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Celebrating a legend

Construction continues on South Campus

Road improvement project includes new sidewalks between MetroLink station and dorms

BY PATRICIA LEE
Co-News Editor

Within the next month, pedestrians may find it easier to get around on South Campus. For the last couple months, a road construction project has been underway along East Drive.

Engineers expected the \$325,000 project to be completed in 60 days, but obstacles slowed it down.

A large number of rain days delayed construction, as did unexpected poor soil quality. "There was bad soil they had to replace because it wasn't the quality they expected to see," Sam Darandari, General Services director of engineering and planning, said. He said, however, that such delays are not uncommon.

Upon completion, accessible sidewalks will connect the Honors College, residence halls, the MetroLink station, and parking lots. The road will also allow two-way traffic and provide extra parking.

The road changes would also accommodate the new residence halls, which are slated to be constructed later this month and should be completed by Fall 2006. "If the campus objective is to encourage students to live on campus then you have to provide ample facilities," Darandari said.

Previously, safety and security were areas of concern for UM-St. Louis residents and students who have classes on South Campuses. Some were worried that the lack of sidewalks and poor lighting made the area unsafe.

"With us having residents on campus, we want to maintain a level of safety and security," John Klein, director of residential life, said. "The students that live here are the most impacted by the lighting on this side of campus."

"When we were designing the residential hall project, a group of students got involved and they were

concerned there weren't sidewalks and the area wasn't lit properly," Darandari said.

Joyce Mushaben, director of the Institute for Women and Gender Studies and professor of political science, agreed that the old lighting fixtures were a problem. "One problem that keeps coming up is the lack of lighting around the Honors College and Seton Hall, how scary it is to get from the South Metro Station to the dormitories," Mushaben said.

However, Mushaben felt encouraged by how the departments worked together to solve the problem. "We have campus police, facilities people involved, there is a climate, a growing cooperation in terms of security issues," she said.

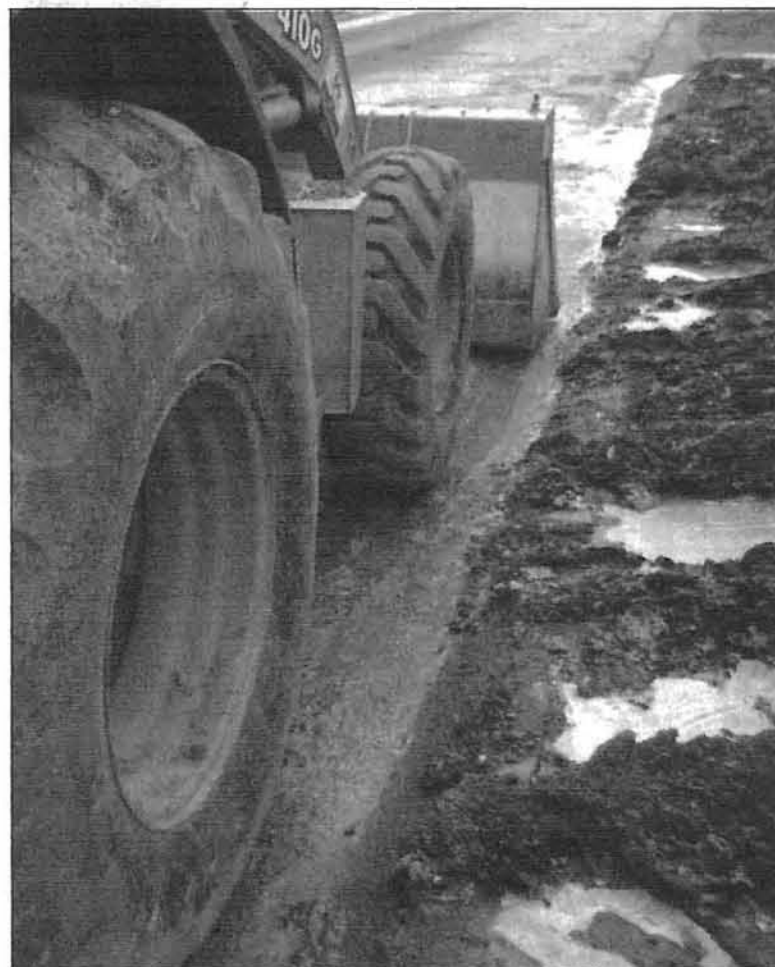
The road improvements are also part of the University's Master Plan, which was initially proposed in 1993, and revised in 2002. Darandari described it as "a set of goals and objectives for the long and short-term growth of the campus depicted and supported by analysis."

To address the problem, new lighting fixtures and blue emergency telephones will be installed. "We want a comfortable and safe environment for students to move between MetroLink and parking spaces and complexes," Darandari said.

Moreover, Darandari said that it should take less time for pedestrians to get around with the addition of sidewalks. "If you want to walk that distance, it saves time if we give you that direct route," he said.

"I think it's going to make it more accessible and more accommodating for our students, which is always a good thing," Maureen Callahan, admissions counselor for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, said.

Darandari believes that when the project is completed, it will create a more pleasant environment. "We want to encourage people to use the amenities we have and to enjoy the landscape," he said.



Erica Burrus/The Current

On East Entrance Drive on South Campus, a lone Bulldozer sits in the frozen mud last week. The \$325,000 project to fix the road and building sidewalks has been delayed several times by wet weather.

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2004

The year in review

Story by Patricia Lee • Photos by Mike Sherwin

BEN STEIN

OCTOBER 2004

INAUGURATION OF CHANCELLOR GEORGE

MARCH 2004

ELIZABETH EDWARDS VISITS CAMPUS

SEPTEMBER 2004

BETTER THAN EZRA AT MIRTHDAY

MAY 2004

CONTESTED SGA ELECTION

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BUSH VS. KERRY

NOVEMBER 2004

GARAGE D DEMOLITION

APRIL 2004

As with other years in the past, 2004 brought many changes for UM-St. Louis. While the presidential election and the war in Iraq dominated national headlines, UM-St. Louis made its own headlines.

In March, Thomas George was inaugurated as the seventh chancellor of UM-St. Louis. He came to the University after serving as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Another notable administrative change at UM-St. Louis was the addition of a provost. In August, Glen Cope filled the new position, which ranks directly behind that of the chancellor. The provost position was created to combine the duties of vice-chancellors of academic affairs and student affairs.

August also saw the departure of a prominent administrator. After serving as various positions at UM-St. Louis since 1965, Don Driemeier retired. In addition to being the dean of the School of Business Administration, he also served as interim chancellor from Jan. to Sept. 2003.

Over the year, there were several landscaping changes on campus. "The campus has completely changed from the days I used to drive through [five years ago]," Maureen Callahan, admissions counselor for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, said.

Garage D was demolished and a landscaping project complete with ponds was installed in the garage's place. "It evolved a lot," Shannon Wobbe, graduate student, economics, said.

At the end of Spring Semester 2004, students came out in droves to celebrate the annual UMSL Mirthday celebration. Pop rock band Better Than Ezra and local band the 5th Element rocked the stage.

2004 saw a hotly contested battle for the positions of president and vice president of the Student Government Association. After the election, and appeals to the SGA Election Committee, the Student Court announced that Scott Bopp and Mindy McNabb, two candidates from competing slates, would take the top SGA posts.

Road construction also started on South Campus, mainly along East Drive. According to planners, the

project will allow two-way traffic and connect sidewalks with the parking lots and buildings on South Campus.

Campus police also established a satellite station on South Campus to better respond to residents' needs.

One of the dominating topics of conversation during 2004 was the election. "A lot of people got very spirited and very excited about the election," Callahan said. "It made me really happy to see how many people were passionate about the election, regardless of who they favored," Wobbe said.

Some of the notable politicians who visited the University were presidential candidate Al Sharpton and congressional candidates Leslie Farr and Bill Federer. Elizabeth Edwards, wife of vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, also stopped at UM-St. Louis to talk about funding the cost of higher education.

In October, the University Program Board sponsored a lecture by Ben Stein, conservative author, humorist, actor, and game show host.

The tradition of winter homecoming ended, as the Student Government Association voted to move homecoming to the fall, beginning in 2005. Therefore, there will be two homecomings this year: one in the winter and one in the fall.

For the first time, the UM-St. Louis chapters of the Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities got houses on campus.

Chancellor George also announced an increase of \$1 million in scholarship money because of an equity adjustment. According to Joyce Mushaben, professor of political science and director of the Institute for Women and Gender Studies, UM-St. Louis enrolls about 24 percent of the students in Missouri but only receives about 12 percent of the state's funding.

"We were always doing more with less. The net result of that is that our students are working their rear ends off and what that does to the quality of their education is deny them the opportunity to take advantage of extra-curricular activities going on," Mushaben said.

Undoubtedly, 2005 will bring many changes to UM-St. Louis, but those changes remain to be seen.

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-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsl.edu
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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Mon. Jan. 10 Science Speaker

Sophia Hayes, assistant professor of chemistry at Washington University, will discuss "Solid-state NMR of Crystalline Optical Memory/Optical Switch Materials" at 3 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. The colloquium is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Call 516-5311 for more information.

Mon. Jan. 10 Women Artists to offer Visual Poem

"Visual Poem," an exhibition featuring artwork by women from UMSL, opens today and runs through an. 27 in Gallery Visio at the Millennium Student Center. The exhibition is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by Women in the Arts, a yearlong, multi-venue celebration of creative women. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call 516-7922 for more information.

Mon. Jan. 10 Tickets Available Online for Touhill Center Event

Tickets for performances at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center are now available online at <http://www.touhill.org>. UMSL employees and students can still receive their discounted tickets when purchasing online. Currently available tickets for folk music legend Arlo Guthrie at 8 p.m. March 4, and the classic opera, "H.M.S. Pinafore," presented by the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players at 8 p.m. March 19. Call 516-4949 for more information.

Tues. Jan. 11 Visiting Professor lectures on 'Balancing Act Between Privacy and Security'

Ronald Indeck, professor of electrical engineering and director of the Center for Security Technologies at Washington University, will discuss "The Balancing Act Between Privacy and Security" at 7 p.m. in Century Room C at the Millennium Student Center. STARS is sponsored by UMSL, St. Louis University, Washington University, Pfizer, Solutia Inc., National Science Foundation and Academy of Science of St. Louis. Call 16-6226 or e-mail aresk@umsl.edu for more information.

Tues. Jan. 11

90.7 KWMU-FM Airs Special on Global Attitudes Towards the United States

90.7 KWMU-FM will air 'America Abroad: Battling for Hearts and Minds' from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This program examines global attitudes towards the United States during the 20th century, as well as efforts by America to win the hearts and minds around the world through public diplomacy. Garrick Utley, Margaret Warner, Marvin Kalb, and Steve Roberts will host this special.

Wed. Jan. 12

Course Focuses on Designing a Compensation and Benefits Program

The noncredit course "Compensation and Benefits" will be offered from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning today and running through Feb. 2, in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Call 516-5971 or visit http://www.umsl.edu/~conted/business/noncredit/cert_hrm.html for more information.

Wed. Jan. 12

Exhibit to Feature Photos from Community Gardeners

"Gateway Greening's Community Gardeners," a photographic exhibit, will open today and run through April 6 at the Public Policy Research Center, 362 Social Sciences & Business Building. The photographers are eight gardeners and one staff member from Gateway Greening, a St. Louis nonprofit gardening group. The photos depict community gardens and gardeners. Exhibit hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. An opening reception will begin at noon today at the PPRC. The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public, and sponsored by the PPRC and Gateway Greening. Call 516-5273 or visit <http://pprc.umsl.edu/> for more info.

Thurs. Jan. 13

UMSL to Hold Auditions for 'Pippin'

Auditions for the UMSL production of "Pippin" will take place at 6 p.m. in the Lee Theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. "Pippin" will be performed April 7 through 9 at the Touhill Center. The auditions are open to the public. All ages and types are needed for the cast. The audition will include singing, acting and dancing.

Bring sheet music for one song, preferably from music theater. An accompanist will be provided. Also bring a prepared monologue (memorized solo script) no longer than one minute. Monologues also will be available at the audition. A simple dance routine combination and movement will be taught. Auditioners should wear clothes that allow for movement. Callbacks are 6 p.m. Jan. 14. The auditions are sponsored by the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies and the Department of Music. Call 516-4572 for more info.

Thurs. Jan. 13

Gallery 210 to Offer 'Sentences'

"Sentences," an exhibition featuring photomontages by Jane Calvin, will be on display today through Feb. 12 in Exhibition Room B at Gallery 210 in the Telecommunity Center. Calvin combines text and penlight drawing inscribed over images of women's bodies. Her photomontages address the confines of women's socialization and the emotional turmoil resulting from a culturally narrow definition of beauty. The exhibition is free and open to the public, and it's sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History, The Center for the Humanities, Missouri Arts Council and The Regional Arts Commission. An opening reception will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today at Gallery 210. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 516-5976 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~gallery> for more information.

Thurs. Jan. 13 Opening Reception for 'Visual Poem' at Gallery Visio

The opening reception for the exhibition "Visual Poem" will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. in Gallery Visio at the Millennium Student Center. Annette Crymes, an art student at UMSL; Susan Fitzsimmons, senior continuing education coordinator; and Drucilla Wall, lecturer in the Pierre LaCade Honors College, will read from their poetry. Barbara Harbach, professor of music, will introduce the readers. "Visual Poem," which features artwork by UMSL women, is on display through Jan. 27. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call 516-7922 for more information.

Thurs. Jan. 13

Senior Theater Company Seeks Actors

The UMSL senior theater company begins rehearsals for the winter/spring season today in 119 Benton Hall. Anyone age 50 and older who is interested in stage acting is invited to join the company, which performs on campus and throughout the area. The fee to join is \$25. Auditions and rehearsals are held at 1 and 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. Anyone interested in joining the company is asked to call (314) 352-7980 before auditioning.

Fri. Jan. 14

Author to Recount War Tragedy

Thea Halo, author of "Not Even My Name," will discuss her personal experiences as a member of the Pontic Greek and Assyrian cultures and sign copies of her book at 7 p.m. in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. "Not Even My name" is a best-selling book that recounts the story of her mother, a survivor of the death march of two million Pontic Greeks and Armenians in Turkey after World War II. Books will be available for purchase. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Karakas Family Foundation Alliance for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies and the Center for International Studies. Refreshments will be served. Call 516-6241 or visit <http://www.greekstudies.org> for more information.

Mon. Jan. 17

UMSL to Hold King Holiday Observance

UMSL's annual "Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Observance" will begin at 9 a.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Susan Taylor, editorial director for Essence magazine, will be the keynote speaker, and Rob Desir, anchor/reporter at KTVI (Channel 2), will be master of ceremonies. The event will include performances by the UMSL Dance Repertory, St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra. The observance is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity, African American Alumni Chapter, Department of English, Office of Student Life, Student Government Association and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Call 516-5695 for more information.

Wed. Jan. 19

New Course Covers Advanced Planning and Zoning Issues

The noncredit course "Advanced Issues in Planning and Zoning" will be offered 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning today and running through Feb. 23, in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. This six-module course, taught by professional, practicing planners, covers coordination between commissioners and staff, site plan review, implementation of the comprehensive plan, integration between city and regional plans, issues in responsible growth, and the transportation/land-use connection. Course sponsors include the Local Government Partnership, Continuing Education and Outreach and University of Missouri Extension. Participants are invited to attend the entire course or to sign up for specific modules. The fee is \$200 for the entire course or \$40 per module. Call (314) 421-4220, extension 280, or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~conted/noncredit/planzone.htm> for more information. Call Continuing Education at 516-5948 to register.

Thurs. Jan 20

Musician to Demonstrate Irish Uilleann Pipes

Irish musician Tommy Martin will discuss and demonstrate the Irish uilleann pipes at 12:30 p.m. in 205 Music Building. The Irish uilleann pipes is an instrument featuring several pipes grouped together. Martin will demonstrate the instrument and discuss its history. The event is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Smurfit-Stone Endowed Professorship in Irish Studies, Saint Louis Irish Arts, the Center for International Studies and Department of Music. Call 516-6495 for more information.

Thurs. Jan 20

UMSL Authors to Read at Gallery Visio

UMSL faculty Nanora Sweet, Ruth Ellen Kocher, Jennifer Mackenzie and Mary Troy will read from their poems and short stories at noon in Gallery Visio at the Millennium Student Center. Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UMSL, will serve as master of ceremonies. The readings are being held in conjunction with "Visual Poem," an exhibition on display through Jan. 27 at Gallery Visio that features artwork by women from UMSL. The event and exhibition are free and open to the public. Call 516-7922 for more info.

Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UMSL St. Louis Police Department between December 6, 2004 and January 9, 2005. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police provides this information as a public service to promote awareness. Remember, crime prevention is a community effort!

Dec. 7 Robbery 2nd Degree

A High School student was robbed of \$ 7 and his cell phone. The victim got off the MetroLink at the UMSL North station and walked down the path towards the Mark Twain building with two people he thought were going to help him and the Ferguson shuttle bus.

After walking all the way to the rear of the Mark Twain building, one of the suspects announced the robbery. After a brief struggle, the suspect displayed a handgun and took the cell phone and money from the victim and ran away towards Florissant Rd.

It is believed that the suspect(s) are juveniles, and none of the parties have ties to the University.

