

# The Current

March 16,  
2009

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VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1275

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Gay Marriage  
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Afton Anderson gives a new and fresh viewpoint on the issues of racism in St. Louis  
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**The big "O"**

UPB hosts sex education program "I Love Female Orgasm", "O" yeah.  
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**Book club**

Don't have time to read a full book? Read a book review on *My Sister's Keeper*.  
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RHA hosts the annual Mr. and Mrs. RHA amateur drag show, tres risque!  
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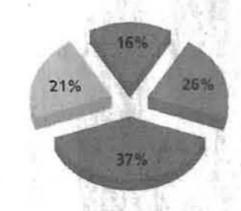


Baseball opened conference play this weekend. Look inside to see how they did.  
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**ON THE WEB**

**The Current**  
online.com

**Web poll results:**  
When do you think the recession will end?



- Less than a year, by then we'll be in a depression.
- In two-five years.
- More than five years.
- A year from now.

**This week's question:**  
How did you spend your spring break?

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**GRANT INCREASES FOR MISSOURI STUDENTS**

## ASUM stresses Access Bill

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN  
Staff Writer

Last Monday there was a 15 minute press conference in Jefferson City, MO to discuss Access Missouri House Bill 792. There was a crowd of about 50 people at the conference compiled of interns and board members from the four campuses of the University of Missouri system.

While the Student Government Association from University of Missouri-St. Louis did not attend, there were several students and SGA members from other campuses. Everyone at the conference brought letters that were given to the speaker of the house asking him to put the bill into a committee.

Currently the funding is spread unevenly between private and public educational institutions. The press conference for the Access Missouri initiative was held in hopes that it would help push the bill that would equalize funds between public and private schools.

This principle of equalizing public and private educational funds is not a new bill, but rather another shot at equality amongst all the schools in the state.

As of now, private institutions receive 52 percent of the \$95 million allotted for the program, leaving public universities with 48 percent. Missouri is currently ranked fourth out of the 50 states for funding private education, contrasted to its placing of 47th in funding public education.

Larry Vaughn, senior, political science major is the executive board member for ASUM. He was the former federal legislative and issues director for the 2007-2008 school year. Vaughn stressed that ASUM is not trying to lower the funding made available to private schools, but rather is only trying to receive the same amount of funds.

Vaughn said, "Our proposal is that when they refigure the amounts that they don't forget the public institutions. [ASUM isn't] against [funding] for private schools, we just want our

funding at the same level. We don't want their funding reduced; we just want ours at the same level."

Many of the students who attend private schools are also out-of-state students.

Therefore, they end up using Missouri tax dollars to pay for a student who is unlikely to end up contributing to the Missouri economy upon graduation. When a student pays a public institution, the money goes directly back into the state. When a student pays a private institution it goes to the institution, regardless of the fact the student may be paying part of their tuition with the tax dollars of Missouri citizens.

The Access Missouri bill would "level out the playing field" for public universities. It would increase scholarships to public school students by \$700 per student for a grand total of \$2,850. Both private and public institutions would receive the same amount.

See ACCESS MISSOURI, page 12



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor  
Churie Sprung, ASUM student advocate speaks to the Student Government Assembly last friday about the Access MO grant.

**YOU CHOOSE: SGA ELECTIONS**

## One slate, two independents, each a student

This year's upcoming election for the 2009-10 Student Government Association executive positions sees one candidate running for a second term with a new slate, and two independent candidates are eager for a chance to make a difference for students at UM-St. Louis.



Candance Anderson  
Junior  
Secondary Education

Candidate for  
SGA President

Candance Anderson is running for Student Government Association (SGA) President.

Anderson's leadership experience includes Student Senator 2008-09, Chair of Black Leadership Organizing Council, Homecoming Co-chair, SGA Secretary 2008-09, a Welcome Center Tour Guide, as well as being a Student Court Justice.

Anderson sees the duties of the SGA President as being the student's advocate, as such, they should be fully involved in student representation and attend meetings of Student Senate, Student Court, among others. The SGA President needs to be able to reach all students.

Anderson's goal is to try to unify campus more. Anderson said, "I really believe that Student Government should be more involved in campus life, not just student life." In Anderson's opinion, UM-St. Louis needs a more cohesive community.

See ANDERSON, page 14

Grace Ritter  
Junior  
Liberal Studies



Candidate for  
SGA President

Grace Marie Ritter is currently the President of the Student Government Association (SGA) and is running for re-election. On a full slate, called The ER Difference: Experience to Represent You, Ritter has partnered with Greg Meyer and Dann Rosner for this election cycle.

Her leadership experience, in addition to her current role as SGA President, includes former positions of Chief Justice of Student Court and Vice-President of Resident Hall Association (RHA).

See RITTER, page 14



Greg Meyer  
Junior  
Business  
Administration

Candidate for  
SGA Vice-President

A transfer student from Florissant Valley Community College, Meyer has been a student at UM-St. Louis for two years.

Meyer's leadership experiences include the position of SGA Vice-Chair in 2008, SGA Chair in 2009, Homecoming Co-Chair in 2009, and Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) in 2008. He is very involved in Greek Life as he was the Pi Kappa Alpha Historian, Pi Kappa Alpha Social Chair, Pi Kappa Alpha Vice-President External, Order of Omega Vice-President in 2008, Order of Omega President in 2009.

He also works as a Welcome Center Tour Guide.

See MEYER, page 14

Dann Rosner  
Junior  
Accounting



Candidate for  
SGA Comptroller

Dann Rosner is running for Student Government Association (SGA) Comptroller this year.

His past leadership experience includes Resident Hall Association (RHA) Treasurer, Treasurer of the Human Powered Vehicle Team at Missouri University of Science and Technology (ROLLA), Finance Chair for Regional Bid Committee, Chair for Regional Bid Committee, and a member of the South Campus Food Committee, a committee through RHA.

See ROSNER, page 14



Terry "Dustin" Spina-Clossen  
Junior  
Business  
Administration

Candidate for  
SGA Comptroller

Terry Dustin Spina-Clossen is running for this year's Student Government Association Comptroller. Spina-Clossen's leadership experience starts in middle school where he was on the Student Council.

Spina-Clossen said, in a statement released to The Current, "Although I was not able to exercise them [leadership opportunities] throughout high school, I have always taken the initiative to be the leader when it comes to a group project."

"I feel like I fit the role of a leader very well because of the fact that I am a responsible person always willing to motivate my team in whatever we are doing to get the job done accurately and efficiently."

Currently, while sitting on the Executive Board of Student Government Association as Vice Chair, Spina-Clossen also leads a group in his marketing class for a heavily weighted project.

See SPINA-CLOSSEN, page 14

Stay Current with this week's weather	<b>Monday</b> ☁️	<b>Tuesday</b> ☁️	<b>Wednesday</b> ☁️	<b>Thursday</b> ☁️	<b>Friday</b> ☁️	<b>Saturday</b> ☁️	<b>Sunday</b> ☁️	Weather predictions taken from www.weather.com
	Hi/Low: 70/47 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 78/50 Precip: 0%	Hi/Low: 74/40 Precip: 40%	Hi/Low: 58/32 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 55/39 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 52/45 Precip: 30%	Hi/Low: 63/46 Precip: 60%	

# CAMPUS CRIMELINE

**DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE ON MONDAY AT WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.COM**

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone who has information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. It is necessary for everyone to lock their doors when they are out. Even if it is only for a minute, simply locking 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

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.

On page 8, Lindsay Blum was incorrectly named as a senior, public relations. She is a senior, international business.

On page 7, the graphic for the book review of "Sisters" incorrectly named Todd Smith as the author. The correct author is Danielle Steele.

On page 10, the article for the headline "Softball wins six straight games" was incorrect. The article shown there was from a previous issue. The proper article can be found this issue on page 11.

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

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If you are interested in writing about anything going on around campus, send us your resume and cover letter to thecurrent@umsl.edu or drop it off in 388 MSC.

Visit www.thecurrentonline.com/apply

# CHIP KIDD: GRAPHIC DESIGN GURU



Anh Tuan Nguyen • Staff Photographer

Mr. Nicholas McGegan conducting Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F major, op. 68, "Pastoral" (1808) with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra on Sunday March 15, 2009. The event was sponsored by CENTENE Corporation and 90.7 KWMU radio station at Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center of University of Missouri-St. Louis from 2-4 p.m.

# 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, MARCH 16

### Writing Mechanics

Longer sentences pose challenges. Learn how to use the right transition words to stitch clauses together. Enhance the flow and logic of your paper.

March 16, 12:00 PM to 12:45 p.m., SSB 204. For Info: David Linzee at 5950.

### Andrew Altschul: A Literary Reading

Andrew Foster Altschul, author of the novel Lady Lazarus, reads from his recent work. His short fiction and essays have appeared in anthologies and such publications as Esquire, Ploughshares, McSweeney's, Fence, One Story, StoryQuarterly.

March 16, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., 222 J. C. Penney Building. For Info: Karen Lucas at 5699.

### The Insider: Interviewing Skills

Featuring Scotttrade. Learn about interviewing from employers who make hiring decisions. Visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshops" for more information and to register.

March 16, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., 278 MSC. For Info: Career Services at 5111.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 17

### It's About 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.

March 17, 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., 225 Millennium Student Center. For Info: Chad Hoffer at 5300.

### Johnson Mentoring Project

The purpose of this mentoring project is to help students meet their career goals after graduation. Executive fellows facilitate three sessions per program with small groups of three- to five-students. Meeting dates are 3/17, 3/31 & 4/14.

March 17, 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Executive Leadership Institute -- 427 SSB. For Info: Malaika Home at 4749.

### Mass and Soup

Mass at the CNC in the Living Room at 5:30 with a free meal of Soup and Bread afterwards. Mass on Tuesdays is relaxing and reflective...feel free to join us anytime!

March 17, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Catholic Newman Center. For Info: Liz Detwiler at 314-358-3455

### How to Control Cash Flow

This Financial Management Series workshop shows you how to turn financial statements into useful management tools; identify where cash in a small business comes from and how it's used in daily operations; and identify and correct cash-flow problems. Cost: \$99.00.

March 17, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., J.C. Penney Building. For info: Alan Hauff at 6121.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

### Hump Day Hoopla: Candy Creations

Join the University Program Board in the Nosh for the March Hump Day Hoopla: Candy Creations.

March 18, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., The Nosh. For Info: Katie Magraw at 314-477-2996

### Online Courses: What you know might just get you an A

Are you thinking of enrolling in an online course, but you are not sure what an online course 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. This workshop is intended to give you a comprehensive look at online learning. We hope that it not only answers some questions about online courses, but that it also provides you with the academic tools needed to succeed in this relatively new and exciting method of learning.

March 18, 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., 225 Millennium Student Center. For info: Chad Hoffer at 5300.

### Exploring Careers & Strategies of a Job Search

Manage your career, don't let it manage you. Learn the process of job searching & putting your degree to work. Visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshops" for more information and to register.

March 18, 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., 278 MSC. For Info: Career Services at 5111.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19

### The Impact of Fatherlessness on African American Children

Child Trauma Colloquium Series: The Impact of Fatherlessness on African American Children Presented by Halbert Sullivan, MSW and Cheri Lilly-Tillis, MS. Father Support Network.

March 19, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Kathy J. Weinman Children's Advocacy Center Auditorium. For Info: Deborah Hangbe at 6798.

### Start Smart--Research Help from the Writing Lab & UMSL Library.

Learn how to use the library and its web page to quickly find the best sources and effectively use them in your paper.

March 19, 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m., Clark 417. For Info: David Linzee at 5950.

### Shantytown: Boxed In 2009

Cardboard box shanties will be set up on the lawn all day in preparation for a night sleeping outside in solidarity with the homeless. All are welcome to join the event, which begins at 5 p.m. with speakers, documentaries, and a candlelit vigil, and ends with some snoozing under the stars.

March 19, 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., outside the MSC. For Info: Liz Detwiler at 314-358-3455.

### Trailblazer

Honor 2009 Trailblazers, Guest Speaker - Kay Drey.

March 19, 2009 2:00 p.m. to 3:25 p.m., Century Rooms B&C, MSC. For Info: Cindy Wills at 5695.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

### IC Short Course - 2007 PowerPoint Basics

This course is designed to teach the basic beginning steps of Microsoft 2007 PowerPoint. Learn how to use this application for giving presentations or develop slide shows that may be required for classes, work, or fun. Topics include: inserting images, proper font size and type, custom animation, special effects, proper business etiquette for presentation skills, etc.

March 20, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. SSB 134.

### 2009 Spring Seminar Series in Business & Economics

Tian Zhili, PhD. student in Operations & Manufacturing Management, Washington University, St. Louis, will present "Sequence Dependent Lot Sizing Problem."

March 20, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 401 SSB. For Info: Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 7354.

### IC Short Course- MS-Word '07 Basics

This course is designed to teach the basic beginning steps of MS 2007 Word. Learn how to use this application for typing papers and more that may be required for classes, work, or fun. Topics include: how to print, inserting images, proper font size and type, margin settings, inserting tables for formatting purposes, etc.

March 20, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., SSB 134. For info, visit the ITS website.

### Starting a Small Business: The First Steps

Get an overview of the critical first steps of starting a business: assess your strengths and weaknesses in terms of business ownership; learn the importance of planning; discuss legal and regulatory requirements; and identify sources of funding.

March 20, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. J.C. Penney Conference Center, One University Blvd. For Info: Alan Hauff at 6121.

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit the What's Current section of <http://www.thecurrentonline.com>.

# The Current

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

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# The Current

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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## AFFILIATIONS



# News at Noon discusses Gay Marriage

By YOSHIMI TOMONO  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, News at Noon was held discussing the issue of Proposition 8 and same-sex marriage. News at Noon is a program sponsored jointly by the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Office of Student Life and the New York Times. It is designed to create discussions about current events between faculty and students.

Each audience member was handed three articles published by New York Times. Those articles were entitled "Across U.S., Big Rallies for Same-Sex Marriage," "Gay Marriages Begin in Connecticut" and "Bans in 3 States on Gay Marriage."

The New York Times bought pizza for the first 25 students in the room. Faculty members are invited to bring a lunch and join the forum as well. About 15 people attended this past Wednesday.

Largely discussion based, the audience participated heavily. "I like the lively discussion gaining about her understanding of a topic you don't talk about a lot," Joanna Hamerschmidt, History, Senior, said.

The issue of the incidents at Montclair State University also impacted the University of Missouri-St. Louis this week and was a topic of discussion. Montclair State

University (MSU) LGBT center, in New Jersey, recently experienced discrimination. The word "Fags!" was written across the sign of the LGBT center on Feb. 16, followed by an incident on the 18th, when a paper was slipped under the door of the LGBT center. The paper held a Bible verse, from Leviticus saying, "if a man also lies with mankind, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be on them." This verse was followed by the statement, "God and MSU Hate FAGS" and "GET OUT OF OUR CAMPUS!"

Both incidents have been deemed bias crimes and are under full investigation by the police and local prosecutor's office in New Jersey. UM-St. Louis students could chose to show their support by signing a poster, in the Office of Student Life.

The speaker at this event, Kathleen Butterly Nigro, an assistant director of the Institute for Women's & Gender Studies kept the discussion open to student interaction and input.

Many students voiced their opinion, "Homosexuals should be allowed to marry because if they are not allowed, it is a human right issue. No one's rights should be taken away from them. Thus, homosexuals are people and everyone has a relationship with someone that is

gay-many people must realize that we are not in a time where gays are known as "the other" anymore," Rachelle Kuhl Political Science, junior said.

During the event, Nigro explained about the family dynamic that is involved within same-sex marriage. If two people of the same gender get married, it is impossible to have a baby biologically. There is concern present, Nigro stated, that homosexual marriage ruins tradition and deprives children of a normal/ideal family.

In discussion of the view of the ideal American family, many factors came into play. "The ideal family does not exactly exist in reality. The nuclear family is only 23 percent of many versions of a family. Family is love, that should be the only requirement," Natasha Barclay, History, senior, said.

There is a great deal of everyday discrimination that Nigro gave examples of that make lives of homosexuals difficult. If same-sex marriage couples try to adopt babies from overseas, it is much harder than opposite sex marriage.

Nigro also gave audience this example: A man, who had a sex-change, was unable to go through customs because his passport listed him as "female" and he no longer resembled the photo.

Homosexuals are trying to gain

more civil rights. On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to legally recognize same-sex marriage but the marriages are not recognized nationally. On the day Massachusetts passed the law allowing same-sex marriage, more than 600 couples showed up to get married.

