



**Walking on shattered glass**  
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## Oregon Senate tables tuition increase

BY BROOK REINHARD  
Oregon Daily Emerald

(U-WIRE) EUGENE, Ore. - The Oregon Legislature reached a compromise Thursday that tables a proposed tuition increase and dulls program cuts for higher education.

Student leaders cheered and University of Oregon officials were dismayed as legislators avoided action on a University-backed amendment to budget proposals that would have allowed individual Oregon University System schools to raise tuition rates up to 3 percent beyond normal levels.

As part of the compromise, legislators agreed to restore \$5 million to the undergraduate education budget for OUS. The increase will fund exclusively "student-professor" costs, including salaries and academic budgets.

"This is a solution that all of us can live with," said Joelle Lester, executive director of the Oregon Student Association, an Oregon higher education advocacy group.

Legislators have been meeting all week in their second special session to solve to the state's \$846 million budget deficit. Although several budget proposals are being discussed, OUS is likely to face \$48 million in cuts, which include almost \$9 million in reductions at the University.

The budget, and its tuition amendments, is being debated in the Senate Budget and Finance Committee, and house representatives are watching the process.

University President Dave Frohnmayer said Thursday's decision to table the budget will make his and other administrators' jobs more frustrating. He said the amendment, if the Legislature decides to pass it later, would help the University avoid drastic program cuts.

The amendment would have increased the amount of money OUS could receive in tuition dollars by \$8.4 million, OUS director of government relations Grattan Kerans said. Under the proposal, the University could have increased tuition more than \$100 per student over this year's cost and other previously proposed hikes.

Tim Young, a student representative for the State Board of Higher Education, said the legislature attempted to balance program cuts and student access.

"It's a pretty wise move on the Legislature's part," said Young. "At least it's in line with our goals."

He pointed out that when the budget-cutting process started in October, the State Board of Higher Education flagged in-state undergraduate education as its No. 1 goal.

Kerans said the Senate's action Thursday was unexpected, but not out of character with a legislative body during a special session.

"Anything that happens today can unhappen tomorrow," he said.

# Nosh no longer takes credit

## Speed of service, cost, factors in choice

BY NICK BOWMAN  
Senior Editor

Visa may be how the world pays, but if the world wants to dine at The Nosh or anywhere else at UM-St. Louis, then they had better bring cash.

As of Friday, March 1, Chartwell's, the group in charge of campus dining, has decided to no longer accept credit card purchases at any UM-St. Louis campus locations.

The main reason that was given for the removal, according to Linda Thacker, administrator for general manager Bob Evans, was that the machines slow the cashier's lines. Some employees also mentioned that the removal was a cost-saving matter. Thacker, who serves as the accountant for the division, had no knowledge of the latter reasoning.

"I was never approached about the removal as a cost-saving matter," Thacker said.

Major credit card companies take a

percentage of each sale at the register. For every purchase, regardless of the amount, one dollar goes directly to the company. UM-St. Louis catering services spent over \$11,000 in credit card transactions last year.

Gloria Schultz, who had attended a meeting with Evans and other campus administrators, mentioned that a large part of the decision to pull the machines was that the credit card process slows down the lines in the cafeteria.

"They were really looking to speed up service in the lines," Schultz said.

Signs were posted on Monday explaining the changes that students could expect, as well as giving students a revised version of the Millennium Cash Plan. With the plan, students may still use their credit cards to prepay for their food. Twenty-five dollars is the minimum a student may purchase ahead of time. Also, a five percent discount will be credited to all food bought using Millennium Cash.

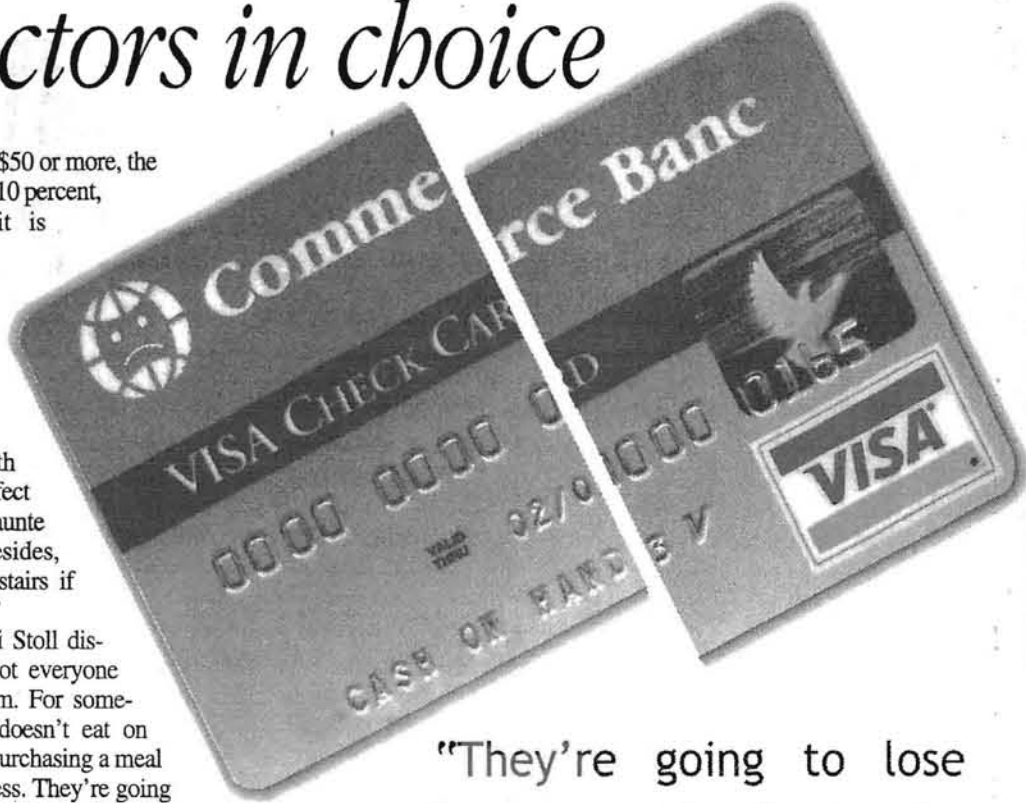
If a student prepays \$50 or more, the discount is raised to 10 percent, and after \$101, it is capped at 15 percent.

Student reactions to the decision has been mixed.

"Personally, I always pay with cash, so it doesn't affect me," freshman Shaunte Fortson said. "Besides, there's an ATM upstairs if anyone needs cash."

Sophomore Dani Stoll disagreed, saying "Not everyone carries cash on them. For someone like me who doesn't eat on campus every day, purchasing a meal plan is rather pointless. They're going to lose business, at least mine."

Evans was out of town until Tuesday on business and unavailable for comment.



"They're going to lose business, at least mine."

- Dani Stoll  
Sophomore

# Mayor Slay speaks on stadium deal

Mayor Francis Slay spoke about the Stadium deal for the St. Louis Cardinals on Feb. 26 at the home of political science department chairperson Lana Stein.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

BY ROBERT ALTON CLARKE  
Special to the Current

Mayor Francis Slay said the Stadium deal for the St. Louis Cardinals was good for the area during a speech at the Political Science Academy's monthly meeting held on Feb. 26.

Slay, who spoke at political science department chairperson Lana Stein's home, said that the funding for the stadium would come from new revenues produced from the Stadium.

"We (are) not asking the average tax payer to reach down into their pocket to pay for it," Slay said. "If you don't go to the game, and you don't stay in a hotel in the county, you're not going to pay for it."

Slay said the deal would be of minimal risk to taxpayers.

"If the ballpark is going to cost more than we think it will cost, the Cardinals will pick up the cost," said Slay. "If they don't build the stadium there will be a 100 million dollar penalty. If they don't build phase two, (which is) the ballpark village then they will forfeit the land."

The ballpark village will be an adjacent area to the Stadium that will include residential, commercial, parking, and other amenities.

Slay said there is also a plan in place if the owners decide to sell the

team. "If the team sells by 2014 then the city, state and county will get a piece of the profits of the sale," said Slay.

Slay said that the deal is very beneficial for the city as a whole.

"This deal is by far better than any other publicly financed stadium than any other in all of America, and we got it right here," Slay said. "This is going to give us an opportunity for us to transform our downtown, to create some real excitement."

Slay also talked about the concern over "Brain Drain," which is where college graduates leave the St. Louis area. Slay said he is very much interested in creating an environment that will keep the "tremendous pool of resources" the area has in the various institutions of higher learning that are producing a "talented work force that the area needs."

Two ways the administration plans on doing this is by working with UM-St. Louis in the area of biology to help make St. Louis the center of the 'Bio-Belt.' Second, Slay wants to take full advantage of the well-developed technological infrastructure the area has to bring more information technology industries to St. Louis.

In his closing remarks, he thanked the audience and the host and reflected his renewed hope in university students in the St. Louis area.

## Announcement

Beginning Wednesday morning, Feb. 27, parking lot I, located in the valley behind Garage N and Lucas Hall, will be designated "Construction Only" parking. The new designation will remain in effect throughout construction of the Performing Arts Center, which is scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2003.

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# Blind student questions treatment

BY DAN WIEGERT  
Staff Editor

Last semester, a blind student faced what she considers unfair treatment from a professor in the foreign language department.

Chastity Jackson enrolled in French 180, taught by Roland Champagne, the head of the foreign language department. Jackson says that she had mixed feelings about the class from the beginning, because she heard that Champagne didn't think a blind person could pass his class.

"But later when meeting with him before the semester started, he talked to me in what I considered a degrading manner, like he did not think that I was smart enough to be in his class," Jackson said.

