



Are you prepared for United 93?
See page 10

SABC doles out budget allocations for next year

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

That time of year has come around again, the time when the Student Allocations Budget Committee announces how much money each student organization will receive next year.

Each spring, all student organizations are required to submit a budget to SABC, which meets throughout the winter semester to look through budgets from 70 organizations.

After each club requests a certain amount, SABC decides to either accept or change the amount. Organizations have the option of appealing SABC's recommenda-

tions, and 25 organizations did so Friday, April 21.

This year, the big winners include Student Government Association, whose budget increased by \$13,000, while Residential Hall Association increased by almost \$10,000. Both PRIZM and Panhellenic Association's budgets increased by about \$6,000, and Associated Black Collegians received an extra \$3,000.

SGA secretary Tegan Viggers said the large budget increase for SGA was mostly because of increasing homecoming expenses. "I know at least \$10,000 is due to homecoming because homecoming was a huge success last year, and we wanted to increase the size of it," she said. With the \$10,000 increase, the

homecoming budget will now total \$40,000.

On the other hand, organizations that had a significant decrease include University Program Board, which decreased by about \$28,000, whereas the Ice Hockey Club and the Political Science Academy's budgets were cut completely. The National Optometric Student Association was cut to \$47.50 for next year.

The Speech and Debate club, which started the year with \$3,870, also will start next year with a budget of \$0. Lacey Greninger, freshman, criminology and pre-law, and treasurer for the club, said SABC did not allocate any money to the organization because its budget was not

prepared on time.

"There was an issue this year with the electronic system and problems with grouping all events together, and they lost all of ours," she said.

Rails said he never found a budget for Speech and Debate club and, "I never found any programs that were for Speech and Debate. No programs matched up."

Greninger and David Dodd, senior, business administration, resubmitted a budget the Thursday before appeals were heard, but SABC members felt the club had no budget to begin with and decided not to allocate any money to them.

see ALLOCATIONS, page 14

Winners and Losers in the SABC budget allocations

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Student Government Association 2005-2006: \$79,600 2006-2007: \$92,650 | ↑ | University Program Board 2005-2006: \$268,795 2006-2007: \$240,920 | ↓ |
| Residential Hall Association 2005-2006: \$5,675 2006-2007: \$15,035 | ↑ | Ice Hockey Club 2005-2006: \$9,000 2006-2007: \$0 | ↓ |
| Panhellenic Association 2005-2006: \$12,900 2006-2007: \$19,050 | ↑ | Speech and Debate Club 2005-2006: \$3,870 2006-2007: \$0 | ↓ |
| PRIZM 2005-2006: \$3,814 2006-2007: \$9,575 | ↑ | Associated Student Anthropologists 2005-2006: \$5,809 2006-2007: \$2,700 | ↓ |

Celebrating cultures at UMSL



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jalisa Ray, Autumn McNichols and Imani Ray perform a traditional African dance during Multicultural Awareness Day outside the Millennium Student Center on Thursday. All three are students at Normandy Senior High School, and members of Fundisha Enterprises. The Office of Multicultural Relations sponsored the event.

Baseball field will move to S. Campus

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

approximately \$4 million and will be located to the southwest of Normandy Hospital.

Chancellor Thomas George approved a proposal for a new baseball field on South Campus as the first phase of a move of the athletics facilities to South Campus.

An e-mail from the chancellor to the athletic coaches states, "I have decided to accept the recommendation of Sasaki and Associates to incorporate moving the core of our athletic facilities to the South Campus within our long-term Master Plan. This provides us with a framework to consolidate and improve our facilities into this general location on and around the old Normandy Hospital site."

The chancellor said, in the e-mail, the reason for these actions is because he believes "student athletes deserve the best chance possible to compete at the highest level and that their efforts improve campus life for all students."

According to Jonathan Yordy, coordinator of Public Relations, this conceptual plan will be proposed to the Board of Curators at its next meeting at UM-St. Louis May 4 and 5.

The construction of the field, which will be an NCAA regulation baseball field, will ultimately cost

"If you go out to the women's softball field, you'll get a rough idea of what they're thinking of putting out there at South Campus," Yordy said.

Yordy added that the chancellor has put aside \$750,000 to \$1 million for the construction of the field. He said the amount "sounds like a lot" and "in fact, it is" but will be coming from rent paid on the new business technology research park, where Express Scripts is being built.

The field is slated to be ready for the 2008 baseball season. "The idea is to put the baseball field in a close proximity to the residence halls to help build an audience," Yordy said.

Yordy said he would like the field's new location to help bring the North and South campuses together.

"I would like to see North and South Campus disappear, and we just begin to think of things just as one campus," he said.

In his statement, the chancellor went on to say that the University Assembly committees on Athletics and Physical Facilities voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

see BASEBALL FIELD, page 14

SGA resolution questions SABC's authority

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

The final Student Government Association meeting of the 2005-2006 year resulted in the support of a resolution recognizing President D'Andre Braddix's term and the failure to pass a resolution against the authority of the SGA comptroller and Student Activities Budgeting Committee.

The SGA assembly approved Resolution 04-02, written by Damien Johnson, senior, criminology and criminal justice. The resolution recognized Braddix, junior, criminology and criminal justice, for his term of service as SGA President.

Braddix was not in attendance at the meeting. SGA Vice President Taz Hossain, junior, psychology, said Braddix was not feeling well.

Hossain said Braddix was sorry he could not be at the meeting and he told her to say "thank you to the assembly for all of [its] support and cooperation this year."

Johnson said he thought Braddix had done a good job as SGA president,

despite the fact that Johnson does not always agree with everything Braddix does. Johnson stated in the resolution that Braddix "held our best interest in mind."

However, the assembly voted against a resolution, brought forth by Michael Beatty, senior, history, to prevent the SGA Comptroller and the SABC from having "any authority to dock any student organization's budget for any reason other than fraud, or mis- or malapplication of funds allocated to that organization."

The resolution was in regards to an announcement made by SGA Comptroller Brian Rails, senior, marketing, that SABC adopted a policy that would dock student organizations 5 percent of their allocation from student activity funds for the 2006-2007 budget cycle for each SGA meeting that an organization's representative did not attend.

Rails said, "I'm glad that they didn't vote in favor of it. I was shocked, but I understand it was a decision left up to the SGA assembly."

SABC member Michele Landeau,

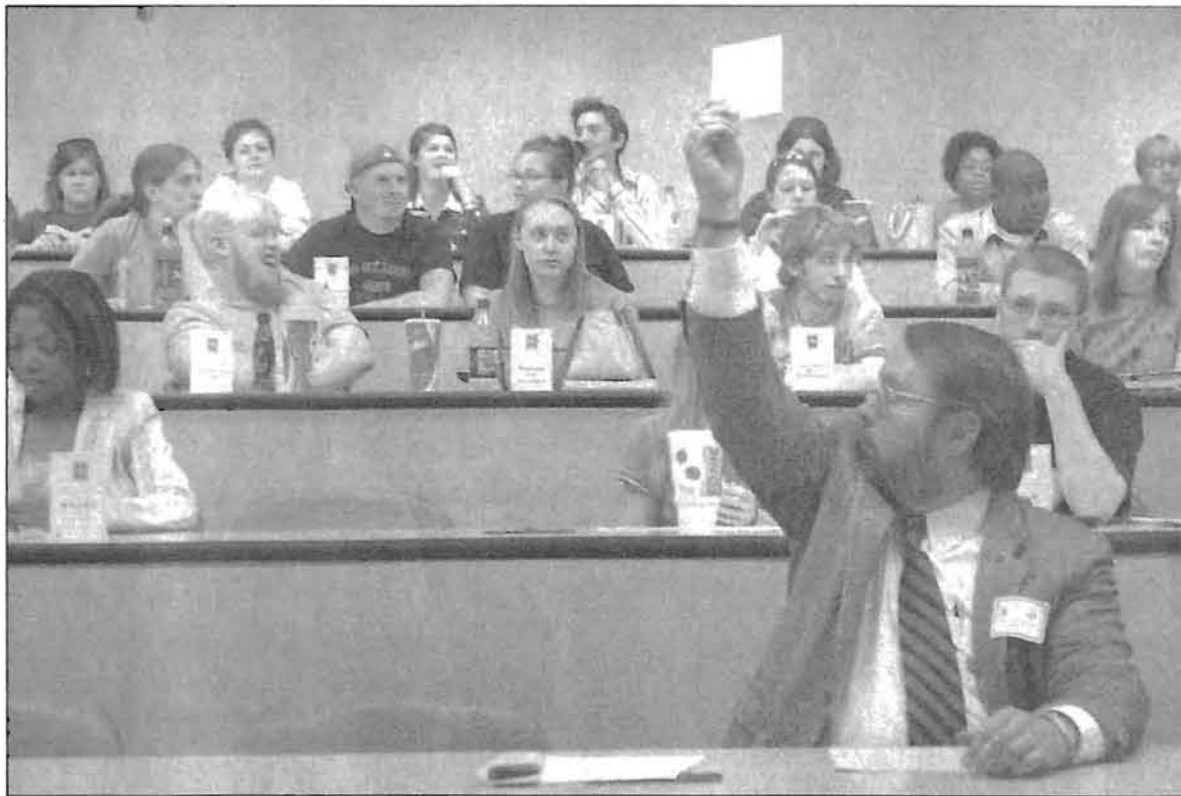
senior, history, said she was also glad the resolution did not pass. "We worked so hard and Brian [Rails] did too and put in an endless amount of hours. We still believe we did the most fair thing," she said.

Beatty said he made the resolution to remind the assembly that the representatives could limit the powers of the executive committee.

Rails said he felt the resolution was an attack. "Whenever a name is mentioned, it is an attack," he said.

Rails added that while the decision to cut budgets by 5 percent was late in the process, as comptroller, he does not vote on the budgets or set the rules for budget cuts. "I chose not to start setting rules outside of my power," he said.

Chief Justice of Student Court Bryan Goers, sophomore, secondary education, asked Rails if the 5 percent cut for absences were reallocated to other organizations' budgets. Rails replied that the 5 percent cuts did free up money for other organizations, but may not have directly gone to organizations with perfect attendance.



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

Michael Beatty, senior, history, was one of a few votes for the resolution that concerned the powers of the comptroller and SABC. The SGA meeting was held Friday afternoon in the MSC.



Best of Sports for 2005-2006

See page 8

Margarita Magic

See Nightlife Section



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Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsl.edu

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 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 one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Mon. May 1

Chemistry Colloquium

Alicia M. Beatty, assistant professor of inorganic chemistry at Mississippi State University, will discuss "From 'Dimethyl Tar' to Clay Mimics: a Sticky Path to Crystal Engineering" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:15 p.m. and it is free and open to the public. It will be preceded at 3:30 p.m. by the department's 2005-2006 awards presentations, and followed by a reception at the Alumni Center. Call 5311 for more information.

Homicide Investigation

UM-St. Louis forensic anthropology students will investigate a staged murder at 3:30 p.m. in the Pierre Laclede Honors College. St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department will assist students, give a tour of the crime scene van and demonstrate the department's equipment. Call 6794 for more information.

Mail Services Survey

A customer satisfaction survey will run from today through May 5. Visit www.umsl.edu/~busserv/mail-room.htm to complete the survey. Participation is appreciated.

Tues. May 2

"Point-of-View: 2Read + 2Write=4Music"

An exhibit of photographs taken by 11 students at Gary Gore Elementary School in Jennings, Mo., will open today and run through Sept. 26 at the Public Policy Research Center, 362 55B. An opening reception will take place from noon to 1 p.m. at the center. Exhibit hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Call 5273 or visit <http://pprc.umsl.edu/> for more information.

Novelist Reading

Florida-based novelist Tony D'Souza will read from his new book, "Whiteman," at 6 p.m. in Gallery 210. The reading is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Master of Fine Arts writing program. Call 6845 for more information.

Wed. May 3

Storytelling Festival

"Sparks by the River: Legacy of a Journey," begins today and runs through May 6. During this four-day festival, storytellers from across the country and from our own communities will enchant adults and children alike at numerous sites in the St. Louis area and St. Charles County. All events are free. Call 5961 or visit

<http://www.umsl.edu/story-telling> for more information.

'Wieners for Seniors'

The annual farewell picnic for seniors graduating in May, August and December, will be held at 11 a.m. on the MSC lawn and the part of Parking Lot D that is closest to the student center. The event is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Alumni Association and Students Today Alumni Tomorrow. Call 5747 for more information.

Lunch & Lecture

Carlos Schwantes, the St. Louis Mercantile Library Endowed Professor of Transportation and the West at UM-St. Louis, will discuss "Vanishing Before our Eyes: Printing Presses, Computers and the Mystery of Disappearing Transportation Ephemera" at noon in Century Room A at the MSC. The lecture is free and open to the public. Lunch is \$18 for Mercantile members, and \$20 for non-members. Call 7242 for reservations or more information.

Fri. May 5

Basketball Fundraiser

Members of the Sigma Tau Gamma, Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Pi fraternities and Delta Zeta, Alpha Xi Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities will play basketball in a tour-

namment from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain/Athletics & Fitness Center. The main event will be a game between UM-St. Louis faculty and UM-St. Louis fraternity and sorority all-stars. The night will benefit the Christopher Reeve Foundation and is open to the public. Admission is a minimum \$5 donation. Call 6747 for more information.

Golf Tournament

Campus Recreation's Intramural Medal Golf Tournament will be held today at St. Ann Golf Course, 4100 Ashby Road. Tee off anytime today, play nine holes for \$10, and turn in your scorecards at the course office after completing your round. The tournament is open to students, faculty, staff and alumni. All skill levels are welcome. T-shirts will be awarded to net and gross men's and women's winners. No advance registration is necessary. Call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport> for more information. Call (314) 423-6400 for directions.

Sat. May 6

Art Auction

The second annual Little Hands Art Auction will take place in the MSC tonight. A silent auction will be held

from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and a live bid auction will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. A cash bar and desserts will be available. The fundraiser benefits the University Child Development Center.

Digital Media Festival

The 5th annual festival will be held at 1 p.m. in the E. Desmond Lee Technology & Learning Center, 100 Marillac Hall on South Campus. The festival will feature short videos created by K-12 students and educators from the St. Louis metropolitan area, including the presentation of the "UMSIE." Refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. Visit <http://dmf.umsl.edu> or call 4800 for more information.

Announcements

Mayor Francis Slay will award the St. Louis business Journal Economic Education Award to Gerhard Petzall on May 10 in the Summit Lounge at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Petzall is the 2006 recipient of the award given by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education at UM-St. Louis.

Put your event on the Bulletin Board by emailing information to current@jinx.umsl.edu

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Campus Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis police department between April 23, 2006 and April 29, 2006. Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

April 23 - Disturbance/Fight-Building #3 University Meadows

The midnight shift was dispatched to building #3 two times during the course of the shift for reports of fighting. Upon arrival, the victim(s) indicated they were assaulted by unknown guests who were at a party. All of the suspects and most

of the witnesses were gone and could provide no additional information to aid in an investigation.

April 26 - Stealing Over \$500 - Benton Hall

The victim left her laptop computer in a room adjacent to a study area. When she returned, she discovered that it was missing from the room.

April 28 - Stealing Over \$500 - Garage P - Ramp from first to second level

A student reported that his vehicle was entered and his passport and wallet with five credit cards and a small

amount of cash were stolen. The victim believes that the door lock was tampered with in order to gain entry. The wallet was in a bag on the back seat visible from the outside.

April 29 - Burglary/Stealing - 8233A Normandy Trace Drive - Mansion Hills Apartments

The victim indicated that a burglary and stealing was committed between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The victim indicated that a screen was removed from the outside, allowing entry into the apartment through an unsecured window. The suspect(s) stole an X-Box game system and a quilt from inside the apartment.

CORRECTIONS

In the April 24 issue of The Current, the table showing the results of the SGA elections incorrectly named Danielle Bratton as the winner of the vice president race. Thomas Helton actually won

the vice president position with 329 votes while Bratton received 244 votes. President-elect Nick Koechig also received 465 votes, not 463, as stated last week.

Also, Adam D. Wiseman, photo

director, took the photo of SGA President-elect Nick Koechig passing out flyers on the MSC bridge on the front page of the April 24 issue. A credit was missing from the photo last week.

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Campus works to build partnerships with Express Scripts

UMSL students, faculty visit corporate headquarters

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Progress is being made in both construction and partnerships with Express Scripts, and it showed at a recent ESI/UMSL Lifelong Learning Fair held at the Express Scripts headquarters in Maryland Heights last Tuesday, April 25.

At least 27 different departments and organizations on campus went to Express Scripts to present information on the University, answer employees' questions and become acquainted with future partners from the Fortune 150 company.

Gina Ganahl, associate dean of Continuing Education and Outreach, helped coordinate the event with Therese Macan, associate professor and program director in psychology and Kathleen Sullivan-Brown, associate professor in educational leadership and policy studies. Express Scripts staff members who worked on the event include Karen Matteuzzi, Glenda Knebel, Julie Hoff, Marian Quails-Nelson and Shelly Beckemeier.

"We are all members of a workgroup for the Express Scripts/UMSL [task force], and we're in charge of educational opportunities," Ganahl said.

"We thought the first thing we need to do is inform Express Scripts

employees of what the University has to offer," she said, "not only with the degree programs and certificates, but also in terms of the facilities, the Touhill Performing Arts Center, the MSC, the Mark Twain and such."

Almost every college and school on campus was represented, as well as Student Affairs, Continuing Education and Outreach and Auxiliary Services.

Gloria Schultz, director of Auxiliary Services, attended the fair. After talking with several Express Scripts employees, she found they were interested in what UM-St. Louis had to offer.

"I asked a lot of the people if they were planning to take classes after they moved here," she said. While about three workers said they would not attend, she said she found that the rest were excited about taking classes at UM-St. Louis.

"They're very much looking forward to moving here," Schultz said. "They were saying how convenient it would be to take classes here, that they've been putting it off and that it'd be so convenient."

Ganahl supported Schultz's statement by saying Express Scripts workers will bring a different customer base to UM-St. Louis.

Besides educational opportunities, Ganahl, a member of the ESI/UMSL taskforce, said, "We are designing what this relationship will be like. We're all very conscious of making sure that Express Scripts has something to gain

from being here and UMSL has something to gain."

Steve Littlejohn, partnership co-chair from Express Scripts, said the partnerships are progressing on schedule. "We've met twice, once in December and at the end of February. We have another meeting set for May 26," he said.

Currently, UM-St. Louis and Express Scripts are looking at 15 potential projects. The projects fall into one of four categories: research, as in information technology; education through internships and continuing education, service opportunities with the surrounding communities and collaboration support.

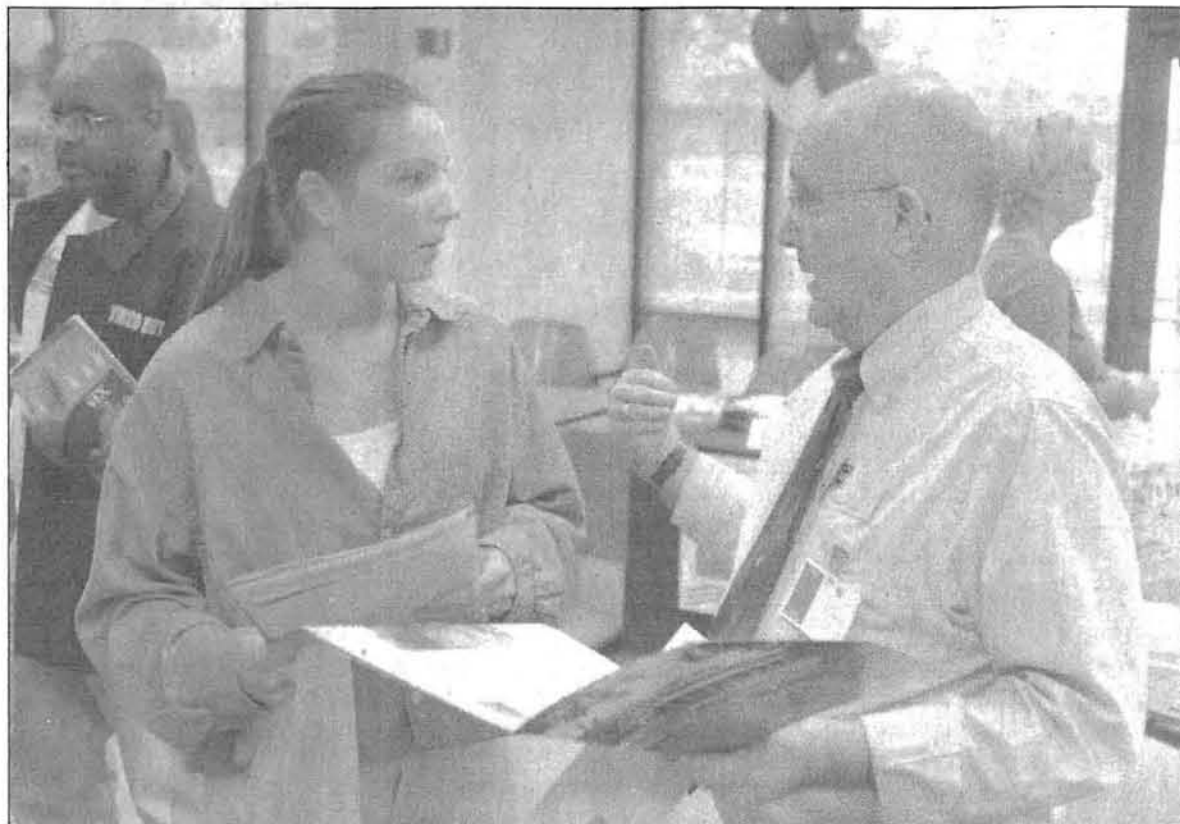
While it may not have been an initial plan of the partnerships, the company's band, Xpressions, recently played at Mirthday.

By midyear, Littlejohn hopes to have a game plan setup for moving forward with the projects. "The second half of the year, we hope to have robust interactions."

Even though the corporate fast-paced culture of Express Scripts differs from the University's culture, which focuses on thought, the partnerships are coming along.

In related news, Chancellor Thomas George said the UM General Counsel is still looking into who dumped debris at the construction site.

"They are going to try to track down who the perpetrator was dumping this



Adam Wiseman/The Current

Jessica Goertz, research technician for Express Scripts, talks with Gary Clark, from UM-St. Louis Transfer Services, about taking classes in the continuing education program. On Tuesday afternoon, the University set up a fair for Express Scripts employees. It was designed to show what UM-St. Louis has to offer and allow students the opportunity to meet our soon to be neighbors. "I really want to continue my education and this is the perfect opportunity," Goertz said.

and try to recover it," George said. Hauling away the debris has not slowed construction. "Everything is on schedule," George said. "It might be a month later. It was supposed to be March 2007. It may be April."

Also, at the SGA meeting Friday,

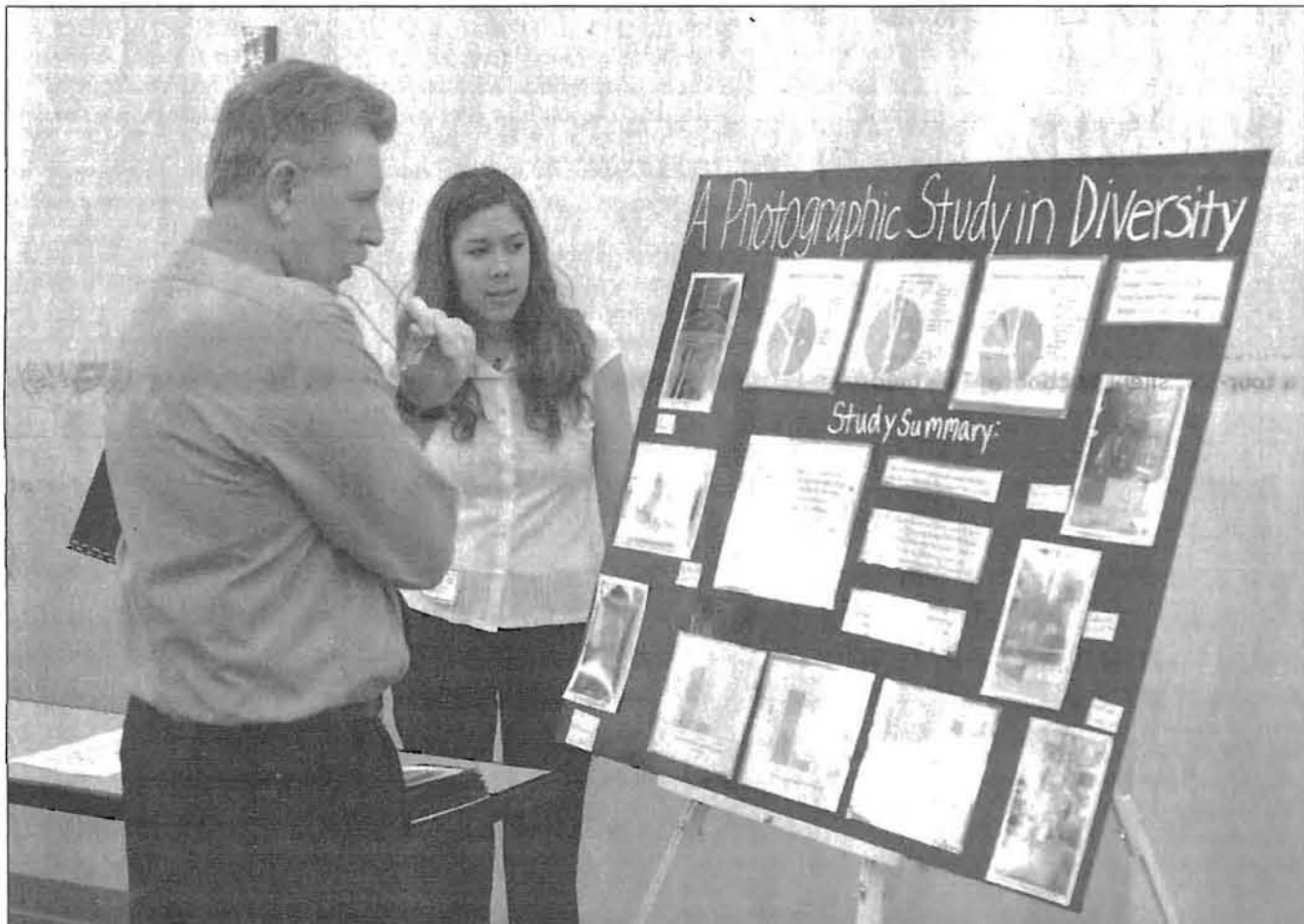
Jonathan Yordy, coordinator for Public Relations, said a county road called University Place Drive is being built on the north part of campus.

While he estimated the cost would total about \$7 million to \$8 million, Yordy said funding for the road will

come from outside sources, not University funds.

He also announced that starting May 15 and through August, West Drive from University Boulevard to the Mark Twain gymnasium will be closed because of construction.

News Briefs



Angela Woike, junior, anthropology, stands proudly beside her diversity project which was on display at the undergraduate research symposium in the MSC last Friday. Don Mertz, director of the Center for Academic Development, curiously absorbs the information.

Kevin Ottley/The Current

URS celebrates fifth year of symposium

The fifth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium took place last Friday in the Millennium Student Center.

URS Chair Mary Ann Coker said 64 presentations, both oral and poster, were shown at the event.

Undergraduate students presented their research on anthropology, biology, chemistry, history, physics, psychology, social work and more.

The URS started in 2002 when a student approached Kathryn Walterscheid, faculty adviser for Golden Key International Honour Society. "A student came to me and said, 'I think we need to have a venue for students to learn professional skills,'" she said.

She said the first URS took place in a hallway in the Honors College where 12 presentations were on display.

Golden Key has since hosted the event while adding more co-sponsors each year, including the Pierre Laclède Honors College and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"The purpose [of URS] is to give [students] a chance to learn professional skills because in almost any job, you'll have to give oral presentations," Walterscheid said. "Teachers tell us that the very act of preparing for this helps the students learn the material better," she added.

Board of Curators to come to UMSL

The University of Missouri Board of Curators will hold their

next meeting at UM-St. Louis Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5 in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center. The board last met at St. Louis in October 2005.

While no agenda has been announced, the curators are expected to discuss employee benefits, the chancellor's decision to move the baseball field to South Campus and a presentation on the ongoing progress of Express Scripts construction and partnerships between the campus and the Fortune 150 company.

Curator David Wasinger's request to look at how student organizations spend their money may also be a discussion topic.

Former CEO of the World Wildlife Fund will get ICTE award

Kathryn Fuller, former president and chief executive officer of World Wildlife Fund-US, will receive the 2006 World Ecology Award from the International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The award will be presented at 6:30 p.m. May 16 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Tickets are \$250.

Fuller served as president and CEO of World Wildlife Fund-US, the world's largest international conservation organization, for 16 years before retiring in 2005. Under her leadership, WWF doubled its membership, tripled its revenue and expanded its presence in more than 100 countries.

Past recipients of the World Ecology Award include Jane Goodall, Harrison Ford, Richard

Leakey, Teresa Heinz, Ted Turner, Jacques Cousteau and John Denver.

Schwartz earns National Jewish Book Award

English Professor Howard Schwartz has won the National Jewish Book Award in the category of reference for his book, "Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism."

The awards are administered by the Jewish Book Council.

"Tree of Souls" culls together 670 Jewish myths to demonstrate the flourishing mythology in Judaism.

Schwartz is the author of more than 30 books, including "Elijah's Violin & Other Jewish Fairy Tales," "Miriam's Tambourine: Jewish Folktales from Around the World," "Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural" and "Gabriel's Palace: Jewish Mythical Tales."

"Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism," was published in 2004, and is now in its second printing. It is available in hardcover for \$50 at St. Louis-area bookstores, including the UM-St. Louis Bookstore. Visit <http://www.howardschwartz.com> for more information.

