such as the one UM-St. Louis held this weekend helped to enrich the lives of both students and community members.

"I think it is important [to people] because it is part of their history as musicians and as Americans and this art form is one of our greatest gifts to the world. I think it helps the students [especially] to rise above many many things and become better people [and musicians] because of this music".

Faddis is originally from Oakland, Cal. and has been playing the trumpet for around 48 years. Faddis also plays other instruments like the piccolo or others in the trumpet family such as the cornet.

He has never played at this particular festival but he did play at the Bistro with Jim Widner, director of the festival, last time that he was in St. Louis.

In previous years the festival has featured over 49 musicians from across the United States of America, including: Clark Terry, Marilyn Maye, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, Buddy DeFranco, Mulgrew Miller, Tom Scott, Shelly Ber, and others.

DEBATES, from page 1

It is required to be a registered student at UM-St. Louis in order to vote.

For more information about each candidate, see "One slate, two independents, each a student" from the March 16th edition of *The Current*. The story can be viewed online at thecurrentonline.com.

Also, students will be voting on Student Senate Candidates, three constitutional changes and a smoking policy referendum. There are 13 open positions for Student Senate and 16 students running for those spots.

Student Senates sit on the University Assembly, which helps govern UM-St. Louis on issues ranging from the budget to what new courses will be offered.

The smoking policy referendum asks students "Should the University of Missouri-St. Louis explore

solutions towards modifying our current campus smoking policy?" The referendum would encourage campus officials to work towards becoming a more smoke free. The student group Peers Advocating Smoke Free Solutions (PASS) proposed the referendum.

One of the constitutional changes is adding "Each official member of the Student Senate Organization shall be considered a member at large of the Student Government Assembly," which would give student Senators a vote in the SGA Assembly meetings.

Another is changing some wordings to say that SGA Officers "shall be a student in good standing, having a minimum overall UMSL grade point average of 2.0 or provide documentation showing a transfer grade point average of at least 2.0." At the SGA meeting where these issues

were proposed, it was pointed out that the old system relied on people being honest as UM-St. Louis officials could not check transfer GPAs. The last amendment states "Any person serving in any elective or appointive position with the University of Missouri - St. Louis Student Government Association found in violation of Article II, Sections 1 or 2, or found to be negligent of fulfilling a minimum of 3 of their duties as outlined in Article IV." This change allows SGA officers to be brought up on impeachment hearings based off of a lack of fulfilling their duties as previously stated in the SGA Constitution.

These measures along with the election of the SGA officers can be found on the SGA election website. The direct link to the election website is: https://fusion.umsl.edu/studentlife/sga_elections.

BIDEN, from page 1

"We used to be able to pay and now we've had to take out loans. I'm really glad Pell Grants will be invested, and Pell Grants have saved my academic life," Eftink said.

This comes in a time where the University is making strict budget cuts and trying to fix a budgetary deficit.

The preparations for the Vice President's visit began on Monday when the Missouri branch of the Secret Service arrived to begin security measures for the visit.

The entire building was swept for security Friday morning from 7-9 a.m. by the secret service. A message was sent out by Director of Student Life, Miriam Huffman asking that all offices and doors be left open for the sweep.

There were metal detectors located at the escalator leading to the third floor of the Millennium Student

Center where the event was held.

Biden finished his trip to Missouri by partnering with Governor Jay Nixon on creating a "Next Generation Jobs Team," which provides internship opportunities for kids aged 16-24. These internships would partner them with employers such as Analytical Bio-Chemistry laboratories, BJC health system here in St. Louis and many more.

About 3,000 youth will be appointed into these "next generation jobs" beginning this summer. According to a press release, Nixon believes that this program will "create new jobs and turn this economy around."

"We must ensure that Missouri has highly trained, highly skilled workers who are ready to compete for the careers of tomorrow," Nixon said.

SGA Elections are currently taking place. Vote today!

Wieners for Seniors

Free HOT DOGS and T-SHIRTS for SENIORS*

What The 5th Annual Wieners for Seniors

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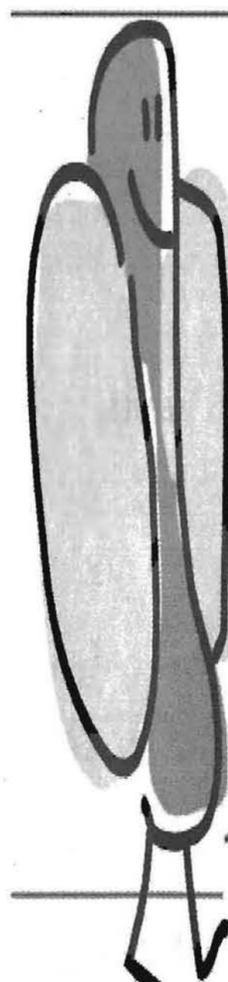
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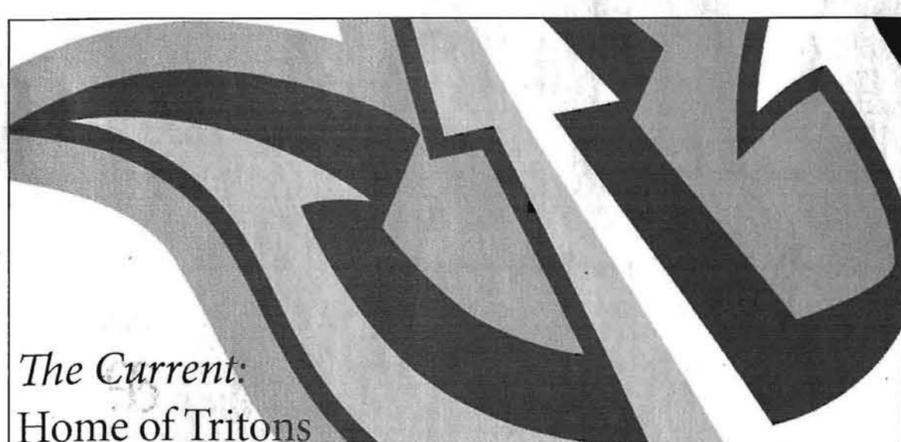
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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Layoff alternatives

Recently, *The Current* lamented the loss of John Klein, former Director of Student Life and Director of Fiscal Operations in Student Life.

Along with John Klein, other faculty members of University Missouri-St. Louis were let go. This is a very common trend in the United States right now. Layoffs are happening all around the nation. Do they have to, though? And likewise, were recent UM-St. Louis layoffs necessary?

Sure, downsizing is necessary for any business that is staffed above its means, but recently we have been facing detrimental unemployment levels for our country. This is why some businesses are trying to get creative.

First, businesses should make cuts to any company funded trips, vacations, picnics or anything that is not necessary for the business to function. Cutting a year of such things could be saving multiple salaries.

Along the same lines, cutting unnecessary bonuses (yes, to the higher up staff members especially) would help avoid layoffs.

Also, sometimes a business will fragment their budget so that in one area of the company layoffs are occurring, while another area can afford hiring. Re-budgeting and freezing all hiring would be an intelligent move for any business.

One thing that tends not to happen as much are overall pay cuts. If you spread the cut of a few salaries over the entirety of the business (yes, including the owners, presidents, CEOs, etc.), cutting pay proportionally to salary, then people reliant on their jobs would have a chance to keep them.

A complaint is that rather than leaving a few people short of paying their bills, an overall pay cut would leave many people short of paying their bills. To this we say that a business could couple an overall pay cut with education to the staff members on how to live within their new salaries.

In turn, this could keep a business running efficiently without losing staff members. Also, the general pay cut could help to encourage a 'team' mentality amongst the staff since it would be a commonality.

Another interesting downsizing trend amongst businesses is encouraging voluntary retirement. If someone retires a year or so early, then a person who has decades of work left in them could be able to keep their job during the years of recession.

Finally, a downsizing trend in Europe that is pretty foreign to the States is cutting time.

Naturally, an overall time cut for a business would include an overall pay cut as well. Jobs would be saved just the same, with an added, positive aspect. People could use the extra time in their personal lives to spend with family, friends, neighbors and other communities. This is probably one of the best tactics available to company downsizing.

So, back to the original question: were recent UM-St. Louis layoffs necessary? The answer seems to be 'No.'

With such an arsenal of possible alternatives to layoffs, it seems that UM-St. Louis could have spared those who were fired.

It is an unfortunate but definite trend in the U.S. that people just want to have a lot of money. When they get a lot of money, they tend to want more, or at least want to not lose their large sums of income.

Coupled with a selfish attitude, such persons are unwilling to sacrifice a small amount of pay in order to save another person's entire salary.

With all of this said, UM-St. Louis should have reviewed more closely their alternatives to layoffs, instead of losing John Klein, and others, who were very useful and are now deeply missed.

ER Difference endorsed

Every year, *The Current* makes their endorsements for Student Government elections after the SGA debates.

Unfortunately for the students, applications for positions within the three top spots of the student government were few, beginning with two candidates for president, one for vice and two for comptroller.

By the debates last Thursday, the opposing candidate for SGA president, Candace Anderson had dropped out, and nothing had been heard from non-slate member Dustin Spina-Clossen for comptroller.

This leaves the "ER difference" slate, consisting of current SGA president Grace-marie Ritter, Greg Meyer, and Dan Rosner as the only legitimate candidates running for these positions—which, no offense, is sad.

Beginning with the comptroller position, *The Current* endorses Dan Rosner, member of the slate. We do not ever really know what to think about comptrollers, so every year our endorsement is similar to crossing of the fingers and a sprinkle of luck.

After the debate, however, we believe that Rosner is more than capable of handling the position. He seems very versed on how the budget and SABC allocations work, and seems to be serious enough to bring a little more organization to the committee.

Rosner kind of won by default, on the other hand, because his opponent, Dustin Spina-Clossen not only did not show up to the debate, but had not as of that time submitted plans or goals for his term as comptroller if he were to be appointed.

This really is sad, because everyone should have a contestant, and you cannot really run without participating in the election.

Spina-Clossen was a promising candidate at the beginning after walking into SGA second semester and becoming vice-chair, however, less and less has been seen of Spina-Clossen and his failure to turn in goals and show up to the debate have severely injured his chances of winning the position of comptroller.

Next, *The Current* is proud to endorse Greg Meyer, the only candidate for vice president, not only because he is the sole runner. Meyer showed initiative and excitement about taking over the committees, promising traits for this job where it is important to be organized and optimistic. Meyer promised a bolstering in the Fightin' Tritons committee, which was started by outgoing VP Jessica Cowan (who we will take this time to applaud as well for her outstanding commitment during the 2008-2009 academic year).

Lastly, after much convincing, we have decided to also endorse Gracemarie Ritter of the slate. After questioning her ability to follow through with her goals, Ritter made it clear that her goals for 2009-2010 were less general and more focused on small improvements rather than huge changes.

Anderson, who dropped out of the running, was a very promising candidate as well, and we strongly regret that she could not stay in the race. We believe it would have been better for the campus if there had been more candidates up for election.

Regardless, the "ER difference" slate has set up goals which you can find on their facebook page, or their website www.erdifference.com.

The Current believes that this is a great mindset for a slate to have as we all know that it takes Universities forever to change—they move slowly, and it is impossible to expect anything different.

We do have to comment on the slate name, however. We hate it. We endorse the slate, but we roll our eyes when anyone utters the "ER difference" or when we pass by the drawing of George Clooney in the Quad.

We believe that this group is smarter and more clever than that name (each of their names end with ER—please abstain from gasps of surprise and sporadic applause at this genius) implies.

The name also states that the slate is going to be different, but it is important to question how different this group can be when the same president heads it? We hope that Ritter keeps this in mind and truly uses this year to make a difference, or to at least do something differently than what little has been done this year.

Regardless of the tragic forces of apathy on this year's elections, *The Current* has decided to endorse the "ER Difference" slate, in hopes that they can work positively on this campus to increase student interest in activities such as SGA, work for a balanced SABC, and work hard to maintain their goals as set out.

It is also important to encourage students at UM-St. Louis to hold the Student Government accountable for the goals they say they would like to obtain. A SGA cannot work properly without the active input and collaboration from other students and student groups on campus.