From June 2008 until November 2008, California also authorized same-sex marriages. However, it was banned by Proposition 8 which California voters enacted. They no longer allow same-sex couples to marry.

Same-sex marriage law is an ongoing issue. If students are interested in Women's and Gender Studies, additional information may be obtained from at UM-St. Louis Admission Office at 314 (516)-5451.

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies states that it provides students with a first-rate gender education by fostering the exchange of knowledge among people of different genders, classes, ethnicities, sexualities and cultural conditions in addition to the appropriate skill to succeed in the workplace etc by offering an educated perspective on diversity and gender equality.

The next News at Noon will be held at noon March 18, MSC 313. The topic discussed will be, "Looking in the Crystal Ball: The Future of Higher Education Funding."

# Chartwells involved in community and UMSL

By ALEC PLANT  
Assistant News Editor

When most people sit down to eat their lunch, they assume that the chef's influence does not extend past the kitchen. That is not the case with Chartwells.

Chartwells, the food distribution company that operates almost all the dining areas in the University of Missouri-St. Louis, tries to make an impact on the community in a way that many students do not realize.

Lori Liming has been the marketing manager for Chartwells at UM-St. Louis for over three years. She says that Chartwells places a high priority on corporate social responsibility.

They run several programs here at UM-St. Louis that demonstrate the company's commitment. She explained some of the new programs Chartwells is bringing to UM-St. Louis, like share-a-meal.

Share-a-meal is a program that lets UM System students who have leftover meal plans donate them to the St. Louis Crisis Nursery, a center for abused children.

Liming says Chartwells chose the center because, aside from the services it offers the community, the Crisis Nursery puts a strong emphasis on healthy meals, giving children three meals a day with two healthy snacks.

The Crisis Nursery provides short-term shelter for children ages 12 and under who face parental neglect and abuse. Last month students donated 76 meals worth \$450, and this month students are on track to donate even more.

Similar programs have been enacted all over the Midwest, and last semester students from South-East Missouri State raised over \$7,000 in the fall semester for a local Cape Girardeau food bank.

Chartwells has many environmentally conscious products. UM-St. Louis utilizes Chartwells' biodegradable kitchenware, including water cups, plates, salads packages, straws, beverage containers and coffee cups, all of which are made from sugar cane.

All the egg-bearing chickens Chartwells uses are cage-free and the company only uses fair-trade coffee. Produce and milk are also purchased from local sources.

Aside from being an employee for Chartwells, Liming also plays an active role in UM-St. Louis community.

She hosts a radio show at 10 a.m. on Thursdays, works the Chartwells informational booth on UMSL day and new student orientation and also helps run the resident food service committee.

She enjoys her job because she gets to be involved with people on campus. "It's not a desk job," she says. "The best part is interacting with students and doing hands on stuff."

Of course, the most important part of a food company's business is the food. Chartwells uses a technique called "stealth health" that involves using health-conscious ingredients throughout the cooking process.

Chartwells cooks use reduced sodium soap bases, no-salt added canned tomatoes, lower fat dairy products and they offer milk that does not contain rBGH.

Although Chartwells' website states that "today's students face new health and wellness challenges, they and their parents need the right information and proven resources to stay healthy and active", the company does not offer nutritional information for much of the food it serves, citing changing recipes that make it hard to give precise information.

While the salad bar does have a nutritional guide posted near the counter, most restaurants (including the ones that serve some of the least healthy food) keep their nutritional facts behind closed doors.

Tiffany McGaughy, sophomore, social work, is not impressed with the quality of the food. "It's ok," she said, "it's about the same as fast food."

See CHARTWELLS, page 12

# Nixon nominates Downing as Curator

By ALEC PLANT  
Assistant News Editor

Gov. Jay Nixon moved to fill an expired position on the University of Missouri System Board of Curators on Monday.

Three members' terms expired on Jan. 1, and if confirmed by the Senate, Don Downing will assume the seat formerly held by Marion Cairns. It is still unclear when Governor Nixon will fill the other vacancies.

"It's something I've always wanted to do and I really look forward to this," Downing said. "I come with an open mind and with no preset agenda. I want to work with the other curators to make the university the best in the country."

Downing is a Vice President for Gray, Ritter and Graham, a litigation firm ranked first place in the St. Louis area by Best Lawyers, a group that monitors the quality of attorneys. He specializes in anti-trust law, commercial and business litigation.

From 1993-1995, while Nixon was Attorney General, Downing was the Chief Assistant to the Attorney General, during which time he hired and supervised over 170 lawyers. His cases focused on consumer protection, antitrust, environmental and securities. Downing made four appearances in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, one of which he argued personally. He also argued before the Missouri Supreme Court six times.

Downing earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1979. Three years later, he earned a law degree from UM-Columbia's law school and edited Missouri Law Review.

Serving in the past on the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School Foundation Board of Trust-

ees and the Law Library Campaign Committee, Downing is no stranger to the UM System. He is also member of the University of Missouri Jefferson Club.

The Board of Curators is a governing body in the UM System that has power to direct and supervise everything on any UM campus. It is made up of nine members, each from different congressional districts in Missouri. Appointees serve six year terms, with three board members' terms expiring every two years.

Cairns, who would be replaced by Downing, was appointed to the board by former Gov. Bob Holden in 2003. As a member of the board, she chairs the External Affairs Committee and sits on the Governance and Student and Affairs committees. She received a bachelor's degree in art, an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Monmouth College, and an honorary doctorate in law from Webster University.

From 1977-1991 Cairns served on the Missouri General Assembly and currently serves on serves on the Webster Groves School District's Superintendent's Citizens' Advisory Committee. She is a member of American Association of University Women, Focus/St. Louis and the Committee on Resolution of Fee Disputes of the Bar Association of Metro St. Louis and in the past has been on the Missouri Humanities Council and the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

Cairns received the Chancellor's Appreciation Award from UM-St. Louis, the Child Advocate of the Year award from the Missouri Child Care Association and the Senior Citizens of Greater St. Louis Appreciation Award.

The other two curators whose

terms expire, Cheryl Walker and Don Walsworth, are both former chairs of the board.

Walker's role on for the Board of Curators includes sitting on committees for External Affairs, Governance, Compensation and Human Resources, and the Executive Committee. She is a former member of Bryan Cave LLP, an international law firm, and is now the president of Obasi Enterprises, a real estate company she formed with her husband.

She graduated from University of Missouri-Rolla in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in electric engineering, and received a Juris doctor degree from Washington University in 1990.

She is a member of Tower Grove Park Board of Commissioners, The Newberry Group, St. Louis Social Venture Partners and The United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Walsworth received a degree in education from UM-Columbia in 1957. He served on the Marceline City council for two terms and as the mayor for one term before being appointed to the Missouri State Highway and Transportation Commission in 1985. Now, Walsworth is the chief executive of Walsworth Publishing Company.

He has been elected to the Citizens' Bank and Trust Company of Chillicothe, Mo., Citizens Bancshares Company of Chillicothe and Marceline Savings and Loan, and was a founding member of the Herbert J. Davenport Society.

In 1989, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the UM-Columbia Alumni Association. For Board of Curators, Walsworth chairs the Physical Facilities and Management Services and the Government committees.

If you handed out 1000 flyers...

...more people would still read this little box...

...advertise with The Current today.



Are you planning to graduate this semester???

Have you applied for graduation???

If not, visit your academic advisor today!!!

## DON'T MISS THE GRAD FAIR

April 7, 8, & 9 at the UMSL Bookstore in the MSC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- Purchase your cap, gown and tassels, etc.
- Attire available in bookstore after these dates but a \$10 late fee will apply after April 29.



2009  
**MAY**  
Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

- 10 A.M. - College of Nursing
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- Bachelor of General Studies and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
- MU of Science and Technology Engineering Education Center
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Optometry - *Touhill Performing Arts Center*

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

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

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at [www.ums.edu/commencement](http://www.ums.edu/commencement) for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with Chappell Graduation Images.

All Graduating Seniors, The UMSL Alumni Association Invites You to

Wieners for Seniors  
By the Lakes

Wednesday, April 29th  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Get a free t-shirt and a hot dog while supplies last

## THE ANDALAFTE

## MATHEMATICAL COMPETITION

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will sponsor the Andalafte Mathematical Competition on **Wednesday, April 15, at 1:00 pm in 306 Clark Hall.**

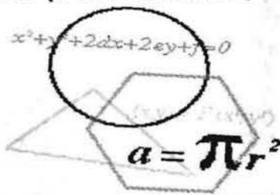
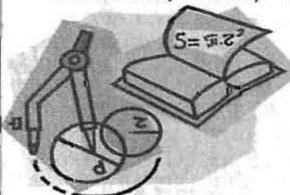
This will be a two hour exam consisting of five challenging problems, accessible to students who have completed at least Math 1900.

Prizes will be as much as \$1000 and winners will be recognized at the 12th Annual Spencer & Spencer Lecture on Tuesday April 28 at 7:30pm in the Century Room of the MSC.

Competition open to UM-St. Louis undergraduates only.

Further information and an application form can be obtained by visiting the department website [www.ums.edu/~mathcs/](http://www.ums.edu/~mathcs/) or by contacting Dr. R. Dotzel at 516-6337 (or at [dotzel@ums.edu](mailto:dotzel@ums.edu))

Applications must be received by **Monday, April 13.**



OPINIONS

**OUR OPINION**

# HB 792 gives equality to schools

Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, the Charles Gallagher Student Grant and the Missouri College Guarantee Scholarship was replaced with the Access Missouri Program. A need-based program, the grant is awarded based on information provided on students' FAFSA and, being a grant, does not have to be paid back to the state. The issue with Access Missouri has arisen due to concerns about the unequal distribution of that money between state and public universities. House Bill 792 will attempt to change that.

Several steps have been taken by students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis to show their support of this bill.

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) traveled to Jefferson City, along with other students, bearing letters to representatives that the Student Government Association (SGA) Assembly approved a letter nearly unanimously, also to show their support; we at The Current, would like to add our voice to theirs.

The state has a responsibility to state schools. While private institutions are more expensive, they have larger endowments that are not earmarked for spending the way that state schools are. For example, Washington University has an endowment of over \$4 billion while the University of Missouri-Columbia's endowment is \$800 million. The amount of money the private universities have to work with is substantially more.

Also take into account that the priorities of state schools are different than those of private institutions. A prime example of this can be seen in the State of the University Address, given by UM-System President Gary Forsee last month. One of the five objectives he outlined as a direction for the UM-System to develop was an evaluation of the needs of Missouri's top employers in order to measure how well the UM-System is meeting them. This objective shows clearly the UM-System's commitment to the state in their attempt to meet the needs of Missouri employers and keep Missouri's economy going.

Public institutions are meeting their obligation to the state; through this unequal distribution of state funds the state is neglecting their end of the bargain.

HB792 would equalize the funds given to all students, no matter whether they attend state or public university, two or four year school, to \$2,850, increasing the amount that public university students receive by \$700. That is a huge difference for many students.

While this bill would lower the amount available to private university students by a substantial amount, perhaps even, as the founders of the coalition, Keep Me In College, argue, by an insurmountable amount, taxpayer's dollars should be spread equally among the needy students of the state. This bill is not, as www.keepmeincollege.org asserts, an "effort to dismantle Access Missouri," that statement is a misrepresentation of the facts. Rather, this bill is an effort to amend a misuse of state funds. Keep Me in College tries to pull the heart-strings with student stories of what Access Missouri means to them, we can guarantee that it means just as much to any student no matter where they go. Being a need-based grant, this money does not go to anyone who could not use it. This cannot be made into an emotional issue that casts some students as more deserving than others. The fact that private school students are receiving up to twice as much funding as public school students is blatantly unfair. On top of that, take into consideration that Missouri currently ranks 47th in public higher education funding per-capita as contrasted to its standing of 4th in private higher education funding and the picture is one that shows a vast economic disparity.

Needy students deserve all the help they can get however, they deserve, from the state, equal amounts of that help, no matter where they choose to go. While we empathize with those students who will lose some amount of funding, we cannot help but be relieved that this inequality is being rectified.

# Hate crimes cannot hide behind free speech

Last month at Montclair State University in New Jersey, members of the LGBT group SPECTRUMS (Sexuality, Pride, Community, Truth, Respect, Unity, Montclair State) found the word "fag" written on the door of their LGBT Student Center. Later in the week, a note was left that quoted Leviticus and said "God and MSU hate fags. Get out of our campus". Needless to say this is a disgusting display of hate and prejudice and The Current stands in solidarity with SPECTRUM at Montclair State University against this type of behavior.

According to some, these actions are in response to one gay student's protesting of a blood drive where he was not allowed to donate because of his sexuality. The student in question passed a petition around the university regarding this issue. We accept that prejudice is an unfortunate part of social interaction, however some situations, such as the hate crimes committed at Montclair State, really offend us. As a newspaper we must take a stand against this kind of ignorance.

Why should we take a stand? We should take a stand because silence is deadly. Unfortunately, it is still not considered a hate crime by federal law for a man or woman to be victimized based on their sexual orientation. It is not a crime for a man or woman to be fired from their jobs or prevented from being hired on the basis of their sexual orientation. Acts like these can quickly spiral out of control and become violent. Vandalism in any capacity is blatant disrespect for someone else's property. If someone is ok with breaking the law and vandalizing a university's property, who is to say that they will not break the law and become violent verbally or physically?

The only thing The Current can describe these acts as is cowardly. We totally believe that you do not have to be uniform to be united. This, however, does not include defaming the morale of an entire group of people. As for the

note slid under the door, come on. We are supposed to be collegians. Certainly, we respect all religions. Using your religion to try to convict or harass another group is certainly wrong. Freedom of speech is a beautiful thing. When these students wrote these offensive words on the door of that LGBT Student Center, they abused their rights to free speech. Freedom is the ability to do anything. If students cannot convene in their student center without verbal assault, they are not free. The rights of the LGBT students were infringed on by a display of "free speech." The individuals who committed this act have overstepped their boundaries.

Every student should be outraged at this behavior. Everyone is different in his or her own right. We all have things that make us unique, and those with similar viewpoints may join together on their prospective campus. This could very well be our campus. Allowing these kinds of acts to go on without taking a stand against them is really just like saying it is okay. It is saying these acts normal. It is saying these acts are permissible. The perpetrators who committed this act and the victims should know that it is not. We say NO!

The Current believes that it is time for everyone to stand up and say something when a wrongdoing is witnessed. We can prevent acts like these in the future by doing this. It is never ok to use anti-gay slurs such as these. The Current believes there is no instance at which this behavior is appropriate. If ever in conversation you hear the word, you can stop them and let them know their behavior is not acceptable, the same way you would if any other racial or anti-religious slurs were used. Picture the students that opened that door late last month as your best friend or a member of your family. The Current believes that if every student does this, every student can incite the change necessary to stop this kind of behavior and make discrimination against the LGBT community history.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

- Sarah O'Brien
- Elizabeth Swoboda
- 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.

**STAFF VIEWPOINT**

## Don't Hate - Integrate!

By AFTON ANDERSON

By now, we have all heard both sides of the argument concerning race issues in America. More recently during Black History Month, people beg the question of why a "Black Culture Day" is still necessary on UMSL's campus. Hell, Barack Obama is president. Prejudice must not be that widespread anymore, right?

Wrong. I was born in Pisa, Italy. I have lived everywhere from Fort Knox, Kentucky to a few miles outside of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. When I first moved to St. Louis, I suffered an extreme culture shock and was dumbfounded at the natural racial segregation that takes place here. On my first day of school, I entered the lunchroom only to find all the white kids sitting with other white kids. It was likewise for the black kids and the few Asian and Hispanic kids that attended the school. Now that I am about to graduate, I am still seeing the same behavior in our very own Millennium Student Center.

In 2004, I graduated from Hazel-

wood Central High School and went to the University of Missouri-Columbia. My roommate was from a small town a few miles south of Cape Girardeau and informed me that she had never talked to a black person before. She asked me all kinds of questions based on things she heard about black people from her peers. She asked me about my hair, curious as to "why I didn't put grease in it." She seemed fascinated by my skin color; she seemed intrigued by the freckles on my face and fluency of speech. Yet and still, she knew words I did not to 50 Cent and Twista songs. I was not offended because she could not help her underexposure. Hey, at least she tried.