Greek Life to hold fundraiser for Reeves Foundation

The UM-St. Louis Greek community will hold a charity basketball tournament on May 5 to benefit the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation.

Members of the Sigma Tau Gamma, Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Pi fraternities and Delta Zeta, Alpha Xi Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities will play basketball from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, May 5 at the Mark Twain Building.

The main event will be a basketball game between fraternity and sorority all-stars versus faculty members. Entertainment between games will include a discussion about paralysis, an obstacle course competition and a shootout for one semester's free tuition.

The event is open to the public, and admission is a minimum \$5 donation. Call the Office of Student Life at (314) 516-6747 for more information.

Vining receives state teaching award

Elizabeth W. Vining, senior lecturer in marketing, received the 2006 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching earlier this month at a luncheon at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo.

Vining came to UM-St. Louis in 1988, and has worked in the College of Business Administration as an educator and administrator.

She has been an academic adviser, director of continuing education and adviser to the International Business Club and International Business Institute.

The governor's award annually honors full-time faculty members who have at least five years of teaching service and are recognized for outstanding teaching, innovation in course design and delivery, effective advising, service to the institution's community and commitment to excellence.

Graduation marks the starting point for rest of seniors' lives

BY SEAN MICHAEL
Staff Writer

Have you bought your cap and gown yet? Filled out invitations? More importantly, what will you do with that degree you earned?

As the end of the spring semester approaches, UM-St. Louis seniors are preparing not only for final exams but also for graduation. Five graduation ceremonies in all will take place on Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14.

UM-St. Louis invites one speaker to address the students at each ceremony. Rep. William "Lacy" Clay will start things off at 10 a.m. as the first speaker at the Saturday ceremony.

Other speakers include dean of Continuing Education and Outreach Tom Walker, senior vice president for Academic Affairs Stephen Lehmkuhle, president of the Magic House Beth Fitzgerald and president of the Moneta Group Limited Liability Company Peter Schick. These speakers will make presentations at the ceremonies that occur at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, respectively.

According to Special Events Manager Cindy Vantine, two honorary degree recipients will be named. Joe Edwards of the Blueberry Hill Walk-of-Fame and Community Volunteer Priscilla McDonnell will receive their honors during two of the ceremonies. "As of right now, there will be at least 900 people who will participate in the five ceremonies and around 1,200 who will receive degrees," Vantine said.

With the graduation ceremonies approaching, she said the preparation has been hectic.

"Every year, we're in charge of preparing for three seasons of graduation, whether it's sending out a calendar of critical dates to the Academic Advisor and Registrar's Office or simply arranging for cap and gown rental orders," Vantine said.

A graduation fair took place on April 4, 5 and 6, where students got information about what they needed for graduation.

"The graduation fair was when I purchased my cap and gown, even

though I have no idea what I want to do after graduation," Molly Mchugh, senior, mass communication, said.

She said she feels excited, yet apprehensive, about graduation. "I'm just acting like this is another semester, and I'm trying to do as well as I can in all my classes instead of thinking about graduation day," Mchugh explained.

Other students feel excitement about leaving college behind. Candace Hall, senior, communication, has been attending UM-St. Louis for more than four years. She wants to be finished with her college education for the time being.

"I feel like I'll be able to close one chapter of my life and start another," Hall said.

Along with finishing homework and working for the U.S. Postal Service, Hall is searching for a job for after college. "I would also like to complete an internship after graduation, possibly in a public relations firm if they will hire me," she said.

Stephanie Parmley, senior, communication theory, said she feels a little overwhelmed but is excited about graduation. "Graduation and the previous semester kind of snuck up on me. All of a sudden, I had a bunch of things to finish like my communication assessment paper, and I had to rent a cap and gown," she said.

Parmley said she is ready for a new life after college. "I am getting married in four months, and after graduation, my fiancé and I will be preparing for the wedding," she said.

Vantine explained that each commencement that students attend is a different show. "It's like a play. It has its own cast of characters, its own script," she said.

The Special Events Office will be preparing for the graduation ceremonies all the way up to the deadline. "Right now we're in the process of proofing the commencement program, which is 50 pages," Vantine said.

The majority of ceremonies will commence in the Mark Twain Building. The College of Optometry ceremony will take place in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Students and the public will not need tickets to attend the ceremony at the PAC.

Get ready for our next editor...

Read new editor-in-chief Adam D. Wiseman's inaugural issue on racks June 12.



PRINTING

Our Opinion

Black & White

White Privilege Conference sheds light on the silent issue of racial inequality

America stopped slavery over 100 years ago, but our social system still oppresses minorities today.

Case in point: statistically speaking, black families have an average net worth that is 1/8 the value of white families in America. Those unaware of the circumstances surrounding this discrepancy often argue, "If those black people would just get jobs, their net worth would increase."

Not necessarily. Financial worth issues actually stem from the "white flight" situation in the 1960s. As black families started moving into white neighborhoods, real estate agents fueled stereotypical fears of white people. "Sell now before everyone else," the agents urged, "or your house value will plummet and you'll lose money." Often more fiscally afraid than overtly racist, the white families moved out in droves. Real estate agents took advantage of the situation and hiked up prices for black families moving in. This practice sowed the seeds, and today we witness the blooming undercurrent of inequality.

How can we remove this oppressive situation? First we have to acknowledge that it exists.

UM-St. Louis recently co-hosted the White Privilege Conference.

As one of the program coordinators stated in a press release, "This is not a 'beat up on white people' conference. It's about challenging society to recognize and dismantle systems of white privilege, white supremacy and oppression."

For three days, over 600 people from around the country gathered to discuss methods of social change, youth empowerment and activism opportunities.

We need programs like this at UM-St. Louis, and kudos to the University representatives aware of the value of such an event on our campus. While people of minority status often experience the crushing weight of oppression in subtle ways, the majority population may not experience it at all. Prior to college, some of us lived in wealthy areas and only interacted with peers in similar financial situations.

More than anyone, those people need exposure to issues regarding inequality. Unless we're equipped with a thorough understanding of the social system, we can't fight it. UM-St. Louis offers a science based human variation course that delves into the social history of "race." On the first day, students

learn that race does not biologically exist among humans. More schools should offer classes like this, and educators have a responsibility to encourage logical conversation regarding race and inequality.

More points to UM-St. Louis for doing so. But we need more classes like this, especially at an urban university. We need more intelligent conversation and scientific clarification of the social constructs that impact society.

The American flag may have been originally sewn on white cloth, but the design includes more than one color. College is the optimal time to discover and destroy the racial barriers that exist in our country.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Unless we make dismantling socially oppressive systems a constant concern, this dream won't be realized any time soon. Conversation about such a controversial topic is the strongest weapon. Let's use it.

Editors' Viewpoints

UMSL: So long, and thanks for all the fish



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

Nearly every Sunday night (Saturday, if I felt motivated) for the last two school years I've stared at this computer screen, cursed by the blinking cursor.

I worried about writing something that people would actually feel like reading. I know you're busy, and I appreciate the three minutes you occasionally spend reading my thoughts. And now I'm trying to sum it all up in 500 words or less. I need to sum up four years of college experience, because I feel like pieces of a relevant, profound, marginally important idea are drifting around in my head waiting to be assembled into a readable column. So I'm typing. And typing. And hoping this method will work. Thus far I've written nothing worth printing. 127 words down.

I am staring at a hair on my shirt. I notice the Phil-Collins-esque music on Mike's computer. Melissa is talking about lawn gnomes. I am hedging. I am avoiding this column.

This is the substance of my college experience. For the past four years, I have been surrounded by a lot of things. None of them have been as educational as the characters in my story - those who have made my life a sweet dream, a collection of late nights involving gut-busting laughter, a living hell, a giant headache.

We pay a lot to come here, to attend classes and commit to memory the factoids that will supposedly get us rent-paying jobs (at least that's what I hear. The jury is still out in my case...). Do I feel like the thousands of dollars I spent on academia have been worth my money? Sure. I'm more familiar with my chosen industry. But not just because I now have a collection of books about mass media theory, a car littered with art supplies and old newspapers, and - in two weeks - a piece of paper saying I graduated.

I've spent the last four years surrounded by my best friends. Freshman year they included my now-fiance and a dorm wing full of other crazy college kids who never slept. Sophomore year I hung out with fellow RAs in the residence halls who, despite endless drama, helped me laugh more than I cried. Junior year, my group slimmed

down to four best friends with whom I spent hours cheating at Uno while desk clerking, patronizing Denny's and road tripping. Most of them graduated or moved off campus, so this year I adjusted by living in The Current office. I'm certain I smell like newspaper, because I spend more time around this place than I do in my apartment and classes combined. Frequent trips to Waffle House, dorky conversations about grammar and far too many candid/ embarrassing/ incriminating photos later, I love these people and this paper.

Eight semesters worth of education bills are worth it because I'm sitting in an office where people are playing wiffle ball and ducking around cubicles. (That's the kind of thing we do during production night).

I've crammed for tests, memorized chapters of textbooks and given presentations about subjects I will never encounter after I leave UMSL. That stuff is important - it's the reason I came here in the first place. But it hasn't taught me like my friends have. Academia never made me laugh so hard that I lost control of my bodily functions. Books didn't show me my impact on the world, nor did they motivate me to stay up until 5 a.m. laying out newspaper pages. PowerPoint presentations have not helped me grow up. But every single interaction, every 10 second conversation, has shaped me and taught me about this "real world" I keep hearing about.

I don't suggest totally neglecting your studies to bar hop eight nights a week. However, ten years from now you aren't going to cherish your nights in the campus library alone. In college and for the rest of your life, make time to hang out. Integrate relationships and work so you get things done and make memories in the process. Your friends will teach you what curriculum cannot (and, naturally, vice versa).

To mine, I love you so much. Thank you for making me the adult I have become over the last four years. I can't believe it's over.

In the wise words of a certain anchorman: you stay classy, UMSL.

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LETTERS

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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 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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See you June 12

Until then, visit

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To apply for a position at *The Current*, send a resume and cover letter to current@jinx.umsil.edu

Under Current

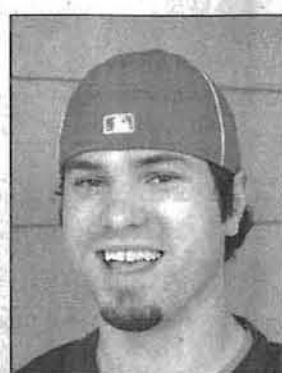
by Kevin Ottley
Photo Associate

What would you exhibit at a research symposium?



Will Melton
Graduate Student, History

A study of the number of western intellectual figures in history who suffered from mental illnesses.



Jeff Samoska
Senior, Psychology & Criminology

I'd do research about racial gaps in homicide rates. A follow-up to a paper I'm currently writing.



Lindsey Millikan Junior, Fine Arts Studies

A history of the techniques used to mix and create colors since the Renaissance.



Jonas Zakour
Senior, Business Management

Which breakfast cereals actually contain the percentage of vitamins and minerals they advertise.

Science Column

Finding water in the unlikeliest places in the solar system

We live on the water planet.

Water covers most of the surface of Earth and when life arose on this planet, it was from a watery source. So it is natural that when we explore our solar system, one of the first things we look for is water.

In our minds, and for life on Earth, water is essential. We are naturally curious about the chance of life on other planets, and for life as we know it, that means water. Even without extraterrestrial life, a planet with water hints at a place that could support life.

On March 9, NASA announced that the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft may have found water, liquid water, in one of the most unlikely places, a cold moon of Saturn.

Cold geysers of water seem to be sprouting from the surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus. February 2005 photos taken by the Cassini spacecraft appear to reveal plumes of particles spouting from the southern polar region of Enceladus. The high resolution photos show icy crystals being ejected at a high speed and high above the moon's surface.

Analysis of the photos by scientists indicates that the plume is the result of a geyser of liquid water. Cassini scientists think that the evidence indicates that the water geyser comes from pockets of liquid water near the surface. The scientists studying the photos used a number of models to rule out other explanations for the large plumes.

The evidence suggests that the water exists at near-freezing temperatures and that the plumes of icy crystals are the result of volcanic activity, like geysers on Earth. Previously, scientists had thought that active vol-



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

canism only existed on Earth, Jupiter's moon Io and possibly Neptune's moon Triton.

Carolyn Porco, Cassini imaging team leader at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado, conceded, in a press release from NASA, that the conclusion is revolutionary and that it seems more than surprising that liquid water might exist on such a small, cold moon. The finding broadens the range on environments in which water, and potentially life, can be found in the solar system.

Enceladus is not the only place in the solar system beside Earth where water has been found. However, it has been far more common to find water in polar caps, isolated icy crystals or far beneath the surface. "Other moons in the solar system have liquid-water oceans covered by kilometers of icy crust," said Andrew Ingersoll, another imaging team member. "What's different here is that pockets of liquid water may be no more than tens of meters below the surface."

The suggestion of liquid water near this moon's surface is an exciting and unexpected discovery. It also helps to explain the unexpected and puzzling discovery of lots of oxygen atoms in the area of Saturn, something also detected by Cassini. The presence of water being ejected from its moon Enceladus gives a source for the oxygen atoms around Saturn.

The Cassini-Huygens space craft is a multinational collaborative effort to explore Saturn and its moons. NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency are the cooperating agencies. Cassini has a four-year mission to explore Saturn and its moons.

The Rogue Librarian

Want to plagiarize? Prepare to get your ass kicked

RALEIGH MUNS

UMSL Reference Librarian

Warning. The Rogue Librarian is channeling fictional librarian Rex Libris in this column. I will be using the phrase "kick your ass" more that once so if that offends, stop reading right now.

Reason number one not to plagiarize: If I personally ever find out, I will come to your house and kick your ass. Of course, this would be a metaphorical ass kicking as I am basically a non-violent person.

However, plagiarism just pisses me off. Reason number two not to plagiarize: The world will kick your ass.

Harvard sophomore Kaavya

Viswanathan's broadly and recently publicized plagiarism "oops" with her new book is a good case in why, and how to not plagiarize.

First, plagiarists should not get their books on the New York Times Best Seller lists. The chances of fans of the plagiarized author (Megan McCafferty) noticing 40 or so identical passages in Viswanathan's book, How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild and Got a Life, are pretty darn good.

I know that a \$500,000 advance to a starry eyed 19-year-old is tantalizing; that's the amount Crown Publishing gave her for a two book contract. Then there are the movie rights which apparently have already been sold. I'm wondering when the other shoe will drop. By "other shoe"

I mean at some point the lawyers for Crown Publishing and the movie rights owners are going to be a little miffed at lost profits.

The weird thing is that How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild and Got a Life is a pretty good book. My wife even bought a copy as a birthday present for her mother on my recommendation. My recommendation was based on glowing book reviews, and a copy I browsed at the local bookstore.

It's a hilarious read!

Reason number three not to plagiarize: The University of Missouri-St. Louis will kick your ass. Typical responses to those caught plagiarizing include a failing grade for the class, the scary sounding "sanctions from the Office of Academic Affairs," and

suspension, expulsion, ostracization, and execution by firing squad.

Really.

Reason number four not to plagiarize: Remember, kids. Plagiarism is a two way street. If you can find something to plagiarize from, chances are someone else can find it too (and kick your ass). To avoid getting caught, good plagiarism takes as much effort as good paper writing.

Don't be afraid to use other people's ideas, or cite passages from other works. Just make sure you make it clear where they came from.

Just say no to drugs and plagiarism. That, and the phrase "kick your ass" is attributed to over 2,630,000 pages found via Google. I'm only the 2,630,001st writer to lift that phrase. Forgive me.

Letters from London

Laura bids farewell to Europe, hello to Wal-Mart

Here I am, packed and ready to go home after spending almost four months in a foreign country. There have been many good times and some bad times.

While I am excited to get home and see my family, I know I'll miss living in London. There is just no other city like it. Samuel Johnson once said, "When you are tired of London, you are tired of life." I can't help but agree with him, for no matter what you like, you can find it in London. Unless you want anything with artificial grape flavoring (then you're out of luck).

Today has been spent figuring out what can be left behind. Weight limits on luggage are the worst inventions known to humanity. Tomorrow most of us must assemble in front of the building at 7:30 a.m. and head for Heathrow Airport.

Some people are staying afterwards or did not book the group flight, so they won't be with us. The flight leaves early afternoon, and we'll arrive in Chicago around 3 p.m. As excited as we all are about going back, there is a feeling of dread when we think about the full day of travel ahead of us.

I would highly recommend to any-

one to study abroad. There really is no other experience quite like it. With scholarships and student loans it's also reasonable even for poor college students. And you don't have to go to a different country to study in a different university. You could live in places like New York City, Honolulu, Phoenix or San Francisco for a semester or even a year. Pay the same tuition rates and take classes that count towards your degree.

If I could give advice to anyone planning to study abroad, it would be this:

1) Always bring more money than you think you'll need. Even if you have a budget, you need to consider emergency situations. A few people in our program had their wallets stolen, and a few were the victims of online fraud. Also, you never want to be in a situation where you have to pass up something simply because you don't have the money.

2) Don't push yourself too hard. At



BY LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

some point during the semester, you will get homesick and a little depressed. This is perfectly normal and expected, so don't try to suppress it. Take some alone time, buy a phone card and call your parents or friends.

3) Give yourself time to pack before you leave. Many people pack the day before and bring stuff they don't need. And don't forget to leave plenty of room in your luggage for souvenirs you will buy when you're away.

4) Have an open mind. Food will not be the same, language will not be the same, living conditions will not be the same, and you won't be the same when you return.

5) Plan to do things you wouldn't normally do. If you're a theater person, try to go to a sports event. If you love sports, go to the theater, and see if you like it. Try to see as much local culture as possible in addition to all of the touristy spots.

I know I leave in about 16 hours, but

home seems such a weird concept at the moment. London has been my home for four months, and it is so much different from the Lake of the Ozarks that I don't know that my system will handle the change very well. Of course, I can't wait to hit up all of my favorite restaurants.

And as sad as this is, I plan to visit a Wal-Mart very soon after I get home. After living on the pound for so long, I cannot wait to switch back to the United States dollar.

Everything will seem so cheap compared to London that I might have to indulge in some of my junk food favorites. I'll be happy to drive again also, though I haven't missed St. Louis rush hour traffic at all, nor have I missed sitting in a construction zone.

I hope reverse culture shock will not hit too hard. I'll always think of this semester fondly and, if the opportunity comes up again, I think it would be nice to live in London for a time. Only for a time though; I could never permanently leave America behind, but it's nice to know that I can leave it without suffering a nervous breakdown. Tomorrow's homecoming will be very wonderful indeed as I close another chapter.

Letter to the Editor

Why don't students vote for SGA leaders?

One reason it is hard to get people to vote is that they do not think their vote matters, since many figure the University has something to say about the SGA:

"The University should consider adding a link directly from www.umsl.edu, and sending out a campus-wide e-mail to all students with a link to voting."

The SGA is a separate legal entity from UMSL. The SGA election committee should have the votes counted somewhere other than a faculty/staff controlled computer. They can give you any set of numbers they choose.

The SGA election committee

should have a means to send an email to all students. Every student at UMSL is a member of the SGA. Why does SGA need the University to contact students?

It makes no sense to let UMSL tell the SGA who won or lost an election, whether there should be a link on MyGateway, or whether UMSL should email the students with a link. It is a clear conflict of interest. Who certifies that UMSL is giving the SGA the right results instead of the results in the best interest of UMSL?

Frederick Eccher Jr.
Alumnus, MS in MIS, MBA

Letter to the Editor

U.S. should guard against oil weapon

Catherine Marquis-Homeyer's opinion on gasoline prices and alternative fuels was a good message, but one that gets tuned out among non-environmentally-savvy circles. I'd like to offer a reason to reduce oil usage that even Rush Limbaugh could agree with: global security.

Iran is developing nuclear weapons and is not afraid to use them. But Tehran is so bold only because it knows it can turn off the oil and wreak havoc on European

economies should there be a preemptive strike. Even nations that don't purchase Iranian oil will be affected because the "oil weapon" targets worldwide supply.

The government of Sudan is allegedly supporting the janjawid militia, which has raped and murdered tens of thousands of black Africans and sent untold refugees into neighboring Chad. But Khartoum doesn't fear reprisal because it can turn off the oil fueling China's expansion.

The high price of oil contributes to the strength of tyrants. The ability of the world community to levy pressure on evil regimes depends on cutting off their leverage, and that means structurally disentangling our economy from their exports. We can start by driving slower, avoiding rush hour and car-pooling.

A real, long-term solution is not in the hands of the military. It depends on scientists to research alternative energies, engineers to

create new technologies, journalists and activists to inform voters and consumers, economists to gauge the markets, government leaders to remove obstructions, and - maybe most importantly - entrepreneurs to embrace the risks that come with intentionally shifting the economic structure of the United States.

Jeremy Loscheider
Graduate Student, Economics

Thanks for reading.

See you on June 12 for our next issue.

WHAT'S

ON YOUR

MIND?

Write a letter to the editor

JAPAN

Start Your Adventure This Summer

NOVA is coming to St. Louis!
We will be conducting interviews
on Friday May 12th
on the University of Missouri Campus.
Interested? Contact your Career
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the week's
best
bets

Wieners for Seniors

Wieners for Seniors will be held Wednesday, May 3 from 1 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Parking lot C next to the MSC lakes. Seniors can get free hot dogs and T-shirts. Information on the alumni association, career services and more will be on hand. The president of WAT will dress in a giant hot dog suit. For more information, call the Alumni Association at 516-4738.

Fraternity/Sorority Basketball Fundraiser

The fraternities and sororities on campus are sponsoring a basketball fundraiser Friday, May 5 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Mark Twain Gym. The fundraiser will benefit the Christopher Reeve Foundation. The minimum donation is \$5. Call Student Life at 516-6817 for more information.



Photos by: Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Students set up a cardboard shantytown outside of the Millennium Student Center on Thursday night. The event was intended to let students experience life in poverty by sleeping out on or in cardboard boxes.

Spending the night in shantytown

Students get to experience life in poverty by MSC

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, more than 25 percent of the St. Louis city population lives below poverty levels. Out of the 90,000 people living below poverty, many of them are homeless.

Poverty and homelessness were issues Social Justice Month addressed last week.

On Thursday night, Shaun Lee, a social worker and coordinator of the Disaster Recovery Team at the St. Patrick Center, came to UM-St. Louis to speak about homelessness in St. Louis.

Individuals living below the poverty threshold earn less than \$9,214 annually, Lee said that someone earning minimum wage would have to work 98 hours a week to afford housing.

"Mental illness, chemical dependency, or both, keep them from holding a job or keeping a home," Lee said.

Natural disasters also bring many people to seek assistance from centers such as St. Patrick.

"In September, 2,100 families came to St. Louis after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita," Lee said. "The ones



Jennifer Towers, junior, business administration, talks with other participants of the cardboard shantytown shortly after midnight on Thursday outside the MSC. Towers spent the night out on the MSC lawn in a cardboard box in a homelessness simulation.

that are affected hardest [by natural disasters] are those who live near the poverty line."

Later that night, a small group of UM-St. Louis students and staff gathered on the MSC lawn for a candle light vigil where, after a moment of silence, they read real-life stories

about some of the people affected by homelessness.

Some became homeless after being hit with hospital bills, evicted by landlords, or plagued by mental illness or addictions to drugs or alcohol. The vigil concluded with a prayer and a "shantytown."

This is the fourth annual "shantytown," where participants braved the bright MSC lights, swooshing fountains, and chilly night to sleep in cardboard boxes on the MSC lawn.

see SHANTYTOWN, page 13

Calling 314: Which cell phone provider has the best deal in the St. Louis region?

BY NAKENYA SHUMATE
Staff Writer

With books in one hand and cell phone in the other, there is no shortage of wireless communication on the campus.

Students' desire to have the latest technology and stay in contact with friends and family keeps the mobile phone business a lucrative industry.

As indicated by their presence on the MSC Bridge, cell phone providers vie for student clientele. They know that students are eager to get the best features at the lowest cost per plan and are relentless in their pursuit for new customers.

If you are thinking of switching plans but they all seem the same, this may indicate who is winning the wireless provider battle, based on students' opinion.

Lisa Newcomer, junior, secondary education, is a Cingular customer.

"I've had them for a long time. The thing I like the most is they're flexible with my payment plan. I guess I have been a valued customer," she said.

She has been a customer for eight years and likes Cingular's share plan feature the best. While Newcomer is not interested in changing providers anytime soon, if

she had to she would choose Sprint, "just because it's popular and reputable."

Rudi Brockfeld, sophomore, undecided, is also a Cingular customer.

"My dad chose it and we're on a family plan," said Brockfeld. Having been a customer since December 2005, Brockfeld said his favorite feature is "the free mobile to mobile. All of my family and friends have Cingular."

Another Cingular customer is Shelonda Polk, junior, nursing. She chose Cingular because of their 10 percent student discount.

"I like Cingular because they have the family plan," she said. According to Polk, the only frustrating thing is the service connectivity. "For nursing students and south side of the campus the service is very touch and go," she said.

Cingular may have to step up their service if they want to remain number one.

"When my two-year contract is up, I will be heading to Nextel," said Polk.

"I started out as prepaid," said T-Mobileer Artelia Harold, senior, criminology and criminal justice.

"I wanted to do pre-paid because I didn't want to be locked in."

see CELL PHONES, page 15

Comparison of Cell Phone Providers

Below is a breakdown of the top five cell phone providers in the St. Louis area. For \$59.99 a month, you can get the following plans at:

Cingular - 900 anytime minutes, unlimited nights and weekends and free mobile to mobile

Nextel - 500 minutes, free incoming calls, unlimited nights and weekends and local walkie-talkie coverage

T-Mobile - 1500 anytime minutes and unlimited nights and weekends

Verizon - 900 anytime minutes, unlimited incoming calls and free nights and weekends



***U.S. Cellular** - 1300 minutes, unlimited nights and weekends for an additional \$5.95 and free local CALL ME minutes

*The U.S. Cellular website did not show a plan for \$59.99. The plan above is for \$49.95 a month.

Sources: Cingular, Nextel, T-Mobile, Verizon and U.S. Cellular websites

Two students' research leads them to testify at state capitol

BY MELISSA McCRARY
Features Editor

After presenting research at the Undergraduate Research Day in Jefferson City, UM-St. Louis students Javonda Palmer and Ann Chisholm were invited to give a testimony at the Hearing on Minimum Wage to the Workforce Development and Workplace Safety Committee.

Palmer, senior, social work, conducted research and completed a project during the 2005 fall semester, for her Social Policy class on the topic "African-American Families and High Debt, Low Net-Worth and Few Assets."

After she turned in her assignment, Margaret Sherraden, professor of social work, nominated her to be a Research Ambassador for the College of Arts and Sciences and to present her research findings to state legislators at the Undergraduate Research Day on April 4, 2006.

Palmer and Chisholm became research partners and chose "The Effects of Problem Debt on Low-Income Families" as their final research topic.

The purposes of their project are to assess the issues of problem debt and the population it affects, to determine the causes of problem debt and the impact on low-income families, to examine the approaches used to explain problem debt, to evaluate historical policy developments, the policy goals and changes over time, the funding sources and the implementation process.

While attending the Undergraduate Research Day, the women had the opportunity to discuss their findings and solutions with Rep. John Bowman.

see PROBLEM DEBT, page 14

Zoos may be last refuge for wildlife, says director

BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

"Zoos may take the lead in saving wild things in wild places," Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, told a rapt audience at the Missouri Botanical Garden during the annual Whitney Harris Lecture.

Zoos have come a long way from simply a place where children and a curious public could see wild animals from far away lands, Bonner reminded his audience.

Modern zoos are involved in conservation, education and research. "Because of our experience in managing small breeding populations and because of our wide public support, zoos are uniquely positioned to take a lead in preserving endangered species, in the wild places they belong," Bonner said.

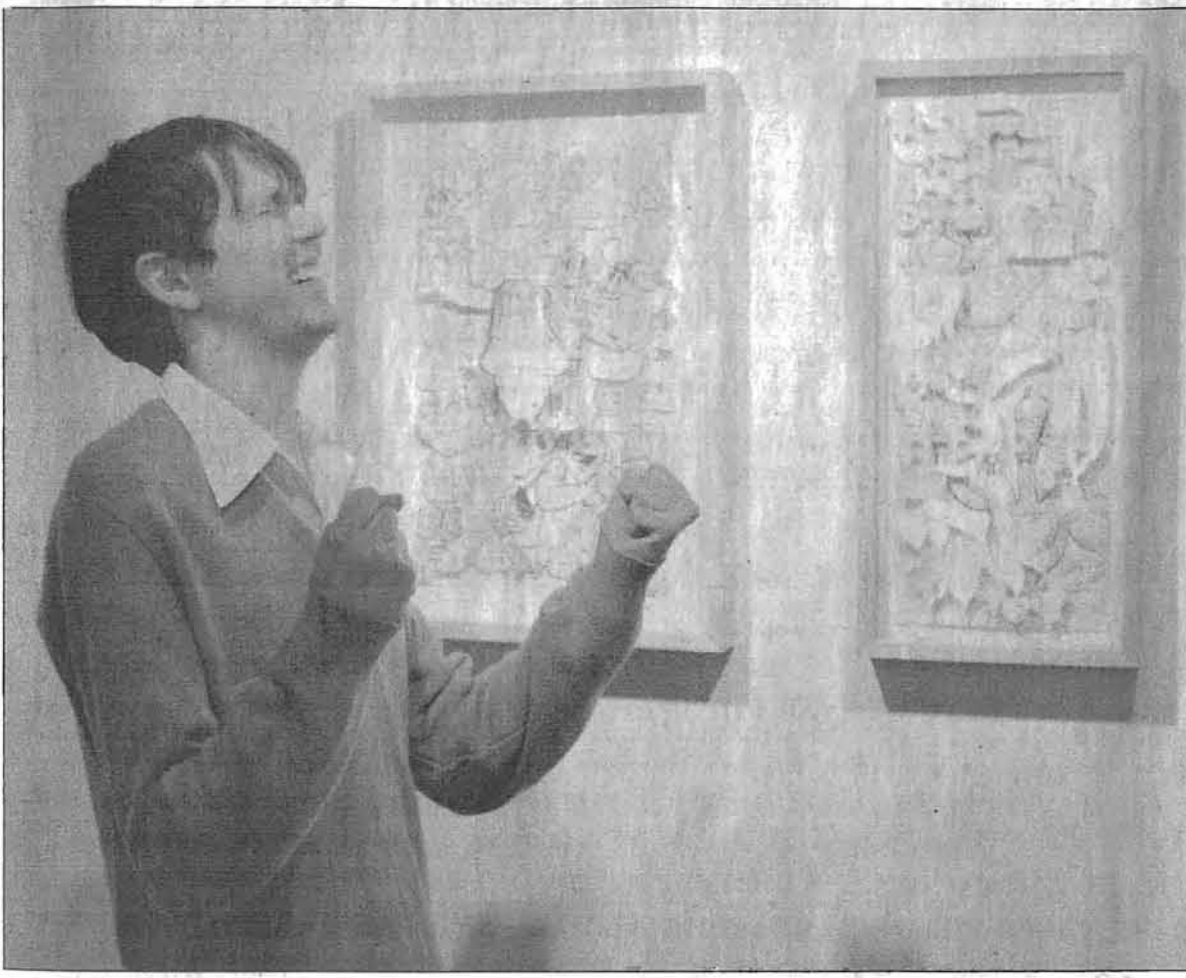
On Monday, April 24, the International Center for Tropical Ecology presented its annual Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture on ecology in the Schoenberg Auditorium at the Ridgeway Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

This year's presentation was called "From Fence to Field: The Changing Role of Zoos in Conservation." The featured speaker for this year's multimedia presentation was Jeffrey Bonner, president and CEO of the St. Louis Zoo and author of a new book, "Sailing With Noah."