She encountered other problems with the class when the disabilities office failed to send off her French 180 text to be retranslated into Braille.

"They didn't send my books off to the braille until July 28. It was about two weeks before class started. I was worrying because it takes a long time to Braille books. But I ended up getting everything on time," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, Director of Disability Access Services Marilyn Ditto contacted her. Ditto said that Champagne was thinking about giving her back all of her money, and having her drop all of her language courses because of the problems that she was experiencing with getting her books on time.

"I was getting the French 180 books one chapter at a time, but [Champagne] wanted the whole book brailled," Jackson said.

On Sept. 6, Jackson wrote Champagne an e-mail telling him that she would be absent from class, and she knew what the required class work was.

"I just want people to get the facts."

- Chastity Jackson  
UM-St. Louis student

Jackson said she came into class on Sept. 11 and Champagne talked to her about the assignments in French. Jackson said he quickly and angrily told her that she is responsible for keeping up with assignments.

"Then (Champagne) said, 'Is that

clear?' I was so embarrassed and dazed, and not fully knowing what I was answering to, I said yes," Jackson said. "I walked out after he did that and I dropped the class the next day."

Champagne said that Chastity dropped out of his class without discussing the reasons with him.

"I, along with my faculty colleagues, have been compassionate with her and have been accommodating to help her succeed at the University," Champagne said. "We want her to succeed if she does."

Jackson also had problems taking two other foreign language courses. Jackson was assigned a reader when she took French 101. Throughout the semester, the reader was inconsistent in showing up to class.

"When I was supposed to take the French 101 final, the reader didn't show up," she said. "I had to take a delayed grade in that class, but I did end up with a B."

Jackson also enrolled in Spanish I taught by Zeta Arreaga. When Jackson asked for help, Arreaga said that she must have documentation from the Disability office. Jackson felt the policy is unfair because it requires extra monitoring of the student.

"To me it seems like something that was done in high school," Jackson said.

Although Jackson considered legal action after dealing with Champagne, she later declined to pursue the matter.

"We got a lawyer, but I don't think that it would have ever gotten settled," she said.

Jackson, also a student of the Honors College, had taken four years of French in High School. She took two French courses at UM-St. Louis, French 101 and 170, where she received grades of a B and an A, respectively.

# Bulletin Board

**Put it on the Board:**  
 The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5:00 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.  
 All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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**Mon 4**  
**Monday Noon Series**

Eric Wiland, UM-St. Louis assistant professor of Philosophy, will present "Defining and Criticizing Terrorism." Wiland will talk about different ways to characterize terrorism and considers whether terrorist activity could ever be justified. The event will be held in the JC Penney Building, room 229, from noon - 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

**4**  
**Trailblazer Ceremony**

The 7th Annual Trailblazer ceremony, a salute to the 82nd Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, will be held today at 3 p.m. in the Century Room of the MSC. The theme of the event is "Women Sustaining the American Spirit."

**5 (cont.)**  
**Interfaith Campus Ministry**

Taize Prayer will be held from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. every Tuesday through March 19. Prayer will be held in the Interfaith Campus Ministry Office, MSC 254. For more information call Roger Jespersen at 385-3000. Sponsored by the Wesley Foundation and the Catholic Campus Ministry.

**Tue 5**  
**Counseling Services**

Counseling Services will be providing information and consultation on effective study habits today on the 3rd floor of the MSC. Students can also receive a free individual consultation by calling Counseling Services at 516-5711 or dropping by room 427 SSB.

**Wed 6**  
**Counseling Services**

Counseling Services will be providing information and consultation on effective study habits today on the 3rd floor of the MSC. Students can also receive a free individual consultation by calling Counseling Services at 516-5711 or dropping by room 427 SSB.

**Thur 7**  
**Free Movie Night**

Mannheim Park presents The Matrix at 6:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. For more info call Travis x6324.

**7**  
**OUT!**

Meeting 3 p.m. on top floor of the MSC. Everyone is welcome.

**7 (cont.)**  
**Center for International Studies**

Dale Russ, with Aidan Brennan and Johnny Connolly, will perform from 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. in room 205 in the Music Building. The event is free and open to the public.

**7**  
**Gallery 210**

"Graphic Work by Robert Stackhouse: Drawing and Prints from the Belger Foundation." The exhibition of graphic works by Robert Stackhouse will consist of approximately 30 works. The gallery is open 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

**Sat 9**  
**Day of Percussion**

The Missouri Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society will hold the "Missouri Day of Percussion" from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Century Room in MSC. Admission is \$5 for PAS members and \$10 for non-PAS members. Call x6646 for more information.

**Mon 11**  
**Monday Noon Series**

"Afghanistan: Putting Together the New and the Old," will be presented by Robert L. Canfield. Canfield will discuss the contradictions in Afghanistan society and the possibilities for constructing a viable government and stable society there. The event will be held in the JC Penney Building, room 229, from noon - 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

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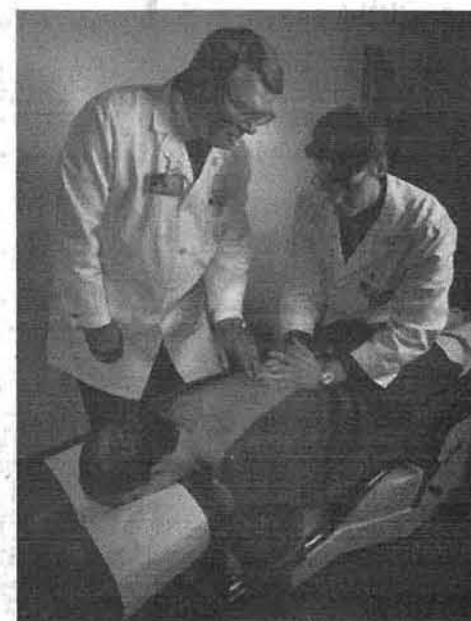
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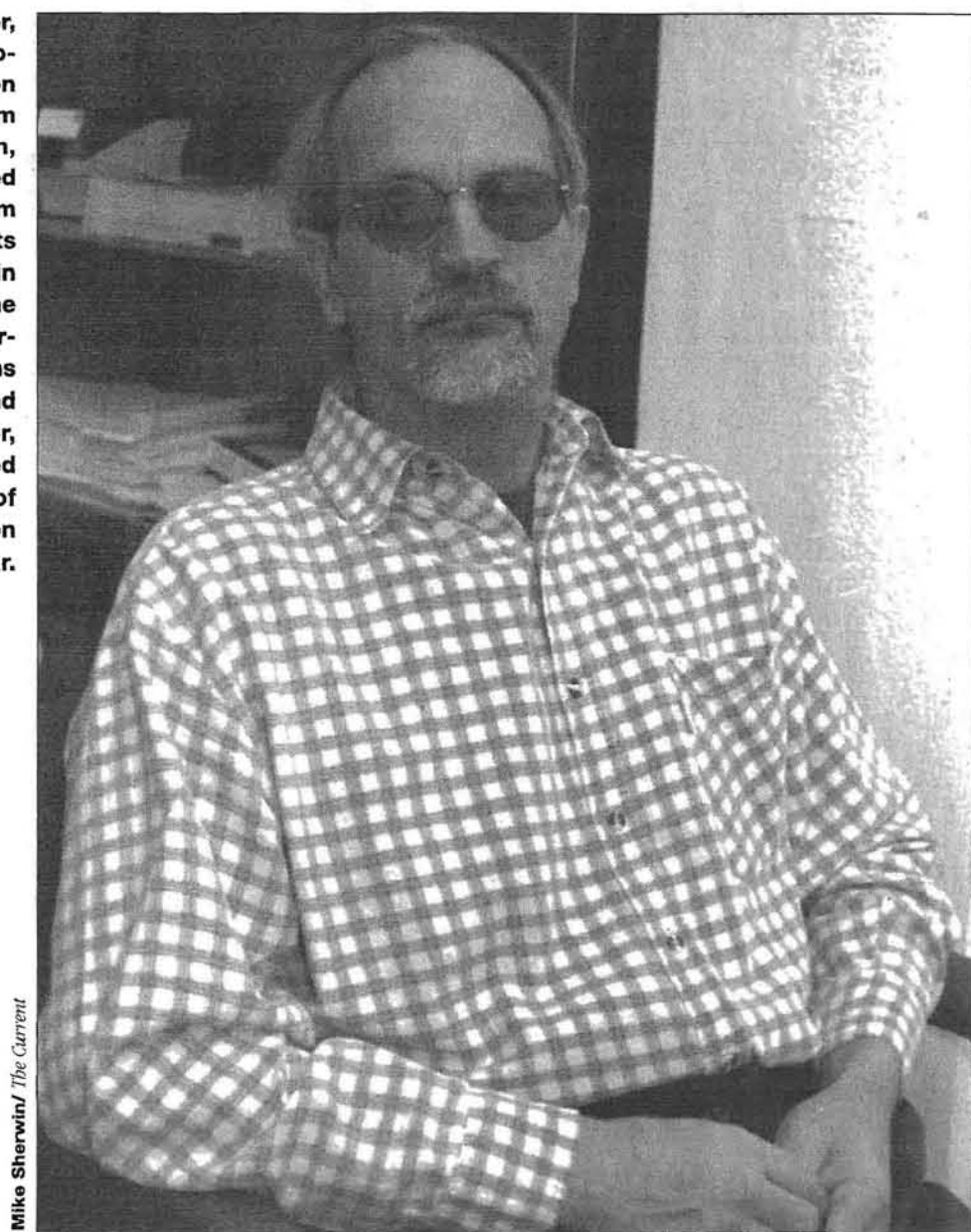
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# Walking on shattered glass

## Venter speaks about South Africa's broken past

Dawid Venter, sociology professor also on exchange from Cape Town, experienced apartheid from his birth to its death. Born in Pretoria, the son of a conservative Afrikaans farmer and schoolteacher, he described the enormity of the oppression and fear.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

"Since 1945, approximately a million and a half [citizens] left the country in opposition or to avoid apartheid."

