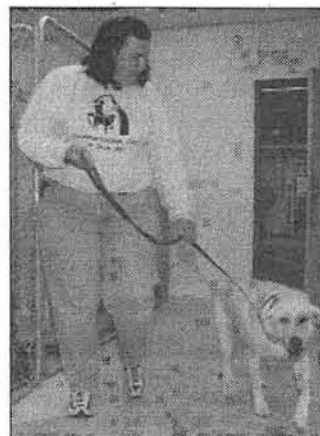


More than just man's best friend: These dogs help their owners make it through day-to-day living. Find out more about these 'support dogs' inside.

◀ See page 3



http://www.umsi.edu/studentlife/current

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

What's Inside



Yee-haw: Get all the details about the St. Louis International Film Festival, featuring films like "Snake Tales" (pictured above).
▲ See pages 6-7

U-Wire News

Florida divers carve pumpkins underwater

BY JENNY L. ALLEN
Independent Florida Alligator

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The steep, concrete stairwell was damp with dew Saturday morning as T.J. MacBlane, 22, and his wife Shannon, 20, slowly descended into the cave, taking baby steps the entire way.

Both were in full diving gear, from their black masks to the tips of their Tusa fins. As they inched to the edge of the dive platform in the cool morning air, T.J. made one final comment.

"Mine is going to be better than yours," he said and laughed, then eased into the 72-degree water.

The couple, both certified in scuba diving in April, were two of 25 participants competing in the fifth annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest held at Devil's Den in Williston.

The contest, sponsored by the Aquatic Center, was created by owner Mary Ann Heck.

"I began this contest for divers who want a little change and some fun and excitement in their dives," she said. "Divers are always looking for newness, and we tried to create that for them."

The divers were of all ages, ranging from a newly certified 12-year-old to an experienced 60-year-old.

"It doesn't matter the level of expertise," Heck said. "The goal of the contest is just one thing - to simply have fun."

In 25 feet of water, participants knelt on the bottom and began creating their masterpieces while onlookers gathered around the cave's chimney 40 feet above to watch.

The audience's hoots, catcalls and applause determined T.J. to be the overall winner. He took home a new set of diving gear including a mask, fins, snorkel and a T-shirt.

The contest, which has grown from four to 25 people in the last five years, was a huge success, Heck said.

"A diver is always looking for different kind of experiences, like reefs, wrecks, spear fishing and now carving pumpkins," Heck said. "The unusual activity is what sparks the interest of the divers."

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SGA names Wolfe acting president

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
of The Current staff

Interim vice-president Steven Wolfe was named acting president of the Student Government Association at an Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday.

Wolfe described his appointment as an emergency measure taken to deal with the meeting scheduled to have taken place over the weekend, in which the student body presidents of the UM-System were to meet to select a new student representative to the Board of Curators. Darwin Butler, the elected student body president of UM - St. Louis, is currently in jail awaiting a hearing for violations of his work release agreement.

Wolfe's appointment was announced in a letter from the SGA's Executive Committee to the Intercampus Student Council, which states that he will remain acting president of the SGA "until the result of President Darwin Butler's hearing on Nov. 4 is known."

The letter states its purpose is to "confirm the constitutionality of several items currently under dispute, and lend legitimacy to our sending of Acting President Steven Wolfe to the selection process for the new student

Wolfe will attend meeting of UM student body presidents in place of Butler



Wolfe

curator . . ."

Wolfe became interim vice-president following the withdrawal of former vice-president, Carrie Mowen, and his appointment had been an issue of controversy.

The letter from the Executive Committee cites several passages of the SGA constitution to support the legitimacy of Wolfe's position as interim vice-president and his appointment as acting president in Butler's absence.

"The officers, Sarah [Welch, current student representative to Board of

Curators], and the other campuses . . . wanted more definite wording, so that's why the Executive Committee was pulled together for a meeting . . ." Wolfe said.

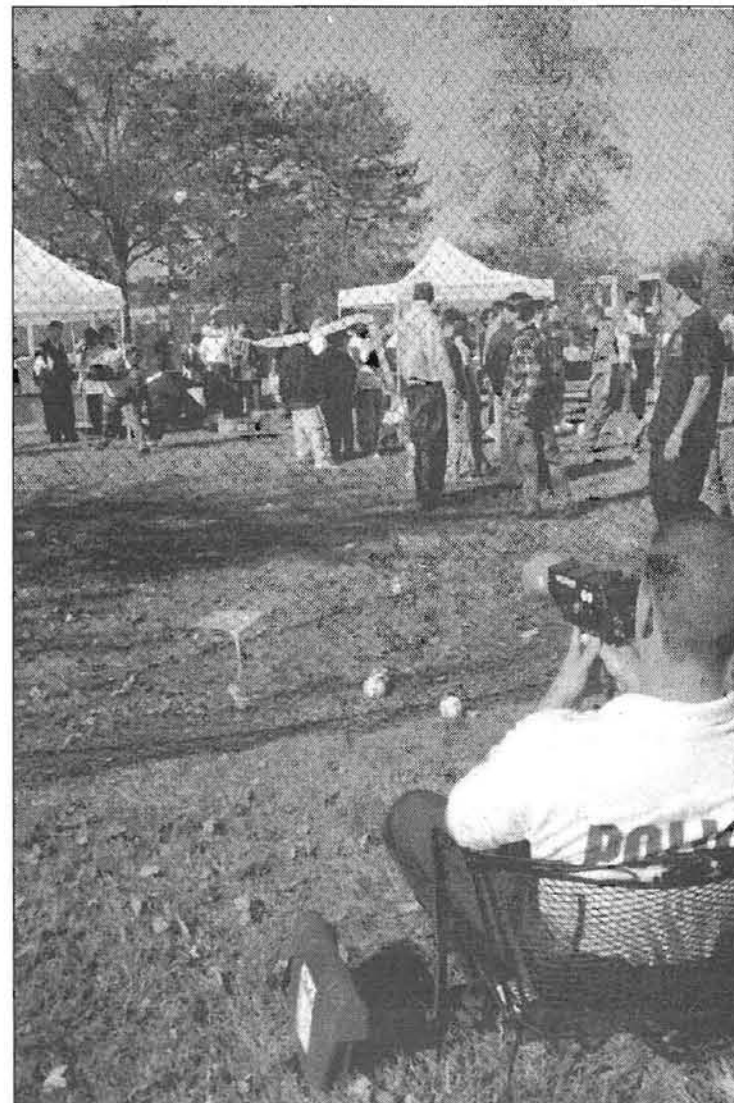
Wolfe said he believed the committee's actions would help maintain an image of professionalism during the proceedings.

"The emergency meeting shows that we're still trying to keep our act together," Wolfe said.

The letter from the Executive Committee states that Wolfe will remain Acting President until the result of Butler's hearing on Nov. 4 is known. Wolfe said it was not clear what would happen then. He said that Butler might return. In that case, he could resume his duties as president of the SGA. Wolfe said that if Butler's absence continued, further actions would have to be taken, which might include the appointment of another acting president until December. Wolfe said it was not clear to him what might then happen at that time.

"I'm still trying to sort things," Wolfe said.

Ready, aim...



Rafael Macias/ The Current

Kevin Hanebrink of the UM-St. Louis Police takes time off from issuing parking citations to help out at the Fan Appreciation Day on Wednesday.

UM-St. Louis hosts World Ecology Day

BY SHAVON PERKINS
staff associate

The International Center for Tropical Ecology at the UM-St. Louis hosted the 10th annual World Ecology Day Oct. 22, in the J.C. Penney Lobby from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

This year's topic was frontiers in marine biology and conservation. Mary Ratnaswamy of the School of Natural Resources at the UM-Columbia gave a speech entitled "Raccoons and Sea Turtles: A Conservation Dilemma." Ian MacDonald of the Ocean Sciences Division in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University titled his speech, "Life Without Light: Animal Communities, Deep Sea Seeps and Vents." The keynote speaker was Douglas Wartzok, the dean of the Graduate School at UM-St. Louis.

Patrick Osborne, the executive director for the International Center for Tropical Ecology, said the event was an outreach activity to try to get high school seniors interested in ecology and inform them of some of the current issues concerning conservationists today.

"The program is very popular although our numbers were slightly down this year," Osborne said. "Some of the schools we invited had other commitments, and others could not afford the cost of transportation."

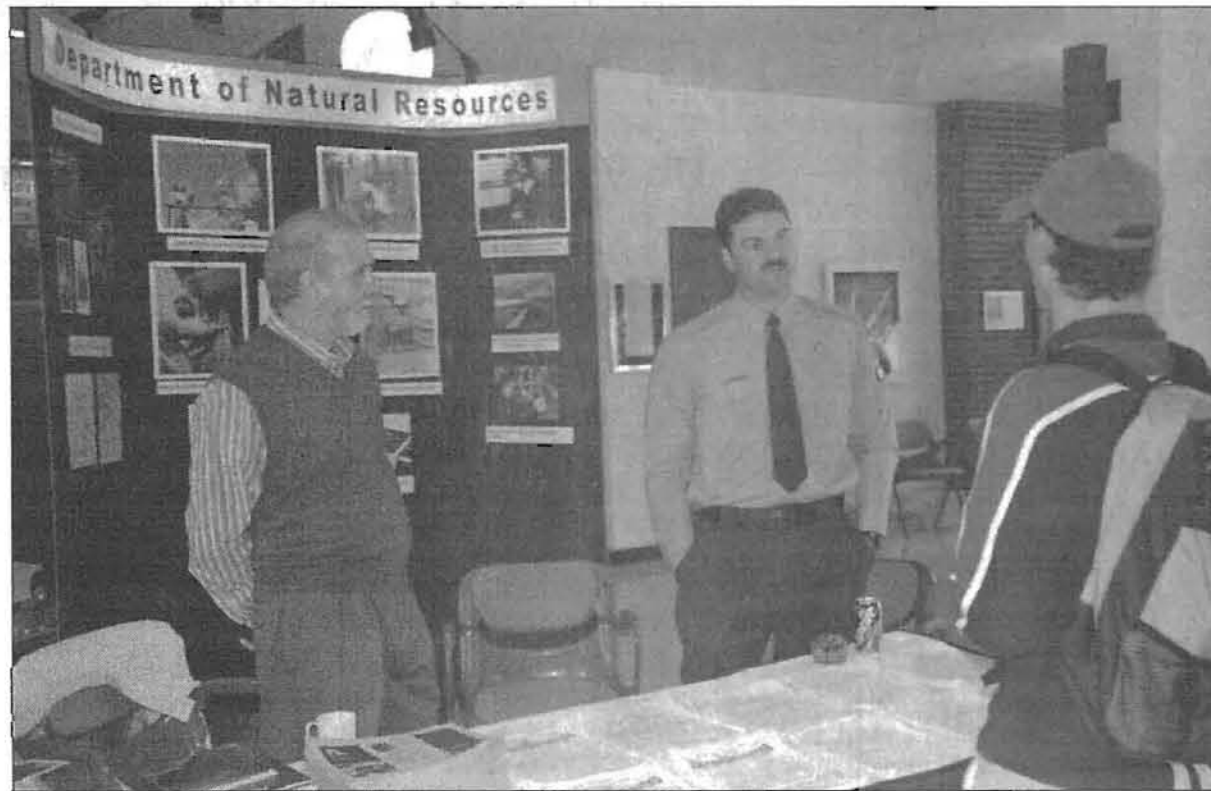
Osborne said between 10 and 20 high schools sent students this year.

Many of the booths had literature on hand to pass out to students. Some displays featured live animals. The Biological Society displayed a Blue Poison Frog and an endangered Mountain Chicken. The St. Louis Children's Aquarium featured a Horseshoe Crab that visitors could touch.