The book covers some of Bonner's experiences over the years in his work at zoos, and the role of zoos in conservation.

The ecology presentation, which was free and open to the public, included a reception with refreshments after the talk, along with a book signing by Bonner.

see ZOOS, page 16



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Peter Pranschke gestures in exhilaration while chatting to an acquaintance (outside picture) in front of his cartoon masterpiece "Jami McNall Commission." Pranschke's entertaining work went on display last Friday evening at the Fine Arts Building.

Jones, Pranschke push comic boundaries in 'Back to Back'

BY ZACH MEYER
Staff Writer

Friday announced the Gallery FAB's grand opening of Mike Jones' "Star Quack" and Peter Pranschke's "A Fabricated Gospel Fantasy" in the "Back to Back" art exhibit. The display featured the two artists side by side as a look at contemporary cartoon work.

The exhibit proved that cartoons can be far more substantial than the quick laughs that most cartoons have to offer. Jones' "Star Quack" is a parody of "Star Trek" that draws from contemporary and pop culture.

"It ('Star Trek') gave me a lot of possibilities," Jones said. "In a way, the actual source of material for 'Star Trek' does that, it uses other planets to mirror what's going on in society. It's really just a good vehicle to do this kind of thing."

According to Jones, the idea of a cartoon is not a new idea either.

"A lot of comic historians nowadays have traced the roots to Egyptian wall

paintings on tombs," Jones said. "I guess if you were to look at the definition of comics that has kind of gelled in the past few years, it's say, 'images in deliberate sequences,' that demonstrate a deliberate story."

"And if you use that definition, you can talk about Greek vase paintings, you can use Egyptian wall painting, it just goes way back."

"A Fabricated Gospel Fantasy" also takes the idea of a cartoon to a new level. Pranschke, the creator of the cartoon, completely forgoes the concept of a comic strip by simply erasing the panel borders. Instead, his portion of the exhibit featured hand-drawn cartoon characters that were individually cut up, placed inside Ziploc plastic bags and nailed from one end of the exhibit's hall to the other.

"I think my work functions as both something that people can laugh at, but it's leaning a little more to be in more of a gallery. It's not necessarily something that's supposed to be published in a book," Pranschke said.

The muse for "A Fabricated Gospel

Fantasy" is based on Pranschke's personal experiences.

"I work a lot with personal experiences, and they're very autobiographical. I don't know if there's a real reason for that. Writers kind of say to write about what you know, and it's just kind of a variation on that," Pranschke said.

One of the ideas that both artists fight against is the stigma that cartoons are not worth more than a mass-produced chuckle.

"It's just kind of way to break things up and try new things. I feel like, as an artist, I'm able to be creative and so I feel like I can choose what a comic book can be and do," Pranschke said.

"We're coming out of a time from which cartoons were not accepted as an art form," Jones said. "Just because it has been used for entertainment for young children, doesn't mean that it can't have a higher function."

The "Back to Back" exhibit is open free of charge to the public until May 7, at Gallery FAB, room 201 in the UM-St. Louis Fine Arts Building,

Concert series celebrates life of Russian musician Dmitri Shostakovich

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

Shostakovich, is a Russian musician, organized he concert series.

"I've performed Shostakovich before and I came up with the idea to perform four concerts. He's a very well known performer," Voskoboinikova said. She said that with the centennial of Shostakovich's birth, others have performed his work in commemoration and she felt UM-St. Louis should join the crowd.

James Richards, professor and chair of the music department, said that having a concert series of a well developed composer gives audience members an idea of how a composer's music developed over the span of his or her life.

"This results in an extraordinary experience for the audience," he said.

Richards added that, for those interested in other concert series, the Arianna String Quartet is planning to perform the entire Beethoven series in the coming year.

The concert included two pieces composed by Shostakovich. The first was Sonata in D Minor for Cello and Piano, Opus 40, which Shostakovich completed on Sept. 19, 1934, a week before his 28th birthday. This piece was romantic and understandable, and is lighter than later pieces which Shostakovich wrote.

The second piece was Seven Romances to Poems by Alexander

Blok, Opus 127, and marked a sharp contrast to the first piece Shostakovich had written. He wrote the piece in 1967 and dedicated it to Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and Rostropovich's wife, soprano Galina Vishnevskaya. Shostakovich originally wrote the piece only for a cellist and soprano but later expanded on the piece to include parts for a pianist and violinist.

Lennon said that performing Seven Romances to Poems by Alexander Blok, Opus 127 was challenging because it is an emotional piece.

To understand the emotion behind Shostakovich's music, it is necessary to understand the culture and period of

time Shostakovich lived in.

According to Voskoboinikova, "the time period was very difficult. Russia was under the rule of Stalin. Shostakovich struggled his whole life with the regime. His music was very controversial and it spoke about everything."

Voskoboinikova said that Shostakovich's music paved the way for future composers. His music had depth and it also represented an act of bravery that spoke against the regime.

"For me, Shostakovich is not only about music because he was a great citizen," Voskoboinikova said.

Those in attendance came for a variety of reasons. Sherre Waggoner,

senior, music education, said, "I'm here for the enjoyment and I'm here to learn by watching."

Carolyn Crews, senior, psychology, said she came because "I love chamber music" and said she really like the combination of the cello, violin and piano as they are her favorite instruments.

Regardless of their reasons for coming, the audience was clearly impressed as they gave standing ovations following each performance.

For those interested in Shostakovich's music, the third and fourth concerts will take place on Sept. 25 and Sept. 26 and will include string quartets and a piano quintet.

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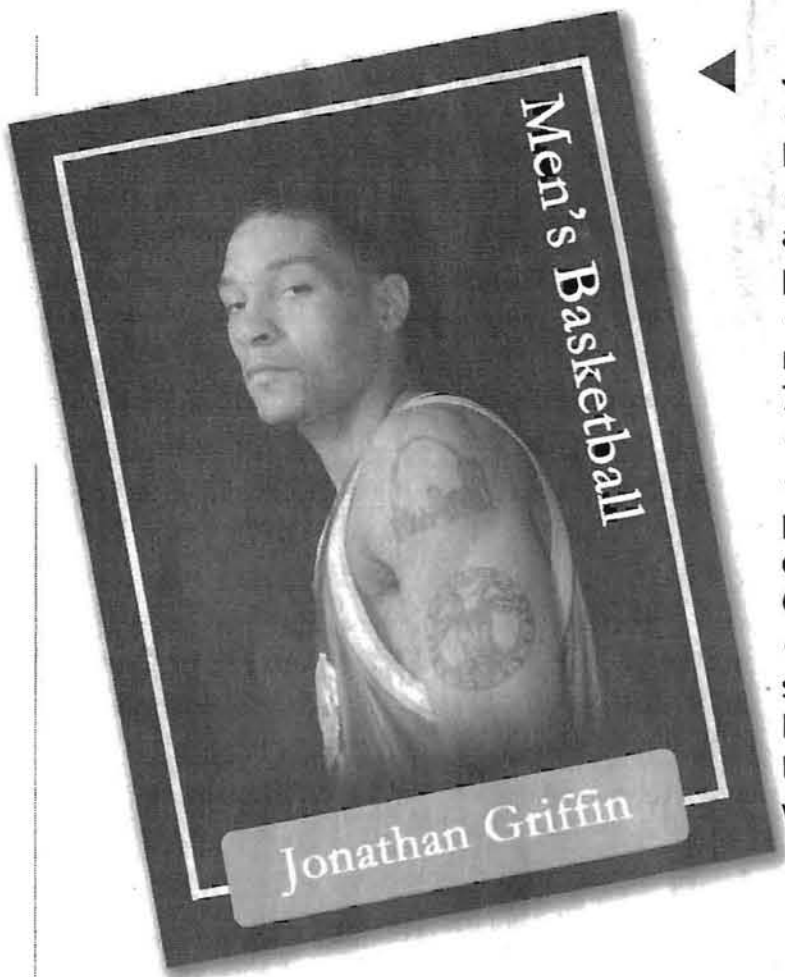
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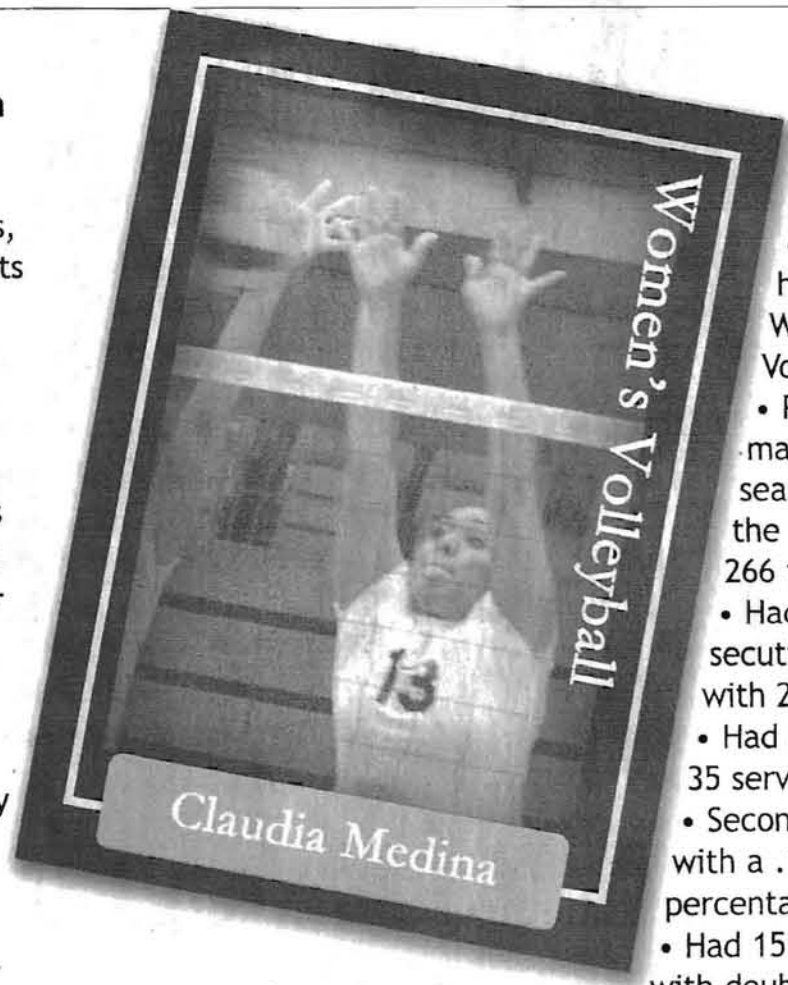
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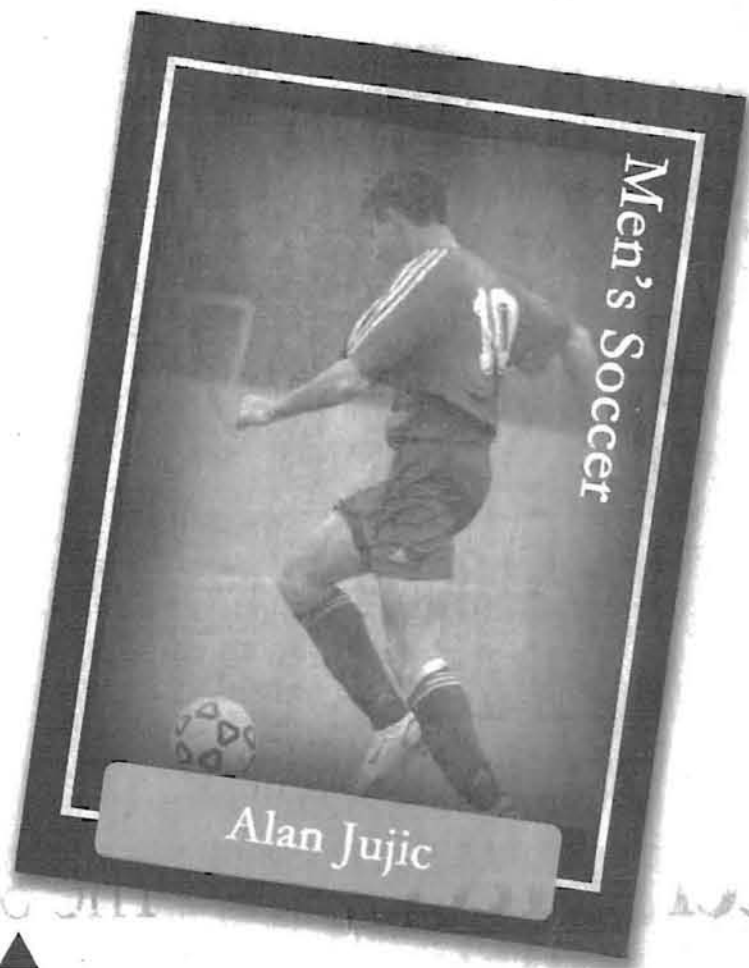
SPORTS



- Jonathan Griffin**
- Guard for Men's Basketball
 - Scored 493 points, averaged 18.3 points per game
 - 192 total rebounds, average 7.1 per game
 - 102 assists
 - First UM-St. Louis player to earn first or second team All-GLVC honors
 - Finished as the second all-time leading scorer in UM-St. Louis history with 1,739 points



- Claudia Medina**
- Outside hitter for Women's Volleyball
 - Played in 27 matches on the season ... led the team with 266 total kills
 - Had two consecutive matches with 20 kills
 - Had a team best 35 service aces
 - Second on team with a .128 hitting percentage
 - Had 15 matches with double digit kills



- Alan Jujic**
- Midfielder for Men's Soccer
 - Earned All-Conference honorable mention honors
 - Started 16 games
 - Fourth on the team in points scored
 - Led team with three assists

The Best of 2005 - 2006

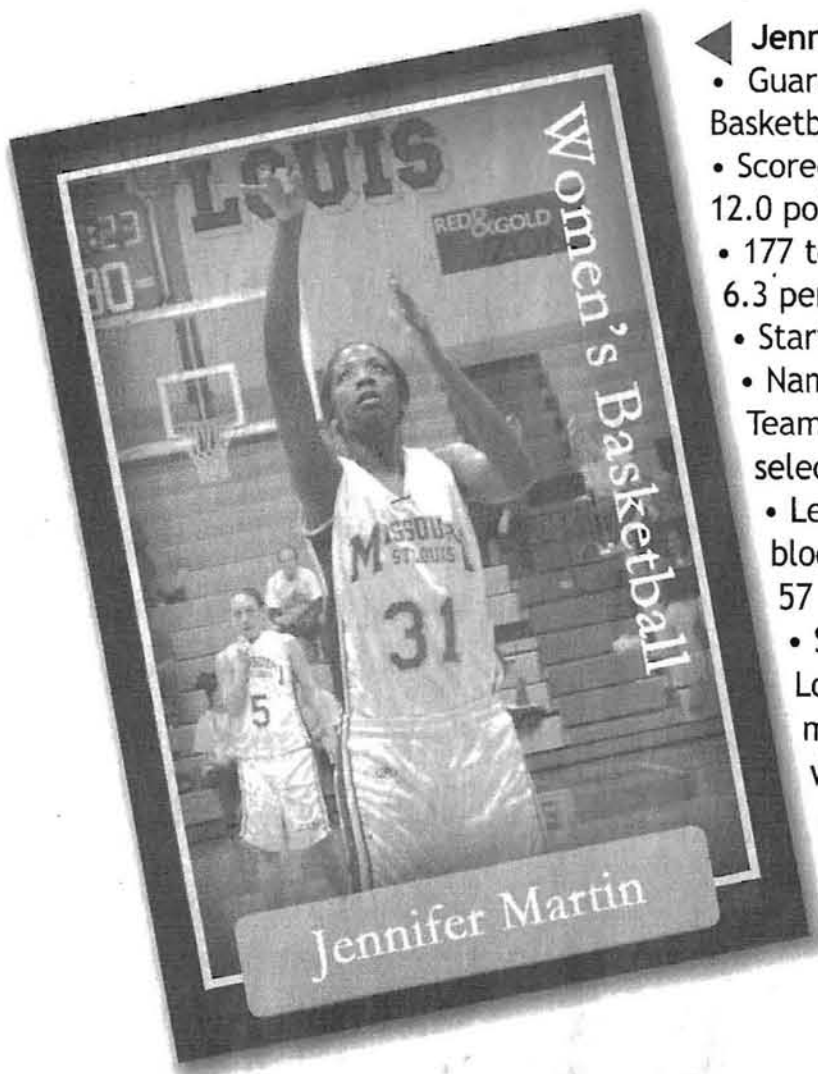
As the year winds down, we wanted to take a look at some of the extraordinarily talented athletes who have helped lead the Rivermen and Riverwomen.

Even if the teams didn't make it as far as they had hoped, they gave it their all.

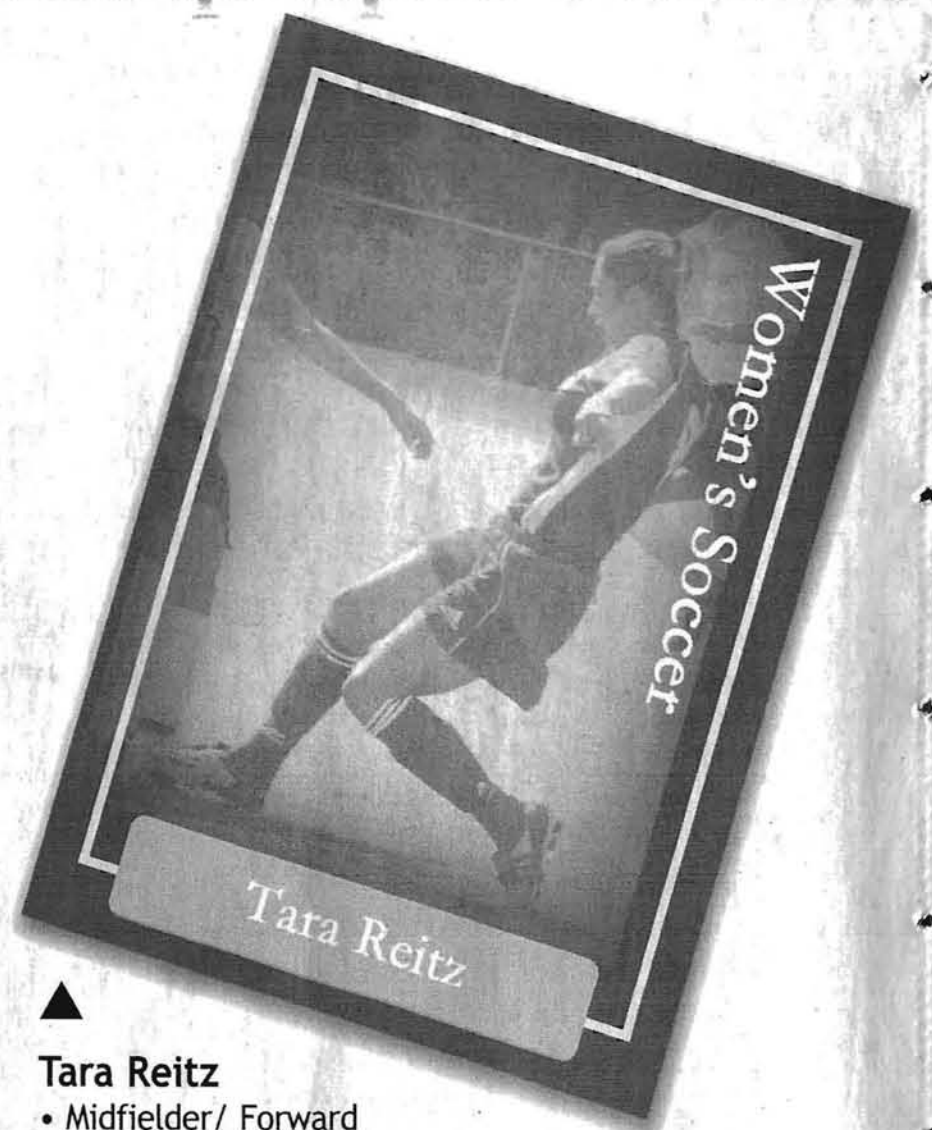
Although we couldn't single out

every player from every sport, these are a few players who have stood apart from the rest and shown their dedication on the field and on the court.

Here's hoping the teams manage to rally behind athletes of this caliber and push toward the GLVC championships.



- Jennifer Martin**
- Guard for Women's Basketball
 - Scored 335 points, 12.0 points per game
 - 177 total rebounds, 6.3 per game
 - Started all 28 games
 - Named GLVC Second Team All-Conference selection
 - Led the GLVC in blocked shots with 57
 - Set new UM-St. Louis record for most free throws with 118



- Tara Reitz**
- Midfielder/ Forward
 - Named a second team All-Region
 - Named first team All-Conference selection
 - Second leading scorer for UM-St. Louis
 - Second in conference with 12 assists
 - Ninth in GLVC in points scored
 - Scored two game winning goals

EDITOR LINDSEY BARRINGER

Sports Editor
phone: 516-5174
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Upcoming Games

Baseball

May 2

vs. Rockhurst

May 6

at SIU
Edwardsville

May 7

SIU
Edwardsville

May 12-14

GLVC
Tournament

for more visit
<http://www.umsl-sports.com/>

Baseball sweeps Lewis University; Josh Morgan hits grand slam

The UM-St. Louis men's baseball team completed a four-game weekend sweep against Lewis University, winning two games in extra innings. Game one and two were played on April 29, and games three and four were played on April 30.

During game one, Josh Morgan hit a grand slam in the fifth inning, giving the Rivermen a 4-0 lead. Justin Laramine pitched the complete game, giving up one run on four hits in seven innings pitched.

During the second game, UM-St. Louis trailed 2-1 going into the fourth. The Rivermen scored a run in the fourth, two in the fifth, three in the sixth and one in the eighth, locking up the win 8-2. Mike Lantzy pitched the complete game, giving up two runs on nine hits in nine innings. Lantzy struck out eight batters.

On the second day of the weekend series, UM-St. Louis prevailed against Lewis, with the final score for game one 7-5 and game two 5-4. Both games ended in extra innings.

During game three, Zach Sheets hit a two-out two-run single in the 11th inning to give UM-St. Louis the win 7-5. Morgan came in for relief and pitched five shutout innings and struck out seven batters.

During game four, Matt Tesson hit an RBI single in the eighth to bring home Scott Lavelock for the 5-4 win. Mark Sanders picked up his first win

of the season and Morgan got the save.

Softball ends season with losses

The UM-St. Louis women's softball team ended the season with an overall record of 13-33 and a GLVC record of 4-20. The Riverwomen lost the last two games of the season to Northern Kentucky.

The Riverwomen lost nine of the final 10 games in the season.

Women's golf finishes third at Lewis Aviator Classic

The UM-St. Louis women's golf team came in third place during the Lewis Aviator Classic held on April 24. The Riverwomen finished the tournament with a 676 (352-324). The team improved during the second round, shooting 28 strokes better than they did in the first half.

Sports Briefs

Talent search

Before taking the field, coaches have to recruit

BY LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Associate Editor

Recruitment may be one of the key elements in college sports. Players will only be around for a few years, so recruitment of resourceful, talented players is crucial for a sports program to succeed. Coaches at UM-St. Louis are always looking for players who can help bring a championship home.

The recruitment process is a year-round process, but there are rules coaches must adhere to. Coaches can contact players following the end of the player's sophomore year of high school via e-mails and letters.

Players cannot be contacted by phone until they complete their junior year of high school. When coaches recruit players to play for their team, they evaluate the players' interests, academic standings and may even invite the players to visit the college campus.

Once a player has signed with a university, coaches from other universities cannot try to recruit them. That does not mean that the player will never decide to transfer and play for a different coach at another university.

If a player wants to talk with a coach from a different university, prior approval must come from the university. Coaches try to create a good relationship with players during the initial recruiting process. Just because the player decided to take another offer, does not mean that she will never change her mind.

This methodology assisted head coach Beth Goetz in recruiting MF/F Tara Reitz, who last season led the Riverwomen with 12 assists. Reitz transferred to UM-St. Louis from

Indiana State, where she played her freshman year. Goetz coached Reitz when she played in the Olympic Development Program when she was younger.

A fundamental part of recruiting is filling any positions that are vacated due to graduation or players deciding not to return. Players have four years of eligibility to play in the NCAA and the spaces held on the team by graduating seniors will need to be replaced at the end of each season.

The women's soccer team had six players in the senior class: D/MF Amie Jones, F Emily Worley, D Laura Frederickson, MF Meghan Tragesser, MF Mandy Meendering and MF/D Deidre Bauer.

The women's soccer team will lose at least five other players on the field for next season. According to Goetz, D Cassidy Bloom, MF/F Molly Buyat, F/MF Christine Keim, D Shea Kelly and MF/D Lindsey Millikan will not return for next season. Players may decide not to return to a team for many reasons ranging from transferring to another school, ending their soccer career or personal reasons.

Goetz said there are at least 11 players who have committed to playing for the Riverwomen next season. "We're going to be really young, but we feel like our returning kids from last year were impact players. It's not like we feel like we're going to have to rebuild," Goetz said. "We're really excited with some of the kids that have committed to us."

A few of the players already committed to playing for UM-St. Louis are Rachael Lee, Heather Martinson, Lynn Cerny, Amy Boehm, Amy Fox, Danielle Dahm and Sarah Stone. Fox



Chuck Sosnowski, softball head coach, informs the players who will be playing which positions during the second game of a double header against Souther Indiana last Sunday. Coaches spend much time scouting and recruiting new players for teams.

and Dahm are from Iowa and both played for the state championship club team. Martinson and Cerny are from the Chicago area and played for the same club team. Boehm is a goalkeeper from the St. Louis area and Stone is from Festus and was defensive player of the year last year.

"I could tell immediately that I fit right in with the girls," Lee said. "My other team, I didn't fit in much. Right

when I got here I could tell."

This past soccer season, the men's team had the most seniors of any UM-St. Louis sport. There were 10 players in the senior class.

The men's soccer team will need to recruit replacements for D Justin Pasternak, F/MF Doug Drezek, D Ryan Hodge, MF Craig Tenge, D Bobby Watts, F David Walters, MF Alen Jujic, MF Jeff Facchin, F Jeff

Menke and F Matt Andersen.

The men's soccer team already has several new recruits signed to play next season. Three players are coming from Glenwood High School in Chatham Ill.: MF Blair Spencer, Ryan South and Paul Hummel. Joe Randdazzo is a defender from Hazelwood Central High School in St. Louis. Chris Clarkin is a midfielder from Trinity High School in Florissant,

Mo.

Dan Muesenfechter is a midfielder from Fort Zumwalt High School in O'Fallon, Mo. His sister, Krisie Muesenfechter, plays for the women's soccer team and their father Dan Muesenfechter was a two-time All-American forward for UM-St. Louis in 1979 and 1980.

see RECRUITING, page 15

Menke's wraps up college soccer career

BY MOLLY BUYAT
Staff Writer

After leading the Rivermen soccer team for four years, Jeff Menke's career comes to an end. Despite the disappointing ending of his senior year, Menke still did not come up empty handed.

Menke finished his run at UM-St. Louis leading his team with 17 goals and 7 assists, which gives him 41 points total.

Not only was he a walk-on player, he was captain for three of the four years. He was also "Student-Athlete of the Month" in September.

When asked about his senior year season, Menke said, "It was a little disappointing. I felt like we had a great team full of talent but we fell apart at the end of the season."

The Rivermen finished with an overall record of 4-9-4 and a record of 3-8-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, finishing 11 out of 14 teams. Men's soccer head coach Don King had nothing but positive things to say about his player.

"Jeff is a great player and an incredible leader. He was the driving force for our team for four years and he will be missed," King said.

Menke has been playing soccer

since the young age of four. He worked his way up playing club soccer with Norco for six years before he switched to Iron Kids for the last four.

David Walters, a fellow senior on the Rivermen, was teammates with Menke on Iron Kids. He said, "I played with Menke for four years before UMSL and he has always been a hard worker. He keeps any team he is on motivated and sets a good example."