- Dawid Venter  
sociology professor

BY KELLI SOLT  
Senior Writer

Apartheid, from 1948 to 1994, systematically oppressed and segregated every aspect of life for blacks and colored South Africans.

In 1986, before the decline of apartheid, UM students demanded that the Board of Curators stop investing in companies working in South Africa, which in effect, supported the apartheid. The Board was not quick to act. Eventually they agreed to reduce investments and began a proactive work with the University of Western Cape, said Robert Baumann, former UM-St. Louis student and current assistant director for international studies.

Apartheid and the present status of South Africa were the topics of discussion Feb. 26, at a tabletop presentation given by Cecil Abrahams, former rector of University of Western Cape, South Africa, who joined the UM faculty this semester.

Abrahams began his presentation by painting the mental picture of black Africans born under the apartheid system.

"The government designed schooling; they were given menial jobs, dilapidated houses and poor resources. South African blacks were branded eternally as third-class foreigners in their own country," Abrahams said. During apartheid, whites had a monopoly of 87 percent of the land while the remaining 13 percent was used as townships or shantytowns for blacks.

Dawid Venter, sociology professor also on exchange from Cape Town, experienced apartheid from his birth to its death. Born in Pretoria, the son of a conservative Afrikaans farmer and schoolteacher, he described the enormity of the oppression and fear. Everyone in the system was affected. "...separation of migrant workers from their families, forced removal from homes to inadequate

townships that lacked basic resources, humiliation, segregation, physical suffering, imprisonment, torture... You were under siege in your own country and it was worse for blacks," Venter said.

Violent force flooded daily life with fear from secret police, the military and death squads.

"The secret police could detain someone for 30 days without a trial, move them and keep them 30 more days torturing and sometimes killing them," Venter said. "The horror years were from '85 to '90 [when] there were five states of emergency, troops went into the townships and death squads were used more and more."

Venter, taught under a biased educational system, began to see a different view during his life experiences.

"The education system taught that blacks were unreliable," Venter said. He did a presentation in high school to answer the question whether the blacks should have more rights. "I thought they should eventually, but at that moment they were not ready," he said.

The reality of the oppression of blacks did not hit him until he too became oppressed.

Following high school, Venter joined the compulsory military.

"The military tries to break you psychologically so it can build you into what they want. We were commanded to do push-ups for two hours—it's impossible—and then punished for not being able to do it. I realized these guys [government] did not have our best interest at heart."

After the military, he went to college at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, where Venter's eyes and ears were opened to apartheid. As a Christian, he attended racially diverse Bible studies on campus. One evening he was asked to give Moses, a black student, a ride home to his township.

see VENTER, page 8

# Art student captures spirit of flag

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
Staff Editor

We see them everyday proudly billowing in the air, the one symbol that captures the spirit and integrity our country was founded on. Have we ever really thought about what it means to receive the American flag from the people who fought to keep America free and full of opportunity?

Fine Arts student Jessie Lee Hutt has.

"They have such a precision when they're folding the flag. I felt like I was pretty patriotic before, but I looked at the flag in a whole new way after that," Hutt said.

Hutt reflects on the emotion that overcame her during her father's funeral at Jefferson Barracks Memorial last spring. It was the power witnessing the flag ceremony that inspired her to create the waterless lithograph for her printmaking class. The print memorializes her father, Lee Russell Hutt, who fought in both World War II and the Korean War.

"It was so awesome to be presented with the flag. You're just trying to take it all in and trying to be real proper," she described.

"I wanted to do a sketch of what it looks like to be presented with it."

"I was pretty patriotic before," she continued, "but I looked at the flag in a whole new way after that. My dad, when he was alive, would get upset if people didn't salute the flag. I tried to draw what it would look like if he were presenting the flag."

However, Hutt's depiction was not drawn exclusively from memory.

"I was very small when he went into the service," she said. "I did some research to find the color of his uniform."

The print depicts her father as a soldier standing behind an American flag, with photographs from her childhood in the background. Hutt inscribed on

the print, "This flag is presented on behalf of a grateful nation as a token of our appreciation for the honorable and faithful service rendered by your loved one."

Wanting her artwork to go to good use, Hutt returned the gratitude that Jefferson Barracks had given her and her family by formally presenting her work to the cemetery on Jan. 24, where it hangs on display.

"I wanted to take the pictures down there to thank them," she said. "They were so pleased to have someone say 'you guys are doing a good job.' I had presented the same thing to the VFW

*This flag is presented on behalf of a grateful nation as a token of our appreciation for the honorable and faithful service rendered by your loved one!*



at Troy."

Hutt received a medal and patch in memory of her father.

"I was almost crying when they presented me with the medallion. I went down there honoring them and they ended up honoring me on behalf of my dad. It was a great feeling."

The entire experience comes as a climax that showcases the artistic knowledge she gained at UM-St. Louis.

"It says something about our art department and American patriotism," she said. "I have really enjoyed being a part of the UM-St. Louis Fine Arts Department."

The print will also be on display at the BFA Senior Show later this spring.



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Junior Lui Wan Ship plays a Japanese game called Ninin Baori at the Japanese Dinner held Feb 23.

# Japanese Dinner satisfies UMSL students' appetite

BY FARIKA RUSLI  
Staff Writer

Tickets sold out two days before the seventh Japanese Dinner held on Feb 23.

According to Sudo Kei, president of the Japanese Student Association, they did not get the budget from Student Activities. Instead, the organization decided to run the event by selling 100 tickets for \$5 each. Some of their members also volunteered for the Japanese Festival at the Botanical Garden to raise money.

They did not sell more than 100 because the preparation involved only 18 Japanese students who are members of the Japanese Student Association. Some other international students also volunteered.

They cooked home-style food themselves at home. The food served included Japanese style omelets, kaisou salad, miso soup, sushi rolls, teriyaki chicken, fried sweet potato, rice balls, croquette and green tea ice cream.

Among the guests there were Pamyly Yates, the director of the Center for International Studies and Robert Baumann, assistant director of Center for International Studies.

"I always go to the Japanese

Dinner because I spent seven years teaching English in Japan from 1992 until 1999," Yates said. "I know Japanese students here personally, and I am happy that we have more Japanese students this year."

Besides dinner, the students also presented entertainment.

Ten Japanese students sang the Japanese songs "Hana," "Momiji" and "Anosubarashii Aiwo Mouichido." "Hana," described the landscape of the spring day in Tokyo with magnificent cherry blossom (Hana), their national flower; "Momiji," expressed the autumn mountain covered by a lot of red or yellow maple leaves falling down on the river. In "Anosubarashii Aiwo Mouichido," six girls and four boys sang about the splendor of love.

"This year we made it different. Last year we had the taiko drummer from Washington University, but tonight he could not come, so we decided to entertain ourselves," Usher Sachiko Fujimoto said.

The next performance was origami, a Japanese paper folding technique. Akiko Egashira, the volunteer working for The Charless Home, taught the guests to make a hat.

"I think I always go to every Japanese dinner. Probably it was

because I grew up with a Japanese neighbor. This year's event was less formal, but still a lot of fun," Baumann said.

Game time was the most interesting part of the evening. In the first game, each couple who competed used their mouths to get a donut, which was hanging on a pole while their feet were bounded to each other.

The other one was competed in a sitting position. Each couple sat down in a line with one big plastic bag covering them. They acted as if the couples were only one person because the guests could only see the first person's face and the second person's hands. The second person had to feed the person in front of him or her.

"Actually I'm already full, but I still have to eat bananas and chips. Now I feel so dizzy. But I got a Japanese toy as the prize," Guest Lui Wan Ship said.

The dinner ended at 9 p.m. after the quiz about Japanese culture. The guests, who were 90 percent international students, were all satisfied, just as Sudo Kei expected.

"I went to last year's event, too. I think I had more fun tonight," Guest Cell Chow said.

# IRISH WRITERS

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EMILY UMBRIGHT  
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## Irish writers share their past

BY SARA PORTER  
Senior Writer

Mary O'Malley, a poet, and Charles Fanning, a writer/editor, came to the UM-St. Louis campus on Feb. 26 to share their childhood memories, their connection to Ireland and the notion of setting and the idea of immigration.

Fanning, editor of various novels on Irish American fiction, such as "The Exiles of Erin" and "Finlay Peter Dunne and Mr. Dooley: The Chicago Years." Fanning read from his upcoming book of memoirs, "I've Never Been This Far, But, I've Been to Norwood," about his childhood experiences leading to his Irish-American history. Fanning says that he intends to put his memories in a larger scope about his childhood.

"These reminiscences are about what I remember about being 12-years-old," Fanning said. "They are bits and pieces that come to mind."

Fanning's reading focused on four important places he feels shaped his young life. He called these places "The Rock," "The Bell," "The Crazy Roads" and "The Pond." Each one made a mark on his life, he said.

"The Crazy Roads," which was based on the Newport area where Fanning was reared, had both a sinister and a good side. "I remember walking around the sights of sin and of the forbidden," Fanning said. "The dirty magazines and

see IRISH WRITERS, page 7

# OPINIONS

## OUR OPINION

# Parking, driving at UMSL is as dangerous as ever

Here we go again, students complaining about the parking and driving issues.