I am not a Missouri native. I have no biases toward any one place in the country because both of my parents were in the military. I do know that when I moved to Barrington Downs in 2000, our family was one of three minority families on the block (around 30 houses). Now on the eve of a decade later, there are only four elderly white empty nesters that still

live there. Why?

If you live in St. Louis, Missouri, it is highly likely you have seen the proverbial "white flight" take place in your neighborhood. It is no secret that the dynamic of our social structure in St. Louis is rapidly changing. Just go outside your home and look to the left and right of you. The majority of you will find that you live next door to people who look just like you. It makes no sense, though.

The St Louis demographic is very diverse. In St Louis, there is a melting pot of so many cultures and creeds. The facts tell us there are plenty of Bosnians and Italians, Asians, Latinos and Arabs in addition to the large black and white populations.

By and large, people of the same live in the same places. Chances are you only interact with those who are like you. "The Hill" and "Black County" are just a few examples of terms I have heard to describe where people of the same culture live. Some may have a few token friends of other cultures, but why don't you live next to them?

This phenomenon is not natural. It is a travesty that St. Louisans have subjected themselves this cultural and racial segregation. At the Black Culture Day Celebration, there were only a few people who were not black there. After the food was gone, there was no one who was not black present. In my opinion, we need the celebrations of different cultures on our campus as long as the only people who attend them are of that culture.

The room should have been filled with people of all creeds and kinds. It was not SIMPLY because people tend to shy away from cultures different from theirs. Prejudice does not mean you are filled with hate. It simply means you may operate off of some preconceived notions that may or may not be conscious. Maybe you have prejudged the Black Culture Day and felt that you would not be welcomed if you were not already immersed in Black Culture. See, you may be a little more prejudiced than you thought. Don't worry. Living in St-Louis, we cannot help but to be here and there.

**STAFF VIEWPOINT**

## Puberty is destroying our youths

By PAUL MAGUIRE

In my article last week I spoke briefly on the tribal origins of our behaviors—specifically concerning compassion. I concluded by saying that compassion is a beneficial attribute within the tribal setting, and



Paul Maguire

asking whether in our new setting, the industrial setting, it is helpful or harmful to our species.

Now, compassion is not the only tribal attribute that has a possible

disconnect from our present industrial setting. In fact, there is much evidence that many of our common instincts and behaviors have this disconnect.

My article this week has been inspired by an article I read on National Public Radio's (NPR) website. I encourage all my readers to go read it. Written by Chana Joffe-Walt, the article is entitled 'Sexting': A Disturbing New Teen Trend? In the article Joffe-Walt reviews a case in which a Seattle-dwelling, sixteen-year-old girl and her friend took naked pictures of themselves on their phones.

While the first girl deleted hers, the friend sent it to someone, who in turn sent it to others and so on. Apparently, as the title of the article suggests, this trend is called 'sexting.' Also apparently, 'this is disturbing'. An entire investigation occurred in order to figure out these teenagers' motivations behind distributing such pictures, and behind sexting all together.

As we have established, humans have instincts that are rationally harmful to the species and society. In the same sense, there are social norms that repress certain instincts, or urges that humans have. Like other animals, we have urges to form social networks, to work for food, to show dominance over others, to fight, and yes to have sex.

The sexual urge is a complicated issue in my opinion. When I speak of this urge I am not just talking about the immediate physical pleasure of sex, but also the emotional gain. Most humans have an urge to meet, become emotionally bonded with, and participate in sexual acts with another human. This is the all-encompassing sexual urge of which I speak. The main benefit of the sexual urge is to motivate the individuals of a species to reproduce. In times when survival was difficult for humans (specifically in tribal settings), those who had more of a sexual urge theoretically had more sex. I am sure there are other social factors involved as to who had more sex (looks, personality, exposure to certain food, climate, geographical location, etc), but these differ from the sexual urge because the sexual urge underlies these other aspects.

Another aspect of the sexual urge is that it is not apparent at birth; it comes about as the result of an entire developmental process. Theoretically, it was more beneficial in a tribal setting if a person's sexual urge developed during the average time at which it occurred. This trait was passed on and then adapted over time bringing us to the present day.

Through adaptation, we have come to a point in our culture where people begin puberty as early as eight years old and finish puberty only as late as seventeen years old. Therefore, it is normal for people between these ages to be sexually curious and feel an urge to explore sexual activity, yet there are social norms inhibiting the sexual curiosity in people of this age.

As a result of things like religious influence and years of social evolution, teens are conditioned to think that sex is for people of quite an older age. By law, nudity is to be viewed by people of certain ages, marriage on average happens ten years after puberty and many teens are taught that abstinence is good despite the urges they feel. This is a contrast to certain tribal cultures whose people walk around naked, and as soon as a person is able to reproduce, they marry and have sex.

See **SEXTING**, page 12

**UNDERCURRENT**

By Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

**If money were no issue, where would you go for spring break?**



**Sanghun Lee**  
Freshman  
Business



**Justin Collins**  
Junior  
Biology



**Hannah Trucano**  
Freshman  
Art Education



**Sani Kumar**  
Senior  
Social Work



**Paris Thompson**  
Junior  
Communications

What do you think? Send your own response to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) or talk about it in our online forums at [thecurrentonline.com](http://thecurrentonline.com).

"Cuba to see hot girls and sunny weather."

"I would go to Africa to see the heartland of the world."

"I would go the Australia to play with the Koalas."

"L.A. I love the shopping there, especially on Rodeo Drive."

"I would go to Dubai. That way I can go to the beach and skiing at the same time."

**FOREIGNER'S CORNER**

**'ARRGH Matey': What to do with pirates?**

By SOFI SECK

I first heard about Somali pirates a few years ago when I was in Senegal. I did not really know much about them. In fact, I thought that they were the kind of pirates in Peter Pan. I thought it was a huge joke. But as I got older and read more about the issue and I was disgusted.



Sofi Seck

I read about how today's pirates are mostly troops for Somalia's warlords who are fighting for control over the country. Almost everything I heard about the so-called "pirates" was negative. It seemed that extortion is one of the few ways to make money to survive in lawless Somalia. As sad as it is, there are said to be thousands of pirates operating off Somalia's coast. More than 90 ships have been attacked off the coast of Somalia in 2008.

Since this seems to be the horrible truth, I was surprised that shipping companies have not hired private security firms to guard their cargo that goes through Somali waters. It would seem that spending some extra cash for security should take priority to saving a few bucks. I mean it is not like these ships are being taken over by hundreds of pirates at the same time, it is usually a few men, a dozen at the most.

If these pirates are simply hijacking every boat that comes into this area, and this whole thing has less to do with righting a wrong, and more to do with getting paid, then they should be stopped as soon as possible.

Surprising even to myself, the more I write about this subject, the more I sit on my high horse and judgmentally shake my head at these people, the more disgusted I am with myself. I mean can I honestly say that I truly know what is going on in that region of the world? Can any of us?

Somalia has not had a working government since 1991 and has been greatly hurt by civil war. At the same time, ships from all over the world have been raiding Somalia's seas of their greatest resource: seafood. Many fishermen unlawfully go into Somalia's unprotected seas and steal millions of dollars worth of seafood every year. Local fishermen have lost their livelihoods and are famished.

Did we expect Somalis to sit around living in our nuclear waste and watch us take their fish for our fancy restaurants and do nothing to try to stop it? We did not say anything about those crimes, but when some of the fishermen responded by disturbing the transit-corridor for a nice percentage of the world's oil supply, we suddenly care and begin to scream about what is "right and wrong".

This is the circumstance in which the men we are calling "pirates" have emerged. They were average Somali fishermen who at first took speed-boats to try to stop trawlers from illegally fishing and dumping waste in the area. Do not get me wrong; the pirates are in no way justified for hijacking boats and holding people as hostages. And yes, some of the pirates are obviously just gangsters who are in it for the money, mainly the individuals who have held up World Food Programme supplies.

Piracy is not the solution to the problems in Somalia. Attacking ships (innocent or not) is not noble and is not going to help the Somali cause. What Somalis need is stability, a local government and a financial system. They need a legalized coast guard to defend their coast.

I am not going to pretend that I have the solutions to these problems, but I think that we would all do well to better educate ourselves on this issue and together, find a way to solve it. Maybe all the pirates want is money, or maybe, just maybe they truly are just looking after the welfare of Somalia because no one else is.

**STAFF VIEWPOINT**

**Lessons learned from SGA**

Student government may lack power, but makes up for it with learning opportunity

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN

Nearly every University and college in the country has some sort of governing student body available to their students. The Student Government Association of University of Missouri-St. Louis, SGA, meets every month to discuss issues of current importance to the students at UM-St. Louis.



Anna Marie Curran

President GraceMarie Ritter, and Vice President Jessica Cowan currently lead SGA. SGA works to help improve student participation in many aspects of the University such as University life, University Affairs and policy-making. SGA acts as the students' link to the administration and other campuses, bringing the issues of the students to the attention of the administration.

SGA is based on the principle that students should govern themselves and take their own initiatives to change aspects of their university with which they are dissatisfied. Student Government is one for the

students, by the students.

Why is it so important for students to have an outlet such as the SGA? It is important because it helps to instill a sense of belonging in the University's students.

It allows them to actively participate rather than slipping into a mundane routine of coming every day to sit in a stuffy lecture hall, letting a faceless administration control policy. Students are more likely to be willing to participate in campus life if they are able to share in the policy making and can actually see policies that employ fragments of their own ideas or even just policies with ideas that they can identify with.

SGA allows students to experience democracy on a closer level. It gives the participants of Student Government an opportunity to express themselves politically, as well as to learn more about democratic process on a smaller scale. It provides training for the participants on how to be leaders later in life as well. Students learn more about how governments work as well as the necessity to be tolerant of other people's opinions and to meet commitments that you make.

Students are also able to practice citizenship skills that they will be required to use later in life. Student Governments help teach students how to organize in a way that can actually promote change, which is certain to be important for a student's future.

The student government provides a student spokesperson to get out the opinions of students who are too shy to express their ideas or opinions to members of administration or even to other students. The SGA is a chance for students to get involved in their University Policies.

With student governments, students also learn the responsibility that comes with having influence over policies that affect all the students at UM-St. Louis. The students who comprise the Student government are the voice of the University students, and it is their duty to represent them as best as they can.

Student associations such as SGA also help to ensure that what is top priority to the students actually become to priority for changing. Whenever students are not part of the decision making process, the

wishes of the students could be overlooked or disregarded as unimportant or at least irrelevant because the new policies are likely to affect the students more than the administration or faculty.

While Student Governments are obviously not capable of changing every policy that students do not agree with, they do have the influence to at least bring attention to the specific points that are of especially high importance to the students.

Many individuals share in the sentiment that student governments are pointless because the administration of the University has the power to overturn any ruling that is passed.

However, if enough attention is given to one aspect of Campus life that students are particularly dissatisfied with, it is probable that the administration will take their own actions to attempt to better it for the students. Even if every policy is not passed, it is at least good practice in government and policy-making for the students who participate.

Elections for the next SGA offices will take place over the week of April 20 and all University Students are encouraged to participate.

**SCIENCE COLUMN**

**Going green for St. Patty's Day**

By CATE MARQUIS

You want to be green for St. Pat's, don't cha?

Besides green attire, the Dogtown Hibernians' Parade and corned beef and cabbage (but no one needs to drink green beer when you can have a Guinness), think about the other green for St. Pat's after you are done collecting those green beads.

A new breakthrough in battery technology, just announced by MIT scientists, offers a boost to the blooming alternative energy industry.

Early on, MIT scientists zoomed in on batteries as the limiting factor in green energy. The new innovation uses a familiar battery technology, lithium-ion, but boosts the speed at which it can be recharged.

The research was published recently in the journal Nature. One of the researchers, Gerbrand Ceder, spoke about the innovation and its potential on last Friday's "Science Friday" radio program on NPR's affiliate KWMU 90.7 FM.

Ceder said that the breakthrough could mean smaller, lighter batteries for devices such as cell phones. It could also help extend the range of plug-in electric cars, decreasing or eliminating the need for gasoline engine backups. The MIT scientists found that lithium ions had the potential to move much more quickly into battery material but were limited

by the need to enter the material by tunnels on the surface.

The researcher devised a way to allow the ions to move faster across the surface to reach a tunnel, much like a traffic beltway moves traffic quickly to a highway access.

The scientist reported that engineering is still needed to bring the product to market, but that the technology had been licensed for commercial production with two private sector engineering companies.

While we wait for this technology to bring us affordable, expanded range plug-in electric cars, there is

something green you can do for St. Pat's: Take some time to hold your elected officials accountable.

Too often, there is plenty of talk about solar, wind and plug-in electric cars but too few real-world incentives, the kind routinely offered old energy industries in the past. We need to give consumers and communities grants to convert to real green energy.

Electricity is the answer, wind power is now, solar is the near future, so why waste tax dollars on coal and nukes? While you are at it, send a letter to Ameren UE urging them to skip the new nuclear plant and instead build wind farms in the northwest part of the state. It is time for them to get with this program and join the green parade.

If we hope to keep a livable planet, we all need to join this green parade.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Editor:

This past Tuesday the UMSL community suffered a great loss. The staff has lost a coworker that would stop everything to help them. The students lost a true advocate and support on campus. I am speaking of John Klien, Director of Fiscal Operations.

Many students have known John over the years as Greek Advisor, Director of Residential Life, and Student organization budget extraordinaire. John's position was cut due to the current budgetary constraints the university is facing.

What cannot be explained is why other options were not discussed before cutting jobs. They have asked for suggestions on how to save money and yet none were followed through on.

Much of the staff has voiced agreeing to a few day furloughs or cutting back in hours, so everyone could still have a job at the end of the day. And where was the advance notice on these layoffs?

I have seen far too many staff get cut and pack and out of their office in a matter of hours. What about a little heads up? If not to those getting cut, at least inform

the community as a whole.

There has been no information on these happenings among the students. Though we are not getting paid by the University, we are your customers and should be given a heads up when changes will be taking place.

These random cuts place extra stress on everyone. The Staff and Students are all wondering who will be next? Will there not be a nurse in health services if I get sick next week? Will there not be an officer to come help me if I get attacked? Will there not be a librarian if I need help with my research paper?

There is no clear-cut line of who stays and who goes. We ask that the university please reconsider making more cuts. We have already lost a true Triton in John Klien.

John showed the Triton spirit by helping anyone no matter how silly or extreme. He wore his red and gold proudly and would have taken that red and gold off of his own back if you needed it.

Adam Richter & Katie Moore, UM-St. Louis Students

Editor:

I believe some perspective is needed with regard to the recent on-air incident at The U. It goes without saying that the actions of the DJ in question were ill-advised and immature. However, the tightening of policies at The U in the aftermath of that incident was not only appropriate, but long overdue.

I spent several of my years at Truman State University working at KTRM, the campus radio station managed and staffed entirely by students. In my time there, I was an announcer and, eventually, a member of management, culminating with a stint as the station manager. While KTRM and The U are vastly different (KTRM is an FCC-licensed 1,000 watt FM station with a broadcast radius of 25 miles while The U broadcasts via the internet, KTRM is format-driven versus the open format featured on The U), they are similar in that they are both funded at the discretion of university administrators - in the case of The U, the funding comes from Student Life. As such, neither station is in any position to violate FCC regulations, as FCC fines start at several thousand dollars. While The U currently does not rely on a transmitter powerful enough to draw the attention of the FCC, it is in the best interest of The U to adhere to FCC regulations so as not to jeopardize any future attempts to be assigned a place on the dial.

When the management of The U announced a tightening of station policies, they did so with the future of the station in mind. Hav-

ing been in a similar position of responsibility at a university-funded radio station, it is my opinion that the administration of The U acted responsibly, and in doing so, laid the groundwork for The U to (hopefully) exist in a more structured state than it has since its inception.

The DJs at The U have always enjoyed excessive amounts of creative license - much more so than at most other college radio stations. At KTRM (and many, many other college radio stations), DJs are required to play music from a predetermined selection for at least one semester before being given the creative freedom enjoyed by DJs at The U. In addition to the type of behavior exhibited in the recent incident at The U, DJs at most other college radio stations are terminated for "minor" infractions, such as forgetting to fill out transmitter logs, not reading assigned PSAs, or for missing a single shift - all things that have plagued The U since its beginning.

Being able to have a show at The U is not a right. It is a privilege. And to enjoy that privilege, one be-willing to act in the best interests of the station as a whole - something larger than oneself - by adhering to the policies set in place by station management. Based on my past experiences, it is evident that the policies some are calling censorship at The U are merely self-preservation in uncertain times.