Menke went to Rosary High School and played four seasons at the varsity level for the Rosary Rebels. He was selected as the AAA Conference Player of the year his senior year and was a two-time all-state selection.

In addition, Menke was named to the North All-star Team his senior year, and a four-time all-conference selection during his time at Rosary. He has already accomplished more in his career than what many players only dream of.

Zach Hoette, the starting goalkeeper for the Rivermen and Rosary graduate, has been playing soccer with Menke for the past six years.

"I've played with Jeff for three years in high school and three more years in college and he has always been someone that I could look up to," Hoette said.

Now that Jeff Menke's time is up at



Jeff Menke finished his fourth season playing with the Rivermen.

UM-St. Louis, he is just going to have fun with the game he has played for so long.

"I will probably just stick to indoor leagues and money tournaments," Menke said. "I will miss Coach King's mother's meatballs that I have been able to enjoy for the past four years."

Although Menke was overlooked his senior year, as far as individual rewards from the GLVC, his presence did not go unnoticed.

"I had a great time playing at UMSL under Coach King and even though we never went as far as we could in conference I don't regret any of my decisions about playing here," Menke said.

Jeff Menke was an ideal player for UM-St. Louis because of his heart and love for the game. It is safe to say that when the next season rolls around, there will be some pretty big shoes to fill.

The Short Fuse: Getting it all off my chest

OK, it's the end of the year and I have a few things I need to get off my chest. My comments are my comments alone and are not intended to represent the ideas of *The Current* or its staff. Well, now that I have that out of the way, here we go.

There are a few things I want to talk about so I'll start with the highest person on my list, Ricky Williams. The NFL suspended Williams for violating the leagues drug policy for the fourth time. Williams' previous violations for the drug policy were for marijuana, but this time he tested positive for a different substance possibly related to his interest in holistic medicine. He still owes the Dolphins \$8.6 million for retiring back in 2004.

Well, since Williams won't be playing next season, maybe he'll just go back to his favorite pastime. It's kinda disappointing; this guy can't get his career on track. This whole situation could have been avoided if Williams just held a press conference telling everyone that he has a problem and he needs help, maybe even shed a tear or two. Then he should have gone on Oprah and cried a little more while Oprah tells him that everything will be OK. Then people would have felt sorry for him and maybe the decision to suspend him for violating the policy could have been overturned.

Now he can just sit back with many other potheads and play Madden. But guess who won't be starting.

Let me just come out and say it, the St. Louis Blues suck. That's right I said it! Come on, even die hard hockey fans should be able to see that the Blues played much better when the NHL was on strike. This is the first time in as long as I can remember that the Blues have not made the playoffs. They never really seemed to do much in the playoffs but at least they made it. Next season, the Blues should just sit out during all of the games and hopefully that can help improve their game play.

I'm not a Cardinals fan. I actually feel sorry for Cardinals fans. This city really loves its mediocre baseball team. The Cardinals have not been able to win a World Series through my entire 23 years on this earth. They do, however, win the NL Central. But how



BY LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Associate Editor

hard is it to win the NL Central? All they have to do is get past Houston and wow, another division championship. My prediction: the Cards win the division and choke in the Championship Series.

I would like to say that all of the players on UM-St. Louis' teams worked hard all year, but one player really stood out to me. Jonathan Griffin was the Kobe

Bryant of the men's basketball team. Every time I looked up, Griffin had the ball. I'm not saying that he's a ball hog; I'm saying that he's a playmaker and that his presence will be missed next year. Not to mention his stats.

I want to conclude my random sports rambles by talking about a touchy subject, steroids in baseball. Let me say this right now, I do not recommend the use of performance enhancing drugs in any way. I know that steroid use is a serious problem for today's youth. I also know that I am tired of people talking about Barry Bonds in relation to steroids. It's kind of ironic, because I am doing it myself. Anyway, let me get to the point. Fans of baseball are worried that Bonds is going to break the homerun record and that some of his homers may have been "tainted."

Look I don't know if he did or didn't take steroids, but I do know that the possibility of breaking records increases ticket revenue. The MLB isn't going to do anything that could possibly lose them money. So what will probably happen is Bonds will break the record and then after the Giants and MLB have sucked every dollar out of the pockets of the fans, Bonds and his stats, records included, will be banned from baseball because of steroid use.

My strategy for the Bonds situation is to give him a drug test before each game and give him another during the seventh-inning stretch. This way when he hits a home run, everyone one will know he is clean. To all of the people who don't like Bonds because he isn't a "fan favorite" I have this to say, "Get off of his jock strap!" The guy is a baseball player, so let him play baseball.

That's about it. I think that my short fuse has run out for this season.

Konkol is a standout athlete in her first year at UMSL

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

Some students are book learners while others learn from hands-on experience. Both are the case for sophomore golf star Erin Konkol.

When Konkol was about 10 years old, her mother bought a book on learning how to play golf. After her mother read it and Konkol saw how much fun her parents were having, she decided to join them at the driving range. After a few bad, beginner strokes, Konkol hit a good ball and was hooked.

Before high school, Konkol took a few lessons and decided to try out for her high school team at Villa Duchesne. She made it and her team placed first in state her freshman year.

"My coach in high school was amazing. She was really good and got us motivated," said Konkol.

Following Konkol's freshman

year, her team placed in the top three in state every year and she placed fifth individually her senior year.

Placing fifth might have been a result of Konkol's four-hour-a-day practices her second semester of her junior year. That same year, Konkol's dad had brought home information about the International Junior Golf Academy in Hilton Head, S.C. Konkol decided that she wanted to spend the rest of her junior year at the Academy.

"We would practice from two to six everyday," Konkol said. "Once a month, we would travel to play in places like Georgia and Florida."

Attending the Academy was not just golf. Konkol lived in a town house with adult supervisors who instilled strict curfews and allotted two hours a night for homework.

Konkol said she fared well at Hilton Head and learned a lot about the game of golf.

After spending her freshman year of college in Miami, Konkol decided

to take some time off. While shopping for a new driver at a golf discount store, Konkol started talking to the salesman about her playing ability. He said he knew the golf coaches at Maryville, Lindenwood and UM-St. Louis.

Konkol decided that UM-St. Louis was the right choice for her.

"The best part about playing at UMSL is the people I am able to play with," Konkol said. "Our coach is awesome." Konkol said that considering he is 32 years-old-old and coaches eight women and listens to all their girl issues, coach James Earle is incredible.

Konkol has posted impressive statistics her first year. She said one of her biggest accomplishments was last season when she shot a 75 during the second round of a conference tournament.

"I was so happy and excited, I called my parents and cried," Konkol said.

With three years left at UM-St.

Louis, Konkol and Earle look for many more great scores and first place finishes.

"Erin has a great commitment to becoming a better player," Earle said. "She is one of the first to practice and last to leave." He said that Konkol has had some trouble on the courses but always bounced back with a good score.

Konkol will not just be working on her golf game this summer. Besides playing in the Missouri Amateur golf tournament, Konkol plans on studying Chinese this summer and traveling to Chicago and Los Angeles.

Konkol said that she wants to learn Chinese because she plans on graduating with a degree in international business and wants to work in relations with China.

During the spring season, Konkol has placed first individually and helped contribute to two first place team wins, along with one second and third place finish.

A&E

EDITOR

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MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor
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this week's
arts
on campus

Theater, Arts and Music

University Orchestra Concert
Mon., May 1, 7:30 p.m.,
Touhill Lee Theater
UM-St. Louis Percussion
Ensemble performs, sponsored
by the Department of Music.
Admission is free.

Student Chamber Music Recital
Tues., May 2, 7:30 p.m.
Touhill Lee Theater
The recital will feature the
music of Dvorak, Mozart,
Mendelssohn, Dahl and others.
This event is free.

Author Lecture
Tues., May 2, 6 p.m.
Gallery 210

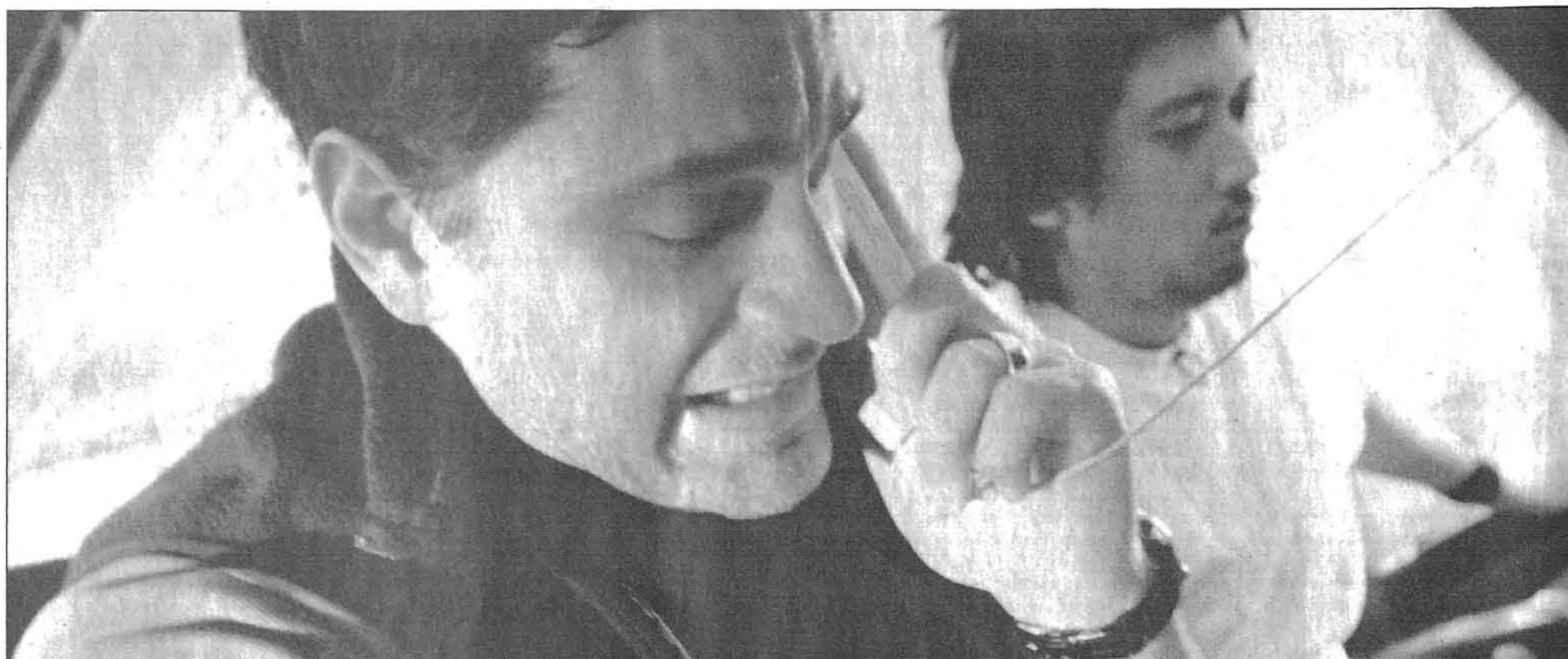
Tony D'Souza will give a lecture
discussing his new book, WHITE-
MAN, which hits the shelves on
April 3, 2006. WHITE MAN is
based on D'Souza's own experi-
ences in 2002. He was in the
Ivory Coast, working for the
Peace Corps, when religious
civil war broke out, forcing him
to walk across the warzone to
safety, hiking the length of the
country with only the clothes on
his back.

"Point-of-View: 2Read +
2Write= 4Music"
Tues., May 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
362 Social Sciences & Business
Building
An exhibit of photographs
taken by children participating
in this after-school project will
be on display. An opening
reception will be held at noon
and the pictures will be on dis-
play through Sept. 26.

UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of
Famers
Sat., May 6, 5 p.m.
Gallery 210
An informal reception for UM-
St. Louis' Sports Hall of Fame
Inductees will take place. The
event is sponsored by the UM-
St. Louis Alumni and
Constituent Relations.

Cello Choir Concert
Sun., May 7, 4 p.m.
Touhill Lee Theater
Come experience the splendor
of the UM-St. Louis cello
orchestra.
Admission is free.

Film Review



Universal Pictures

Peter Hermann and Masato Komo perform as passengers in "United 93," a film written, directed and produced by Paul Greengrass.

United 93 is powerful depiction of 9-11

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

"United 93" may be difficult to watch, but this film is a powerful and important tribute, and reminder, worthy of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The movie trailer for the film was sometimes greeted by cries of "too soon" from the audience, as it seemed to hint at a gung-ho, overly dramatic, Hollywood action film treatment of a tragedy too recent.

Contrary to that impression, "United 93" is a restrained, documentary-style and meticulously researched retelling of the human events of that tragic day. The film unfolds without commentary in nearly real time, and creates a fitting tribute to those who died, as well as a reminder of facts that might already be fading from the public memory.

Without editorializing, British director Paul Greengrass's documentary style film re-creates the events aboard United Airlines flight 93, which went down in a field in Pennsylvania after passengers and crew rushed the cockpit and tried to seize control of the plane from its hijackers.

Greengrass' approach to the sub-

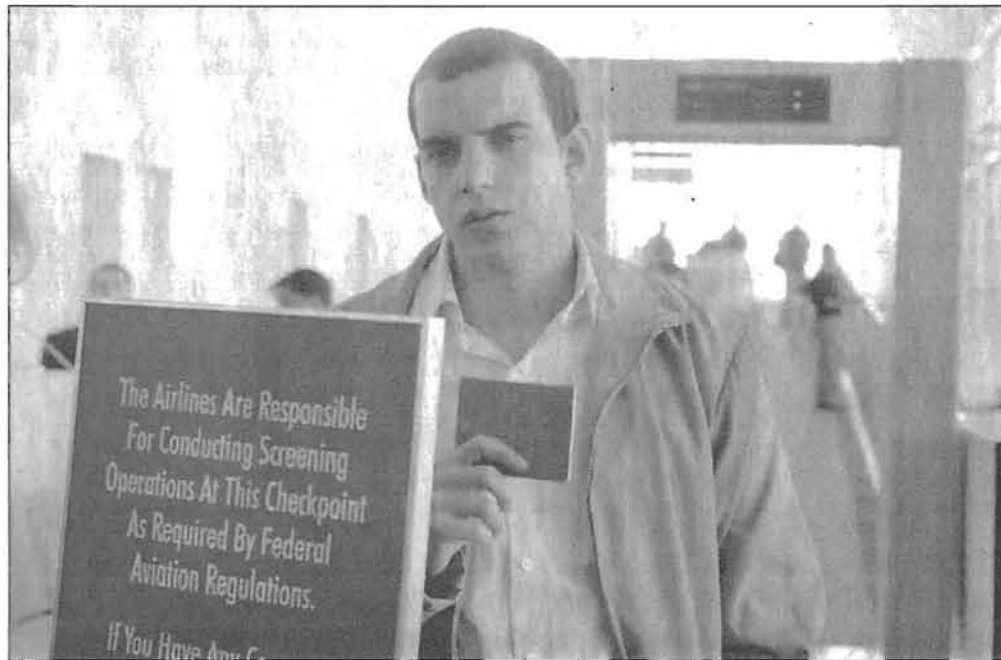
ject is similar to his treatment of events in his previous film "Bloody Sunday," a recreation of a protest march in Northern Ireland that led to a massacre that sparked the modern Irish troubles.

"United 93" was supported by the cooperation of all 40 families of the passengers aboard the plane. The studio is also donating 10 percent of the opening weekend profits to a memorial at the crash site. "United 93" makes a respectful and fitting, but powerful memorial to their loss.

"United 93" centers on the events aboard the hijacked flight United 93, which crashed in a cornfield, killing all aboard. The film really recounts all the events of that tragic day.

By using the events aboard the one out of the four hijacked planes which did not hit its target on Sept. 11, 2001, Greengrass focuses on ordinary people who did extraordinary things in the one heroic strike back against the attackers.

The film opens with the plane's hijackers in their morning prayers and the passengers traveling to the airport. Flight attendants and air traffic controllers go about their normal routines. The normalcy of their actions and the slow pace build tension as we antici-



Omar Berdouni performs as hijacker Ahmed Al Haznawi in "United 93."

Jonathan Olley/Universal Pictures

pate what we know will come.

As the film unfolds, we are taken back to the chaos and communication break downs of that day, along with the memories of individual bravery.

Although you know the outcome, you cannot help hoping for a different ending as the passengers struggle for control of the plane. While the tone of

the film is restrained and straight forward, you cannot avoid being transported back to the feelings of the day, making the film emotionally draining as well.

Paul Greengrass uses a handheld camera, natural and overlapping dialog and no big name stars to create realism in the film. Actors were cast

alongside the real people who were present at the actual events. Air traffic controllers and military personnel who were present that day appear in the film, and actors worked with family members in their portrayals of the passengers.

see UNITED 93, page 13

Music Review

LL Cool J still sizzles with 12th album, 'Todd Smith?'

BY MYRON MCNEILL
Staff Writer

With 20 years in the Hip-Hop industry and 11 previous albums, LL Cool J remains the moniker he titled himself in the past, The GOAT, an acronym that means Greatest Of All Time. Obviously, it holds true. From music, movies, television to clothing, LL Cool J has taken the world by storm and like he said in his famous song "Mama Said Knock You Out," "[he's] just getting warm."

So, what should we expect on album number 12, titled "Todd Smith?" The same old LL, with his dance tracks, love songs and tales of greatness.

Guess what? He is a breath of fresh air to the Hip-Hop community because he does not need two pounds of an illegal substance and 17 Uzis to feel tougher than the next man. He makes music for the mature mind. He acts his age, so to speak.

The album title "Todd Smith" comes from LL Cool J's given name, James Todd Smith, which he has used in his movie roles.

Therefore, for fans, the most exciting and special thing about this album that they may fail to notice is that the album does not have a sticker on it that prohibits certain people from buying it. That's right! No Parental Advisory Sticker is on the case. No curse words are on this album, and it is still full of chart smashing songs

and resilience.

Although he does not need too much help from other artists, he utilizes the talents of Mary J. Blige, Juelz Santana, Jamie Foxx, Lyle Jennings, Ginuwine and Teairra Mari, among others. On the first song released from "Todd Smith," LL teams up with Jennifer Lopez on the song "Control Myself."

Here he discusses the temptations of an attractive woman in a club. He writes that, "The club was far from empty/It was crowded at the entry/I slide right through like how I do/This girl began to tempt me."

And the chorus performed by J. Lo follows by saying, "You got, you got, you got/what it takes to make me leave my man."

The beat is seductive. That is why Jermaine Dupri makes a cameo telling everyone "to report to the dance floor/right ... now!"

Production credits on the album go to Trackmasters, Dupri and Scott Storch. One of the final symbolic elements of the album is the gospel song with Mary Mary, titled "We're Gonna Make It." Here, LL shows his fetish for diversifying his song selection.

"It's LL and Santana," featuring Juelz, and "Freeze" are harder, edgier songs. All in all, fans are treated to a diversified sound, with sizzling beats and adult lyricism. LL once again proves that age is a number and that through consistency and hard work, longevity is easily accomplished, in an industry that is fad-oriented.

Most artists do not make it past the short term memory of fans before they fade out. Unlike them, LL has remained one of the true elders, who has been able to make good music and, more importantly, sell it.



LL Cool J
"Todd Smith"
released by
Def Jam Records

Concert Review

The Sounds revive the '80s in concert at Mississippi Nights

BY PATRICK FLANIGAN
Staff Writer

Don't stop believing that the '80s are back, at least that is what the Swedish group The Sounds would want you to believe, as they returned to St. Louis for a show at Mississippi Nights at Laclede's Landing.

As history, or VH1, would tell you, the '70s preceded the '80s, and that was the case with The Sounds' opening band.

Morning Wood (Beavis & Butthead would be proud) worked the crowd into a frenzy with their late '70s funk rock, going so far as to bring a female audience member on stage and removing a good portion of her clothes.

As entertaining as some may have found this, it was more entertaining to see a few poor pubescent under-agers being led out the door by their parents before any signs of nippleage or pubic hair.

Morning Wood walked the walk on stage. With choreography that was a mix of Scorpions and Olivia Newton John's "Physical" video combined with a Flying V guitar played through a Marshall, your eyes and ears were telling you it was 1978.

Seeing front woman Chantal Claret, one would wonder if she were not the daughter of original AC/DC front man, Bon Scott.

In image and sound, Morning Wood gave it their all, and the crowd was buying.

Twenty five minutes after Morning Wood said Wham Bam

Thank You Mam, The Sounds turned the decade page but not before playing "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey over the P.A. system. One would call it a ballsy move, considering that only seven months ago, that same song was the anthem for the World Champion Chicago White Sox.

Luckily, the audience was spared from hearing the entire track and the quintet launched into "Queen of Apology" off its latest release, "Dying To Say This To You."

Vocalist Maja Ivarsson howled, "We're glad to be back!" after greeting the St. Louisans. The Sounds had a good sound at Mississippi Nights, loud, and probably earplugs worthy, but still mixed well. Guitarist Felix Rodriguez has a signature sound with his semi-hollow body, and the entire set sounded true to the recordings, but with that, just a bit more energy one would want from a live show.

The only peculiarity was, at times, keyboardist Jesper Anderberg seemed to be playing notes with the wrong program selected on his keyboards.

It may not have been so bad, but there always seemed to be that one sound on the keyboard which makes you wonder why it is there in the first place.

Still, if a band plays with enough passion and energy, the crowd will forgive a few technical miscues. This was the case this night. Ivarsson later dove into the audience for some brief crowd surfing before returning to the stage and making sure everyone was OK.

One could think that The Sounds and Morning Wood both use the style and sounds of previous decades as a gimmick, as a few members of the audience were sporting their "80s gear," but both bands are far from cover bands with horribly unoriginal names like "That 80s Band" and it was not "eighties night."

If the material is strong, as it is for both bands, what style or genre a band claims really does not matter. There is room in music for bands that pay homage to previous decade's styles while making it their own. Just look at The Stray Cats, who rode success in the '80s playing '50s music.

While some chose to relax, sitting in the back and grooving to The Sounds, the under-agers and stage pressers on the floor were having a great time up front. Many of them appreciated the free ice water Mississippi Nights provided.

After an hour plus set, The Sounds left the stage but quickly returned for a short encore, finally ending with "Ego" off their new album.

The Sounds went out with a bang, literally, when at the end of the song, Ivarsson left the stage and a pair of synthesizer drum pads were brought out for Rodriguez and Anderberg to pound.

The tribal electronic rhythms were the last goodbye for The Sounds, but by judging the show at Mississippi Nights, they will return.

You can find out more about The Sounds at their Web site www.the-sounds.com.

Arts on Campus

Dance St. Louis combines modern dance, Western swing music

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor



Photo courtesy Dance St. Louis

Modern dance and cowboy Western swing music is not a combination that many of us would think about if someone said "Dance St. Louis."

Actually, Western swing music is probably something few of us are familiar with, anyway.

Choreographer Mark Morris used one side of an entire Bob Wills album as the music for the Western-themed, sassy and sexy dance composition that opened the Friday, April 28 evening performance for Dance St. Louis' last offering of the season at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys were the stars of this once-popular 1940s genre of music, a combination of country-Western, swing jazz and blues.

Wills' Western swing music was one of four diverse musical pieces the Mark Morris Dance company used in the program it presented at the Touhill on April 28 and 29.

The evening's music also included dissonance-inflected music from Bartok, a modern serious music piece from Lou Harrison and, the highlight, a melodic classical Schubert piece. The dance pieces were presented in pairs, with an intermission dividing the two halves of the evening. The first dance was performed to a recording of Bob Wills music, but the other three pieces were presented with live music, performed by the MMDG Music Ensemble.

Morris used the Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys' album "Going Away Party" as the basis for the first dance. The music's distinctive Western flavor was reflected in the dancers' costumes, and a comic, flirtatious love song theme was also reflected in the dance. The dancers used elements of square dance, swing dance, comedy and even pantomime in a modern dance that was sometimes surprisingly sexy as well.

The music for "All Fours," the dance piece that followed, could not

have been more different. Bela Bartok's sometimes smooth, sometimes jarring 1928 "String Quartet No. 4" inspired the movements of dancers that appeared in variations on the number of four.

Four men and four women in black costumes danced the first section, in which strident music was matched by mechanical-like dance moves. This section was followed by two couples in white costumes, in a dance that reflected the romantic

yearning of the music. In the final dance section, the mechanical aspect returned to the forefront.

All the dances of the evening reflected the ebb and flow of the music to a striking degree. Morris' modern dances used few of the lifts and spins of ballet, or the emphasis on individual performances. The dances were best seen as movements of the whole group on stage. Movements of individual dancers often appeared absurd, but looking at the combined

movements of the groups created a strikingly graceful beauty.

After an intermission, the troupe returned with the gracefully lyrical Schubert piece, performed by three men and one woman, which was titled "Rock of Ages." The dancers wore simple tee shirts and pants or skirt, all in shades of blue and green.

On other nights, the dance is performed by three women and a single man. The dance was as graceful and lovely as the music, carefully follow-

ing the rise and fall of the melody. In classic ballet, the female dancer would be the center of the dance but in this piece, all dancers tended to interact equally, ignoring rather than emphasizing the difference.

The final dance of the evening, named "Grand Duo" and performed to a modern serious music piece, had the dancers dressed seemingly to evoke images of tribal mankind or periods of history. All dancers wore their hair loose, the men appeared

bare to the waist, wearing long sarong-like skirts or short kilt-like ones in solid colors, while the women wore long dresses fitted to the waist then flaring out, short tunic shirts or tunics over wide pants.

The dance was performed in circles and lines that evoked images of tribal dance of various parts of the world. Later in the piece, the costumes changed and dances shifted to pantomimes of primitive warfare. For the final phase, the dancers were all dressed in the short tunics of the ancient Greeks while performing geometric movements in a circular dance.

The composition of the dance company was strikingly unusual, as were the costumes for every dance throughout the evening. In ballet, costumes generally match, except for the stars, and there is an effort to make the dancers look similar as well, picking dancers of similar height and requiring the same hair style. In the Mark Morris Dance Group, the opposite impulse, to the individual, seems the rule. Costumes are color coordinated but not matching. The dancers themselves are more striking, with dancers who differ in every way.

Dancers differed in body type, race, and height, and were arranged on the stage so that the differences are most notable. Dancers' hair was long or short, curly or straight, loose or tied back, dark or light. While the look of the dancers emphasized the individual and diversity, the movements of the dancers were often tightly coordinated. Their movements were often matching or mirror reflections, so that the company moved as a whole unit rather than individual.

Morris, who was born in Seattle, is widely regarded as a choreography genius whose work has a distinctive musicality. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with legendary ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov. The Mark Morris Dance Group was founded in 1980 and offers modern dance programs.

The Mark Morris Dance Group performance was a fitting and satisfying close for the Dance St. Louis season.

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Music Review

Local group plays Mod rock right

BY ALBERTO PATINO
Staff Writer



Gentlemen Callers
"Don't Say What It Is"
Wee Rock Records

Mod rock ... you can't say exactly what it is, considering the disparity of sounds from bands that have merited this moniker: the Who, the Jam, the Small Faces, the Creation, and so on.

But for some reason, despite this ambiguity, you know mod rock when you hear it. Listening to the first 12 song full-length effort by St. Louis' Gentleman Callers immediately conjures up a black and white snapshot of nattily dressed boys in pinstripe suits, complete with shag haircuts and Mosrite guitars.

Where this music might be especially derivative, culling the best nuances of 1960s rock and R&B like the Kinks, early Rolling Stones, and Booker T and the MGs, it is still more fun and lively than 99 percent of the popular drivel readily available on the radio today.

Stongest cuts here include "I Was Blind," "You Oughta Know By Now," and the terrific live KDHX recording of "If you want to love me again." The ditties never exceed three minutes,

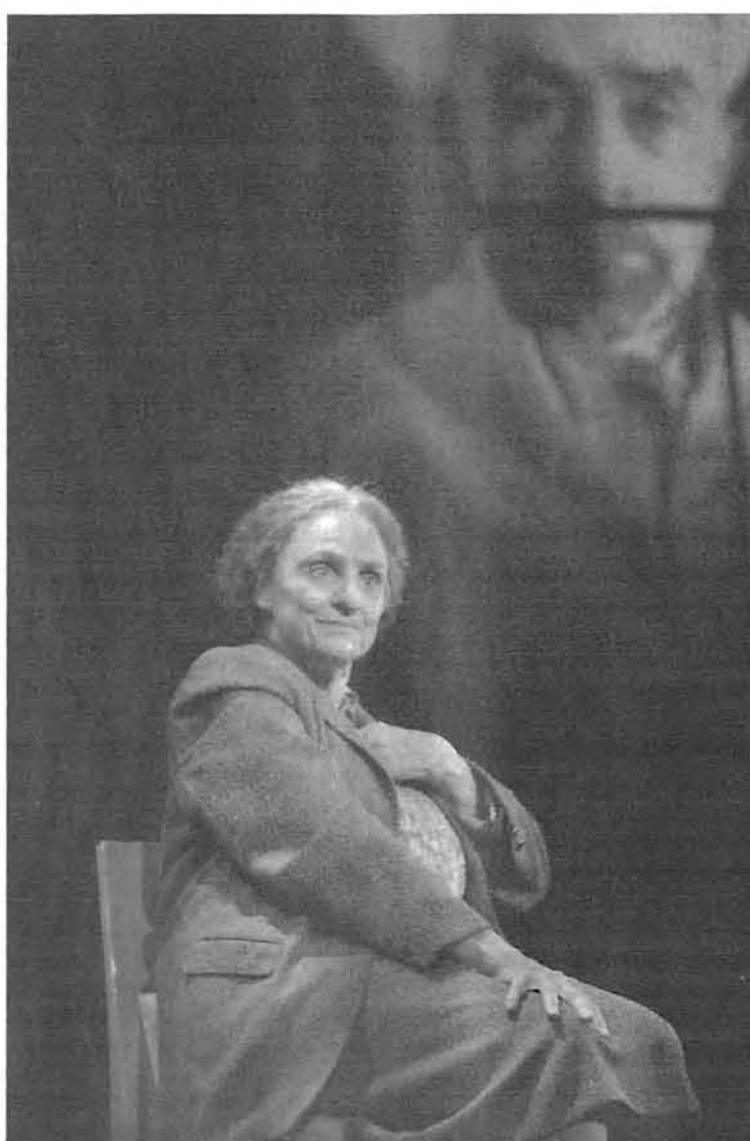
keeping things brisk and tasty. The Callers' stripped-down approach, with guitar, bass, drums, farfisa, and glass-of-whiskey-the-morning-after vocals, whisks us back to a time where less meant more, and the rock was brought, not sold. Old ways are often the best ways indeed, and purist rockers like our friends the Gentleman Callers help keep alive a precious tradition.