However, we feel that this time, these complaints have some merits, and we will even offer a few suggestions to help rectify what has become the largest fear of any UM-St. Louis student, just barely topping finals: travelling the campus by automobile.

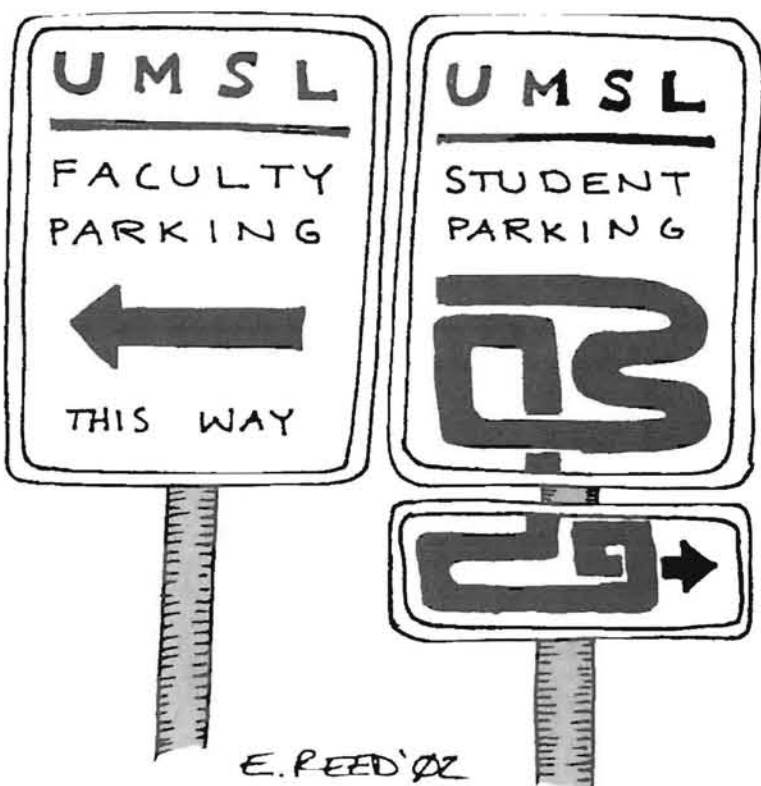
With the increase in traffic - there are easily over 10,000 students that commute to UM-St. Louis daily (just going on pure enrollment figures) - coupled with the construction and constant lot re-classifications (the closing of lot I is a prime example) students are constantly having to re-adjust their driving styles on campus, and it's leading to more and more

fender-benders, including a fairly major one a week ago in front of SSB.

Signs are not clearly labeled, often not even uniform across the campus and road lanes are worn and unreadable.

Some parking garages have one-way lanes, some have two-way traffic and some have room for two-way traffic but are really only one-way.

Benton Hall has "Special Permit Parking" (which, to the average Joe Student, doesn't really explain a whole lot), garage D is now a half-filled Continuing Education lot, and the gravel lot is constantly re-configured (the blocks that are supposed to signify a parking space are moved, shaped and spun around so much that they resemble a complex game of



'...blocks that are supposed to signify a parking space are moved, shaped and spun around so much that they resemble a complex game of Tetris...'

Tetris between the Police Dept. and Reinhard Schuster, vice-chancellor of administrative services).

Garage C, the one that exits to the gravel lot in front of the MSC, has two "Do Not Enter" signs posted prominently on it's exterior, but up until recently, there was no signs. In fact, there was a small sign, but on the pavement were painted two arrows and lane striping signifying a two lane entrance.

Driving and parking on campus should not be a puzzle, a Rubik's cube that very few have fully mastered.

These recommendations should help clear up the situation:

1. Color-code the current parking lots.

One very easy way to identify the parking lots is to make use of the school colors; red, white and gold.

Use red for faculty/staff, gold for students and white for continuing education/special permit. Handicapped spaces can be the customary blue.

2. Re-paint the current stripes

### The issue:

Parking and driving conditions on the UMSL campus have deteriorated to the point that they are dangerous. The constant, unannounced and often unprovoked changes to parking and driving policy have caused a motoring public that is uninformed and therefore dangerous.

### We suggest:

Campus Police and Vice-Chancellor of Administrative Services Reinhard Schuster update and announce the policies, as well as update all existing signs and stripings. We have offered a few very simple suggestions that may help alleviate any problems and relax students.

### So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC or online at: [thecurrentonline.com](http://thecurrentonline.com)

and other parking symbols on campus.

With the constant flow of traffic that comes through the campus, as well as just the usual wear-and-tear, many existing road stripings and other markings have become very worn down. Also, many signs are simply old and fallen.

Granted, with the construction, many of these markings have deteriorated at an accelerated rate, and putting new markings down sounds like a waste of money, but since when is money a substitute for safety?

3. Place traffic guards prominently on campus to help with the flow, especially inside the major garages and at the entrances to campus.

Every morning, there is a traffic guard in front of the SSB parking garage, one of the less populated garaged on campus. This a step in the right direction, but there needs to be some sort of supervision in the high traffic areas, namely University Drive (in front of the Thomas Jefferson Library), the Millennium Student Center lot and garage and the West Drive garage. Again, we realize that this may cost, but there have been far too many near-misses to chance.

We feel that, although they may be pricey, these are improvements that are long overdue.

# One fine day in the oasis

Being well aware of the threat of beating the proverbial dead horse, I'd like to use this space this week to discuss my third favorite campus hangout, next to the offices of *The Current* (of course) and my fraternity house. It's this little hole-in-the-wall hangout that you may have heard of.

Buried down next to the meat locker for the kitchen, the Pilot House has served as my home away from home since it's opening and being an old-head Riverman (this is my third year here) I couldn't be happier.

Where else on campus do students have total access (with a little help from Ron Edwards of course) to A/V equipment that could put some smaller concert venues to shame? Last Thursday, I was entertained by the musical styling of Honors College Student Ben (sorry man, I forgot your last name) as he played a nice mix of Marvin Gaye on the acoustic guitar, as well as some tracks from his first CD. Heck, the Pilot House may be this guys beginnings, and I'll be able to say that I knew him (at least his first name, anyway).

Sitting around him, at the hand-painted tables in front of the stage, were about 20 students and a groups of facilities workers on break and every one of them was tapping their feet to Ben's music. It was like a scene out of "Saved By the Bell," too surreal to actually happen in real life, but here we were just drinking a few Bud Lights and enjoying some live music.

Later that evening some of my Fraternity brothers and I were shooting some pool and playing the granddaddy of all bar games, Golden Tee

Golf. For a brief moment we considered just collecting the insurance money on the house by Taco Bell and setting up shop in here.

The Pilot House, at least for me and 'the regulars,' as we've come to be known, is a hidden oasis on this urban campus; flowing with brew and laughs, with it's gates swung open only for those who wish to forget about the rest.

It is in here that professors grab some popcorn and a brew, or nachos and a "Nick's Favorite" (you'll have to ask Sarah, the 'bartender' about this flavored concoction) and talk about everything but the University. I can imagine a history professor playing Joe Student for that 89 percent to be bumped to a 90.

Heck, even I got up on stage a few days ago to play the harmonica (or harmonica, as I call it) for some old friends of mine. Fortunately, the speaker system was turned off, so only the front few rows heard my soon-to-be-classic original "Sex, part one." Part two, played the following day, didn't receive nearly the support, and the series is now undergoing some 'artistic changes.'

The House has already taken a very special place in my heart, something that may not sound so important now, but I know that as I grow older and leave the University and eventually St. Louis, memories are all that I will have. And, in this short nine-day span that the House has been open, I already have more than my fair share. My only regret is that more people have not given the place a chance. Don't you want to hear the much-anticipated third addition to my song?



**Nick Bowman**  
Editor-in-Chief

# A hidden treasure

With the end of the semester rapidly approaching, reality is starting to seep in. I will be leaving school and entering the real world. One factor that I have to consider is where should I find an apartment once May comes around.

I've lived in two parts in St. Louis my whole life, North and West County. I experienced North County by living on campus for a year-and-a-half. While UM-St. Louis was convenient to get to, everything else (for instance, grocery stores and fast-food restaurants) seemed like 10 minutes to get to. I've lived in West County for more than 20 years. While West County is nice, the sights and sounds get old after all those years.

I've looked for places to live for a while, and after looking there is one place that I keep coming back to, Webster Groves.

There are many things I like about Webster Groves, starting with an aura that takes you back several years ago. All the stores seem small and in walking distance, just like in a small town. Life just seems to move a little slower, which does a good job of relaxing the senses. The large, old houses give the town an extra-vintage feeling. Discovering Webster Groves is like finding a treasure hidden within South St. Louis.

Most of my immediate family lives in or around Webster Groves, which made family gatherings a fun

occasion. Our family gets together around Thanksgiving and Christmas, and Webster Groves looks even homier than it normally does. It's great walking up to my relative's house, smelling the chimney smoke, seeing the holiday decorations and watching the sunset through the leafless trees.

My best friend lived on campus in an apartment in Webster Groves while he attended Webster University. His apartment was two stories, and had more square footage than he knew what to do with. We had a blast while he lived there, doing anything from playing video games, watching football and playing softball with the other residents. One of the best features of his apartment was hearing the train slowly roll across the tracks while walking across the parking lot. Going over to his apartment felt like being a grade school child without a

care in the world.