Bob Ell Coordinator, Programs & Special Events - Center for International Studies

**STAFF VIEWPOINT**

**Guns!**

By BEN GEMIGNANI

There were three newsworthy shootings this past week. A pastor, gunned down in the pulpit in Illinois. About ten were shot in Alabama. And in Germany, a country with strict gun control policies, an expelled student paid a visit to his old school and sent fully eighteen people on to the next life before committing suicide.

This comes in on top of dozens of other high-profile shootings over the last few decades, like Columbine and the one about the D.C. snipers. Long-established organizations launch long-held ideas about solutions at each other savagely, arguing for gun control or against guns and producing evidence to support them.

The gun control supporters push to restrict or ban guns on the grounds that no guns mean no gun deaths, while those who favor gun ownership make the point that if anybody might have a gun, a shooter would be less inclined to act; I think that both sides realize that their solutions are imperfect, but they are trying.

In general, schools and guns didn't mix in any sort of legal way except when police or security personnel were concerned. But given our tendency to cherish youth and the young, and the large number of potential victims, the shootings that take place in schools provoke the loudest response.

In the wake of one of the many instances of gun violence at school, someone with a certain amount of legal clout got the idea of perhaps permitting guns on campuses under certain circumstances.

As one might expect, reception varied widely and all the same arguments were aired again and when I was last paying attention, the whole thing was still tied up in red tape someplace. But it nevertheless makes one think, "What if?"

What if, for instance, select trustworthy members of the faculty, or staff, or even the student body, were to add a sword or two to their complement of mightier pens for those times that action needed taking yesterday and the campus police were still on their way over?

Honestly, with respect to the above hypothetical or another, similar one, I don't really know. It would probably make the schools a bit safer, so long as all the protocols were followed, but one slip-up could cause all kinds of grief. How much? How often? We can't tell. We can't even test it properly and scientifically, as we might otherwise like to; the stakes are too high and the variables too variable.

This does not bring us any closer to a solution.

I don't think that we should ban guns, that's for certain. Guns aren't the only things that can kill a person, after all, and they do have their legitimate uses. And I do not doubt that the people who prefer to use their guns illegally will always have access to them (it's possible to make your own out of stuff in the garbage, if you have the technical wherewithal to do so - and somehow I doubt that it's an easy task to take a gun away from someone determined to hold on to it).

There are at present millions of gun owners in the country, most of which are law-abiding citizens whose greatest gun crimes consist of shooting deer and possibly entertaining the notion that they might one day save the clientele at the local supermarket; it is safe to say that the majority of gun violence is perpetrated by a relatively small sample who would just find other ways to be horrid to one another if you were to somehow take their guns.

On top of that, you never hear about people in the armed forces or ROTC or military academies or the like flipping out and killing their neighbors, even though they often have access to guns and may be taught how to do nasty things to people with or without them, if the need were to arise.

Thus, my own opinion is that the shootings are entirely symptomatic, and the problem is on a considerably less tangible level. We have ways of reaching these levels, be they societal pressure, psychological work, or even faith-based action; I believe that we need to address the problems there, and the rest will sort out.

To have your letter to the editor published in The Current, send it to 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121; or visit www.thecurrentonline.com/lettertoeditor. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

# A&E

**A&E ON CAMPUS**

# 'Pirates' take the Touhill by storm

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players' "The Pirates of Penzance" stormed the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Friday, March 13.

There was nothing unlucky about this Friday the 13. "The Pirates of Penzance" may be the most delightfully funny performance this writer has even seen on the Anheuser-Busch stage. The sold-out audience that packed the PAC seemed to agree.

After several missteps with touring performing troupes, the Touhill may have at last hit on a winning formula for in-house booked performances. There are few things as enduringly silly and delightful as a Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera and the audience mix of ages from students to senior citizens proved the material's

broad appeal.

NYGASP's production was first-rate entertainment, full of winking at the audience, ribbing of Victorian propriety and, of course, wonderful songs with clever lyrics beautifully sung with comic dancing.

Like all Gilbert and Sullivan works, the story is preposterous, a parody of serious opera. Young Frederic (Colm Fitzmaurice) was apprenticed at age eight to a pirate because his nurse Ruth (Angela Smith) misheard his father's instructions, which were to apprentice him to a pilot. Chagrined when she realized the mistake and too embarrassed to return to her employer, she stayed with her young charge and joined the Pirates of Penzance.

Having reached the age of 21, Frederic was to be released from his apprenticeship. A young man fervent about duty and proper behavior, he

had served the Pirate King (the delightful David Wannan) loyally but now intended to leave the pirate life behind and even seek to have the pirates arrested for criminal behavior, despite his personal affection for them, unless the agreed to give up their evil ways. In fact, these pirates were singularly unsuccessful, due to their overwhelming sense of fair play and a soft spot for anyone who claimed to be an orphan.

As Frederic and the pirates parted ways and while Ruth pleads with Frederic to take her with him, the dramatic picture is complicated by the appearance of several beautiful young ladies, all wards of Major-General Stanley (the very funny Stephen Quint). These playful young women are out for a picnic on the beach. Frederic is smitten with one of them in particular, Mabel (Michele McConnell).

When the pirates appear, they are captivated by the beauty of the other daughters, and capture them with the intention of marrying them. The pirates' plan is thwarted when the elderly Major General turns up. He pleads with the pirates not to marry his daughters, leaving him all alone since he is - you guessed it - an orphan. Of course, the pirates relent at this news.

More silliness ensues, involving timid Keystone Cops type policemen, misunderstandings and plenty of noble posturing, all to great comic effect.

Singing, dancing and clowning are all first rate, with the troupe making good use of Gilbert's ridicule of the British ruling class and throwing a few updated comic bits as well. Performances were excellent, for both comedy, and song and dance. Stephen Quint as the Major General really

shines in his very funny, rapid-fire "I Am The Very Model of The Modern Major General" number, and again the second act, as he runs about in a night shirt hunting for pirates.

Additional comic highlights were in the second act, where the barely-brave policemen become prone to transforming their martial marching into balletic flourishes, led by their tall and loose-limbed, played hilariously by David Auxier. Pirate King David Wannan was charmingly rakish in his role.

Sets and costumes created the right mood as did the fast-paced and silly dance numbers. The production hit the right balance between goofy parody of operatic melodrama and winking asides to the audience. One could not have wished for a more charming performance than the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players' "The Pirates of Penzance."

**MOVIE OPENINGS**

**KNOWING**

Nicholas Cage stars in this sci-fi action flick that combines the paranoia of "The Number 23" with the style of "Next." Alex Proyas (Dark City, I, Robot) directs and dozens of explosive special effects co-star. The fun starts when Cage uncovers a strange time capsule that contains a long numerical code that seems to have predicted major disasters throughout history, and possibly even in the future.

At several theaters.

**I LOVE YOU, MAN**

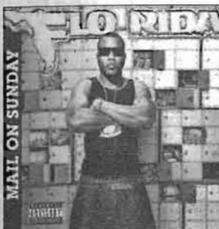
Paul Rudd stars as a late-twenties Californian yuppy about to marry a nice yuppy girl suddenly realizes that he has no best man. Thus, he embarks on a series of "man-dates" to find his new BFF. Note: if the phrase "man-date" alone made you laugh, you're gonna love this movie.

At several theaters.

**DUPLICITY**

Clive Owen and Julia Roberts star as sexy spies who spy on each other sexily and eventually sex each other spitefully, only to end up spiting each other's sex. You'll laugh, you'll cry. At several theaters.

**TOP TUNES DOWNLOADS**



- 01 Right Round Flo Rida
- 02 Poker Face Lady GaGa
- 03 Kiss Me Thru the Phone Soulja Boy Tell 'Em (feat. Sammie)
- 04 The Climb Miley Cyrus
- 05 Here Comes Goodbye Rascal Flatts
- 06 My Life Would Suck Without You Kelly Clarkson
- 07 Gives You Hell All-American Rejects
- 08 Home Sweet Home Carrie Underwood
- 09 Dead and Gone T.I. (feat. Justin Timberlake)
- 10 I Love College Asher Roth

**MOVIE REVIEW**

## UMSL play leaps to big screen

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

A winner of last year's first annual University of Missouri-St. Louis play competition has been turned into a movie, thanks to university faculty and staff.

"Pennies for the Boatman," the film version of "The Seamstress of Saint Francis Street," was screened for an enthusiastic audience at the Missouri History Museum's Lee Theater last Tuesday. The special preview of the film, still a work in progress, was warmly received by the full-house audience.

"The Seamstress of Saint Francis Street" by Mario Farwell was the first-prize winner in the full-length play category of the first annual E. Desmond Lee Playwriting Competition sponsored by the E. Desmond Lee Professorship in African & African American Theatre & Media Studies at UM-St. Louis' Center for International Studies.

The competition was for plays that described the African American experience in St. Louis. The winning plays, including this one, were staged last year at the same venue.

UM-St. Louis' E. Desmond Lee Professorship in African and African American Studies, the Center for International Studies and the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies in the College of Fine Arts and Communication sponsored the free screening of this new film version.

The play was so well-received that Niyi Coker, Jr., E. Desmond Lee Professor in African and African American Studies at UM-St. Louis, decide to create a film version as well.

The screenplay was written by Niyi Coker, who also directed it. Photography and editing was by James Abernathy, UM-St. Louis' Video Technology Production Coordinator. Executive producers are John Hylton, Marcel Bertoldt and E. Desmond Lee and producers are Niyi Coker, Jr., James Abernathy and Michael Murray.

Some of the cast of the original stage production appear in the film as well. Jackie Thompson, who played Camilla in the stage version, now plays the other sister Helen in the film.

The play features a couple of UM-St. Louis students as actors as well, such as Matthew Amend, who played Sebastian.

The story is set in the summer of 1958 in the city of St. Louis. The story focuses on two very different African American sisters, Helen and Camilla.

Quiet, sweet Helen (Jackie Thompson) has stayed in their home town of St. Louis, running her own business as



Photo Courtesy of The Center for International Studies UM-St. Louis

Pennies for the Boatman is a movie adapted from the play, The Seamstress of St. Francis Street.

a seamstress and building a life with her husband George (Duane Martin Foster) and son Jesse (Daniel B. McRath). When wild, rambling younger sister Camilla (Andrea Purnell) blows in unexpectedly from New York, Helen is delighted to see her but knows that she likely to stir things up, as the fun-loving but unpredictable Camilla usually does.

Beautiful, fashion-conscious Camilla is bold, outspoken and very flirtatious. She moves right in on Helen's life. However, Camilla is outraged to find that her sister has taken in their now-elderly Uncle Raymond (Dennis Leiby), whom she despises.

Matthew Amend as former boyfriend Sebastian, Michelle Dodson as difficult, snobby customer Ms. Summer and Marl S. Moloney as department store buyer Mr. Engelmeier round out the principle cast.

See PENNIES, page 7

**A&E ON CAMPUS**

## Dance department stages 'Sum Of Motion' spring dance concert

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

"Sum of Motion," the University's spring collaborative dance concert, graced the Lee Theater stage at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on March 12-14.

The annual dance concert, directed by Rob Scroggins, assistant professor of dance, offered a host of student modern dance performances, along with performances from guest artists from the Modern American Dance Company.

There were 10 dance pieces in the evening's program, with a single intermission. Dance themes ranged from the serious to the comic.

"Side Effects," a dance piece about overuse of medication in modern medicine, was choreographed by Arica Brown and danced by Brown,

Amanda Boyer, Brandy Grossich, Whitney Perry, Masha Pryamkova and Kelley Throneberry.

Alice Bloch was the choreographer and sole performer for "I Walk," about the wind and inspired by the San people of Africa.

Kate Cleary danced and choreographed "Where Am I," a piece about airport security.

"Touched" focused on the experience of the death of a loved one. Jessica A. Cross and Kacie Estes choreographed the dance for the 12 members of the Encore Dance Company, which included themselves as performers.

"Origins" drew its inspiration from the Book of Genesis; Rob Scroggins choreographed the work for 11 dancers.

The show resumed with a comic note after intermission, with "But Seriously," choreographed again by Scroggins. Dancers were Lindsay

Hawkins and Gavin Sisson.

One of the featured performances was the Isadora Duncan Suite, choreographed by the ground-breaking early 20th century icon. These five modern dance pieces were set to music by Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms and Bach.

Next, the solo "Finding Space" was danced by Dawn Karlovsky, with her own choreography.

"Taking This One to the Grave?" was a parody about friendship. Jessica A. Cross and Kacie Estes provide the choreography for the Encore Dance Company.

The evening ended with a piece that mixed dance, vocals and acting. "Cosmic Sisters" was choreographed by Rob Scroggins for dancers and singers by Amanda Boyer and Arica Brown; with actress by Holly Scroggins.

**MOVIE REVIEW**



Photo Courtesy of First Run Features

Maximilian Mauff as Temelko and Kristyna Malerova as Aya in Absurdistan, a film by Veit Helmer.

## 'Absurdistan' lives up to the 'absurd' name

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

The comedy "Absurdistan" is set in a tiny magical, mythical desert village somewhere between Eastern Europe and the Central Asian steppes. Somewhere near the Caucasus Mountains, it is a village that appears on no maps and which no country claims.

This whimsical, fairy-tale like romantic comedy premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

In this light-hearted fantasy, two young people, Aya (Kristyna Malerova) and Temelko (Maximilian Mauff), who share the same birthday, are fated to be together.

Their relationship is foretold by the stars, according to her grandmother.

Grandmother (Georgian actress Nino Chkeidze) also tells them they must wait for pre-determined auspicious date and they both be newly bathed before they meet for their first night of love.

As the date approaches, a dire complication arises because the village's ancient water supply begins to fail.

The village's men are too lazy to repair the rusting pipeline that brings water from a distant, underground cave.

They prefer to hide out in the tea house, playing games, even if there is little water for tea.

Frustrated and increasingly dirty, the women decide to go on strike.

They ban their husbands from their beds and even draw a white line down the middle of the village's central square, as they square off in a battle of the sexes.

It falls to young Temelko to try to fix the water pipeline. However, the other men do their best to prevent him, as they see the women's strike as a challenge to their manly authority.

The film is a visual delight as it

spins out its history of Absurdistan and the stary-eyed lovers, evoking a sense of a kind of an absurdist "Amelie," with perhaps a tongue-in-cheek touch of "Borat." Individual scenes are as charming as the ever-changing costumes, which range wildly from Russian babushka to Arabian Nights to the American Wild West.

The film's magical, creative photography recreates a variety of styles, aping archival footage or scratchy, faded films of past eras. At other times, it is as colorful as a Gypsy circus and as beautiful as a stary night.

The lovely, imaginative cinematography is the work of Georgian Georgi Beridze.

The film sports a very multinational cast and crew, with talent from Latvia, Belarus, Moldavia, Bulgaria, Spain and France, among other nations.

As silly and fun as the some of the scenes are, the storyline is often familiar. Fairy tales and ancient Greek plays are reworked into this story that strains for sense of a magical realism.

Director Veit Helmer, whose previous work includes the award-winning film "Tuvалу," strives for a surreal, romantic sweet spot but does not quite make it. The story seems to throw everything into a cinematic blender but the resulting concoction does not offer anything new.

The characters are likeable enough and the lead actors are appealing, but the story simply falls short.

"Absurdistan" and its fanciful world is certainly fun to look at but in the end, despite its visual fireworks, "Absurdistan" has charm but few surprises.

The film, in Russian with English subtitles, opened Friday, March 13, at the Tivoli Theatre, where it plays daily for an exclusive run at least through Thursday.

**Absurdistan**

★★★★☆

# GALLERY VISO TITLE HEADLINE THINGY FOR STAND ALONE PICTURES



Photos by Monet Mayo • Staff Photographer

Featuring the work of students and faculty from UM-St. Louis and the four St. Louis Community College campuses, Creative Spirits 2 had their opening at Gallery Visio on Thursday. Pictured clockwise from above is "Untitled" (from the Daughters Series) by Kaitlyn VanBuskirk from UM-St. Louis, "Nebula" by Lewis J. Thomas Jr. of SLCC-Forest Park and "City Notes" (St. Petersburg, Russia) by Olga Murray of SLCC-Florissant Valley. Creative Spirits 2 will be on display through April, 9.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Picoult crafts drama in medical-themed book

By NIMO HASHI  
Staff Writer

With Spring Break around the corner, what better way to spend it than reading a good book? With millions of books from which to choose, one might not know where to start.