Dig it.

Theater Review

Israeli history unfolds under 'Golda's Balcony'

BY GATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor



Emmy award-winning TV star Valerie Harper delivered a powerhouse performance in "Golda's Balcony," a fascinating one-woman play about the life of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meier. The acclaimed Broadway show from playwright William Gibson had a three day run at the Fox on April 21-23, before beginning a national tour.

"Golda's Balcony" offers insight both into the life of a remarkable woman who rose to prime minister of Israel, and the history of the founding of her country.

The play moves back and forth between the unfolding events of the Six Day War and Meier's reminiscences about her life, from growing up as a Jewish Russian immigrant in Milwaukee to her role in the founding of Israel to her days as prime minister.

By crafting a play that moves from the personal to the political, Gibson creates a story about war and peace, as well as history and biography. Reviewing the history of Israel and the vision of its founders reminds us of the roots of the persistent conflict in the Middle East.

Valerie Harper, the play's lone performer, was amazing. She gives a powerhouse performance as Meier, hardly pausing for breath and almost always in motion in a two-hour play without an intermission.

She plays Meier later in life, reminiscing about her personal life as well as her public life, but then leaps into reenactments of critical points, as she recounts her, or the country's, history.

While Valerie Harper is best known for her comedy work, she handled the dramatic demands of the role with polished skill. Still, the occasional humorous touches she added helped humanize the historic figure and lightened an evening that often touched on tragic topics.

Harper's solo performance was aided by the use of projected images of significant figures in her life and the founding of Israel. There were also projections of the sweeping landscape of Israel and when called for, special effects to evoke the sounds of warfare as she recreated the crisis of the war.

"Golda's Balcony" was a hit on Broadway and briefly stopped in St. Louis before opening for a longer run in Florida. If we are lucky, the play will return for a longer run in the future.

Music Review

Student's debut disc gives fresh hip-hop beats, lyrics

BY ALBERTO PATINO
Staff Writer

"Last of the Metaphysical Poets" is the long overdue debut disc from UM-St. Louis senior and resident wise guy Jacob McDonnell (a.k.a. Wut Metaphysical). UM-St. Louis students may recognize Wut as the gangly, loud, sometimes antagonistic, but always intelligent skateboard rogue somehow ubiquitously present in every English class.

On this release, his outspoken persona comes out full blast on a

thumpy ride through many different variations on hip-hop, from Brazilian funk to DJ Premier-styled NYC hip-hop, back to old school, and forward into avant garde beats that eschew easy classification.

Lyricaly, Wut operates with a vigilante's soul, making social commentary on a number of heated subjects, such as domestic violence, gang warfare, abortion, and child prostitution.

He deals with each in a heartfelt and brutally honest manner (as on cuts like "Empathy Was a Liar" and "Vestal"), but still manages to temper his treatments with certain grace and

humanity (particularly on the bitter-sweet "Bottle In the Mississippi").

When not tackling more serious issues, Wut humorously reverts to more traditional hip-hop conventions such as dissing wack emcees, calling out fake thugs, and verbally lambasting disloyal girlfriends.

The album title makes a rather audacious claim, one that is fitting for hip-hop, a genre built on rap bragadocio and oneupmanship.

Though the quality of Wut's poetry may not be on par with the deathless beauty of Donne's verse, or the allegorical penchant of Herbert, he

more than compensates for lack of mastery with a big, bold, pulsating heart for a world weathered by entropy—a heart that cannot be denied.

That is far more than what can be said for an overwhelming amount of rap artists celebrating nihilistic materialism and sexual objectification, far too readily received by non-reflective masses.

Wut, emergent emcee from the Shadow of the Locust Crew, is the genuine article; a drop of antidote working through an artform that has been plagued for far too long.



Wut Metaphysical
"Last of the Metaphysical Poets" (Self-released)



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Arts on Campus

Tommy the Clown caps off anti-racism event

BY MYRON McNEILL
Staff Writer

To wrap up the Anti-Racist-15's White Privilege Conference 7, performer Tommy the Clown and the Hip-Hop Clowns performed at JC Penney Auditorium on Saturday, April 30. Thanks to the group AR-15, fans, family and friends were able to witness the dynamic dance moves of the Hip-Hop Clowns, who were presented to the world by way of the 2005 movie "Rize."

The documentary "Rize" described the rise of comic hip-hop Clown or Krump competitive dancing, which Thomas Johnson, or Tommy the Clown, helped start as a creative outlet for youth in South Central Los Angeles in response to the Rodney King riots. The dance teams use clown makeup and colorful costumes while performing high energy, extreme dance routines in Krumping competitions.

Fans from St. Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Iowa, New Jersey, Kansas City and Indiana were present. The stage or set was empty because most of the focus was on the performers.

Preceding the performance of the hip-hop clowns were poetry, dancing, skits and theatre by several artists. Waydramatic, a poet and thespian, performed several poems and lyrics of his songs. He puts positive images in his music and believes in the promotion of unity and consciousness amongst all races. One of his poems re-iterated the fact that most people do not fear death; they fear living, righteously and truthfully.

Tracy's Urban Jam was a dance group from Indianapolis, Ind. who performed. Under the leadership of Traci Bishop, these young men and women performed to several mixes of Hip-Hop songs.

Dressed in blue jeans, tank tops, white painted faces and neck ties, these youngsters Krump danced to songs like "Breathe In, Breathe Out," "Thizzle Dance," and other hip-hop and Pop songs. Dances mimic the for-

mat of the hip-hop clowns. Some of the moves are performed in freestyle, while others are choreographed.

Other poets and thespians and performed throughout the night. AR-15 performed and showcased their revolutionary, conscious rhymes. They performed songs like "Ballet or Bullet," based off the revolutionary speech by Malcolm X. Their songs centered on unity in the community. Their slogan is "Flip the System" and the crowd gave them a special welcome, because they made the show and appearance of the Hip-Hop Clowns possible.

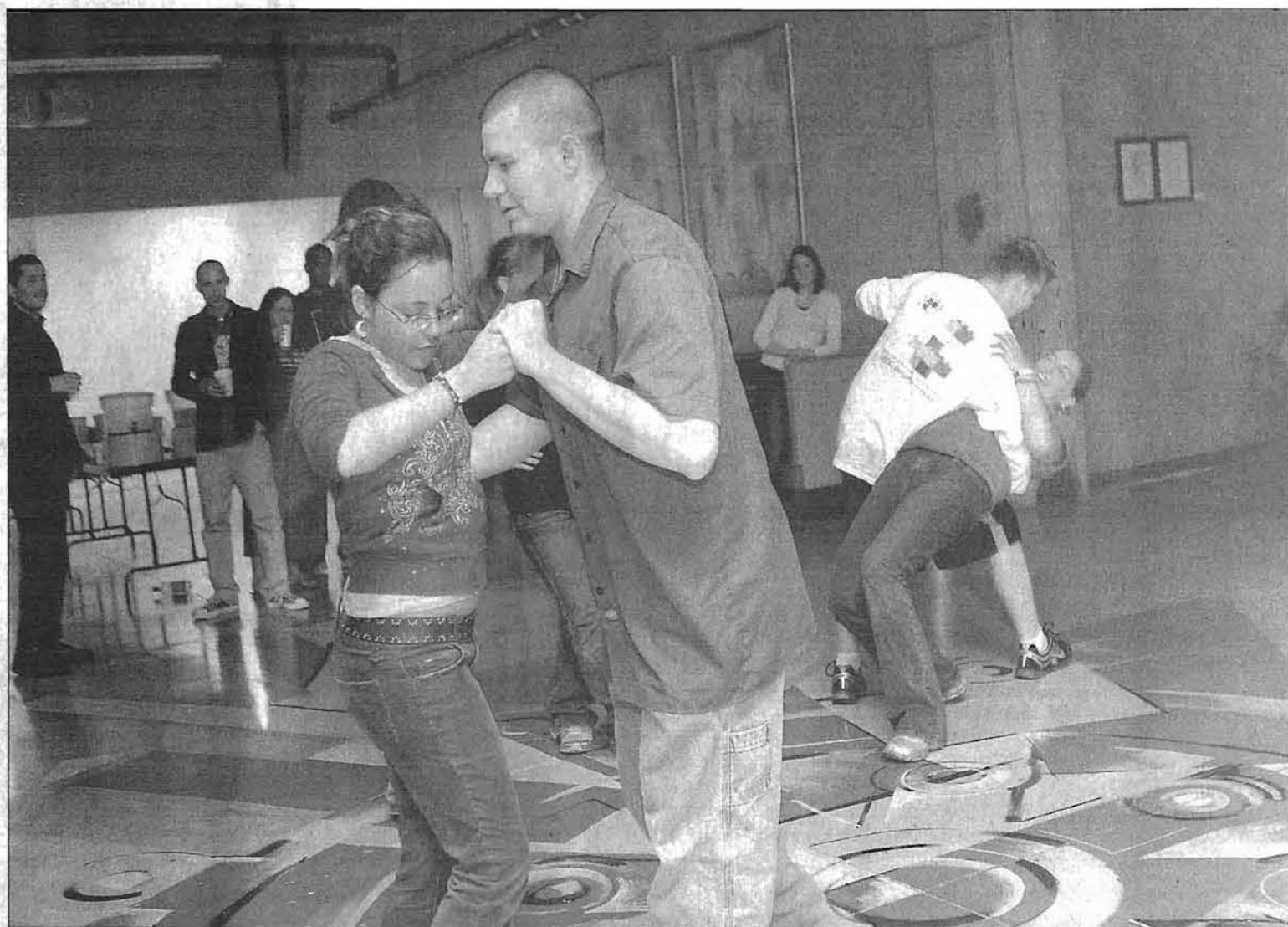
Finally, the audience was treated to a 30-minute set of dance by Tommy the Clown and the Hip-Hop Clowns. Tommy, dressed in a red and black clown wig, came to the stage first. He is the creator of the group and he introduced the other dancers. He introduced members: Lil' Tight, Lil' Bop, Larry and Rocco. They were dressed in jeans, air-brushed white t-shirts, boots and baseball caps or skull caps.

Their attire and dance moves resemble b-boys from the earlier and golden years of hip-hop. While Tommy emceed their performance, the members of the group Krump danced in battle form. From ground spins, fist pumps to aerial displays, the members Krumped and expressed the tradition of hip-hop through dance.

The set was short, yet it was powerful and intense. The show ended with a battle between two Krumpers. Tommy the Clown selected two audience members from St. Louis and he refereed them as they Krump battled. For those interested in more information on the lifestyle and performance of Krumping, they should check out the movie "Rize."

Most of the acts performed in a hip-hop fashion utilizing "call and response" as a way of getting the crowd involved. The sets were short and the audience was pleased. Everyone from children to adults was glad to see Tommy the Clown perform and promote awareness of peace and Christian principles through dance.

SALSA NIGHT HEATS UP THE PILOT HOUSE



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Shanna Carpenter, senior, mass communication, and Joe Sanchez, junior, business, work the dancefloor at "Salsa Night" in the Pilot House on Wednesday night. Carpenter is co-chair of the University Programming Board, which sponsored the event.

SHANTYTOWN, from page 6

Cozene Watson, senior, photography, was one of the students who spent the night sleeping in a cardboard box. This was the second consecutive year he participated in the shantytown.

"I just want to know more about the homeless," Watson said. "It's hanging out with people you know and people you don't know. It took

me a long time to get a good night's sleep."

"My hope is that students become more aware of this as one of the events we need to be concerned about," said the Rev. Bill Kempf, director of the Newman Center. "How do we get a place where everyone who chooses to can have a roof over their heads?"

Kempf recalled a time when a nun who was visiting from Africa looked out the window and wanted to know who lived in the nice "house."

The other nuns were confused when they looked out and did not understand what house she meant. That "house" was a garage.

"We have houses for our cars

when we don't have houses for our people," Kempf said. "They're the invisible people among us. I am blessed to run into more because they come to our rectory. ... It's one of those things that as a human being and a priest, we have so much wealth and build those homes and there's people out there who don't even have a place to sleep."

| UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS STUDENT ACTIVITY BUDGETING COMMITTEE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ORGANIZATION NAME: | Received 2005-2006 | Requested 2006-2007 | Recommended 2006-2007 | RECOMMENDATION AFTER APPEAL |
| Accounting Club | \$0.00 | \$5,896.00 | \$665.00 | 700.00 |
| AIESEC | \$500.00 | \$12,015.00 | \$1,413.00 | |
| Alpha Phi Omega | \$1,115.00 | \$4,414.20 | \$1,302.45 | |
| Alpha Xi Delta | \$1,070.00 | \$14,265.00 | \$3,250.00 | |
| American Institutes of Graphic Arts | \$3,280.00 | \$9,449.00 | \$2,498.50 | |
| American Optometric Student Assoc. | \$2,442.00 | \$9,460.00 | \$2,290.00 | |
| Amnesty International | \$1,701.00 | \$2,088.80 | \$1,786.00 | |
| Associated Black Collegians | \$10,950.00 | \$29,400.00 | \$14,085.00 | 14,085.00 |
| Associated Student Anthropologist | \$5,809.00 | \$4,750.00 | \$2,520.00 | 2,700.00 |
| Beta Alpha Psi | \$3,037.00 | \$6,790.00 | \$807.50 | 3,771.50 |
| Biology Graduate Students Association | \$2,800.00 | \$3,100.00 | \$2,700.00 | |
| Biology Society | \$975.00 | \$4,385.00 | \$1,715.00 | |
| Black Student Nurses Association | \$2,900.00 | \$4,400.00 | \$1,550.00 | 3,300.00 |
| Campus Crusade for Christ | \$0.00 | \$2,161.75 | \$0.00 | 1,285.00 |
| Catholic Newman House | \$6,678.00 | \$13,599.00 | \$7,534.00 | |
| Chemistry Club | \$725.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$650.00 | |
| Chinese Students Association (Mainland) | \$1,940.00 | \$2,100.00 | \$1,024.00 | 1,544.00 |
| College Republicans | \$4,650.00 | \$109,745.00 | \$400.00 | 4,900.00 |
| Criminology & Criminal Justice Grad SA | \$3,802.50 | \$4,730.00 | \$3,800.00 | |
| Delta Sigma Pi | \$4,416.00 | \$13,737.00 | \$2,190.00 | 2,760.00 |
| Delta Zeta Sorority | \$3,150.00 | \$6,950.00 | \$5,075.00 | |
| Gallery Visio | \$2,027.00 | \$15,941.00 | \$2,025.00 | |
| Golden Key Honor Society | \$7,949.00 | \$35,075.00 | \$5,850.00 | 7,350.00 |
| Gospel Choir | \$600.00 | \$1,970.00 | \$0.00 | 500.00 |
| Helping Hand Mentoring Program | \$3,684.00 | \$6,912.00 | \$5,592.00 | |
| Ice Hockey Club | \$9,000.00 | \$19,253.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Indian Student Organization | \$3,040.00 | \$7,300.00 | \$4,370.00 | |
| Indonesian Student Association | \$1,600.00 | \$3,177.00 | \$2,050.00 | |
| Information System Programming Club | \$0.00 | \$1,920.00 | \$910.00 | |
| International Business Club | \$9,590.00 | \$27,350.00 | \$8,455.00 | |
| International Student Organization | \$2,415.00 | \$4,535.00 | \$4,225.00 | |
| Korean Student Association | \$500.00 | \$600.00 | \$375.00 | |
| MIS Mentoring Club | \$0.00 | \$4,715.00 | \$270.00 | 1,575.00 |
| Missouri Optometric Student Association | \$1,135.00 | \$1,770.00 | \$731.50 | 1,681.50 |
| Music Educators National Conference | \$1,281.00 | \$3,667.00 | \$1,995.00 | |
| National Optometric Student Association | \$860.00 | \$3,465.00 | \$47.50 | |
| Opera Theater Ensemble | \$0.00 | \$3,175.00 | \$1,336.50 | |
| Order of Omega | \$500.00 | \$1,475.00 | \$510.00 | |
| Panhellenic Association | \$12,900.00 | \$31,350.00 | \$19,050.00 | |
| Phi Alpha Delta | \$1,600.00 | \$5,500.00 | \$1,875.00 | 1,875.00 |
| Phi Alpha Theta | \$900.00 | \$8,175.00 | \$1,360.00 | |
| Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity | \$4,129.00 | \$7,890.00 | \$4,420.00 | |
| Pierre Laclède Honors College | \$2,691.00 | \$3,800.00 | \$0.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Political Science Academy | \$1,855.00 | \$1,050.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Political Science Graduate Student Acad. | \$4,900.00 | \$6,000.00 | \$4,275.00 | 4,750.00 |
| Pre-Med Society | \$2,658.00 | \$4,600.00 | \$1,575.00 | |
| PRIZM | \$3,814.00 | \$18,638.00 | \$9,575.00 | |
| Psi Chi | \$1,050.00 | \$4,155.00 | \$185.25 | 195.00 |
| Resident Hall Association | \$5,675.00 | \$28,505.00 | \$15,035.00 | |
| S.E.M.P.A. | \$0.00 | \$500.00 | \$500.00 | |
| Sigma Pi | \$1,850.00 | \$9,920.00 | \$1,402.50 | |
| Sigma Tau Gamma | \$1,800.00 | \$2,355.00 | \$1,570.50 | |
| Society of Future Engineers | \$700.00 | \$600.00 | \$0.00 | 600.00 |
| Speech and Debate Club | \$3,870.00 | \$13,386.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00 |
| Student Activities Budget Committee | \$44,164.72 | \$43,114.72 | \$42,404.72 | |
| Student Activities Programming | \$68,270.00 | \$90,500.00 | \$81,500.00 | |
| Student Government Association | \$79,600.00 | \$97,100.00 | \$92,650.00 | |
| Student Investment Trust | \$3,000.00 | \$21,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | |
| Student Senators | \$3,528.00 | \$11,420.00 | \$1,050.00 | 1,650.00 |
| Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow | \$3,945.00 | \$7,970.00 | \$4,680.00 | |
| Students with disabilities Association | \$1,970.00 | \$1,775.00 | \$1,405.00 | |
| SVOSH | \$1,400.00 | \$8,665.00 | \$1,150.00 | |
| Tau Sigma | \$500.00 | \$3,650.00 | \$685.00 | 685.00 |
| Thai Student Association | \$1,270.00 | \$2,150.00 | \$1,240.00 | 1,395.00 |
| The Current | \$40,170.00 | \$41,221.00 | \$40,050.00 | |
| The Flames | \$810.00 | \$9,065.00 | \$674.50 | |
| The Philosophers Forum | \$500.00 | \$6,100.00 | \$450.00 | 3,850.00 |
| UMSL Student Nurses Association | \$3,250.00 | \$5,015.00 | \$2,812.00 | |
| University Instrumental Ensembles | \$3,185.00 | \$5,565.00 | \$865.00 | 3,065.00 |
| University Program Board | \$268,795.00 | \$314,830.00 | \$240,920.00 | |
| University Singers | \$5,030.00 | \$8,870.00 | \$7,315.00 | 7,315.00 |
| W.A.V.E.S. | \$0.00 | \$8,800.00 | \$1,140.00 | |
| Zeta Tau Alpha | \$3,555.00 | \$4,795.00 | \$3,270.00 | |
| Organizations that received funding for 05-06 but did not submit a 06-07 budget | \$28,343.00 | | | Additional Allocation After 25,998.75 |
| | \$717,799.22 | \$1,239,367.47 | \$683,417.42 | \$709,416.17 |

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New top SGA leaders prepare for transition into their new offices

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

With the Student Government Association elections over, Nick Koechig, Thomas Helton and Shanna Carpenter, next year's president, vice president and comptroller respectively, are waiting to start their terms on July 1.

Until then, the new top three leaders will be working during the transition period with the current top three leaders, President D'Andre Braddix, Vice President Taz Hossain and Comptroller Brian Rails.

Hossain said she, Braddix and Rails want to have more formal training for officers compared to last year when they were incoming SGA leaders.

"The three old exec officers will be going on a retreat with the three new exec offices and show them the ropes of student government in general," Hossain said. "We're lucky to actually have the president and vice president both on the executive committee, so they are very well aware of their positions already."

Hossain, who was SGA secretary last year, said being on SGA before helped her get used to her new position. Braddix and Rails also were members of the SGA executive committee, serving as vice chair and chair respectively.

"One thing we want to do is talk about unity in the top three exec spots. While the president and comptroller have different positions, they are largely intertwined," Rails said.

Rails emphasized the importance of a transition period for SGA elected positions, especially the comp-

troller position. He said he wanted to help Carpenter because "she never sat the SABC before," he said.

For the vice president position, Hossain said, "I'm working hand in hand with Thomas regarding any planning for the rest of my term, specifically with homecoming." She told Helton, "the more people you get involved, the easier your job will be and put 100 percent into everything."

In addition, the current SGA leaders will have individual meetings with the new officers and provide them with folders containing the SGA constitution and other necessary documents to do their job.

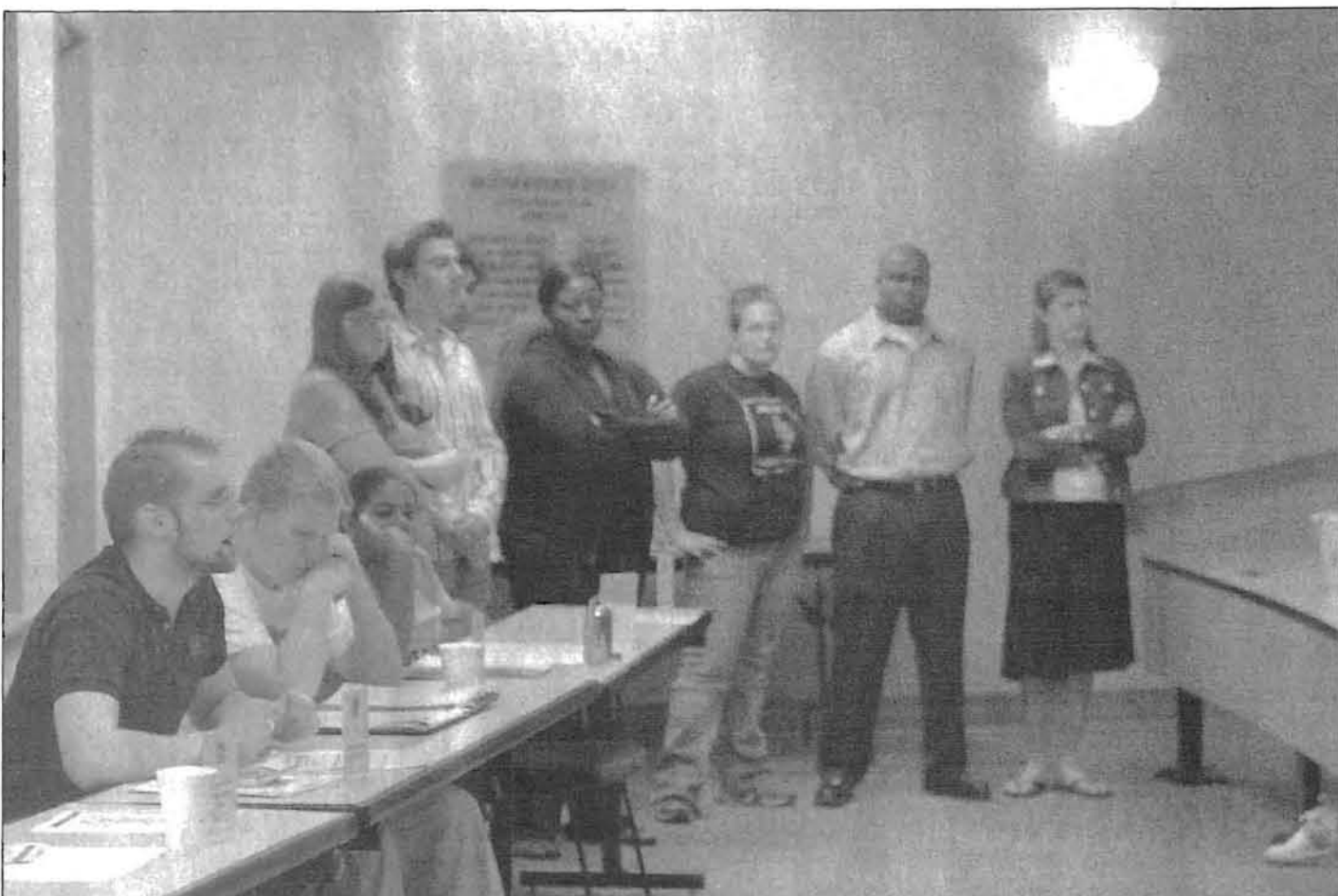
Former SGA president Scott Bopp, senior, business administration, said no formal transition was in place when Braddix replaced him as president last summer.

However, during the transition phase, "We tried to bring them into the fold right away, bring them into meetings and introduce them to as many administrators as possible," he said. "Any opportunity there was, we'd have D'Andre go to meetings and offer the same opportunity to Taz."

Bopp added that he let the new SGA officers know what projects they would have to take up in the new term. Last summer, Bopp left Braddix with projects, including the USA Today readership program and the Wellness Center. In addition, Bopp said involving them in decision making also helped in the transition.

"What we focused on the most is exposure to people they need to work with and understand what meetings they would be going to," Bopp explained.

ALLOCATIONS, from page 1



Members of the Student Activities Budget Committee "put faces to names" at the last SGA meeting. The committee determines how much money each student organization receives out of the student activity fee pool.

Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

"They basically penalized us for not submitting a budget on time, but there's no hard feelings," Greninger said. "We're basically starting over and expanding our speech and debate club with a handful of tournaments."

Rails said organizations could possibly get money next year. "That's what we have the reserves for," he said.

Another organization, the

College Republicans, almost received a large cut. After receiving \$4,650 last year, SABC recommended \$400 for the club next year.

College Republicans member Joe Garavaglia said, "When they first reviewed our budget ... we didn't spend any of our money yet. They thought we weren't active. They thought we were doing nothing."

Peter Schweitzer spoke at their first event of the year April 13, but

Garavaglia noted that organizations have until May 31 to hold events included in their budgets.

SABC member Viggers said, "When we went to review their budgets, they had spent \$10 on a cancellation fee."

Fellow SABC member Michele Landeau said, "That's why we allocated only \$400 to them, so that they would come appeal and would come explain to us."

Viggers added that the College Republicans asked for T-shirts and more money for helping out with Mirthday than what SABC is allowed to allocate.

After College Republicans appealed, SABC agreed to give the club \$4,900 next year. "Generally, if you don't spend your allocations, we won't reallocate that same amount," Rails reminded student organizations.

BASEBALL FIELD, from page 1

However, the Student Athletics Advisory Committee, chaired by Bryan Goers, sophomore, secondary education, had a split decision.

Goers said the committee did not want to see a split vote, and the majority of the committee was in favor of the baseball field's move to South Campus. He said more technical ques-

tions about things such as, "sod or seed and stuff like that" got them away from the point of the vote.

Goers said he personally felt it would be a good thing for Athletics as a whole to start the process for building brand new complexes.

As well as approving the baseball field concept, George also approved an

additional \$100,000 for athletic scholarships, beginning next fiscal year. This brings the total to approximately \$650,000 per year for athletic scholarships.

George stated he would continue to seek the advice of the coaches as the project moves forward.

Baseball games will continue to be

played at Grizzly Field in Saugat, Ill. the same complex that games have been played in this year. Yordy said the location for baseball practices has not been determined yet, but the University will work closely with Jim Brady, head baseball coach, to decide what location will be best for the students.

UNITED 93, from page 10

Greengrass' exacting research and the help of those who were there allowed him to carefully recreate events on the ground and conversations with families but some speculation about exactly what the passengers of United flight 93 said or did was still necessary. Still, the director worked with family members and the known facts to stay as true to the events as possible.

The humanity of everyone involved is part of the film's key to its realism, along with the lack of Hollywood dramatics. Participation of the passengers' families and of people involved in events that day was critical to this.

Every character is represented as a real human being, not a stereotype, including the hijackers. The cast is very average-looking actors, avoiding recognizable stars and having people who were really there playing roles as extras, gives the film the heightened realism it deserves. The ensemble performances are powerful, as are striking individual performances.

Ben Sliney plays himself as the Federal Aviation Administration operations manager, and being aware of

this fact heightens the tension of his scenes.

On the other end, actor Jamie Harding, who has an innocent, all-American face and innocuous look in his striped polo shirt, plays one of the most brutal hijackers. I personally was struck by the reminder of the bravery of the people on board the plane and on the ground, as air traffic controllers and air force personnel scrambled to deal resourcefully with their inability to communicate with each other or the upper levels of government.

It sometimes seems that while the phrase 9/11 is often mentioned, our memory of the details of the events may be fading. Families' concern about both the inevitability of a Hollywood move on the topic - and Oliver Stone's film will follow later this summer - and fading public memory reportedly prompted participation, so that their own story could be told. All forty families were represented at the film's premiere at the New York Tribeca Film Festival last week.