Ritter said very clearly at the debate that it is her job to represent the student, so hold her, as well as the rest of the slate, accountable for the things they say.

We wish all of the candidates good luck.

EDITORIAL BOARD

- Sarah O'Brien
- Jessica Keil
- Cate Marquis
- Bryan Goers
- Gene Doyel
- Matthew Hill

"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. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. *The Current* reserves the right to deny letters.

For information on writing a guest commentary, contact *The Current's* Editor-in-Chief.

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we have covered?

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

- Joe Biden
- SGA Elections
- Mirthday
- Layoffs
- Alumni weekend

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

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Choosing life over death

By PAUL MAGUIRE

My opinion this week was spurred on by an article I read, yes, on npr.org, about life and death.

The article, entitled *Catherine's Choice: to Plan a Death with Dignity*, is written by Richard Knox about



Paul Maguire

his neighbor, Catherine Royce, who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

For those who do not know, ALS is a disease that affects the nervous system.

As stated by the ALS association, "The progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually leads to... death. When the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost. With voluntary muscle action progressively affected, patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed."

Eventually, someone with ALS loses all functioning abilities of his or her organs. Naturally, they die.

Now, Catherine was diagnosed with ALS in 2003, and on March 30 of this year, she chose to be disconnected from her life support machines, and she died.

She could have lived longer, but according to the article and her essay submitted to NPR in December of 2006, Catherine saw living and dying as choices. For her, these choices were very evident, since her likelihood of dying from ALS was immense.

She was hooked up to machines that she chose to use everyday. Any day between her diagnosis and death she could have chosen to die, but she chose to live until March.

Not only did she choose to live, but she seemed to have a bright outlook on life.

Control over her own life became very important; probably because it was one of the few controls she had remaining.

Many of us hold life to be something special and sacred, in a supernatural sense.

For me, though, much like Catherine and unlike many others, there is no set of moral code convincing enough to make me believe that life is supernaturally special.

So, what convinces someone without such a moral code to see life as special and choose it over death? Or better worded, what causes such a person to choose to embrace life despite the option of death?

First, I consider life. Life is a profoundly mysterious thing. There is no general agreement on how or why it exists.

The only general agreement is that life, for most sentient beings, coincides with experience.

Often times a person will become aggravated with life even though there is plausibly a long life ahead, with many new experiences available.

This person will do so because of a perceived 'bad' experience, or set of experiences, whether they are in his or her past or as predicted in the future.

It seems that many humans have categorized experiences into 'good' and 'bad' to such a degree that they cannot endure certain experiences deemed 'bad.' I see all experiences, especially those in hindsight, as things from which I can learn. Even though there are things that I would rather not endure, if most of the time they are new experiences.

Death may bring nothingness, while enduring 'bad' experiences may lead to enjoyable ones. For me, experiences are that for which we live, whether pleasurable or not.

Reading about Catherine really helped me to see that if a person in her condition can see living as a good choice for so long, then a person who is not faced with death on a daily basis, like me for instance has no excuse to waste life.

I can take my experiences, whether good or bad and enjoy them.

I can learn from them no matter what, and I can choose life over death everyday.

Paul Maguire is *Opinions Editor* and a cartoonist for *The Current*.

UNDERCURRENT

By Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

What was your favorite TV show growing up?



McKenzie Whitaker
Junior
Elementary Education

"Saved by the Bell. Zach Morris was so cute!"



Mike Klevorn
Senior
Communications

"Ninja Turtles because they were tight!"



Nandini Rajashanmugam
Sophomore
Biology

"Friends. So funny."



Kurt Driemeyer
Junior
Business Administration

"The Crocodile Hunter. Who isn't fascinated with fierce animals being wild?"



Ayana Daniels
Freshman
Secondary Education

"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Will Smith was so funny and fine and still is."

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

FOREIGNER'S CORNER

Focus on the good

By Sofi Seck

Turning on my television and watching the news is usually the most depressing part of my day. It is always the same TV personalities telling me all that is wrong with the world. They talk for hours about war, shootings, bad parenting, and celebrities' stupidity. It is like they thrive on this stuff, and I have grown bored of it.

All of this negative press has me asking, are there any good things happening in the world?

Do not get me wrong, I do not want to forget that bad things happen all together. I think that we should see more international news for sure, but that does not mean that we should only see the depressing stuff. There are so many great things happening, and we never even hear about it.

Did you know that many automakers are developing plug-in hybrid vehicles and electric cars? And that this expansion would help meet President Barack Obama's goal of having 1 million plug-in hybrids on the road by 2015? Ok, this one is a little close to home, so you may have heard about it.

How about this: scientists in Singapore say they have created a way to change global-warming carbon dioxide into clean-burning methanol using a procedure that uses less power than earlier tries. They have used non-hazardous organo-catalysts to create ethanol. How amazing is that?

Want something less environmental? Try this: I heard that criminals incarcerated in eastern India are being played calming classical music on a daily basis to help 'soften' them up. The music is played for four hours everyday on loudspeakers that are placed in a variety of places in the prison. I could not help but smile with amusement when I first heard about this.

In Cuba, urban gardens are being grown in vacant lots, at the side of parking lots, in the suburbs, and even on top of roofs in the cities. This came from a military plan for Cuba to be independent in case of war, and was popularized by the public as a reaction to a food emergency that followed the end of the Soviet Union. These gardens have become so popular that they occupy more than 86,000 acres of land across the island. They make up more than half of the leaf vegetables eaten in Cuba.

And even in a war torn country, light finds a way to shine. Iraq started flushing extra salinity out of millions of acres of land in a project aimed to clean up rivers, bring new life into dying soils, and revitalizing what was once part of 'the fertile crescent'.

And in our own backyard new discoveries are being made. Did you know that about 40 percent of African-Americans have a hereditary alternative that can defend them from heart failure and extend their lives? That is according to a study conducted at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis that offers a reason why beta-blockers do not seem to help some African-Americans.

These are just a fraction of humanities greatness. All around the world lives are being saved, more and more people are volunteering, communities are growing stronger and amazing people are doing amazing things every moment of everyday. In a world full of negative news, we would do well to remember some of the good things every once in a while.

Sofi Seck is the staff photographer for The Current.

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www.thecurrentonline.com

THE O'BRIEN FACTOR

A proud legacy

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Last night, *The Current* won the Best in State award for the third year in a row. This is something that we here at *The Current*, including myself, are incredibly proud of. A three-year legacy is rare, and even rarer for a school with no journalism program.



Sarah O'Brien

After winning about twenty awards ranging from writing and cartoons to photos and design, we realized that we were once again in the running for this prestigious award: Missouri College Media Association- Best in State.

There are so many things that I would love to mention, like how I was so nervous I could barely relax my hands long enough to eat my dinner at the MCMA banquet, or how I could not stop anxiously bobbing my feet in between awards.

I would like to mention how phenomenal it is for a school that

has no journalism program to speak of to consistently annihilate one of the top journalism schools in the nation. In addition to this, we beat out hundreds of other schools with "real" journalism programs.

More importantly I would like to comment on how much the staff of *The Current* deserves this award. After a hard year where it has been a struggle to even find the motivation to come to work for many of us, we have turned the paper around. We have improved readership, design, content, as well as retained staff.

Sure, there are nightly disasters and people not doing their jobs. However, there is a strong core of student workers here at *The Current* who would take a bullet for *The Current* (that is only a slight exaggeration). These students put sweat and tears into putting out a paper for the campus to enjoy every Monday. They are often giving up time with loved ones, a time that should be spent on homework, studying, or academic papers.

What is important is that we try our best. Our best is the absolute

best of anyone else's endeavors in the state. The staff gives one hundred and eighty percent of themselves one hundred and eighty percent of the time and they deserve to be acknowledged and respected for the work they do.

Matthew Hill, the photo and web editor, told me when I was News Editor that journalism is a thankless mistress. Not only do we not get the respect we deserve on campus, it often seems like you do not get the respect you deserve in your own office. The paper that we slave over gets ripped open to do the sudoku or crossword puzzle, and about ninety-eight percent of the phone calls or visits we receive do not revolve around complimenting or thanking or engaging in academic debate with us. People call in for movie passes (ooh how I loathe thee).

The point is this staff has worked harder for the past three years to prove to UM-St. Louis, themselves, that we are great, and we do have what it takes. We are by no means asking for more appreciation, we

know we will never get that. I am simply stating that I appreciate every minute that every member of this staff has ever spent in the stuffy office designing pages, fixing photos, proofing content, editing stories or anything that has complimented the greatness of our production.

The feeling of Saturday night is not one that I will likely ever forget. The nervous hopefulness that was bolstered every time we heard "from UMSL's *The Current*" combined with the excitement in everyone's eyes when we finally won is an emotion that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

We may be a MCMA legacy, but the legacy lasts within our awesome staff, our obscene dedication and our inspiration to grow stronger and better as a publication as the years continue.

Congratulations to the staff of *The Current*. We did this together, and I am forever grateful for your hard work and dedication. Cheers. We are truly the champions.

Sarah O'Brien is Editor-in-Chief of *The Current*.

GUEST COMMENTARY

The April 15 tea parties and bias

By BOB BURRIS

The April 15th Tea Parties offer a great opportunity to evaluate a novel expression of disagreement surrounding what may be a rather diverse set of issues. In so far as the Tea Parties seem to represent rather strong opinions and feelings of some, they deserve to be taken seriously. It seems like the Tea Parties can be judged reasonably fairly by reading the demonstration signs used, listening to participants, hosts, and MC's of the events, and by watching and reading various sources of coverage. On one end of the coverage spectrum, Fox Cable News seems to be the closest thing to the "official" coverage of the Tea Parties, considering their commentators' roles in acting as event MC's, in advertising and in promoting the events. This is in spite of some on Fox previously swearing up and down that they would merely be covering the Parties, not endorsing them. On the other end of the spectrum, relative to Fox anyways, are a good number of other media outlets that have been labeled "the mainstream media" and are often charged with unfair bias regarding the Tea Parties.

These charges may or may not be justified, but are indicative of what we, collectively or culturally,

deem "unfair bias". Charges of media bias, whether used by Tea Party supporters or anyone else on any other occasion, beg certain questions, like: is "bias" automatically always a bad thing, is it possible to completely eliminate, and is bias always undesirable? First of all, I think "the media" gets a little too much credit (or discredit?) for being a monolithic institution. Second of all, there are various types of media bias, some of which are unacceptable for a serious and professional news organization to engage in. Obvious examples would be for news anchors to roll their eyes or use a sarcastic voice while reporting news stories. It is more questionable whether other types of bias are necessarily bad or even unavoidable. For example, it is not avoidable to completely eliminate bias in selecting what you cover, emphasize, or even how you relate an event. Otherwise, why would any legitimate news organization have an editor? For instance, I have to limit the size of this column in order for it to be printed. That leaves me certain choices: do I condense

what I have written, or should I limit the number of topics I address? What criteria do I use to make these decisions? These choices hardly represent an intentional attempt to avoid certain areas that I would have otherwise addressed given a format with different constraints. Rather, they are more indicative of a structural bias to which I need to adjust in order to publish in a certain media.

“Is 'bias' automatically a bad thing, is it possible to completely eliminate, and is bias always undesirable?”

Also, our culture tends to confuse unfavorable logical criticism and rational analysis with an unfair bias. An example of this is unjust bias being automatically called when a position is presented in an unflattering manner. To be sure, negative coverage through illogical criticism, irrational analysis, and selective editing with the intention of damage are unfair. But a particular position may not hold up to logical scrutiny, and an interviewee representing a certain ideology may not be able to articulate much more than a visceral type of opposition, which would cause a final report to look unflattering. But this does not automatically merit an accusation

of unfair bias.

In the case of the Tea Parties, the Parties certainly do deserve coverage in that they are real events that reflect some people's strong feelings. But that they are not automatically covered as favorably as on Fox does not merit a legitimate charge of bias. Furthermore, it seems like a visceral hostility towards and feelings of being victimized by coverage by the "mainstream media" were large issues running up to and through the Tea Parties. Legitimate or not, when one makes these charges, and maintains them as an attitude, it makes one to a degree complicit in alienating oneself from the "media".