One book you should put on your list is "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult, a heart warming and gripping story about family, love and values.

In "My Sister's Keeper," Picoult tells a story of a family that is torn apart by conflicting needs and a passionate love that triumphs over human weakness.

In this book, the readers will see that all the family members are affected by a moving decision. The readers will find themselves feeling connected to and sympathy towards the Fitzgerald family.

Picoult shows how medical advances, such as genetic planning, take their toll on everyone in this family.

"My Sister's Keeper" is about a character named Anna Fitzgerald who is conceived and born so that she can provide genetically compatible fluids and parts for her older sister Kate who is suffering from leukemia.

Kate needs a kidney transplant and Anna balks at giving up one of hers. She hires a lawyer to petition for medical emancipation from her parents so that she alone can make decision that threatens to tear the family apart.

Jodi Picoult, 39, is the bestselling author of 13 novels. She received the American Library Award and the 2006 Heartland Award for excellence in Young Adult Literature for her novel "My Sister's Keeper."

In 2003, she won the New England Book Award for fiction for her entire body of work. She studied creative writing with Mary Morris at Princeton and had two short stories published in "Seventeen" magazine while still a student.

The New York Times bestselling author, of 13 novels lives in

New Hampshire with her husband and three children.

The author does a wonderful job of letting the readers know how each and every member of the family feel about this medical problem. She lets us feel close to each member by have a passage for all five of the main characters.

First, is the character Anna Fitzgerald, who is 13 and the youngest of the family.

The other characters are Sara Anna's mother, her father, her older brother Jesse and her sister Kate who has been diagnosed with leukemia ever since she was a child.

There is also Cooper, Anna's lawyer, who at first refuses to take her case but after a while gives in.

The reason that Anna files for a medical emancipation was not to refuse a kidney for her sister so she

could die, but it was she that could wake her parents up and make them realize that she is more than a solution to her sister's medical problems. Anna wants her parents to see her for who she is and to pay attention to her.

The most heart-moving moment is in the twist of this story, and it will make readers keep turning the pages and keeping longing for more of this book. The title of "My Sister's Keeper" has a significant meaning and you will not find out what it is until you get to the end of the book.

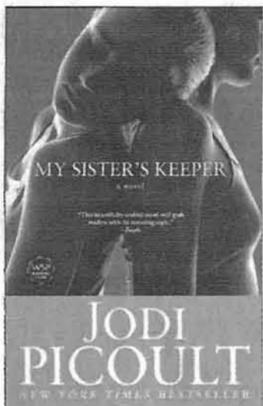
The theme of the book has a tremendous effect on each and every reader.

How far will you go to save a family member?

How far will you go to help one of your children even if it means the other one will suffer?

This book teaches the value of family and to really hold on to what you have before it is gone.

This book will make you cry, laugh, and keep turning the pages to see what happens next. So pick up "My Sister's Keeper" if you are interested in a page-turner that you can enjoy and learn from.



**My Sister's Keeper**  
Jodi Picoult  
★★★★★

## PENNIES, from page 6

The film's acting and script are strong points. Among the acting highlights was the performance of Andrea Purnell as the wily, troubled Camilla. Purnell does a marvelous job with this complex character, both wounded and dangerous, and show real screen presence. Jackie Thompson also creates a memorable character with her forgiving, gentle Helen. Likewise, the other principle actors deliver well-crafted performances. Among the smaller supporting roles, the showstopper is Michelle Dodson's haughty Ms. Summer, who is hilarious as the obnoxious customer.

The family drama is powerful, universal and timeless in many respects, despite the story's very specific time and place. St. Louis itself is given rough treatment, portrayed as

a small-town backwater in the Deep South. This might seem a bit unnecessarily harsh given that, in 1958, the same kind of racism also was rampant throughout the Midwest and indeed around the country, outside of a handful of large cities and progressive areas. Characterizing the city as Southern rather than Midwestern seems to mask the true extent of racism across the country in pre-Civil Rights era 1958. However, the family drama is so compelling that most audience members were swept along with the narrative, apart from any historical backdrop.

Although audience response was overall positive, the film does need more work and has a few serious challenges. The sound is still very much a work in progress. Film editing

work is still needed, as transitions between scenes are generally abrupt and unpolished. The film's biggest short-coming is its visual aspects, with too many scenes shot in harsh, bright lighting or unimaginatively framed, in a style perhaps better suited to documentary. The lighting and choice of mis-en-scene improve in the later part of the film but it remained an issue.

After the screening, director Niyi Coker brought the playwright and the cast and crew of the film on stage for a question and answer session with the audience. The filmmakers were looking for feedback on the film but especially on the title. The original title is descriptive but did not receive a good response when the filmmakers shopped around the concept in the

pre-production stage. Instead, a line from a scene late in the play was chosen as a new title, but received mixed responses. Comments in the Q and A indicated that many in the audience had fond recognition of several St. Louis locales in the story, although one person noted that house used in exterior shots was clearly not consistent with the street named in the film, and suggested a change in the script to a more apt street name.

As they continue to polish their film, the filmmakers of "Pennies For The Boatman" hope to find an outlet for wider release, perhaps at a film festival or cable TV. Regardless, the finished film is sure to re-appear on a local movie screen, perhaps sometime later in the year.

The Current is now accepting applications for Editor in Chief.

Do you have what it takes?

email thecurrent@umsl.edu for more information.

# FEATURES

## TOP TEN

### Most Attendable Campus Events

- 10** The Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture- Though a promising lecture about ecosystems, its appeal is lessened by its distance from campus.
- 09** Trailblazer- An annual ceremony with a speaker and this year, a Women Saving The Planet theme.
- 08** Mass and Soup- An event put on by the Catholic Newman Center on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome.
- 07** The Impact of Fatherlessness- Part of a series held in the Weinman Children's Advocacy Center.
- 06** Hump Day Hoopla- A celebration of Wednesday and its place in the middle of the week.
- 05** It's About Time! (Management)- A workshop promising everything from better grades to a better quality of life by teaching people to manage their time well.
- 04** Avoiding the Burnout- A fairly regular event designed to teach students to preempt burnout from academic stress.
- 03** Sentence Structure and Transitions- Easily-attended workshop teaching critical information.
- 02** The Insider: Interviewing Skills- A Career Services workshop to teach what companies like Scottrade look for in an interview.
- 01** Shantytown: Boxed In- This Thursday, experience the life of the homeless by camping out in front of the MSC.

## UNIVERSITY PROGRAM BOARD

# I ♥ THE FEMALE ORGASM

BY SARAH O'BRIEN

Editor-in-Chief

Bringing a taboo subject into a public sphere is not always an easy, or fun task.

The female orgasm is an especially difficult subject to speak about in front of a large group of people, however, discussing this sultry subject has become a livelihood for sex and relationship educators/couple Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller, creators of the I Love Female Orgasm program.

The University of Missouri St. Louis' University Program Board hosted Solot and Miller on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center's Century Rooms.

While the crowd consisted mostly of women, a few guys came along to learn more about the taboo topic at hand.

See **ORGASM** page 9



# "GIVE ME A POKE"



Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

Tyler Cross as "Siren" emceed and Justin Riddler, senior, liberal studies, was a participant in the annual Mr. & Mrs. RHA last Wednesday night in the MSC century rooms.

BY KIMBERLY HUDSON

Staff Writer

The new Mr. and Miss RHA, Ororo Monroe and Kok Dizzel showed their talents in University of Missouri-St. Louis' annual drag show along with other friends, students and faculty members last Wednesday.

UM-St. Louis is one of the few schools that actually encourage amateur drag shows and last year's Mr. and Miss RHA drew in 300 attendants. PRIZM also holds a professional drag show on campus each year.

"Skeeter Showers," "Seras," "Tyronne," "Ororo Monroe," "Ash Ketchum," "Nova Gina," "Kok Dizzel," and "Jena Talia" competed against one another to be named Mr. and Miss RHA.

Sponsored by the Resident Hall Association, the drag show consisted of six judges: Grace-Marie Ritter, SGA

Tyler Cross emceed and performed as "siren" during this year's Mr. & Mrs. RHA last Wednesday night in the MSC century rooms.

Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer



President, Khalilah Doss, Student Services Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Sicilliani, associate teaching professor of psychology, Curtis Coonrod, Vice Provost of Student Affairs, D'Andre Braddix, Project Support Specialist and Orinthia Montague, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs.

The judges watched the contestants perform their acts in drag character. This year's theme was "Give Me a Poke."

"It's a fun experience. Especially since it's amateur and these people are their friends. It's also very educational and we try to stress the diversity acceptance," Nick Rooney, junior, said.

Mr. and Miss RHA had one special returning guest, "Siren," also known as Tyler Cross, a professional drag queen.

Siren, 2005 alumnus of UM-St. Louis, was the emcee of the night.

Dressed in an off the shoulder, black leopard-print dress with a black belt, fishnet pantyhose and black vinyl heeled boots to match, Siren introduced each contestant onto the stage for the audience to see.

Each contestant put on an elaborate show of who they were in character.

While some had milder characters to perform, others made sure to make their drag character stand out.

Jena Talia, a muscular man with hairy armpits dressed in a black halter top dress, a ponytail wig and lots of make up came on stage and portrayed the singer/actor Rihanna with her drag boyfriend Kok Dizzel who portrayed Chris Brown.

The pair acted out a dramatic scene of the couple's limelight fight before the 2009 Grammy's.

With Kok Dizzel's drawn on goatee, black hat, white oxford, black pants and tie his portrayal gave the audience as well as the judges an act that made him deserve to be the Mr. RHA.

"Honestly, I'm kind of a tomboy," Ashley Cummins, junior, criminal justice said. Cummins portrayed Kok Dizzel on stage.

"This is my second year and I've won two years in a row. I think it shows people are becoming more tolerant of gays and lesbians in the world," she added.

The RHA members gave out door prizes to all that attended. Students and faculty received wigs, DVD's relating to cross-dressing, books and music CD's involving musicians from the LGBT community, fishnet hosiery for men and boxers for girls.

Siren gave her first dance performance of the night by dancing and lip singing to Rihanna's "Umbrella."

While students changed into their formal attire and prepared for the final act of 'Questions and Answers with Siren,' RHA member Elisha as Trace Adkins dressed as a male drag king in a cowboy hat, boots and black shirt also performed.

When the time came for the questions and answers session even the judges were completely involved. Siren, on stage with her microphone,

asked each character a question that could have been taken as simple or provocative.

Depending on how the questions were answered and how the contestants performed previously was what determined who won the show.

Siren asked questions such as: "If I was ice cream, how would you eat me?" and "How do you like your tacos?" and "If you could be any character at Disneyworld what would you be?"

Siren involved the crowd by dancing, sitting on laps of those who looked uncomfortable and voicing her opinion.

"Some of these characters look like Old Dirty Bastard and Hillary Duff!" said Siren about Seras and Tyronne as they acted their parts on stage during the formal questions and answer session.

Generally, the elaborate costumes of the characters brought laughter and amusement to the evening.

Miss Nova Gina wore fishnet hosiery and a pink and black checkered skirt while Miss Ororo wore a simple black v-neck dress with high heels.

"Hell naw! [I didn't enjoy the makeup]. It's so hard to get into," Joshua Moore, junior, physical education said.

"That tight leather skirt against your skin makes you sweat...[but] a couple of guys learned how to walk in heels. I thought it was great [even though] I came in second [and] it hurt a little bit," he said.

The drag shows at UM-St. Louis give anyone and everyone an opportunity each year have fun, experiment, learn about different ways of living and see how others view the world.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# Lori Linning

BY ANNA MARIE CURRAN

Staff Writer

Lori Linning graduated from Harding University, a small liberal arts college with about 5,000 students in 2005. Although originally from Arkansas, Linning claims to have lost her accent, and most people would probably think the Chartwells marketing manager at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is a Missouri native.



Lori Linning Chartwells

Linning explained how different St. Louis is in comparison to her small hometown in Arkansas.

"I love St. Louis, but when I first got here I was so overwhelmed. I grew up in a town that was probably the size of UM-St. Louis," she said.

After graduating from Harding, Linning first went to work as a communications coordinator for Chartwells at St. Louis University, but then a position for Chartwells (the exclusive dining service at UM-St. Louis) marketing manager opened up at UM-St. Louis. Linning has been working here at UM-St. Louis for the last three years.

While she initially came to UM-St. Louis solely because there was a job available, she has grown to love the work because it allows her to do a variety of different things.

Linning explained that at St. Louis University she mainly performed desk work, but that here she gets to work with students which makes her feel young.

Linning claims UM-St. Louis is perfect for her because she is a "bleeding heart" and enjoys doing non-profit work, which her position with Chartwells allows her to do.

Linning does everything from coordinating programs and initiatives with student groups to working with sustainability programs in the community. She acts as a "voice" for students. Linning explained that she loves her job because it allows her to be involved on campus just as she was when she was a student working for her University's student-run paper and as a DJ on the University radio program.

Linning does a lot of projects with student groups such as the Student Government Association and the Residence Hall Association.

She explained that the RHA is the biggest proponent for Chartwells' current "share-a-meal" program and that Chartwells has worked with the SGA in the past, one example being when the Pilot house was remodeled where Linning helped get tables together and set up an opening.

Linning explained why she loves working with students so often.

"I was really involved in my student groups on campus [and] I still get to do some of that stuff but I also get to work with students and it is kind of neat to be on the other side," Linning said.

"I know it was important to me to have mentors so I like doing that with students too."

Another aspect of her job that Linning appreciates is the fact that she is able to see projects through from start to finish. She likes to see the end results and work with it all the way through the processes. She says it is all very "hands on."

In her spare occasions outside of work, Linning spends her time going to concerts and training her 16 month old puppy. She also makes an annual visit back to Arkansas every year to catch up with old friends and to work on getting that Arkansas accent back.

**Education:** Graduated from Harding University in Arkansas with a degree in business communication.

**Favorite free time activities:** going to concerts and training her puppy.

# The face of hunger

By AFTON ANDERSON

Proofreader

Approximately 855 million people across the globe are victims of the hunger crisis. The rising cost of food, fuel and the change in the climate are all reasons why 100 million more since 2007 are at risk of not being able to afford the food they need to survive. Rice and wheat have reached 20-year highs. With 40 percent of the world's population living on \$2 a day, it is no wonder that the Catholic Newman Center has continued the Hunger Banquet over the last couple years in order to raise awareness concerning the issue.

On Thursday, the Catholic Newman Center held the Hunger Banquet in Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center. The program started promptly at 12:30 p.m. Upon entering the room, the guests were handed a sealed envelope and were instructed not to open it until told to. Meanwhile, the participants were serenaded by Sarah McLachlan's acoustic stylings.

Images of undernourished people played on an overhead projector before the moderators began the event. Bridget Ryder, junior, Spanish and Holly Scheibel, senior, chemistry were the moderators for the event. They educated people on the horror of world hunger; focusing on how easy it would be to change the state of our globe with multi-partisan political and social efforts.

Developing nations often lack the capital, access to information and technology to improve their farming practices.

The U.S. support for agricultural development in these same countries has dwindled to a trickle. As many citizens of these nations struggle to pay for the basic necessities, many of them have to sell their assets including land and animals just to make ends meet. In order to show the participants how the world's wealth is



Zachari A. Walton • Staff Photographer

**Students attend the Hunger Banquet hosted by the University Board last Thursday in the Century Rooms.**

distributed, then Bridget and Holly instructed everyone to open their envelopes.

Of the group, 11 people were "impoverished," six were "middle-income" The two people deemed "high-income" were invited to a round table with fresh lemons, garlic bread and water goblets accompanied by fresh spinach salad. They were asked what kind of dressing they preferred and "servants" poured tea or ice water from the carafes that were set up.

After everyone was situated, they informed everyone of what they would be eating. The impoverished were given rice served on cardboard and dirty water to drink. The middle-income group was a little more fortunate.

They were given lemonade and a rice/bean mixture to eat. The high-income group had a choice of prime rib, chicken Parmesan and a grilled portabella as the main course, and chocolate mousse cake with a cherry glaze for dessert.

The types of food represented the quality of living for a small portion of the world deemed high-income versus the moderate to low income of the majority of the world. "I felt

gross and dirty on the floor. It's like, I'm no different than anyone else, so why am I on the floor?" asked Trish Detwiler, junior, accounting. Throughout the demonstration, participants were allowed to move if they were invited to do so by a member of a higher-income group.

"I didn't want to move because the sense of comradeship would contempt me for wanting to leave," explained Laura Kent, graduate student, biology.