Dec. 9 Sexual misconduct - University Meadows Clubhouse

This delayed report occurred approximately one week earlier. The victim stated that she was talking to another resident of the Meadows outside of the clubhouse, when they decided to go inside. The victim stated that she

went inside voluntarily and when they got to the hallway near the restrooms, the suspect reached around the victim and touched her breast area through her clothing. Although the earlier actions were welcomed, the victim felt uncomfortable, and told the suspect to stop, which he did. Both parties went their own separate ways, and had no further contact.

The victim knows the other person, and does not want to press criminal charges.

Dec. 13 Stealing Under \$500 - West Drive Parking Garage South.

The victim reported that one of his vehicle license plates was stolen from his car while it was parked in the West Drive South Garage.

Dec. 13 Stealing Under \$500 - University Meadows Laundry room

The victim reported several shirts were stolen from one of the clothes dryers in the laundry room.

Dec. 15 Stealing Over \$500 - Seton Hall

The victim reported that while she was downstairs taking a test, someone apparently entered her locked dorm room and stole \$ 200 in cash and a bank debit card, then relocked her room.

Dec. 17 Warrant Arrest - South Campus Classroom Building (Marillac)

A person described as acting suspicious in the South Campus Computer Building was located

in Marillac and determined to have outstanding felony warrants for stealing out of the City of St. Louis.

The subject was arrested without incident, and later transported to the St. Louis City Jail. This subject is not a UMSL student or faculty/staff member.

Dec. 18 Stealing Under \$500 - Parking Lot E - Millennium Student Center

A cab driver picked up a fair around 11:30 a.m. in Normandy, and after driving all over North St. Louis County arrived at the Millennium Student Center. After waiting for over an hour the suspect never returned, and did not pay for the \$180 cab ride.

Later in the week, the suspect was arrested and, when interviewed, admitted to the theft of services. The Cab Company agreed not to press criminal charges if the suspect paid the money, and the suspect agreed to do so. No criminal charges were filed in this incident.

Dec. 21 Stealing Over \$500 - Performing Arts Center - rear stage/dock area

A Company (Media Images Inc.) that loaned the University two 42 inch Plasma TV screens to use for the Graduation Ceremony on Saturday reported that only one was returned in the container. The other television, valued at \$ 5,000, was left in the container after Saturday's Graduation, and is believed to have been stolen sometime between Saturday and Monday morning when the company returned to pick it up. The television that was stolen was

entered into the computer system as stolen so that it can be tracked and possibly recovered.

Dec. 22 Forgery - Millennium Student Center

The victim, a UMSL faculty member, had some items stolen from his residence off campus, including personal checks. One of the stolen checks was forged at the Millennium Student Center.

The suspect did leave a copy of his identification at the bank, and is now wanted for forgery.

On Jan. 3, this subject was arrested and interviewed by an UMSL Police Detective. Charges relating to this offense are pending with the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Dec. 27 Stealing Over \$500 - 7700 South Florissant Road

A computer was stolen from an office inside of a building which is under renovation. The area showed no signs of forced entry.

Dec. 28 Telephone Harassment - Mansion Hills Apartments

A tenant reported that she had received numerous threatening telephone calls. An investigation revealed that a family member of her fiancé was responsible for making the calls.

Dec. 30 Property Damage 2nd Degree - Parking Lot AA-Fine Arts Building

Two window panes were broken out of the shuttle bus stop. An investigation revealed that a

softball was used to break the windows. No arrest has been made yet.

Jan. 1 Fraudulent use of a Credit Device

A victim reported that someone had used her credit card information fraudulently to make several purchases. After an extensive investigation by an UMSL Police Detective, it was determined that a student, who works in an office at Woods Hall, had apparently used his position to obtain some credit card information that was faxed to the University.

In an elaborate scheme, he conspired with others to use the information to make various purchases, including a limo ride and a hotel stay downtown on New Years Eve.

This student and others are currently being investigated and charges are pending with the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for several offenses.

Jan. 5 Telephone Harassment - Mansion Hills Apartments

The victim reported receiving five threatening phone calls from an unknown person. An investigation revealed that the phone numbers were from a relative of the person with whom the victim had recently developed a relationship.

Jan. 5 Stealing Under \$500 - Parking Lot E

A victim was attending a performance at the Touhill Center when his handicap hang tag was either lost or stolen from the

parking lot. The victim did have the valet service park his vehicle.

Jan. 6 Stealing Under \$500 - 606 Social Science Building Tower

A faculty member reported that someone apparently stole a small container of mixed nuts from her office. The item was a Christmas gift.

Jan. 6 Stealing Under \$500 - 314 Marillac Hall

The victim reported that between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. someone took her purse from her office and stole \$20 from it. The purse was found in a nearby area.

Jan. 7 Sexual Misconduct 2nd degree - South Campus Parking Lot T/Y

A female victim reported that a white male subject followed her from the MetroLink South station across the parking lot to the area of Lots T/Y. At that point, the male subject walked ahead of the victim and then turned around and exposed his penis. He then laughed and ran away toward the area of the Marillac Complex. An officer searched the area, but could not locate the subject.

Jan. 8 Fugitive Arrest - University Drive at Benton Drive

A fugitive was arrested on three outstanding warrants from three Police Departments. The UMSL Police Department first received a call that the person was acting suspicious. The subject was later turned over to the Florissant Police Department.

Student serving in Iraq gets degree at winter commencement ceremony

BY DAN BAUER
Staff Writer

Winter commencement this past December was a special time for graduating students, but this particular commencement will be remembered especially for two reasons, the Touhill Performing Arts Center and a special tribute to a student graduating live via satellite from Iraq.

Winter commencement was held in the PAC on Dec. 18 and 19. Graduations that used to be held in the gym have been held in the PAC since January of 2004, according to Cindy Vantine, manager of special events for UM-St. Louis. The PAC was built just in time to double as accommodation for events like this.

The commencement consisted of

four separate ceremonies throughout those two days, with different events for the separate colleges. However, the next graduation at the PAC will require five ceremonies instead of four, Vantine said.

The four separate ceremonies consisted of a total of approximately 650 graduates. This past commencement was slightly larger than past UM-St. Louis winter commencements.

"We started preparing for the winter commencement in October, and everything at the event ran very smoothly," Vantine said.

The occurrence that stole the show, however, was the diploma that Keith Lucas, a National Guardsman serving in Iraq, received. The live link to Iraq occurred with no problems, and numerous media outlets

covered the event.

This graduation event generated an enormous amount of news coverage, both national and local. There

were over 200 nationwide newspaper articles printed about Lucas receiving his degree from Iraq.

According to Justin Lopinot, a press relations employee at UM-St. Louis, two separate stories were run on CNN. The story that ran on the night of Dec. 18 netted a Nielsen audience rating of

about 458,000 individuals. This was followed at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 19 with a similar story netting 206,464 viewers.

Lopinot said, "In addition to local television, this story was picked up by the Associated Press and National Public Radio's Morning Edition."

Lucas's story even appeared in local papers like the Suburban Journals and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch covered his story extensively.

The entire audience, including Lucas's parents and his fiancé, was able to watch the live video feed from the graduation ceremony.

Overall, the winter commencement will be a memorable event not only for Lucas, but for the hundreds of other graduates from UM-St. Louis as well.



Keith Lucas
Received degree in December while serving in Iraq.

Vigil honors lives lost in tsunami

BY KATE SHAW
Staff Writer

A cup of tea saved the lives of Janaki Guruge and her husband. The St. Louis couple was in Sri Lanka on Dec. 26 for a funeral. The Guruges on their way to an appointment in Galle, the most tsunami-devastated town in that nation, were delayed by their family's wish that they visit a while longer.

"We were about to leave, but they had made tea for us so we had to stay," said Guruge, a research scientist at Washington University. "If we had left ten minutes earlier, we wouldn't be here today."

That small gap in time allowed the couple, traveling on a coastal road overlooking the ocean, to see that something was wrong as they entered what was soon to be a disaster area.

"People were everywhere in the road, pregnant women and elderly

people who wouldn't normally be out," said Guruge. "My sister and I looked out at the water and saw waves coming that were higher than the coconut trees. We both started screaming."

A quick turn got them safely out of reach. Back in St. Louis their two sons, a high school senior and a St. Louis University student, watched the news like everyone else. It was hours before their parents could reach them by telephone.

Last Saturday night the Guruge family, along with other members of the Sri Lankan Association of St. Louis, held a candlelight vigil at the Riverfront Stage at the Arch. Unfazed by the freezing temperatures, the group said that their discomfort did not compare to that of their friends and families back in Sri Lanka.

Chandra Gamlath, president of the association, said that their goal was to

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NEWS BRIEFS

Author will discuss, sign book on Pontic Greek and Armenian tragedy

Thea Halo will talk about her personal experiences as a member of the Pontic Greek and Assyrian cultures and will sign copies of her book entitled, "Not Even My Name," on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center. "Not Even My Name" recounts the story of Halo's mother, who survived the death march of two million Pontic Greeks and Armenians in Turkey after World War II. After the discussion, Halo will sign copies of her book, which will be available for purchase.

The event is free and open to the public. The Karakas Family Foundation Alliance for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies and

the Center for International Studies is sponsoring the discussion. For more information on this event, call 6241 or visit <http://www.greekstudies.org>.

Photo exhibit opens at UM-SL, Forest Park

The latest photographic exhibit, "Gateway Greening's Community Gardeners," to be shown at UM-St. Louis and Forest Park opens this January. "Gateway Greening's Community Gardeners" is the latest exhibit in the Point-of-View Series by the Public Policy Research Center at UM-St. Louis. This series features photographs from people living and working in urban areas. In this particular display, the photographers include eight gardeners and one staff member from Gateway Greening, a nonprofit gardening group from St. Louis. The photographs show gardens

and gardeners from the community.

UM-St. Louis will hold its opening reception on Jan. 12 at noon while Forest Park will hold its opening reception on Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. Gwenne Hayes-Stewart, director of Gateway Greening, Mel Watkin, exhibit curator and the photographers will attend both receptions and participate in an informal gallery talk.

The photo exhibit will run from Jan. 12 to April 6 in 362 Social Sciences & Business Building at UM-St. Louis. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibit will also be shown at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park from Jan. 14 to April 6. The display will be open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The exhibit is free and open to the public at both places.

The Public Policy Research

Center at UM-St. Louis, Gateway Greening, Art Tech Photo Finishing, the Regional Arts Commission, Missouri Arts Council, Arts and Education Council, Forest Park Forever will all sponsor the event

UMSL program offers training in community leadership

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy, a program that teaches practical skills in community building, leadership and management, will hold a program for volunteers who want to become leaders in their communities.

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy is a leadership training program for current and future neighborhood and community leaders, community organization staff members and students pursuing careers in com-

munity development. Participants will learn community building principles, organizational leadership, management practices and personal leadership skills.

The program will consist of 11 sessions and be held from Feb. 7 to May 16 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The program costs \$300 for community volunteers and \$500 for community organization staff. The fee includes instruction, meals and parking.

The number of scholarships available is limited. Students who successfully complete the program will earn a UM-St. Louis Chancellor's Certificate in Neighborhood Leadership and 3.45 continuing education credit hours.

The Public Policy Research Center at UM-St. Louis, the Nonprofit Management and Leadership Program at UM-St. Louis and the University of Missouri

Extension will sponsor the event. Call 5960 to register. The registration deadline is Jan. 21.

MU professor found dead in burning car

Jeong Im, University of Missouri-Columbia professor of molecular biology and immunology, was found in the trunk of a burning vehicle on Friday afternoon. According to Mizzou's newspaper, *The Maneater*, police determined that Im had been stabbed to death. The Columbia fire and police departments, along with the campus police, responded to the scene. The Mizzou police department will head up the investigation. No suspects have been named, though police are in the process of identifying potential "persons of interest."

Mark Your Calendar! Career Services Events Spring 2005

ResumeMania Week

Monday, February 7, 2005 to Friday, February 11, 2005

Career Services invites you to submit your resume on line at resumemania@umsl.edu so that one of our Career Specialists can critique it. Your resume will be critiqued and mailed to you within 24 hours!

On-Campus Interviews

Monday, February 14, 2005 to Friday, April 15, 2005

Companies will schedule dates throughout the semester. You must be registered with Career Services and have your resume in our Candidate Database to participate in these interviews. Visit our web site for a list of companies scheduled to interview on campus.

UMSL Teacher Job Fair

Friday, February 25, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mark Twain Building, UM-St. Louis Campus

Meet and be interviewed by many school districts in one location. Admission is FREE for pre-registered job seekers. Pre-register on-line at www.umsl.edu/career/activities.html. You must present your admission ticket at the door. The pre-registration deadline is Friday, February 18, 2005. Admission is \$5 at the door.

UMSL Spring Job Fair

Friday, March 11, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mark Twain Building, UM-St. Louis Campus

Discuss internship and employment opportunities with employer representatives. Admission is FREE for pre-registered job seekers. Pre-register at www.umsl.edu/career/activities.html. You must present your admission ticket at the door. The pre-registration deadline is Friday, March 4, 2005. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Etiquette Banquet

Tuesday, April 19, 2005 - 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center, UM-St. Louis Campus
When dining with employers or business associates, our manners convey our professionalism. Polish your etiquette skills - this lunch session includes guidance from a professional etiquette consultant. Tickets may be purchased in Career Services. Admission is \$10 for Career Services registrants and \$20 for all other students. Space is limited!

For more information on any of these events, please contact:

Career Services

278 Millennium Student Center 314-516-5111
career_services@umsl.edu www.umsl.edu/career

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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Meet your bias **Tolerance: best weapon to beat prejudice**

We learn to distinguish between colors in kindergarten. Once we have mastered that concept, we move on to more complex concepts. Unfortunately, our society got stuck on color and could not move forward until a teacher forced us to. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of those teachers. He was tired of watching people use race as an excuse for violence, so he grabbed our attention and led us out of our painful obsession with race.

King's efforts, along with those of his predecessors and fellow civil fighters, eventually opened up a world of opportunity for all people; however, we have not abolished prejudice from society. Very few people are free of bias. So how do we pay tribute to King and other equal rights advocates?

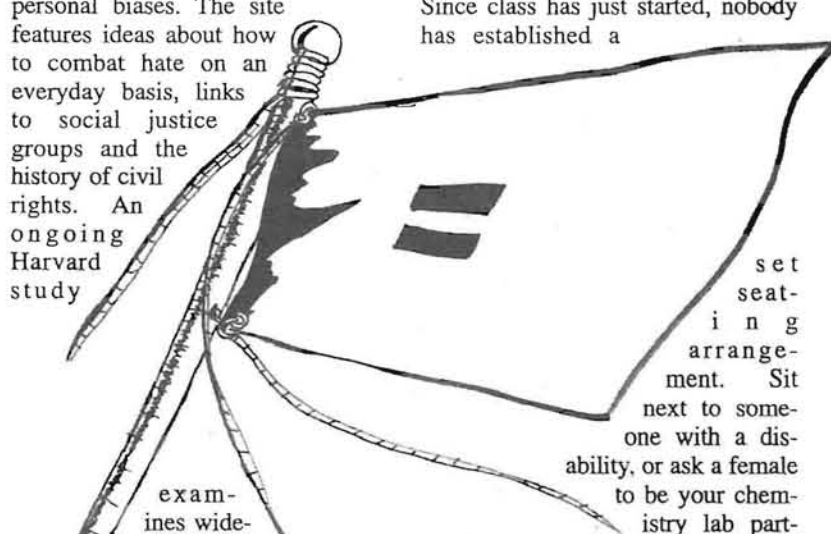
The first step is figuring out what personal prejudices we harbor within ourselves. Tolerance.org has resources that may help determine personal biases. The site features ideas about how to combat hate on an everyday basis, links to social justice groups and the history of civil rights. An ongoing Harvard study

the doctor is male may seem like a fairly innocent association, but consider the possible outcome of a widely accepted bias. Do women have to work harder to establish themselves as doctors? Does a male nurse seem less motivated?

The implicit association tests cover other topics, including race, sexuality, religion, weight, Arab-Muslims and disability. To go directly to the quiz area, visit www.implicit.harvard.edu.

Once you have found a potential personal bias, ask yourself where the prejudice came from. Is it a social assumption or stereotype that you accepted as true? Did you have a negative encounter with someone of a certain category?

Get an idea of where your preferences lie, and figure out how to develop a healthier concept of the people in less favored groups. Start a relationship with someone whom you would not normally associate. Since class has just started, nobody has established a



examines widely held biases, and the findings are available online. Tolerance.org has a link to the Harvard study, where visitors can take implicit association tests, which determine personal preferences.

For example, one of the quizzes evaluates the visitor's association of gender with specific areas of study. So far, the study has revealed that people tend to associate women with liberal arts and men with science.

Consider this riddle: A father and son get in a car accident and are taken to separate hospitals. The boy needs an operation, but the surgeon looks at him and says, "I can't operate on this kid. He's my son!" How is this possible?

If the answer is not immediately obvious, think about your perception of doctors. In our riddle, the surgeon is the boy's mother. Assuming that

ner. Monitor and evaluate your preconceived notions as the relationship grows. Ask your new acquaintance questions about their difference, and gather a new pool of information to negate your bias.

Confronting our biases can be difficult, because it means that we have to admit that we could be wrong. According to tolerance.org, people are aware of racial differences by the age of three, and have been subjected to the notion that white is desirable. Because it often begins at such a young, impressionable age, prejudice is self-destructive and hard to fight. Our unwillingness to change is a slap of disrespect to those who dedicated their lives to gaining equality for everyone.