Other groups with displays included The International Center for Tropical Ecology, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Division of State Parks, St. Louis Rainforest Advocates, The Sierra Club, University Bookstore, and the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center.

The event was sponsored by Mallinckrodt, Inc., Missouri Botanical Garden, and UM-St. Louis

see E-DAY, page 10



Rafael Macias/ The Current

Kyle Silverman, a junior majoring in special education, talks with two members of the Department of Natural Resources: officer Greg Combs, of the Division of State Parks, and Jim Rhodes, an environmental engineer in the St. Louis Regional Office.

University hopes 'rumor hot line' will prevent confusion

BY KEN DUNKIN
senior editor

The next time a rumor arises on campus there will be a venue to verify the information. A rumor hot line was started several weeks ago.

The hot line is an email address where anyone can ask questions regarding UM-St. Louis. It is hoped the hot line will keep many in the know about campus goings on. In recent months many rumors have been circulating which led many to call Debra Braun manager of business and fiscal operations.

"I have been getting a lot of calls about rumors," Braun said. "More than I could handle. This will give people the opportunity to have one place to go to when they need a fact verified."

The calls had gotten to as many as several a day for Braun. She said it

was tough responding to all of the requests.

"I can't check out all of the rumors," Braun said. "One person hears a rumor and it would get all over campus."

As the University community gets to know the email address, Braun said she hopes students, faculty and staff will know where to get the facts. Braun said the hotline would address issues such as staff cuts, property buys, freezing positions.

In the past the hot line was an actual phone number. It had flourished in the 1980's. By the late 1980s many involved had retired or left the university leaving the hot line abandoned. Braun said she hopes the new hot line would be used more frequently.

"People can use it as they see fit," Director of University

see RUMOR, page 10

Barton prepares to tackle new positions as dean, director

BY SUE BRITT
staff editor

Patricia Barton became UM-St. Louis' Assistant Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the Office of Research Administration. On Oct. 18, she replaced Robert Dalglish who resigned to take another position.

Douglas Wartzok, dean of the graduate school and associate vice-chancellor of academic affairs said Barton's "responsibility for the Graduate School will be focusing primarily on graduate admissions."

Wartzok said Barton's two positions are tied because, "there's a strong tie between graduate education and research."

Barton said that an important aspect of her position will be assisting faculty and staff in finding and securing external funding for their research.



Barton

posed to . . . We will help people write their required reports, and all of the financial side is handled in this office as well."

Barton has undergraduate degrees in chemistry and history. She has a master's degree in history from UM-St. Louis with additional graduate work at Washington University. She left Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau where she was director of sponsored programs.

Wartzok said the fact that Barton had a background in both chemistry and history gave her an advantage over the 20 other applicants for the position.

"She brings a perspective from the humanities and the sciences," Wartzok said. "Not too many people have those sorts of [backgrounds]."

Wartzok said that another factor

see BARTON, page 10

Bulletin Board

Monday, Nov. 1

• **"Much Ado About Nothing"** The artistic director, Steve Woolf, and actors from the St. Louis Repertory Theatre will discuss this Shakespear comedy along with Jane Williamson, associate professor of English at UM-St. Louis and Bruce Longworth, associate professor of theatre at Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts. The presentation will begin at 11:30 a.m. in room 229 J. C. Penney Conference Center. For more information call 5699.

• **Flu Shots Anyone?** For \$10 flu shots will be available in the University Health Services, 127 Woods Hall, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

• **Weekly Prayer Group** at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge) at 7:30 p.m. Free pizza got Chris here. Free

hot dogs got Ron connected. What does it take to bring you??? For more info call Betty at 385-3455.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

• **Bible Study** in the Seton Hall Living room, 1st floor.

• **Soup and Soul Food**, a simple free meal and a time for prayer and devotion, from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry.

• **'99 Colloquia** Presented by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, Lynn Hankinson-Nelson will speak on the topic of Science as Social Practice from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Tower 1312.

Thursday, Nov. 4

• **Scary 70's film fest**, UPB and the

Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and 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 submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Erin Stremmel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Spanish Club present *The Shining* at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the U-Center Lounge.

Friday, Nov. 5

• **Romeo and Juliet** presented by the office of Student Activities and performed by the National Shakespeare Company, Inc. The performance will take place at 8 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. The show is free, but tickets are required and available in the Student Activities Office.

• **Work Camp**, sponsored by the Wesley Foundation, this work camp will run through Nov. 7, and will be near Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. For more information contact Roger Jespersen at 385-3000 or Chris

Snyder at (636) 926-0993.

Sunday, Nov. 7

• **Catholic Mass** will be held every week at 6 p.m. at South Campus Residence Chapel.

• **Percussion Workshop I**, a special clinic involving Greek rhythms with Nikos Touliatos from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Music Annex.

Monday, Nov. 8

• **Art in the New Pacific**, sponsored by the Center of the Humanities, this lecture is a Slide Talk with Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris, director of the Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity, in which she will discuss her research on contemporary art forms in the countries of the Pacific Rim.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

October 20, 1999

A student reported that a Missouri license plate tab was stolen from her auto sometime between Oct. 18 at 11 a.m. and Oct. 20 at 11 a.m., while the vehicle was parked at University Meadows.

October 21, 1999

A faculty member reported that a threatening message had been left on his office answering machine at Lucas Hall. The investigation continues.

October 22, 1999

University Police discovered the Concession Trailer at the Women's Softball Field to have been forced open. Damage to the trailer occurred between Oct. 19 at 11 p.m. and Oct. 22 at 1 a.m.

A student reported that on Oct. 20 between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., her parking permit was stolen from her vehicle while it was parked at the New West Drive Parking Garage. The windows had been left partially open.

A student reported that his parking permit was stolen from his vehicle on an unknown date while the vehicle was parked on Lot "I". The doors were not locked and the windows were open.

October 25, 1999

A student reported that on Oct. 18, between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., her parking permit was stolen from her vehicle which was parked on parking Lot "G." The vehicle was not locked.

October 26, 1999

A student reported that between 10-21-99 at 5 p.m. and 10-25-99 at 5 p.m., his parking permit was stolen from his vehicle while it was parked on the third level of the New West Drive Garage. The vehicle doors had not been locked.

At 10:05 a.m., the University Police were requested at 103 Social Science Building for a student failing to show a student I.D. card for lab entry.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the CMS, Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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Okay. Let's Make This Simple.



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Sharing a Telephone
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We're located on South Campus behind Marillac Hall

On Thursday, November 4, UM-St. Louis students will have the opportunity to vote for a referendum to join the **Associated Students of the University of Missouri** as a full member campus.

Since April 1999, UM-St. Louis has been an associate member. Currently, one UM-St. Louis student serves as a member of the ASUM Board of Directors.

What is ASUM?

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri was officially chartered by the UM System Board of Curators in 1975. The Columbia, Kansas City and Rolla campuses have full membership.

ASUM represents the interests and welfare of students before the State Legislature.

ASUM serves as a training ground for students interested in hands-on experience in politics, governmental and higher education governance through direct interaction with members of the Missouri General Assembly, Board of Curators, Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Missouri Congressional delegation.

What will it cost to join?

If approved, the cost is 15 cents per credit hour per semester, with a maximum amount of \$1.50 per student per semester.

How will the money be spent?

The money generated from the fee will enable UM-St. Louis students to set up an office, establish an internship program in cooperation with the Political Science Department, present programs including voter registration information, hire part-time student staff and other programs to be determined by UM-St. Louis students.

What are ASUM's Legislative Accomplishments?

Bills signed into law that ASUM strongly lobbied for include the following:

Student representatives to the state public higher education governing boards (1984) and student representatives into closed meetings (1999).

State sales tax exemption on textbooks.

Several statewide higher education scholarship and loan forgiveness programs, including Bright Flight and the Missouri College Guarantee Program and MO STARS.

How will UM-St. Louis students benefit from full membership?

A lobbying internship program will be established, providing the necessary funding for students to travel to the State Capitol.

UM-St. Louis students will elect four board members to represent them on the ASUM Board of Directors. (Based on current student enrollment.)

For more information, please contact **Joe Flees**, UM-St. Louis Board Member, at 516-8606, or **Andrea Kerley** at 516-8637.

VOTE YES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

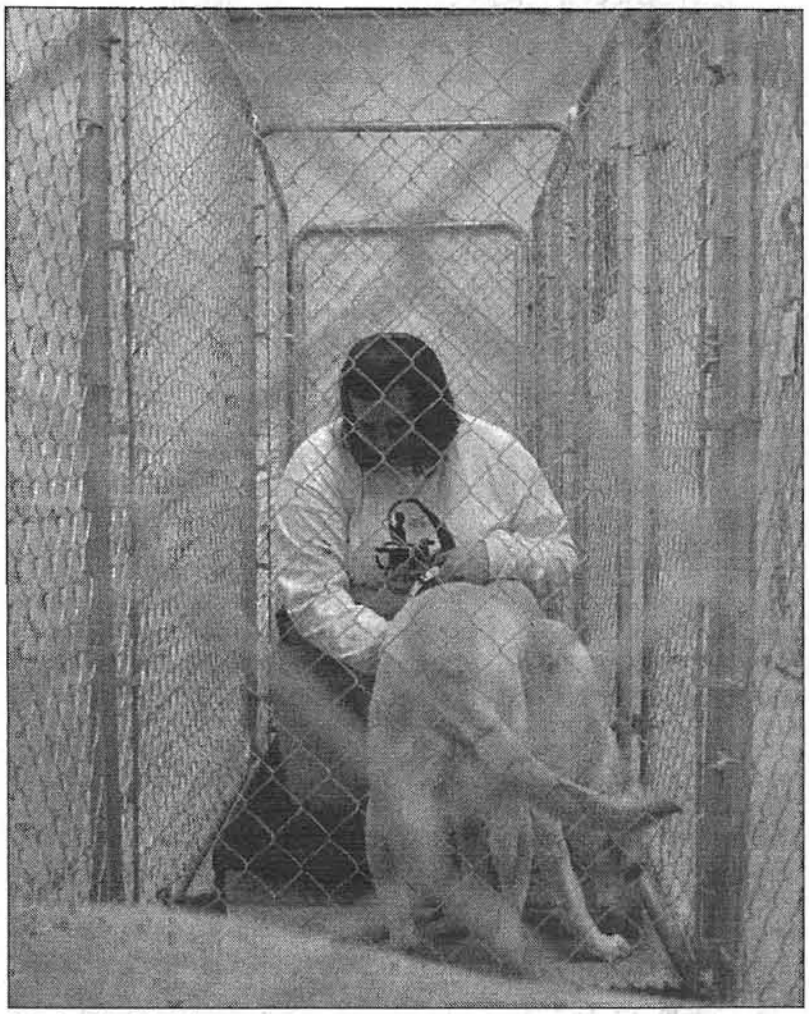
Polling Places: University Center - Lobby and Marillac Hall - Lobby 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



The Associated Students of the University of Missouri
 "Your student voice in state government since 1975"

These dogs are more than just

Man's BEST Friend



Stephanie Platt/ The Current



TOP: Carrie Finkes, the puppy coordinator for Support Dogs, attends to the dogs enrolled in Canine College. **BOTTOM:** Jen Ratner, 20, puts clothes on her foster puppy during a training class. The dress-up session is meant to get the dog used to wearing a support-dog cape and gear.

BY AMY LOMBARDO
staff editor

There are many everyday obstacles facing those with disabilities. Things that may seem simple—dropping a pencil or wanting a snack from the refrigerator—can suddenly become a major inconvenience. Support Dogs, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization designed to help people with disabilities. Located in St. Louis, it reaches clients across the nation.

Bill Dahlkamp, volunteer and education manager, says the program has two main facets: service and therapy.