Many students wondered what they could do to help. The moderators explained that short-term humanitarian belief is an option, which includes volunteering and donations. Long-term development partnerships are more important commitment, which include supporting failing businesses and economies.

The moderators explained that structural change is the key, and the other two means of support suffer greatly without the latter. Ryder closed the event by reminding us of our obligation of duty to society. She explained, "it's important to make people aware of the hunger that exists in the world. Knowledge is power. People can't do anything about it if they don't know."

## ORGASM from page 8

Solot began the program by explaining to the crowd the reason why she began her career as a sex educator.

Describing how by running her hand over her body and breasts directly, she found a lump in her breast that she may not have had she not been comfortable touching her own body.

Solot, at the young age of 26, found out later that the lump she had found was indeed cancerous.

Solot has been in remission from her breast cancer since then, however, but believes that this situation has changed her life. "Had I not been comfortable enough with my own body I may not have found that lump," Solot said.

The topic of the female orgasm was discussed next, with Solot discussing how typical it is for girls to struggle with having orgasms. "I was never one of those girls who had had one," Solot said about her pre-orgasmic life.

After going to college, Solot told the audience that she became more interested in having an orgasm. She attended a lecture on the topic initially, deciding later to purchase a book from the bookstore on women's sexuality.

"It was a little five dollar paper back thing," Solot said of the book. Solot "worked through" the exercises in the book until she finally reached her first orgasm. "After that I thought to myself, that was the best five dollars I've ever spent!"

Her early experiences with her own sexuality are one of the many reasons why Solot travels the country discussing women's sexual issues.

According to Solot, she knew that after having her first orgasm that sexual education was something she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

Solot and Miller both reinforced how different each woman was physically and sexually—talking about the dangerous effects that pornography can have on the idea of a woman's body.

The women and the men present were then separated into two groups, the men went with Miller and the women stayed with Solot in the Century rooms.

Solot explained that when she had first begun talking about the female orgasm it was a women's only event, but that men would occasionally show up and beg to be let in. "They all wanted to know what we were talking about," Solot said.

Ultimately, the separation was in-

tended to make sure that both groups could ask questions and share experiences they might otherwise have not with members of the opposite sex present.

The women were asked to write on a board the things that help in orgasms, and the board remained visible for the men to see when they came back in the room.

Solot also used the girls-only time to discuss what those present had learned growing-up about masturbation and orgasms.

Some responded that it was looked down upon, or that it had never been mentioned at all.

The men were brought back into the room and both sides were asked to share what they had discussed.

Miller and Solot then answered questions together regarding any of the topics they had gone over throughout the program.

The program successfully promoted education and knowledge about sexuality and especially women's sexuality.

Miller and Solot travel the country with their program encouraging awareness about sexual issues and encouraging healthy and fun sexual practices.

# The Apollo comes to UMSL

By JESSICA KEIL

Features Editor

The Apollo Theater in New York City has existed from the 1920s until today. In 1934 it opened to the African American community and soon after began putting on amateur night talent shows. Stars like Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye launched their careers at the Apollo and the theater is one of the most well known music halls in the United States.

On Friday night the Associated Black Collegians and the Office of Multicultural Relations Parent Support Group hosted "The Apollo at the Pilot House" right here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

In the spirit of the Apollo Theater, the talent show consisted of amateur performers showcasing their talents and the audience "judging" them with their applause.

"At the Apollo people will boo if they don't like someone, but lets not do that, it's kinda mean," Ryan Ray the emcee of the night said to the audience. "Just don't clap if you don't like someone." However, the audience always clapped for the performers, of which there were eight.

"[The Apollo at the Pilot House] is for the parents' emergency fund, which is for students who are a part of multicultural relations," Rochelle DeClue, assistant director of multicultural relations said.

"The emergency fund is a small fund to help with a meal [for needy students] or in an emergency situation."

"I'm here to watch and support," Candace Anderson, junior, secondary education with emphasis in English said.

Chancellor Thomas George came to not only show his support but to perform for the group as well.

"Chancellor George is playing piano tonight. He has been a part of our fundraiser for the past three years we have had it, although it used to be called 'An Evening of Jazz,'" she said.

George was a special guest of the night and played blues piano alongside guitarist Ron Edwards, audio visual supervisor at UM-St. Louis.

"The Office of Multicultural Relations are outstanding, they engage the community and [the Apollo at the Pilot House] is a nice community event to have and we do it right here at the Pilot House amidst the wonderful paintings which is nice," George said.

They played two songs for the crowd to start off the night. Both the songs, as Edwards explained on stage, could have been heard at the Apollo "back in the day."

[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) for more

# St. Patrick's day arrives early at UMSL

By SAMANTHA SONDEREN

Staff Writer

March 17th signifies a day for celebration, a parade and a day that is drenched in green. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many different places across the world but meanings of the day and reasons why it is celebrated may differ in the opinions of many people.

It is possible for the tradition and history of St. Patrick's Day to be forgotten, but on Wednesday, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Joint Programming Committee attempted to remind students of Irish traditions with "Irish Day" in the Nosh and the Pilot House.

"Irish Day" began at 11:30 a.m. in the Pilot House with a group of musicians who played traditional Irish music.

A group of four female dancers, some of who played instruments as well, added to the songs with performances.

"We contacted the performers back in October about performing on campus in March, knowing that

around St. Patrick's day would be a pretty busy time for them," Miriam Huffman, Associate Director, Office of Student Life said.

"We didn't want to have students miss the performance due to other events and activities going on in St. Louis," Jessica Long, Student Activities Coordinator, Office of Student Life said.

"One of the committee members had seen performances by the dancers and musicians previously, and thought that they would be great for us to bring to UM-St. Louis," Huffman said.

The group of Irish music and dance performers was chosen from St. Louis Irish Arts, a school that is dedicated to Irish culture including dance and music.

"There's a lot of Irish dance schools, but not many of them have music," Kelly Winter, teacher of accordion and concertina at St. Louis Irish Arts (SLIA) said.

SLIA is propositioned for performances throughout the St. Louis area. Students must complete 400 hours of community service; the

UM-St. Louis performance counted toward those hours. Music and dance are a large part of the lives of the performers.

"I've been dancing for 10 years, and I started harp when I was seven. I'm 15 now," Abbey Fronick, dancer and harp instrumentalist in the performance said.

SLIA's performance lasted until 12:30 p.m. Audience members came and went during the show.

Some sat down to eat the food that was provided and watch the entertainment, while others merely listened to the music and did their homework.

Although the Pilot House was by no means filled to the maximum, the show did maintain a constant group of audience members.

Smiles, foot tapping and clapping to the beat could all be seen throughout the performance.

"I thought it [the performance] was really good. I had a lot of fun watching this."

A friend told me about it and I was here," Tom McGruder, junior, education said.

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SPORTS

Softball

# DeFosset shows dominance; team spits GLVC games

By **LAGUAN FUSE**  
Staff Writer

The Tritons opened softball conference play this past weekend by splitting games against Indianapolis and St. Joseph's. The Tritons are now 12-11 overall and 2-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis lost 5-2 against the St. Joseph's Pumas in game one of a double header on Sunday before recording a 3-0 shutout in game two.

Crystal Koehler, sophomore, accounting, started the game on the mound for the Tritons and gave up five earned runs and five hits in one and one-third innings before being relieved by Amanda Seib, sophomore, accounting. Seib finished the game for UM-St.

Louis by pitching four and one-third innings without giving up another run and recorded three strikeouts.

Sara Somogyi picked up the complete game for the Pumas as she pitched seven innings and only gave up two runs and two hits. Somogyi struck out nine UM-St. Louis batters in the game.

Meghan Bauer, junior, business, finished the game 1-2 at the plate with an RBI in the first inning and one run scored. Jessica Findling, freshman, biology, recorded the only other hit in the game for the Tritons with an RBI double in the top of the seventh inning.

In game two versus the Pumas, Allyson DeFosset, senior, early childhood education, took the mound for the Tritons and made her third complete game shutout on the season as she led the team to a 3-0 victory. DeFosset struck out five batters in the game and only

gave up three hits.

Megan Riggs, senior, elementary education, ended the game 2-4 at the plate for UM-St. Louis with one run scored and one RBI. Callie Dennis, freshman, pre-law and history, finished 1-2 with one RBI and one run scored. Sarah Estopare, junior, communications, recorded one run in the game while going 1-2 at the plate.

UM-St. Louis was unable to pick up a win in the first conference game of the season as the team lost to Indianapolis 4-3 on Saturday before winning game two 3-1.

Kelly Essner, senior, nursing, took the mound for the Tritons in game one against the Greyhounds and gave up three runs on nine hits in five innings pitched. Essner went 1-4 at the plate.



**Danny Reise • Distribution Manager**  
Sophie Berman of the Lindenwood Lions tries to steal second but runs into the Tritons Kelly Essner, senior nursing, during their game Tuesday afternoon.

See **DEFOSSET** page 11

Baseball

# Tritons drop three to St. Joseph's

By **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's baseball team finally got to play some games on local soil last weekend. Unfortunately, things did not go as well as planned, as the Tritons lost three of four games to GLVC rival St. Joseph's College.

UM-St. Louis opened the season in Arkansas three weeks ago and spent the second week of the season in Florida, where the team went 5-2 in seven games.

Last weekend was supposed to be UM-St. Louis' chance to unveil its new baseball stadium on South campus. But a problem with the stadium's underground drainage system rendered the field unplayable, forcing the Tritons to move last weekend's games to Roy E. Lee Field in Edwardsville, IL.

Lee Field is the regular home to the SIU-Edwardsville baseball team, but it was the Pumas from St. Joseph's who made themselves right at home last weekend.

The Pumas won three straight from UM-St. Louis, including sweeping a doubleheader on Saturday, before the Tritons won the series finale on Sunday.

On Saturday, St. Joseph's used two late rallies to win both games that day. In the opener, the Pumas scored six runs in the top of the eighth to win what had been a close game, 9-2. Justin Rodgers (2-2), junior, physical education, took the loss for UM-St. Louis, despite allowing just five hits and three runs, while striking out five in 6 2/3 innings.



**Danny Reise • Distribution Manager**  
Pitcher Justin Rodgers, junior, physical education, tries to pick off one of St. Joseph's base runners during the Tritons home opener that took place at the Roy E. Lee Field in the Simmons Cooper Baseball complex on the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on Saturday afternoon.

In Saturday's second game, St. Joseph's scored three times in the top of the seventh to win a seven-inning game 3-0.

Gerdine Acklin (0-1), junior, interdisciplinary business, was another tough luck loser for the Tritons, after tossing 6 1/3 brilliant innings, in which he allowed just three hits and three runs while striking out six.

The low point of the weekend came in the first game of Sunday's doubleheader, when the Pumas rocked starter Austin Schuler (0-2), freshman, media studies, for nine hits and seven runs in five innings, on their way to an 8-2 win.

The Tritons were able to salvage a 4-1 win in the series finale, thanks to a standout pitching effort by Brandon Fear (1-1), sophomore, account-

ing. A native of Edwardsville, pitching in his hometown for the first time since his high school days, Fear gave up just two hits and one run, while striking out three to pick up his first collegiate win.

This time it was UM-St. Louis who would rally from behind for the victory. The Tritons trailed 1-0 in the bottom of the third, until Andy Ford, senior, physical education, scored on a passed ball to tie the game.

Moments later, Phil Widel, senior, interdisciplinary studies, gave the Tritons their first lead of the weekend when he ripped a double down the left field line to drive in Steve Porter, senior, physical education.

See **BASEBALL** page 11

Men's Tennis

# Default causes loss in first sping match

By **ANTHONY PADGETT**  
Staff Writer

Spring is in the air and sports are starting up once again. Both the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tennis teams, men's and women's, were scheduled to play this week but only one, the men got their match in.

The women's match on Monday at McKendree was postponed due to rain.

They will have to wait till Tuesday to have their first game when they host Lewis and Clark Community College at 3:30 p.m.

The men's team played at McKendree as well and almost had to postpone their game due to rain but moved the game indoors to Kings Pointe Tennis Club.

The Tritons started off on the right track with Andi Dimke, junior, international business & management, winning the first match against McKendree's Evganiy Nigmatyanou. Nigmatyanou won the first game 1-6, but Dimke rebounded by winning the second 6-2.

The final game of the first match was well played by both players but after several deuces Dimke sealed the game by a score of 10-7 and won the first match of the day.

The second game was the Triton's Daniel Anthony, sophomore, management information systems, against McKendree's Patrick Rosa. Anthony defeated Patrick in two games with a score of 6-4, 6-4 and won the second match.

The Tritons were ahead with two sets compared to McKendree's none.

In the third match, Alex Cherman, sophomore, international business, of the Tritons faced off against Danny Gonzalez.

Cherman played well in the first game but lost in a deuce by the score of 7-6. The second set was not even close though with a score of 6-1 in favor of Gonzalez.

Gonzalez had won McKendree's first match of the day. The Tritons were now only leading by one match.

The Tritons would bounce back in the fourth set. Peter Hantack, sophomore, education, defeated Davi Verdito in two games by a score of 6-2 and 6-4.

But McKendree was not rolling over. In the fifth match Paulo Gonculec of McKendree defeated Maor Grinas, freshman, international business, of the Tritons in two sets with a score of 6-1 and 6-1.

After five singles matches the Tritons were leading by a score of 3-2 but this would be the last time they would lead.

For the sixth match, the Tritons were forced to default with only five players on their team. McKendree tied the Tritons for the first time all day. The match score was now tied 3-3.

In the first doubles match, the Tritons Dimke and Cherman played McKendree's Patrick Rosa and Danny Gonzalez.

See **TENNIS** page 11

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Allyson DeFosset

There is no doubt who the Triton's best softball pitcher is this season. Allyson Defosset, senior, early childhood education, has already pitched three complete game shutouts and has racked up seven wins, which is more than half of the team's total wins.

She has an ERA of 0.71 in just over 79 innings of work. Already she has over 100 strikeouts to go along with the team leading ERA. In all of her pitching this season only 15 runs have crossed the plate.

Last week she was the GLC pitcher of the week.

UPCOMING GAMES

Baseball

March 21-22 at Indianapolis (dh) noon

Softball

March 17 vs. S.W. Baptist (dh) 2 p.m.

March 21 vs. S. Indiana (dh) noon

March 22 vs. KY. Wesleyan (dh) noon

March 23 at MO. Southern St. (dh) 4 p.m.

Women's Tennis

March 18 vs. Emporia St. 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis

March 17 vs. Lewis & Clark 3:30 p.m.

March 18 vs. Emporia St. 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis

# Stephanie Thompson is anxious to start season

By **ANNA MARIE CURRAN**  
Staff Writer

Stephanie Thompson is ready to start the women's tennis season. A junior international student, Thompson is a marketing and international business major. Although she only has one more year of school left, Thompson will have two more years of eligibility.

Thompson has been playing tennis for 10 years. When she was in high school she played on a provincial team, as the team at her high school was not very competitive, she also played volleyball and softball.

Thompson decided to play tennis at a university level because she "thought receiving a scholarship for playing was a great opportunity".

Thompson is also a student in the Pierre Laclède Honors College here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. At the beginning of the semester she was juggling schoolwork as well as late night practice, but now that the tennis team has a more regular schedule, she expects it will be easier. When asked why she chose to play tennis for UM-St. Louis, Thompson responded,

"I had a friend who here and played tennis here and really liked it. It is also top 20 in international business programs which went along with my scholarship."

Thompson is currently unable to improve her service game as she has been recovering from a recently strained rotator cuff. Because of her injury, she has not been able to serve or hit overhead shots, but is confident that by the time the season begins, she will have fully recovered.

In general, Thompson considers herself as an "all-around player". Thompson said,

"I am good on defense, but I like to be aggressive and come to the net [as well]."

Last season Thompson ended the year at 11-13, and 5-5 in conference play, while playing in the number one position for the Tritons. She was also a GLVC Academic All-Conference selection.

Since she will have one year of eligibility left after she graduates, Thompson plans on playing for sure in the fall after her senior year, but is still unsure of whether she will continue to play in the spring.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

# Triton baseball has it rough



By **BRYAN GOERS**  
Sports Editor

There are a lot of issues facing this year's University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball team but the biggest has nothing to do with the players, coaches or administrators. The biggest challenge facing the Tritons is the weather and lack of a home field.

Most people probably do not think about the weather affecting teams in different regions differently. Teams in the south enjoy 60 degree weather starting in February and are able to play 20 games before the Tritons can even get outside to practice.