My point is not to belittle the Tea Parties and charge the participants with being emotional and irrational. Certainly there are number of valid aspects of the human experience other than logical rationalism that are useful and play a part in expression and in decision making. But one cannot expect an event that is seemingly dominated by a combination of emotion, reaction, and offering of negative alternatives to be given the same type of coverage and consideration as a clear argument that offers positive, proactive alternatives.

Bob Burris is undergraduate student at UM-St. Louis.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I have one thing to say to the distinguished J. Martin Rochester regarding his letter to the Editor: "Lighten the hell up!" First of all this "sorry excuse for an editor" and her team for the past several years have won numerous state

and national awards for journalism excellence. Their newspaper makes this university look great. I am extremely proud of them. The position of editor is one of the most sought after student positions on campus. It is extremely hard work, a lot of responsibility, many late nights, and a job I am certain

Ms. O'Brien takes seriously as they are paving the way to starting their careers. How dare you personally attack her like that.

The parody issue is a long time tradition for the staff to get together near the end of the school year and have a great time be creative and many of the stories through the

years have been in bad taste. Get a grip, it is a joke. You know what they say if you can't take a joke.

Michelle L. McMurray
Former Editor of
The Current, 1992-93

SCIENCE COLUMN

LHC: good or bad?

By CATE MARQUIS

Particle physics uses very big equipment to detect very small things to answer questions about very big matters like the origin of the universe and the nature of matter and energy.

The Large Hadron Collider is one of the latest attempts to find some of those big answers. The LHC was started up in September 2008 but shut down after only a week due to a helium leak that followed an electrical problem. The collider, located on the French-Swiss border at the European Center for Nuclear Research, now is expected to be up and running by late summer 2009.

The LHC is the most powerful particle accelerator built so far. Particle accelerators smash proton beams together to explore the nature of matter and test theories of physics. One of the things that researchers hope to discover in using the LHC is the Higgs boson, a particle proposed by the theory of Peter Higgs in 1964. Before the moment of the Big Bang that created the universe, all matter-energy were unified and then they were not. The Higgs boson, dubbed the "God particle" by the press, is the single particle that gave mass to all others after the Big Bang. Here is how the theory was described in "Time:"

"In 1964, Higgs theorized a mechanism to explain how two types of particle, massless like everything else immediately after the Big Bang, came to acquire different masses as the universe cooled. Using this mechanism...scientists were able to extrapolate how all particles get their mass. Higgs thus plugged a major hole in the Standard Model, the far-reaching set of equations on the interaction of subatomic particles that is the closest modern physics comes to a testable 'theory of everything.'"

One experiment at the LHC seeks to prove the existence of the Higgs boson by re-creating the immediate after effects of the Big Bang and searching for one.

So far, experiments with other particle colliders have failed to produce a detectable Higgs boson, although some scientists felt they were getting close. Proving its existence verifies this theory and sets us on a path to an elegant solution to fundamentals of physics, and the long hoped-for "theory of everything."

But is there a danger in recreating the tiny particle that caused the Big Bang? Or is that what we are talking about?

There is a lot of discussion of the danger of creating a Higgs boson. The concern is that the process might create a small black hole that could expand and engulf the planet. This concern is by no means restricted to non-scientists or conspiracy theorists. A German chemist, Otto Rossler, filed a lawsuit in August 2008 to halt the LHC with the European Court of Human Rights, citing that such an outcome would threaten Europeans' right to life. In March 2008, American environmentalists filed suit in federal court in Hawaii seeking to force withdrawal of American support for the project.

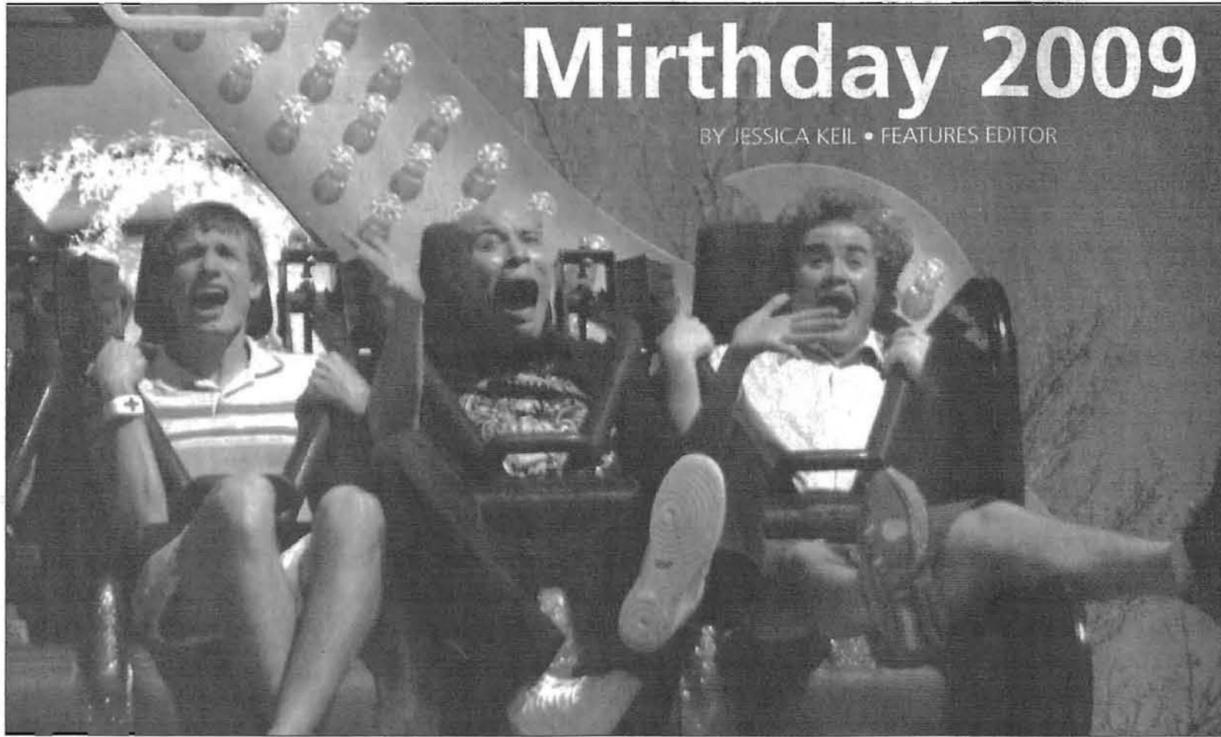
Overwhelmingly, physicists say there is no need for concern. CERN scientists say that creating tiny black hole or holes are highly unlikely and any tiny black holes created would vanish harmlessly on their own, due to Hawking Radiation. According to British physicist Stephen Hawking, for which this theory is named, black holes not only suck in light, matter and energy but quickly leak the same back out, leading to the disappearance of any very small black holes. CERN backed up their conclusions by having an independent panel of physicists review them. They further assert that equivalent collisions to those that will take place in the LHC, which produce similar levels of energy, already take place daily in space between cosmic rays, with no such catastrophic effect.

Still, all of this is theory, on both sides, until it is tested. Most likely no disaster will occur but neither side can be absolutely certain. While we should not be afraid to move forward in exploring the nature of the universe, there is a place for reasonable questions.

See LHC, page 12

CHOOSE WISELY
THE CURRENT
URGES YOU
TO VOTE
THIS WEEK
FOR NEXT YEAR'S
SGA LEADERSHIP

FEATURES



Mirthday 2009

BY JESSICA KEIL • FEATURES EDITOR

Photos by Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

Robbie Haupt, senior, media studies, Matthew Amend, senior, theatre & dance, and Joey Watson, senior, theatre & dance enjoy the free rides at Mirthday. The University Program Board sponsored the event held Wednesday.

Trebuchets, Moby Dick, Liquid Nitrogen: Mirthday has it all

On a rare sunny day amidst weeks of April rain, the UM-St. Louis held its annual carnival, Mirthday. This year the carnival featured staples that UM-St. Louis students and faculty have come to expect from Mirthday. Student organization booths, spinning carnival rides and funnel cakes were just a few. New this year to Mirthday was a 50 ft tall wooden trebuchet that launched water balloons.

What some attendants may have noticed about Mirthday 2009 was not what was there, but what was not. Missing were the inflatable jumpers, the staff-dunk tank and the local band side stage.

"We were trying to be fiscally responsible," Jessica Long, Student Activities Coordinator said of the changes.

Also, the 68 student organizations that signed up to participate in Mirthday were asked to pay a \$10 booth fee when in the past it had been free.

"The fee helped pay for rental equipment," Long said. "We didn't want to make it expensive though, and many organizations have the money as a part of their SABC budget anyway."

Despite the changes, students, faculty, staff and community members came out in large numbers to the front MSC parking lot for a break in classes or work.

"I'm in grad school here and I go to St. Louis Community College, so I'm just exhausted from the semester." Katherin Kehoe, graduate student, education said. "[Mirthday] is a good relaxer."

According to Long, Mirthday is an event meant to do just what Kehoe explained.

"My understanding is that Mirthday is used to bring campus together and the St. Louis community for that

carnival atmosphere before finals so we all can relax and have a good time."

The changes made to Mirthday this year did not go unnoticed by some returning UM-St. Louis students.

"I worked Mirthday last year," Chris Owens, junior, biology said while adding liquid nitrogen to a flask in order to freeze some mini marshmallows. Owens worked the Physics Club booth this year and last.

"There isn't a cover over our booth this year," he said "but it's not that hot today so it doesn't matter that much. It was nice to have."

Robert Goldstein, junior, engineering was watching Owens pour the liquid nitrogen. He had a similar response to the Mirthday cutback.

"My freshman year, Mirthday had a side stage with Reel Big Fish. The local bands on the side stage were good, I miss that," he said.

Long explained that the side stage was missing from this year's Mirthday both to conserve funding and because "it is hard to get people to volunteer," she said.

Instead, the UM-St. Louis radio station The U DJ-ed Mirthday, even providing a carnival game of their own for attendants to play. Although Goldstein missed the side stage, by no means was he heartbroken at its absence.

"I have fun going to the different organizations and seeing what they are doing," he said. "I'm an engineering major so the physics booth is pretty fun. The booths are the best part."

In fact, the student organization booths at Mirthday 2009 had no shortage of inventive carnival games. For instance, at the Pan-African Association booth attendants were given prizes if they could guess the names of various countries in Africa, and



(ABOVE) Uegin Lin, freshman, engineering, and (BELOW) Pengyuan Zhang, freshman, business, and Rui Dong, freshman, biochemistry, play some of the many free games at Mirthday.



the Political Science Academy booth gave out prizes for hitting a cutout of a political figure with a sandbag.

In addition to the student organization booths at Mirthday, four different carnival rides, three of which were in operation, were present. Screams and laughter filled the air as students rode the ever-popular Moby Dick ride.

Another aspect of Mirthday 2009 was the percussion band made up of students and faculty, located among the student organization booths. Carlos Suarez, senior, international business could be found listening to the

music. He agreed that he noticed a change in Mirthday this year, but was not bothered by it.

"The school getting together to socialize and hang out is the best part of Mirthday, that, and the band is at the end," Suarez said. "It is a little more low key this year but it's still fun."

Overall, despite the cutbacks for Mirthday 2009, the carnival event had no shortage of free candy, free prizes and even free condoms (given out by the Amnesty International booth).

"I just like that Mirthday has free stuff," said Kehoe "that's the best."

Students' talent showcased in 2009 'LitMag'

By KIARA BRELAND

Staff Writer

University of Missouri-St. Louis students can view some of their own artwork ranging from photography to prose in this year's LitMag. The Millennium Student Center's Gallery Visio held the official launch party for the LitMag on April 16. The event featured the creators of the LitMag along with faculty, friends, writers and two guest speakers. This year, the art cover was an ink drawing by Keyah McCoy.

"I did the drawing in ink and it was a class assignment" McCoy, sophomore, fine arts and communication said. Her technique for the complex drawing was simple.

"I did an outline, and filled in the details," McCoy said.

This was McCoy's first publication and she was happy but surprised at winning the contest.

Her piece shows a woman on one side and a man on the other and is filled with designs and patterns throughout. The piece, which is entitled "Left in Your Memory," was inspired by a past relationship.