The service-dog division raises and trains dogs to help people in wheelchairs and people with differing mobility issues. Earlier this semester, the UM-St. Louis campus was used as one of the many training areas. The usual training time is two-and-a-half to three years.

"The goal is to get [the dogs] out as much as they can before they are placed, just so they're desensitized to people, sights, smells, and sounds. So, when they are placed, they can focus all of their attention on their person," Dahlkamp said. "I had one [dog trainee] that flew up to Chicago with me and she sat on the plane next to me. We went to a ball game at Busch Stadium, to restaurants, to the movies. We try to get as many different places as

possible."

The high amount of exposure to outside elements lessens fear and builds trust. Not all dogs are capable of being assistance dogs, so the program's training program—its "Canine College"—is selective. Starting at 7-weeks old, Support Dogs tests the puppies for temperament, basic retrieval interest, and physical build. Volunteer puppy-raising homes socialize their charges to as many situations as possible and teach them to follow basic commands for six to nine months.

After this foundation is set, the dogs attend Canine College for six to nine months. Service dogs are taught to pull people in wheelchairs long distances or up slight inclines, help individuals to move to and from their chair, carry up objects as heavy as 16 pounds, open doors, brace falls, and retrieve objects.

"The biggest thing is picking up things for people," Dahlkamp said. "If they drop something on the floor, anything that's in reason that's not going to hurt the dog. I mean, we're not going to have them pick up a knife or scissors but they do papers, pens, pencils, money, something as small as the back of an earring or a contact lens. Depending on the grace of the dog, sometimes they can retrieve medication."

The program uses golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers for a number of reasons, the most

obvious being their gene pool. A lot of the skills are based on retrieval instincts and make it easy and enjoyable to learn. The dogs are a good size, a working breed historically, have good body strength, and are socially acceptable. Sometimes there are multiple homes involved in a training, and these breeds do not experience much separation anxiety.

The animals are useful in almost every imaginable situation—helping people get dressed and undressed, making the bed, even paying for purchases.

"Sometimes counters are too high for people to get out of their wheelchairs and reach over," Dahlkamp said. "So we give the dog a coin purse, and they rise up to the counter; then the person can take the money out of the purse and do the transaction that way."

The other side of Support Dogs is the Therapy of Unique Canine Helpers, or TOUCH. Owner-dog teams visit different types of medical facilities. The dogs act as a therapeutic device for the patients. Dahlkamp says they bring an outside-world element into the hospital room, especially with children.

"We go in with the dogs and the kid will not walk for the nurse but they'd be more than happy to walk the dog down the hall. Even petting

see SUPPORT DOGS, page 8

FEATURES

AMY LOMBARDO
features editor

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fax: 516-6811

Thoughts for Today

"Living with a saint is more grueling than being one."

-Robert Neville
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

"A city is a large community where people are lonsome together."

-Herbert Prochnow
Credit: Famous Quotations Network

"Before I met my husband, I had never fallen in love, though I'd stepped in it a few times."

-Rita Rudner
Credit: Famous Quotations Network

"Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else."

-Ogden Nash
Credit: The 1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

Agee continues to surprise readers with her books

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Jonas Agee likes to speed. Perhaps that is why she wrote a book called "Taking the Wall," which is a short story collection about race car driving and the families involved.

Agee read one short story from "Taking the Wall" entitled "Good to Go" on Monday, Oct. 25 at Left Bank Books in the Central West End.

Lisa Greening, co-owner of Left Bank Books, introduced Agee for the reading.

"In her short stories you don't really know what happened. She leaves it as a question mark, and that is the beauty of a short story," Greening said.

Greening, as well as managing Left Bank, also has read some of Agee's works.

"You know about [the characters], and the turns in their lives, you can relate to [them]," Greening said.

Agee has written novels such as "Sweet Eyes" and "The Weight of Dreams," and short story collections including "Bend This Heart" and "A .38 Special and a Broken Heart."

"A novel is a much bigger breath," Agee said. "It has to cover a lot of places and a number of characters over a large period of time, whereas short stories are quicker [and] faster. They're in and out. I tend to deal with the moment of understanding, the epiphany."

Agee began writing at the age of 8



Gay Norris/ The Current

Jonas Agee, author of "Taking the Wall," reads a short story from her book at Left Bank Books, Oct. 25.

or 9 with poetry. As her poetry became more narrative and extensive, she adapted to short stories. Her short stories then grew into novels.

"I was no child genius, but as long as I can remember I've wanted to be a writer," Agee said.

Agee wrote two novels before she was published.

"I teach novel writing, and I'm so comparative with people with their first novel because I realize they

might have to write two or three other novels before they are published. But that's how you learn to write," Agee said.

Agee enjoys writing in all forms.

"I find it very entertaining, and I like telling stories and sharing them with people. It's the best time I spend in my life when I'm writing," Agee said.

see AUTHOR, page 8

Flu season is here again...

Getting shots, keeping good hygiene help avoid virus

BY ANNE PORTER
staff associate

Around offices, campuses, hospitals and churches everywhere; flu shots are advertised. Pay a small fee and then immunity for the flu season will be provided. Is this vaccine like the wonder diet pills that "melt off" cellulite and excess pound, or do they really work?

The vaccine for this year introduces to the body the three most potentially troublesome predicted influenza strands, which are the A/Beijing, A/Sydney, and B/Beijing. The shot will only protect against those three, but it could motivate the body to destroy other organisms.

Anna Biggs, a clinical professor of nursing, supports the flu shot.

"By getting a flu shot, it stimulates a person's immune system so that they are ready, even if it's another organism," Biggs said.

Biggs warned that if anyone is severely allergic to egg whites they cannot receive the shot because it is cultured in eggs.

Other methods should be combined with the vaccine, such as avoiding crowds and hand washing.

"If people are ill, they should stay home and not infect other people," Biggs said.

Linda Sherman, a clinical associate professor of nursing, said that the flu shot is 70 to 90 percent effective.

"One of the primary things that you can do is good hand washing," Sherman said.

He added that covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing is also helpful.

Margaret Uline, an associate professor, believes the flu shot to be preventative but also suggested other ways to stay healthy this winter.

"Probably the best way is being healthy in general, getting enough sleep, eating the right foods so the immune system is functioning properly," Uline said.

Amy Schoenberger, a registered nurse with University Health Services, administered the flu shot on Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the University Center.

"They [flu shots] are very beneficial. A lot of people are afraid to get them because they think they might get the flu from it. And in the past people have, but that's because they used the live vaccine and now they use a dead virus," Schoenberger said.

By killing the virus, the body can still build the protection, but it is not as likely to become ill from the shot. So far, Schoenberger has not heard of anyone becoming sick from the shot this year.

Other ways to avoid getting the flu that Schoenberger suggested

see FLU, page 8

Communicating with those around you takes courage



OUTSIDE IN
BECKY RICKARD

When I was features editor (in the Mesozoic era), I used to feel pride when people read my column. Of course, my friends would read it to see if they would appear in it or were a part of something I was writing. After I graduated, I realized that my friends were the ONLY people reading my column.

It was when I came back to school that I realized that people, students, teachers, etc. actually read what I am writing. In fact, I had two virtual strangers comment on my last column. At first, I was embarrassed, and then I felt proud. I was embarrassed because my last column was not something I would

let my children read for posterity's sake. It doesn't teach a life lesson, and it doesn't display the intelligence I believe I have. Although I like Fred Durst, I will be forever remembered by his idolatry. Then again, we've all seen or read "Romeo and Juliet" and we know what happens when love becomes idolatry.

On the other hand, I felt proud that people wanted to comment on my column. I'm not a great writer, yet. But I appreciate any comment that will help me get there. That's what being a writer is all about, isn't it? Isn't it about seeing life from a unique perspective and

sharing those ideas with those who inhabit life with you? And how do mediocre writers like me share ideas? Communication.

Communication seems like a very easy thing to accomplish. Guess again! Communication can be frightening, especially when it reveals something about you. It takes a lot of bravery to tell someone how you truly feel or what you honestly see.

It is really hard to communicate with people in this world. It's hard to be vulnerable knowing that there are such callous people out there. These people who commented to me had no idea how I would

respond to what they said. . . but they took the risk. Whether I agree or disagree with their opinions, they have every right to communicate their beliefs to me. Furthermore, they deserve to be listened to not only for their courage, but also for their perspective on life.

Although I may disagree with people, it doesn't mean that they are wrong or that I am right. It just means that we have communicated enough together to have something to discuss. I have a lot of respect for people who take the time out of their day to talk to me. Let me rephrase that, I have a lot of respect

for people who talk to me in a civilized manner. I'd rather not appear on "The Jerry Springer Show."

I am flattered that two people I don't really know communicated with me. I find it ironic that I am having a tirade on communication when the person with whom I most desperately desire true and vulnerable communication will never read this or hear these words spoken from my mouth. So, I want to thank these two virtual strangers for showing me what is really important about my perspective on life.

And that's my view from the outside in.

OPINIONS

Editorial Board

- Joe Harris**
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- Ken Dunkin**
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- Stephanie Platt**
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"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

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

OUR OPINION

Crumbling SGA needs structure and leadership

The issue:

Darwin Butler, SGA president, was jailed last week and thus violated his work release and is to remain in jail until November 4 when there will be another hearing decide revocation of his work release. While this is happens, the SGA is getting less and less accomplished.

We suggest:

The sensible thing for Butler to do is to step down from his position of SGA president. By doing so, he would free up some much-needed time to hold the special elections for SGA. This would get permanent officers in SGA and allow them to start working on more pressing matters.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else that's on your mind.

The administration of the Student Government Association president, Darwin Butler, recently fell to a new low point when Butler failed to attend both the Senate meeting and his own SGA meeting. The excuse? Butler was in jail.

Butler's work release was temporarily revoked Thursday, pending another hearing on Nov. 4. The State asked for the work release to be revoked because Butler was allegedly caught driving on a suspended license, which violated his work release provision.

Butler was sentenced to jail time so he could think about what he did. He was granted a work release to change his life around. Everybody makes mistakes, and everybody deserves a second chance. Butler has had lots of second chances, but he continues to violate the law.

While Butler sits in jail waiting for the St. Louis county justice department to determine whether or not they will indefinitely revoke his work release, the SGA continues to crumble. It is time for Butler to act like a true leader and put the SGA and UM-St. Louis before his own self-interests.

The time has come for Butler to either resign or be impeached from the SGA presidency.

Butler's lack of attendance at important University meetings has

hurt the student body. Now, because of the uncertainty that Butler will have his work release reinstated, UM-St. Louis may not get a voice in who will become the next University of Missouri student curator. The meeting is this weekend in Columbia, and Butler is the only one, by virtue of his position, who can represent the University.

This is the latest in the long line of incompetence that the SGA has shown this year. Earlier this semester the "President's Initiative," a nation-wide program, was canceled on the UM-St. Louis campus by the SGA; the election committee has to be disbanded and reformed because of lack of results; and now UM-St. Louis may not get a voice in who the next student curator is.

Butler is quick to say students must demand more from the University because of the fees we are charged. Actually, it is time for the students to demand more from the SGA.

The incompetence has to stop. This administration needs to come to an end.

The classy thing that Butler could do would be for him to resign as SGA president. Unfortunately, this is highly unlikely.

This leaves us, the students, with no other choice but impeachment.

Loss of Stewart is a tragedy to the world

The world lost a great man last Monday when Payne Stewart's private Learjet crashed in a South Dakota field.

Most people will remember Stewart, a professional golfer, by the way he dressed. He was a throwback with his knickers and hat. However, I will remember him for something else.

It happened just a few weeks ago at the Ryder Cup. The Americans had just completed an amazing comeback, the likes of which may never be seen again.