At UM-St. Louis the temperature, on average, does not get

above 60 for a month until April. Henderson State University is a perfect example of that. Henderson had already played 18 games and won 15 of them before UM-St. Louis traveled to meet them.

If that is not bad enough, the season opener for the Tritons was also the first time the entire team had been outside on a baseball field.

Think of seeing a pop fly into centerfield and the last time the centerfielder had seen a pop fly was six months ago. Then compare that to a team that had been practicing outside since February. The odds are very much against the Tritons in that case.

Putting weather aside for a moment there is still the fact of practicing outside and on a baseball field. Every team in the GLVC except two has baseball fields on their campuses. The two exceptions are Drury University and UM-St. Louis.

Drury, however, has an agreement with a local park where they are able to use the field as much and whenever they want to as long as they maintain the field. They also have the right to kick people

off of the field, as they are the top priority. UM-St. Louis has no such agreement with any field in the area. What the little time the team does get on a baseball diamond comes during games or at a park where a high school Junior Varsity team can kick the Tritons off the field for their own practice.

As if those factors were not bad enough, then just think of the psychological factor. Yogi Berra once said, "Baseball is ninety percent mental and the other half is physical."

His point was that baseball is a sport that requires a lot of mental focus and winning and losing is something that often happens due to mental state. A pitcher or batter needs to at least think that the umpire is going to have a uniform strike zone.

A pitcher needs to think that if he throws a pitch there is a good chance the umpire is going to call it a strike, otherwise, pitches start going all over the place because he is not focused in. A batter needs to think that he has a chance to hit something.

See **ROUGH** page 11

**Do you bleed red and gold?** As of March 10 Allyson Defosset led the GLVC in ERA, innings pitched, strikeouts, and shutouts.

# Softball Six straight wins leading up to conference games

By **LAQUAN FUSE**  
Staff Writer

Allyson DeFosset, senior, early childhood education, struck out seven batters in a complete game victory against Emporia State on Sunday. DeFosset now has 287 career strikeouts, which puts her in second at the University of Missouri-St. Louis' for all-time strikeouts. Jill Stockdale, who pitched from 1993-95, leads the list with 429 career strikeouts.

DeFosset's win also marked the Triton's sixth straight win, bringing the team's record to 9-9. UM-St. Louis defeated the University of Wisconsin-Parkside 6-4 and then went on to defeat Emporia State 2-1.

In game one, the Tritons trailed the Rangers 4-1, but in the sixth inning outfielder Holly Nichols, junior, sociology, hit a solo homerun to cut the lead to two. Carly Maddock, junior, criminal justice, came into the game to pinch hit for the Tritons and gave the team the lead with a two-run homerun. Carolyn Oquidendo, sopho-

more, undecided, hit an RBI double to bring in the final run of the game, giving the Tritons the 6-4 win.

Kaitlyn Hasty, freshman, psychology, came in as a relief pitcher in the sixth and picked up the win. DeFosset came in the game in the seventh and picked up the save.

In game two, both teams got on the scoreboard in the first inning. Kelly Essner, senior, nursing, scored after being brought home with an RBI single by Heather Arras, freshman, undecided, to tie the game. Essner scored the game-winning run in the fifth after the double by Megan Riggs, senior, elementary education.

The Tritons were able to pick up a couple of shutout victories in their winning streak as they defeated Illinois-Springfield 9-0, before beating Truman State 2-0.

Crystal Koehler, sophomore, accounting, picked up the win in game one and DeFosset picked up the complete game shutout.

See **SOFTBALL** page 12

## BASEBALL from page 10

Widel's hot start to the season ranks him as one of the top hitters in the GLVC so far this season. His .420 batting average (21 hits in 50 at-bats), 18 RBIs, 30 total bases and .600 slugging percentage all rank among the conference's top 10.

Widel's team-leading fifth hit of the weekend stood as the difference in the game, until the bottom of the seventh, when Kenny Ford, junior, elementary education, drove in two insurance runs when a line shot single to center.

Ryne Moleski, sophomore, media studies, pitched the final three innings in relief, allowing just two hits and one walk, to pick up his second save of the season.

The win lifted UM-St. Louis' overall record to 6-9 and their GLVC record to 1-3. After the opening week-

end of conference play, the Tritons are tied for fifth place in the GLVC West Division.

UM-St. Louis will return to action this weekend when they visit the University of Indianapolis for back-to-back doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday.

Indianapolis is currently in first place in the GLVC East Division, after winning three of four games this past weekend against GLVC West Division opponente Missouri S&T.

The Tritons hope to finally show off their new stadium when they return home for a weekend series against the University of Southern Indiana, March 27-29.

The teams will play a single game on Fri., March 27, followed by a doubleheader on Sat., March 28, and a single game on Sun., March 29.

## STATS CORNER

### ROLLER HOCKEY

Great Plains Region Standings

Team (Division 1)	Overall (W-L-T)	Pts
Lindenwood	23-0-0	46
<b>UM - St. Louis</b>	<b>16-4-0</b>	<b>32</b>
UM - Columbia	11-7-1	23
Missouri S&T	5-13-1	11

Upcoming Games  
The Tritons will play in the National Championship Tournament which starts on April 2nd.



Check out all the stats this season, more sports stories and more pictures online at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com). Then click on sports. You can also comment on stories, email them to your friends, and have The Current sent to your email by simply by logging on.

### MEN'S TENNIS

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
1. Rockhurst	0-0	5-0
1. Drury	0-0	2-1
1. Saint Joseph's	0-0	7-4
1. N. Kentucky	0-0	5-4
1. Bellarmine	0-0	2-2
<b>1. UM - St. Louis</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-1</b>

Box Scores

March 10	Total
McKendree	5
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>4</b>

1. Andi Dimke, won 1-6, 6-2, 10-7  
2. Daniel Anthony, won 6-4, 6-4  
3. Alex Cherman, lost 6-7, 1-6  
4. Peter Hantack, won 6-2, 6-4  
5. Maor Grinas, lost 1-6, 1-6  
6. No player UM-SL, lost, by default

### SOFTBALL

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
1. Lewis	3-1	19-8
1. Indianapolis	3-1	11-9
1. St. Joseph's	3-1	10-6
<b>5. UM - St. Louis</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>12-11</b>
5. Rockhurst	2-2	7-6
5. UW-Parkside	2-2	3-5

Box Scores

March 10	Runs	Hits	Errors
Lindenwood	0	1	0
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

March 14

Runs	Hits	Errors	
Indianapolis	4	10	1
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

March 14

Runs	Hits	Errors	
Indianapolis	1	3	4
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

March 15

Runs	Hits	Errors	
St. Joseph's	0	3	2
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

March 15

Runs	Hits	Errors	
St. Joseph's	5	8	2
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

### BASEBALL

GLVC West Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Rockhurst	2-2	14-6
Southern Indiana	4-0	13-5
Drury	4-0	12-8
<b>UM - St. Louis</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>6-9</b>
Missouri S&T	1-3	6-14
Quincy	4-0	10-9

Box Scores

March 14	Runs	Hits	Errors
St. Joseph's	9	11	3
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

March 14

Runs	Hits	Errors	
St. Joseph's	3	4	1
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

March 15

Runs	Hits	Errors	
St. Joseph's	8	9	0
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

March 15

Runs	Hits	Errors	
St. Joseph's	1	4	1
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

## TENNIS from page 10

Dimke and Cherman won the game and match by a score of 9-7.

The second doubles match had Evganiy Nigmatyanou and Dough Nennerck of McKendree going up against Anthony and Hantack of the Tritons. McKendree won the game and match by a score of 8-3. This was the last match and set of the day as the final doubles match would be defaulted by the Tritons because of a lack of enough players. The

## ROUGH from page 10

Umpires can be a huge factor on a game when the players on the field are out there for the first time.

Players are just not used to throwing pitches in a situation where an umpire may call a pitch a ball when the pitcher thinks it is a strike.

Also when a player is at bat in a pressure situation it helps to have seen pitches with the backdrop of a field and sky, meaning practicing outside.

The lack of outside practice means that a batter may not have the same confidence at the plate as others, and any baseball player will tell you confidence is key.

Playing at home in front of a team's own fans is part of the mental game as well. A team that has to take a bus to a game every time faces a harder time than a team that is able to drive from their home, dorm, or apartment, to a game.

For UM-St. Louis, things are starting to change, however. The new baseball field will help with some of the being outside issues, weather not withstanding.

Also, having a field on campus will allow for a home field advantage for the first time in years. However,

## DEFOSET from page 10

Kaitlyn Hasty, freshman, psychology, pitched one inning for the Tritons and gave up one run on one hit.

Game two against the Greyhounds went in favor of the Tritons as the team picked up the win 3-1.

DeFosset won her sixth game of the season and picked up the complete game while giving up only three hits and striking out 10 batters.

Essner and Holly Nichols, junior, sociology, had the only hits

this season will be tough as the team is not going to be able to play on the field till the sod takes place, and that requires help from Mother Nature. Plus the team has already not been able to practice outside, unlike the opponents they will be facing.

Head coach Jim Brady will most likely not allow this to be used as an excuse for losses, but the fan needs to realize the enormity of the task in front of the Tritons.

This is a team that has been unable to practice outside and has played the fewest number of games in the conference as conference play opened up, meaning the rest of the GLVC has not only been practicing outside and on their home fields, but also has more game experience.

The baseball team has a huge task in front of them this season as a result of a lot of issues aforementioned.

However, with a little luck and the skill of the team, Coach Brady has put together the Tritons may be able to pull off a few upsets.

Fill out *The Current's* March Madness bracket and turn it in to 388 MSC by March 20 at 5 p.m. The bracket is based on a point system, and the winner will receive a special gift basket.

# MARCH MADNESS

brought to you by

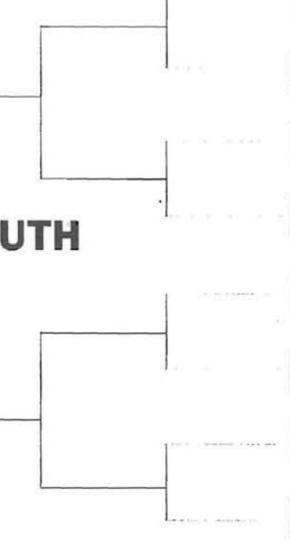
## The Current

- (1) CONNECTICUT
- (16) UT-CHATTANOOGA
- (8) BYU
- (9) TEXAS A&M
- (5) PURDUE
- (12) N. IOWA
- (4) WASHINGTON
- (13) MISSISSIPPI STATE
- (6) MARQUETTE
- (11) UTAH STATE
- (3) MISSOURI
- (14) CORNELL
- (7) CALIFORNIA
- (10) MARYLAND
- (2) MEMPHIS
- (15) CS NORTHRIDGE



## WEST

- (1) NORTH CAROLINA
- (16) RADFORD
- (8) LSU
- (9) BUTLER
- (5) ILLINOIS
- (12) W. KENTUCKY
- (4) GONZAGA
- (13) AKRON
- (6) ARIZONA STATE
- (11) TEMPLE
- (3) SYRACUSE
- (14) S F AUSTIN
- (7) CLEMSON
- (10) MICHIGAN
- (2) OKLAHOMA
- (15) MORGAN STATE



## SOUTH

- (1) LOUISVILLE
- (16) TBD
- (8) OHIO STATE
- (9) SIENA
- (5) UTAH
- (12) ARIZONA
- (4) WAKE FOREST
- (13) CLEVELAND STATE
- (6) WEST VIRGINIA
- (11) DAYTON
- (3) KANSAS
- (14) NORTH DAKOTA ST.
- (7) BOSTON COLLEGE
- (10) USC
- (2) MICHIGAN ST.
- (15) ROBERT MORRIS



## MIDWEST

- (1) PITTSBURGH
- (16) E. TENN ST.
- (8) OKLAHOMA ST.
- (9) TENNESSEE
- (5) FLORIDA ST.
- (12) WISCONSIN
- (4) XAVIER
- (13) PORTLAND ST.
- (6) UCLA
- (11) VCU
- (3) VILLANOVA
- (14) AMERICAN
- (7) TEXAS
- (10) MINNESOTA
- (2) DUKE
- (15) BINGHAMTON



## EAST

\*Also check out our online version at [thecurrentonline.com](http://thecurrentonline.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CHARTWELLS, from page 3

She also said she does not eat it for the nutritional benefits and only eats when she does not bring her own lunch.

Janshun Zhong, graduate student, biology, has a more satisfactory view of the food services on campus. "It's nice. It's cheaper than fast food."

Chartwells controls food services in over 875 schools and universities throughout the country. Except for the sushi bar in the Nosh, all on-campus dining areas in UM-St. Louis are owned and operated by Chartwells.

SEXTING, from page 4

Social norms are not innately good or bad, but acquire moral labels within the social contexts we create.

As far as I can see, society has stunted emotional development, making teens feel like children even though their bodies are essentially adult-bodies. It seems logical that people between the age of eight and seventeen should be sexually curious. Even further, it would be abnormal for these people to not display forms of sexual curiosity.

Now, it is unfortunate that an intimate picture of a person has been circulating against her will, but this is not the focus of the article and is definitely not the focus of the legal ramifications. The focus is the sexual actions of certain people. In the article they even discuss charging some of the teens with distribution of child pornography. Sexting has been called a 'disturbing trend,' and adults, such as the detective in the article, are apparently baffled by the behavior of these teens. They investigate the causes of these actions, and never stop to think that teens are curious and want to explore the unknown. It is natural.

After reading the article on sexting, I realized something about our culture. Many of our views on certain sexual acts are illogical, which in my opinion makes our views invalid. Is it possible that we have created an environment that breeds sexual deviance? Have we made such a big deal about sex that some people end up forming obsessions for what they are suppose-to detest? Are teens being repressed to a harmful extent and then punished for not adhering to their repression?

ACCESS MISSOURI, from page 1

Many consider this bill to be so important because they feel private schools do not encourage their students to stay in Missouri after graduation. Therefore, the money was spent on someone's education who will eventually leave the state and do little to help improve its economy. Churie Sprung, board member, vice president, and student advocate for ASUM, explained how students who attend a public university are more likely to stay in the state and contribute to the Missouri economy after graduation. Sprung was the one who originally introduced the bill to the Student Government Association at UM-St. Louis. Sprung explained why she feels it is so important. Sprung said,

"It would level the playing field in funding. We have a responsibility to keep our [Missouri] economy going."

Sprung said, "That's what we need; Good, educated, people who graduate from the state, working in the state."

Sprung explained that another reason she feels the bill is so important is because Private schools typically have larger endowments anyway. For example, Washington University has an endowment of over 4 billion dollars whereas University of Missouri only has \$800 million. T

he state does not control how private schools appropriate their funds, but public schools are required to have all of their funds appropriated. Sprung said that upon graduation students who attended a private school are \$10,000 less in debt than students

who attended a public university. Sprung said,

"Those of us who choose to go to a public [school should not receive less funds] just because some people choose to go to a private school."

Currently the bill has been read, but has not been assigned a committee. Since the bill is in "limbo" it could end up dying or could eventually be assigned a committee.

If students are eager to find out more information about the Access Missouri bill, Wednesday March 18, Senator Jeff Smith will be having a "lunch with legislation". It will take place in room 313 of the Millennium Student Center and will cover information about the Access Missouri bill as well as the future of higher educational funding. Vaughn and Sprung both stressed the importance of students "being their own advocates" and the lunch with legislation could be the first step for many. Vaughn said "We want [students] to understand and be advocates for themselves by writing letters to their local legislatures or writing letters ASUM can deliver. Any kind of correspondence [ASUM] will make sure it gets to the right place."

Vaughn explained this bill could be the difference for countless students. It could mean a student has to take out one less loan, or it could even be the deciding factor of whether or not a student can afford a college education. Public students should have the same opportunity for an affordable education that is made available to private students.

SOFTBALL, from page 11

The winning streak for the Tritons began with a pair of wins against Lincoln on March 5.

UM- St. Louis picked up the win in the first game 6-5 in eight innings and then won the second game 5-3.

Koehler pitched three innings and picked up the win for the Tritons in game one. Karey Kruse, sophomore, special education, hit

a two-run homer in the eight inning to snap the Tritons' previous six-game losing streak.

DeFosset picked up her second win of the season as the Tritons picked up their second win of the streak.