"It was about a past relationship that ended and the title describes what was left after the relationship was over," McCoy said.

The LitMag featured photography as well and two of them, "Night Bridge" by Veronica Vollmer and Faisal Pervaiz's "Old Man Reflecting" were winners of the International Photo Contest that was also on display in the Gallery Visio.

"The LitMag was started as a club and it later evolved into the class Editing LitMag, which [can be] a capstone for the Creative Writing Certificate. It began as a class in around 1999. It comes out every year in the spring," Bethany Webb, senior, English said.

"It only took about ten weeks and it is divided up into three sections," Webb added.

The winner of the prose contest was Matthew Pachmayr's story entitled "American Prostitute."

"I was surprised that I won the contest [especially] since I only submitted [American Prostitute] because the original one was too long," Pachmayr, senior, English said. Pachmayr thanked all of the staff at the LitMag for the opportunity, and thought his change of ending helped the story get submitted.

"I changed the story ending right before I sent it [because the original] was really corny," Pachmayr said. The winner of the poetry contest was Madison Baer, freshman, secondary education. Baer said she was sur-



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Visiting author Andrew Faltschul was a guest reader at the launch party for this year's edition of LitMag, which was held at gallery Visio on Thursday.

prised at winning.

Baer's poem entitled "Darfur" was inspired by the troubled part of Sudan that is now quite familiar to many Americans.

"A couple years ago I became really interested in the Save Darfur movement and I had been thinking about the situation over there for a few weeks before I wrote the poem, and it just came to me," Baer said.

The LitMag received over 250 admissions in poetry, artwork, and prose.

"We started trying to pick stories

from the second week of school up until two weeks ago. Everyone received packets, and we would spend weeks reading and rereading them," said Allen Wiggs, senior, global studies. Wigg's stated that the staff's main objective was wondering if the piece fit the paper.

"There wasn't anything specific we were looking for. As long as it was well written and showed good technique [it had a good chance of getting in]," Wiggs said.

See LITMAG, page 12

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Anne-Sophie Blank

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN

Staff Writer

Originally from a region of western part of France called Brittany, Anne-Sophie Blank has been teaching students French at University of Missouri-St. Louis since 1993. Blank came to St. Louis in the summer of 1984, and became a "proud citizen" in September of 2000.



Anne-Sophie Blank Associate Teaching Professor, French

"I would not go back for anything in the world! I just like it too much here," Blank said.

Blank, associate teaching professor of French teaches all levels of French except literature and also serves as the Study Abroad Advisor for the French department. Blank teaches the Summer Intensive French Program as well, which she started teaching in 1994.

Students who participate in the intensive program attend five days a week, from May 18 until July 24, from 8:00-12:30, which Blank says can make for an "interesting morning." For students to be eligible for the Intensive French Program they must sign up to take the aptitude test which is offered several times before the semester ends.

While it is a mentally rigorous program, at the end the students receive 15 credit hours and the opportunity to continue their French education starting at the fourth level in French, if they so desire.

"This is exactly the time when they need to pace themselves. Taking the intensive is like running the marathon. You have to train every day and hard, and it will be hard, but fifteen credit hours [are worth it]," Blank said.

Blank went on to explain that even by the end of the first day students will be able to order a cup of coffee in French or protest if the waiter has brought the wrong order.

She said that by the end of the intensive students will be able to fully express themselves and have the knowledge available to "not only talk about what [they] did last night, but also express orders, wishing, commands and emotions."

"There are many things that you can do with French, the world is getting smaller, and the French speaking world is closer than what you might think," Blank said.

Blank has also received the Lecturer of the Year award from the College of Arts and Sciences, which she was awarded in May of 2005. She has reviewed many chapters for textbooks that students use including several chapters of the manuscript of "Portes Ouvertes," published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston in 1998 as well as "Sequences" for Thomson-Heinle College Publishers, published in 2007. She has taught French to students at Gymnasium Gerlingen in Germany, the Centre International D'Etudes Francaises at the Université Catholique de L'Ouest in Angiers, and at Alliance Francaise School in St. Louis.

Aside from French and English, Blank knows an additional language, German.

See BLANK, page 12

Anne-Sophie Blank Associate Teaching Professor, French

Education

- Master's, German grammar, University of Sorbonne
- Master's, French literature, Washington University

Awards

Lecturer of the Year, College of Arts & Sciences, 2005

Favorite St. Louis places

Missouri Botanical Garden and Forest Park

TOP TEN

Best things about Mirthday 2009

10 Funnel Cake
Just as long as you grabbed a cake after riding Moby Dick five times.

09 Trebuchet
The only thing missing from past Mirthdays was a medieval siege weapon, but this year UMSL came prepared.

08 Physics Club Booth
Three words: liquid nitrogen marshmallows.

07 Live Music
Jack's Mannequin and an impromptu percussion band all wrapped in one.

06 Volleyball Tournament
Students can get their volleyball fix once a year.

05 Carnival Rides
At least three of the four rides at Mirthday actually worked, and that's a passing grade, so we like it.

04 Turkey Legs
Students watched the trebuchet and did so while eating like Henry VIII, partying like it's 1199.

03 The Sun
It came out to chill at UMSL for Mirthday, promptly disappearing for the rest of the week.

02 No Parking
Wait, that sucks. Oh well. It's not like there is ever UMSL parking anyway.

01 Free stuff
Free prizes= free fun.

Making friends.

Building an awesome resume.

Getting involved.

Seeing your name in print.

Challenging yourself.

Getting great pay.

Learning on the job.

Having fun.

JUST HOW MANY JOBS SOUND THIS GOOD?

The Current

is a weekly newspaper written and designed by dedicated UMSL students, named "Best in State" by the Missouri College Media Association three years running. We are looking for motivated, exciting and excited students to fill the following positions for the 2009-2010 school year:

**REMEMBER: Any student can apply for these positions!
No experience necessary.**

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- News Editor + Asst.
- Features Editor + Asst.
- Sports Editor + Asst.
- A&E Editor + Asst.
- Opinions Editor + Asst.
- Web Editor
- Training Director
- Copy Desk Chief
- Copy Editors
- Page Designers
- Staff Writers
- Staff Photographers
- Page Designers
- Proofreader
- Illustrators / Cartoonists

Business Positions

- Business Manager* + Asst.
- Ad Director*
- Distribution Manager
- Marketing Director
- Archivist
- Public Relations Representative
- Ad Representative

Applications due by May 1

Visit The Current office to pick up an application.

All other positions require a resume and cover letter.



**Visit www.thecurrentonline.com/apply or
e-mail medn74@umsl.edu
for more information and to learn how to apply.**

A&E

MOVIE OPENINGS

OBSESSED

If you took an entire Schnucks produce aisle and the Soulard farmer's market and put them in a blender; you couldn't get anything juicier than "Obsessed". Idris Elba (beloved "The Wire" alumn) stars as a happily married, upwardly mobile business man who's married to...Beyonce! So what's wrong? Crazy blond Ali Larter at the office, that's what's wrong. She's all kinds of strange and stalker-ish and before long; everyone is having sex with everyone and everyone else is mad about it. And then the killing begins. Yeah, we weren't kidding when we said juicy.

At most theaters.

FIGHTING

Channing Tatum (?) is a snow-white pretty boy introduced into the super hardcore world of underground something. At most theaters.

THE SOLOIST

So-hot-right-now Robert Downey Jr. stars as a reporter who discovers that a homeless schizophrenic is actually Jamie Foxx in disguise. Plus, he can really wail on the cello. At least that's what we get from the trailers; that and a blaring cry of "give us an Oscar!" At most theaters.

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS



- 01 Boom Boom Pow
Black Eyed Peas
- 02 The Climb
Miley Cyrus
- 03 Poker Face
Lady GaGa
- 04 We Made You
Eminem
- 05 Right Round
Flo Rida
- 06 Hoedown
Throwdown
Miley Cyrus
- 07 Day 'N' Nite
Kid Cudi
- 08 Crazier
Taylor Swift
- 09 Kiss Me Thru the Phone
Soulja Boy Tell 'Em
- 10 You Found Me
The Fray

A&E ON CAMPUS

Mirthday brings new band to UMSL

Low vs. Diamond is interesting mix between Honorary Title, The Killers

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN
Staff Writer

Three bands, Low vs. Diamond, Matt Nathanson, and Jack's Mannequin, performed in the concert that capped Wednesday's Birthday celebration. The concert took place at 7 p.m. at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the UM-St. Louis Campus.

While not many are familiar with Low vs. Diamond, the band proved on Wednesday that this is sure to change. By the end of their set, Low vs. Diamond had everyone in their audience on their feet pumped for more great music.

A favorite of the crowd during Low vs. Diamond's set was "Don't Forget Sister," a song that featured catchy continuous beats and creative lyrics written by band member Lucas Field wrote.

In an interview with *The Current* after the concert, Anthony Polcino explained that Lucas was the "main song writer."

"The first batch of songs on this album Lucas had the main idea (for). Some of the later songs we wrote together as we toured for awhile and started to grow as a band," Polcino said.

The music they play is indie rock

and roll and the band takes inspiration from contemporary rock bands. Low vs. Diamond has several aspects that remind the listener of bands such as The Honorary Title and the Killers.

Originally from Los Angeles California, Low vs. Diamond is made up of band members Lucas Field, Anthony Polcino, Tad Moore, Jon Pancoast and Howie Diamond. The band has been playing together for around three years.

Another popular song, also written by Field, was "Actions are Actions," which he said to have written about his brother. The song began with a string of melodic notes played on the keyboard and then was joined by vocals. "Actions are Actions" was unique in that at several points throughout the song the instrumentation faded and left the focus on the vocals and lyrics.

Low vs. Diamond's first album, which they are currently promoting, was released under Epic Records. The band is currently not associated with them anymore.

Low vs. Diamond was discovered by Marrakesh Records, the same small indie UK label which first discovered the Killers.

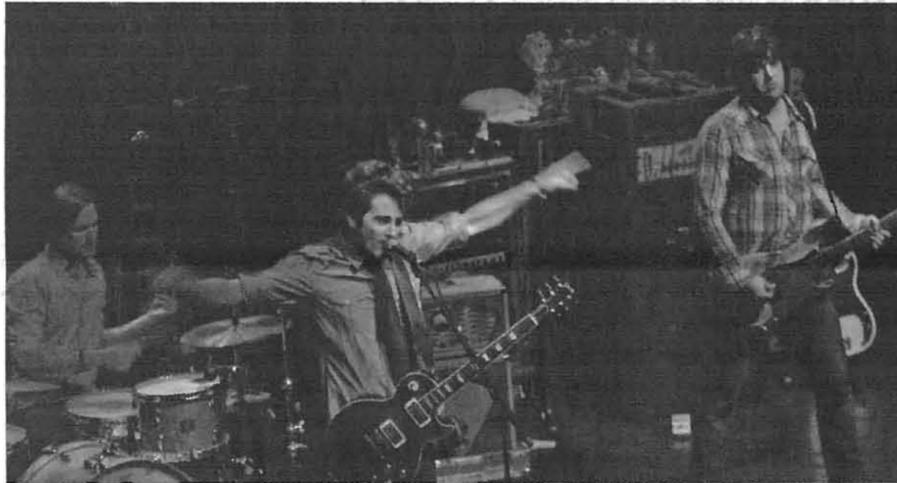
Low vs. Diamond actually took their first tour in 2007, in England.



After their self-titled album was released in July of last year, the band has toured with Santagold, Barcelona, and now Jack's Mannequin. Low vs. Diamond has a tour with Ben Lee coming up in the future. Polcino explained that of all of the tours the band has taken, the tour with Jack's Mannequin has been his favorite.

"This one has been really fun because the venues are a little bit bigger, and you can't deny that it's nice to be taken care of, the stage is really nice, and the sound is good. You (always) play hard but sometimes when you can't even hear what you're doing it ruins the experience," Polcino said.