Of course, finding an apartment over there is another story. Apartments in Webster Groves are either too expensive or do not have the amenities that I'm looking for (air conditioning must be centralized). And of course, once you find an apartment you need televisions, furniture, food and other things that require money.

Maybe living at home for a while isn't such a bad idea.

But the thought of independence and the hominess of Webster Groves continue to attract me.



**Steve Valko**  
Managing Editor

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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- STEVE VALKO
- ELLIOT REED
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STANFORD GRIFFITH

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

## LETTERS

### MAIL

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St. Louis, MO 63121

### FAX

(314) 516-6811

### E-MAIL

[info@thecurrentonline.com](mailto:info@thecurrentonline.com)

Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number. Students should also include their student ID number.

# What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- The Pilot House
- Leaving home
- Road improvements at UMSL

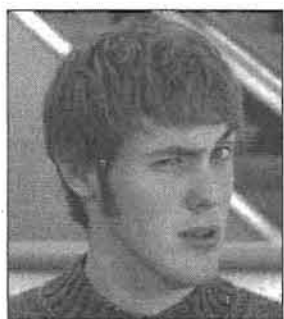
You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

# Under Current

by **Mutsumi Igarashi**  
Photography Director

What do you like to do on snow days?



**Daniel Teater**  
Freshman / Communications

"I enjoy going to my friends Jacuzzi and jumping in and out of it in order to shock my system. It is quite a rush."



**Leslie Fogarty**  
Junior / Mass communications

"I enjoy getting a bunch of friends together and going to Art Hill to sled."



**Marnie Ruthe**  
Sophomore / Political Science

"Smuggling up with that special someone while watching a movie. Nice and warm."



**Matt Fiske**  
Freshman / Undecided

"If the ponds are frozen, I usually go play pond hockey."

# SPORTS

## EDITOR

**HANK BURNS**  
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## COMING UP

### Baseball

March 8-10  
• Missouri Southern  
Tournament in Joplin,  
Mo.

March 8-10  
• 2:30 p.m. vs. Harris  
Stowe in St. Louis, Mo.

### Softball

March 4-8  
• Rebel Games at  
Winter Park, Fla.

March 13  
• 3 p.m. vs. McKendree  
(DH) in St. Louis, Mo.

## RESULTS

### Basketball

Men

Feb. 28  
• Kentucky Wesleyan 89,  
UM-St. Louis 59

• UW-Parkside 93,  
Northern Kentucky 87

March 1  
• Lewis 70,  
Wisconsin-Parkside 58  
• Kentucky Wesleyan 80,  
Southern Indiana 77

March 2  
• Lewis 77,  
Kentucky Wesleyan 65

Women

Feb. 23  
• Bellarmine 61,  
UM-St. Louis 76

## WEB

www.umsl.edu/  
services/athletics

for the latest sports news  
and information

# R-men start season 4-0

## UM-St. Louis Rivermen Baseball

BY HANK BURNS  
Staff Editor

With doubleheader sweeps over Southwest Baptist and Northwest Missouri on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen baseball team now has a 4-0 record. The team is ranked 20 in the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II poll.

On Sunday, Feb. 24, the Rivermen defeated Northwest Missouri State 7-3 in the first game and 7-6 in the second. Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady was impressed with his team.

"We looked like a finely tuned machine that just went out there and did the little things you expect a good team to do," Brady said. "It's nice to see us setting the tone early, because that's what we need to do. The month of March, from a league standpoint it's a critical portion of our schedule and we've gotta be ready to play. I really

thought that we were ready to play and we demonstrated that over the weekend."

"They met my expectations. Even though we played four good games, both teams weren't bad. Northwest Missouri is a good team. This is kind of what we expect and I think the guys expect it as well," Brady said.

On Saturday, Feb. 23, the Rivermen defeated Southwest Baptist 9-4 in the first game of their doubleheader.

"Things kind of went back and forth," Brady said. "We waited for an opportunity and when it happened for us, we took advantage of it."

"Greg Bierling gave us really four and two-thirds quality innings and to get a key out in the bottom of the fifth. He did that for us and we were able to score two or three more runs in the bottom of the fifth and in the bottom of the sixth and we ended up pick-

ing ourselves up a win."

In the second game against Southwest Baptist, the Rivermen claimed an 18-4 victory.

"We jumped up right off the bat with a six run first inning," Brady said.

with the wind blowing the way it was, it turned out to be a nail biter.

"We had to bring Keith in again to bail us out. Sure enough, he came through when we really needed him to."

Rivermen outfielder Brody Jackson, who was named offensive player of the week and hit four homeruns over the four game homestand, was once out-matched by a Southwest Baptist outfielder during the doubleheader on Sunday, Feb. 24. The Rivermen defeated them 7-3 in the first game and 7-6 in the second game.

"He caught a ball that he caught outside the fence and he put it back in the park," Brady said. "It would have been a three-run homer."

Jackson's performance over the weekend was impressive to Brady, regardless of the play.

"We looked like a finely tuned machine that just went out there and did the little things you expect a good team to do."

- Jim Brady  
Head Coach  
UMSL Baseball

"Really, we swung the bats well. They made some just outstanding defensive plays to keep the score from really being inflated. Then, at the end

## Brady Ball: Part I

# UMSL coach is success with dedicated teams

BY HANK BURNS  
Staff Editor

Maintaining a winning record over the course of a season takes strength and conviction. Well, if that is the case, UM-St. Louis baseball Head Coach Jim Brady and the long line of athletes that have trained under him are of a privileged few in the game of baseball. Brady, who began coaching the Rivermen in 1984 as an assistant and became head coach in 1986, had a winning season every year as head coach. Brady now has a 463-260 career record.

"I'm the all-time winningest coach in the history of this school," Brady said. "I don't want to jinx anything or anything like that because we've never

had a losing season here and we played extremely tough schedules. It's a great credit to the players that have come through the ranks here. I've been very fortunate. I've had some great assistant coaches."

Brady has been very fortunate. Under him, the Rivermen have gone from a good team to what Brady would call a "perennial power." This has been Brady's goal from when he took the job as skipper.

"We've always had to really bite and scratch and claw for everything that we've achieved," Brady said. "It's a great credit to the players that their passion and their will to win is every bit as strong as my own. I've been surrounded with just some great, great kids over the years, guys that we've taught

accountability and responsibility to, dedication."

Dedication is what Brady has been teaching his athletes from the beginning. It applies not only to an athlete's life on the field, but their life off the field as well.

"Motivation comes from within," Brady said. "You've gotta provide a stimulus for them, something to make them want to go out there day in and day out, sacrifice and work harder than anybody else and put the time into it on and off the field. Those are things that are important. I'm not saying you gotta do it eight hours a day and seven days a week. But the time that you're given, you maximize that time."

Brady feels that college is a lesson in managing life.

"When it's time to take care of the books, you don't put on your baseball spikes and go walk into the classroom. You take care of business in the classroom. When it's time for baseball, you worry about baseball and you take care of it. When it's time to socialize, you do that," Brady said.

Accountability is paramount in the coaching style that Brady and his staff have developed for his team. For Brady, this is an important point to put across to his athletes to use in their daily lives.

"That's what we're trying to get across to them is that you can't be afraid to make a decision and then if it turns out to be not what you would like or what was expected, you gotta stand behind it and give your reasons why," Brady said.

"That builds character. I don't think there's enough of that."

A ball club, such as the Rivermen, with 16 straight winning seasons is one that may have a lot of character. This could be attributed to Brady's vast will to win.

"We all have our niche and really ours here has been about trying to be the best that we can be within the context of what we play," Brady said. "I think that's what we've done and that's going to continue. As long as I walk on the field, my goal is not to compete. My goal is to win. Competing is great, but it's about winning. Nothing else is satisfactory."

See the March 11 issue of *The Current* for Brady Ball: Part II, the final of a two-part series on Jim Brady.

## Rivermen guard Carter has a passion for basketball

### UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

BY JOHN WALTON  
Special to The Current

Deryn Carter, a 6-foot 2-inch guard for the Rivermen basketball team, is from Elgin, Illinois. Carter is a senior and spent his junior year playing for the St. Louis Billikens, a Division I team in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He transferred from the Billikens to the Rivermen, a Division II team, because he was not getting enough playing time. He was also offered a scholarship to play for UM-St. Louis.

"The training is just as intensive as it is in Division I play. You lift the same weights and train just as hard."

- Jim Brady  
Guard  
UMSL Basketball

"When I was playing at St. Louis University, we flew to places like North Carolina and Memphis. We

"A lot of people told me there was a big difference between Division I and Division II play," Carter said. "But I've found that the Great Lakes Conference is about as tough as the Division I competition."

"The game of basketball has grown all over the country," Carter stated. "Many players who don't get the opportunity to play in Division I schools come to Division II schools. I'm averaging about 35 minutes a game playing for the Rivermen."

"The training is just as intensive as it is in Division I play," Carter said. "You lift the same weights and train just as hard."

There are two differences between the different playing levels. "The traveling situation is the major difference," Carter said.

"When I was playing at St. Louis University, we flew to places like North Carolina and Memphis. We

travel by bus at UM-St. Louis because all the schools in the Great Lakes Conference are within four to five hours of a bus trip."

The other difference is the size of the arenas. "The Savvis Center is much larger than the Mark Twain Building," Carter said. "Many of the Division I arenas we played in were larger, too."

There are future opportunities in basketball for Division II graduates. Some go on to the NBA's developmental league. Others travel overseas and play on teams in foreign countries. "There aren't too many Division II players in the NBA," Carter said. "Devean George is a guard for the Lakers in Los Angeles who played for a Division II team."

