

Getting to know you: Check out our interview with John Cusack, star of the new movie "High Fidelity." While you're at it, don't forget to look at our review of the movie, too.

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What's Inside



Anthropology 101: The Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity has hosted over 4,000 visitors, from third-grade classes to adults, in its two labs in Clark Hall since 1996.

See Page 3

U-Wire News

States say online sales tax needed

BY MEGAN BOLDT
Minnesota Daily

(U-WIRE) Minneapolis, Minn.—E-commerce giants like eBay and Amazon.com are making millions of dollars each year from online transactions — tax-free transactions.

Currently, there is a moratorium on Internet sales tax that would last until 2001. The moratorium prevents some states, including Minnesota, from taxing transactions made on the Internet.

Minnesota and other states stand to lose millions of dollars in the next several years if the current ban on Internet taxation continues.

"At this point it is not estimated exactly how much the state is losing," said Judy Niccum, key resource for sales tax in the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

According to a study done by the Multistate Tax Commission, if the moratorium continues, the state of Minnesota will lose \$219 million in state and local taxes.

"If that mode of business expands, the state could lose billions in the future," said U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo, D-Minn.

The ban's purpose is to conduct a study on the impact of online retail and what affect it will have on sales tax, said Steve Behm, spokesman for U.S. Sen. Rod Grams, R-Minn.

Sabo disagrees with the ban, saying online sales should be subject to a normal retail sales tax like any other business.

"It is unfair the people selling goods in the traditional way are getting taxed while others are not," Sabo said.

The complexity of some states' sales tax policies have caused debate among legislators and state officials. Some say the process of taxing is too complex and a new system needs to be examined.

Niccum said Minnesota is working with other states to look for a system that is less complicated.

Questions linger regarding what items are taxable or not. He said the state is examining options that would eliminate discrepancies between taxable goods and the burden on out-of-state retailers.

"There is a national effort to look at ways to simplify and streamline taxes," Niccum said.

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Butler reclaims presidency

Butler is released from jail, Student Court rules in favor of appeal

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Darwin Butler is out of jail and is still president of the Student Government Association.

Butler was released from the St. Louis County Justice Center on March 31 after serving a one-year sentence for felony stealing.

The Student Court reinstated Darwin Butler as SGA president after it ruled in favor of his March 22 appeal.

The decision, written by Chief Justice Rick Echer stated, "Darwin Butler Sr was automatically expelled from the SGA an [sic] 17 February 2000 but not notified of his automatic expulsion as required by the current SGA Constitution and Bylaws. Therefore, he is fully reinstated to the SGA Assembly with full access to the remaining budget."

Echer said the Student Court had no other alternative.

Butler "did miss more than 3 meetings by his absence or proxy, but he testified that he was not notified by D. Mike Bauer, the chair of SGA, or LaKricia Johnson, the secretary, by

mail or any other method," Echer said. "This was uncontroverted testimony and Shaun O'Hara was there to represent the SGA, and he brought no witnesses to refute the testimony. Darwin Butler is being treated like everyone else who was never notified that they were expelled. If you were not notified that you're expelled that's clearly a violation of the constitution and bylaws, so we had no choice but to fully reinstate him."

Echer said the SGA still has a right to expel Butler if he misses any more meetings, but then Butler would still have the right to appeal again.

Echer said the lack of notification had a great impact on the ruling.

"If [Butler] had been notified, the outcome of the appeal would have been considerably different," Echer said.

Butler appealed by teleconference. He had been unable to attend any SGA meetings since October when his work



Butler

release was revoked. Butler was on work release after being convicted of buying a computer with a stolen credit card.

Butler lost a second appeal before the Court. He contended that the SGA acted improperly when it expelled him for missing too many meetings Jan. 20. The SGA had adjourned one meeting and called a second that day to put Butler over the limit.

Echer said Article IV, Section 3, of the SGA Constitution allows for such meetings. It states, "Special meetings of the assembly may be called by the Association president, Executive Committee, or by the petition of one-third the Assembly."

Echer said this was done. "The second meeting went by a petition of one-third of the Assembly representatives," Echer said. "At least 36 members were in attendance at the end of the first meeting and petitioned by voice vote for a second meeting. The total number of SGA representa-

tives at that time was no more than 102, which means they would have needed about 33 or 34 votes and they had 36."