Stewart, though, was still in a battle with Scotland's Colin Montgomerie. The match was tied going into the last hole and the partisan American fans were heckling and verbally assaulting Montgomerie mercilessly.

What did Stewart do? The classiest thing possible. He conceded the last hole to Montgomerie, giving him the match win.

Stewart sacrificed his own statistics for the good of others. He would later say that personal statistics do not mean a thing in the Ryder Cup, just team success.

That attitude embodies what Stewart was—not only as a golfer but as a man. He had enjoyed much personal success by winning 11 tournaments including three majors over his career, but individual success never came before winning in life's other challenges.

Winning, it seems, was what

Stewart did best. He was a winner off the course as well. He left behind a wife and two kids. A native of Springfield, Mo., he never forgot where he came from.

After his stunning PGA Championship victory this year, he brought the championship cup back home to Springfield to share it with the people who have always supported him. Stewart was seen about the town with the cup, letting fellow Springfield natives drink champagne from it.

This is from a man who had won more than \$11 million in his career and lived in Tampa, Fla. Stewart never forgot his roots, no matter how much fame and success came his way.

Stewart did a lot for golf behind the scenes. In the '80s, Stewart shook up the stern and rigid Ryder Cup American teams by blaring Bruce Springsteen music in the clubhouse.

Though his tactics at the time made him more enemy than teammate to his fellow Ryder Cup companions, Stewart's antics paved the way for golf to reach a broader audience.

Stewart's presence loosened up a formerly rigid, exclusive sport. He brought golf to the masses.

Now the Ryder Cup enjoyed its largest television rating in history this past year. The team has loos-



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

see HARRIS, page 10

LETTERS

Butler: SGA President or 'King Con'

Mr. Butler, don't you think this has gone on long enough? You made a mistake, and you must pay the consequences, but the UM-St. Louis campus should not have to suffer from your mistake.

I have been following this in the paper and in person. I am a freshman here at UM-S. Louis, but I am a non-traditional student. I attend full-time in the day, and work full-time. You made a statement that you just got greedy. Well sir, we all want different things, but most of us earn them by working for them. I, for one, work full-time while attending school full-time. It is not easy.

Your excuse is lame. I feel that you have conned the students of UM-St. Louis, and the only reason you want to hang on to your post is

for personal reasons and NOT for the good of UM-St. Louis.

Being an older person, I have seen a lot in my years. I worked several years for the Bureau of Prisons in Washington. I dealt with your type daily, and they were cons. This is not about race, or what the constitution says. It is about what is right! I plead with you, step down, quietly. Prove you really are sorry for what you did and straighten out your life. Let people see that you are a man of deed and not King Con!

My grandfather said; "If it don't look right, [if] it don't smell right, and [if] it don't taste right, it probably is not right." Sir, this does not look or smell right and is leaving a bitter taste in everyone's mouth. If you are truly concerned about the

body of this institution, then do the right thing, step down. I urge all of my fellow students to read the commentary Joe Harris wrote in the October 18, 1999 issue of *The Current*. He is correct here. We need to do our homework and approach this in an orderly manner. If Butler refuses to step down, then procedures need to be taken to see if an impeachment is in order. Do not allow yourself to be baited to act in an irrational manner by Butler's antics. If you do, you will never get anywhere.

Butler, do the right thing. If you want to see what a con looks like, try looking in the mirror in your cell tonight.

-Tom Armstrong

Butler's past returns to haunt him

With the recent jailing of the SGA President, the only true question left in my mind, and in the minds of many students, is "Was it worth it?"

Mr. Darwin Butler simply wanted to bring upon a change in the school fees and wanted "minorities" to be treated as fairly as the "majorities" on campus.

Now he is faced with a major problem and not many of the same

"minorities" that he fought for are backing him up.

He (Butler) started with two strikes against him, being African-American, and speaking his mind. I'm not saying what Mr. Butler did was right or wrong (being humans, we all make mistakes). I just wonder one question. If Mr. Butler would not have ran for election in April, and someone else won, would the same people that

"found" evidence against him (Butler), "find" evidence against the other president?

Bad events in the past always seem to haunt you and outweigh the good no matter what you do. To Mr. Butler, I say thank-you for the lesson you have taught, and may God be with you!

-Keith Jennings

Back to drawing board

Fellow students: In the past year our student government has been plagued by the shadow of corruption and perjury. It began with the election of our esteemed president, Darwin Butler. First, he lied about his legal status. Then he harassed his opponents during the election. Then, he began to usurp the formalities that were deemed necessary in running the SGA democracy. He illegally appointed Steven Wolfe as his vice-president. Now

he has been arrested for crimes committed in another state.

It is time to remove Darwin Butler from office. It is time to remove Steven Wolfe and other criminal reactionaries from the SGA who represent the corruption, thievery, and lies that lurk within that august body. Furthermore, I call upon the formation of a Student United Front, a governing

see LETTERS, page 10

A few things that just aggravate me

Last week was just one of those weeks. We all have them and grow to hate them—the weeks where just about everything really seems to annoy us to no end. My week was filled with those kinds of moments.

It wasn't any one thing that set me off, just a few things here and there which drew my disgust. Perhaps one of the most upsetting things for me happened on my trip to Vintage Vinyl in University City.

Vintage Vinyl has long been one of my favorite music stores. They are a store that has nearly anything that a person could want when it comes to music. Obscure disc? They would probably have it. My happiness with the store came to an abrupt end last week. I went to sell a few discs that I bought and then regretted months later. You know the type—anyone remember Sir Mix Alot? While the guy was looking at the discs, I started reading a memo that was on the counter. To make a long memo short, it said not to buy as many CDs as they had in the past. They didn't need to buy what had been bought in the past. It didn't really hit me how much I would be upset with this until I began to look around.

One of the biggest draws for the store was its \$4.99 CD bins. I have built quite a collection by scouring through these bins. Some of my favorite discs have come from these bins. I was in shock; the bin was gone. So too were all the cheap discs. Most of the discs had been apparently sold off at ultra cheap prices in an attempt to do away with the bin. It really set me off. I still wasn't quite so mad until I began

looking through the regular bins. It seemed as though they were carrying fewer used discs than they had ever had. Most of the CDs were new! And to boot, they cost \$16 to \$18. Hopefully the change is only temporary. Maybe they figured there would be a huge boom in Christmas discs this year. I'm hoping at least. If not, Vintage Vinyl lost a loyal customer and a big-spending one to boot.

I was also disappointed with several media outlets (if you want to call them that). First was NBC reporter Jim Gray. I'm sure most people have seen it by now. Gray interrogated Pete Rose as if he had just killed someone. I've seen maniacs with more compassion than Gray. It is no wonder so many people are skeptical of the media. With people like Gray running around the business, I think I'm a little skeptical of it, too. No need to be rude Jim—it's only a game after all.

On campus it didn't get much better. There is a campus publication that got my goat last week also. I'll leave this newsletter nameless as I don't feel they deserve the publicity. The most alarming thing about their latest issue isn't so much personal but legal. There is a photo they published that looks a lot like a photo that has been published on *The Current's* web site. If indeed it is our photo, this group might want to look up the word "plagiarism" in the dictionary. It's a legal term. They might want to learn it.

One story also mentioned *The Current* twice. It's nice to be mentioned—at least we know people are

see DUNKIN, page 10



KEN DUNKIN
managing editor

Under Current
by Rafael Macias
staff photographer

Do you know who the student body president is and does it matter?



Amy Brennan
Junior/Communications

"I don't know his name but I am familiar with his situation. I'm not sure the SB president is an important job."



Eric Stanton
Senior/MIS

"Yeah, his name is Butler but I'm not really sure what he does or if he'll continue to do it."



Jennifer Meyer
Senior/Communications

"I know who he is and under the circumstances, what he does does matter."



Tracy White
Senior/Criminal Justice

"Darwin Butler, depending how much the student body is involved depends on how influential the SGA president is."

R-men secure GLVC tourney spot

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

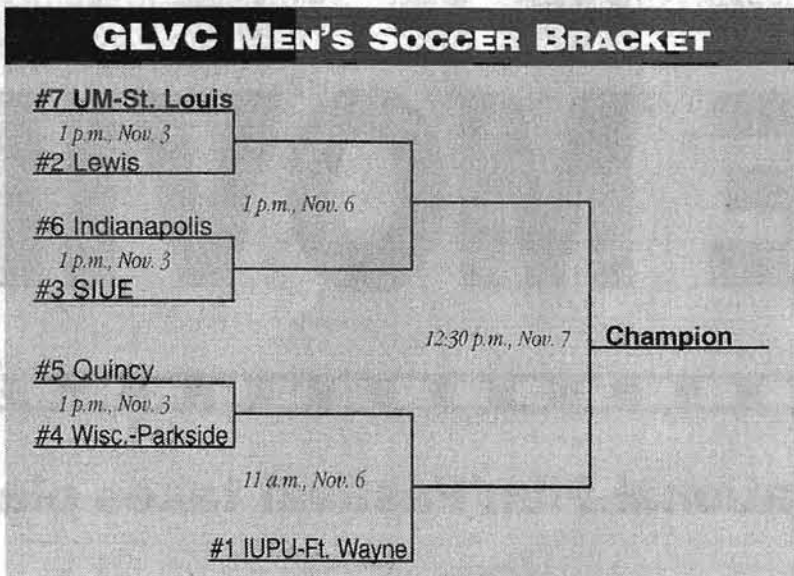
The Rivermen's soccer team has hit a hot streak and won their past two games to assure themselves of a seventh seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament this Wednesday.

The Rivermen defeated St. Joseph's, 3-1, and beat previously second ranked Indianapolis, 1-0. Over the past six games, UM-St. Louis has come to life outscoring its opponents 8-4. The only two losses were to Wisconsin-Parkside in double overtime and to Lewis, a team the Rivermen face in the first round of the GLVC tournament.

"The first time that we played Lewis, our guys played an incredible game," assistant coach Chris Steinmetz said. "I think we definitely should have won the game. Everybody else knew that we outplayed them and controlled the ball for 85% of the game. This time, the guys are going to be really hungry because they knew they should have won and they want to prove it."

Head coach Tom Redmond also agrees that the Rivermen will not be an easy pushover as the seventh seed.

"After last weekend, I just wanted to get by St. Joseph's. We needed help to get into the tournament," Redmond said. "Lewis is under serious consideration for the national tournament. I think we will have our hands full because they are going to



be really motivated to do real well. They know us better now and are not going to take us lightly. We are not going to catch a Lewis team who is going to be flat."

Going into the match-up, the Rivermen are primed and ready to take on the best in the conference, and Redmond agrees.

"I think our guys our confident, not cocky," Redmond said. "In our conference, there is not much of a difference between the no. 2 and no. 7 seed."