Carter is majoring in history. After graduation he would like to remain in the game of basketball.

"I might have the chance to play overseas," Carter said. "If it doesn't happen, there are other possibilities. I'm never going to give up the game of basketball. I want to coach, so I might be doing that in the future."

### Deryn Carter - '01-'02

	total	average
Reb.	82	3.3
Points	417	16.7
Assists	86	.....

## America's past-time brings some time-honored traditions



THE ABC'S OF SPORTS  
HANK BURNS

Spring is hobbling ever closer and with it comes the full swing of the 2002 baseball season. There is much to look forward to. Great teams, great food, great atmosphere and are all part of that great game known as baseball.

Below are the top five things to look forward to with the coming of the 2002 baseball season.

### 5. High skies and green grass.

Sure, it sounds pretty cliché, but baseball is a symbol of rebirth. Once the temperature actually raises and the wind chill actually rises higher than that of Siberia, the grass will grow back greener than ever and the other plants and trees will experience total growth. This, of course, will all set the

atmosphere for a new season of baseball. It will be much needed and desired, especially considering how this week's snow and low temperatures wiped out both the UM-St. Louis baseball and softball team's games this weekend.

### 4. Hot dogs and peanuts.

Who could go to a ballgame without these classic twin beasts? The hot dog and peanut combo is definitely the classic order among those attending baseball games.

### 3. Great pitching.

A great game consists of many things. But, arguably the greatest of these is great pitching. Many of baseball's true fans, those that are students

of the game, look forward to a great pitcher's duel. High scores tell a story, but low scores tell a greater story. A pitching duel, one in which the final score is 3-1 or 2-0 conveys a story of control and will power. A great pitcher has pinpoint accuracy, is able to hurl the ball at maximum or a lower velocity when necessary and is able to stay calm, cool and collected on the mound. Games like that are at a premium these days.

### 2. The homerun.

Although a great pitching match up is well worth watching, a game in which two or more power hitters are present is quite exciting. When a hitter truly connects with the ball and lets it ride. Sure, the homerun is only good

for one run and might not always make a huge difference in a game's outcome, but it is a momentary thrill and a big one at that.

### 1. Little league baseball.

Baseball has long been part of another cliché, the American Dream. So, it's only natural that the start of each new baseball season is the start of a new dream for a whole new set of little league and softball players. They each dream of growing up to have the talent and stardom of their favorite baseball stars. Watching these children move closer to the dreams can at times be extremely funny, but also extremely heartwarming. They remind everyone of their own dreams and what they have accomplished.



EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886  
fax: 516-6811

A&E  
Campus  
Calendar

EVENTS

March

7

March 7-April 6  
Gallery 210 will present

"Graphic Work by Robert Stackhouse: Drawing and Prints from the Belger

Foundation." Gallery 210 is open from Tuesday-

Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information call 516-5592.

8

A percussion ensemble concert will be held at

7:30 p.m. in the MSC. The concert is free and open

to the public. Please call 516-6646 for more information.

13

A jazz combo concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the

Provincial House Villa. The concert is free. Please call

516-6646 for more details.

14

A jazz ensemble concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in

Provincial House villa. The concert is free and

open to the public. Please call 516-6646 for more

details.

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Staff Editor

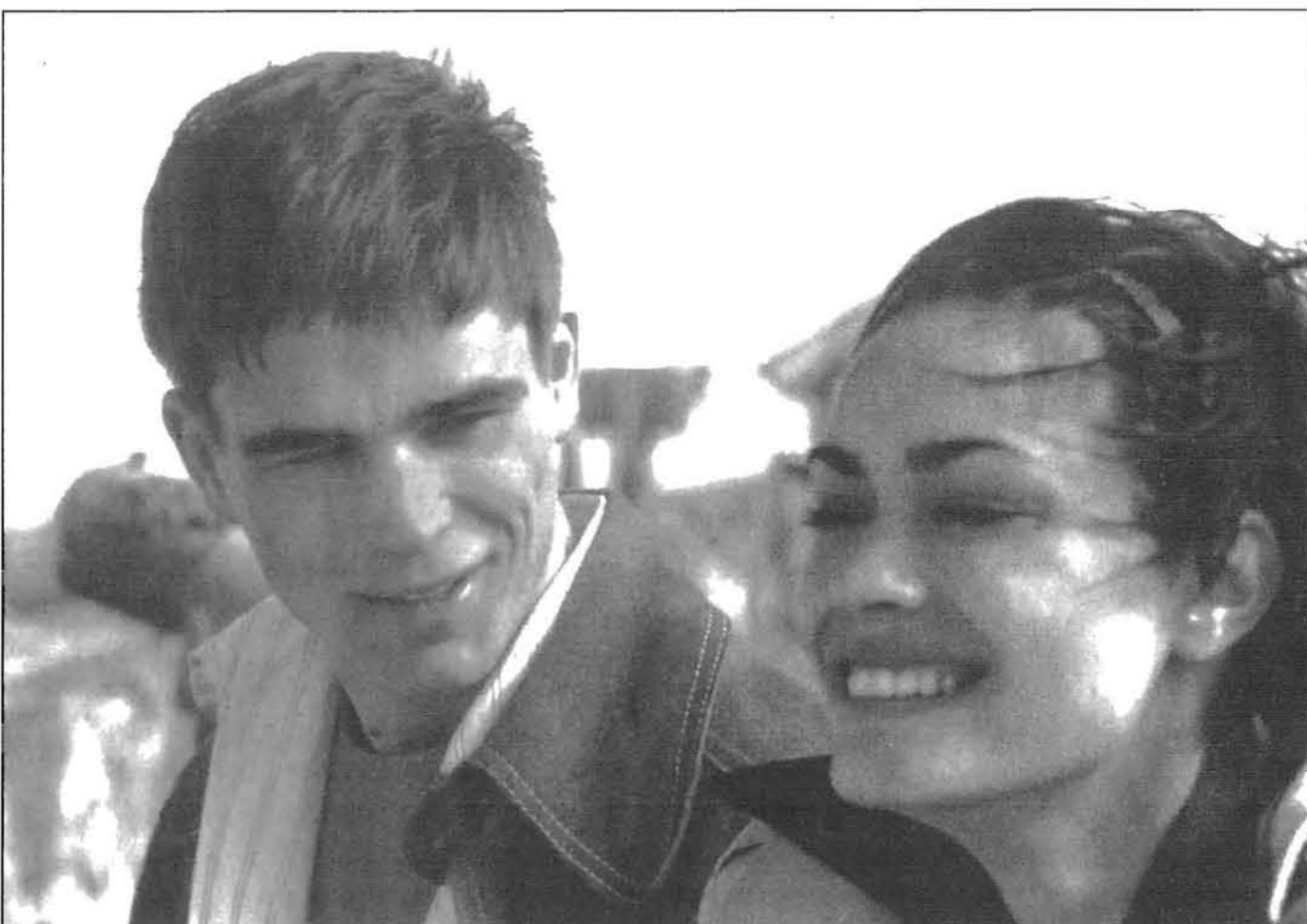
Every Catholic kid has struggled with what to give up for Lent. It has to be something you really enjoy, so it really is a sacrifice, but do you really have the willpower to give up something big, like chocolate, for more than a month? With that thought in mind, what would be the biggest thing a twenty-something guy could give up for 40 days?

In "40 Days and 40 Nights," Matt Sullivan (Josh Hartnett) is struggling to get over his ex-girlfriend but doesn't seem to connect with anyone else. Part of his confusion seems to be how much of his feelings are just lust and how much are real attraction to a person. While visiting his brother, who is training for the priesthood, he hits on the idea of giving up sex for the 40 days of Lent, not for religious reasons but to help him sort out his relationship problems. He vows to not only give up sleeping with women but kissing, hugging, touching, and any kind of sexual experience at all. But what starts out as a private resolution soon turns into a public spectacle, thanks to his big-mouth roommate. Nobody, including his brother, thinks Matt can do this, since he never seems to finish anything. As if this isn't bad enough, he meets this wonderful girl (Shannyn Sossamon).

"40 Days and 40 Nights" is a classic sex farce with a spin, full of misunderstandings and pitfalls for the main character and plenty of sexual humor. The film handles the material well and is entertaining and sexy, the kind of comedy that the French have done so well in the past. There are a couple of animated scenes that are really hilarious and plenty of racy sight gags and slapstick. Josh Hartnett is appealing and funny as he becomes increasingly frustrated, and his obnoxious friends are humorous as well as they try to trip him up. The romantic pair has a little chemistry between them early on but the strength of the film is really more in the comic elements. The movie is refreshingly light and funny, and avoids the really gross sex jokes that so many comedies of the last few years have mined so thoroughly.

This bit of light fun is a good entertainment film that will get both

# '40 Days' puts out plenty of laughs



Josh Hartnett and Shannyn Sossamon star in '40 Days and 40 Nights.'

genders giggling, especially if you are in the age range of the protagonist and in the midst of the dating struggles yourself. The film is sexy and titillating without being offensive or excessively dumbed down. If you are looking for something very light and effortless and enjoy sexy humor, this movie is for you. However, if you prefer a deeper film, keep looking.

'The film is sexy and titillating without being offensive or excessively dumbed down.'

## CD REVIEW

# Merritt releases a Magnetic solo project

BY RYAN MEEHAN  
Music Writer

The 1999 three-disc album goliath "69 Love Songs" by the Magnetic Fields gained singer-songwriter Stephin Merritt such huge critical acclaim that he is currently thought by many to be one of the greatest songwriters of his time. "69 Love Songs," hosts exactly 69 tunes about the many psychological afflictions accompanying romantic love. The album has a full clip of two-minute pop songs that run from melancholy to outrageous joy while always being sensual. His songs of love and loss do not seem to apply to the comparably sunny affairs populated by movie stars. Rather they tell the tale of those who live solitary existences, known only briefly during the spawn of their doomed romances.