During the appeal, Butler said the second meeting was also illegal because it was an emergency meeting. According to Article III, Section 1, Subsection D, of the SGA Constitution, emergency business between regularly scheduled meetings can only be conducted by the SGA Executive Committee.

Echer said the second meeting was not intended for emergency business.

"The business that was completed was never declared an emergency by anyone," Echer said. "A special meeting was called by one-third of the Assembly members, and it was not an emergency meeting. It was just a special meeting they chose to have at that time, and they had a right to do that."

Echer said he has abstained from voting on either of Butler's appeals due to a conflict of interest. Though he has not declared his candidacy for SGA president next year, Echer said he probably would officially file.

Butler was unavailable for comment.

U changes ticket appeal process

Administration strips Student Court of traditional duty

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Students with parking tickets can no longer appeal them to the Student Court. Instead, the administration decided to set up a three-person panel to hear all appeals of parking tickets, according to a March 29 memo signed by G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor of student affairs.

According to the memo, the panel would have one student, one faculty and one staff member.

Rick Echer, chief justice of the Student Court, said he didn't get word of the decision until April 3. "There was no substantial dialogue with the students involved about any of this," Echer said. "The Student Court was never involved in making the decision."

The memo ordered the court to send any pending appeals to Robert Roeseler, chief of the campus police. Joanne Bocci, Grace's interim assistant, said Roeseler would supervise "an interim ticket appeals committee for the rest of the year."

She said Grace asked her to find a student to serve on the panel, while Chancellor Blanche Touhill would choose the staff and faculty members for both the interim panel and the committee next year.

She said the change had been in the works since October 1997 when Grace first took office. "When Gary Grace first came, Chief Bob Roeseler approached him about a different model of ticket appeals," Bocci said. "Gary said he really didn't have any opposition to it."

Grace was in Washington, D.C., last week and couldn't be reached for

comment.

The memo said, "Roeseler is contemplating the offer of a free parking permit for those who serve on the university appeals committee."

Roeseler didn't return repeated phone calls. "There's going to be some kind of financial incentive," Bocci said.

Echer wasn't the only student leader shocked by the decision. Student Senator D. Mike Bauer raised the issue at a meeting of the University Senate Committee on Student Affairs Wednesday.

"I think this is a terrible thing," Bauer said. "The faculty and administration has made it very clear that the students are not their peers. Everywhere else in this country you are entitled to a hearing before your peers. With as little authority as the student government has, we're losing some of it."

At the same meeting, Rick Blanton, director of Student Activities, said, "This nearly happened back in 1992, 3 or 4. They were going to abolish the Student Court because the students were sitting on [the appeals] and weren't doing anything."

Blanton said that when word got out of plans to abolish the court, "students rose up quickly." He said that former chief justice Steve Bartok made sure the court disposed of all appeals until the Student Government Association ousted him in January.

Since Bartok left the court, the percentage of students winning appeals jumped dramatically.

In its report to the SGA at its March 16 meeting, the Student Court report-



Darren Brune/The Current

A parking ticket sits nestled under the windshield wipers of a van on campus. The administration recently decided to set-up a 3-person panel to hear all ticket appeals.

ed that students won 67 of the 123 cases or 54.4 percent before it since the new court took office Jan. 20. Before Jan. 20, students won nine cases out of 135 or 6.7 percent. However, under the old court, in 67 of the cases the students lost, or 49.6 percent, the fine was suspended, and the students wouldn't have to pay unless they were caught in another parking

violation. Echer said the court often throws out fines when students can prove they have parking permits, when the ticket is for parking without a permit.

Bocci said the Student Court has a problem holding meetings. "It's hard to get everyone together," she said. "Between jobs and going to class, it's hard to find a time."

Student hopes to revitalize financial aid with resolution

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

A representative to the Student Government Association plans to introduce a resolution that he says will improve students' dealings with UM-St. Louis' financial aid department.

Joey White, an SGA representative from the Residence Hall Association, drafted the resolution. He said he plans to present the document to the SGA assembly at its April 20 meeting.

The resolution calls for a revision to the financial aid appeals process, additional training for financial aid advisors, and for both the University and the SGA to help "revitalize the financial aid office."