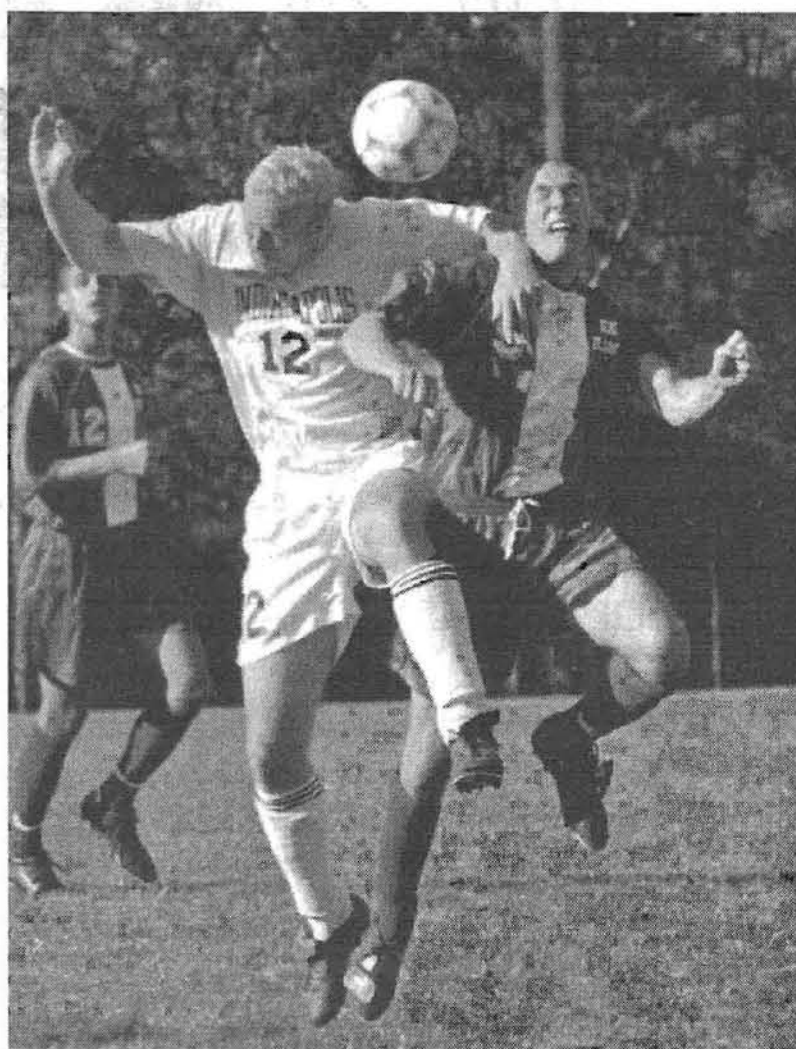
One of the key reasons the Rivermen have come on so strong towards the end of the past two seasons is their pre-season training.

"We could point a finger at our

conditioning," Redmond said. "Our team fitness and conditioning in the past two years has been tremendous. I do think that Steinmetz gets credit for getting the guys going and preparing them for the year. The guys are still moving pretty good, while other teams are fading and coming down. What we need to do is improve upon our first eight games of each year. We are not getting into our game quick enough."

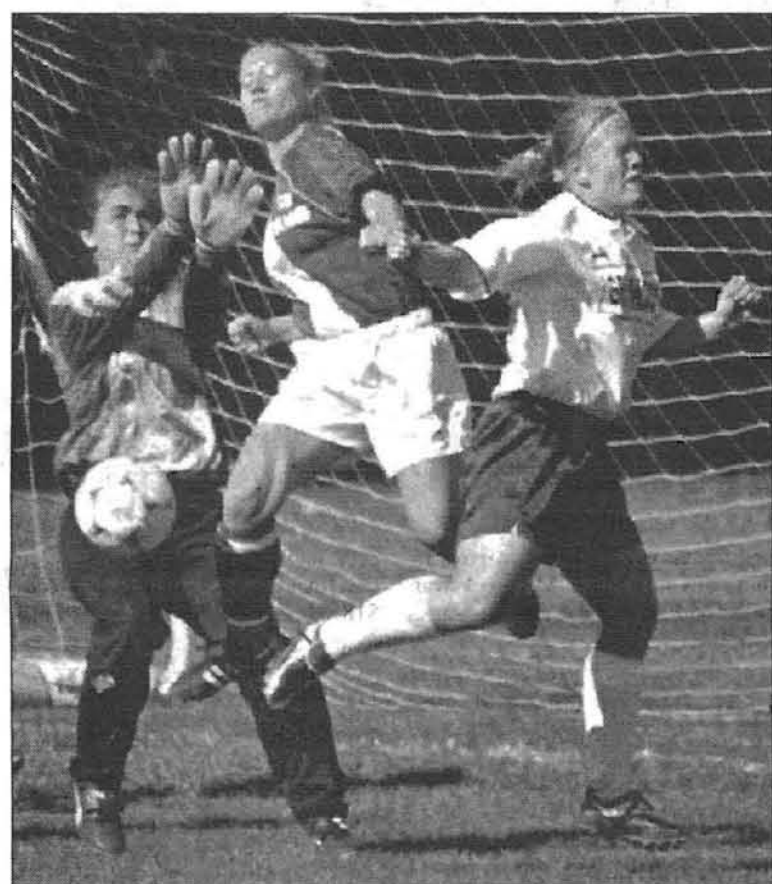
One of the things the Rivermen did during the loss to Lewis was the men came out playing hard.

"We came out flying," Redmond said. "We came out and played great for the first 25 minutes. There will be no surprises in this game."



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Eric Wilson (5) attempts to win the ball in the game against Indianapolis Sun. Oct. 24.



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Goalie Samantha Grashoff (left) tries to block a shot by Indianapolis in the Sun. Oct. 24 home game.

Riverwomen take seventh seed in GLVC after defeat

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen's soccer has officially qualified for the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament as the seventh seed in the conference.

The Riverwomen currently hold an overall record of 7-10-1 and are 5-6 in the GLVC.

The Riverwomen took on Indianapolis and lost 3-1.

Indianapolis came into the contest 13-5 and 9-2 in the GLVC.

Indianapolis got off to a quick start as IU scored two goals within the first ten minutes of the contest.

The first goal came at 3:24 in the first half, and the second goal quick-

ly followed at 6:11 in the first half.

The Riverwomen countered still in the first half at the 35:48 mark when Jennifer Terbrock scored on an assist from Lindsay Siemens.

In the second half, the Riverwomen allowed the third and final goal at 70:50 to clinch the victory for Indianapolis.

UM-St. Louis was outshot in the game, 11-5.

Overall, the Riverwomen have been led all season by Carrie Marino, who now sits only three points away from becoming the all-time scoring leader in Riverwomen's history.

The Riverwomen hope to bounce back in the GLVC Tournament and make a dent in the conference as the tournament begins Nov. 4.

V-ball must make up lost ground

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

The Riverwomen's volleyball team has fluctuated between its ups and downs this season. UM-St. Louis currently stands at 7-14 overall and 3-8 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

With only five conference matches left in the season, the Riverwomen must make up ground to contend in the GLVC tournament.

Previously, the Riverwomen lost to Northern Kentucky, 3-1. Northern

Kentucky came into the contest with a record of 20-1 and were 11-0 in the GLVC, and it showed.

Northern Kentucky came out strong in the first game en route to a 15-2 victory over UM-St. Louis.

In the second set, the Riverwomen overcame the bad start to claim the second set, 15-13.

Northern Kentucky then took control and won the third and fourth sets, 15-9 and 15-1, to capture the victory.

Michelle Hochstatter led the Riverwomen with 13 kills while Sue

Kleinschnitz added 10 of her own.

Defensively, UM-St. Louis was led by Nicole Wall who recorded 13 digs while Michelle Pasioka and Holly Zrout added 11 each.

Northern Kentucky had the edge in every category. Northern Kentucky had an attack percentage of .399 and combined for 81 defensive digs while the Riverwomen could only get 62.

The Riverwomen come home Nov. 5 and 6 to play SIU-Edwardsville and Indianapolis in their last two home matches of the year.

Say hello to the Riverpup...



Rafael Macias/The Current

The Riverpup attempts to outrun the Women's Soccer team on the track at the Mark Twain Building on Thursday.

Athletic department unveils new mascot

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

UM-St. Louis unveiled its latest spectator-friendly asset to the athletic department in the Riverpup.

The Riverpup will make its debut in 1999, but what exactly is a Riverpup?

The Riverpup is a two-year-old Beagle. The pup has become a common fixture at Mark Twain and has stuck around since early June. This friendly puppy has found a new home at the Mark Twain Gymnasium.

Pat Dolan, UM-St. Louis' athletic director, recommended the pup as an asset for the University in response for

the need for an "official" leader of the athletic programs.

The athletic programs at UM-St. Louis have drawn larger crowds now than in the past and with the addition of the Riverpup, the crowds hope to be noisier than ever at upcoming Rivermen and Riverwomen's home games.

Turn to page 8 for more sports!

Leagues must penalize acts of violence before it's too late



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

Stop the violence!
The National Hockey League has made the professional sport a hospital-on-wheels.

The slashes to the face by a stick, the checking a person head-first into the boards, and even the fighting has gotten violent in the hockey world.

Something needs to be done to stop this before it gets even worse than it is now.

Geoff Courtnall of the St. Louis Blues is probably out for the remainder of the season already due to a blow he suffered which lead to another concussion and his ailing post-concussion syndrome.

Mike Modano of the Dallas Stars was even quoted as saying that if things did not change soon in the NHL, he would consider quitting. The league has gotten violent, and Modano's head-first crash into the boards behind the goaltender's net could have been life-threatening if he had landed wrong. His neck snapped back, and he could have been paralyzed for life if the scenario were right.

The referees and the commissioner of the NHL need to start punishing players who violently attack players of Modano's caliber.

What would have happened if Wayne Gretzky had gotten slashed by

opponents five years ago? The referees would have given the player a penalty, and when the player came out of the penalty box, Gretzky's teammates would have pounced on the guy.

Is the violent reaction appropriate? It certainly is when a guy is trying to end another professional hockey player's career with one swift blow to the head.

Major League Baseball may not have encounters like when a concussion is prominent, but when a pitcher purposely throws at a hitter with the intention of hitting him, the pitcher is fined and usually suspended for a few games.

The National Football League has its series of concussions with quarterbacks every year. This year, it is Steve Young's turn, and the BYU graduate may be forced to end his career.

Young has nothing to gain from the sport anymore. His brains are what makes him an unusual case here. Young is a certified lawyer who passed the BAR exam and could start a whole new career if he gave up football. It may not be easy to do, but for Young's future, he needs to let go of football and concern himself with his own safety and health.

Whether it be the vicious blows of hockey or the late hits by a blitzing lineman in football, sports have gotten

more violent as time has gone on.

There has to be a solution to every problem, so what is this one? Is it that the professional sports should start protecting their athletes and bread-winners more?

The owners may see it as a money-making opportunity when they control a professional organization, but they are also controlling the players lives and destinies. Let's just hope for their sake the owners do not make the wrong decisions.

Professional athletes are sacred to the idea of entertainment; cheap shots and late hits should be punished accordingly.

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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Upcoming Games

Men's Soccer

GLVC Tourney at IUPU-Ft. Wayne vs. Lewis
1 p.m., Wed., Nov. 3

Volleyball

at Quincy 7 p.m., Fri. Nov. 5
vs SIU-Edwardsville 7 p.m., Sat. Nov. 6

Women's Soccer

GLVC Tourney at SIUE vs. N. Kentucky
1 p.m., Wed., Nov. 3

Next Week In Sports

Men's/Women's Basketball Preview
Hockey
Men's/Women's Soccer
Kinworthy's Column

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Upcoming Concerts

October

25

Godsmack w/ Jim Rose
Circus
American Theatre

26

DJ Craze
Galaxy

27

George Clinton
Parliament/Funkadelic
The Firehouse

28

Sevendust, Machinehead,
Orange 9mm, & Chevelle
Karma

Vargas Swing

Cashmere

29

Zrazy
Blueberry Hill

30

Sarah Cloud
The Side Door

November

2

The Get Up Kids & At Th
Drive-In
Creepy Crawl

3

Buck-O-Nine, The Rabies
& Link 80
Mississippi Nights

Live w/ Cibo Matto
American Theatre

So you wanna go to THE MOVIES?

The 8th annual St. Louis International Film Festival takes place this week

So what *is* the film festival, anyway?

The St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) continues all this week, presenting a variety of quality films to St. Louis audiences, as well as lectures and special events, and ending this weekend with the New Filmmakers Forum Competition.