Today, this week, for the month of January, in 2005 and for the rest of your life, put pride aside and give tolerance a chance.

The Issue
As Martin Luther King, Jr. Day approaches, we are reminded of the struggles of all equal rights activists. Though their efforts impacted society, prejudice still exists.

We suggest
In order to combat prejudice, we must discover our personal biases. Once we realize where our own vendettas lie, we can beat them with tolerance.
So what do you think?
Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website www.thecurrentonline.com

Resolutions: set up for failure

By some unfortunate law of science, certain New Year's resolutions are absolutely impossible to keep. Life is challenging enough without dealing with insurmountable obstacles, so avoid the following resolution-pitfalls.

1. **I want to be Anna Kournikova.** This resolution involves too many changes to realistically accomplish. Do you want to learn to play tennis? Do you want to date a Latin pop star? Do you want a Russian accent? Do you want to appear in Maxim magazine? Do you want to be blonde? Do you want to be in better shape? Determine what Anna has that you want, and aim for one or two goals. Too many changes will be hard to keep track of, and you will have trouble dedicating the time for an entire lifestyle-makeover. Shoot for simple.

2. **I want to be healthier.** This resolution falls on the complete opposite side of the spectrum. "Good health" is an extremely broad goal. Decide if you want to develop for better mental health, if you want to lose weight, if you want better cardiovascular health or if you want to improve your eating habits. Personalize your definition of "healthy" and figure out how to get there.

3. **I want to be sublimely happy.** Unless a magic fairy visits you, this resolution falls under the "magic wish" category. Cheerful people do not chug a glass of happy juice every morning. If you plan on improving your spirits this year, stop waiting for the magic flash of joy. Is something or someone making you chronically

unhappy? Dump your demanding girlfriend. Quit your mind-numbing job. Stop looking for happy somewhere else. Find the good things in every situation, and you will be more content.

4. **I want to be irresistibly good-looking.** Why? Will people like you more? Will your life dramatically improve? Most likely the answer is no. Physical improvements mean nothing if you lack the confidence to back it up. If your resolution involves extensive surgery or a drawer full of cosmetics, consider working on self-esteem instead. A person with beautiful skin and no backbone to support it is nothing but a blob.

5. **I will stop procrastinating.** Everyone procrastinates. While trying to break this bad habit is admirable, just resolving to "stop" may prove tricky. Time management skills, cliché as it sounds, are your best weapon. Instead of promising to stop procrastination, aim to improve personal planning. Most people do not realize that they have fallen victim to procrastination until they're already cursing themselves for waiting so long to start a project.

Everyone adheres to their plans for the first week of January. February, however, often sees dusty treadmills and dumpsters full of rice cakes. With the ever-increasing speed of life after the holidays, it's easy to forget what we resolved to do. If you have decided to work on personal improvement goals for 2005, good luck. I think I'll add one more goal to my list, and I invite everyone to join in: I will still remember my resolutions in March.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Wanted: vacation from holidays

For me, holiday break was far from being a break. Working, catching up with friends and family and dealing with a host of other things accompanied me on my so-called holiday break time. I have figured out that upon graduation of high school, the holidays, as well as the breaks, just are not the same.

I remember as a child making paper snowflakes and Christmas tree chains of popcorn. These simple things reminded me of the holidays and the season. Now that I am older, it seems the only things that remind of the holiday season are crowded malls and overly hurried people at the grocery store. Working at a grocery store will show you the true Christmas spirit.

People rush into the store five minutes before closing time and complain when there is no coleslaw or veggie trays left in the produce department. I wonder to myself, and I am sure I am not the only one, how people can "forget" about their shopping until five minutes before closing time. The truth is the holiday spirit is not the same when you have to listen to customers complain all day long about petty issues.

Thinking back on the holidays, I realize I spent way too much money and went through an exasperating time at work. Many people say the holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year, right next to finals and graduation. Worrying about whether or not someone will like the gift I bought for them and hoping that I remembered to buy for all the people I needed to is just another part of dealing with the holidays. In the midst of things, I must

remember it is the thought that counts, and every family has their own traditions.

Now, do not get me wrong; I do like the holiday season. It is one of the few times of the year I get to see my family. It is just a lot of work to get there. I guess the older I get the more I will begin to realize this. Getting back into the groove of things always helps me to overcome the stresses that time of year brings. Going back to classes and getting back into the swing of things here at the paper put me back into place.

My advice for recovering and getting back into the swing of things is to think of getting back to classes as a positive attribute. The way I think of it is that the sooner I go back, the sooner I will be done. Even though more stresses will follow me after graduation, it is a groove I am sure I will have no problem getting into.

Also, remember that we get a break in the middle of this semester. In the winter semester it always seems like we have Thanksgiving and then before we know it the semester is over. A break will give you deserved time off to calm your mind and take some time out of the books.

So, if any of you are with me in the boat of recovering from the holidays, try to keep your self calm and healthy. Although we do not usually get much of a break anymore, make one for yourself. Take a weekend off and go somewhere with a group of friends or just take a weekend to stay at home. It will be another year before the holidays are back, so try to prepare early this year, I know I usually do not.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

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- MELISSA MCCRARY
- PAUL HACKBARTH
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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

LETTERS

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current@jinx.umsl.edu

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.

What's your opinion?

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

- Tolerance versus prejudice
- New Year's resolutions
- Recovering from the holidays

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

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

Under Current

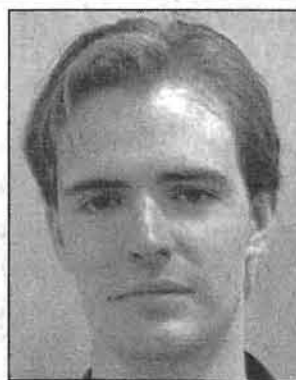
by Erica Burrus
Photography Director

What is your New Year's Resolution?



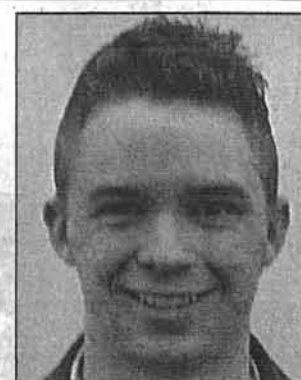
Annmarie Matlach
Junior
Optometry

In school, I want nothing below a C



Benjamin Martin
Junior
Chemistry

I didn't really make one



Bryan Bextermueller
Sophomore
Accounting

I want to concentrate and do better in school



Diedre Chatman
Senior
Spanish

I don't have one

SCIENCE COLUMN

Rock my world Asian quake and massive tsunami shake the earth



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

microplate, causing the shift in the ocean floor and causing the Burma microplate to spring upward. The shift followed two centuries of increasing pressure as the Indian plate pushed against the Burma microplate. The Burma microplate carries the Nicobar and Andaman Islands and the tip of the island of Sumatra, which is part of Indonesia and where the area of Banda Aceh is located.

There had not been a significant quake along this fault since 1883, a fact that is thought to have contributed to the size of this shift. Subduction quakes are common but are rarely large. This one had a rupture length of a remarkable 1,200 kilometers.

The resulting earthquake was measured at magnitude 9.0, enough to jolt the entire planet. The quake actually was composed of three seismic events that occurred within seconds of each other. The epicenter of the initial quake was west of the northern tip of Sumatra, followed by two more slips to the north. The total force released was estimated as nearly equivalent to 200 million tons of TNT.

The force of the Indian tectonic plate subducting under the Burma microplate shifted the Earth's center of gravity towards its core. This caused the earth's rotation to speed up by a few microseconds. The time shift, however, is not significant enough to require an adjustment of the world official time keeping standard, called Coordinated Universal Time or UTC, which is maintained by 250 highly accurate atomic clocks in 60 labs around the world.

This official time is kept as close as possible to the Earth's rotation, but that rotation is affected by numerous unexpected events, including earthquakes. While this quake was the largest in the world of the past forty years, the approximately three microseconds that it shortened the day by is offset by the earth rotation's general trend of slowing

down. The general slowing trend leads to the occasional need for the addition of a "leap second," the most recent of which was added in 1998.

The enormous quake also shifted the Earth on its axis, according to NASA sources. NASA estimates that the planet now tilts by an extra 2.5 centimeters, following the seismic event.

The quake redrew the geography of the affected area. Sumatra changed position on the planet in a matter of minutes. Sumatra and nearby islands, such as the Nicobar and Andaman Islands, may have shifted as much as 20 meters. Elevation of islands may also have changed. Satellite photos indicate that the coastal area of Banda Aceh may now be lower. Geologists think that the elevation of the Nicobar and Andaman Islands may now be higher. Other photos show that Trinkat Island, which is in the Nicobar Islands, is now cut in half. Coastlines are also changed. Efforts are now beginning to determine the changes and to redraw maps, using satellite photo and Global Positioning System data.

Predicting earthquakes is still not possible in practical terms at present, but planning a warning system for tsunamis in another matter. Such a system is already in place in the Pacific Ocean. About 80 percent of all tsunamis occur in the Pacific, although they are common around the world.

Both a lack of sensors and a lack of communications and planning made the area affected by the massive tsunami unable to respond to the warnings that were sent. Scientists in both the Pacific and the Indian Oceans knew about the earthquake within minutes, but a lack of monitoring equipment in the Indian Ocean itself prevented them from being able to detect the tsunami. Seismologists in both the Pacific and Indian Oceans who suspected that one might occur had no system in place to warn those at risk.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader supports Republican values

I'm a Republican who voted against Amendment 2, Missouri's Gay Marriage Ban, in the last primary election. However, I would disagree with Michael's Rankins characteristics of the Republican party. The back-bone of the Republican Party is morals. The Republican Party felt that it was morally wrong to enslave people, so the party fought against it. The Republican Party feels that gay

marriage is wrong, so the party is fighting against it.

This fight is not a distraction from other fights. The Republican party's foreign policy is a success. Thanks to the successful foreign policy by George W. Bush, there will be two new free and democratic nations in the Middle East, Iraq and Afganistan.

These countries use to be run by tyrants that supported terrorism.

Finally, I reward President George W. Bush with a second term because he stood up against racial quotas. That was not racist, that was doing the right thing. I'm African American and I voted for George W. Bush.

Damien Johnson
Junior, Criminology

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gasen: quote not in correct context

Thank you for your recent story on our partnership with the Old North St. Louis neighborhood. While the article gives a good overview of my presentation on this three-year grant, one quote was taken out of context and needs correction.

I am quoted as stating that we chose to work with the Old North neighborhood because "the needier the neighborhood, the better." That is not a true statement. Here's what was actually said. The criteria used by the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development in selecting these University-community partnerships gives priority to working in neighborhoods with severe urban problems - or in other words, the needier the neighborhood, the better. However, I presented the following criteria that we used in choosing to work with Old North: a prior working relationship with the neighborhood association; the capacity of the neighborhood association to function as a full partner with the University; current opportunities for action that could make a difference

in the neighborhood; short and long term priorities articulated by the neighborhood; and a good match between those priorities and University resources. None of these criteria define the Old North St. Louis neighborhood as needy.

Kay Gasen
Director, Community and
Neighborhood Development
Public Policy Research Center

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Parking in a winter wonderland



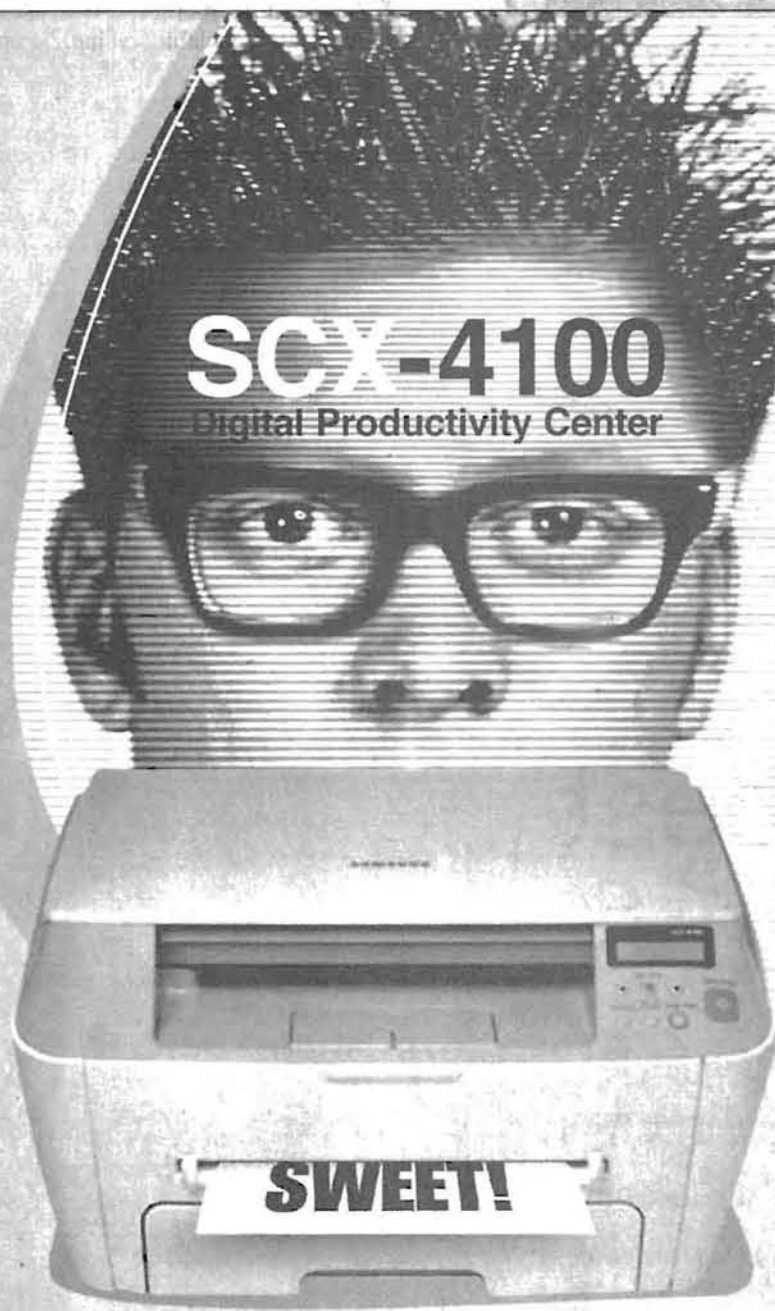
Casey Ulrich/The Current

A thin layer of snow dusts the ground in front of the Millennium Student Center. St. Louis experienced some unseasonably warm weather over the holidays, but was followed by heavy snowfall last week. Temperatures are supposed to rise to the mid- 60s again, though forecasters have predicted more white stuff in the next few weeks.



James writes sports.
Read his work. Page 8.

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HEATSETERS

So, how's that New Year's resolution going?

The what now?



Illustration by Rudy Scoggins/ The Current

New Year's traditions vary around the world

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Within the last few weeks millions of Americans have welcomed 2005 by committing themselves to yet another New Year's resolution.

The website www.about.com explains that the dawn of a new year gives an incentive to "start again," to discard the bad habits of the previous year and to begin with a fresh start.

New Year's Day has historically been seen as a time to "clean house." In other times and cultures this metaphor has been taken more literally than it is here in the United States. In Ancient England, chimneys were swept so that good luck could easily descend, and house cleaning is a typical New Year's activity in Japan, China and Africa.

To stop smoking, lose weight, study more, exercise often and pay off credit card debt seem to be among the top resolutions for college students.

The Monitor on Psychology website points out that this is the only time when nearly half of all adults undertake a behavior change program. But the question must be asked, are those who make New Year's resolutions setting themselves up for failure?

Many people say yes, including some UM-St. Louis students.

Panya Weathersby, junior, finance, has resolved to pay off her credit cards in 2005, but admits she has not been successful with past New Year's resolutions.

Commitment to a New Year's resolution is not necessarily a hopeless effort.

At least three-fourths of the goals adults set for themselves on New Year's are health-related.

Barb Astorino, graduate student, nursing education, resolved to manage her weight in past years, but said she felt she was not successful.

A link from the University of Washington website claims that a person will only make a successful change if he or she has confidence in their ability to do so. Other tips

the website lists include focusing on an initial commitment, preparing coping strategies in case obstacles arise and keeping track of progress made.

At www.technorati.com/2005resolutions.html, people can create web blogs and post their own resolutions and thoughts on how they plan to stick to them.

Experts warn against making a New Year's resolution at the spur of the moment.

Brandy Stewart, junior, psychology, said, "I haven't really considered one [a New Year's resolution], but I guess it is to get focused and organized."

Although this is a worthwhile resolution, studies show that those who have not thoroughly thought out a desired change, long term success is unlikely.

Regardless of what resolution a person attempts, the most important things is to garner encouragement from achieving small steps and use failures as a way to improve a plan for success.

Skiing is believing

Hidden Valley brings a taste of Colorado slopes close to home

Annual Rec Trek lets students ski for \$20

BY KATE SHAW
Staff Writer

It is winter. It is St. Louis. A paunchy man in thousands of dollars worth of ski gear pauses before a snowy horizon of mountain peaks before launching himself down a world class steep. It's a credit card commercial. Sitting on the couch listening to the pipes freeze, you think, "Screw you, Mr. Gold Card, break your darn legs, you can afford that too." You're about to hurl the remote at the screen when you think, "actually, it is too bad that there is not any local and affordable skiing right here in Missouri."