The current financial aid appeals process allows students to make writ-

ten appeals through the Student Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Should students be dissatisfied with the outcome of the appeal, they can make further appeals next to the director of Financial Aid, then to the Faculty-Student Committee on Financial Aid, the Chancellor, the president of the University of Missouri system, and finally, the Board of Curators.

Anthony Georges, director of Student Financial Aid, said approximately 8,000 UM-St. Louis students applied for financial aid last year and that 7,000 of those applying received some form of aid. He said he was uncertain how many students filed



White

appeals last year. Georges said he feels his staff works well with students and is qualified to handle aid requests and appeals.

"I'm proud of our staff," Georges said. "They're trained. Everybody has at least five years of experience. I have some that have

15, 16, 17 years of experience." White said he was motivated to write the resolution based on "my personal experience with [the financial aid office]." He said that he filed two appeals, both of which were allegedly lost.

White contends that he has heard similar concerns from other students. "They've experienced appeals letters being lost. They've been

ignored," White said. Georges declined to comment on White's case directly for confidentiality reasons, but maintained that his office knows the whereabouts of all appeals students file.

He also said that his office has already modified the way it handles appeals. Rather than having several financial aid advisors handle appeals, Georges said, all appeals are handled by one person.

"We centralized the appeals process," Georges said. "That means that all appeals are tracked through my assistant director, so if anyone is looking for an appeal, instead of looking for six people, they go to that one person, and that one person is going to know where that appeal is."

He said that sometimes appeals are erroneously considered to be lost. "Even having that system in

place, the person that's working [on an] appeal may bring that folder in to me . . . that folder ends up on my desk, and no one else knows it," Georges said. "That's what I call MIA [missing in action]. It's not lost."

Georges also said that the financial aid office is audited annually by the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche. Georges said the purpose of the audit is to review the award decisions made by his office.

Michael Rankins, vice president of SGA, said the SGA has yet to determine what measures it would take if the resolution passes.

"At this moment SGA has no specific plans to revitalize the financial aid office," Rankins said, "but it doesn't mean we're not receptive to suggestions."

see ENGLISH, page 9

Bulletin Board

Monday, April 10

- **Noon Cultural Series** presents "Meanderings on the Internet: Reflections on the Use of Electronic Technology in the Classroom." Meeting in Room 229 J. C. Penney, this discussion will run from 12 to 1 p.m. For more information call Karen Lucas at 5699.
- **Nursing Job Fair 2000** will meet in the Seton Center Living Room from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is sponsored by Career Services and is free and is for UM-St. Louis students and alumni only.
- **March Madness Badminton** is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.
- **Interviewing Techniques Workshop**, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Polish your interviewing skills. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

Tuesday, April 11

- **Bill Federer**, who is running for U. S. Congress-3rd district, will be at the Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Betty at 385-3455.
- **Student Government Association** will

have a special meeting for the approval of a new constitution in Room 72 J. C. Penney at 2:30 p.m. For further information, call the SGA office at 5105.

- **Prayer Group** at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m.

- **S. O. A. the School of the Americas** will have an info booth in the Atrium of University Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn how your tax dollars are funding this place that trains soldiers to torture, execute and blackmail. Join in the FAST to close it down, or contact Betty at 385-3455 for fact sheets.

- **UMSL TV** will meet at 2 p.m. in Room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, April 12

- **The Arianna String Quartet** will give a special recital at 12 p.m. in Room 205 of the Music Building. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, call John Hylton, chair of the music department, at 5992.

- **How to Utilize Career Services Workshop**, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 10:30 to 11:30

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.

a.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Learn about the job search resources available. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

- **Rec Sports Registration Deadline** is today for the Mirthday Sand Volleyball Tournament. Entries are limited to the first 20 teams, so sign up early for the best one-hour time slots (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.). Refundable \$10 deposit will reserve your team a spot. Open to students and faculty/staff. For more info contact the Rec Sports Office at 5326.

- **Soup and Soul Food** will be from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church.

- **March Madness Badminton** is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advance registration necessary.

Thursday, April 13

- **Backstage Opera Theatre**, hosted by Dr. Leonard Ott, will begin at 7 and run to 9 p.m. in Room 205 Music Building. To confirm events, ticket prices, or for further information call 5980.

- **Student Government Association** may have a special meeting for the approval of a new constitution in Room 229 J. C. Penney at 2:30 p.m. (if not approved at the April 11 meeting). For further information, call the SGA office at 5105.