DeFosset struck out 10 batters in the contest in five and one-third innings.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free for students, faculty and staff. To place an ad, please send your ad (40 words or less), your name, and student or employee number to thecurrent@umsl.edu, or call 516-5316.

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Furnished Apartments will be available for Fall 2009! One and two bedroom campus apartments now available at Mansion Hills Apartments. Large apartments include dishwasher, garbage disposal, on-site laundry facilities, pool, UMSL shuttle service, police station, etc. Now available. Some restrictions apply. Call today! 314-524-3446. Two bedroom apartments for rent. Hardwood floors. Refrigerator and stove included. No pets allowed. U City area. \$725 per month. Contact Karen 314-882-7585.

MISC.

Join Alpha Phi Omega as we Rock 4 the Cause on April 9, 2009 @ the Pilot House. Live music door prizes and free food. Show starts at 6. Donations Welcome. Proceeds go to Relay For Life. Contact Amber: amm3md@umsl.edu. Please help Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Locke get a response from Senator McCaskill concerning a government experiment done without consent. Telephone McCaskill at (314) 367-1364 and simply ask her to "Please help the Lockes get closure."

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DON'T FORGET NATIONAL MAN-DATE DAY MARCH 19TH! The Current INVITES YOU AND YOUR MAN TO A SPECIAL SCREENING OF I LOVE YOU, MAN. LOG ON TO THECURRENTONLINE.COM BEGINNING TODAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH TO FIND OUT HOW YOU COULD WIN A SCREENING PASS FOR TWO. Join us Thursday, March 19th at Helen Fitzgerald's (3650 S. Lindbergh Blvd) for a NATIONAL MAN-DATE DAY CELEBRATION! T-shirts, posters and other prizes will be given away all night! ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH TO JOIN US? www.iloveyouaman.com

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**CURRENT CARTOONISTS**

**SCONEBOROUGH**

by E. Gearhart



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart

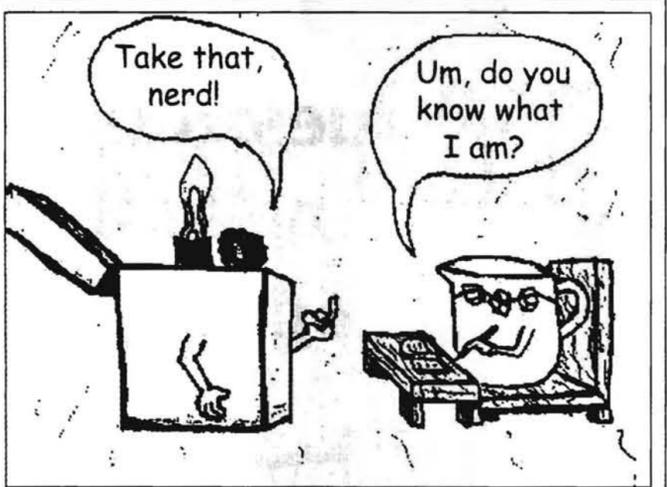
**PERM SPAWN, Hooray!**



"Perm Spawn" is drawn by Current cartoonist Caleb True

**Bananas**  
#4  
By: Paul Maguire

Once upon a time, there was a lighter and a jug of water...



"Bananas" is drawn by Current cartoonist Paul Maguire

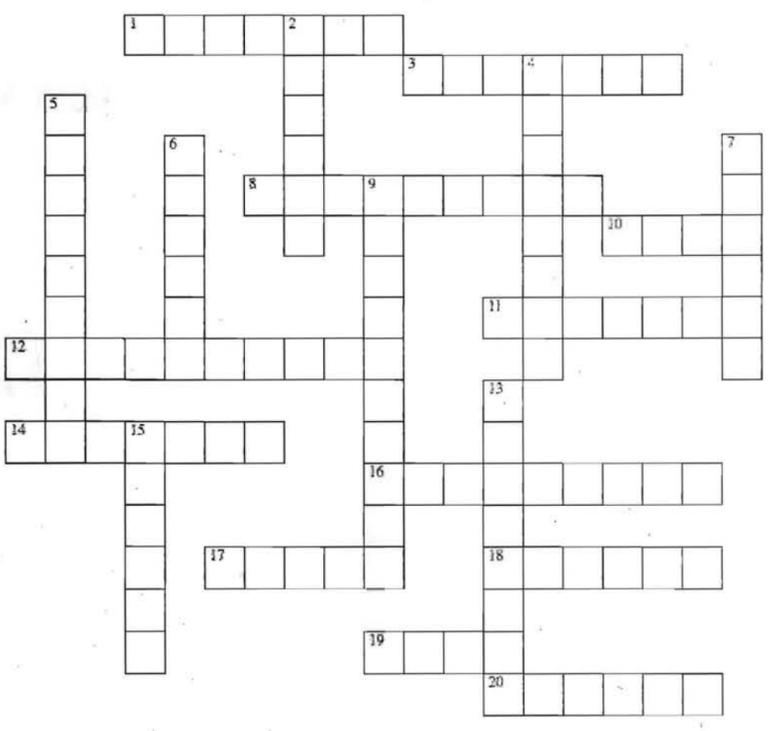
**CURRENT SUDOKU**

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

Current Sudoku is made by Gene Doyel, Design Editor

**CURRENT CROSSWORD**

**Current Events**



- ACROSS**
- Title bestowed upon the dubiously-motivated woman who recently gave a whole lot of birth.
  - Pregnant Alaskan governor's daughter who recently broke up with her boyfriend/baby daddy
  - Yankee star who recently confessed to "unknowingly" taking steroids.
  - Controversial act that would allow Union members to choose whether or not to have a secret ballot.
  - Tom who stepped down from cabinet position among tax scandal.
  - State whose workers now are required to take a two-day furlough every month.
  - Saint recently recognized through the loving consumption of Guinness
  - Controversial bio-medical items whose ban President Obama recently overturned.
  - Country whose president Omar Al-Bashir is accused of war crimes.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Missouri Grant, formerly the Charles Gallagher Grant.
  - Michael Phelps took a lot of heat after a photo surfaced of him with one of these.
  - River where a plane crash landed successfully and without casualties.
- DOWN**
- Recent (University) winner of "Big 12" men's basketball conference.
  - This fictional figure's first comic just fetched some \$317,000 when auctioned online. Apparently somebody still has money.
  - In desperate economic straits, California is considering this as a new source of tax revenue.
  - He made off with a lot of people's savings.
  - Money guru who recently got into it with "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart
  - New Mexico governor who withdrew from nomination to the Commerce Secretary position.
  - Right-wing talk show host who recently addressed CPAC.
  - Country whose representative was given a symbolic red button by Secy. of State Clinton.

**CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM**

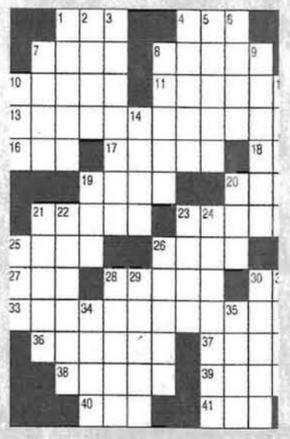
Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the As in the message, and so on.

AOVVMQYZZ MQ MQGYXXMPYQG  
 VYFVXY MZ GAY IOIYZG  
 GAMQP M CQFJ.

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!

Find answers to this week's crossword at

**The Current**  
online.com



*The Current* is accepting crossword submissions. If you would like to submit your own crossword questions and answers, you can contact us at (314) 516-5174. We'll even give you a free t-shirt!

**ANDERSON, from page 1**

She plans to do this through implementing student surveys and monthly town hall meetings where students can express their opinions and needs. Anderson said, "What do students think SGA could be, should be?"

Anderson also feels that students need to be more informed. Anderson said, "We should do more advertising, going beyond the MSC. Lots of times, the Fine Arts Building, the Music Building and South campus is forgotten about. We need to reach and raise the awareness level of all students."

Another change Anderson believes would be beneficial would be to bring back the Student Government Executive Cabinet and the SGA Cabinet, an idea originally implemented by former SGA President Bryan Goers.

The Executive Cabinet was made up of the Associated Students of The University of Missouri (ASUM), SGA, Student Senate and Student Court.

It was a forum that fostered greater communication between these representative powers on the legislative level.

The SGA Cabinet was made up of the major organizations on campus including presidents from Greek life, University Program Board, Residence Hall Association (RHA), among others, in order to offer opportunities for greater cooperation between organizations.

Anderson also wants to expand the SGA newsletter that is in table tent form now to a larger weekly publication where SGA can let the students know what has been accomplished that week and allow a measure of accountability.

Another issue that is very important to Anderson is continued work on the Metro Referendum, put on hold with the freeze of fees.

The Metro Referendum would once again make the student Metro pass free for UM-St. Louis students. Anderson would explore options of having students vote on the referendum mid-year, so that the Board of Curators would be able to vote on it a year earlier and, if passed, allow the Metro pass to be free again by 2011, rather than wait until 2012.

Anderson is a junior, secondary education major with an emphasis on English. She is, in addition to her other leadership activities, also active on the University Program Board, Associated Black Collegians (ABC), and Helping Hands.

**RITTER, from page 1**

She also was a Resident Assistant, Conference Assistant, Homecoming 2007 Dance Chair, Homecoming 2008 Co-Chair, and Relay for Life Team Recruitment 2008. Over the previous summers she was a New Student Orientation Mentor 2007, New Student Orientation Senior Mentor 2008, Delta Zeta Publicity Chair, Student Activities Budget Committee 2007, Pan-Hellenic Council Public Relations Chair, as well, being a member of the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

Ritter sees the role of SGA president to be "that voice for the students." She views the president as being the most recognizable member of the board, and thus, feels the president should be the most accessible.

Ritter believes that this year's SGA board made a lot of positive changes and wishes to continue that. Ritter said, "Our administration is the first that has been primarily student-centered."

This is based off of Ritter's assertion that this year's SGA board made fewer decisions based on UM-St. Louis' administration and went to them less than previous boards have. Ritter said, "We talk to the administration, definitely, but it has been about a 70 to 30 percent ratio in favor of the students."

Ritter believes that there have been, "as promised in my campaign last year, Fresh Outlook," a lot of new ideas this year, the highlights of which are: the new weekly SGA newsletter on the table tents in the Nosh, where SGA provides free advertising for student organizations' events, the Pilot House Makeover and the "Free Hugs" campaign.

Ritter feels that her campaign and slate is the perfect combination of fresh ideas and experience. The ER Difference became the slogan for Ritter, Meyer and Rosner, because, as Ritter said, "We wanted something catchy so we saw that all of our names end in -er, and after a while came up with the Experience and Representation."

According to Ritter, "together, we make up a lot of diverse backgrounds and views. Our priority is going to be student accessibility."

Ritter is a junior, liberal studies major. She is highly involved in her sorority Delta Zeta as well as having most her time taken up by her position as Student Government Association President.

**MEYER, from page 1**

Meyers said, "These last two years have been a great opportunity to make an impact, especially being on the SGA executive board this past year."

Meyer sees the duties of the Vice-President as largely assisting in the running of committees and in the fulfillment of the executive board's goals.

Meyer said, "This coming year some of the focus will be on getting organizations to go green, being more open to the students so people will see exactly what's going on. Within my position as SGA Chair, I had to learn on my feet as the previous Chair stepped down mid-term for personal reasons."

Meyer's responsibilities as Chair was to be the representative of assembly to the executive board, help facilitate meetings and make agendas for the meetings.

Meyer believes he offers a lot of connections to a variety of student populations. These include the Greek system, SABC, Athletics and the Catholic Newman Center, among others.

Meyer's personal goals for the next term, if elected, would be to increase school spirit and student relations.

One of the ways he proposes to accomplish that would be through a weekly radio show on the U, where SGA lets students know what has been done, what is going on and is able to take their questions and comments.

He would also like to bring back the program, "Cookies with Curt," an event where students had the opportunity to meet and talk with the vice-provost of Student Affairs, Curt Coonrod.

Meyer is a junior, business administration major.

He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha as well as a member of the Greek honors society, Order of Omega.

**ROSNER, from page 1**

He was also the 2008 Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Hall (MACURH) Delegate representing the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Rosner said, "Having the experience I do with funding and programs, especially through RHA, I know how to spend less money to put on the same quality of programs."

Rosner sees the duties of SGA Comptroller as centering on the Student Activity Budget Committee (SABC), ensuring that organizations use their monies appropriately and running the SGA Budget.

Rosner feels that he can offer a "stronger representation of South Campus." The oft remarked upon "Natural Bridge divide," Rosner feels is large factor in student relations.

Rosner is part of the slate, "The ER Difference: Experience to Represent You", along with Greg Meyer and Grace Marie Ritter.

He shares the slate goals, aforementioned and also has some specific goals related to his position in mind. One of these would be a step that offers more help to organizations that have had their budgets frozen.

These organizations, in order to unfreeze their budgets, have the requirement to do community or help SGA in some way.

Rosner would like to have community service project already in place that would be immediately available to those organizations rather than have them search out their own.

Some examples of possible service projects Rosner mentioned were adopting a highway near UM-St. Louis or volunteering at a soup kitchen, projects that SGA would keep going regardless of organizations' participations.

Rosner said, "This way we can show the 'good face' of UMSL by offering a service to the community and to school itself."

One of the other priorities Rosner holds is to make SGA more available to the student population as a whole: North and South campus, commuter and resident students.

As an extension of that priority, Rosner believes one way to accomplish that is for students to vote in the upcoming elections and to express their opinions to the candidates.

**SPINA-CLOSSEN, from page 1**

He also has experience in a past leadership position as a manager at McDonald's. Spina-Clossen said, "I led a crew in operating the business to satisfy customers; being their leader made me ecstatic because of the idea they looked up to me and followed how I operated to ensure we ran smoothly and correctly."

Spina-Clossen sees the main duties of the SGA Comptroller as dealing a lot with budgets of the student organizations, as well as allocation of funds and misuse of those funds. The some of the main qualities Spina-Clossen believes the Comptroller requires is integrity and honesty to help determine and administer funds correctly to the Student Organizations across campus paired with responsibility and judgment. Spina-Clossen said, "To have responsibility and good judgment is vital because I would be determining what money is allocated to whom, and that is not just an every day thing."

If elected to the SGA Comptroller position, Spina-Clossen would like to see more involvement on the part of the Comptroller in the meetings. Spina-Clossen said, "I would be willing to answer any questions and more than willing to inform anyone on what is going on with the budget. I want people to want to know what is going on so we all can be up-to-date on what is taking place on our campus." Spina-Clossen would also like to see the larger organizations on campus receive more funding. He wishes to allocate funds to those organizations that reach a larger body of the students. However, Spina-Clossen also wants to be sure to help every organization regardless, because every organization reaches one student or another. Spina-Clossen said, "I feel that my job, as Comptroller, would be to help every organization succeed."

Spina-Clossen is a junior, business administration major. He is a transfer student, with this being his first semester. On a more personal note, Spina-Clossen says, "I don't know how to portray my leadership skills and independence without revealing the information that I lost my mother at the age of 14, left with no father and had to take on the role of growing up quickly and becoming independent and a leader. At that point in my life, I learned to become a leader and to become persistent and realized how important it was for me to become someone who could be looked up to and to become a leader."

The SGA elections start on April 20 and end on April 24 at midnight.

For all your election coverage or to voice your opinion on the candidates log on to <http://thecurrentonline.com>

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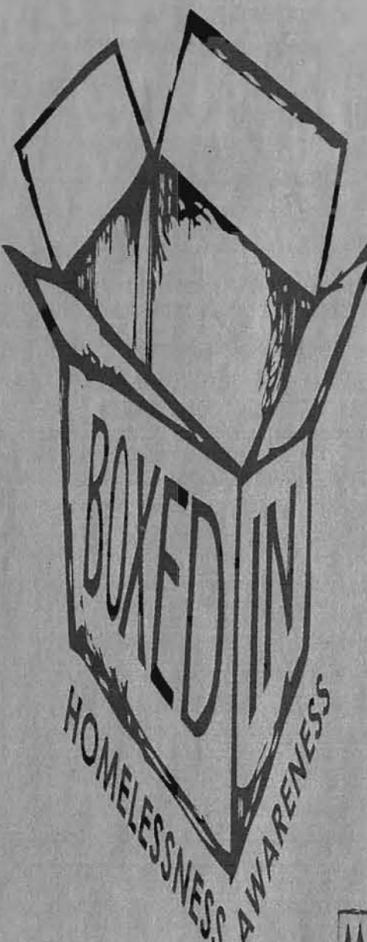


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