But of course, there is Hidden Valley Ski Resort, a mere half hour away in Wildwood. Not far from Interstate 44, Hidden Valley is not going to trick anyone into thinking they napped through Eureka and

somehow woke up in Colorado. With the lack of a high-altitude view, one might gawk instead at the sight of a fully functional ski oasis rising up from the flat earth like the something-fun-to-do spirit that erected the Great Wheel of the 1904 World's Fair.

St. Louis resident Chris Janoski likes to ski in the West but appreciates the convenience of a home town slope. "I enjoy going to Hidden Valley because I love to ski," Janoski said. "I think that skiing helps people build endurance, stay in shape and frees some of the stress in people's lives."

"Powder hounds" and other ski snobs may scoff at man-made snow, but for the majority of us who do not know any better, Hidden Valley is as good as the real thing. Picturesque slopes feature a dozen trails that accommodate every level of ability, ranging from beginner to Black Diamond. A cheap, hour-long lesson transforms a first-timer into an all-day skier and an extensive website (www.hiddenvalleyski.com) tells you everything you need to know,

bring and wear.

Sessions run day and night seven days a week and pass prices vary. Friday and Saturday nights are a fun bargain; the 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. session is \$30, or \$56 with ski or snowboard rental. A 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. weekend session is even cheaper and there are very few, if any, children.

Sean Gold, senior, education, said that he went to Hidden Valley last December to prepare for an upcoming ski trip to Vermont. "I had never skied before, but by the end of the day I felt like I knew what I was doing. It was a lot of fun."

Gold also said that he is looking forward to a Hidden Valley trip sponsored by Campus Recreation on Feb. 25. Tickets are \$20 and include transportation. Students must register by Feb. 21 in the Office of Student Life, 366 MSC.

The only truly dangerous aspect of a St. Louis winter is the atrophy of being cooped up inside. For anyone who is tired of waiting for it to snow on Art Hill, Hidden Valley is just down the road.

Dancing the night away



Kate Drolet/ The Current

Brian Rails, Shanna Carpenter and another student dance at the AIDS awareness dance held in December. The dance was held in the Pilot House and co-sponsored by several student organizations.

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

the week's
**best
bets**

Thur. Jan. 13

Reception for 'Visual Poem' at Gallery Visio

An opening reception for the exhibiton "Visual Poem" will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. in Gallery Visio at the Millennium Student Center. The event will feature art work by UM-St. Louis women and will be on display through Jan. 27. Artists will read some of their poetry. For more information call 516-7922.

Dr. Martin Luther King
Holiday Observance

This event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The event will feature keynote speakers, dance performances, and orchestras. The event is free. For more information call 16-5695.

Students research ecology in greenhouse



Erica Burrus/ The Current

The Anheuser-Busch Ecology and Conservation Complex is located near Benton Hall.

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

We all know how hectic it can be to arrive on campus for the first time. When new or prospective students begin their studies at UM-St. Louis, many find themselves looking for the best ways to get around campus and trying to become familiar with all of the campus buildings.

While current students might know where they can find each building or where all of their classes are located, most do not know the history of the buildings or their purpose.

Ever wonder what that glass building located in the far right wing of Benton Hall is designed for?

That glass building which looks like a place where professional botanists would conduct research experiments on plants or a place that one might expect to find at Missouri

Botanical Gardens is actually a real greenhouse for biology students and faculty at UM-St. Louis.

Kathy Upton, Greenhouse manager, said that the Anheuser-Busch Ecology Conservation Complex has two main uses.

"One of the main things that the greenhouse is used for is for the research of plants, conducted and studied by faculty members," Upton said. "Another purpose of the con-

servation complex is for the education area and value."

The education area of the greenhouse is used for numerous lower-level biology courses and for classes that require extensive lab work or projects.

Some of the things that students might study in the greenhouse include plant form and function, transport systems in plants, the reproduction of flowering plants, the distinguishing features of plants and different plant responses to stimuli.

Upton said that the complex was created over 11 years ago, when Anheuser-Busch donated the money for its construction.

In 1996, the Anheuser-Busch Conservation Ecology Complex received a \$141,500 award from the National Science Foundation to purchase plant ecology research equipment.

The biology department at UM-St. Louis is also tied to the International Center for Tropical Ecology and works hands-on with other St. Louis institutions, partnerships and organizations.

Along with support from Anheuser-Busch, the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the St. Louis Zoo have strong partnerships and programs within the department.

So whenever students are walking to their classes on North Campus and pass by the Ecology Conservation Complex, they no longer have to look confused and wonder exactly what that building is.

In search of the perfect cup of coffee?

St. Louis offers a variety for the caffeine-craving coffee consumer

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

St. Louis, known as the "Gateway to the west" is not only home to a variety of tourist attractions and authentic restaurants, but also to many well-known, family-owned and award-winning coffee houses.

Starbucks, Gloria Jeans, Picasso's, Cuppajo Coffee Roastery and Mountain Mudd Expressos are a few shops that can be found on the corner of just about every block.

According to the National Coffee Association, over 29 million Americans over the age of 18 drink gourmet coffee beverages daily, including specialty coffee, espresso, latte, cappuccino and frozen and iced coffee.

So why do so many people go to these unique coffee houses?

Most shops serve as a gathering place for people to meet with friends, relax and are locations for business associates and students to finish last minute assignments.

In addition to offering convenient on-the-go beverages and friendly atmospheres, some shops are beginning to offer customers free Internet access, game rooms and live entertainment.

Stephanie Hoffmann, sophomore, English, shared her past experiences with one such coffee establishment.

"I used to go to Cuppajo's in St. Charles. I thought that it was a nice quiet place to go and study or meet with friends."

Hoffmann said that she would occasionally visit the coffee house to relax and watch free musical performances on the weekends.

Kayak's Coffee, located on North Skinker Boulevard, features a complete line of organic and fair-

trade coffees. This coffee destination has live music and bands on certain Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Hartford Coffee Company on Hartford Avenue also hosts live acoustic music on Saturday nights.

The Central West End, a historic area of St. Louis, has a variety of art galleries, antique shops, specialty stores and coffee houses.

Leah Donovan, St. Louis resident, said that she enjoys visiting the Central West End because of its wide selection of coffee houses.

"It is like another world there. You can walk into a coffee house and everyone is very friendly," Donovan said.

Ala's Cafe (Dekalb Street), Cafe Ermita (N. 10th Street), Joseph's Italian Cafe (N. Sixth Street), Einstein Brother's Bagels (North Euclid Avenue), The Coffee Cartel (Maryland Plaza) and The Grind (Maryland Plaza) are some of the coffee "hot spots" in the Central West End.

The Coffee Cartel is known as the only 24-hour coffee shop in St. Louis.

While coffee drinks are the number one purchased menu item, this shop also sells home-made donuts, deli sandwiches and has an ice cream parlor. Tables and chairs line the sidewalk to make customers feel like they are at a French outdoor cafe. When the weather is too cold for outdoor patio seating, other tables are available inside. Besides having a relaxing, laid back environment, Coffee Cartel offers a pool table, Internet computers, wireless Internet services and games.

John Kiske, manager of the Coffee Cartel, said how numerous people visit their shop.

"We have a very diverse client base, consisting of students, neighborhood people, county residents and tourists," Kiske said. "Our spe-



Erica Burrus/The Current

Starbucks, located on the corner across from Vintage Vinyl in University City, is one of many St. Louis coffeehouses that offer an extensive selection of coffee and yummy treats. Other favorites include Coffee Cartel and The Grind in Central West End.

cialty item that most people drive here for is our frappes. They are similar to creamy milkshakes with espresso."

The Grind is a place where diverse cultures and people of different ethnicities can unite to share their favorite latte or espresso. The Grind is outfitted with many couches to

make people feel at home. This shop, open seven days a week until 3 a.m., gives college students a chance to study or have fun with its game room and Internet hook-ups.

When visiting coffee houses in the Central West End, some might get the opportunity to meet novelists or famous authors.

American author Tennessee Williams used this St. Louis neighborhood as the setting for his book "The Glass Menagerie."

Other popular coffee shops throughout St. Louis include Cafe Balaban, The Coffee House, Kaldi's Coffee House, Meridian Coffee House, the Saint Louis Bread

Company, Perc On The Park, Souldard Coffee Garden and Rhythm and Brews.

Whether people are winding down from an evening of fun, pulling an all-nighter completing a project or beginning their day, these places are the answer for those seeking a freshly brewed cup of coffee.

Chancellor Thomas George poses for a photo with Alumni Association vice president Ken Cella at a 2004 Alumni Association annual meeting. Cella graduated from UMSL in 1993 with a degree in marketing, and now works at Edward Jones.



Alumnus stays involved with UMSL as VP of the Alumni Association

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Some students work in retail to finance their education. Ken Cella, UM-St. Louis alum, found a headstart to his career as a student in the early 1990s.

Although Cella was not involved in any clubs, organizations or sports when he was a student at UM-St. Louis, he managed to work a full-time position at Edward Jones and operate his own landscaping business to finance his own college education.

Cella, General Partner of Trust for Edward Jones and current Vice President of the Alumni Association, graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1993 with a B.A. in marketing.

"The University has had a cherished history of outstanding professors and over the years as it has continued to grow, more buildings and students have come about," Cella said.

"There has been a great commitment from the University to become the choice college of St. Louis."

He shared his overall experience at UM-St. Louis and highlighted what it

was like being a student and finding a job upon graduation. His speech made it obvious that UM-St. Louis was a big part of his life.

Cella said that there were a few very interesting courses that he enjoyed taking while being a student.

"I really enjoyed economics and management and organizational effectiveness, they had a strong impact on my major," he said. "I like marketing because of the one-on-one level to work with different individuals."

"It was kind of like an internship. I worked in the Service Division," he said.

Since he had already held a position for Edward Jones, he was able to move forward with his career once he graduated.

"The services that we provide at Edward Jones are in the demand of the clients. We help them to achieve their own goals and we connect with the clients."

Cella said that when you look at the quality of students that attend UM-St. Louis, there are numerous very serious committed students who manage to balance other things in their life. He noted that UM-St. Louis gives stu-

dents not only wonderful life experience, but also the opportunity to receive top quality education.

After Cella graduated he wanted to stay close and connected to the University by serving as a member of the Alumni Association.

At the beginning of 2004, Cella was nominated to be the Vice President of the Alumni Association's Executive Committee.

Colleen Watermon, Director of Alumni Relations, said that those who serve on the committee oversee strategic plans, nominate other leaders, work with leadership, recruit new board members, plan Alumni events and membership drives.

"Ken will take over presidency next year," Watermon said.

Cella shared his advice on how students can succeed and have a great college experience.

"From the time you start as a freshman, students should focus on their habits and activities."

Cella said that involvement, study habits and behavior play big roles on a person's life.

"What you create is in a way what you will carry for the rest of your life."

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Ward E. Barnes Library

For additional information, contact Scott Bopp in the SGA office at 314-516-5105

SPORTS



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen guard Crystal Lambert has the ball knocked away by an Indianapolis player on Saturday afternoon.

Riverwomen start fresh in the New Year

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

With a new year comes a new beginning. For the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen this holds true even in the middle of their season, according to Coach Lee Buchanan. A new beginning could not hurt the Riverwomen. Going into January the team was 1-8. Several of those games occurred after *The Current* ran its last issue of 2004, so here is a brief recap.

With a 1-6 record the team played the University of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles. Leslie Ricker scored the first basket of the game for the Riverwomen, but the Screaming Eagles came back in a hurry. They took a 14-9 lead before the Riverwomen finally got back on top with a 6-0 run. It was the last lead the Riverwomen would enjoy the rest of the game. Despite fighting to keep it close 31-28, the Screaming Eagles had a huge 9-0 run at the end of the half and went into halftime leading by 12. The second half was on cruise control for the Screaming Eagles, who finished with an 83-60 victory. The top scorer for the Riverwomen was freshman Courtney Watts with 17 points, and an additional four assists.

Dec. 20 was the next game for the Riverwomen, this time against conference foe Kentucky Wesleyan University. In a similar situation as the previous game the Riverwomen were able to stay close with their opponents only up to a point. In the first half the Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers built a 12 point lead, 38-26, going into the half. The second half the Riverwomen fought back hard to cut that lead to just five, but then the Panthers went on a 16-0 run to grab an intimidating 60-39 lead. The Riverwomen got within 10 once after that, but it was too little too late in an 84-68 loss. Kali Birkey had a huge night for the Riverwomen, tallying 21 points, 20 rebounds and four assists. Crystal Lambert added 18 points and six assists.

The Riverwomen rebounded from their two losses with vengeance. The

Riverwomen this season:

- L 80-61 at Pittsburg St
- W 66-62 McKendree
- L 65-61 at UM-Rolla
- L 69-59 St. Joseph's
- L 76-65 Wis-Parkside
- L 56-53 at SIUE
- L 56-44 at Quincy
- L 83-60 at S Indiana
- L 84-68 at KyWesleyan
- W 95-27 Harris-Stowe
- L 67-57 N Kentucky

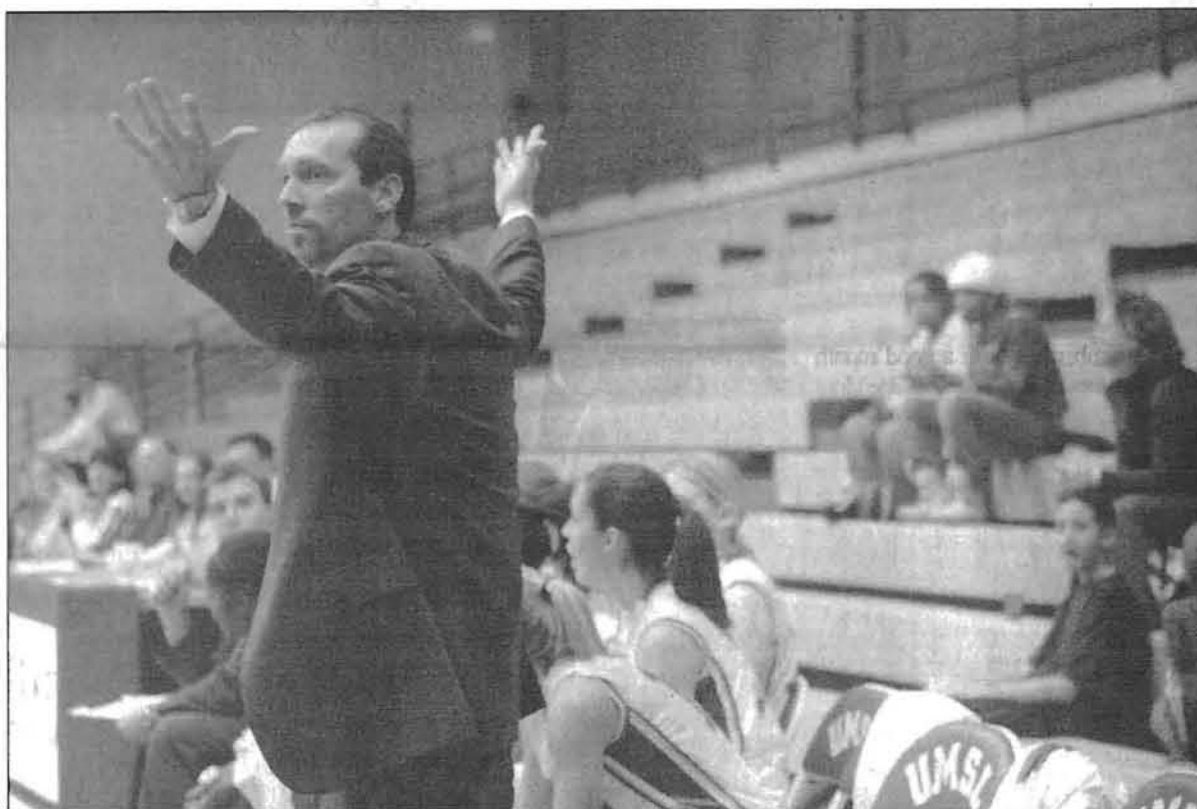
last game of 2004 was held on Dec. 30 against Harris Stowe and it was one for the record books. The Riverwomen came out on fire and won by the largest margin of victory in 19 years. Once the team was up 13-5 it put the clamps down on Harris-Stowe with a 17-2 run. UM-St. Louis ended the half up 40-12. The second half did not look any better for Harris-Stowe. The Riverwomen opened up the second half with a 24-1 run, and never looked back. UM-St. Louis finished with a 95-27 victory. Abbie Thomas led the Riverwomen with 18 points, including five three-pointers.

The first game of the new year was played on Jan. 6 against Northern Kentucky University. The Riverwomen came out strong and after 11 minutes of play were up by one against NKU. Then the Norse



LEFT: Riverwomen center Ilesha Billups struggles to break through the Indianapolis defense on Saturday afternoon.