In addition to presenting many art and foreign-language films that would not otherwise come to this area, the festival features short films, some classic films, documentaries (Documentary Sidebar), African American films both classic and new (African American Sidebar), and films chosen by local critics as over-looked gems of the last 15 years (Critic's Choice Sidebar).

Descriptions of each of the films and a complete list of the films can be found at the SLIFF website (www.sliff.org), or you can pick up a program at one of the three venues - West Olive 16 Cinema, the Tivoli Theater, or Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

See page 7 for more on the St. Louis International Film Festival



How do they choose which films they will screen?

Bobbie Lautenschlager coordinates the New Filmmakers program and is on the committee that selects films for the festival. She described how the films are chosen for the festival.

The three committee members charged with picking the films for the festival begin their work in January, traveling to the various US film festivals, such as the Sundance, the Santa Barbara, the Cleveland, as well as the Toronto film festival. Additional possibilities are gleaned from suggestions made by critics who attend international festivals, such as Cannes, and from scouring the trade journals of the festivals.

This process continues through out the year, as new films come out. When possible candidates are found, the committee requests a copy of the film for all committee members to screen (usually this is

a video tape of the film). Films only reach the stage of final consideration if at least two of the three committee members really like the film. Once a film is chosen, additional members of the film festival screen it and aid in final selection.

Once chosen, the committee contacts the producer or agent handling the film, and determines if it is available to be in the festival — sometimes films are committed to other festivals at the same time or decline to participate for other reasons.

According to Lautenschlager, the final list of films for the festival is not made until two weeks before the festival itself, allowing for consideration of films that appear up to that time. The result for us, film fans, is a wonderful assortment of the best new independent, art and foreign films of the year.

FILM REVIEW

One-dimensional plot keeps movie mired in mediocrity

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

In this romantic farce, architect Oscar (Mathew Perry) and his partner Peter (Oliver Platt) are vying for a lucrative contract to remodel an historic Chicago landmark. The wealthy businessman Charles Newman (Dylan McDermott), who will decide on the architecture firm, has a mistress, Amy (Neve Campbell) that he'd like to keep an eye on while he's out of town. Misunderstanding an off-hand remark from his assistant leads the businessman to assume that Oscar is gay, so he asks him to attend a party to keep an eye on Amy. Oscar reluctantly agrees, meets and instantly falls in love with Amy, and then learns that both the businessman and the mistress believe he's gay. In order to be considered for the remodeling contract and to be close to his new love interest, Oscar keeps up the fiction of being gay. This decision, of course, has some unexpected consequences.

This tale is standard romantic farce with the expected misunderstandings. To its credit, the character is now faced with dealing with some of the problems that gays face, and he gains some insight on what that must be like. The roman-



Amy Sheppard (Neve Campbell) and Charles Newman (Dylan McDermott) share a close moment in "Three to Tango."

'Three to Tango'

Length: 98 min.
Rated: PG-13
Our opinion: ★★★

tic farce is well done, if predictable, and Campbell and Perry turn in nice performances in their roles. Platt also provides good supporting comic work. The photography of the Chicago locations is

very nice, and production values are smooth, creating a pretty setting for the story. The resulting film is a pleasant but unremarkable romance, which will appeal to people who are fans of the two stars. However, the film's one joke is the misunderstanding about his sexual orientation, not allowing enough material to expand the film into something more than mildly entertaining.

(Now playing at the Kenrick, Ronnie's, and other theaters)

CONCERT REVIEW

311 performs excitingly boring concert at Mississippi Nights

BY ROB PEERY
special to The Current

The band 311 makes great whiplash music. By whiplash, I mean bass-thick, drum-heavy, scat vocals that make listeners loll their heads violently from side to side. Most concertgoers are still aching from the high-energy, electric performance the band delivered at Mississippi Nights Oct. 23rd.

Fronted by charismatic vocalist and guitarist Nick Hexum, 311's set was wonderfully eclectic and fun. As my date for the evening exclaimed, "They're the punk 'N SYNC." Unfortunately, like those Tiger Beat Teen Idols, 311's stage work is just a tad too predictable. Hexum's hypnotizing, staccato reggae delivery is always interesting, but you nearly always know what's coming. Over the grind and groove of P Nut's bass, Hexum will sing and rap, then S.A. Martinez will chime in, dishing out self-absorbed rhymes—think of a seventh grader, eyes closed, ignoring his audience, rapping to hear the sound of his own immature voice. Hexum sings again, Martinez raps with Hexum's trippy vocals overdubbing, and then Hexum and Martinez rap together. Now repeat that about 16 times and you have nearly all of 311's 90-minute set. It's easy to see why 311 has never been dubbed an

"experimental" band—it is because their grooves and melodies are incredibly repetitious. Although the band's sound is interesting—a funky blend of reggae, rap, and punk—the music and marijuana references can really wear thin.

There were moments of entertainment, however, as Hexum spoke to and interacted with the crowd. P Nut's bass playing was ecstatic and groovy, while Martinez's scratches were not uninteresting. There were moments of bliss, such as when the band ceased to heavily promote their latest effort, the surprisingly-strong "Soundsystem," and delivered old favorites from "Music" and "U.N.I.T.Y.," such as "Do You Right." Then there were the threatening guitars and less feel-good grind of "Beautiful Disaster" while songs such "Come Original"—although standard 311 fare—managed to entertain and please the sweaty, cotton-mouthed crowd. The band succeeded in gaining a huge audience response and is at its best when working with material from its older, better efforts.

Now nearly 10 albums into their career, maybe the band should slow down and dabble in other genres. Until they attempt something new, a 311 concert will always be a paradox: excitingly boring.

Don't blame world evils on entertainment, because art imitates life

Art imitates life. Keep that in mind, especially when crime is blamed on movies, television, music, video games, and anything else pertaining to the arts.

That phrase sticks in my head sometimes. Art imitates life. Whenever I see or hear or read something particularly jarring, I remember that phrase. It can be a little disheartening, however. It would be so much easier to blame all the bad things in life on the last Oliver Stone movie.

That may be why people place so much blame on pop culture—it is easier than facing the fact that we live in a rather disturbed society. Why would a movie like "Natural Born Killers"

exist if there weren't really people that messed up in the real world? What's worse is the enemies of movies like this claim that they breed violence. The last thing on my mind after watching that blood-fest was going out and doing something like that. Some things are meant to show us what kind of horrible things we are surrounded by, and need to be aware of.

This makes me think of the first few times I read "Naked Lunch," or "Junky" by beat author William S. Burroughs. These semi-autobiographical accounts of heroin addiction made me want to do anything but shoot up. Anyone that reads Hunter S. Thompson's terrifyingly funny

account of his escapades in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" and wants to do drugs is obviously beyond help.

But parents and officials all want to hide this sort of information from our youth. I figure I will make any child I have read "Fear and Loathing" once they reach high school and tell me what they think about it. Massive censorship and paranoia obviously aren't the answer, so maybe a little responsibility is.

"Fight Club," David Fincher's latest movie, is bound to catch a lot of flack for being so "negligent," which is a shame. "Fight Club" is a very important movie that ranks up with "Taxi Driver" and "A Clockwork

Orange." Of course, those movies were blamed for the same things, weren't they? Who hasn't felt alone and helpless like DeNiro's Travis Bickle in "Taxi Driver?" This is a wonderful depiction of a man's descent into insanity due to his loneliness, and detractors only see the violence at the end.

Music doesn't fare any better. Columbine is all Marilyn Manson's fault, apparently. Let's see, these two kids were fans of Hitler, built bombs in their garage, and liked Marilyn Manson, so we blame the killings on Manson? I admit that Marilyn Manson isn't the best role model, but when compared to Hitler, does he still take

first in the most evil contest?

No one seems to deny the "fact" that gangsta rap creates violence, but how would this musical style ever been created without something real to base it on? It is much easier to censor rap and censor metal or movies, comic books, or whatever else is the flavor of the month, instead of dealing with the real problems.

More people blame "Fight Club" for not rationalizing or apologizing for its violence. Should it have to, or should we as a culture apologize for being a breeding ground for such immorality? Art is a mirror to society—you are looking at part of yourself on that screen. Art imitates life.



RANT & ROLL

CORY BLACKWOOD

Who will win the SLIFF Emerging Filmmaker Award?

One of the highlights of this year's St. Louis International Film Festival is the 'Emerging Filmmaker Award.' This year there are five finalist films. Each of the five will be presented by the producer or director of the film, with a question-and-answer session following the screening.

Our own films editor, Catherine Marquis-Homeyer, has screened all five of the films. Here you will find a brief synopsis of each film, along with several interviews with the people responsible for making these films.

Road to Park City

Park City is the Utah town where the Sundance film festival takes place, the biggest festival for independent filmmakers in the United State. "Road to Park City" (R2PC) is a very funny movie about a first-time filmmaker with very little knowledge or experience who sets out to not only get in the festival but to win it. As he says, "How hard could it be?" Well, as a hint, only about 16 films are chosen for the festival, out of about 900 entries. The film follows him documentary-style as he looks at the various aspects and steps in low-budget filmmaking, learning with us along the way in a very entertaining manner about all the myriad facets of the filmmaking process. Nearly every filmgoer is curious about the process of making movies, and this film is an entertaining and informative quick-tour of independent filmmaking. This very clever, well-paced semi-documentary is light enough for the complete novice yet has enough information that budding filmmakers would benefit from it, and it is still funny enough that nearly anyone would enjoy it.

When I spoke to writer/cinematographer/director Bret Stern, he said that the film started out as a more serious instructional film about independent filmmaking to accompany his recently published book, and grew more comic as they went along. A New York comedian was cast as the filmmaker whose experience we follow, and as they shot, humor kept coming up. Rather than having a pre-written script, scenes were written the day before or even on the way to the shoot, based on the previous day's footage, allowing the project to evolve in the process. Part of the inspiration for the film, according to Stern, was his experience as a cinematographer and director of photography, where he often encountered beginning filmmakers on a shoestring budget with big expectations for their film (of course, he could work for nothing, since the film was going to make it big). While Stern, with a long list of credits as a director of photography, sympathized with these beginning filmmakers, the reoccurrence of this theme prompted him to make a film describing all the steps involved in small-scale filmmaking. Stern said that response to the film has been very positive and it may go to Sundance. When I asked about his favorite films and his inspirations, he said that his favorite film was "Terminator 2," and he was a big fan of James Cameron (director of the just-mentioned "TZ" and "Titanic"). He also said that he encouraged young filmmakers to stop talking about their film and just shoot it.

The Corndog Man

This film is the second feature by director Andrew Shea. It premiered at the 1999 Sundance Festival. The director's previous work also appeared at Sundance, and he has done award-winning work in theater as well. "Corndog Man" is about Ace Barker, a redneck, bigoted boat-salesman in the south. Ace receives a phone call from a mysterious



person who at first pretends to want to buy a boat, but as the calls continue it becomes clear that the caller is bent on harassment and exacting revenge for Ace's past of betrayal and prejudice. The film is a dark, moody story with powerful acting as its primary focus. The use of extreme close-ups and other unusual camera techniques- like a

bluesy, slightly eerie score- help set the tone of the film. There are a few plot weaknesses, but the superb acting compensates for any flaws in story logic.

CORRECTION

In issue 968, Anani Adzoh was misidentified. He is a mechanical engineering major.