"United 93" is not the first film on 9/11 events. Previous documentaries and TV productions have preceded it, and that big-budget, Oliver Stone film

dramatizing the story of firefighters in the twin towers will follow later this summer. But this first dramatic film may set the standard, by respectfully and accurately reflecting the events of the day.

Because the director is British, not American, and offers such a dry, factual approach, the film reminds us of the events of that fateful day without provoking accusations of partisan slant or agenda. Greengrass' purpose in making the film seems to be to remind us of event's details and to spark discussion.

"United 93" is a film all Americans should see, despite the emotional nature, for the common catharsis and the valid reminder of facts that should not be forgotten. Those who are still unsure of how the subject is handled might want to rent the DVD of "Bloody Sunday," for the approach to that real-life event is very similar.

Some people many still object to this reminder of the events of Sept. 11 but for most of us, this is an important way to both honor their sacrifice and remind us of what went wrong, what has changed and what has not, and what we needed to do about it.

PROBLEM DEBT, from page 6

"I saw the correlation between our research and the Minimum Wage Bill," Palmer said. "Representative Bowman introduced this bill in the House in January 2006. Based on the relevance of our research findings and solutions, he recommended that we give a testimony at the Hearing on Minimum Wage to the Workforce Development and Workplace Safety Committee on April 19, 2006."

At the hearing, Palmer and Chisholm provided an oral and written testimony to the Committee Chair, Rep. Steve Hunter, Committee Co-chair, Rep. Mike Dethrow and 11 other committee members.

"We provided information to the committee based on the stance of educational information because we were representing the university and could not be noted as supporters of the bill," Palmer said. "We had to be knowledgeable of the issues so that we could educate individuals on the topic, neutralize the opponents, and anticipate the reactions of people."

Chisholm said they were the last of 10 people to testify regarding the bill and were only allowed three to five minutes to testify.

Their research shows that low-

income families are particularly prone to experience debt hardship and that the causes of problem debt for low-income families are credit cards, predatory loans and payday loans.

Some of the points made in their testimony included how wage workers in Missouri, earning at or below the \$5.15 per hour minimum wage, total 2.6 percent of the work force or 42,000 individuals. Another finding showed that Missouri ranked number one for per capita bankruptcy filings in 2002.

In addition to presenting the committee an oral and written testimony, the women also used their original research poster to give further explanation.

"We additionally attached a color copy of our poster, which is now displayed in the Social Work Office, and a map of the state of Missouri with the counties outlined that depicts the annual income for one adult and one infant to survive," Chisholm said. "There were only three counties in the entire state where this family could survive at less than \$15,000 a year."

Chisholm said that being able to testify was an awesome experience and that she was proud to represent

the quality education that she has received from UM-St. Louis.

"As social workers we are dedicated to advocate for vulnerable populations, and this was a great opportunity for us, especially as undergraduates," she said. "Having the opportunity to influence state policy is a dream come true for me. Speaking on these populations' behalf, and enlisting others to address issues that these people face is my purpose in choosing this career in social work."

Palmer said the experience also had a great impact on her. "This experience enhanced my perspective of public policy by demonstrating how influential advocates and constituents can be with policy proposal, lobbying and bill introduction."

"I learned that to have an effective policy change process I had to identify the problems, review the history of current policies, develop relationships with legislators and influential people and evaluate how my social work career would be affected," Palmer said.

Palmer and Chisholm also presented their research results to University faculty, staff and students at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 28.

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No more pencils, no more books for graduates

BY NAKENYA SHUMATE
Staff Writer

Remember that old childhood nursery rhyme, "no more pencils, no more books, no more teachers' dirty looks?" If you sang that rhyme, it meant the last day of school and the official beginning to your summer vacation.

"No more" was so fleeting, though, because come the next fall you could be assured there would be many more pencils, books and teachers.

But have the students who are graduating in May finally reached no more? What will they do after taking that walk across stage?

Something about the word graduation usually invokes feelings of completion in students. It is a time to finally breathe that sigh of relief, kick up your heels and dust off your Playstation. Or is it?

"I plan on obtaining a master's degree in personal financial planning," said Sharla Marshall, senior, personal financial planning. It seems that Marshall will see more than her fair share of pencils and books this fall.

"I have been accepted to Texas Tech University and will be attending in the fall," she said.

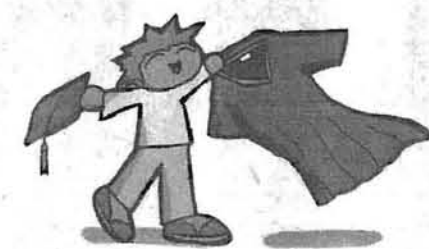
Although some feel like school may never end, graduation is one step in achieving life goals.

"I plan to become a financial advisor and eventually obtain a doctorate in finance," said Marshall.

Continuing their education is not uncommon for graduates.

"I will be doing my Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill," said Atim Enyenihi, senior, chemistry. "After my Ph.D I will do a post doc in hopes of going into academia."

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Bombing a final, causing an F in the class and having a year of preparation go to waste pretty flippin' hilarious



closer to your future goals, but everyone needs a vacation.

"I'm going to travel around the United States this summer," said Laura Marsh, senior, history. "We're going to go camping at the national parks."

After her invigorating vacation, Marsh will continue with her plans for

the future including, "applying for the state department."

Marsh said that this semester has not been without frustration.

"Trying to keep going this semester," Marsh said, "has been the most frustrating thing about getting through this last semester."

CELL PHONES, from page 6

Harold switched from prepaid to a one-year contract because she said "it seemed like they were charging more for the minutes and I feel like they were being used too fast."

"I have always been with T-Mobile. I like the mobile to mobile," she said.

"I like the share plan that my husband and I can share the same minutes with paying extra. The plan does a lot for me, and I don't have to have two different plans—especially being a student on a student's income," Harold said.

Jamie VanWinkle, junior, early child-

hood education has been a Nextel customer for two years.

"My boyfriend works for Nextel," VanWinkle said. "The direct connect feature and that they have excellent customer service" are the features she enjoys the most. "They have unique features, excellent customer service and although it cost more, it's worth it," she said. A second choice provider for her would be T-Mobile.

"I've had Cingular and I didn't like their customer service or rate plans," she said.

Kris Schulze, post-graduate, education, is a Verizon customer. He started with the company when it was still known as Ameritech 10 years ago.

"For the longest time you needed to change your number to switch," said Schulze of his 10-year commitment to Verizon. "It's what my parents had," he said.

The feature he benefits from the most is their "IN network." Schulze will likely continue being "IN" the network.

"I haven't found anything better that would make me switch. I really haven't

had any problem with them," he said.

When asked who he would go with if he had to change Schulze said, "probably Cingular because I can get a discounted package with phone and internet."

According to Cingular's Web site, it is the leading provider in the nation.

It appears it may also be the leading provider at UM-St. Louis with Verizon, T-Mobile and Nextel being close runners-up. Ultimately, the decision rests on the perks offered by the plan and the length of time the person has been a customer.

RECRUITMENT, from page 9

The men's baseball team will lose two seniors, Josh Morgan and Jeff Luksza, at the end of this season. Morgan was drafted by the New York Yankees in the 27th round last year in the MLB draft, but opted to finish his last year at UM-St. Louis.

According to baseball head coach Jim Brady, recruiting really starts after the MLB draft. "A lot of guys in Division I schools might get drafted, then it opens up a spot on the roster," said Brady. "Players normally wait until after the draft in June to make up their mind where they're going to school. They like to weigh their options before they ultimately make a decision."

The MLB draft will be held on June 7 and 8.

The men's tennis team will lose a total of three seniors during the off-season: Stephen Pobst, Rajan Saini and Mike Schaaf.

The only player in the senior class on the women's tennis team is Neringa Bandzeviciute.

The women's golf team added a new member to its roster in December, Leslie Fischer from Rock Bridge High School in Columbia, Mo. During the 2005 Missouri High School Class 2 State Tournament, Fischer placed 22nd out of a field of 125 golfers.

The men's basketball team will lose a total of seven seniors. The senior class for the men's basketball team consisted of F Joey Paul, F Aaron Green, F, Derrell Minner, G Chris Mroz, G Sherome Cole, G Andrew Cagle and G Jonathan Griffin.

Griffin's presence will be missed on the court next season. This year, Griffin led the Rivermen in every stat category except for 3-pointers.

"I'm not sure that we're going to be able to go out there and find one guy who can replace Jonathan," said basketball head coach Chris Pilz. "With all our seniors, they provided us good minutes and they played hard. "When we look back in a few years, this senior group is going to be the one you can point to that got us over that hump. We hadn't had a winning season since 2000."

The Rivermen will have already added three players to next season's roster. Ty Adams is a 6'9 240 pound forward from Steelville, Mo. "Throughout his four year career, he is going to give us a presence that we have not had since I've been here in the GLVC," Pilz said.

Cody Klietheres is a 6'8 200 pound forward from Eldon, Mo. "Very intelli-

gent basketball player. You can never get too many guys with a good basketball IQ," Pilz said.

Octavius Hawkins is a 6'3 180 pound guard transferring from Hillsborough Community College in Miami Fla. "We feel like he's going to be an impact player in our league. He's got a chance to be an all conference player," said Pilz. "We feel like he's going to be able to provide some strength for us on the defensive end. I think our students here, our fans, are going to really enjoy watching Octavius play."

The women's basketball team will have to replace Nikki Jerome and Crystal Lambert, two guards who made up the senior class for the team. The Riverwomen will also have to replace the three players who will not be returning next season: F/C Leslie Allrich, G Tasha Hack and G Jessica Wendeln.

"You can't recruit who you don't see or who you don't know about," said women's basketball Head Coach Lee Buchanan. "There are a lot of player's everywhere, so the first thing we do is like throwing out a net. You start with a huge list of about 200 hundred people and then you start to slowly narrow it down, looking at skill level and what your needs are. In our [UM-St. Louis] situation, we're still kind of in the building process. We're still trying to sign a bit of everything."

The Riverwomen will still have G Courtney Watts, who started 27 out of 28 games during the season, but the team will need more depth in the point guard position.

Kristi White is a 5'9 point guard from Male High School in Louisville, Ky., and has already signed to play for the Riverwomen next season. Another player from Louisville has also signed with the Riverwomen. Kelly Mitchell is a 5'11 forward from Assumption High School.

"Now we're looking for post players and what we call in our business 'best available,'" Buchanan said. "In other words, players who can do a little bit of everything, some people call them combo guards or combo players."

The recruitment process is never complete. Coaches may find the players that they need for that year, but teams can continue to improve. Coaches are still looking for that missing piece to the puzzle. UM-St. Louis could be one player away from a championship.

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Zoos, from page 6

The International Center for Tropical Ecology is a collaborative project of the UM-St. Louis Department of Biology graduate program, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo. The ICTE focuses on advancing research in tropical ecology, and promoting education and outreach on the subject to the community.

The annual Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture series is noted for offering lively, informative, accessible multimedia presentations on world ecology topics, from an international variety of guest speakers that include noted ecological researchers and authors. This year was no exception, as Bonner gave a lively and engrossing talk, using slides of some of the endangered species that the Zoo is particularly committed to preserving.

"We must not just preserve species in zoos but preserve them in the wild places where they live," Bonner told the crowd. "When we preserve a high profile, charismatic species in the wild, like a zebra, we are saving the whole habitat, and all the less high-profile species that live there."

Bonner pointed out that while many organizations are working to save wild places, zoos have certain unique characteristics that make them good candidates to lead efforts to save wild things in wild places.

Bonner pointed out that environmental organizations are usually activist groups that lack the resources, such as research facilities, that zoos have. Also, years of work with small breeding populations prepare zoos to help save species that have been reduced to only a few members. He also pointed out that the high profile of zoos also means they are well positioned to educate and raise public awareness about threats to particular species.

The fact that zoos have steady funding sources means that even devoting only 10 percent of their

resources to preserving wild places would make a major difference. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, of which Bonner is a council member and of which the St. Louis Zoo is a member, is already moving on these steps.

Wild places, not just members of endangered species, must be saved, Bonner noted, because individual animals cannot always be successfully reintroduced.

Skills needed for survival, including where to find food or how to hunt, may have to be learned by each generation. If the skills are not passed along to the new generation, reintroduction may fail. It all depends on how much of these survival skills are genetically based and how many are learned.

"Rhinos can be reintroduced and after a few generations, they are like any other rhinos in the wild," Bonner said. However, this is not true for other species. Taking endangered species out of the wild and putting them in zoos preserve the individual animals but sometimes there is no going back, he cautioned.

One group of animals that the St. Louis is working to save can be successfully reintroduced. These are amphibians, which are disappearing worldwide at an alarming rate.

Among them is the hellbender, a species of giant salamander found in Missouri's Ozark streams, an animal that is far more harmless than its name suggests. Hellbenders are a long-lived species but for some reason they have stopped reproducing. The Zoo is working to rescue hellbenders and create a captive breeding program, with hopes of re-introducing them when the environmental problem threatening them has been uncovered and addressed.

Another species that the zoo is working to save is the Grevy's zebra. There are three species of zebra, mountain, plains and Grevy's zebras, with the most common being the

broad-striped plains, or Burchell's, zebra. The thin-striped Grevy's zebra is endangered, although the Burchell's is not.

"You would think that zoos would be breeding Grevy's but no, they are breeding the popular Burchell's. This is one of the things that zoos need to be changed," Bonner said.

Other endangered species that the Zoo is focused on include cheetahs, the American burying beetle, Humboldt penguin, a bird called the horned guan, the egg-laying mammal echidna, the Near Eastern viper and lemurs in Madagascar. It is working to preserve habitat in Africa's Sahelo-Saharan region, where the Grevy's zebra lives, the Galapagos Islands and the Bosawas biosphere in Nicaragua.

The university's world-renowned program in tropical ecology draws students from around the world. Last year, one of those students, Corneille Ewango, won the Goldman Prize, an annual prize that is sometimes called the "Nobel prize for ecology."

The free ICTE Jane and Whitney Harris lecture is designed to appeal to both the general public and biologists. Past guest speakers included David Quammen, author of the best-selling book "Song of the Dodo" and Terese Hart, who worked with Ewango at the Okapi preserve in Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo. Topics have ranged from the plight of vanishing amphibians, mountain gorillas, rain-forest management with indigenous cultures, preserving species in war-torn areas of Africa and the role of tropical rainforests in global climate.

The Harris lecture is one of the ICTE's yearly events. The ICTE also hosts the Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum and awards an annual World Ecology Award to people who have played a prominent role in drawing attention to ecological issues. Among these recipients have been Dr. Jane Goodall, and Harrison Ford and Conservation International.



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King Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 - "King" Cole
- 4 Dr.'s field
- 7 Bandage material
- 12 Poetic tribute
- 13 Milwaukee product
- 14 Entanglement behind a desk
- 15 Part of some German names
- 16 Odin's maidens
- 18 Illustrations
- 19 Blotch
- 20 Handle
- 22 Viewfinder?
- 23 Make coffee, maybe
- 27 In need of repair
- 29 "Vagabond Lover" singer
- 31 Oklahoma tribe
- 34 Pal of Bugs and Elmer
- 35 Treasured
- 37 Wood-shaping tool
- 38 Center of rotation
- 39 Suitable
- 41 Sea greeting
- 45 Neaten
- 47 Mimic
- 48 Silents star
- 52 Sermon subject
- 53 Old marketplace
- 54 Pouch
- 55 Stick with a kick
- 56 Do further tailoring
- 57 Wapiti
- 58 Thumbs-up vote
- 8 Melody
- 9 Swiss canton
- 10 Last letter
- 11 Seventh before 10-Down
- 17 Chicken -
- 21 Counterfeit
- 23 Public square
- 24 Sprite
- 25 Ump
- 26 Indispensable
- 28 Shelter
- 30 Throw into the mix
- 31 Breakfast for Brutus
- 32 Kenny G's instrument
- 33 Will Smith
- 36 Pub missile
- 37 Unmelodious
- 40 Self-confidence
- 42 Poorly thought out
- 43 Put one's two cents in
- 44 Busybody
- 45 What rodents do
- 46 Spool
- 48 Crossword clue abbr.
- 49 Candle count
- 50 Part of UCLA
- 51 Anteceding

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Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Impatience is still somewhat of a problem. But a sign of progress should soothe the anxious Aries heart. Meanwhile, invest some of that waiting time in preparing for the change ahead.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Bovines tend to excel at solving problems, not creating them. But you risk doing just that if you're slow to respond to a timely situation. If necessary, seek advice from someone you trust.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
The Gemini Twin might need to do more than a routine check of both a job-linked and home-based situation. Dig deeper for more data on both fronts to avoid unwanted surprises later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Moon Children facing an important workplace decision are encouraged to use their perceptiveness to see through any attempt to win them over with a supercharge of fawning and flattery.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Good news catapults Leos and Leonas into reconsidering a deferred decision. But time has moved on, and it's a good idea to recheck your plans and make adjustments where necessary.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
The week favors relationships, both personal and professional. Take the time to look for and immediately repair any vulnerable areas caused by unresolved misunderstandings.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
A friend's problems bring out your protective instincts. Be careful to keep a balance between meeting the obligations of friendship without being overwhelmed by them.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
The temptation to take an extreme position on an issue is strong, but moderation is favored both in personal and professional dealings. Move toward finding areas of agreement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Getting another boss or teacher? Try to see the person behind the image. It will help you adjust more easily to the changes that new authority figures inevitably bring.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Much as you might dislike the idea, keep an open mind about using the assistance of a third party to help resolve problems that threaten to unravel an important agreement.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Music helps restore the Aquarian's spiritual energies this week. Take someone you care for to a concert of your musical choice. Also, expect news about a workplace matter.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
A challenge that seems easy enough at first could take an unexpected turn that might test your resolve. Decide if you feel you should stay with it, or if it's better to move in another direction.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can be strong when standing up for justice, both for yourself and for others.

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| Wednesday | May 3, | 7:30-7:00 |
| Thursday | May 4, | 7:30-7:00 |
| Friday | May 5, | 7:30-5:00 |

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Monday | May 8, | 7:30-7:00 |
| Tuesday | May 9, | 7:30-7:00 |
| Wednesday | May 10, | 7:30-7:00 |
| Thursday | May 11, | 7:30-7:00 |
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 - Copies in poor condition will be deducted appropriately.
 - Old editions have no value and cannot be purchased.

THEATERS, from page 9

The lobby has water fountains and tile in the style of the '50s and art deco metal railings on its steps, with other Art Deco-Moderne touches in the lobby.

If you go to one of its two upstairs theaters, you can see the oldest part of the theater, as these were fashioned out of the theater's old balcony and retain that classic look. The big main theater has a really large screen and comfy seats, putting it among the top theater picks for big visual films that need that real, big-screen experience.

Other theaters

Live in Illinois and like old theaters? Here's one for you: The Lincoln Theater in Belleville. The outside marquee and façade looks like an old theater but the lobby is modern. However, if you step inside the main theater, you step back into time, as the Lincoln is actually a 1921 vaudeville theater that also showed movies, with a stage, plush seats and all the architectural trimmings. On Friday and

Saturday, they have movie theater pipe organ music before the films.

Drive-Ins

If you are a fan of the '50s, you want to check out one of

the area's drive-in theaters, if only just for the experience. Nearby, there are the 19 Drive-In off Hwy 44 in Cuba and the Starlight off Hwy 21 in Cadet in Missouri, and in Illinois, the Starlight in Belleville.

POETRY, from page 4

It begins at 8:30 and is hosted by Cinnamon and DJ Trackstar. Winners go home with \$75.

Bakari's Family Affair

This event takes place every first Saturday of the month from 7-10 p.m. If you want to spend the evening with family and/or friends along with helping the Bakari Family Institute, it is a don't miss. Along with Poetry, it also features live music, dance and concessions. It is held at the YMCA-Monsanto Family Branch located on Page Boulevard. For more info: www.bakariinstitute.org, \$10 Admission.

HOME, from page 11

River Valley White, River Valley Red, River Valley Blush, Blackberry, Raspberry, Vidal Blanc, Chambourcin and Norton are some wines that can be found at Augusta Winery. Chardonel, River Country Red, Himmelswein, Stone House Red, Strawberry, Framboise and Peachy are some of Montelle's wines.

Prices for wines from the wineries in Augusta vary from \$10 a bottle on up to \$30 a bottle.

Since wines are produced all over the world, from the United States, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, there are hundreds of types of wines. A few favorite wine picks include Asti Spumante, Cabernet, Chardonnay, Champagne, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Sangria, Vidal and Zinfandel.


Wines are often classified as table wines, sparkling wines, dessert wines, red, white, sweet, semi-sweet and dry, depending on the added fruits and sugars. The website www.wineintro.com reports that most new wine drinkers often prefer sweet wines over dry wines. By attending wine-tasting events, people can experience for themselves which kinds they like the best.

For those who want to have a real French experience, but cannot afford a trip to France, visit Little Hills Winery and Restaurant in St. Charles on Main Street. This cafe and winery has been operating for over 20 years. Visitors can choose from their assorted handmade wines and can have a relaxing lunch in their outdoor garden terrace, which overlooks fountain waterfalls and ponds.

Little Hills Winery and Restaurant serves French and American cuisines, sells their wines by bottle or glass and has a collectible gift shop.

In addition to Little Hills Winery being a hot-spot on Main Street in St. Charles, Trailhead Brewing Company is another destination that brews its own beer. Whether one is stopping in for an all-American dinner, to see the beer tanks or try their Dark Brown Ale, Red Amber Ale or Blonde Ale, this is more than just a brewery.

Certain Missouri wines and beers can also be bought at many local grocery stores.



THE TAN COMPANY

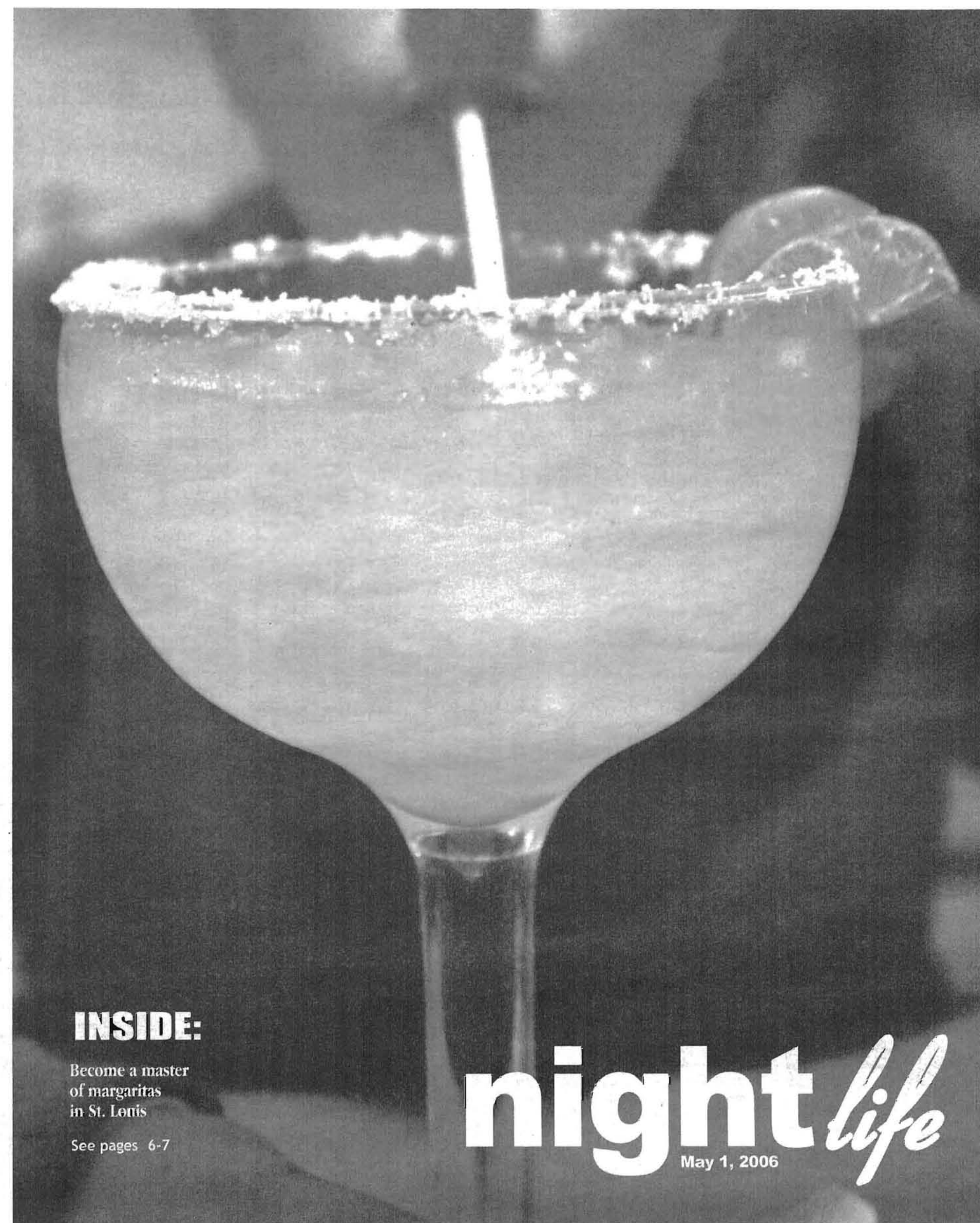
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INSIDE:

Become a master of margaritas in St. Louis

See pages 6-7

night life
May 1, 2006

Sally T's brings artistic flare to local music scene

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN & ELIZABETH GEARHART
Staff Writer & Cartoonist

Sally T's in St. Peters, Mo., brings an artistic flare to the local music scene and offers a vast array of music to all ages as well as weekends for the 21-and-up crowd.

Located at 6 Main Street in St. Peters, Sally T's offers a fresh take on a bar in an established historic neighborhood. The building, painted green with magenta and white details, stands out amongst the old brick buildings, beckoning anyone looking to spend a fun night at a unique venue.

The building itself, according to a sign posted by the St. Peters Historical Society in 1985, was a retail store for over a century, and "[It was] built by entrepreneur, John Joerdens, in the early 1870's."

Sally Thorne, Sally T herself and owner of the establishment, said maintaining an old building like hers was costly, but "I just kind of happened upon it. It was kind of like a little fate thing."

She said that there was a need in the area for an all-ages venue, so during the week Sally T's offers a plethora of local and national concerts for people of any age. The weekends, while usually catering to 21-and-ups, sometimes offer concerts for underage folks.

Thorne opened Sally T's over 13 years ago, began bringing music in with open mic nights, and then, "the bands started coming in." Now Sally T's brings in local and national bands for entertainment of customers.

Jeremy Hansen, Thorne's son and a worker at Sally T's, said, "We have a pretty wide crowd range, it depends really on the bands playing."

Sally T's hosts shows with a variety of music styles from ska to bluegrass and some that Hansen said "you can't even describe."

"I just wanted a place where people could feel at home and hear music. I like music, but I like to hear different stuff than you just hear on

the radio," Thorne said.

Richard Moore, lead singer of Oriah, a local industrial band, said he enjoys going to Sally T's. He admitted he used to go more often, but has always liked that there are lots of different kinds of music played there and the fact that a lot of local bands play there.

"A lot of people get their first chance to play a show here. It's very important to the local music scene," Moore said.

One feature he said he liked is the up-close atmosphere, and he said it makes it "a much better club than the Creepy Crawl."

"I kind of like it at this place, its kind of laid back. It reminds me of Cracker Barrel, which is a good thing because I grew up going to the Cracker Barrel. I grew up in Tennessee. I like this place's convenience and its homelike appeal," he said.

Thorne said her choice of artistic and intriguing decorations are inspired by the fact that she is "a big collage person."

"I like to save the old flyers from shows and put them up on the walls," she said.

She said that she got many of the paintings and art on display from artists who told her they were just giving it to her.

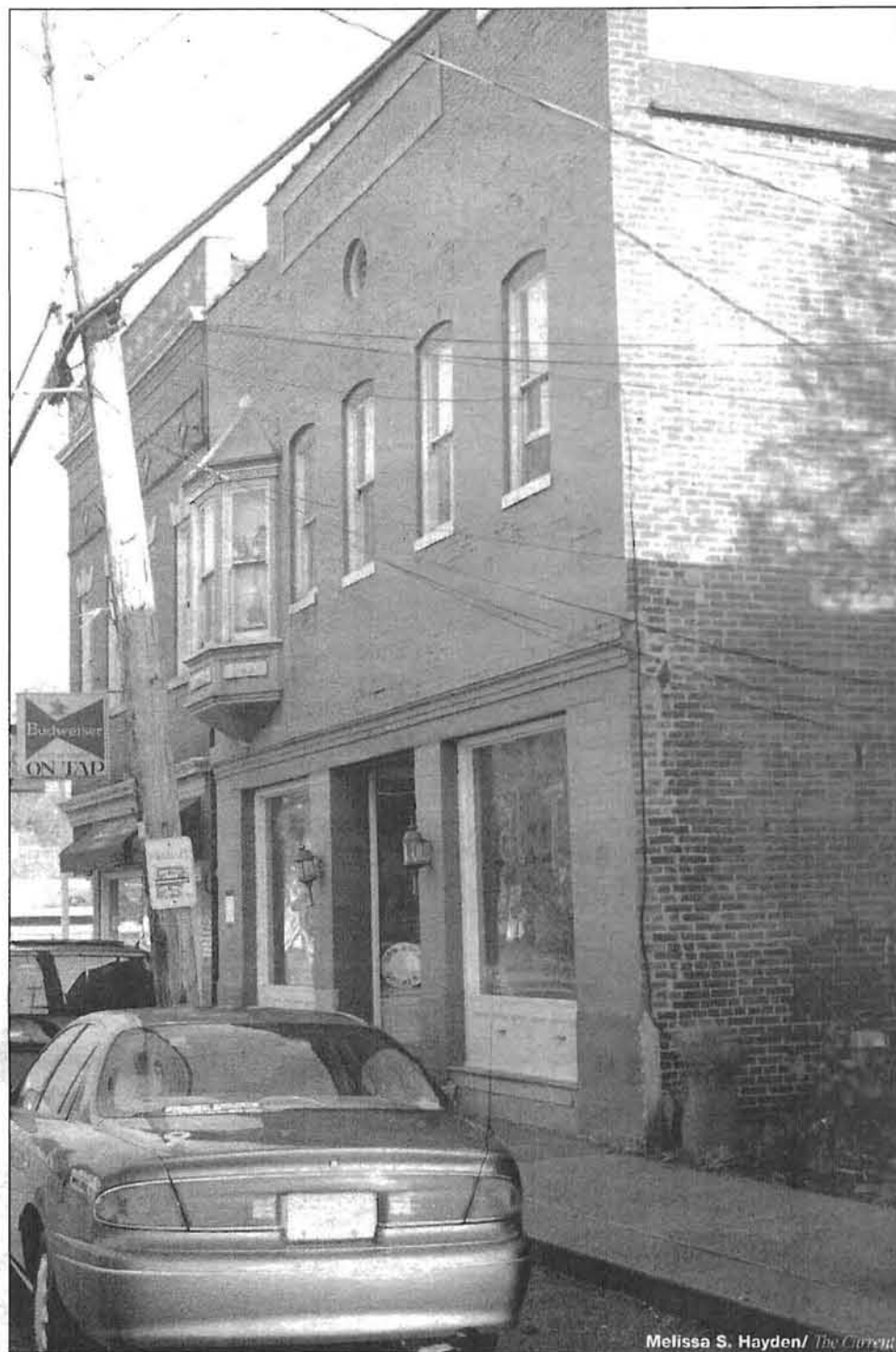
"Some people donate art just to be a part of the place," she said.