Each of the songs tell a different story. He spins tales of lust such as a Las Vegas Roxette, who has been treated badly by an ex-marine, or a quick interlude between a one-leg

man and a prostitute in an unmarked alley. Merritt's darkly satirical lyrics and seductive Cole Porter croon make any one of his compositions immediately recognizable. His compositional vehicle of choice is a short and sweet pop song. Similar to Tom Wait's "Swordfish Trombones" or "Raindogs," Merritt wallpapers his tunes with a complex array of well-timed audio oddities that are driven through with the solitary sound of the singer and his lone piano.

Merritt recently released his first solo project, the soundtrack to the independent film "Eban and Charley." Merritt specializes in the art of storytelling and uses melody to set the emotional tone of the plot. His ear for mood and circumstance makes it seem that he would be a brilliant technician for a soundtrack.



and well structured, it often meanders in experimental noise that fails to inspire. The opening track, a 40 second piano piece, is lovely in its slow use of heavy keys and thoughtful outlook. Yet the engaging mood it captures is quickly neglected by the next song "Cricket Sounds." While the song is certainly admirable in its ingenious sounds which imitate crickets, it seems to have no intentions for the listener.

"Cricket Sounds" highlights the soundtrack's greatest flaw; that much of it seems like it would be better accompanied by a movie. This is the same fate suffered by "Titles," "Tea Party" and "Victorian Robotics."

While each of these would probably be the perfect abstract accompaniment to particular scene from the movie, they lack any conscious listening interest. Nonetheless, the soundtrack does produce a few offerings of Merritt at his best. "This Little Ukulele" moves quickly and sweetly along with a ukulele that manages to imitate cliché synth-pop delightfully.

Merritt reaches his greatest height with "Maria, Maria, Maria." A melancholy tearjerker, Merritt's mournful lyrics of love n' longing gently ebb and flow on the surface of a slow country music guitar strum. "Eban and Charley" is probably a movie with a great soundtrack accompaniment. The soundtrack's major flaw is how little it succeeds on a pure audio level. Longtime Merritt fans should definitely check out a few of the songs because they are really good. But for all the rest who have not yet been introduced to Merritt, his work with his band, the Magnetic Fields, is highly recommended.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'No Man's Land' is dangerous territory

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Staff Editor

"No Man's Land" is a film that treads into dangerous terrain - it is a comedy set in the Bosnian war about two soldiers from opposite sides, trapped together in a trench between enemy lines.

Although it is comic, this Bosnian film is also ultimately chilling as it subtly drives home its points about that war and all involved in it. The film is in Serbo-Croatian, French and English, with English subtitles, and it is no surprise that it has been nominated for an Oscar. Also, it was a hit at the Cannes film festival in France last year.

Through a series of comic-tragic mishaps, a Bosnian (Branko Djuric) and a Serb (Rene Bitorajac) end up trapped in a trench between the opposing armies. Neither side is sure who is in the trench, so they are both hesitant

'The film veers from comic to tragic as it unfolds.'

to bomb it. The two trapped soldiers lack a radio and their efforts to explain the situation non-verbally to the shooting parties on both sides doesn't seem to help much, although it generates plenty of laughs. I do not want to give away too much of the story, but new complications arise and soon the U.N. peacekeepers and the press are involved too.

from the ridiculous situation but the film has a serious side as well. The director, Danis Tanovic, never really lets the audience forget the overall situation, and the film veers from comic to tragic as it unfolds. The script, also written by Tanovic, is outstanding and tells volumes about this sad little civil war and all its participants in a most effective and moving way through the humanization of humor. The humor sharpens the absurdity and ultimately the tragedy of what is happening.

This a wonderful film because it works so well on so many levels, both funny and sad. It is a thinking person's film, not simple entertainment, but it is well worth the effort for a little insight into human nature and into that unfortunate conflict. Although it is unclear if this weightier film will beat the comic fantasy "Amelie" for the Oscar, it is a must-see for thinking film fans. Too bad both films can't win; they are both excellent works of the filmmaker's art.

## CONCERT PREVIEW

# Transmogrify at Jitters

BY MATT SCHORR  
Special to the Current

Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 p.m., the Jitters Coffee House in Bellerive Hall in UM-St. Louis South Campus will host Transmogrify, a local St. Louis band.

Transmogrify consists of five band members. Andy Trost plays lead guitar for the band, and he is generally credited with creating the band. Frank Alvarez and Aaron Shayne are Transmogrify's vocalists. David Watt, who is the band's newest member, plays the drums. And UM-St. Louis student Matt Trost plays the bass guitar.

"As with any Transmogrify concert, the fans can expect fun. Our music is always upbeat, and we're always willing to hang out with everyone. And there may even be a contest or two throughout the night," Trost said.

Transmogrify has a vast repertoire

of musical styles to offer. Their style is a fusion of reggae, rock, punk, funk, ska and calypso.

"We play a variety of upbeat, fun music that just about anyone can get into," Trost said.

The band has already released their first CD, entitled *Timmy, Age 5*, which they will be giving away free copies of at the concert as well as Transmogrify T-shirts. Also, Trost said the band will be playing some new songs they have yet to record at Jitters.

"This is our second show and we've started to build up a fan base. So far that's only a cluster of hyperactive 16-year-old girls, but we're working on that," Trost said.

"Not that we have anything against sixteen-year-old girls," Trost added.

The desire to build a larger fan base is why Transmogrify will be performing here at UM-St. Louis.

**IRISH WRITERS, from page 3**

Poet Mary O'Malley came to the UM-St. Louis campus on Feb. 26 to share her childhood memories, her connection to Ireland and the notion of setting and the idea of immigration.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

met in her life.

"In every pub you would see these men smiling and chatting up the ladies," O'Malley said.

Two of O'Malley's poems, "Divorce" and "The Art of Home Maintenance," deal with two factors in a more modern Ireland: divorce and therapy.

"The 1997 referendum was passed finally legalizing divorce in Ireland," O'Malley said. "It was odd for everyone, even those of us who believed in the idea of divorce."

In "The Art of Home Maintenance," O'Malley deals with the subject of therapy, which is now a major issue in Ireland, a fact she finds amusing.

"It used to be if people were in trouble, they would go to confession; now they go to therapy," O'Malley said.

O'Malley spent a great deal of time traveling with musicians; this influenced her writing with some of her poems such as "Spanish Lady."

"I like listening to musicians talk," O'Malley said. "They will refer to lines in songs [and] even borrow titles."

She also paid tribute to some of her literary heroes, such as poets Adrienne Rich, Robert Pinsky and singer, Jo Haney. Haney was featured in O'Malley's poem, "Jo's Thrown out of School." This poem about young Haney getting thrown out of school and meeting his father's coffin on the way back.

"[Haney's] father died before he arrived home and they didn't get the chance to inform him," O'Malley explains.

Because of her constant writing of women's troubles or some of the darker issues of Ireland, O'Malley says that she has been labeled a feminist writer, a title she doesn't agree with.

"My poems are based on stories," she said. "They are not consciously feminist because I always thought of myself as equal."

places where the older kids would go to be alone."

"The Ponds" section features his memories on Wilhot Pond, a place Fanning once visited and skated on when he was younger. Fanning described one particular incident in which he skated on the pond to impress some older children.

"I skated until I realized that I could not explore the other side," he said, "I couldn't see the other side, so I felt the ice for support."

Fanning also says he likes to deal with his Irish ancestry in his poetry, which he says being a quarter Irish-American was constantly at war with his "Yankee" English-American side.

"On my father's Irish side of the family, we found out very little about their past," Fanning said. "On the Yankee side it went back 16 generations."

In his writing, Fanning paid tribute to his father who died in 1971 of a heart attack.

"He was a handsome man and very quiet," he said. "He never laughed aloud at home until we got a TV, and he used to laugh at Ernie Kovacs, Jack Benny and his personal favorite

Groucho Marx in 'You Bet Your Life.' "Fanning says that he wrote about his childhood home because it gives him a sense of familiarity.

"The small towns I grew up in were my neighborhood," he said. "Most people write on their neighborhood, it is where you are comfortable."

O'Malley also writes of her neighborhood of Connemara, Ireland, a place that she felt had a large effect on her life as well.

"I grew up in a small village and neighbors would go to and return from New York and Chicago. It used to be people would stay in one place all of their lives, but nowadays people move about with relative ease," said O'Malley.

O'Malley is the author of two books of poetry, "The Knife in the Wave" and "Asylum Road."

Much of O'Malley's poems display some of the hardships of women in Ireland. Her poem "Long Walk" is about a Galway woman in a bad marriage and is based on a true story.

Another of her poems "Connemara Men" deals with some of the more flirtatious men O'Malley

**JITTERS, from page 6**

"There's some diverse musical tastes here, and we want to get in touch with that. College students can make or break a band, and we want to find out as soon as possible," Trost said.

With live music, free CDs and T-shirts, and several possible contests, the evening should be well worth the trip.

"There's something I want to say to the fans," Trost said, "but I can't

think of anything. Give me a minute, dude."

Jitters is open every Thursday around 7:30 p.m. and hosts karaoke, games, public rants and, of course, coffee.

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# More Earths in the Milky Way?