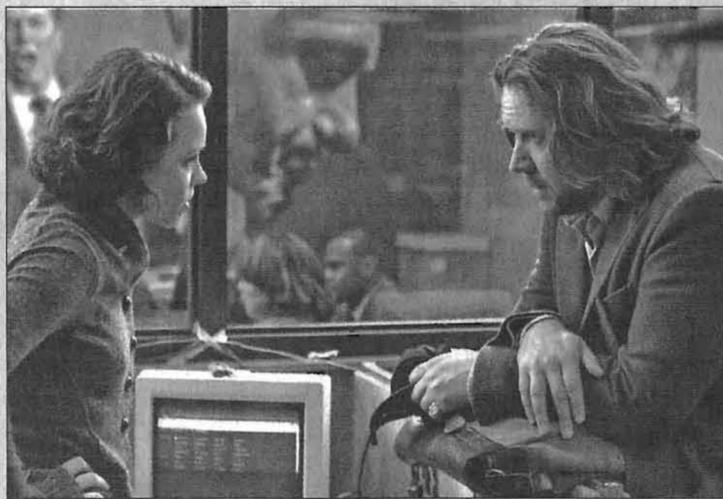
Low vs. Diamond is also releasing a single sometime in the next couple months that fans should be on the look-out for. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about Low vs. Diamond can visit www.lowvsdiamond.com.



Photos by Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

Last Thursday, April 15, The University Program Board presented the Farther From Earth World Tour featuring Jack's Mannequin and special guests Matt Nathanson and Low vs. Diamond at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center as part of Birthday 2009.

MOVIE REVIEW



'State of Play' casts newspaper man as hero

By CATE MARQUIS
AGE Editor

There is no doubt that newspaper reporters are the heroes of democracy, keeping watch on those who hold the reins of power.

One rarely sees them cast as in role of the hero in movie thrillers. "State of Play" does just that, with a rumpiled Russell Crowe as the relentless reporter and Helen Mirren as the hard-nosed editor at a big-city newspaper.

Some of us just love newspapers and everything about them, which makes this idea for a film a treat. The film "State of Play" is based on a British mini-series, about two old college friends, one now a reporter and the other a rising politician with a reputation for honesty. In college, the future

politician was the golden boy, the one who won the girl they both wanted. Some of that outline remains in the movie "State of Play," but the characters and general story line are apparently changed.

State of Play

★★★★☆

Director: Kevin Macdonald

Stars: Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck, Rachel McAdams

Synopsis: Crowe plays a journalist who goes after the story of the death of a Congressman's mistress.

Politics, newspapers and intrigue are a great mix for a thriller. Russell Crowe is Cal McCaffrey, a reporter at a Washington, D.C. daily whose old college roommate and still his friend, Stephen Collins (Ben Affleck), is now a U.S. Congressman. Rep. Collins has a reputation for honesty and a bright political future, under the wing of the powerful Rep. Fergus (Jeff Daniels).

Russell Crowe's Cal McCaffrey is the perfect image of the old-style reporter.

See STATE OF PLAY, page 12

Gliss: the next top indie rock band

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN
Staff Writer

"Devotion Implosion" features a truly unique sound, a cross somewhere between the Velvet Underground, The Smashing Pumpkins, and Silversun Pickups. The band Gliss played in support of their new release at the Firebird in downtown St. Louis on Tuesday, April 14.

Gliss is an independent rock and roll band, originally from San Francisco California. The threesome is composed of band members Victoria Cecilia, Marti Klingman, and David Reiss. As a whole, the band has toured with the Raveonettes, the Editors, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Smashing Pumpkins, and We Are Scientists.

So far, the band has released two albums under Rykodisc/Cordless Recordings, and has also a self released, 7-song EP titled "Kick in your Heart" (2005). Their debut album under the label was "Love the Virgins" (2007) and their latest album, "Devotion Implosion," came out April 7, 2009.

"Devotion Implosion" begins with the infectious and catchy beat of the song "Morning Light," which features the perfect blend of vocals and instrumentals, ensuring that neither overpowers the other. The album transitions seamlessly into the next song, "29 Acts of Love," bringing awesome guitar lines and more great vocals to go alongside. The first two songs make it apparent that the members of Gliss have no trouble ensuring their songs are full of musical variety.

The next two songs, "Sleep" and "Beauty" follow. "Beauty," especially provides great contrast as more of a power ballad. "Beauty" is the sort of catchy tune you hear once and cannot get out of your head, singing the chorus over and over.

"Lovers in the Bathroom" is the next song that really catches the listener's attention, reaching out with creative bass lines and racy lyrics that keep the audience entertained and craving more.

"Sad Eyes" is the perfect song to follow, full of catchy guitar lines and great vocals. "Sad Eyes" also features awesome guitar riffs and sounds like it could be the next indie/rock/pop hit requested over and over at radio stations. "Sad Eyes" was one of the highlights of the entire album, and was actually released as a single in January of this year.

"The Patrol" and "Love Songs" come next, providing more displays of an incredible vocal range and pensive lyrics accompanied by more inspired guitar lines. While all of the songs featured on this album have great percussion, "The Patrol" especially contains creative percussion instruments, that when fused with fuzzed guitars and echoes of lyrics create an incredible effect.

The album ends on a strong note with "Sister Sister," a song that is not as upbeat as some of the others on this collection but is a great closer nonetheless. The lyrics are also appropriate, stating questioningly before fading to silence, "is this all we have to say? So this is what they say."

Overall, if you are a fan of indie/rock, love bands like the Silversun Pickups, Smashing Pumpkins, or the Editors, you should consider purchasing this great CD.



Gliss

"Devotion Implosion"

★★★★★

Read more about Gliss at thecurrentonline.com

Bangin' 'round

By **KIARA BRELAND**
Staff Writer



UM-St. Louis' own Percussion Ensemble gave a brilliant and booming performance for students, parents, family, and faculty alike on Tuesday night at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis' north campus.

Although the drums were the main feature, other percussion instruments in the concert, such as the xylophone, were not to be overlooked.

See **BANGIN'** page 12

Photos by **Matthew Hill** • Photo Editor

The UM-St. Louis Percussion Ensemble performed last Tuesday at the Touhill. Pictured from left to right are **Suzu Cadwell, Ryan Humphrey, Casey Kell, Kevin Willingham, Christian Beck, Josh Daly, Patrick Frenking, Ron Vogt, Chris Sell (seated) Aaron Levin (standing) and Jessica Sugar.** Not pictured is the ensemble's bass player **Joe Paule.**

Visio offers photo trip around globe

By **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Staff Writer

"A picture is worth a thousand words," and some would call that an optimistic estimate for the words. No doubt this is why there has been so much art of things from far away, probably since the dawn of travelogues.

When stick figures and charcoal drawings ceased to suffice, other media and techniques were developed and put to the task of circumventing our expressive difficulties. Now, for close to two centuries, people have been going abroad and taking photographs to remember their travels. The technology has vastly improved, and there aren't any uncharted lands to document. The practice continues.

This past Wednesday, UM-St. Louis saw a celebration of that tradition in the form of a gallery opening and award ceremony for the fourth annual International Photo Contest in Gallery Visio.

Honorable mention through first place, of some dozens of entries in all

from the International Photo Contest, were put on display in Gallery Visio, the student-run art gallery located in the lower level of the Millennium Student Center.

First prize went to Jeanne Horvath, senior, psychology, for her work "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." The picture exhibited three girls playing in a Costa Rican evening. Second place went to Nicole Daniels for her photo of a graffiti-adorned pillar by the Museo Nacional, called "Primero te Ignoran," also taken in Costa Rica. Third place went to Faisal Pervaiz, business administration, for his "The Speed of Life," depicting a Pakistani marketplace.

The submission rules were simple: the photographs had to demonstrate artistic quality and some clearly foreign content. Winners were selected by jury whose criteria were "quality of image, artistic expressiveness and creativity."

Geographic and thematic variety, as well as relevance to the mission of the Center for International Studies, was also considered by the judges

in selecting the winners. Cash prizes were awarded for the first, second and third place winners.

The artistic part seemed easy enough: the silhouette of a large tree against the glowing sunset in Robert Muldoon's "Heron in Treetop at Sunset," for instance, was quite stunning.

The international aspect was a bit more difficult, and was met in different ways: some included local language, others modes of dress. One picture, "A View of Dosodoro" by Mark Talarico, circumvented the problems associated with things generally looking alike by capturing such distinctly Venetian elements (gondola prows and the belfry of St. Mark's Cathedral in particular) that there is no doubt whatsoever of where the picture was taken.

The majority of the visitors at Gallery Visio at the exhibit's opening reception on April 15 on were those associated with the International Photo Contest.

See **VISIO** page 12

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SPORTS

Softball

Twelve straight wins hurls team into top 25

Then two straight losses drop the Tritons out of the top spot in the GLVC and into third place with three games left in the season.

By **LAGUAN FUSE**

Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis softball team has been having a lot of success on the field this season. For the first time this season, UM-St. Louis is nationally ranked.

The Tritons are No. 15 on the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Division II Top 25 Poll.

Sixteen NCAA Division II head coaches, two representing each of the eight NCAA regions, vote on the top performing team. The Tritons received 143 points to earn them the No. 15 spot on the list and the team had only eight points in the preceding week.

UM-St. Louis is the only team from the Great Lakes Valley Conference to be on the list. The University of Alabama-Huntsville holds the top spot for the second consecutive week with 364 points.

The Tritons were also ranked third in the region in last week's NCAA Division II Midwest Regional rankings. Ferris State is ranked

first with Ashland ranked second. Both teams are members of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC).

The Tritons are currently 30-15 this season and were able to hold onto a 12-game winning streak before losing two road games to Quincy.

This is the first time since the 2002 season that the softball team has won at least 30 games.

The two losses to Quincy knocked UM-St. Louis out of first place in the GLVC West standings while the Lady Hawks used the two wins to swoop in to sit atop the conference standings.

Quincy won game one with a final of 2-0 and won the second game 11-1.

In game one, Torie Bunnell (19-9) pitched the complete game for the Lady Hawks and only gave up one hit in the game and two walks.

Bunnell leads the conference with 289 strikeouts and was able to sit down 17 batters in the game.

Allyson DeFosset, senior, early childhood

education, (17-4) pitched the complete game for the Tritons and gave up two runs on three hits and walked one batter.

DeFosset has already broken the school's career strikeout record this season and added eight more strikeouts to her total, which now sits at 225.

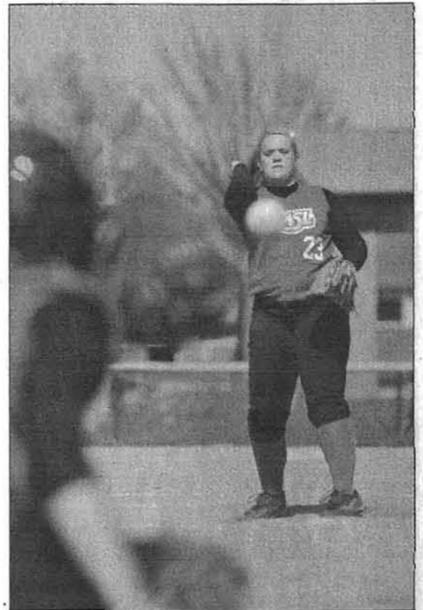
Quincy's two runs were scored in the bottom half of the seventh inning and came off of a homer to center field by Melissa Sommerfeld.

In game two, the Lady Hawks started the scoring early, bringing in seven runs in the first inning alone.

The only UM-St. Louis run was scored in the second inning when Karey Kruse, sophomore, special education, hit a solo homerun to left center field.

The Tritons return to action on April 21 as they travel to Wisconsin-Parkside to face off against the Rangers.

The Tritons will play their final regular season games this weekend as they host Rockhurst on April 25 for Alumni Day and then Drury on April 26 for Senior Day.



Allyson DeFosset, senior, early childhood education, pitching against Bellarmine on April 11.

Baseball

Woes continue; team still in last

By **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**

Staff Writer

As the season winds down, the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's baseball team continues to be plagued by the same problems. They just cannot seem to do enough to win games.

It has been an especially frustrating season because at times, the Tritons hitters have pounded opposing pitching. But when batters have had success, the Tritons own pitchers do not seem to be able to get anyone out.

At other times, UM-St. Louis' pitchers have shut down opposing lineups, but then the hitters do not seem to score any runs. It really has been a vicious cycle for the Tritons this season.