BELOW: Coach Lee Buchanan raises his arms to question a referee's call during a game against Indianapolis on Saturday. Buchanan, in his second year as coach, has led the Riverwomen to a 3-9 season so far.



upped their defense. Over the following eight minutes UM-St. Louis went completely scoreless. The most amazing thing about it is that it did not make much of a difference in the half. The Riverwomen went into halftime only down 23-20. The start of the second half the Riverwomen came out firing, and regained the lead 24-23. Another slump was soon to come, however. The Norse went on an 18-5 tear to put themselves out of the range

of a Riverwomen comeback. The final score was 67-57. Coach Galen Harkness remarked on the team's progress. "I really feel like the effort is there. The kids are trying as hard as they can. As a coach that is a key. We need to take that effort and intensity and funnel it into more execution offensively and defensively," Harkness said.

Although the team is now 2-9, Coach Buchanan sees it differently.

The team is coming together and working hard, and he sees the remaining 15 games as parts of two different seasons. "We had 18 games after Christmas, so we have split them into two 'seasons.' We are now 1-1 in this nine game stretch, and we have rededicated ourselves in this new season," Buchanan said.

The Riverwomen play their next game on Jan 13 at Wisconsin-Parkside.

EDITOR

JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Upcoming

Men's Basketball

Jan. 13

◆ at Wisconsin-Parkside
7:30 p.m.

Jan. 15

◆ at Lewis
3 p.m.

Jan. 18

◆ vs Robert Morris (Ill.)
7 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Jan. 13

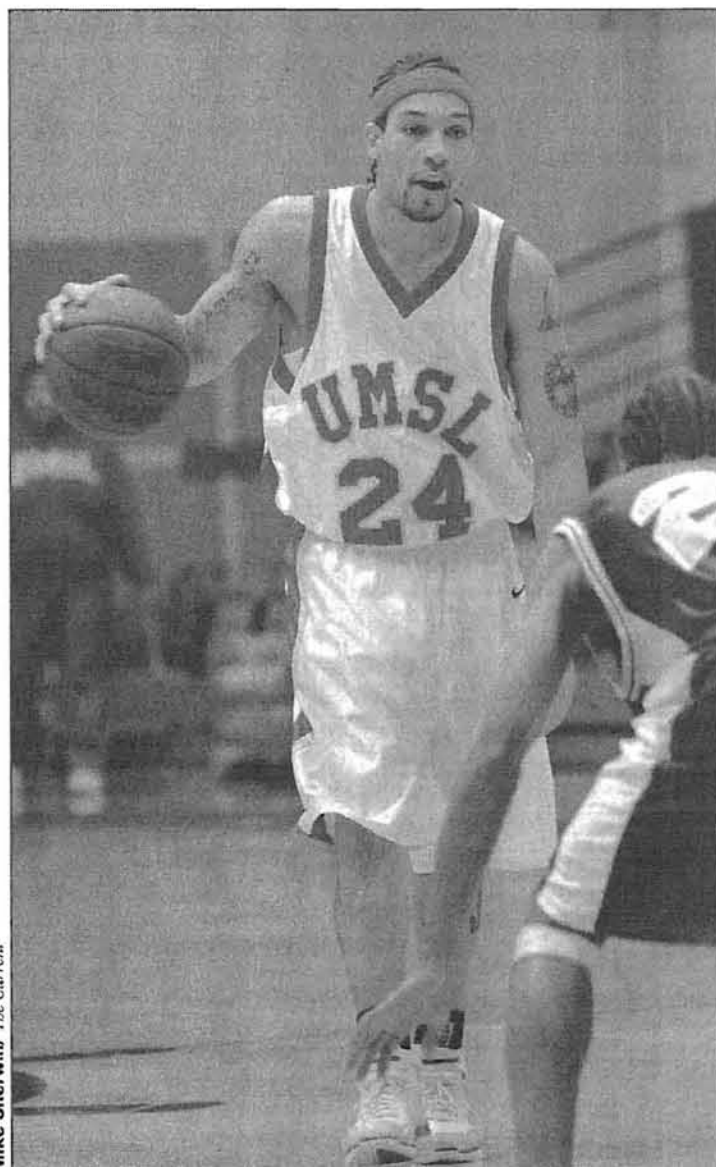
◆ at Wisconsin-Parkside
5:30 p.m.

Jan. 15

◆ at Lewis
1 p.m.

RIGHT:

Rivermen forward Jonathan Griffin has become a key leader of the team this year, and has consistently led in point scoring. In December, Griffin averaged almost 20 points per game and over 8 rebounds per game.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Griffin earns UM-St. Louis' athlete of the month title

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Jonathan Griffin has continued to dominate the basketball floor over the course of this season and has been putting up great numbers. Over the past month, Griffin managed to hold true to form by leading the team in numerous categories and has become the team's young, talented leader.

Griffin led the Rivermen basketball team in December by putting up some remarkable numbers. Griffin averaged nearly 20 points per game (19.5 per contest) to lead the team and also led the Rivermen in rebounding with 8.3 per game.

In the four games played during the month, Griffin scored 20 or more points in three of those games and in the fourth game recorded a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds at Quincy to lead the Rivermen to their first win in GLVC conference play this season.

Later in the month, Griffin pulled through in two tough, back-to-back road games at Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan. He scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds against Southern Indiana and followed that peak performance with 24 points and eight rebounds at Kentucky Wesleyan. He hit 8-of-16 from the field and was a perfect 5-for-5 from the line in the game against Wesleyan.

For the entire month of December, he hit an amazing 47.2% (25-of-53) from the field and hit on 10-of-23 (43.5%) from three-point range.

Griffin's basketball record in 2003-04

- Started in all 27 games
- Scored 18.4 points per game
- Scored 496 points for season
- Led team in rebounds with 59 per game
- Second on team in assists with 56
- Ranked fifth best in UMSL history with 50 steals
- Set GLVC record with 133 free throws made in conference games
- Led team in three-point field goal percentage, hitting 41.4% (29-for-70)
- Scored a team season best and a career high 33 points against Saint Joseph's

Griffin commented on his continued success. "It is nice to get noticed. The season has been tough and without my teammates I could not have played as well as I have been thus far" said Griffin. "I owe a lot to them, they deserve just as much credit as I do in the games. They all work just as hard as I do in the games."

The Rivermen will have a busy schedule over the course of the next month as they look to bounce back into the conference mix and to get into the conference tournament in late March.

R-men hope to bounce back after starting season slowly

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

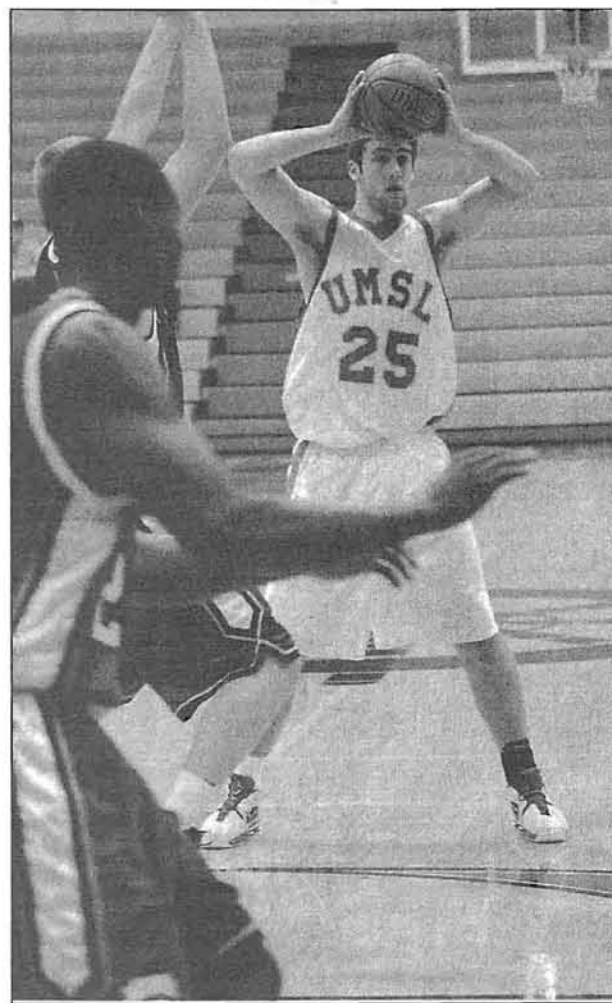
The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team is now 2-9 in its season. Over the Christmas break the team had several close games and tough losses. The first came against 15th ranked Southern Indiana University on Dec. 9. The Rivermen started off strong grabbing a 12-5 lead over the Screaming Eagles, but quickly had the lead rubbed out. The Screaming Eagles went on a 14-2 run to take a 19-14 lead and by halftime were leading 42-26. The Rivermen did manage to cut the lead to 11 points, 49-38, in the second half, behind eight straight points from Aaron Green. Unfortunately for the Rivermen the Screaming Eagles pushed the lead back up to 23 and finished the game on top 83-63. Green led the team with 26 points and Jonathan Griffin added 20 for the Rivermen.

The next game for the Rivermen was on Dec. 20 against the Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers. Both teams started the game out strong, with the Panthers gaining an early 22-16 lead. The Rivermen came back however, gaining their first lead at 24-22, and increasing it to 32-26 with two minutes left to play. The Panthers refused to be held down, though, and managed to tie the game 36-36 going into the half. The second half of the game started out where the first left off: Kentucky Wesleyan scoring points. The last lead for the Rivermen was at 38-37, and from that point on the Panthers held

them at bay. The Rivermen stayed within nine points until the final minute, when fouling and free-throws gave Kentucky Wesleyan the 76-63 victory. Griffin led the team in points with 24, while Green contributed 17.

The Rivermen came back on Jan. 3 against Lindenwood University looking to improve on their record. It did not go as planned. Lindenwood jumped out on top early with a 17-10 lead, but the Rivermen went on a 7-2 run to come within one point. UM-St. Louis gained a three point lead at 29-26 from baskets by David Ward and Griffin, and led going into halftime 31-30. The lead was pushed out to ten in the beginning of the second half behind three three-pointers. From there it was a game of mini runs. The Lions struck back going 9-0 over a three minute run to tie the game. From there the game see-sawed between the two teams, neither being able to really pull away. With the score tied at 73-73 the Rivermen had one last possession to end the game, but came up shorthanded, sending the game into overtime. The crux of the game came down to one possession. With one minute left in the game Lindenwood led 81-80; the Rivermen had to score to take the lead, but instead turned the ball over. The final seconds were spent fouling and hoping for a break, but the Lions held firm and won by a score of 85-82. Griffin scored 32 in the loss, and Green added 20.

With the Lindenwood loss the team's record fell to 2-8, but Coach Chris Pilz is still hopeful that the



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen forward David Ward looks for a pass during a game Saturday afternoon against Indianapolis.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen guard Tim Guerin goes up for a three pointer during Saturday's game against the Indianapolis Greyhounds.

season will get better. "We will continue to prepare for future games. We've played some good and bad basketball, even played competitively enough to win some games. Unfortunately it takes doing a whole lot of right things to win a basketball game, and just a few wrong ones to lose it. The biggest thing right now for us is to

stay positive. One of our wins was against a tough Quincy University team on the road, so there is a lot of potential there," Pilz said. He also invited all students, faculty and staff to the Mark Twain Athletic Center to support the team on game days.

The Rivermen play next on Jan 13 against Wisconsin-Parkside.

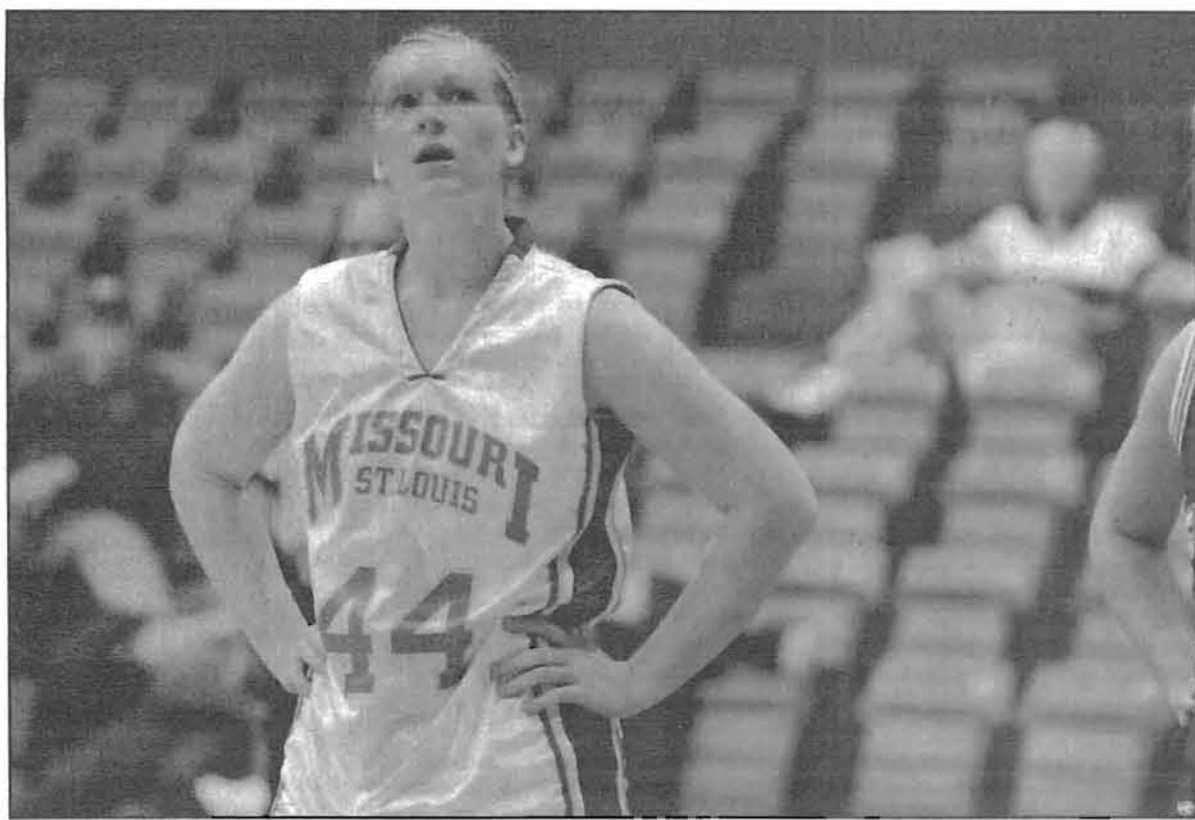
Birkey named UM-St. Louis' women's athlete of the month

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

December has been a good month for Riverwomen basketball standout Kali Birkey. Over the course of the first two months of the season, and especially this last one, Birkey has managed to put up some phenomenal numbers for the Riverwomen.

Birkey once again led the Riverwomen basketball team in scoring and rebounding for the month. She has done this in both November and December this year and also did it three months last year. Over December, Birkey managed to put up big numbers once again, and during this time had several games in which she scored big and had one game that included a record setting performance.

In just this past December, Birkey came up big in a game at Kentucky Wesleyan. She scored 21 points and pulled down a career high 20 rebounds against the Panthers. She hit 9-of-18 from the field and 3-of-6 from the free throw line and had nine offensive rebounds while adding four steals. It was just the third time in UM-St. Louis women's basketball history that a player recorded 20 or more rebounds in a single game, and just the third time in the school's basketball history that a women's player had 20 or more points and 20 or more rebounds in the same game. The only other two players who accomplished that feat were Carmen Forest, who had 37 points and a school



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Kali Birkey, a forward for the Riverwomen basketball team, led the team in points scored and rebounds for both November and December.

record 27 rebounds back in the 1976-77 season, and Tammy Putnam, who recorded 27 points and 22 rebounds in the 1991-92 season.

Over the span of the entire month of December, Birkey averaged 13.0 points and 7.2 rebounds per game for the Riverwomen, while also leading

the team with 13 steals in the five games played. She hit 51.8% (29-of-56) from the field for the month as well.

Birkey commented on her performance. "It is really nice to be recognized for my play," she said, "but it is something that I owe a lot more to my teammates than to myself, because we

work as a team and they are always there to help me out and to make it possible to do the thing that I do."

The Riverwomen are currently 2-9 overall this season, and will look to Birkey to continue to dominate as they try to find a remedy to help get them back to their winning ways.

Softball looks to new recruits to begin Spring season strong

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

As the next semester is ready to begin it can only mean one thing for the UM-St. Louis softball team: the season is about to begin. The team is looking to start off this season well and will be carrying last season's success and confidence onto the field with them.

Last season the team moved back to the .500 mark in the win loss column at 27-27. It was the first time in two seasons that they had ended with a .500 record or better. The Riverwomen started off hot with a 5-3 record heading into conference play and ended the season on an eight game winning streak before taking an early exit in the conference tournament.

Emily Wagoner, sophomore pitcher, commented on the upcoming season. "We are young this year but we have an awful lot of talent coming to the team," she said. "We all have a lot of high expectations for the team, and I think we should have a good season."

This season has high expectations for the softball team, as they look to continue the success that they have had. This year's team has some new recruits that look to give the team some needed fire power, both in the

bats and on defense.

A trio of freshman from Incarnate Word Academy, Jessica Coffey, Megan Raney and Jessica Keim, look to tighten the defensive strings. Raney will be playing the catcher position as well as the outfield for the Riverwomen, while Keim will be seeing most of her time in the infield. Coffey comes in as one of only two pitchers that were recruited. She will see a lot of time at the pitcher's mound while rotating into first base on her off days.

Lindsay Reinagel and Jennifer Thomas are also new to the team this season. Reinagel comes from Cape Notre Dame High School, where she made an impact all four years. She is the second of the pitchers coming in new to the team. Reinagel should be seeing most of her time at the pitcher's spot, while rotating in at first base as well.