She said running her business wasn't always the most profitable. "It's hand to mouth like all arts; like starving artists." However, she said she loves her job and being involved in all aspects of Sally T's.

Sally T does it all. She waits tables, prepares food, serves beer and maintains a bar that is, indeed, a work of art.

For more information about Sally T's and a list of upcoming shows, go to www.sallyts.net. To book a show, call (636)397-5383.

RIGHT: Sally T's, located at 6 Main Street in historic Old Town St. Peters, has weekly all-ages shows. The building was built in the early 1870s and was used as a retail store.



Melissa S. Hayden/The Current



Can you read the writing on the wall?

A compilation of some of the best quotes from the bathroom walls at Sally T's

If you "follow the yellow brick road" leading to the restroom at Sally T's, you'll enter to find walls full of warm messages and silly thoughts. It is, by far, one of the things that makes Sally T's so much fun.

"Appreciate life and life will appreciate you." Anonymous.

"Let me sing here someday." Amber A.

"Sally, Sally Bo-Bali, Banana-Bana, Bo-Bali, Bi-B0-Bali. Sall(y) and her wonderful dog RULE!" Anonymous

"Tears for tomorrow for world domination! Kick yeah!" Vanessa

"I almost had some great sex in this bathroom ... But that will have to wait." Anonymous

"Goodbye is too good a word, babe, so I'll just say Fare Thee Well." B. D.

"... Our sweetest songs are those that tell the saddest thought." Anonymous

"For a good time be here 12/23/04 at 9:04 p.m." Anonymous

"Sally let us believe in Rock & Roll again." Spector

"Sally, thanks for the support of local music. Rock on." Laité

"Life is lost in dreaming. Dreaming is lost in becoming." Anonymous

"Love comes in so many disguises that sometimes it's hard to recognize it until its right in front of your face." Judy Beanz

"Sally, hang on to your dream, it's become mine, too." Mark

Keep America beautiful by volunteering this summer

BY BRONWEN VOSS
Staff Writer

As you may or may not know, April was Keep America Beautiful Month. If you missed it, it's never too late to get involved with the environment. Hopefully, everyone has been doing their part all year long by recycling, throwing away the trash and trading in all your cars for a hybrid—ok, maybe that's taking it a little too far.

Now that it is spring, the air has become warm, the sun is shining and you need to get prepared to put on swimwear. Thus, the perfect activity that will help keep our country beautiful is volunteering in the outdoors. Volunteering often counts as community service, and the physical labor will help get you in shape. Here are a few local ideas to get you outside and help keep the country beautiful!

Forest Park

If you haven't heard of or been to Forest Park, (not to sound mean) then you probably just got to St. Louis an hour ago and found this paper blowing around the airport parking lot. Forest Park is one of the main St. Louis attractions especially, now that it has warmed up and started welcoming more and more visitors. One of the great outdoor volunteer opportunities available is the Horticulture area. If you enjoy playing in the garden and/or getting "dirty," then this would be just right for you. Check out www.forestparkforever.org online and click on volunteer opportunities to get an application.

St. Louis Zoo

Yes, I realize that it is located inside Forest Park, but it offers a whole new list of volunteer opportunities that don't involve getting your hands in the dirt but still allow you to be outdoors. They have 14 volunteer opportunities that range from "Wild Workers" (leading a walking group) to working in the gift shop. If you want more chances to play in the garden, the zoo also offers a horticulture volunteer program. Please visit www.stlzoo.org to get your experience started.

Missouri Botanical Garden

Located on Shaw Boulevard, this is by far a St. Louis gem. The garden always has plenty of volunteer opportunities, so don't think twice about becoming involved. A given will be horticulture work, but they offer other opportunities at their different locations including the Butterfly House at Faust Park in Chesterfield and the Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, off I-44. Go to www.mobot.org to get involved.

Missouri is a home for beer and wine

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Missouri might be known for its innumerable tourist attractions, diverse ethnic restaurants and famous historical monuments, but the state is also recognized for its countless breweries and fine wineries.

The largest and most acknowledged brewery in St. Louis is Anheuser-Busch. St. Louis is the home to over 12 breweries like St. Louis Brewery, Schlafly's Tap Room and Morgan Street.

When most people think of visiting Missouri wineries, the thought of driving miles away to Hermann or to St. Genevieve might come to mind. Although these small German towns have become popular destinations for wine lovers, people looking to find a fresh quality glass of wine do not have to go the extra distance.

Hundreds of wineries have become established in Missouri because of the state's deep valleys, rich soil and river landscapes. Wineries can be found in cities such as Waverly, Berger, Dutzow, New Haven, Stover, St. James and Washington, but the closest can be found in St. Charles and Augusta.

"I love going in the summer with my friends to wineries in Augusta because the scenery is so beautiful and relaxing and it is only about a half hour away from home," Jen Hall, sophomore, nursing said.

According to the town of Augusta's Web site at www.augusta-missouri.com, the city became the "First United States Wine District" in 1980. The state of Missouri was the number one wine producing state in the United States prior to the Civil War and a prominent wine producing state prior to Prohibition.

So what makes Augusta a popular Missouri wine stop?

Besides its four family-owned wineries and three others—Balducci Vineyards, Blumenhof Winery, Augusta Winery, Montelle Winery, Augusta Brewing Company, Mount Pleasant Winery and Sugar Creek Winery. Many have scenic terraces that show views 400 feet above the Missouri River, hundreds of acres of vineyards, the village of Augusta and the historic Katy Trail.

Some of the wineries in Augusta offer picnic tables, full-service restaurant services, wine tasting, vineyard tours, souvenir and gift shops and free live music.

"We always have free wine tasting, samplings and live music on Saturdays and Sundays throughout October," said Vicki

Oxford, Balducci Vineyards manager.

Throughout the wineries, visitors can read information about how wine is fermented and made or can ask the wine servers and guides questions they might have. Antique grape crushers and presses, fermentation tanks and wine-making equipment might also be displayed.

Depending on the kind of wine being made, there are a variety of techniques to wine making. When making most typical wines, employees will first collect either American or French hybrid grapes from their vineyard and sort out the good ones to be placed into giant crushing machines. Once the grapes are crushed, the juice that is left behind from the press is placed into refrigerated fermentation tanks.

Some wines must be bottled upside down, fermented or sealed in barrels for up to 20 years before it is ready to be served.

Both Augusta and Montelle Wineries have won over 50 various state, national and international awards from entering in fairs and competitions throughout the United States.

see HOME, page 12

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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Lemmons' chill atmosphere makes for a hot evening

BY MABEL SUEN
NightLife Editor

Looking for a cool evening chill spot? Try Lemmons, a casual South City bar that offers much more than just a great selection of both higher end drafts and cheaper beer. As a hybrid sports bar, restaurant and music venue, this smoky space is the perfect hangout for the over 21 crowd looking for a low-key night out.

When my companions and I arrived around 9 p.m. on a Friday night, the place was already bustling with activity. People chatted and enjoyed food and drink at packed tables while a group called Bad Folk played lively traditional tunes on the small stage in the back of the room.

The low glow of Bailey's and Budweiser beer signs with little colored lamps lent to the dimly lit bar ambiance.

Pabst Blue Ribbon banners and framed pictures of rock stars and sports icons covered dark green walls. While not utilized at the time, a big screen near the entrance appeared to be a common source of entertainment on weeknights.

To the right, people also conversed and indulged in tasty looking pizzas and tall glasses of beer.

Upon wandering to the bar area, I discovered that there was a variety of different gaming options including foosball, a couple of arcade machines, bubble hockey and table shuffleboard. Board games could also be accessed if desired.

Venturing into the downstairs area, we discovered a chilly basement with a couple of coin operated half-sized pool tables and a jukebox.

After listening to some other patrons' questionable song selections and partaking in a short game of rotation that I somehow won after scratching at least three times, we returned to the upstairs area.

Another band was getting ready to take the stage as we made our menu selections. I decided on some chili cheese fries for \$5.75 while my friend got a half-pound burger with seasoned fries for \$4.50.

Other menu items included appetizers under \$6 and choices of thin, pan and Chicago style pizzas. We grabbed a frosty pitcher of refillable Coke with plenty of ice and plopped down at the only slightly unoccupied table in front of the stage.

Our food arrived just in time to enjoy with a set from The Dreadful Yawns, a psychedelic folk rock band from Cleveland.

The fries draped in scalding hot cheese and chili with jalapenos and onions were almost too good to be true.

A friend claimed that they probably contained more calories than I had in my entire



Adam Wiseman/ The Current

Mia Consiglio, bartender at Lemmons, serves up a Guinness Draft to a customer on Friday night. The bar/restaurant/hangout club features live music on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as movie nights, poker tournaments and trivia events during the week. Music often fits the punk, power-pop, Americana, alt-country and garage genres.

body. I accepted this fact and proceeded to indulge in my gluttony happily. My friend claimed that his food was "well worth the money."

The remainder of acts that night included local surf garage group The Vultures and A Fir-Ju Well, a big beat southern rock band from Atlanta.

When asked about how he found such unique and seemingly lesser known bands from far away places, booking director James Foechner replied, "I try to contact interesting bands that would be willing to play a club our size. We sort of have to specialize in bands doing their first few tours that are still growing fan-bases around the country."

"As far as genres go, we only want original music and mostly from the punk/power-pop/Americana/alt-country/garage genres. I would like

Lemmons to be an oasis in a Sahara of clubs that don't pay or feed or give drinks and respect to the bands."

In addition to live music on Fridays and Saturdays, Lemmons also hosts other weekly activities.

Monday movie nights include big screen entertainment with two movies and a free pizza buffet that goes from 7 to 11. Tuesdays are Texas Hold Em nights and Wednesdays are trivia nights.

Lemmons, located at 5800 Gravois Ave., is open Monday thru Saturday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Happy hour times are 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday through Thursday with \$1.50 longnecks and 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday with \$1.50 drafts.

For more information, visit their website at www.myspace.com/lemmons.

UPCOMING CONCERT DATES:

- Friday 5/5: King Cobra w/The Fifth Row Felons
- Saturday 5/6: The Crazy Cowboys w/ Ned Van Go (Memphis)
- Friday 5/12: The Saps (Chicago) w/ Bad Folk
- Saturday 5/13: Minmae (Portland) w/ Dozernary Pool & Prof. K
- Friday 5/19: The Safes (Chicago) w/ Tone Rodent & Macro Micro
- Saturday 5/20: The Zom Zoms (Austin) w/ The Rats and People and The Bureau
- Friday 5/26: Miles of Wire w/ The Lineman & Matt Sayles & Francisco Mirabent
- Saturday 5/27: The Tripdaddys

Finding a good pub on the crawl in STL

BY PATRICK FLANIGAN
Staff Writer

There is nothing like a good pub-crawl. Walking into a pub, having a round, and then off to another pub. That idea works great in Ireland, where it seems every other door is a pub but in St. Louis a good pub may not be on every block. So while a good crawl may be out of the question, there are some good pubs worth visiting. It only depends on what part of town or mood you are in.

Pubs, which are short for public houses, are more than just bars, although serving of alcohol would be a requirement. A pub is a place where families can bring their children, light meals are served, and there is a comforting atmosphere where one can relax.

One of the most popular pubs in St. Louis is J.P. McGurk's at 1200 Russell Boulevard in Soulard. McGurk's is an Irish pub and that showcases live traditional Irish music most nights. There are multiple rooms to drink, dine, or hang out as well as an outside patio with a fountain, which has its own separate bar. The food is traditional pub food but more on the pricey side. You can order anything from burgers to steaks.

The inside of McGurk's is decorated in traditional Irish pub style with dark wood booths, tin beer advertisements, and maps of Ireland. Their beer selection is top shelf. McGurk's is one of the few places you can find Strongbow Cider in St. Louis, and they pour a proper extra cold pint of Guinness. With its large rooms and patio, McGurk's is a great place to meet friends after work.

If you live in the west, McGurk's also has a location on 108 South Main Street in O'Fallon. The décor is similar to the Soulard McGurk's with a twist. Added to the big rooms, patio, and Irish décor, is a hunting theme. The Guinness is still cold, the food is on par, but mixed in with the old tin signs of Jameson are pictures of hunting dogs, an elk's head, and ducks. They do not offer Irish music on any day, even St. Patrick's, but if you live out west, and it is a pub you want, then this is a port in the storm.

A pub that stands out from other pubs in St. Louis is The Scottish Arms (www.thescottisharms.com) located on 6-10 Sarah St. (Between Laclede and Forest Park) in the Central West End. Walk into The Scottish Arms and you might feel as though you landed in Edinburgh as the staff is adorned in kilts and soccer matches are playing on the big screens.

Open up the menu, and you will find more than basic pub food, but traditional Scottish cuisine. They not only offer the likes of

Scottish eggs and Haggis, but have a selection of vegetarian, poultry and game, and seafood. If you want a full dinner, The Scottish Arms serve a good-sized steak with some of the best garlic mash potatoes around. Their beer selection is the outstanding, offering many beers on tap, plenty of which are from Scotland as well as numerous bottled beers from other parts of the globe.

If the impressive beer and wine selection was not enough, The Scottish Arms houses the best selection of Scottish Whiskey around. Any year, strength, from every part of Scotland is available, and they even offer a "Highlander Whiskey Tour" to help patrons who want to be educated on the "water of Scotland." The Scottish Arms also offers live music every week and an outdoor patio. For a sensory experience and a pub like no other visit The Scottish Arms.

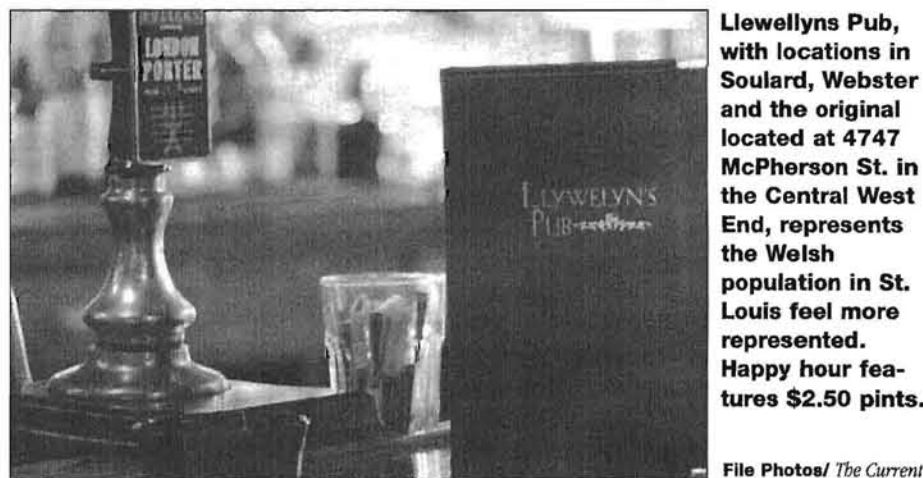
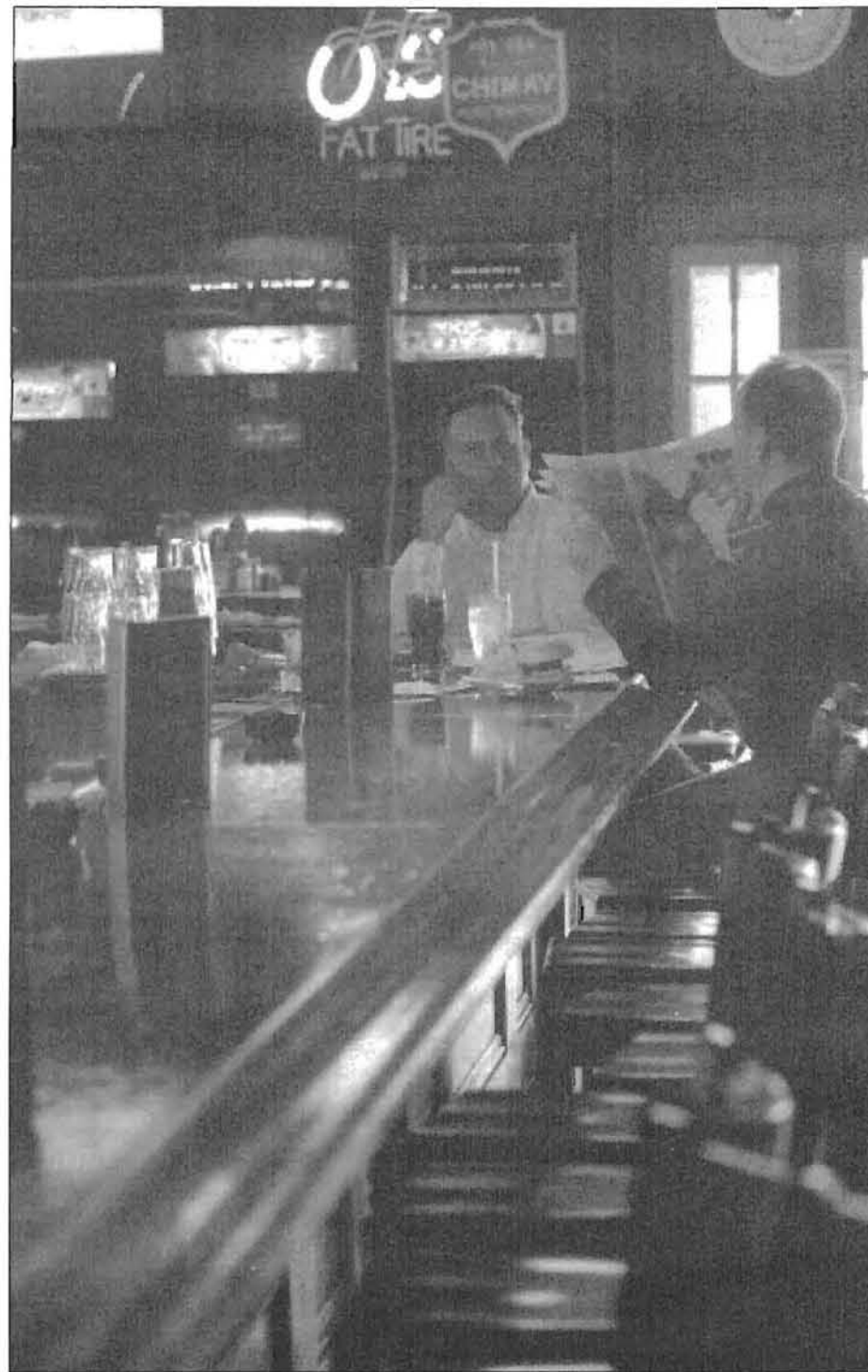
A good pub with a somewhat American spin is Flannery's Pub. Located in downtown St. Louis at 1320 Washington Avenue, Flannery's offers that pub feeling with modern style. Lighter and modern wood booths, bar tables, a few dart boards, and multiple big screens to catch the latest sports makes Flannery's a more Irish American pub.

Flannery's is Irish in name but more American on the inside. Traditional pub grub is offered and the beer selection is decent. They may not offer a patio but if you want the benefits of a Sports Bar mixed with an Irish Pub, Flannery's is the place. If you are downtown, Flannery's Pub is good place to hang out or catch a game.

The Welsh may feel underrepresented at times and feel they don't have much to boast for except Catherine Zeta Jones and one of the best bands ever, McLusky. But in St. Louis they are represented more than any other chain of pubs with Llewellyn's Pub which have locations in Soulard, Webster, and the original located at 4747 McPherson Street in the West End.

Llewellyn's offers traditional pub food and a beer selection that one would expect. The burgers are good, and the fries even better. Besides the two main rooms, Llewellyn's has an outside patio with a separate bar and an upstairs for those crowded nights. For those on a budget, Llewellyn's has a variety of drink specials on happy hour occasion and the middle of the week, so if you are after a \$2.50 pint for happy hour, Llewellyn's is the place.

Another good pub located in the west and hidden in the fabricated community of Winhaven is Seamus McDaniel's (www.seamuswest.com) located at 7434 Village Center Drive. Don't let the new brick exterior fool



Llewellyn's Pub, with locations in Soulard, Webster and the original located at 4747 McPherson St. in the Central West End, represents the Welsh population in St. Louis feel more represented. Happy hour features \$2.50 pints.

File Photos/ The Current

you, once inside you will find a wood bar well over a hundred years old, booths made out of old wooden church pews, and antique ceiling tiles.

Seamus features a separate bar area and a couple of good size rooms as well as an outdoors patio. They serve one of the better burgers among pubs and feature live music. There

is a Seamus McDaniel's in the Dogtown area of St. Louis, under different ownership, that ran out of Guinness on St. Patrick's Day this year and one cannot recommend an Irish pub that runs out of Guinness on St. Paddy's. Seamus McDaniel's, however, in Winhaven is definitely worthy of a recommendation if you find yourself out west.

Playing it by ear with local musician JJ Hamon

BY MABEL SUEN
Nightlife Editor

When St. Louis musician JJ Hamon isn't spinning vintage synthesizer records, causing a commotion with sounds from a toy robot or singing and playing other various odds and ends to accompany experimental act Bird Baker, he builds and repairs guitars and develops music for his own group Jonas Lyn.

Hamon, 25, sometimes performs solo, but often has a collective of fellow musicians and friends, including his younger brother Kit Hamon. "If they're male, they're Jonas. If they're female, they're Lyn, but I'm Jonas Lyn. It has a multifunction," said JJ.

I first saw the group perform at the Creepy Crawl in early March. JJ played an acoustic and later switched to his handcrafted electric guitar, even performing double duties with harmonica during one of the songs. His smooth, charming vocals were often accentuated with the harmonization of a female vocalist chiming in occasionally and lending a helping hand, providing clapped rhythms. Kit Hamon also sang and complemented his playing with light drumming, violin, keyboard and most inventive of all, cell phones.

Towards the middle of the set, Kit took out a phone and suspiciously enough, JJ's phone rang. "Gosh, you think I'd be considerate to myself," he said, handing it over to Kit, claiming that the call was for him. Utilizing the two cells, Kit created some interesting sounds for the next song by manipulating the electrical signals, even singing into one phone and holding the delayed vocals up to the microphone.

Listening to and seeing the performance was an experience likened to that of grade schoolers being told a colorfully intriguing story while sitting cross-legged on the floor with doozy awe-struck looks on their faces. The half-hour set contained an amalgamation of years of songwriting and inventive ideas.

In addition to music inspired by a wide range of music including blues legend Skip James, Danish group Kashmir and Swedish singer-songwriter José González, experimenting with ambient sounds and different instruments are one of the core elements of Hamon's music.

Hamon says that the group's name comes partially from an experience in Taiwan. After being stranded in the country, a family with the last name "Lyn" took him in for a week. While there with a friend, he spent time playing in the streets of the city square and in the subway. Other global experiences include performing in Australia, Denmark and Spain in addition to various parts of the U.S.

After traveling all over different parts of the world, Hamon says that the visits into other cultures affected his music indirectly. "People are the main factor in what influ-



Adam D. Wiseman / The Current

JJ Hamon plays keyboard during a visit to UM-St. Louis' student radio station, 101.9 'The U.' Hamon's band, Jonas Lyn, performs and records locally.

ences me musically. My interaction with people affects my mindset which affects my music. There are hidden ideas about what I or someone I've been talking to are feeling," said Hamon.

Often with the help of his answering machine, he has done several independent recordings over the years. His current released recordings include 2 EPs - "The Up Early EP" and "The Sidewalk EP," a collection of instrumental songs.

Hamon says that he intends to spend the summer recording a full-length album and will actively seek out playing more shows in the St. Louis area after that. He also hopes to work more with art and music collaborations and multimedia.

Places for poetry in St. Louis

BY BRONWEN VOSS
Staff Writer

Like most people, you may still see poetry as the torture that was put on you from about kindergarten, with the roses are red violets are blue, all the way to your last high school English class.

Others may view poetry as one of their passions, a way of expressing their inner feelings or if you are an English major, you obviously have made friends with poetry some time ago.

What people sometimes forget though is that poetry can be used as form of entertainment. Yes I know, it sounds a little outlandish, but believe it or not a good poetry slam can rival that of a long night of dancing at a local club or \$80 tickets to your favorite concert. What differs here is the fact that poetry slams and/or readings are much cheaper and more intellectually stimulating.

So, in order to make sure that UMSLites get their chance to join in the fun, here are some local venues and events that will take care of your poetry entertainment needs.

St. Louis Poetry SLAM

This event takes place every Wednesday from 8:30-11 p.m. at Dressel's located in the Central West End on Euclid. Poets receive musical accompaniment from DJ Bootsie and compete for cash prizes. Admission is \$5.

Spoken Word Groove

This happens Friday night June 1 at Legacy Books and Café at 5249 Delmar from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. It will feature spoken word and poetry with the help of DJ Enoch, The Band with No Name and host Maurice Minor and will have special entertainment from New York-based poet and author DuEwa M. Frazier. Admission is \$5.

St. Louis Weekly Poetry Slam

This happens every Thursday night at Dreams Nightclub in the newly renovated Washington Avenue area.

see **POETRY**, page 12

Top theaters show more than just movies

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

When we go to the movies, most of us go to whatever theater is closest to our house, school or work. Sometimes you pick out the movie you want to see and sometimes you just go and see what choices the closest movie theater has to offer. Most of the time, the theater is not important because one multiplex is much like another.

I spend a lot of time in movie theaters and I found that some movie theaters are worth a special trip and offer something more than just what is on the screen. Here is a look at the St. Louis area's best movie theaters, roughly ranked with the best at the top but followed by a few special exceptions.

Moolah Theater

For creature comforts, this is probably the lushest theater in town. Although it has only one screen, it is a really big screen. The Moolah has a sophisticated, martini-friendly, young adult atmosphere, and it is more than a movie theater.

Inside the theater itself, the usual movie seats are replaced with leather chairs and loveseats, with little cocktail tables for your drinks instead of the standard cup holders. There is also balcony seating with traditional seats in a stadium seating arrangement and the usual stadium seating at the back of the main floor.

But before you even get into the theater itself, there is a wow factor to the Moolah. The theater is part of an entertainment complex built in a former Shriner's Moolah temple. The building itself is a visual treat, with rococo architecture and tiles in bright colors. The main floor, which has the theater, has an attractive lobby with a fully stocked bar and a club room with leather chairs, in addition to the usual movie concession stand.

You can get nice, upscale concessions of soft drinks, candy and popcorn, or opt for an adult beverage like a good microbrewery beer, glass of wine, or martini, any of which you can take with you into the theater. Or you can lounge around in the cushy club room beforehand with your cocktail. But that is not all.

If you want even more entertainment, there is a four lane bowling alley in the lower level with a full bar and even a grill where you can get burgers, appetizers and salads. You can bowl a round, get a burger and fries, plus a cocktail, and still see a movie. You can even take your burger and cocktail into the theater, if you want.

The major drawback of the Moolah is its popularity. It gets crowded, especially on weekends, since it is right at the edge of St. Louis University's campus.

The Moolah is locally owned by the St. Louis Cinema chain. The movies tend to be

mainstream and popular, so experiencing the venue is the main reason to visit the Moolah.

Tivoli

This restored 1920s movie house is the best renovation in town because it looks the most like a classic movie theater. The ticket booth, lobby and main theater are gorgeous and a real trip back in time to the golden era of cinema. The lobby is also full of movie memorabilia and movie posters for films with St. Louis connections. The concessions are first-rate and this is the best movie popcorn in town.

The Tivoli shows great indie, art house and foreign films, often the best offerings in town on its three screens. The main theater is the front portion of the original theater, complete with stage and working curtain. Seeing a film in this theater is the best experience, although the smaller ones are comfortable. The theater is owned by Joe Edwards, who also owns Blueberry Hill and is responsible for the wonderful restoration, but the theater is now run by the Landmark Theaters chain.

Hi Pointe

This theater is a must-see if you love the retro look of the early sixties. It also has a really big screen, the best sound system in town and plush, comfy, specially designed theater seats. It is locally-owned by the same family that ran it for years but the theater is also now run by the Landmark Theaters chain.

The Hi Pointe is actually older than the Tivoli but has been remodeled several times, most recently in the early sixties. It has great concessions, first-rate popcorn and a great staff. It is the best theater for big screen, big sound films. This is a premiere film experience.