And unfortunately, those trends continued last week, as UM-St. Louis lost all three games it played, including a midweek 3-0 shutout at SIU-Edwardsville and a pair of one-run losses last Friday at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

For the season, the Tritons have an 11-28 overall record and sit in last place in the GLVC West Division with a 4-16 conference record. The going has been especially rough for UM-St. Louis this month. The Tritons have won just two of 13 games in April.

In the loss at SIUE last Wednesday, it was the good pitching and defense, but lackluster hitting scenario that held UM-St. Louis back.

Brandon Fear (0-4), sophomore, accounting, suffered the loss, despite toss-

ing six innings and allowing the three runs on just six hits, while striking out two and walking none.

Teammate J.C. Schute, junior, accounting, pitched two scoreless innings in relief to close out the game.

Unfortunately, the Triton offense was held to just six hits of their own and were not able to do anything in clutch situations.

The opposite scenario is how it played out when UM-St. Louis traveled to Kentucky Wesleyan for a doubleheader last Friday.

In both games, Triton pitchers were unable to hold the big leads their offense gave them, before finally succumbing in the Panthers' last at-bat.

In game one, first baseman Mike Hoosen, junior, business management, went three-for-three at the plate, scored two runs, and was on base four times, to lead an offense that lead 6-0 and 9-5.

But UM-St. Louis pitchers were not able to hold the lead, as Kentucky Wesleyan scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth and another in the bottom of the seventh to win the game 10-9.

In game two, center fielder Phil Widell, senior, interdisciplinary studies, and designated hitter Colin O'Neal, junior, criminal justice, hit back-to-back home runs to give the Tritons a 5-1 lead. Widell's blast, his third of the season, was a three-run shot, while O'Neal's second homer of the season was a solo shot.

See **BASEBALL** page 11

Men's Tennis

Two wins set up playoffs

By **ANTHONY PADGETT**

Staff Writer

On Tuesday the UM-St. Louis men's tennis team played Washington University, ranked at number 2 in NCAA Division III. The Tritons lost the match by a score of 0-9. It was the first match all year that the Tritons failed to score at least one match. Washington University is not a conference opponent and does not hurt their conference record.

On Friday, the Tritons hit the road to Rensselaer, Indiana, where they played against Saint Joseph's College. After such a devastating loss to Washington University, it was important for the Tritons to bounce back and beat conference opponent Saint Joseph's.

The Tritons started the day by sweeping all three doubles matches. Andi Demke, Junior, international business/management, continued his dominating season performance and won the first singles match for the Tritons.

At number two, Daniel Anthony, sophomore, management information systems, won the second singles match for the Tritons. Peter Hantack, senior, education, won the third singles match for the Tritons. Both Tim Bryant, sophomore, accounting, and Maor Grinas, freshmen, international business, of the Tritons won their singles matches. Alex Cherman, sophomore, internation-

al business, was the only Triton player to lose his match, as he lost in straight sets. Besides Cherman, no other Triton even lost a set and the team easily beat Saint Joseph's college by a score of 8-1.

By beating Saint Joseph's College, the Tritons secured their thirteenth straight Great Lakes Valley Conference tourney bid.

On Saturday the Tritons played their last conference match. They traveled to Romeoville, Illinois, to play against Lewis University. The Tritons once again swept all three doubles matches to start the day off. As for singles matches, the Tritons won five out of six with Demke, Hantack, Cherman, Bryant, and Grinas winning their respective matches.

The Tritons won by a score of 8-1. The lone loss came from the Tritons number two spot, Anthony.

The Tritons continue to play their best tennis of the year winning two of their last three matches. On the season, the Tritons are 5-11 overall with a 4-5 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

There is only one match left for the Tritons this season before entering the GLVC tournament.

On Tuesday, the team travels to Bolivar, MO where they will play against Southwest Baptist. Thursday, the team will play in the GLVC Tournament located in St. Louis, MO.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Do you believe in miracles?

How the Tritons victory over the Lions compares to the 1980 Olympics.

What the University of Missouri-St. Louis inline hockey team did this year was nothing short of a miracle. It makes you think about the 1980 Olympics and the "Miracle on ice" when the United States defeated the Soviet Union and went on to win the gold medal.

The Soviet Union was the powerhouse of ice hockey. No one ever beat them. They played NHL all-star teams and every country on the planet and no one could come close to defeating them. The Soviets won every gold medal except for one since 1956. The one time they did not win the gold the United States took that honor. The country devoted everything to their hockey team and the team was a source of pride for millions.

Now fast forward to 2009 and look at Lindenwood University. Lindenwood Athletics prides itself on their "smaller" sports. They are number one in bowling and have won the National Championship in roller hockey for the last eight years. Over the past five seasons the team has gone 145-2. They do not just win games, they dominate them, much like the Soviet Union used to do.

This season the Lions used the ten-goal mercy rule on opponents 13 times (meaning the score was 10-0 or 11-1 and the game was stopped). The team also won 25 games by at least five goals.

The Soviets recruited the best players from across their country and Soviet players were basically professionals as they were all members of the Red Army but were forced to practice and play hockey every day instead of shooting a gun. They practiced in great training facilities and played in competitive leagues all year round.

Thirteen of the 18 Lindenwood's players play on some kind of professional inline league. While the Tritons are now getting players in professional inline leagues the



By **BRYAN GOERS**

Sports Editor

Lion's have had their players on professional teams for a while.

The 1980 US hockey gold medal team featured no professional players and it was a rag tag group of former college players who first time Olympic head coach Herb Brooks put together to beat the Soviets. The Tritons were guided by first time college head coach Jaime Schulz. The team was also led by underclassmen.

The leading point scorers for the Tritons were freshman and the season was also first time freshmen. Compare that to the Lions whose top four players were all seniors and a junior. Plus the Lion starting goaltender was a senior.

Then there is what the United States and Soviet Union stood for. The United States stands for freedom and democracy. The U.S. was hope for everyone and when it came to hockey we were also the underdog fighting against the tyrannical Soviets. The Soviets invaded countries and tried to get the entire world to fall under their control. They represented darkness and oppression. They were the fire to our water. Lindenwood is a private university and UM-St. Louis is a public. Lindenwood fights for higher college costs and causes a class system, where they are the aristocracy. UM-St. Louis on the other hand offers low-cost education and preaches affordability. We want to see everyone succeed, not just the rich. Much like how America represented hope for all, we represent education for all.

If one looks at the two universities like this then the hockey game between the two schools stood for much more. Just like the 1980 Olympic game between USA and the USSR. A few weeks ago the Tritons represented hope to every spectator as we were the underdog who defeated the giant. Do you believe in miracles?



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Andi Demke

There are few people who can call themselves a better male tennis player in the Great Lakes Valley Conference than Andi Dimke, junior, international business/management. In the season he went 20-2 with only one loss in the GLVC. The next best tennis player has a 12-2 record.

This past week Dimke added to his conference win total by winning matches at St. Joseph's and Lewis University. Last year he made the All-GLVC team and looks to be a lock for it again. He was also ESPN the Magazine First Team Academic All-District Team.

UPCOMING GAMES

Baseball

April 22
vs. Wisconsin-Park. (dh)
1 p.m.

April 24-26
vs. Quincy
(four games)

Softball

April 21
at Wisconsin-Park. (dh)
noon

April 25
vs. Rockhurst (dh)
noon

April 26
vs. Drury (dh)
noon

Women's Tennis

April 20
at Missouri Southern
3 p.m.

April 21
at Southwest Baptist
1 p.m.

Men's Tennis

April 21
at Southwest Baptist
1 p.m.

Do you bleed red and gold? The Men's tennis team, despite their record, is ranked 7th in the Midwest region.

Golf

Golf teams are having very different seasons

By **BRYAN GOERS**

Sports Editor

UM-St. Louis' men's and women's golf teams have been having a very different season so far this spring. While the men have finished every match except for Great Lakes Regional Tournament, the women have yet to play the GLVC Championship.

The men competed in the GLVC Championship on April 10 and took ninth place. Tim Cochran, sophomore, undecided, and Matt Winslow, senior, undecided, both led the Tritons as they shot a three day score of 229. That score was good enough for a 21st place finish. The tournament was held at Otter Creek Golf Course in Columbus, Indiana.

The best finish for the men this season came at the Parkside Invitational where the team finished third. Cochran finished third by finishing just five strokes over par when everything was said and done. The team just missed a first place finish by 13 strokes, the closest they have been to a win all year.

On March 24, the team travelled to Springfield, MO for the Pasta House Drury Invite and finished eighth. Ryan Penfield, sophomore, business management, led the way for the Tritons and finished in 14th

place.

The first tournament of the spring came at the E-Z-Go Classic, a tournament hosted by Northern Kentucky University. Cochran tied for 15th place and the team finished in a tie for eighth.

The men are averaging 307.9 strokes per round, which currently has them placed eighth in the GLVC.

On the women's side, things have been much different. A couple of first place and second place finishes have the team's confidence high going into this past weekend's event at Lewis University. That event will wrap up on Monday April 20.

The last tournament the women played in was the McKendree Invitational where the team took fourth. Amie Koerner, junior, early childhood education, fired a 77 while Clara Vila, sophomore, psychology, shot an 80 to take fourth and seventh respectively. The tournament was supposed to be a 36-hole event but was knocked down to just 18 holes thanks to the weather.

On April 4, the team went to a tournament hosted by Illinois College and were the runners-up. Koerner and Vila both took home fourth places finishes and the Tritons were just 15 strokes behind the team win-

BY THE NUMBERS

Men's Golf Finishes

- 8** Opened the spring at the E-Z-Go Spring Classic. Out of 13 teams.
- 8** Mar. 23: Travelled to Springfield for the Drury Pastat House Invite.
- 3** Mar. 29: Went to the Parkside Invitational. Out of six teams.
- 9** April 10: The GLVC Championship. Out of 12 teams.

BY THE NUMBERS

Women's Golf Finishes

- 1** March 20: Opened the spring at the Gateway Champ. Out of nine teams.
- 2** March 27: A head to head match with Flagler College.
- 2** April 4: The Illinois College Spring Tour. Out of 10 teams.
- 4** April 11: Went to Scott AFB in the McKendree Spring Invite. Out of 14.
- 1** April 15: A head to head match with Maryville University.

ner Illinois Wesleyan.

On March 20, Koerner and the team both won the Gateway Collegiate Championship hosted by UM-St. Louis. Two other Tritons finished in the top ten. Vila took fourth, playing in her first tournament as a Triton, and Erin Konkol, senior, international business, finished ninth.

The team also played in two head-to-head events this spring. The first was against Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida. At that event, the Tritons lost by a score of

329-342. The second was against Maryville University, in St. Louis, where the team won 344-373.

Koerner currently sits fourth in the GLVC for scoring round average, while Vila sits tenth. The team comes in fifth with an average of 338.7.

The women will return to action on April 26 for the GLVC Championship.