Friday, April 14

- **Physics and Astronomy Colloquium** hosts "Cosmic-Ray Isotopic Composition." Martin H. Israel, professor of physics, Washington University, presents some of the latest results from the Cosmic-Ray Isotope Spectrometer (CRIS), as well as a brief look at other cosmic-ray work in our laboratory at Washington University. Coffee will be served in Room 516 Benton Hall at 2:30 p.m. with the colloquium following at 3 in Room 328 Benton Hall.

- **UMSL TV** will meet at 12 p.m. in Room 495 Lucas. See what they have planned and be a part of the Production Club. For more information contact umsltv@hotmail.com.

Sunday, April 16

- **RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** will begin at 4 and run until 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.).

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Positions for the 2000-2001 year are available

The Current is now hiring the managing editor and business manager positions for the 2000-2001 school year. Interested? Submit a cover letter and application to Josh. If you have questions, please give us a call at 516-5174.

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ANTHROPOLOGY 101

CHOCD helps to bring learning experience to kids

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff assistant

On a Friday morning, sixth graders from Stowe Middle School receive a hands-on educational experience from the Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity (CHOCD) in Clark Hall.

The Department of Anthropology and the School of Education have been operating the CHOCD program since it began in 1996.

The program was designed to enlighten any group of people interested in the origin of humans and the significance of cultural diversity.

From third grade classes to adult groups, CHOCD has played host to over 4,000 visitors in the center's two labs, the Human Origin Lab and the African Cultures Lab.

The labs have four stations on the first and fourth floors of Clark Hall.

At the Human Origin Lab, students engage in "hands-on earth science activities," including the opportunity to handle fossil casts, an informative presentation of the role that genes play in human development and other activities about the origin of humans.

The sole purpose of the Human Origin Lab is "so [the students] can understand the role that Africa



Michelle Van Iseghem / The Current

A grade school child uses materials in the Human Origin lab. CHOCD sponsors a program in which children learn through hands on experiments.

has played in human origin," said CHOCD director Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris.

The students not attending the Human Origin Lab attend the African Cultures Lab, which gives the experience of urban life in an African city, activities involving dance, storytelling, food preparation techniques and knowledge of the roles of women's and men's societies in African culture.

Harris said that the center gives

the young students important knowledge about themselves that former generations did not have a chance to receive.

The education and anthropology lecturer pointed out that "half of the information we have now was not available" for the adults that attend the center.

A lot of the younger students in third through 12th grades are hesitant at the beginning of the program when topics of the different

cultures and races come, Harris pointed out. But after they become more knowledgeable about the history of the different cultures and races and their similarities, the students open up more.

"When you look at it in terms of biology, there is no such thing as race," Harris said. The biological explanation for the cultural differences is basically that "people have adapted to their environment," she said.

Job Fair puts students on fast track

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

Career Services provides diverse selection of employers

April marks the coming of the end of the winter semester. Seniors are busy preparing for the rest of their lives—sending invitations for their upcoming graduation and interviewing for those great jobs that will pay back the loans they racked up over the years. Some undergrads are looking for internships or preparing for a hot summer exacerbated by classes and part-time jobs. And, of course, there are the few who are looking forward to trips abroad and lazy summer days of sunbathing and long drives to nowhere.

In anticipation of students on the job hunt, the Career Center hosted the Gateway Placement Association's 14th annual Gateway to Careers Job Fair.

Students looking for internships or seniors and alumni looking for full-time jobs had the opportunity to meet employers from across the country in this year's career fair in the Mark Twain Building. This year's fair had over 178 tables representing companies covering a variety of career areas from General American Financial Services to Washington University School of Medicine.

Students from just about every field were able to find something in their area. Suzanne Rohan, a career specialist with the University's Career Services office said it was important that their office regulated the number of companies representing different career opportunities.

"In response to previous fairs, where attendees complained that there were too many banks, or job placement agencies, or too many social services agencies, we [Career Services] made an effort to make sure there was a fair number of employers from different areas represented at this year's career fair," said Rohan.

UM-St. Louis has been the host site for the Gateway to Careers Job fair for the past nine years. Rohan



Mutsumi Igarashi / The Current

A conglomeration of students attended the annual Job Fair held in the Mark Twain Building last Saturday.

commented that because of this, many people associate the fair as an UM-St. Louis event while students from all the universities from the St. Louis area are invited to participate.