Chase Park Plaza

Inside the classic, lushly restored Chase Park Plaza Hotel, the Chase Theater is a newer addition to the grand old hotel but fits right in. The cozy glass-walled lobby looks out on both the Chase lounge and arched windows with a view of the hotel's classically styled pool area.

With nearby bars and restaurants, it is the most romantic spot for a date movie. The movie concessions are top-line offering beyond the usual, including wine and beer selections and Ted Drewes' frozen custard, but the liquor choices are not as extensive as its sister theater the Moolah.

The Chase, like the Hi Pointe, has an attentive staff and extra details that make the experience special, like an usher with a tray of mints when you leave. Murals on the walls inside the theaters make them into something more than the usual boxy movie house. Jazz on the speakers between films instead of the usual piped-in radio pop hits adds a unique touch.

Film choices on the three screens range from better popular films to art house hits and even a few foreign films. Like the Moolah, the Chase is owned by the local St. Louis Cinema chain.

Ronnie's

If you love the '50s and old drive-in theaters, Ronnie's is the theater for you. This big Wehrenberg multiplex theater is a classy and fun tribute to the drive-in theater. When you enter the expansive lobby and look to your right, you see a big screen running old films, a drive-in style concession stand, and booths that look like old '50s cars.

The whole theater is full of neon and those big movie marquee light bulb rimmed signs that look straight out of the era, and it also has a great game room besides the 20 screens of movies plus Imax.

Apart from the hot dogs, burgers, and beer at the retro concession stand, the movie concessions have the standard offerings, but not taking the adult beverages into the movie at this one. Much more kid-friendly than the theaters described above, this is easily the best family movie theater in the area.

Wehrenberg is also a local movie chain, but is a much bigger regional one. Ronnie's, Galaxy, and Des Peres are probably the chain's best theaters, each with their own appeal, although I think Ronnie's is the best.

Galleria

An imaginative, movie themed lobby mural, better concessions that include beer and wine, and little touches that show attention to detail make this more than a mall multiplex. Once again, this is a St. Louis Cinema theater. It is a little less extravagant than the other two in the chain but it is still among the best multiplexes. The film choices are similar to other multiplexes.

Galaxy

The Wehrenberg Galaxy is really big, has lots of screens and some of the same drive-in extras as Ronnie's in a West County location. It has Fred's Drive-In, with burgers, hot dogs, and beer. There is a game room and the Megascreen, a really big screen that has steeply angled stadium seating. Other theater concession stands offer the standard selection and the movie selections are the popular favorites, plus sometimes a special big-screen offering on the Megascreen.

Plaza Frontenac

The Frontenac has nicer than usual concessions but no real movie lobby since it is set in the upscale Plaza Frontenac shopping center's hallway. The theater has unremarkable movie houses but the selection of art house films and the nice, attentive and knowledgeable staff are the real appeal.

Esquire

A couple things about the AMC Esquire are worth mentioning. First of all, the Esquire is actually a 1930s theater that has been renovated several times. You can see the traces of levels of changes throughout the theater.

see **THEATERS**, page 12

What are your summer plans?

by Myron McNeill
Staff Writer



Ashley Boland, sophomore, nursing

Work and have fun.



Dana Sullivan, junior, mass communication

I will work and travel.



Katie Moore, junior, accounting

I am going to take classes and make sure the camp kids don't burn down the dorms.



Tiffany Jones, junior, MIS

I will work, go to school and, more importantly, go on a cruise.

Photos by Myron McNeill / The Current

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Cover art by Adam Wiseman • Photo taken at Cbtmcbanga's

Every city needs a Way Out

The Way Out Club is St. Louis' answer to New York's CBGB's

BY PATRICK FLANIGAN

Staff Writer

Every city needs a venue where creative artistic minds of many media can gather and showcase their talents. New York, for example, had CBGB, the "home of underground rock." St. Louis boasts its own haven for creative minds of the underground, the perfectly named, "The Way Out Club."

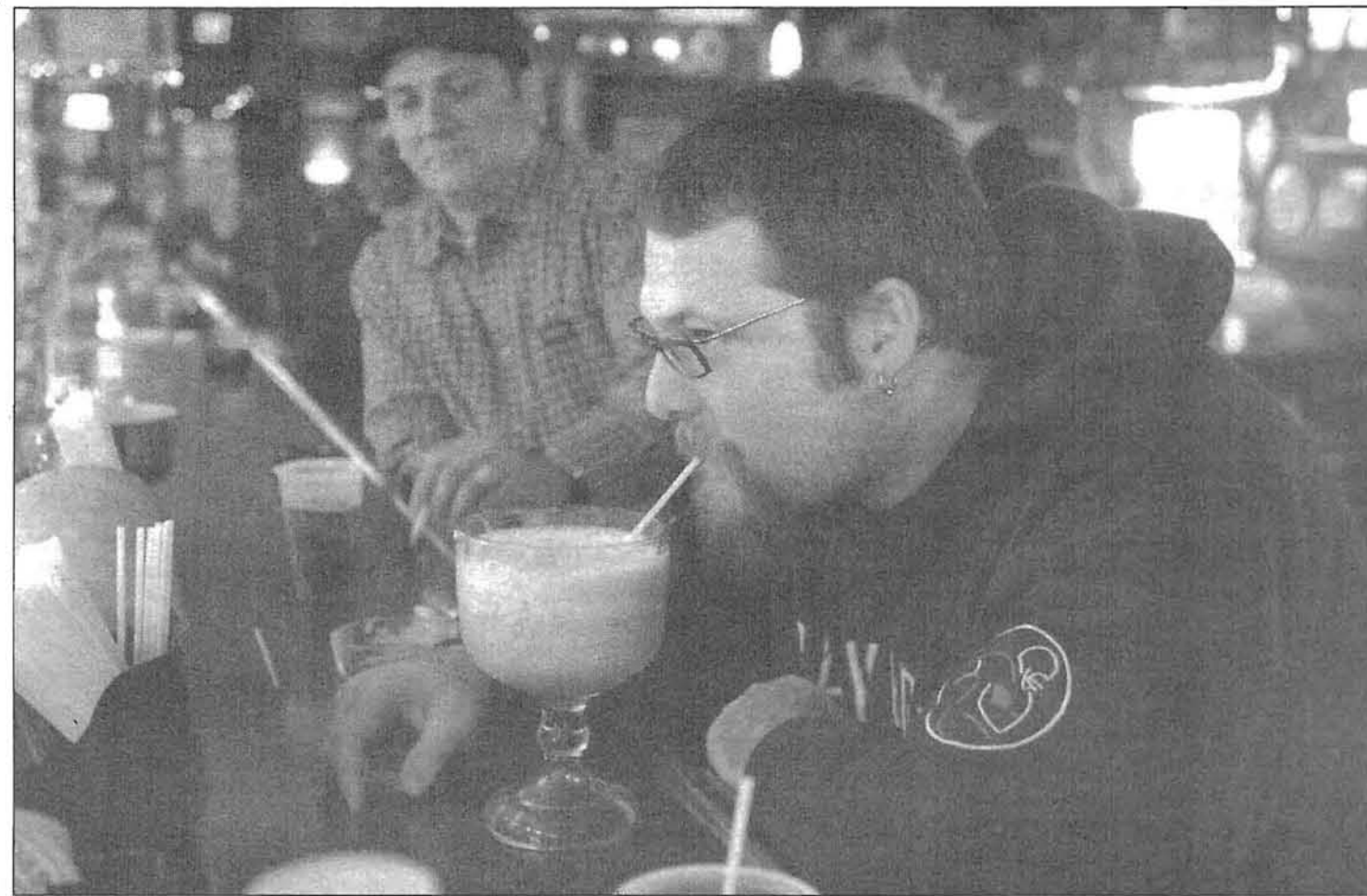
The Way Out Club is not so way out, location wise. It is located at the corner of South Jefferson and Gravois in South St. Louis, but more way out in mindset, as it boasts somewhat on the club's Web site (www.wayoutclub.com). "The Way Out Club hosts an eclectic blend of music including punk, rockabilly, garage, surf, folk and alternative," it tells us. For those that are of drinking age and searching for a different flavor than is force-fed by corporate-owned local radio stations, The Way Out is a place to whet your appetite.

Walking in to the Way Out Club, which is actually two connected storefronts with a single front door, is like stepping into vintage shop heaven.

One can spend hours admiring the décor, which consists of Betty Page prints, antique beer signs, lunchboxes from the '70s, hub caps, a statue of the Jolly Green Giant, a sculpted head of a Great White Shark, Russ Meyer movie posters and velvet Elvis paintings. In the room adjoining the bar, where a good-sized stage is located, a collection of multimedia art sculptures and giant inflatable beer bottles hang from the ceiling.

Patrons sit at Formica tables and chairs, taken from 1970s elementary cafeterias, while they watch either karaoke, in the middle of the week, or local bands on the week-ends.

The Way Out does its part by supporting local musicians, by not only giving them a stage to appear on, but also to hang out,



Photos by Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Joe Alhoff, patron of The Way Out Club, sips on his birthday drink made specially by the owner, Bob Putnam. The Way Out Club is located on Jefferson Ave just west of Gravois in South City.

meet, share ideas, and work out the creative kinks. Some musical acts are more polished than others but the crowd that frequents The Way Out is supportive.

On a Saturday night, you can see a band that may have the right guitar sound but needs to work on songwriting, and the following band may have good songs but needs to improve its guitar sound. What you will more than likely see is potential. When people who were there in the early days of CBGB talk of punk rock legends The Ramones, they don't talk about how great they were but more about how they were "on to something." The Way Out offers St. Louis artists not only

a place to play but also the opportunity.

The Way Out is not simply a music venue; it is a full-fledged bar. Although there are only a few beers on tap, their bottled beer selection includes the full beer spectrum from Pabst, Miller, and Corona, to McEwan's Scotch Ale, Anchor Steam, and Sam Smith's Oatmeal Stout. It also offers Guinness and Boddington's in pub draught cans as well as Woodchuck's Amber Cider and Bacardi Malt Beverages.

The jukebox is as eclectic as you would expect, featuring old punk such as Richard Hell or X, to rockabilly with The Cramps, or



The Way Out Club is located in South St. Louis at 2525 S. Jefferson Ave.

classic bands such as MC5 and Motorhead. No cool jukebox would be complete without Screamin' Jay Hawkins, and Screamin' Jay is on The Way Out jukebox.

There is a single pinball machine, if you want to kill time between bands, or you can play the Robotron/Joust combo arcade game. The Way Out proclaims it is a home

away from home for local artists and with cozy booths, and a black and white cat strolling about, it is easy for many artists to feel at home. Every city needs a Way Out.

The Way Out Club is located on 2525 S. Jefferson Avenue. You can find more out about The Way Out Club by visiting www.wayoutclub.com.

Don't touch that dial ■ South City's Radio Cherokee plays host to some of the city's best underground acts

BY ALBERTO PATINO

Staff Writer

In the heart of historic Cherokee district, shrouded by lovely Bradford pear trees, lies a small, secret cabal against the evil forces of corporate rock. Located just off South Grand and barely under the radar, Radio Cherokee is a brilliant little venue for independent music!

No strangers to the do-it-yourself ethos, owners David Early and Galen Gondolfi also run Fort Gondo Compound For the Arts, a remodeled and comfy art gallery also on Cherokee street.

"Fort Gondo came first," explained Early. "Radio evolved out of booking art, music, and noise shows at Gondo. It got to be too much having music and art together, and we were concerned art would be damaged. We needed a different venue for music where it wouldn't interfere with art shows."

Though Radio Cherokee doesn't hold art shows, visually speaking it is highly pleasing to the modern art aesthete, with décor consisting of vintage radios, lamps, and furniture primarily from the 50s and 60s. This intriguing eye candy serves as a swell backdrop for a cavalcade of terrific national and international bands and musi-



Owner Galen Gondolfi makes coffee at Radio Cherokee. Radio Cherokee, located at Cherokee and Virginia Streets, is a South City music venue which also serves coffee, exotic soft drinks, and free gumballs.

Alberto Patino/ The Current

UPCOMING

- **Sat., May 6**
Finally Foreign, Me And My Stars, Airport Elementary School
- **Fri., May 12**
So Many Dynamos, The Photo Atlas, Team Up!
- **Sat., May 20**
Melk the G6-49, Tango Dance Instruction Booklet, Alien Prayer Scroll

cians.

Every genre imaginable has been represented on Radio's small but accommodating stage, including indie rock, free jazz, rockabilly, orchestral pop, folk, punk rock, and experimental noise. Many of our great local talents, such as So Many Dynamos, Brandon Baker, and Grand Ulena have rocked audiences there, as well as non-local acts like Unwed Sailor (Seattle), Cake on Cake (Sweden), and Kash (Italy).

Outside of running and promoting Radio Cherokee and Fort Gondo, both Gondolfi and Early hold day jobs that are enriching to humanity. Gondolfi works as a loan counselor at a non-profit organization promoting home ownership, while Early is a high school art teacher.

One can easily see how Radio then is an extension of this sentiment.

"It's a place where kids can go, a positive outlet for people over and under 21 ... a place for

them to express themselves artistically. It's located in a community that has a lot of vacant buildings, and Radio helps make Cherokee a safe neighborhood, and helps bring people into the area to patronize local businesses," Early said.

Radio Cherokee is located at 3227 Cherokee Street, at the corner of Cherokee and Virginia. All shows are \$5 and open to all ages. Doors open at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Union Station's Improv Theater hosts Raw Sugar poetry set

BY CHRYSAL HOLMES

Staff Writer

"You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies, you may trod me in the very dirt, but still like dust I rise. Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you beset with gloom? 'Cause I walk like I got oil wells pumping in my living room? Just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, just like hopes springing high, Still I rise ..."

The rhythm of Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" is accompanied by inspiring still photographs of afrocentricity on a plasma screen. The room is lit with vanilla scented candles. It is an intimate setting where poetry lovers of all ages and ethnicities gather to listen; a unification of like minds.

Spoken word poetry is taking the St. Louis

hip-hop community by storm. The art form is nothing new to St. Louis and has graced venues such as the stage of the Red Sea in the U-City Loop. It now enchants the Improv Theater of Union Station, a hip spot for those who see life a little differently and possess the talent to impose an interesting play on words.

Poets from not only St. Louis, but from all over the country come to "spit" their poetry.

The likes of "Bonafyde G" from Urban Liberations: Unit 101, Ainsley Burrows from Brooklyn, "Natural" from St. Louis, "Sincere" from Brooklyn and "Ill Skillz" of St. Louis are just a few of the poets that have taken the stage and new poets are featured each week.

Poet Renaldo Torres of Kansas City, Mo. is one of the poets that took the Improv Theater's stage on March 2. Torres is so passionate about poetry that he quit his job as a federal police officer approximately a week ago to pursue a

career in poetry.

Torres' poem "Mayonnaise Jar," one that he said is about putting all of your good memories in one place and using them when needed, was written a week after he attempted suicide.

"The most fulfilling part about poetry is what other people gain," Torres said. "Mayonnaise Jar" had a significant impact on a woman being held in a female prison.

Torres said that the woman told him that if she had heard "Mayonnaise Jar," she wouldn't have committed murder.

"It's great that there are poets from all over; we're getting a taste of poetic styles from all over the U.S.," said UM-St. Louis student Shimmel Bell.

"Spoken word is a mindset. Once you open up to it, you will view many aspects of life differently; I know I do," Bell said.

"I love coming to this poetry set," said Brandon Moten, a frequent visitor of the event.

"It opens your mind to things that you would never even think of, it's inspiring ... I leave energized," Moten said.

"Raw Sugar" is not only a place for poets, but a place for lyricists, musicians and artists as well. Previously, lyricists like Universal Recording artist "Top Dolla" from the All Stars have lyrically broken down the harsh realities of life that many of us do not see. The art of local artists are displayed and musicians come to spread knowledge through soulful vibes.

The Improv Theater is located east of the Hyatt Regency Grand lobby in Union Station. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the set starts at 8 p.m. Check out www.theimprovstl.com for further information, show times and reservations.

Battle of the beers

BY KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

As college students with a limited budget for beer, we face an important decision in the alcoholic beverage aisle. Should we purchase a large quantity of cheap beer, or should we opt for a small amount of tastier but more expensive brew?

The answer varies by individual preference and atmosphere. In an attempt to discern the right (and wrong) beer for a college student strapped for cash, a few friends and I held a taste test. We purchased several types of beer, from imports in interesting bottles to 40 ounce cans of malt beverage that cost less than a dollar.

Killian's Irish Red originated in Enniscorthy, Ireland, in 1864. Now brewed in Golden, Colo., Killian's is my personal domestic brew of choice. Distinctly red in color, the beer gets its hue from slow roasted caramel malt. The result is a full-bodied drink that goes down smooth without a bitter or biting aftertaste on the back of the tongue. I prefer Killian's straight out of a cold bottle, but it tastes just as good on tap in a frosty glass.

When should you choose Killian's? Order this beer if you're only in the mood for one or two beers, but you still want something with a little alcoholic kick. Good with cheap pizza or a nice dinner, it's a versatile drink.

We sampled Red Stripe, a Jamaican brew whose Web site describes it as "a rich and flavorful ale." Our taste testing group described Red Stripe as thick in consistency, but very pale in color. It had a light but complicated and "airy" taste,

though the flavor was not overly aggressive.

Order this beer if you'd like to try a new import but don't want a terribly bold brew. For those who prefer beer over wine, we suggest drinking Red Stripe with food involving a white sauce, like fettuccini alfredo.

Kirin Ichiban hails from Japan. According to Kirin.com, the beer is made with "the finest barley malt and hops" and has a smooth finish with no bitter aftertaste. Our group found that Kirin Ichiban has a pungent aroma and a fresh, sharp flavor, but a surprisingly limited aftertaste. One taster did point out that the aftertaste builds up and makes the beer "taste worse as you drink it." The best way to combat this effect is by drinking slowly and enjoying your beer with food.

A 12 ounce serving of Kirin Ichiban is 4.95 percent alcohol and packs 145 calories. Try this beer with sushi. The beer's fresh taste will complement the food's subtle flavors.

If you're looking for a substantial beer to accompany a meat-and-potatoes meal, try Schlafly's Oatmeal Stout. A local drink brewed at the Schlafly Tap Room in St. Louis, this beer can stand up to a hearty meal. Don't let the black color and thick consistency scare you. All stout beers are made with roasted malts or roasted barley. Oatmeal stout is a good introduction to this large family of dark beer, since the oatmeal makes this particular style a bit sweeter than its strong flavored siblings. Surprisingly smooth, the Schlafly's Oatmeal Stout was not as bitter as the other beers in our taste test.

Try this brew with steak and potatoes. The oatmeal stout won't completely drown out the flavor of your meal, but it won't taste flimsy in comparison to your food.

Blue Moon, brewed by Coors, is a Belgian-style wheat ale. Described at Coors.com as "a refreshing, medium-bodied, unfiltered Belgian-

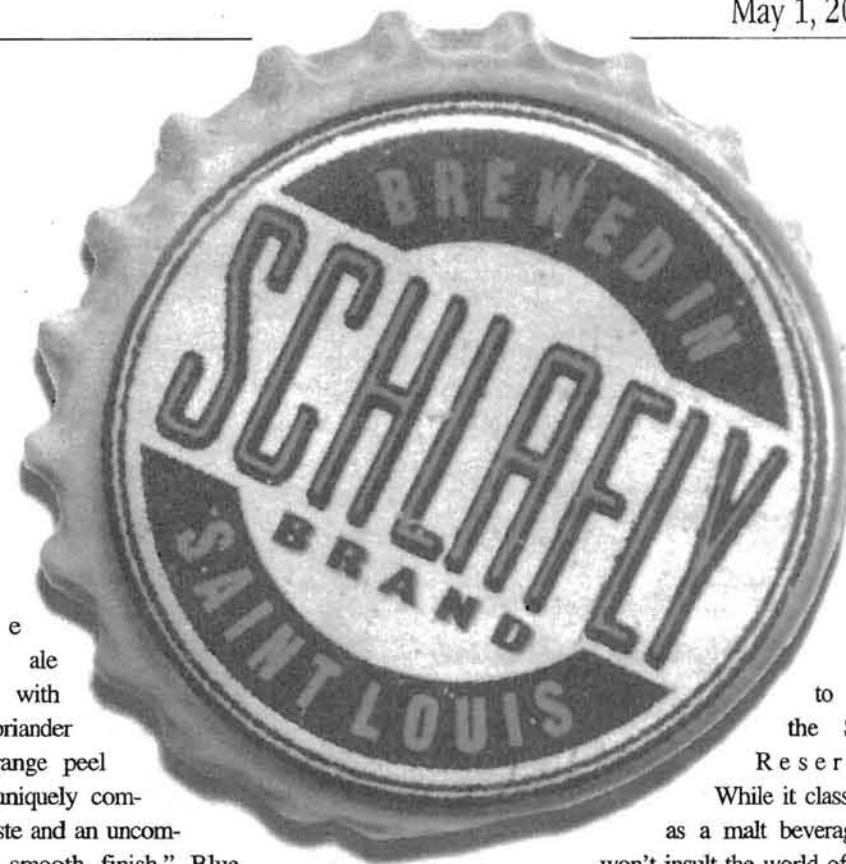
style wheat ale spiced with fresh coriander and orange peel for a uniquely complex taste and an uncommonly smooth finish," Blue Moon is made with malt, wheat and oats. Often served with an orange slice to accent its ingredients, this beer has an almost tart or sour flavor.

Our tasting group described it as bitter and wheat-y, and we actually checked the bottle to see if the beer had gone stale. Avoid wondering about the brew's expiration date by drinking it with something that will neutralize the sourness. You can also embrace the tart flavor by accompanying it with a salad or fruit.

We also sampled some of the cheaper beers available. Our \$1.25 40 ounce can of LaBatt Blue may have expired prior to our imbibing. At least we hope so. The smell coming from the can actually turned away one of our tasters. Thankfully the smell did not accurately represent the taste, though one taster described LaBatt's flavor as "flimsy" and "like water with an aftertaste of beer."

If you want a mild (i.e. flavorless) drink that requires an ID to purchase, stick with a standard light beer (Bud Light, Miller Light, Natural Light). LaBatt is probably best consumed when you're hosting a party and want to seem internationally savvy at a low cost.

Out of morbid curiosity, the beer tasting group purchased a 40 from the alcoholic beverage aisle called Steel Reserve. Like second graders huddled around a lunchroom food sculpture covered in ketchup and ice cream, we dared each other



to try the Steel Reserve.

While it classified as a malt beverage, I won't insult the world of fine

brewing by calling this substance beer.

The drink's odor, accurately described as "skunk ass," was merely an ominous precursor to the horrific taste. This beverage's abhorrent flavor existed in two parts: the initial swig and the aftertaste, also known as death and death's cousin. While the first drink tasted exactly as we expected a 99 cent beer to taste, a distinct manure-esque flavor lingered once we managed to swallow the drink. Once he regained his breath, one taster said the aftertaste was "like reliving a nightmare." He advised others to "buy Steel Reserve for your friends when they lose a bet."

Anyone interested in hosting his or her own beer sampling party should purchase a variety or ask friends to bring a six-pack to share. Use juice or shot glasses to try a sample before committing to a whole bottle. Make sure to swallow the beer, unlike wine, it needs to hit the back of the tongue to make a complete impression. Come with an open mind (and mouth), expect a few surprises, and always remember to drink responsibly.

After enjoying quality beer and enduring the positively painful, we came to a solid conclusion: in the world of beer, you get what you pay for. On a tight budget, you have to choose between quality and quantity. As long as you understand this fact, beer will never disappoint you.



Make margarita magic

Find the best drink mixes around town

BY MEREDITH TATE
Staff Writer

Hacienda has long been a favorite place for St. Louisans to start in on the margaritas, so if you're looking to shake things up on this year's Cinco de Mayo, there are a few places you should check out.

A place you can't miss is **Chimichanga's** Mexican Restaurant on the corner of Grand and Eiler. Come five o'clock, the place is packed with happy customers corralled by the most colorful fence in town. The pace is slow like down South, but the servers are still quick enough to keep the crowd's glasses half-full. That's not always easy when the margaritas come in jumbo, half pitcher and pitcher sizes.

Their selection includes Bluesky Lime, Strawberry and Lime margaritas. One of the friendly staffers informed me that the Bluesky Lime is the strongest "edge-taker-off-er." Shortly after your drinks land on the table, a basket of hot chips and fresh salsa follow. The salsa isn't the watered down type you drip all over your menu at most places, either. Theirs has fresh cilantro and tomatoes and tastes like the garden jumped in.

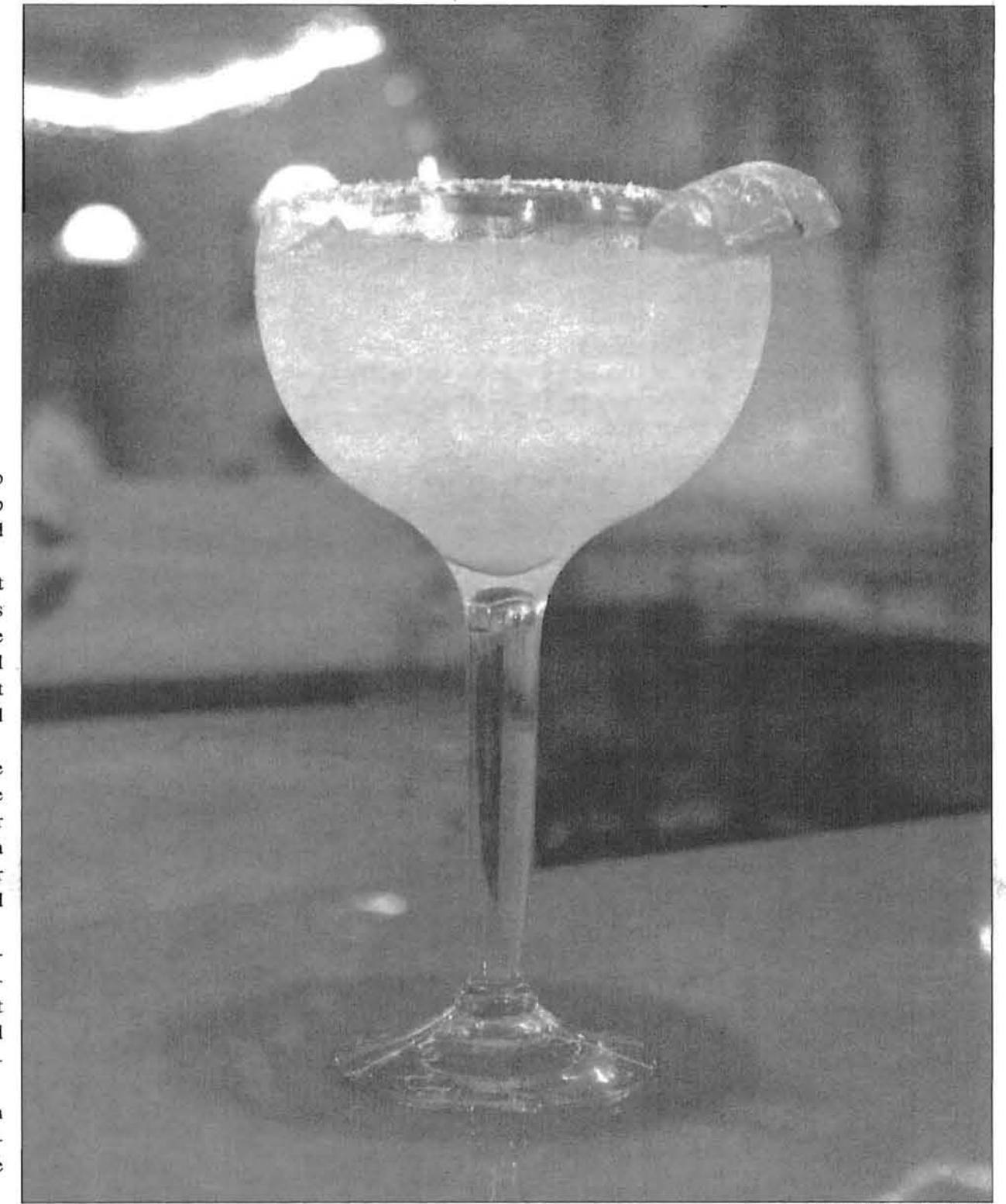
Espino's in Chesterfield Valley isn't your average hole-in-the-wall. The surroundings are nice, but they don't have big egos taking all the good seats. They've been around for 20 years, but mama's frozen mango margarita, the Italian frozen margarita, and even the orange twist on the house margarita make Espino's a creative and innovative place to go.

On Thursdays, they have a "Mix of Six" special where you can build your own margarita. I did the math—that's over 10,000 different combinations. If you just like tequila, order a flight of some of their 30 different types.

My favorite alternative is **Chuy Arzola's** in Dogtown on the corner of Clayton and Tamm. They have a patio that's perfect for this holiday, and a menu of margaritas good for year-round fun. There's the side-by-side margarita, the house, and strawberry, banana, raspberry, kiwi, watermelon, pina colada, mango and passion fruit.

Go for happy hour and get two for one on special from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The Cinco de Mayo festivities start this Monday with different drink specials every night. The grand finale is on Friday and live music will be playing.

If you have to stick close to home this year, there's probably an **Applebee's** in your neighborhood. They make a perfect margarita with strawberry and rimmed with sugar that's worth venturing out for. **Chili's** are also easy to come by and have a Presidente margarita that comes complete with a shaker full of seconds.



Adam Wiseman/The Current

Master the mix at home ...

Basic Margarita for two

8 oz. gold tequila
1/4 cup Triple sec
6 ounces frozen limeade concentrate
1 fresh lemon
2 cups ice
Shake, strain and serve

Margarita Legendario

1.5 oz. Don Julio Blanco
Fresh lime juice
2/3 oz. Triple Sec
1 cup ice
Shake, strain and serve