STATS CORNER

SOFTBALL

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
1. Quincy	14-3	23-20
2. Indianapolis	16-4	27-13
3. UM - St. Louis	14-4	30-15
4. St. Joseph's	12-8	30-16
5. Lewis	11-9	26-16
6. N. Kentucky	12-10	24-20

Box Scores

April 17	Runs	Hits	Errors
Quincy	2	3	1
UM-St. Louis	0	1	0

April 17	Runs	Hits	Errors
Quincy	11	9	0
UM-St. Louis	1	3	2

MEN'S TENNIS

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
1. Drury	9-0	14-6
2. Rockhurst	8-1	15-5
3. N. Kentucky	7-2	15-7
4. Indianapolis	5-3	13-9
5. Bellarmine	4-4	6-9
6. UM - St. Louis	4-5	5-11

Box Scores

April 14	Total
Washington (MO)	9
UM-St. Louis	0

- 1. Andi Dimke, lost, 6-7(1-7), 3-6
- 2. Daniel Anthony, lost, 2-6, 2-6
- 3. Peter Hantack, lost, 0-6, 6-7(2-7)
- 4. Alex Cherman, lost, 3-6, 2-2
- 5. Tim Bryant, lost, 3-6, 0-6
- 6. Maor Grinas, lost, 0-6, 0-6 (Doubles)
- lost, 4-8, lost, 2-8, lost, 0-8

April 17	Total
St. Joseph's	1
UM-St. Louis	8

- 1. Andi Dimke, won, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1
- 2. Daniel Anthony, won, 6-1, 6-5
- 3. Peter Hantack, won, 6-3, 6-2
- 4. Alex Cherman, lost, 0-6
- 5. Tim Bryant, won, 9-8
- 6. Maor Grinas, won, 8-2 (Doubles)
- won, 8-0, won, 8-5, won, 8-6

April 18	Total
Lewis	1
UM-St. Louis	8

- 1. Andi Dimke, won, 6-3, 6-1
- 2. Daniel Anthony, lost, 3-6, 4-6
- 3. Peter Hantack, won, 6-3, 6-4
- 4. Alex Cherman, won, 6-4, 7-5
- 5. Tim Bryant, won, 6-0, 6-1
- 6. Maor Grinas, won, 6-0, 6-2 (Doubles)
- won, 8-5, won, 8-5, won, 8-2

BASEBALL

GLVC West Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Southern Indiana	17-4	30-11
Rockhurst	16-8	30-14
Missouri S&T	7-10	13-27
Quincy	13-6	22-19
Drury	11-9	21-21
UM - St. Louis	4-16	11-28

Box Scores

April 15	Runs	Hits	Errors
SIU-Edwardsville	3	9	1
UM-St. Louis	0	6	1

April 16	Runs	Hits	Errors
Kentucky Wesleyan	6	7	0
UM-St. Louis	5	9	1

April 16	Runs	Hits	Errors
Kentucky Wesleyan	10	13	3
UM-St. Louis	9	12	1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
1. Drury	10-0	16-4
2. N. Kentucky	9-1	17-6
2. Rockhurst	8-2	15-9
4. Bellarmine	7-3	13-5
5. Indianapolis	5-5	10-10
5. UM - St. Louis	5-5	7-8

Box Scores

April 17	Total
St. Joseph's	3
UM-St. Louis	6

- 1. Pujitha Bandi, won 6-2, 6-2
- 2. Stephanie Thompson, lost 3-6, 5-7
- 3. Altanzul Gombo, won 6-0, 6-1
- 4. Leticia Garcia, won 6-2, 6-3
- 5. Adriana Garcia, lost 5-7, 4-6
- 6. Stacy Goodman, won, 6-2, 6-0 (Doubles)
- lost, 3-8, won, 1-8, won, 5-8

April 18	Total
Lewis	4
UM-St. Louis	5

- 1. Pujitha Bandi, won, 7-5, 6-2
- 2. Stephanie Thompson, won, 6-2, 6-1
- 3. Altanzul Gombo, lost 6-3, 1-6, 2-6
- 4. Leticia Garcia, won 6-2, 6-3
- 5. Adriana Garcia, won 6-4, 6-2
- 6. Stacy Goodman, won, 6-7, 6-1, 6-1 (Doubles)
- lost, 6-8, lost, 3-8, lost, 1-8

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tennis

The University of Missouri-St. Louis will serve as the host for the 2009 Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship tournaments for both the men and women.

The tournament will be held on April 24-25 at the Dwight Davis Tennis Center and also at Washington University.

Soccer

The men's soccer team is hosting a golf fundraiser on May 2. The event will take place at the Florissant Golf Court and will feature a shotgun start.

The cost of the event is \$80 and is open to anyone. Food, drinks and prizes will be provided as well.

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team has announced that it will hold its 2009 summer girls basketball gamp on starting on June 8 and lasting one week.

GLVC

Every year the GLVC presents the All-Sports Trophy to the school who's teams finished the best overall.

Currently leading the hunt is Northern Kentucky whose first place finishes in both men's and women's basketball has them at 91.0 points.

Second is Lewis University with 76.5 points. UM-St. Louis sits in 12 out of the 13 schools with 28.5 points.

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BASEBALL from page 10

Unfortunately, Kentucky Wesleyan rallied with four runs of its own to tie the score, then won the game on a base-hit in the bottom of the seventh.

A particularly rough day for UM-St. Louis, which seemed likely to grab two wins against the Panthers, but came back to campus with two more losses.

The Tritons hope to get back on the winning track this Wednesday,

when they will travel to Kenosha, Wis. to play a doubleheader against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. UW-P is the cellar-dweller in the GLVC's East Division, with a 4-37 overall record and a 3-21 league mark.

UM-St. Louis is also scheduled to finally open up play at the new UM-St. Louis Baseball Field on south campus this weekend with a four-game series against Drury Uni-

versity.

The teams are slated for a single game at 3 p.m. Friday, a noon doubleheader on Saturday, and another single game at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Should weather and field condition problems continue at the UM-St. Louis Baseball Field, this weekend's games may need to be moved.

At press time though, UM-St. Louis Athletics officials expected all four games to be played on campus.

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."
-Plato

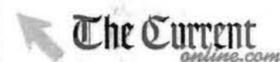
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LHC, from page 5

Dismissing or ridiculing reasonable questions about outcomes can be hazardous.

Before the first nuclear bomb was exploded, there was concern it might trigger an uncontrollable chain reaction that would have de-

stroyed the planet. That did not happen but early researchers did not realize how dangerous radiation exposure was, and some died as a result.

We do not know until we try but questions and considering conse-

quences should always be part of the process. Otherwise, certainty that there is no danger can be dangerous.

Cate Marquis is the Arts & Entertainment Editor and a science columnist for The Current.

BLANK, from page 6

She received a Master's degree in German grammar from the University of Sorbonne-Paris IV.

Blank explained that she is not as fluent as she used to be but that if you "put [her] with a bunch of German people, after two hours ev-

erything [would come] back very fast."

Besides teaching foreign language, Blank also enjoys spending time with her husband and two kids, one of which is currently studying abroad in France for six weeks.

Blank also spends her time ice-skating, going to the movies and visiting the botanical gardens.

During the summer she likes visiting Forest Park and The Muny.

LITMAG from page 6

One speaker at the event was Nancy Gleason, former alumna who worked with UM-St. Louis's English department for 12 years. Gleason said that it was very courageous for anyone to submit their work and

that they should try again next year and try editing. She used the example of one student who submitted the same story for four years to Bellerive, and his work was accepted in the fourth year for an example

of how hard work and perseverance pay off. Refreshments were served and free copies of the magazines were available at the event and they also can be found in copies of last week's issue of *The Current*.

STATE OF PLAY from page 8

He lives alone in a cramped, cluttered apartment, drives an old car, filled with notebooks and crumpled papers. McAffrey is badly dressed and in need of a haircut, but he knows all the cops. When two young men are found dead of gun shot in an alley, he's the first on the scene.

The new media journalist in scorchingly witty style, in a delightfully funny scene.

Eventually, the two news stories intersect and McAffrey and Frey find themselves as uneasy allies.

There is plenty of dry wit and humor in this film as they unravel the growing mystery. Having a newspaper reporter as the star of a thriller, and played by Russell Crowe no less, is great fun. "State of Play" does a wonderful job of capturing the sense of big city newspapers and the challenges they currently face.

The plot is slow to start but when it starts to roll, the script tackles some real-world intrigue with private contractors and undue influence in government.

Then the film pulls back, as if too afraid to take on some real meat, and the story begins to run in circles before taking an unsatisfying final twist. The weak plot brings down the efforts of the talented cast and the potential of the film.

While the newspaper insider stuff is enjoyable and admirable, "State of Play" also largely fails to fully develop its characters, ultimately falling back on some pat types.

Like all newspapers, the Washington Daily where McAffrey works is struggling, now under extra pressure from new ownership. The paper's flinty editor (Helen Mirren) is by turns solicitous and grumpy to reporters. Crowe works on an old computer and is resentful of the paper's bloggers who seem to have it so easy.

Banter between Crowe and Rachel McAdams are delightful, as they explore the new media-old media divide with intelligence. Helen Mirren is terrific as the editor, wheeling or shouting at her writers, although perhaps a bit more of a softy than any real editor would be.

Rep. Collins is heading up a panel investigating a private military contractor's dealings, but when his assistant dies mysteriously in a subway station, the story changes. The newspaper's political blogger Della Frey (Rachel McAdams) is assigned to uncover the reason behind the politician's surprisingly emotional reaction to the death.

The wonderful cast adds sparkle to the film. Robin Wright Penn is touching as the suffering, emotionally torn Anne Collins, the woman that McAffrey and Collins both pursued back in college. Another entertaining highlight is Jason Bateman's eccentric performance as a shady PR man.

Editor-in-chief Cameron Lynne (Helen Mirren) sends the blogger around to get a bit of info from McAffrey about his old friend but the old media journalist blows off

As much fun as all that is, where "State of Play" falters is as a thriller.

The dramatic potential in the triangle of McAffrey, Collins and his wife Anne is never fully explored. After a building up some tension and suspense, the plot fizzle is particularly disappointing.

"State of Play's" idea of a thriller where the hero is an investigative reporter is such a terrific one, that hopefully another filmmaker will give it another try. Reportedly, the British mini-series is rich source material. Although this adaptation is flawed as a thriller, it is still worthwhile for those of us who just love newspapers.

Visio, from page 9

Many of the artists were there for their placement certificates, which were awarded by Joel Glassman, director of the Center for International Studies, among other things. One of the judges, Margaret Sherraden, was present, as was Bob Ell and the rest of the gallery staff.

more people from a variety of departments on campus. The context rules required that the entries not be the work of professional photographers and that the amateur photographers had a connection to the university. A number of unlikely departments like Business Administration show up, and one contestant, Rob Melsson, was in the middle of earning a Ph. D.

The photographs in the exhibit were collected in the course of trips and vacations. This had the effect of creating a gallery representative of

When asked about why he

chooses to take particular pictures, Rick Feldman, a student of the Studio Art department, cited a more visceral rationale for capturing a given scene: personal preference. "If it's not worth me pulling out my camera, I don't," Feldman said. Contestant Mark Talarico expressed similar sentiments.

Reactions were positive, and the patrons seemed to enjoy the art and the proceedings.

BANGIN', from page 9

The drums used in the concert included the typical types that are well known to most people, such as the snare, bass, and others. However, these drums were not played in the common style typical to most American college universities, which is easily and often always linked with football games and half-times shows.

which they said was the traditional ethnic style associate with people of the different ethnicities from the African continent and other surrounding areas.

The drumming at this event featured a variety of more traditional different styles of music that included Afro Cuban style, traditional Guinean, traditional Cuban, and many others.

The performance kicked off with very soothing, slow and relaxing beat which was surprising considering fact that percussion and drums are normally associated with loudness and action. Two of the best and most popular acts of the show were the use of the Cuban Bata drums. These drums are very different in look from most of the drums that Americans are used to seeing.

Okonkolo, Iya, and Itotele. Ironically the middle and largest drum has the shortest name. The Afro Cuban style music that came from the drums was very nice, and seemed to bring you to the island of Cuba itself.

The second portion of the musical performance, which was well received, was the River Dance performance. This performance was quite astounding. The speed at which the musicians played seemed almost impossible, and it was easy to tell that they were well rehearsed. All of the percussions ensemble stood out and shone in their own right during this piece. The way they managed to manipulate the tempo, increasing and decreasing it by turns in a second, really showcased the group's talent.

The program which ran a little over an hour and a half was directed by Matthew Henry and Michael D. Faris. They did a great job of coordinating and directing the show and artists. The show was broken up into two different portions, and it had only one intermission. The first half contained more European style of music while the second half,

They are double-headed and shaped like badly proportioned hourglasses. These drums, although Cuban in name and native country, actually originated in Yoruba, which is a group of Nigerian people, as Matthew Henry explained to the audience before the performance.

The Bata drums which come in a typical three piece are named

Overall, this was a very enjoyable concert to watch and hear, and the Percussion Ensemble did a great job.

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I have a research project I need help with.

The project is this. I need a few carefree (you *must* be carefree), independent students to help me find one professor who will attempt to answer one question about a specific historical issue. The question is: "Can you provide, with proof, the name of one person killed in a gas chamber at Auschwitz?"