Thomas is the last of the five recruits coming new to the team. She is from Granite City High school and is expected to make a quick impact in the infield.

The team also returns seven starters from last season's team, giving them a core group of players to help lead the team early on. Look for the Riverwomen to continue their success from last season and to make an even greater impact on the conference this year.



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A&E

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2004 brings unique trend to theaters

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

The two biggest films of 2004 were not on my top ten list: 'Passion of the Christ' and 'Fahrenheit 9/11.' However, the latter of these was included on my Top Ten Documentary films list, and the first one can be found on Top Ten Box Office Champs list, in my article of more movie lists.

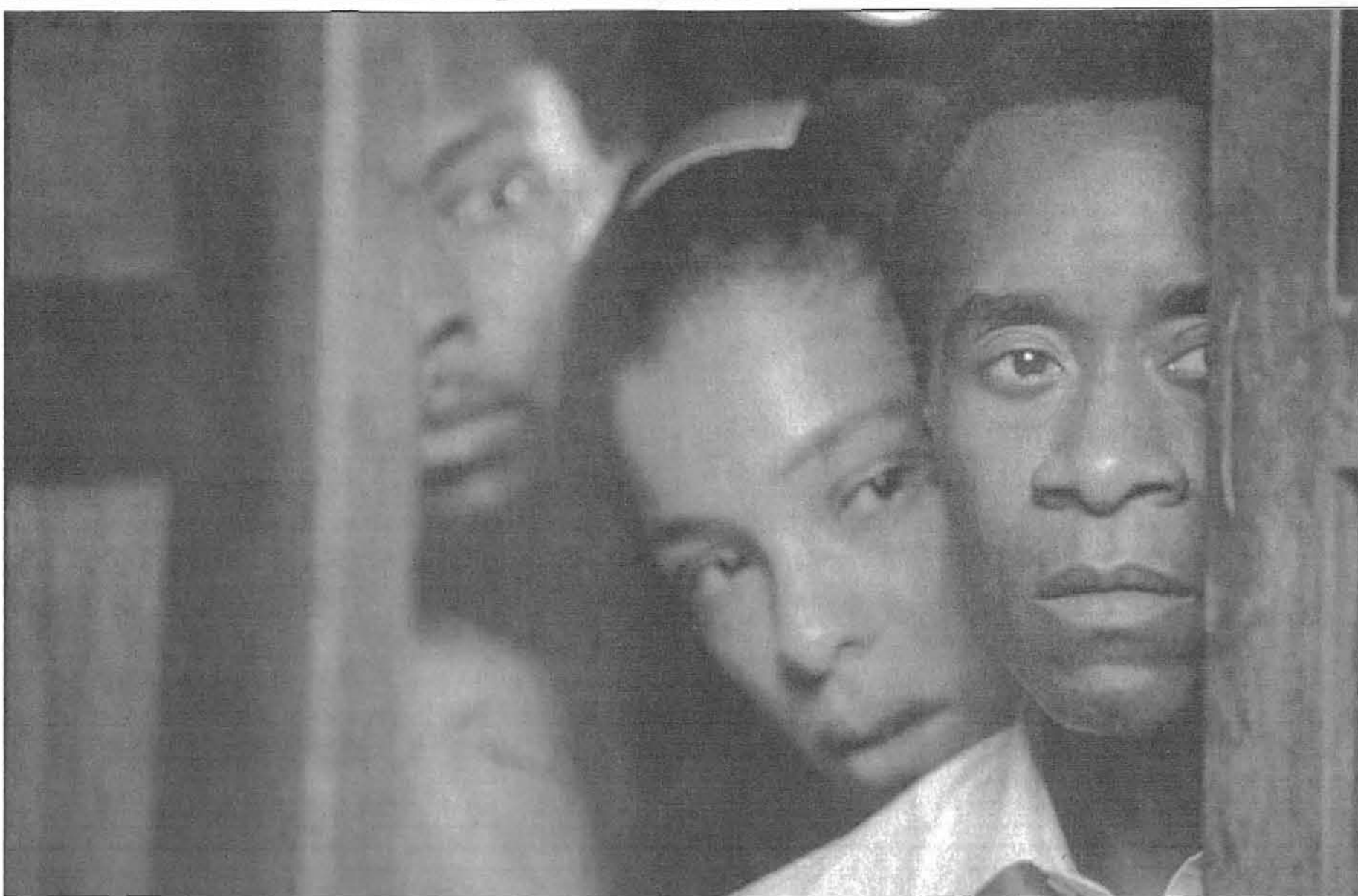
These films share two things. First, both were the most acclaimed and most condemned films of the year, while also among the most popular. Secondly, they both were released independently and had to struggle against big Hollywood studios to get into theaters at all.

'Passion' finished number three in U.S. box office sales this year and in the U.S. top ten box office of all time. 'Fahrenheit' opened at number one in box office take in its debut week, despite being shown on only about 900 screens, less than half the number of screens of the number two film that week. It became the biggest grossing documentary or non-narrative film of all time. One key for both of these films is that they drew in many people who do not often go to movies.

Like many controversial films, folks who condemned them often had not seen them. Some of their biggest fans were people who saw them and saw no other film last year. I think you have to see any film first before you express your opinion on it, and I have seen both. Both films received special attention on the UM-St. Louis campus: 'Passion' was the subject of an inter-faith panel discussion and 'Fahrenheit' was part of a pre-election, bi-partisan festival of politically-themed documentary films.

2004 was a big year for documentaries. For that reason, I made a separate Top Ten list for documentaries, rather than include them in the Top Ten list of typical 'narrative' films. 'Narrative film' is the term for what most people typically think of as a 'movie,' either a fiction film or a film that recreates a true story, like a biographical and historical film, with actors, sets, and so forth, whether the film aims to be entertainment or artistic. It excludes real-life, non-acting film productions like documentaries, news footage, etc.

There seemed to be more of them than ever and they were better than ever. It was a watershed year for documentaries with more inventive, entertaining and cinematic techniques transforming and elevating the profile of non-fiction films. Many of them had a political component, as progressives seemed to find a voice in film this year, the way conservatives found a voice in talk radio years ago.



Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle) looks out the door of his Rwanda hotel. The film is based on the true story of genocide and politics in the African nation, and one man's effort to aid suffering people. Rusesabagina used his hotel as a shelter for oppressed Rwandans during the period of genocidal atrocities in the early 1990s.

Photos courtesy rottentomatoes.com

Style - fills the - Silver Screen

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

"Top Ten" lists are a New Year's tradition and often a prelude to awards and the Oscars.

This is my list of top ten films of the year. While it is easy to separate the best films from the lesser efforts, it is hard to rank them and harder yet to make that cut between number 10 and 11.

Besides these ten, there were several other worthy films this year, which will get their own special mention in a separate article. Because of the number of remarkable documentary films this year, I have limited this list to "narrative" films and ranked the best documentaries in a separate list.

This list contains only films that opened here through January, since some films reach us some weeks later after opening on either coast before year's end, to qualify for the Oscars. Films that opened here early last year or only played at the St. Louis International Film Festival are not included.

Award winning films and the ones

on end-of-year "top ten" lists are not necessarily the most popular ones or the box office hits. See the story on other worthy films of 2004 for the box office champs. However, they are often the films that hold up over time. These are the ones I think I would most enjoy seeing years from now.

1. The Aviator (Martin Scorsese)

Before he was known as an eccentric, Howard Hughes was a "golden boy" in his early years as a Hollywood filmmaker, millionaire playboy and aviation visionary. This film is classic Hollywood in the best sense: visually lush, dramatic and exciting, with a bit of a "Citizen Kane" feel to the engrossing story about an intriguing, flawed character. Scorsese's best film in years with great acting by Cate Blanchet and a breathtaking turn by Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes.

2. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (Michel Gondry)

Charlie Kaufman's bizarre, science fiction-ish tale about memory erasure does the impossible: tells a truly fresh and original romantic comedy story. The film is funny,

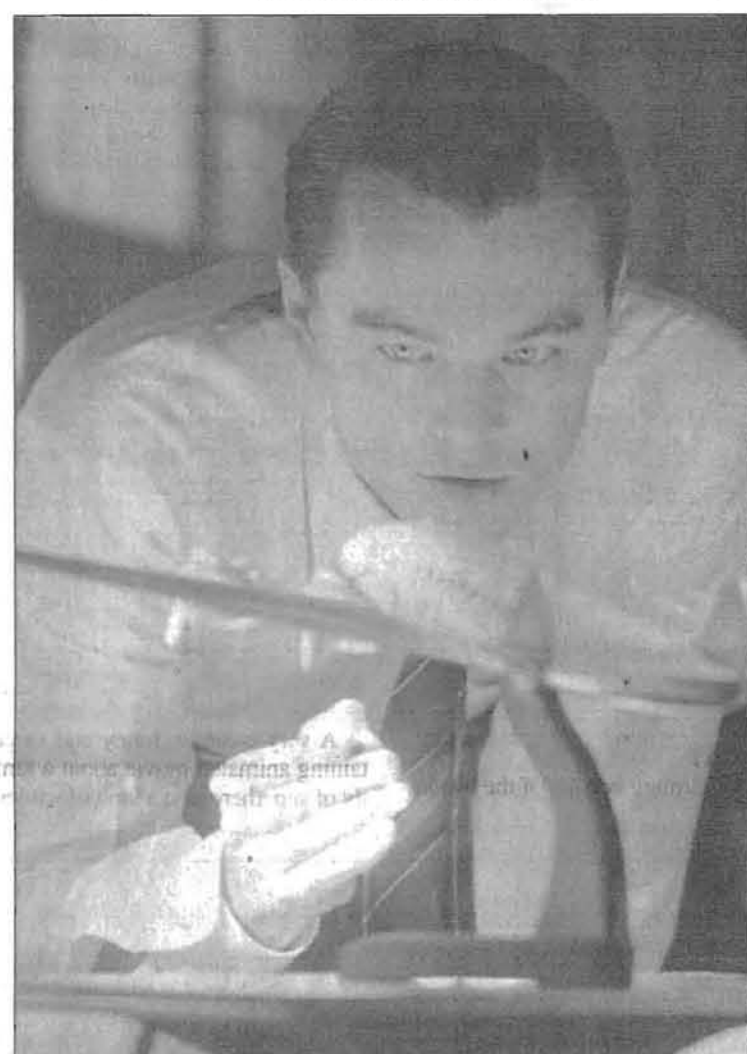
romantic, moving, suspenseful and bizarre, with another great performance by Kate Winslet and what may be Jim Carrey's best performance ever.

3. Kinsey (Bill Condon)

A remarkable film with an outstanding performance by Liam Neeson and an intriguing subject: sex research. Neeson plays the mild, tweedy-looking academic Dr. Alfred Kinsey who asked questions about human sexuality no one had asked before. A significant historical figure and a pivotal time in mid-twentieth century America, the film stands up both as history and biography. From a cinematic view, it is also one of the most skillfully made and well-acted biopics ever.

4. A Very Long Engagement (Jean Pierre Jeunet)

'Amelie' star Audrey Tautou and director Jean Pierre Jeunet re-teamed for this French-language tale of a polio-afflicted young woman (Tautou) searching for her lost fiancé (Gaspard Ulliel) in post-WWI France. Wonderful period details fill this mystery puzzle story that always keeps you guessing. Both an indictment of the horror of war and an



Aviation legend and visionary Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio) sets an intense gaze on a model airplane. Martin Scorsese directed 'The Aviator,' which stars DiCaprio and Cate Blanchet and chronicles the eccentric and brilliant life of Hughes.

affirmation of the power of love, it retains some of the charm and quirkiness of the director's other work while also giving an unflinching look at the gruesomeness of battle.

5. Vera Drake (Mike Leigh)

Actress Imelda Staunton gives what may be the best performance of the year as Vera Drake, a sweet-

faced, kind-hearted 1950s working class English housewife and domestic, who also moonlights as a back-alley abortionist, in the days when out-of-wedlock pregnancy was unspeakable and abortion was illegal.

see SILVER SCREEN, page 12

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Historic Crown Candy Kitchen serves sandwiches, sweets and sundaes

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

Crown Candy
Located downtown at 1401 St. Louis Ave.

GRADE
B

If you want to eat at a historic St. Louis restaurant, eat at Crown Candy Kitchen, not far from downtown St. Louis.

My guest and I arrived at the restaurant on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., right in the middle of the lunch rush. We sat at a table a few feet from an authentic working jukebox. We ordered our drinks, a coke and chocolate shake, and perused the menu. The menu has several items to choose from, including sandwiches, soups, salads, extras, malts and shakes, ice

cream and sundaes. We both ordered a turkey special sandwich.

As we waited for our food, I checked out the restaurant. It resembles an old-fashioned soda shop. The jukebox is in the middle of the booths and plays all kinds of old tunes. There are two counters: one to pay at and one to order candy. There are different candies and chocolates sold. The candy is not sold at less than a quarter of a

pound. There are old fashioned posters that hang on the walls. Small mirrors hang on the walls by the booths. Small jukeboxes sit on the tables. Customers used to put their money into these machines, make their selection, and listen to their favorite songs without having to leave the table. Now, the old machines do not work and patrons must go to the newer jukebox on the floor to play their favorite oldies.

Our food arrived after a fifteen minute wait, which was pretty good considering how busy the restaurant was. The sandwiches came with chips and a pickle spear. The turkey, bacon, lettuce and tomato were all fresh. The sandwich comes with Miracle Whip, but regular mayonnaise is available if patrons prefer it. Our total bill came to less than 20 dollars.

The service at Crown Candy Kitchen was good. The waitress was nice and checked back with us frequently. She did not rush us to order and made us feel welcome. The gentleman behind the counter who rang us out and sold me a souvenir shirt was nice as well.

Crown Candy Kitchen has been open since 1913. It was opened by a pair of best friends, Harry Karandzeiff and Pete Jugaloff. Karandzeiff's son George took over in the 1950s. Now, his three sons Andy, Tommy and Mike run it. They sometimes have help from



Erica Burrus/The Current

Brave visitors can take the Crown Candy Kitchen challenge by attempting to join the five malt club. To gain entry to the club, a patron must drink five malts in thirty minutes.

their families. It is easy to pick up on the family dynamic while watching the employees interact with each other.

Crown Candy is perhaps best known for their candy. They sell chocolates and hard candies. The restaurant also has a "five malt" club. If a patron can drink five malts in thirty

minutes, all five malts are free. The best time was 18 minutes. One patron even drank six malts in 25 minutes. Crown Candy clothing sold as well.

Crown Candy Kitchen is located at 1401 St. Louis Ave. Stop in for good food, good service, and good fun. It is a family-run business that caters to the family. You will feel welcome.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Crown Candy Kitchen is one of America's oldest soda fountain establishments, selling ice cream, candy and more. The shop is located at 1401 St. Louis Ave. in North St. Louis City.

Documentary films target media, politics and society

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

outstanding documentary films. These films were visually dynamic works that could stand on their own as pieces of filmmaking, and also as powerful non-fiction. It was in many ways a watershed year for the cinematic quality of documentary filmmaking.

All of the films on this list are non-fiction and factually based, though some of them tend more to opinion pieces than balanced, dispassionate journalism. In fact, documentaries going back to the earliest examples, like the silent "Nanook of the North," have points of view. Only when facts are so distorted as to be untrue, in service of a viewpoint, does a film cross the line into propaganda like Leni Riefenstahl's "Triumph of the Will." You may disagree with the viewpoint of political films on this list but it is hard to deny their significance as pieces of filmmaking. Here are my picks for best documentary films of

the year.
1. Fahrenheit 9/11
Whether you like Michael Moore or not, it is hard to deny the impact of a documentary that rivaled narrative

films at the box office. Rather than presenting new facts (I had already read everything in the film), Moore reminded his audience about some things about Bush and his term as

president. Those who think we found WMDs in Iraq or Saddam had something to do with the 9/11 attacks were not pleased.

2. The Corporation
The corporation is a recent legal invention that transforms a business into a legal "person," but if the typical corporation were given a personality test, it would be a considered a sociopath. This documentary examines the implications of that personality test for our world.

3. Tarnation
With astonishing editing and inventive use of material, Jonathan Caouette creates a film about his dysfunctional, tragic family that is filled with self-deprecating humor and human insight and filled with hypnotic visuals.

4. The Control Room
The film gives us a look inside the Arab-language news service Al

Jazeera and reporting generally during the Iraq War. Intriguing look outside our usual view point, especially when it becomes clear that the Al Jazeera producers see themselves as the "Fox News" of the Arab world, serving their listeners in the same way.

5. Fog of War
Errol Morris' extended interview with former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, a major architect of the Vietnam War is a visual tour-de-force and the first in the year's series of politically themed documentaries. The filmmaker uses archival clips, footage of the interview and a bag of cinematic tricks to create a dynamic, powerful, visual feast to underline the topic. The parallels to the Iraq War and even Rumsfeld are chilling. A must see film.

Honorable Mentions include Touching the Void, Weapons of Mass Deception and Super Size Me.



Photo courtesy rottentomatoes.com
Director Michael Moore chats with a police officer in Moore's controversial documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Some films worthy of recognition did not make the final cut

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

tion for and making of J.M. Barrie's play "Peter Pan." The emphasis on parenting and adults recapturing their childhoods gives the story sweetness. It may play a bit with the facts but the result is delightful storytelling. Both Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet give strong performances.