BY MICAH ISSITT  
Science Columnist

In Ancient Greece, before the invention of telescopes or the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, the philosopher Democritus theorized that there might be other worlds, like Earth, with living creatures. Since then people have been fascinated by the possibility of alien planets and alien creatures. Today the search for extraterrestrial life is a high-tech enterprise. Scientists use sophisticated radar and viewing equipment to search the heavens for planets that might harbor some type of life.

In the 1960s, there was quite a bit of speculation about whether or not

Mars might harbor some sort of life. NASA was ready to send probes to Mars to investigate the possibilities. At the time an atmospheric chemist named James Lovelock, who was working for NASA, was in the process of creating a revolutionary theory that he believed would enable scientists to determine whether or not there was life on Mars without sending a probe.

Lovelock had been working on what he called the Gaia hypothesis. The central idea behind the Gaia hypothesis is that the earth is not a dead sphere with life living "on" it; instead the earth itself is a living system. Simply put, Earth is alive.

Lovelock observes that the Earth functions just like any living creature. The lithosphere (soil, rocks, mountains, etc.) is like a planetary skeleton while the hydrosphere (rivers, oceans, lakes, etc.) is analogous to a circulatory system and the atmosphere (clouds, air) is similar to a respiratory system. In addition, the Gaia theory hypothesizes that life forms function similarly to the various proteins and other molecules that drive an organism's metabolism.

Some of the most convincing evi-

'The central idea behind the Gaia hypothesis is...the earth itself is a living system. Simply put, Earth is alive.'

dence for the Gaia theory comes from observations about gas composition in Earth's atmosphere. Lovelock noticed that the atmospheric concentrations of several important gasses are different than what a chemist would normally expect. If a chemist were to fill a beaker with the same gasses that are present in our atmosphere, they would react with each other until the oxygen was depleted and high levels of nitrogen and carbon developed. On earth, however, oxygen is present at much greater concentrations than expected.

Why doesn't oxygen become depleted in Earth's atmosphere? Lovelock believes that life forms regulate the concentration of elements in our atmosphere, keeping them at levels that are conducive to the development and evolution of life.

How does this relate to finding life on Mars? Lovelock also believes that any planet that contained life would show characteristic chemical properties

similar to those of Earth's atmosphere—a higher proportion of oxygen and lower proportions of nitrogen. Therefore, Lovelock predicted that all we need to do, to find out if a planet contains life, is see if that planet has atmospheric gas concentrations similar to what we observe on Earth. Mars contains the same chemical elements that Earth does, so if Mars contained life wouldn't those life forms affect the Martian atmosphere in similar ways to Earth organisms?

Lovelock stated that he could already tell Mars was devoid of life from conducting spectrographs, tests that allow the chemical composition to be determined from examining sunlight reflected off of Mars. NASA scientists did not agree with Lovelock's hypotheses about the effects of life forms on atmospheric gasses and many felt that the Gaia theory was unrealistic and so Lovelock felt he had to leave NASA to continue investigating the possibilities of the Gaia hypothesis. Eventually NASA sent a probe to Mars and determined, finally, that Mars is a dead planet.

In recent years knowledge and acceptance of the Gaia hypothesis has grown significantly. Gaia is still too

radical for many scientists who feel the idea that the Earth is "alive" is more science fiction than science, but many serious scientists now consider Gaia a major competitor in earth science. In addition, Gaia theory has become a powerful tool for those interested in the search for extra terrestrial life. Recent research has used Lovelock's ideas about gas compositions to search the far reaches of the Milky Way for living planets.

One recent study conducted by the Potsdam institute in Germany used the Gaia theory coupled with a technique of "planetary modeling" to produce an educated guess about how many planets in the Milky Way might contain life. These scientists believe there may be as many as half a million Gaias in the Milky Way. This is by far the largest estimate ever produced.

Gaia may be just one living planet among millions. This may lead us to ponder whether the Earth is akin to a cell embedded in the cellular matrix of an entire universe. With these fruitful new methods of investigation at our disposal, it is possible that we might find many planets that contain life long before we have devised a method to visit them.

## VENTER, from page 3

"I remember these long riot lights; they were skinny and it looked like an alien planet. The roads were unpaved and there were no street names or numbers on the houses," Venter said.

Venter attended the South African Leadership Assembly held in 1979. It was a four-day event, the largest gathering of churches since the 1900s, where Desmond Tutu spoke.

"Organizers of the event arranged for blacks to stay in white houses in Pretoria. It was the first time I heard a black story from a black perspective: we shared the same morals and they didn't seem like communists."

Back home, Venter was alienated

from his family because of racism.

"I took two black friends home, and my father wouldn't talk to them."

In 1986, Venter became involved with African Enterprise, which arranged social events for black youth from townships. On one occasion he was the only "whitey" on a school bus headed to the all-white beach in Durban. When they got off the bus, the police were called and a confrontation occurred. Venter mediated peacefully and agreed to move off the beach before any clubbing took place. Venter still wears a Notre Dame hat in memory of Paul, a young man who was on the bus that day.

Apartheid fizzled out from the late '80s up until the first free election in 1994, but the devastating effects are lasting. Abrahams discussed land redistribution issues, crime, economic problems and AIDS. The new constitution, which includes a nine-year guarantee for free education and the building of a million new housing structures, holds seeds that have been planted to bring the land back to fruition.

According to Abrahams, other changes include guaranteed income for the desperately poor, health care without cost, electricity, drinking water and some U.S. grants.

Doreen Moreosele, a UM-St. Louis psychology major from Botswana says there are still problems.

"They are trying to reconcile, but there is still hatred and killing. Blacks kill blacks. There are no more signs, but you can still feel fear."

"I think there is a lot of frustration," Venter said. "The white population wants to forget and flee. Since 1945, approximately a million and a half [citizens] left the country in opposition or to avoid apartheid. The black and white students I teach in Cape Town feel as though nothing has changed... like there is a glass ceiling."

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- Xilu Zhang
- Yixuan Zhao
- Mark R Zust II

# Williford speaks at Monday Noon Series

BY FARIKA RUSLI  
Staff Writer

The Feb. 25 Monday Noon Series presented Lex Williford, the author of "Macauley's Thumb," which won the Iowa Short Fiction Award.

Williford, an assistant professor of English at the University of Texas-El Paso, is a visiting writer in the UM-St. Louis English Department MFA Program for one semester and is teaching a literary editing course and graduate workshop in fiction. He is also the guest editor of Natural Bridge Magazine and co-editor of The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction.

Unlike the previous sessions, which were held in JC Penney Building room 229, this Monday Noon series took place in JC Penney room 75.

Williford discussed the process of writing fiction, mostly about "stuckness."

According to Williford, stuckness almost always lies at the heart of what stories are about, some fear writers have to face, some blind spot, they have to check and check again, some change, they have to make before the character can change and move on.

"Writing is not an analogue process, inherently stuck in its own linearity," Williford said, quoting an essay published in the Novel and Short Story Writer's Market on Dec. 15, 2001.

"Writing is more analogous to a

digital process like computer multi-tasking or a CD set on shuffle so that when one gets stuck, one simply moves on to something else, just leaps over to the next track to keep up momentum," Williford said.

According to him, not being stuck in the linear groove of writing or working on a single project anymore would help writers stay productive while letting things that had us stuck cook in the unconscious a while.

"Keep on trying, it is a key to being a good writer," Williford said.

Among the audience was Denise Mussman of the Center of Academic Development.

"I came here because I am interested in creative writing. I have written a book for children and have recently joined a writer's group," Mussman said.

Mussman thought Williford had interesting ideas. She also said that having the listener's participate made it educational and fun.

"Mr. Williford is my professor in writing workshop. He is very sympathetic and empathetic to writers and their problems. I learned a lot today. He introduced a lot of literature I had not known before," graduate student, Karen Hayden said.

The Monday Noon Series is held on Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. in the JC Penney Building, room 229. For more information contact the Center of Art and Humanities at 516-5699.



Lex Williford, the author of "Macauley's Thumb," spoke at the Monday noon series on Feb. 25. Williford discussed the process of writing fiction.

Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

# UMSL students create mural masterpiece

BY AMANDA MUELLER  
Staff Writer

Two UM-St. Louis students incorporated student ideas to paint the mural that hangs in the Pilot House.

In October 2001, Luke Schulte and Abi Borrego were asked to create the mural by Gloria Schultz, director of auxiliary services, and by Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services. Schultz and Schuster wanted something to promote the UM-St. Louis community as a whole. Schulte and Borrego

accepted and began work on the large project.

"The drawing [and] designing took about one month to complete, but the whole project took about two-and-a-half to three months to finish," Schulte said.

They worked on the painting in their free time, sometimes spending 18 hours a day working on the mural. In exchange for their time and effort, Schulte and Borrego were given independent study course credit.

Their ideas for the mural came from all over campus.

"Almost every student organiza-

tion was given a 24-inch by 30-inch piece of poster board to put their ideas on," Schulte said. "We took most of the proposals and put them all together, overlapped them and distorted them so it didn't look like a group of banners."

The idea was that to promote UM-St. Louis as a community campus, and not just a commuter campus. Schulte and Borrego used everyone's ideas to create that sense of community.

"This is the largest piece of artwork the Missouri school system owns," Schulte said.

Schulte also had different campus groups paint the tables.

"We also opened it up to the organization to paint the tables," Schulte said. "We had a few people helping with the mural, and more people wanted to help so they painted the tables."

Schulte and Borrego also helped design the whole room, from the carpet and the layout of the room to the painting on the floor. Schulte also painted a vest in the same multicolored theme of the Pilot House. The vest was presented to Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill.

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