Roberta

Directed and written by Eric Mandelbaum, this film tells the story of an obsession. A young professional, who has just inherited some money and is starting up his own business, has a chance encounter with a streetwalker who he believes he knew when they were both children. Roberta was the daughter of his family's housekeeper, and this encounter inspires him to try to help the streetwalker change her



life. This generous impulse soon becomes an obsession that takes over his life. Unlike the expected cliché, this is not a sexual obsession with Roberta herself, but an obsession with the attempt to do this good deed. The obsession moves into every aspect of his life and affects everyone around

him. The filmmaker follows this gripping decay through all its steps instead of stopping at the dramatically conventional points, and he also forces the audience to attempt to understand the characters through their actions without explicit explanation of their behavior. The choice of spare sets, an approach to the photography that avoids emotionally revealing close-ups, and excellent restrained acting all contribute effectively to the tone of the film. The result is a dramatically powerful film, with realistic portrayals that avoid the conventions expected for these characters and a story that will make you think about who benefits from altruism and what is defined as "self destructiveness."

Eric Mandelbaum, when I spoke to him, mentioned that casting against type was important to the success of his film. Kevin Corrigan, who usually plays light juvenile roles, plays the successful businessman who sets out to rescue Roberta, and Daisy Rojas, who had no previous acting experience, plays Roberta. Mandelbaum thought that it was especially crucial to avoid any of the clichés of movie prostitutes for the role of Roberta, and he wanted an actress who would be unaffected by those preconceptions. According to Mandelbaum, the character of Roberta was based on actual prostitutes who worked in the industrial area of New York where the movie was filmed. While this is his first feature film, the director has an extensive background in theater and numerous writing credits, as well as a variety of film experience. He said that care was taken in the photography not to get too close in shots of the actors and that characterization was done through actions rather than dialogue, so that the audience is forced to participate in guessing about the character's motivations.

Snake Tales

This film has an unusual and interesting story: a young woman is stopped in a small Texas town after she runs over a snake—an endangered species called an Indigo Snake. She is taken before a judge and given two minutes to tell her story. But like Scheherazade in 1001 Arabian Nights, as her story unfolds, the judge is so caught up in it and eager to hear what happens next that each time she reaches her time limit, he keeps extending



the time. Her story starts out like a fairy tale and leads to a character who starts another story, and so forth. At first, the stories seem unconnected and unrelated to the death of the snake, but eventually all comes together. The story is revealed as serpentine and circular, like a snake. The idea of the nested stories is the greatest strength of the film, with the pacing a bit too slow and some of the

dialogue and acting a bit weak. The filmmaker does a nice job of keeping all the characters in the stories straight by placing the tales in different locations—a challenging task in a low-budget film. The film is fantasy-like and often has a lightly humorous and even romantic touch.

I spoke to director Francesca Talenti by phone. In addition to directing the film, she also wrote and produced it. Her previous filmwork includes short films and commercials, which she said gave her the technical and practical experience needed to do this project. At present, she teaches filmmaking at University of Texas in Austin, and this position led to a number of unique features in this production. While professionals did the principle artistic and technical roles in the production, such as acting, cinematography, and editing, a lot of the supporting work was done by students in the filmmaking program as part of a summer project. Talenti said that while working with students in this way was risky, she was surprised at how resourceful, enthusiastic, and dependable her crew was, and she felt that both the students and the project benefited from the collaboration. Talenti also drew on the variety of natural features in the surrounding Texas landscape in designing her overlapping stories, as well as incorporating Texas folklore and local issues, such as the conflict between Anglos and Latinos.

Eight Lanes in Hamilton

The performance of the actors are the crucial focus of this tale about a man who returns to the small town he had left eight years before. A smooth and charming conman, he returns to find that his now-grown son is eager to find a way out of town, and the conman pairs up with his son to achieve his goal of obtaining \$16000. Several other town's people are drawn into the plans of this charming but ruthless man, as the son slowly realizes that he's inherited some of his father's skill at manipulating people, and has to think about what he will do in order to escape this small town. Fine performances and skillful framing of shots help draw the viewer into this story about choices in life. The film runs a little long, but is overall effective in telling this tale of one's own effect on the lives around us.



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AUTHOR, from page 3

The most interesting aspect of writing that Agee works with is the plasticity of the characters. Through this flexibility, Agee believes she becomes a great communicator.

"Writing is one of the best ways to communicate. I find that I communicate much more clearly in writing than in person. What's great about writing is you simply say what needs to be said," Agee said.

The whole idea of "Taking the Wall" is to expose readers to a new world—the world of auto racing.

"I like the idea that stories can move people. I like to think that it's a very important job of writing to restore compassion, to take readers to senses they would otherwise ignore or be afraid of," Agee said.

In order to write "Taking the Wall," Agee had to research auto racing thoroughly.

"These people have very intense lives," Agee said. "They were interesting. They were filled with danger, disappointment, and passion."

Possibly one of the most admirable traits of race car drivers, Agee observed, was that they are always thinking about the team that made the win possible. They thank the team if they win and appreciate the effort that made it happen.

That remains the main reason that Agee decided to focus "Taking the Wall" on the families, pit crews, and support systems of drivers.

"I think that most books about sports tend to focus on the heroes or anti-heroes of the sport, and I'm really looking at a different aspect," Agee said.

Penguin/Viking Press publishes Agee's novels, while Small Press Books publishes her short story collec-

tions. Agee still abides by a loyalty to Small Press Books.

"That's the thing about a small literary press; they will keep your work in print forever," Agee said.

Debbie Stoddard, a UM-St. Louis student, is working to become certified to teach elementary education.

"I'm fascinated by [Agee's] use of the automobile and stock car racing," Stoddard said. "What was striking was the mother in the background, and then it went full circle with the salvage yard and what happened to the mother" in the story "Good to Go."

Jim Feely, a retired professor from Lindenwood University, taught Agee about twenty years ago.

"I saw lots of potential, but I never dreamed she would be the writer she is. When I read her works, I see stuff that I emphasized," Feely said.

SUPPORT DOGS, from page 3

the dog helps with the hand muscles," Dahlkamp said. "Kids that won't speak to adults will carry on full conversations with a dog."

Because the TOUCH program is made up of dogs that are not hand-picked for service, there is a wide variety of breeds and mongrels.

"We have everything from a Chihuahua to a Great Dane, and everything in between," Dahlkamp

said. A new program, Pediatric Home Companion Dogs, focuses on children with a disease or terminal illness. They are dogs that didn't quite make the cut as a service dog, usually due to a physical ailment like weak hips or joints. They can still do better-than-basic skills that don't require a lot of support strength.

Support Dog is run by 11 staff

employees and 250-275 volunteers.

"We're able to do what we can because we've got volunteers and because they're such a nice group with such a strong numbers base, but we always need more. As our services increase, we need to recruit more volunteers," Dahlkamp said. "Without them, we wouldn't be able to make it or break it at this point."

SPORTS PROFILE

Panama's leadership, hitting skills boost v-ball Riverwomen

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff editor

Senior Yorhena Panama has had a steady influence on the Riverwomen's volleyball team this season.

As a 5-10' outside hitter, Panama has led UM-St. Louis with 234 kills, 26 serving aces, and 56 total blocks on the season.

In high school, Panama was a standout volleyball and basketball player at Fagaitua High School (American Samoa).

Panama earned the Most Valuable Player status as a sophomore in volleyball and was also named Athlete of the Year in 1996.

"People made fun of me in high school, telling me that I was a waste of height," Panama said. "I really did not know the game of volleyball until I was a junior."

Panama began to take both sports seriously when she played volleyball and basketball at East Central Junior College. As a freshman, Panama earned Freshman of the Year award and was second team all-conference. She earned offensive player of the year honors, first team all-conference, and first team all-region honors as a sophomore.

Once Panama came to UM-St. Louis, the two sport star focused primarily on volleyball.

"I was checking out the basketball team here, but there was no way that I could do both," Panama said. "I did not have the energy. I like basketball, but my love is for volleyball. Even when I came here, I was nervous playing at first because I was in basketball season [at East Central Junior College]."

UM-St. Louis has made great strides over the past two seasons in volleyball, and Panama has been a positive influence throughout.

"We all know each other now as teammates and friends," Panama said. "Before I go out and cheer for the team vocally, I pump each individual up, and once game time comes, we all work together. I really enjoy talking and am using my big mouth to become more vocal on the court."

Panama has demonstrated good leadership on the court as well as off the court in her last season as a Riverwoman.

"Personally, I don't see myself as a leader. I see myself as one of the teammates," Panama said. "I see Nicole [Wall] and Anne [McCord] as the leaders of the team."

Once her senior season is complet-

ed, Panama wishes to remain in school and active in volleyball to a certain extent.

"I still have two semesters left and was thinking of being a student assistant for volleyball," Panama said.

No matter what the fate of the Riverwomen's volleyball team may be this year, Panama has shown heart and a team-mentality through the thick and thin.

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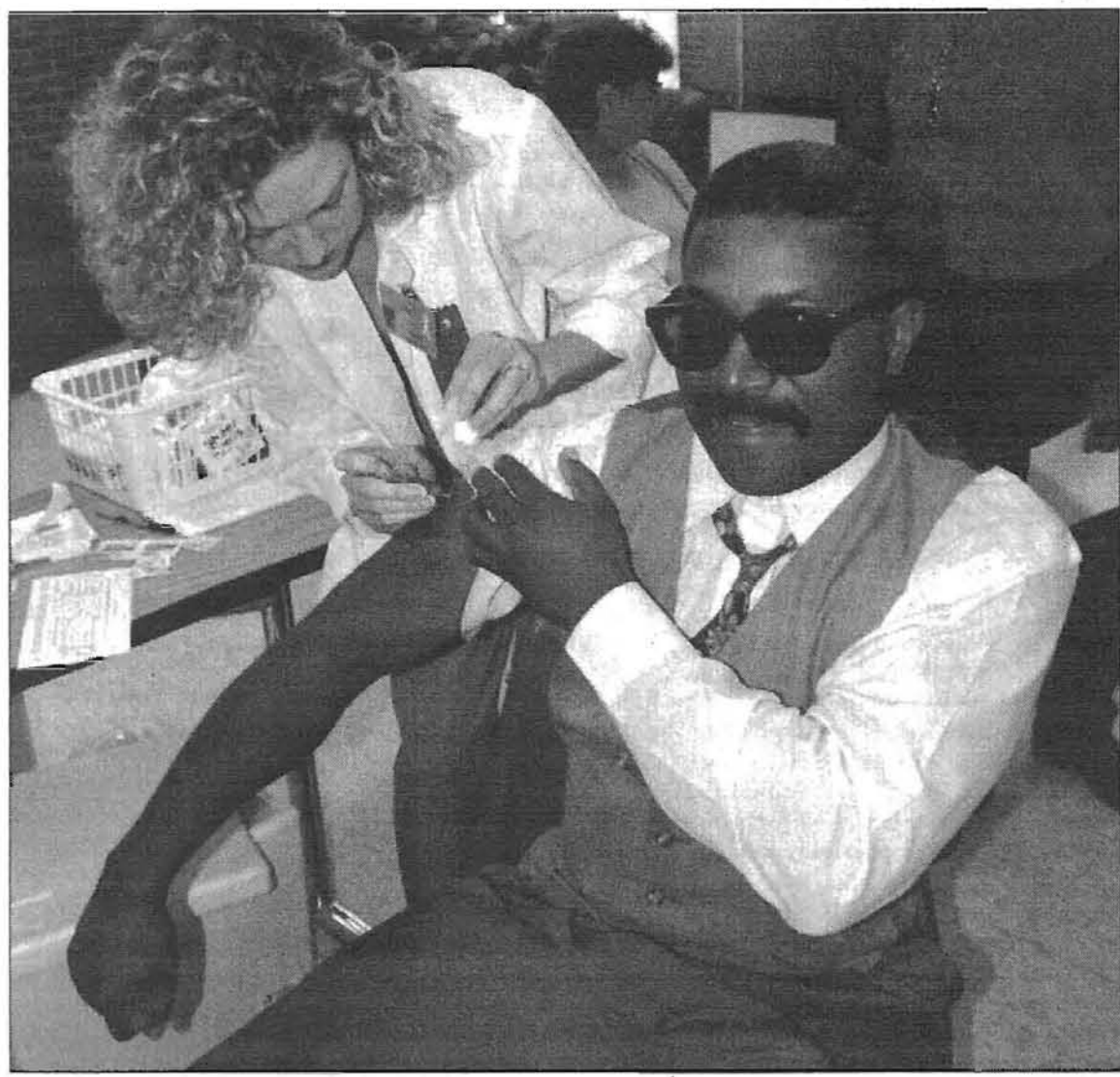
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FLU, from page 3



Charles Brown, Head of Reference at Mercantile Library, boldly receives a flu shot from Amy Schoenberger, an RN at University Health Services on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1999 in the University Center.

include not sharing drinks, good hand washing and practicing good hygiene.