Will you help me find a professor on your campus who will attempt to answer this question? Will you keep me advised of your progress? I can be reached at bradley1930@yahoo.com

I understand that the question will be considered controversial by some academics and students alike. You may be charged with "challenging authority," but it is not illegal to challenge authority on a university campus in a free society. You may have been told that it is "morally wrong" to ask this question. Do you think it is? Tell me why.

If you can find the one professor I am looking for, I'll owe you a beer. At the very least.

Bradley R. Smith, Founder
Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust www.codoh.com

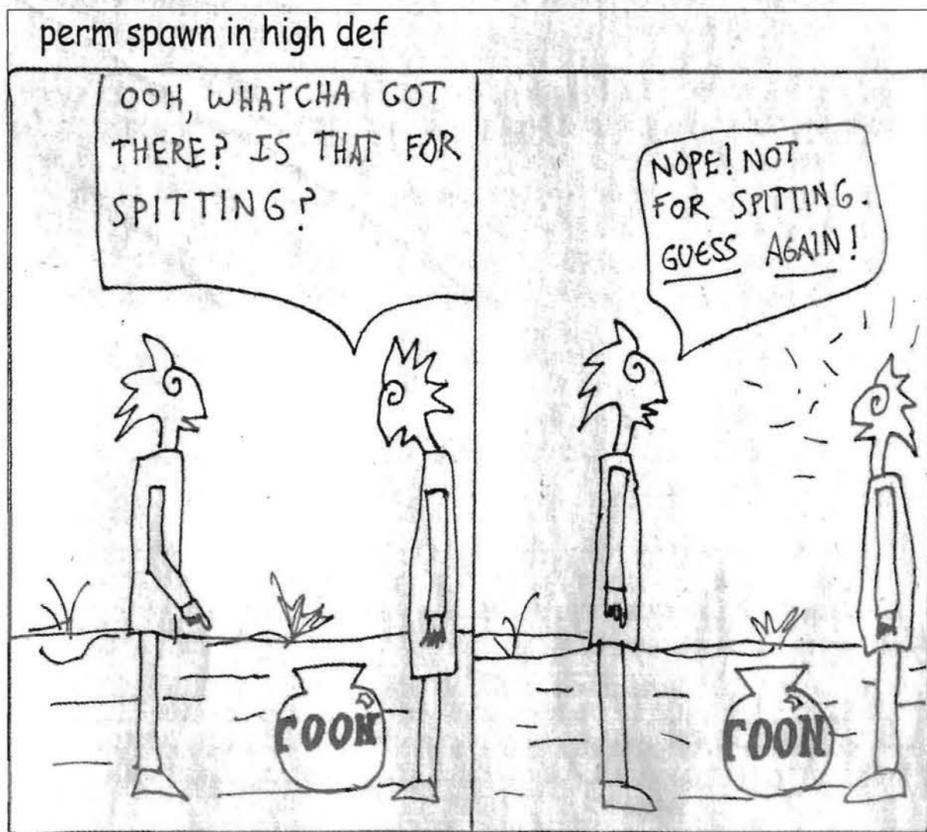
CURRENT CARTOONISTS



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart



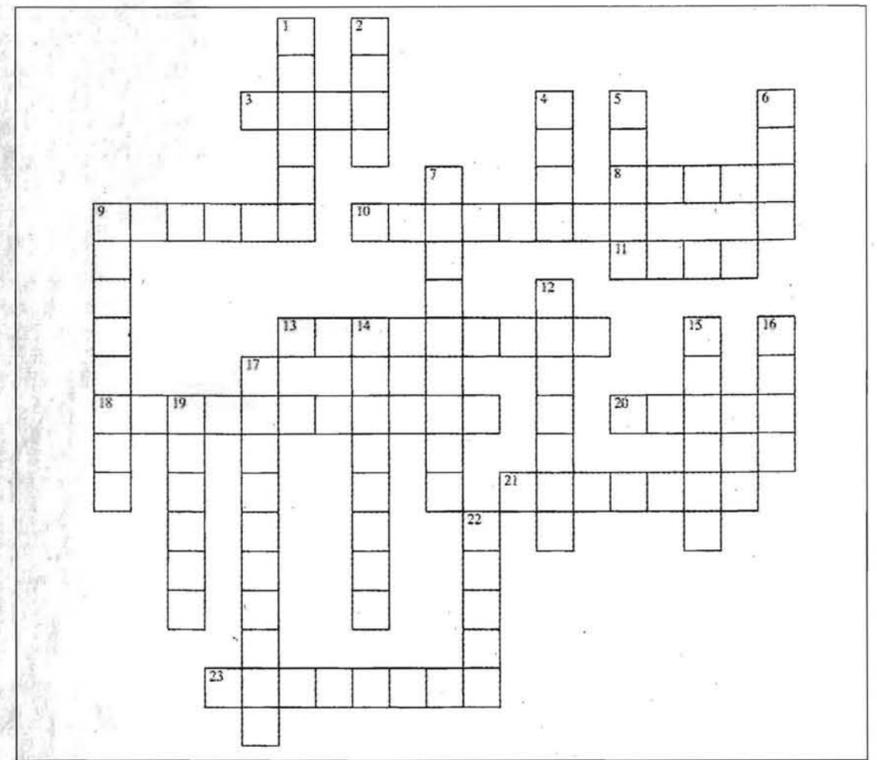
"Margaret & Hooray" is drawn by Current cartoonist Cody Perkins



"Perm Spawn" is drawn by Current cartoonist Caleb True

CURRENT CROSSWORD

Vice Presidents



ACROSS

- 3. Killed a man in a duel in 1801
- 8. Engaged in the "kitchen debate" with Nikita Khrushchev
- 9. First Republican VP
- 10. Known as "Silent Cal," he was the first to accept follow-up questions at press conferences when he eventually became president
- 11. Party that only had two VPs
- 13. Was the the first Secretary of State, the second VP and eventually third president
- 18. Wealthy VP who donated his salary to charity
- 20. He was the first
- 21. Became the fourth new VP in four years when elected with Jimmy Carter
- 23. Was the eighth VP as well as the eighth president

DOWN

- 1. "The Buck Stops Here."
- 2. Won the Nobel Peace Prize after leaving office
- 4. Was born Leslie Lynch King, Jr in 1913
- 5. Only VP to resign due to criminal charges
- 6. Died in 1853 after only 45 days in office
- 7. "Speak softly and carry a big stick, and you will go far."
- 9. Served as Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota in the 1940s
- 12. Last VP to succeed due to a president's death
- 14. Tried to run for President under the Know Nothing Party
- 15. Had trouble spelling "potato"
- 16. Last VP to win election for president
- 17. Party with the most VPs (20)
- 19. Named acting president twice in accordance with the 25th Amendment
- 22. Current, as well as first Roman Catholic, VP

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the As in the message, and so on.

TUUP NV ZKNF OPQQM
 RWIR FQA ZQKUV HV ICA SICRV
 HV RQ TU WIOOZ

The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt!

CURRENT SUDOKU

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

Difficulty: ★★ (Medium)

Current Sudoku is made by Gene Doyel, Design Editor

The Current

CLASSIC

Coming soon.

If your classification of soon is next year...

Graduates return for Alumni Weekend

By YOSHIMI TOMONO
Staff Writer

Did you know that North Campus was once a golf course named Bellevue Country Club? Did you know that the Staff Association began in 1982? These questions were part of quizzes that the Alumni Association asked alums at this year's Alumni Weekend.

On Friday and Saturday, the University of Missouri-St. Louis held events for Alumni as a part of Alumni Weekend. A perk this year for alums was they could buy UM-St. Louis merchandise at the University Bookstore at a 50% discount.

Saturday in the Millennium Student Center, the Alumni Association kicked off Alumni Weekend with the "Red and Gold Bash" at 5:30-7:30. A total of 150 people came to this event. Alumni who registered and picked up their registration packet in

the Nosh got a gift from the Alumni Association. The gift consisted of coupons for UM-St. Louis' bookstore and restaurants, a T-shirt, information about the Alumni Association and an UM-St. Louis license plate frame for a car. In addition to those gifts, the Alumni Association handed people a little note that said "My favorite memory from my time at UMSL is," so attendees could fill the paper out and use it as a conversation starter with their old UM-St. Louis friends.

Chancellor Thomas F. George attended the events. In addition to his role as campus and community leader, fundraiser, as a professor of chemistry and physics, George is an active researcher in chemicals, materials, lasers, and nano-physics.

"Welcome back to the campus of the UMSL! You are part of a significant group—the nearly 55,000 UMSL alumni, living and working in St. Louis and helping to drive the

region's economic engine. We are proud of who you are and what you do for community!" George said on the Alumni Weekend flyer.

During the Red and Gold Bash, alumni were served pasta and root beer among other refreshments. Also, alumni could get a glass of wine for four dollars or a bottle of beer for three from a fully stocked cash bar. Conversations abounded while music from The U (the UMSL Student Radio Station) played. For this event, the music was mainly from the 1970's and 1980's. "The event, as our inaugural Alumni Weekend, was fantastic. It was attended by many alums, students, faculty, staff and friends," George said.

"The planning and participation by all our alumni and staff was superb! It was so exciting and highly successful, we look forward to next year," George added.

"[It was] lots of fun," Monica

Combest, alumnus, political science said. "It was great to see all these alumni back on campus."

"I have too many good memories, but one memory is studying in the MSC by the fireplace or the polo tournament for Student Life in the MSC," she added. Combest said she wants to come back to these events because she loves UM-St. Louis.

One surprising happening shocked and amused attendants of the Alumni Weekend event. A Triton man who was sprayed bronze showed up at the escalator on the 2nd floor in the MSC and come down to the attendees to the music from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean."

"We have over 500 people registered for Alumni Weekend. Triton man made his debut, and a student taught salsa lessons," Jennifer Black, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations said. About the Red and Gold Bash Black said, "this event went well be-

cause people were laughing and having a good time."

In addition to the first opening event, the Red and Gold Bash, various kinds of events were held on the weekend.

The All-Greek Reunion was held at Marley's Pub & Grill in Ferguson. In addition to these events on last Saturday, some of the colleges' lunches were held on last Saturday.

Five colleges divided the lunches: College of Art & Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts & Communication and Nursing. In addition to these majors, there was a college lunch event for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, the Engineering Program and the School of Social Work.

Not surprisingly, the College of Business Administration was the biggest party compared to any other major. About 120 people attended the lunch. Conversation consisted of talk

about the new building for the Business Administration, which will be funded by a donation that Anheuser-Busch contributed.

Also, William J. Stollhans and Myles P. Kelly received awards in Business Achievement. "It was an honor to receive business achievement award," said Stollhans.

Other than these events, some seminars were opened to Alumni and some classes without quizzes such as "Today's Political Science: Local, State and National."

Teresa Balesteri, director of Career Services, was an instructor for the seminar "Career Workshop." She said that it was an excellent way for alumni to re-connect and network to learn about re-approaching the job search in a tough economy.

For more alumni information, contact to alumni@umsl.edu, call 314-516-5833, or go to www.umslalumni.org

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1.5 miles north of campus
(314)524-9100



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PIKE HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION
Pi Kappa Alpha rises from ashes

From Russia with love

Not your mamma's art

Battle of the sexes

ON THE WEB
The Current

Web poll results:

UM-System addresses energy concerns

SCIENCE AWARDS
UM-St. Louis honors young scientists

By Cary Mammone

The 16th annual Missouri Regional Science, Engineering and Technology Symposium took place on the UMSL Lewis campus on March 12-14.

Winners of the scientific research competition were announced by the University in the general public on April 3.

The three-day symposium offers regional high school students an opportunity to present original scientific research papers, to fielding from biology to physics to models of biology.

The best papers in each of six categories were awarded prizes for the symposium's scientific research competition.

The categories were: Interdisciplinary, chemistry/biochemistry, environmental science, general biology or ecology and evolution and physics/engineering, mathematics and computer science. All six year's winners are students at Missouri high schools.

Papers often had a practical form and applied science, some a big focus

Find the differences!

Mini-Edition

It's cute, it's cuddly... it's little.

The first person to return to *The Current* with all correctly circled answers receives a free *The Current* t-shirt!

Hint: there are 6 differences

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