13. Sideways (Alexander Payne)
It seems like nearly every critic put this film on their Top Ten list. While I thought it was a very good, real-life story about friendship and re-evaluating your life, and very funny too, it did not make the cut on my list. This writer's film was more a good story than a cinematic delight and was edged out of my list by more visual films. But nice realistic performances by all the cast.

14. Garden State (Zach Braff)
Braff wrote, directed and starred in this surprising and funny film about an overly drugged actor (Braff) sleepwalking through life until he meets a home town oddball (Natalie Portman). Writing, directing and starring in a film are no small feat, but it was his first film too. Very appealing film with quirky characters, plus strong visuals and score.

15. Incredibles (Brad Bird)
A very creative, funny and entertaining animated movie about a family of superheroes in a kind of witness

protection program that requires them to hide their skills, this film is fun (and funny) for both kids and adults.

16. House of Flying Daggers (Zhang Yimou)

Every bit as colorful and cinematic as "Hero," Zhang's previous film released in the U.S. this year, though it was made in 2002. This one is another Chinese language history tale, albeit in a later time period. More romantic than the martial arts themed "Hero" but it is every bit as beautiful. Stars Zhang Ziyi, who also appeared in "Hero" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," as a blind member of a secret martial arts society.

17. Spiderman 2 (Sam Raimi)

Even better than the first, it has a stronger story and strong acting by Tobey Maguire and Alfred Molina, with the same great effects and

action.
18. Bad Education (Pedro Almodovar)

A Spanish-language film that is a kind of stylish 60s film noirish mystery about two childhood friends, one of whom was abused by a priest at their Catholic school. They reunite as adults, one now a filmmaker (Fele Martinez) and the other an actor and drag queen (Gael Garcia Bernal).

19. Closer (Mike Nichols)
Talk about adults behaving badly. Two couples intersect when the man in one pair (Jude Law) develops a wandering eye that fixes on the other's partner (Julia Roberts). Natalie Portman and Clive Owen round out the pairings, in a vicious drama of deceit and betrayals.

“
A very creative, funny and entertaining animated movie about a family of superheroes in a kind of witness protection program that requires them to hide their skills.
”

The Incredibles, In a nutshell

Mainstream cast but art house story. Stylish storytelling, very strong acting but emotionally difficult to watch.

20. Before Sunset (Richard Linklater)

A much more satisfying indie film about relationships than "Closer." Nearly a decade after they met in Linklater's "Before Sunrise," Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) meet again and engage in a long discussion about life and love, as well as a romantic tug-of-war, as they walk around Paris.

Here are a few more worthy films of the year, divided by style.

Mainstream:

Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events (Brad Silberling)

Jim Carrey does a terrific job as the bad-actor villain and the film has a delightful Tim Burtonesque, mixed-time period look in a successful adaptation of the popular, gloomily funny children's books.

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (Kerry Conran)

The technical "wow" film of the year, "Sky Captain" is an Indiana Jones-type, pre-WWII Buck Roger tale, where only the actors were real and the rest was computer-generated.

Technically amazing and pretty challenging for the actors.

Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (Wes Anderson)

Anderson's latest film has a similar feel to his "Royal Tenenbaums" but does not come together as well. Still, good film with both quirky comic and touching elements and good cast that includes Bill Murray, Cate Blanchet, Owen Wilson, and Anjelica Huston.

Indie/art house/foreign:

Maria Full of Grace (Joshua Marston)

Catalina Sandino Moreno garnered a lot of attention starring as a Latin American teen recruited to be a "mule" for a drug runner, in a powerful real-world drama that is not what you expect.

Dogville (Lars Von Trier)

People either loved or hated it. Only for the art house crowd, this stylized film starts out looking like a filmed version of "Our Town," with chalk outlines for the buildings instead of sets, in a Depression era small town but it morphs into a nightmarish metaphor for economic power, oppression, and abuse. A disturbing, angry film from the Danish director and a brave performance by Nicole Kidman.

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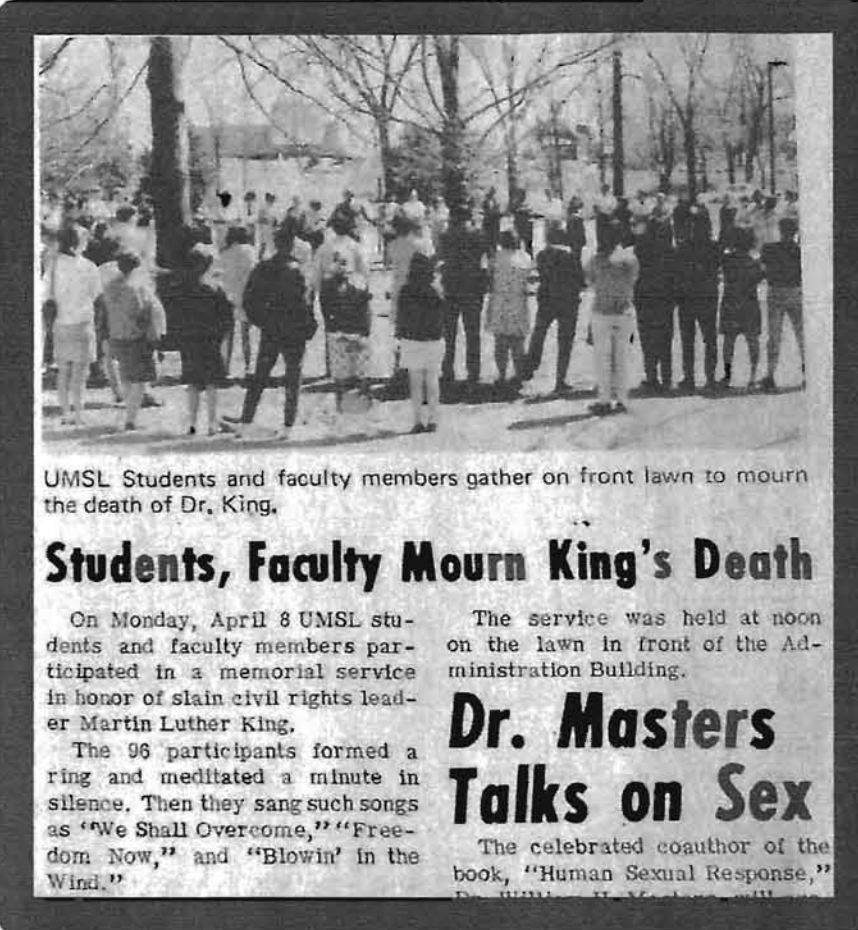
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King and other leaders are remembered for their work

BY ERICKA HARRIS
Staff Writer

Although January is the month that people all across America celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., many will also begin to honor numerous significant African-Americans for the upcoming Black History Month.

Jan. 17 is the official date that Americans pay respect to the life, accomplishments and work of King, but Feb. 1 marks the beginning of Black History Month. Born in Atlanta, Ga., the educated King was a bright student and graduated from Morehouse College (B.A., 1948), Cozer Theological Seminary (B.D., 1951) and Boston University (Ph.D., 1955). King, the son of a pastor, was ordained at the age of 19 and became minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala.



Martin Luther King Jr.

King was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement. Elected President of the Montgomery Improvement Association, King led the organization to the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for 381 days from 1955 to 1956. He was also a founder and president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1957 to 1968.

King led many movements and marches which brought significant changes to the chemistry of the American society. For example, as a result of the Selma to Montgomery march, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 went to Congress.

King's nonviolent philosophy and strategies for rational, non-destructive social change pushed this nation to rearrange its priorities.

King's "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered at the March on Washington in 1963, is considered among the most memorable utterances of influential leaders in America.

Many Americans today reap the benefits of the hard work and efforts put forth by King. However, Jan. 17 will be a day that appreciative citizens will remember King's struggle.

"Without Martin Luther King Junior's efforts, African American people wouldn't have a lot of the privileges that they have today. He has strengthened the African-American community. For me, his words provide ongoing inspiration," St. Louis resident Nichole Haynes said.

Terry Harris, another resident of St. Louis, said, "I think it is important to recognize the birth of Martin Luther King Jr. because, in my opinion, he is the greatest and most influential African American in the history of America. Not only did he benefit minorities in America, but everyone else as well."

Along with King's contributions to the Civil Rights movement, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Ida B. Wells and Malcolm X are other leaders who dedicated their lives to improving and impacting black history.

Tubman is honored for her part in establishing the Underground Railroad and transporting slaves to states where slavery had been abolished. Parks is credited for the creation of the Montgomery Improvement Association and putting an end to segregation.

As reflected by his courage and persistence to work toward equality in a society that did not want to accept him because of the color of his skin, King was a man who lived up to his word.

King once said, "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." King died fighting for equality, and next Monday his fight will be remembered.

The front page of the April 25, 1968 issue of *The Current* (left) shows a small article (right) on a campus memorial service for Martin Luther King, Jr.

Old *Current* clippings show UMSL reactions to King's assassination and his legacy

Office of Equal Opportunity continues to honor Martin Luther King with annual celebration

BY M.K. STALLINGS
Staff Writer

Archived in an old edition of *The Current* are accounts of a student body made restless by a civil rights nightmare.

Dr. Martin Luther King, celebrated as a champion for equality and a practitioner of non-violent protest, was assassinated April 4, 1968.

In the wake of the fallen civil rights leader, "blackness" emerged on the young campus, marking a change in how UM-St. Louis students discussed race in their college newspaper.

In the April 25, 1968 edition of *The Current*, several editorials showed a time at UM-St. Louis when racial tension was evident and openly critical of social norms.

Jill Holtz, a UM-St. Louis student at the time of King's assassination, wrote one such editorial. She viewed King's death as more meaningful than that of President John F. Kennedy.

"[King's] position was a more precarious one, his standing a more unusual one, and his death of a more real implication," Holtz wrote.

Yet, for Holtz, a rally held for Dr. King at UM-St. Louis did not reflect the importance of the tragedy.

"The rally... was feeble, embarrassing, almost shameful... a mere token display rather than a real tribute," Holtz wrote.

She described the King rally as small, unsuccessful and separatist. She wrote of how whites feared being blamed for King's assassination by blacks and how "belligerent" blacks were all too willing to blame whites.

"The rally did more to separate than join," Holtz wrote.

Racial separation was also the subject of a short opinion column written by The Current in that same issue.

"Have you been to the 'Soul City'... where about one quarter of the space has been appropriated to those who have the 'wrong' color," wrote *The Current*, referring to a socially divided campus and cafeteria.

Although many Americans fought alongside King in various political arenas to reverse segregation laws, changes were slow to affect the social climate of a 1968

UM-St. Louis campus community. Amid racial tensions, some African American students founded the Association of Black Collegians, which is still active today, "for the purpose of fostering better racial, academic and social conditions."

"There can be no denial for the need of such an organization on this campus, because the problems on this campus, though of a subtle nature, nevertheless exist," wrote Robert Mansco, one of the founding members of the Association of Black Collegians.

Mansco's editorial argued for academic achievement through collective action. Nearly 35 years later, Kewanaka Irving, senior, marketing, echoed Mansco's argument as important to achieving King's dream.

"Right now I see commitment from students to their education. From there, change must come," Irving said.

When asked if racial problems exist

today, Irving replied, "Race is always valid, [but] I don't want to discuss the problem," Irving said, "I want to discuss the solution."

The solution may be addressed at the annual Martin Luther King Holiday Observance, which will take place in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Monday, Jan. 17 at 9 a.m.

Susan L. Taylor, the chief editorial executive of *Essence Magazine*, is one of several prominent people who will speak during the program. Orinthia Montague, Assistant to the Vice Provost of Student Affairs and Director of Student Life, believes Taylor's career in media is an example of the voice the civil rights movement has afforded people of color.

"Susan Taylor... is a dynamic individual," Montague said. "Her magazine gives African American women a place to find answers to questions and issues which may be unique to their culture while seeing positive images portrayed."

Deborah Burris, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, which sponsors the event, gave other reasons for attending the annual program.

"In addition to Ms. Taylor, the audience will be inspired by the UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory, the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra," Burris said. "This will be a celebration befitting a King."

“ [King's] position was a more precarious one, his standing a more unusual one, and his death of a more real implication. ”

- Jill Holtz, UM-St. Louis student during King's assassination, comparing King's death to JFK's

SILVER SCREEN, from page 10

The film has a restrained period realism, fully drawn everyman characters, and simple but powerful story. It is a complex and thought-provoking look back to another time. One of the acclaimed director's best.

6. Hero (Zhang Yi-mou)

A Chinese-language re-telling of a legend about the first Chinese Emperor, Zhang's historical epic film is also a delight of colorful, cinematic artistry, ballet-like martial arts action, and dramatic emotion. Through a series of

Rashomon-like flashbacks, the nameless Hero (Jet Li) recounts to the Emperor (Daoming Chen) how he defeated three assassins (Tony Leung Chui Wai, Maggie Cheung, and Donnie Yen). Shots of jaw-dropping visual beauty, one after another, should help it supplant "Crouching Tiger" in the minds of American filmgoers.

7. Motorcycle Diaries (Walter Salles)

Based on actual diaries, the Spanish-language film follows two young afflu-

ent Argentineans in the 1950s as they set out to explore South America from the back of an old motorcycle. One of the friends, asthmatic medical student Ernesto Guevara de la Serna (Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal), would later become the revolutionary Che Guevara. Since the film only carries us up to the beginnings of Guevara's transformation into who he would become, it gives us a tale that is less about politics and more about discovering the larger world and one's place in that

world. Part visually gorgeous, this film goes from a comic tale of buddies on the road to a moving story of self-discovery.

8. Kill Bill V2 (Quentin Tarantino)

I liked this character- and story-driven half of Kill Bill better than the action movie-reference drenched first half, as the bloody Bride (Uma Thurman) continued her revenge quest. Together, the two halves make one heck of a film, and probably my per-

sonal favorite from Quentin Tarantino.

9. Hotel Rwanda (Terry George)

This film will not appear here until later this month but this is a stunningly good film about humanity and courage. A powerful, true story about a hotel manager (Don Cheadle) who sheltered hundreds of people in his hotel during the Rwandan genocides, the film is a dramatic, gripping story and a meaningful commentary on the world. Don Cheadle's performance is wonderful.

10. Twilight Samurai (Yoji Yamada)

This small, Japanese language film about a low-level, widower samurai (Hiroyuki Sanada) struggling to support his family at the end of Japan's Samurai period. Despite being a samurai, he works as a poorly paid bureaucrat and prefers being a farmer. It has elements of "To Kill a Mockingbird" combined with terrific swordplay action sequences, as the gentle single father is forced to find the hero within. A local sleeper hit.

FILM TRENDS, from page 10

It was a big year for documentaries but it was also a big year for biographical films. Biopics included Kevin Spacey's loving tribute to Bobby Darin "Beyond the Sea," "Kinsey" about sex research pioneer Alfred Kinsey and the Ray Charles biopic "Ray." If you include films based on real people and events, the list expands to include "Finding Neverland" ("Peter Pan" playwright J. M. Barrie), "Motorcycle Diaries" (the medical student who became Che Guevara), "Friday Night Lights" (Texas high school football coach's one year experience) and "Hotel Rwanda" (based on real events during the genocides in Rwanda).

Every year, there are fewer original films and more sequels, remakes and movies inspired by TV shows, video/computer games and comic books. I can hardly wait for "Grand Theft Auto: the Movie" - just kidding, not yet in the works... I think. The surprise this year was the number of sequels nearly as good as

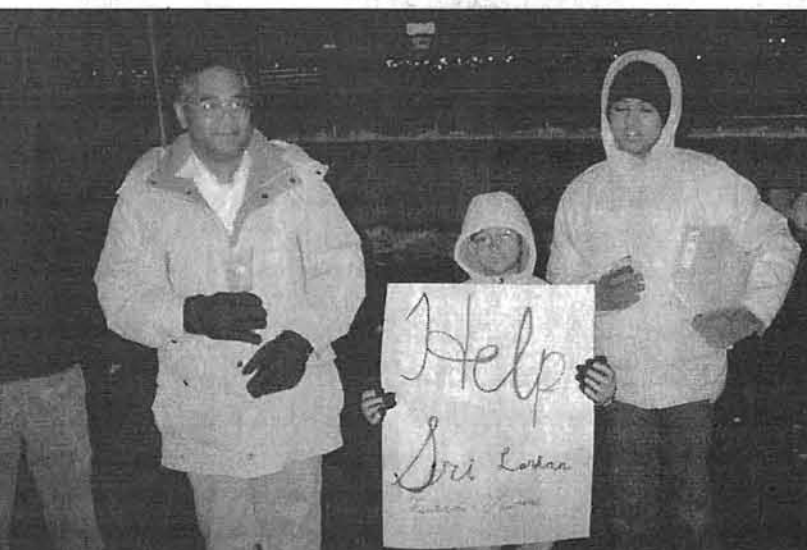
or better than the originals. The best sequels included "Spiderman 2," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" (the third and the best) and "Shrek 2." Also good were "Meet the Fockers," "Bourne Supremacy," and even "Bridget Jones: Edge of Reason." The excellent indie film "Before Sunset" was a sequel, of sorts, to Richard Linklater's indie film hit of ten years earlier, "Before Sunrise."