Greg Goe, a network support specialist, endured the mosquito-bite-like prick of pain and sat down to receive a shot from Schoenberger.

"I just don't want to get the flu," Goe said.

Karen Kirkland, a manager of business/fiscal operation, thought in a very similar way to Goe.

"I don't want to get sick," Kirkland said.

Janae Paas, a freshman majoring in biology, was told by her volleyball coach, Denise Silvester, to get vaccinated.

"Just because I want to stay healthy and not get the flu," Paas said.

The University Health Center will also provide flu shots on Monday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the cost of \$10. For more information, please call University Health Services at (314) 516-5671.


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Workshops for recognized student organizations are scheduled for November 15th thru 19th. All recognized student organizations must have a representative to attend one of these workshops. A student attending a workshop may represent only one organization. Attendance will be taken and an organization will not be able to request funding if they are not represented.

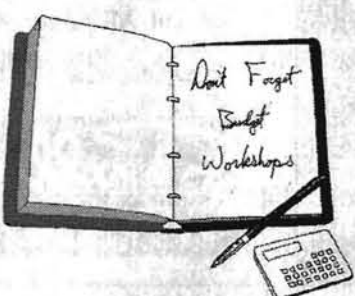


Your organization must sign up in room 267 by November 12th in order to attend a workshop. Some workshops are limited to space constraints and will be filled on a first come-first serve basis.

When

Monday NOVEMBER 15	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	156 University Center
Tuesday NOVEMBER 16	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Cypress Room
Wednesday NOVEMBER 17	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cypress Room
Thursday NOVEMBER 18	10:00 am - 12 noon	Oak Room 
Friday NOVEMBER 19	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Cypress Room

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Two cops on the trail of a brutal killer. They must see as one, they must act as one, they must think as one, before the next victim falls.

the BONE COLLECTOR

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E-DAY, from page 1

International Center for Tropical Ecology. "Overall we have been very successful in getting students interested,

and we will continue the program next year," Osborne said.

RUMOR, from page 1

Communications Bob Samples said. "If they have a concern they will have an outlet to go to."

The email address for the hot line is rumorhotline@umsl.edu.

BARTON, from page 1

that contributed to Barton's hire was that she seemed someone who would be dedicated to the demanding position.

and convinced the faculty committee, that she had a real dedication and a high energy level.

"It's a job in which a person needs to be very energetic and willing to work long hours," Wartzok said. "She certainly convinced me,

"I've been here eight days," Barton said on Thursday. "Do you want to know how many lunch hours I've missed?"

LETTERS, from page 4

body that infuses direct student participation in all aspects of decision making that affects them.

announce my candidacy for President of the SGA on the Democratic-Socialist ticket. If you have any questions please e-mail at rmonta02@juno.com

In order to formulate and help ease the transition of government from the SGA to this NEW DEMOCRACY, I have decided to

-Robert C. Montague II

HARRIS, from page 4

ened up so much that after the comeback, a wild celebration ensued. Golfers were running all over the place hugging and dancing. Fans were screaming and going crazy. It was arguably the greatest thing that has ever happened to

American golf. This wouldn't have been possible without Stewart. Not only golf, but the world lost a great man last Monday.

Rest in peace, Payne.

DUNKIN, from page 4

reading us. But the way we were mentioned leaves much to be desired. It said we were not reporting a story, which is true. But not because we are covering something up like we're the FBI. On certain stories, sources won't give quotes on the record which makes it hard to

do our job. We back up all information with quotes and must have a foundation to a story. We do not report something that we can't see personally or get someone to tell us about it on the record. That's journalism 101 people. Don't criticize if you don't know the deal.

MORE LETTERS

Can't stay quiet about Butler anymore

I have tried to bite my tongue on several occasions as the absurd Darwin Butler saga has unraveled. However, after Carol Klaus's letter, I can hold my silence no longer.

If we are to believe her, those of us who find Butler's actions to be an utter disgrace are guilty of stereotyping felons. I beg your pardon, Carol, but a convicted felon is not an alternative lifestyle choice. The reality is that Butler stole someone's credit card, and with plenty of time to re-consider his error, chose to use it illegally at a later time. Let's be clear; this was a pre-meditated act, not a loss of reason in the heat of the moment. That credit card didn't jump into his hand and then hop out of his hand to pay for something at a later time. Butler planned to violate the law and followed through. This type of behavior cannot be rationalized or explained away. It is flat out

wrong, regardless of the race or financial background of the perpetrator.

I wish Butler all the luck in the world, and after all this blows over, God knows he'll need it. I just wish him that luck in a capacity other than SGA President. With all due respect, Carol, you need to re-examine reality and take a lesson!

-P.P. Brittain

Time for Butler to leave with dignity

I am appalled at the letter Carol Kraus wrote in the October 25, 1999 edition of The Current in which she asserted that race is a factor regarding the controversy surrounding Darwin Butler. I believe this is a grossly flawed argument because it is Darwin Butler's failure to adequately fulfill his responsibilities as Student Government Association president that explains why Mr. Butler has been criticized.

body and Mr. Butler, he is now suffering some of the consequences of committing that illegal act and holding a leadership position.

This is a situation in which Mr. Butler's inability to perform his SGA presidential duties is being blamed on other issues, when in fact those problems were caused by Mr. Butler himself. Mr. Butler should take responsibility for his inappropriate actions and acknowledge that because of prior mistakes he is unable to complete his terms as SGA president. In other words, Mr. Butler should respectfully resign as SGA president. I do not think many students would argue that Darwin Butler was performing his duties well during the summer months. He exemplified the fervor and passion necessary to pursue and investigate important issues on campus. Mr. Butler's enthusiasm for attending to student affairs and concerns was promising because it provided a new outlet which students could use to voice their opinion. Unfortunately, after his status as a criminal and leader was sensationalized by the national media, the unforeseen consequences of Mr. Butler's crimes detracted from his presidential duties when he was required to devote time and attention to this personal matter.

It is a shame that because of Mr. Butler's past actions that his position and goals as SGA president have suffered. Considering the time Darwin has spent dealing with his personal conflict, it does not appear he has the time and attention necessary to facilitate the goals he was pursuing as SGA president. Mr. Butler barely has time to attend the many meetings that the his position dictates he attend in order to successfully and fully represent the student body of UM-St. Louis. In addition, Mr. Butler is receiving a salary for his lack of ability to fulfill his responsibilities and duties as SGA president. It is ironic that Mr. Butler criticizes the administration and the University for its use of student fees, when Mr. Butler is being paid a salary with student fees for a job that he is not performing.

With this in mind, perhaps the students of UM-St. Louis can realize that Darwin's efforts in the summer do not have to be dismissed even if he is unable to effectively serve the student body and function in his capacity as SGA president. Perhaps his efforts can be the fuel that feeds the fire of motivation to resolve certain situations and problems on campus, so that this entire experience might result in a positive outcome for UM-St. Louis.

-Joshua Stegeman student senator

Survey finds many universities unprepared for Y2K

BY QUANDRIA DABNEY & KRISTYNE E. DEMSKE The State News

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich.—Many colleges and universities may not be Y2K compliant, according to a recent survey.

The study, released by the U.S. Department of Education Wednesday, said about 200 colleges and universities will not be Y2K

compliant by Jan. 1, 2000.

"The point we're trying to make is that schools have a mountain to move," said Jim Bradshaw, a spokesman for the department.

Bradshaw said 1,200 colleges and universities participated in the telephone survey. He said in the extreme cases after Jan. 1, the colleges and universities may have problems with heating systems breaking down, student records getting corrupted and building and

security alarm systems failing completely.

Colleges and universities should have an independent company look at their computer systems, Bradshaw said, "to make doubly sure that they'll be working correctly come Jan. 1."

This is the second survey the department has conducted this year, said David Dexter, deputy director of the department's Y2K Project Team.

Dexter said this survey was conducted as a follow-up to a summer survey that found only a third of the colleges and universities surveyed Y2K compliant.

The fall survey showed that 97 percent of all colleges and universities expect to have their systems ready by Jan. 1, he said.

The Y2K problem is an error in the way computers and their programs understand dates. Originally, computer programs were written to

read dates in the two-digit form to save money.

For example, the date 1967 was written in programs as 67. With the millennium approaching computers won't know the difference between 1900 and 2000 because it will read both dates as 00.

TESTIMONIAL Back in the old days, I was a student, just like you. Every day I commuted to and from the University. At 8:00 a.m. sharp, I would enter the vibrant world of Español. For the next several hours, I would be engrossed in studies, expanding my mind, and learning oh-so-many things I had never before thought possible. But I felt cut off from the rest of the world... Then things changed. I visited The Current Online and discovered that my college experience had only been one-dimensional! I was missing out on a chance to meet new people and have real discussion! I was missing the week's top news, sports, and entertainment information. In short, I was deprived before I got online with The Current Online.

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NOTICE Referendum On Thursday Nov. 4 UM-St. Louis students displaying a valid student ID may vote on whether to establish a chapter of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri on campus. The following question will be on the ballot: "Shall the student body of the University of Missouri at St. Louis assess themselves in the amount of 15 cents per credit hour per semester (not to exceed \$1.50 per semester) to support the Associated Students of the University of Missouri?" Polling places: University Center - Lobby Marillac Hall - Lobby Polls will be open 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Erotic websites might move to '.xxx' domain DAVE ZABAN Daily Illini (U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — There might soon be a new place on the Internet exclusively for pornography. U.S. Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., is considering proposing that Internet sites with adult material have a new domain name. The sites would be asked to change from the current ".com" domain to another domain, tentatively labeled ".xxx". Domain names are the three letters that end a Web site's address. Domains are used as tags for the content of a site. There are now six domain names, the commonly used ".com", ".org", ".net" and ".edu", as well as ".gov" for government-related sites and ".mil" for military sites. This is not the first time there has been talk of a new domain for pornography. In 1997, the Generic Top Level Domain Policy Oversight Committee proposed several new domains for the Internet, including the ".xxx" domain for pornographic material. The idea of giving pornographic material its own location on the Internet is under fire from critics who say it is a restriction of free speech. Barry Steinhart, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union, told the San Francisco Chronicle in 1997 that if the government was to decide what was appropriate for the proposed domain, it would be regulating content and would violate the First Amendment. Cox's idea, if passed by Congress, would change the makeup of the Internet. This segregated domain could be blocked for anyone who does not want to see pornographic Web sites. Cox said the proposal should not be considered regulation because moving from ".com" to ".xxx" would be voluntary. Many cities have zoning laws regarding adult shops and their proximity to institutions like churches or schools. Red-light districts, like those in Amsterdam, segregate places of drug use and prostitution from the general public. Cox said his proposal is very similar to those red-light districts and would make the Internet a safer place for children. In the past, Cox has worked against any Internet intervention by the government. Along with Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Cox has passed the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which prevents state and local taxes on Internet sales. The two combined again to pass the Internet Freedom and Family Empowerment Act which prevents any FCC regulation of Internet content.

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