Remakes mine previous films for material. Although remaking a less successful film with untapped potential can yield a winner, most remakes are rarely as good as the original, whether they are English language versions of hit foreign films or updates of older films. Remaking really great classics seems particularly pointless since the originals are already, well, really great classics. The "Manchurian Candidate" remake was very good, although it still did not think match the original. "Flight of the Phoenix," a remake of a James

Stewart movie, was reasonably entertaining, mostly thanks to Giovanni Ribisi's mysterious, weird character, and the same was true for "Shall We Dance," a remake of a Japanese film, thanks to Richard Gere. Remakes of "Alfie" and "The Grudge" were less successful.

Tastes change and not every hit movie holds up over time. If we are lucky as film fans, we get a few films in a year that stand up in the long run, the future classics. Hopefully, we will see the trend to more good documentaries continue this year. The trend of remakes, sequels and TV show-game inspired films are likely to continue this year but maybe Hollywood will take note of the surprise success of two real independent films, "Fahrenheit 9/11" and "Passion of the Christ," and open up their minds about what is a good idea for a film. More fresh, original ideas for films and less of the same old thing would make movie theaters be fun for film fans and for filmmakers.

TSUNAMI, from page 10



Sachith Gamlath, 8, a third grader at Francis Howell Independence Elementary in St. Charles, braves freezing temperatures on Saturday night at the Arch. Gamlath displayed a sign he made for a candlelight vigil honoring victims of the tsunami which devastated Southeast Asia.

raise awareness about the disaster that exceeds the immediate future. An estimated 30,000 Sri Lankans lost their lives, and nearly 1 million are homeless. The total death toll brought on by the tsunami is approximately 150,000.

"A lot of people have helped, and we are grateful," said Gamlath. "But after the television coverage and aid agencies are gone we still have to re-

build homes, schools and hospitals." Sarath Gunawardhana, a retired MetroLink employee and member of the Sri-Lankan Association, is concerned about the orphans in the devastated nation.

"Everyone knows someone who lost someone there. Maybe a brother is okay, but the sister was washed away. These people are in agony," said Gunawardhana.

His 17-year-old son fasted for several days to save money that could be donated to the survivors.

The Sri Lanka Association is accepting donations to aid in relief efforts. Visit www.stslrslankan.org for more information. The American Red Cross has also developed a comprehensive relief plan. Visit www.redcross.org for information about how to assist.



Plangent

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STUDENT TRAVEL & BEYOND

All classifieds are due via email by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the publication date. In addition to the name(s) of the advertiser, each classified submitted must contain a student number or faculty/staff department and title(s) prior to publication.

For Sale

Selling a Pro-Form treadmill
only 1 year old. It has the space-saver fold away option for easy storage. There are several different work out programs to chose from or you can customize your own. Selling for \$500 OBO. email: jsdae9@studentmail.umsel.edu

Adobe Software 4 Sale
Adobe Photoshop 6, Illustrator 9, Premier, and After Effects. ALL IN ONE BUNDLE! For MAC. Make an offer to 314-521-2072 or Josh@joshrenaud.com STUDENTS and PROFESSORS ONLY!

IBM Thinkpad T-20, P3-700.
Brand new from the manufacturer. Specs: DVD, a4.1" led, 160 ram. Include Micosoft Office and Adobe Acrobat CD's. Asking price for IBM Thinkpad and CD's \$720. Also selling brand new HP Office jet 5510. All-in-one printer, scanner, and copier. Asking price \$180. Call Paul at (314) 721-3499 or (314) 540-1531. E-mail paruchal@aol.com.

'95 Black Jeep Wrangler
Great condition \$6,000
New Tires
New soft top
For information, call Erica 314-680-7969

Geely 50cc Scooter-black (NEW). Electric start, automatic transmission, two stroke engine. \$1000 or best offer. Call Fred 314-713-8903. Leave a message if no answer.

Brand new scooter. Won at a contest, less than 10 miles. 2004 Kymco ZX50 Super Fever - red. Contact Cathy or Edward Summers at (636) 566-6159.

2001 Pontiac Grand Am GT
White, Fully Loaded, Tinted Windows
Excellent Condition
\$9,500.00
(636)456-8817

'02 Ford Ranger, 16K miles, show room new, warranty, V6, auto, a/c, bedliner, \$9,500. Call (314)838-4190.

'1992 Honda Accord, Ex Coupe, 2 door, low mileage, in terrific condition, original owner, \$900. Call (314)412-5352.

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Loveseats for sale
Two Loveseats
Perfect Condition.
\$500 Two for one
Call (314) 496-2353

Mazda 626 for sale
1995 Mazda 626 white, 4 door, stick shift. \$2000 Call Jackie @ (314)438-8048

Ms. PacMan Arcade Game
Stand-up arcade machine for sale. Current vendors sell for \$750. I am asking only \$600. Perfect for basements, parties! Call 314-517-2736.

'99 Mercury Cougar
Great Condition
White, Fully loaded, 6 disk CD changer, Sun-roof, Leather interior, Spoiler, Automatic Transmission
\$8900- For more information, call Jill at 314-303-2777

DVD's and player
A Knight's Tale, Interview with a Vampire, Last Samurai, Blow. \$15. TV + DVD player just 2 months old. TV is 19-inch Toshiba, DVD is Samsung \$150. Call 314 516 7680 or e-mail c_braan@hotmail.com

Housing

Roommate Wanted at Mansion Hill
A 2-bedrooms apartment is now available for one or two people. It is located on UMSL north campus (5 mins walk to MSC, Mark Twain). The UMSL shuttle bus is available. The rent is \$575/month. The apartment will be filled very soon, so please contact me (Surat: 314-398-1925) as soon as possible.

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The Pasadena Apartments - 3901 Canterbury (63121). 1 bedroom, 600 ft, starts at \$500 and 2 bedroom, 700 ft, - \$600 per month. Heat, hot water, wireless DSL, parking included. 0.6 mile from campus, renovated units, wood flooring.
Call John (314) 651-0349

Roommate Needed ASAP
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Housing

big back yrd. Chillen, fun, and clean! Call Jeff 314)378-3057 jas5f5@studentmail.umsel.edu

Apartments for Rent
Minutes from campus, several locations to choose from. 3 rooms and a kitchen. Stove and refrig. included. Rents range from \$385 to \$455 a month. For details leave a message (314) 772-7612

Roommate wanted
Share house across the street from UMSL. Furnished bedroom, shared kitchen, living room, dining room. Washer/Dryer, Central air, Microwave, Dishwasher, off street parking. Rent is \$350/month, includes utilities. Contact Ann: 314.381.2238

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Come spend the summer working in the mountains of Arizona. United Christian Youth Camp seeks strong Christians willing to work hard and have fun. Contact UCYC at (877) 945-0391 or www.ucyc.com

Math tutors needed:
Math tutors are needed to work a few remaining hours in the CAD Math Lab (425 SSB). Applicants must have completed through Calculus III or through Basic Calc and Business Stats. Call Dorothy Gotway at 314-516-5181, come by 506 Tower or email dgotway@umsel.edu.

Looking For Part-time Work?????
Part-time Office Assistant needed for filing and other office duties. Candidates must have good organization skills. We will work reasonably around school schedules. 20-30 hours per week. Hourly pay. Please mail resumes to: Resumes, Attn: Erica #3 Hollenberg Ct Bridgeton, MO 63044

HELP NEEDED!
We need a Barback and cocktail waitresses. Great Money close to Campus. Contact Kevin call: or 314-427-1616

Looking For A Way To Give Your Resume A Boost?
Come share your knowledge, skills and companionship with youth at after school computer programs in Pagedale or Webster Groves. For more information contact Mary Rocchio 314-516-7095/ rocciom@missouri.edu

Help Wanted

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Big L Chop Suey Chinese Restaurant at 8949 Natural Bridge Rd in Bel Acres Shopping Center (1/4 mile east of I170). We provide a variety of lunch combos and daily specials with free soda. Check out our menu and pictures at: www.geocities.com/BigLRestaurant.

Do you compare yourself to others and feel you don't measure up? Are you always on a diet? Have you ever made yourself vomit? To learn more about an on-campus group for eating concerns contact Lori @ 516-5711 or Michelle @ 516-5414

Services

Avon Calling
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Purchasing a home? Refinancing your mortgage? Paying high rent?
Call me today for FREE pre-qualification and find out how you can purchase your own home and start building equity. Devang Vora, Mortgage Consultant, American Mortgage Company, Office: (314) 423-0351 Cell: (314) 541-5516 Email dvora@amcmort.com

Wellness Resource Center
Are you interested in a support group for adult children of alcoholics? To learn more about free on campus options for students, please contact the Wellness Resource Center at 516-5380 or email Michelle Schmidt at russellms@umsel.edu

Johnson Investigative Services
General and background investigations. Cheating spouses, marriage, death, and birth issues. Find lost loves and birth parents. Contact Olivia Johnson. P.O. Box 432 Arnold, MO 63010. pjohanson@sbcglobal.net. (888)309-9786. Free initial consultation.

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Need help with Thai, Tagalog and Cebuano
I am trying to find Christmas cards written in the languages of Thai, Tagalog, and Cebuano. If you can help me locate these items as soon as possible, it will be greatly appreciated. Please send an e-mail to Chris at cclindberg@yahoo.com.

Interested in making extra money? Or having a party? Earn \$100-/+ a night by selling Party Lite candles or host your own show to get free products! It's fun and easy! Please contact Susie at smlg84@umsel.edu.

All classified advertisements are searchable online.
www.thecurrentonline.com



St. Louis isn't short on great places to get your fill

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

I have had the privilege of visiting many restaurants in the past year. As the reviewer of restaurants for *The Current*, it has been my duty to eat for the readers, weeding the good from the bad. Here is my list for the top ten restaurants for 2004.

10) Gingham's

This restaurant in St. Charles is excellent for late-night stops and filling up after drinking. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert can be ordered at any hour. The items on the menu are relatively inexpensive, averaging between \$5 and \$10. They are open 24 hours. Visit them at 1881 Sherman Ave.

9) Seamus McDaniel's

This Dogtown eatery serves up delicious Irish cuisine and good service. The restaurant is good for family affairs, casual dining and business meals. It is also a good place to just sit around and drink. This restaurant is tucked away on Tamm Ave, near Clayton Ave.

8) Norton's

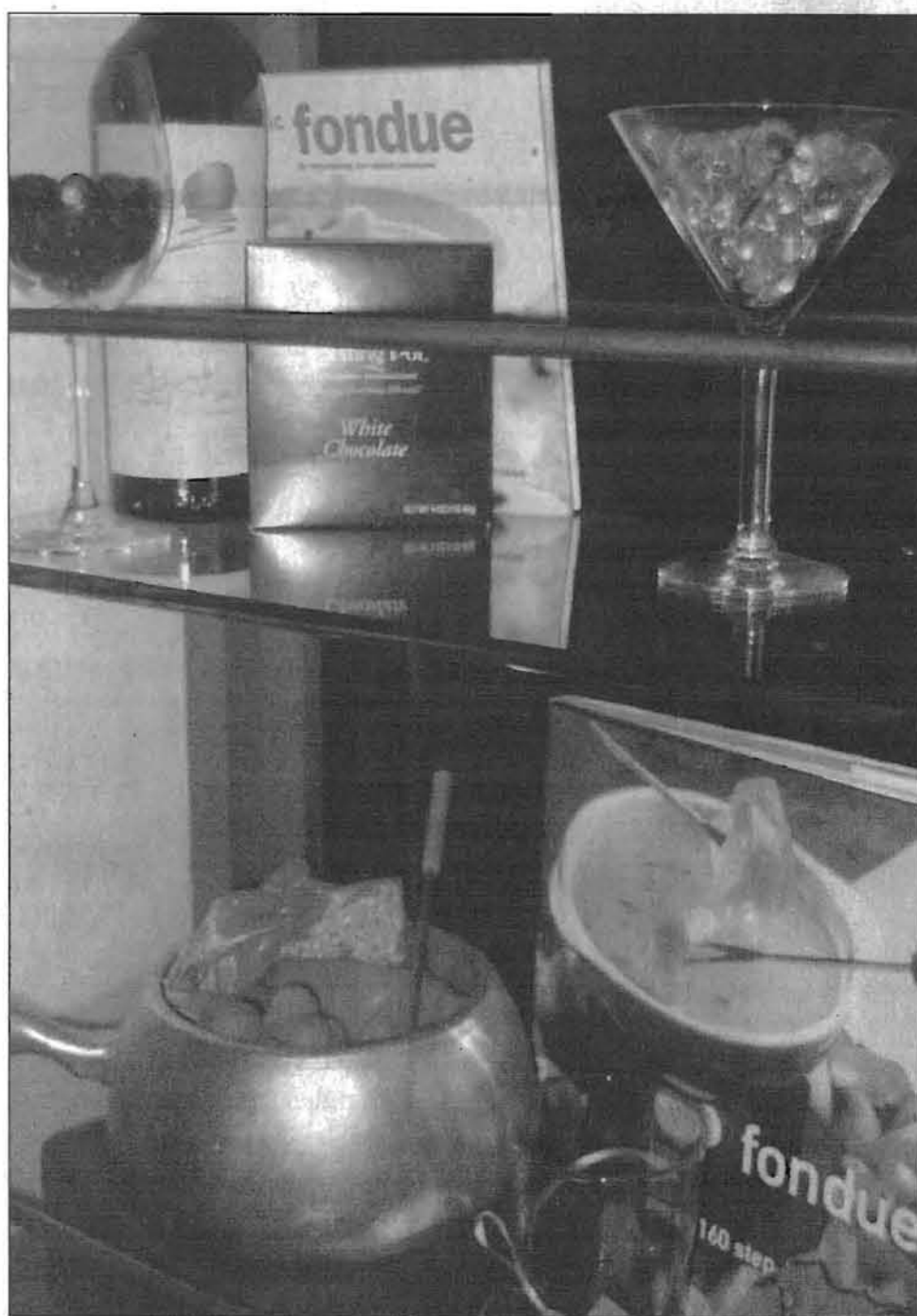
This Cajun restaurant in Soulard offers up to 40 items on their menu. These items vary from \$6 to \$12. The dress code is casual or dressy. This restaurant is also good to visit for dates, family outings or catching up with friends. Norton's is located at 808 Geyer.

7) Old Spaghetti Factory

This is a good restaurant to visit to calm that pasta craving. Menu items range between \$5 and \$10. Items include pastas, salads, appetizers and desserts. There is a menu for children as well. Customers can sit at tables, booths and even a trolley in the middle of the restaurant. This restaurant has two locations: 727 N. First St. in downtown St. Louis and 17384 Chesterfield Airport Rd. in Chesterfield.

6) Reynold's Roadhouse

A nice trucker restaurant that serves good hearty sandwiches. This restaurant is for casu-



Erica Burrus/ The Current

The Current's Best Restaurant of 2004, The Melting Pot, creates melted cheese and chocolate into tastebud art.

al dining. The restaurant is open seven days a week but only until mid-afternoon. Menu items include breakfast items, salads, burgers, sandwiches, a kids' menu and desserts. Items cost between five and seven dollars. Visit them at 11488 Dorsett Rd. in Maryland Heights, or at 12480 St. Charles Rock Rd in Bridgeton.

5) House of Wong

This Asian eatery in downtown Clayton is a good stop during a day of shopping in the area. The restaurant is bright and cheery and the staff is friendly. Dishes are served as whole portions or half portions. There are over 75 items to

choose from. These items include appetizers, soups and salads, entrees, vegetables, poultry, beef, and pork. This restaurant can be found at 46 N. Central in Clayton, or 12366 Olive in Creve Coeur.

4) Ice and Fuel

Ice and Fuel is a good restaurant to visit on game day. Patrons can chow down while watching a big screen TV. It is also a good place to take the team after a good game. The menu selections include appetizers, burgers, sandwiches, pizza, soups and salads, hot dogs, steaks, desserts and a children's menu. Bring your friends, bring your family or bring a date. Stop in at 215 N. Kirkwood Rd. in Kirkwood, or at 1276 Old Orchard Center in Ballwin.

3) Bahama Breeze

This restaurant is a tropical treat. This Caribbean-style restaurant is decorated accordingly and can be found in Chesterfield. Menu items include samplers, wood-fired pizza, soups and side salads, entree salads, sandwiches, seafood, chicken and pork, beef, and pasta. There is also a daily specials menu and over 250 drinks. This is a restaurant that has something for everyone. Visit them in Chesterfield at 550 Chesterfield Center Parkway.

2) Llwellyn's Pub

Llwellyn's Pub is a restaurant that serves Celtic cuisine. The menu offers over 30 items, including starters, soups and salads, the sandwich board, sides, traditional dishes, puddings and kids' choices. Patrons can sit down for a meal or sit at the bar and drink. Llwellyn's Pub offers some of the best food around. Visit them in Old Webster or in the Central West End.

1) The Melting Pot

This fancy restaurant may be a bit pricey, but the visit is well worth it. The food is filling and the service is good. The food is bought out fresh and raw and then prepared right at your table, so patrons do not have to worry about cold food. Although the booths and tables are relatively close to each other, patrons still get a lot of privacy. Patrons leave feeling full. Visit The Melting Pot at 6683 Delmar in the U. City Loop and dip into something different.



Llwellyn's Pub



Norton's Cafe



Old Spaghetti Factory