"Every year this event gets larger. This year we had an estimated 825 candidates that participated in the fair, 377 of which were UM-St. Louis students," said Rohan.

The candidates came from

Washington University, St. Louis University, Webster University, Harris-Stowe State College, as well as UM-St. Louis and other local universities and community colleges.

According to Rohan the majority of employers were from the greater St. Louis area, but recruiters from other states came out. The Jones Company came to the fair hoping to

recruit for their Nashville and Denver offices, noted Rohan.

Rohan said she was pleased that this year's fair had the largest and most diverse turnout to date.

"We understand that some people weren't able to participate in this year's career fair," Rohan said. "We urge them to register with our office so we can assist them with their resume. We also collected business

cards from every recruiter present at Thursday's fair. This enables us to have a direct contact with a company if a student or alum wishes to send them a resume."

Students interested in internships or full- and part-time employment can register with Career Services at 516-5111.

Pig portrait perturbs pork-friendly patrons



AND THE POINT IS... ANNE PORTER

Work place rule No. 28: If you want your manager to notice you, blunder just enough for him not to fire you, but for him to laugh at your error. By seeing your "mistake," if they did not know that you existed or even that they paid for your services, they are then forced to do so by such a glaring display.

Let me explain my basis for such a theory based my own personal experience.

I work in restaurant in a hotel to pay for eggs, liquor, heat, gas, Altolids, the rent, etc. Well, you get the point.

In the restaurant, we have a board where we advertise the daily specials.

The general manager of the hotel told us that the board should be more splashy and alluring to passing-by guests.

Let me provide you a little background about the general manager. He probably knows more about underwater origami than he knows about restaurant management. Since he does not know how to fold wet paper in artistic ways (and neither do I for that matter), he appears to understand nothing about how to operate food service.

In order to appease his demands for a more interesting and exciting board, we began to add little drawings. For Mardi Gras, we drew a mas-

querade mask and party streamers. For Valentine's Day, we drew little hearts.

Those two holiday displays did generate some compliments. For everyday specials, we thought this technique was going well and making the G.M. happy so we continued on with drawing animals and lake scenes.

The fish appeared quite cute especially with the sail boat and the sunrise/sunset. The fish did not receive any praise. At the same time it did not receive any criticism, and so we designed more.

Then for the duck specials, I detailed what I intended to be a mal-

lard, but in reality looked like a pheasant. I then included a pond, cattails and grass. Again no response.

One night, the chef featured pork as a special and I was feeling especially creative, so I depicted a pink pig with a curly tail. I added for scenery a fence to create the pig pen effect.

Previously for a pork special, I had decorated the board with a pig, but it was much smaller and not so eye-catching.

While I was feeling really proud of my little pig, My supervisor informed me that the "pig pen" scene had caused a big upset in management. She added that they thought the duck

the night before was a little bit edgy.

It's a shame no one told me about this, and that's exactly was I said. Apparently management thought the fish were cute and acceptable, but not farm animals because they reminded people that the animal presented was once alive. Not even just alive, but running around a field and munching on grass here and there.

I guess I see their point, but still if someone is so paranoid about their carnivorous habit, maybe they should just be a herbivore. That way they can at least not feel guilty about eating a McDonald's quarter pounder just after they have driven past a field of grazing cows.

FEATURÉS

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Thoughts for Today

"If you are afraid of being lonely, don't try to be right."

-Jules Renard
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"It's just as sure a recipe for failure to have the right idea fifty years too soon as five years too late."

-J. R. Platt
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"Art is I; science is we."

-Claude Bernard
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

"It's innocence when it charms us, ignorance when it doesn't."

-Mignon McLaughlin
Credit: Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Time

STUDENT OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

SGA constitution approval needs cooperation in SGA

The issue:

The Student Government Association is currently operating under a constitution from 1988 and bylaws from 1993. Despite attempts to draw and approve a new constitution and bylaws the SGA finds itself unable to ratify one. Currently, one has been written and now awaits approval from the assembly, but not without amendments and lengthy meetings to slow things down.

We suggest:

Whatever the reason is, the members of the Assembly need to do something they haven't done since the SGA started working on this: agree on and approve a constitution.

So what do you think?

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

It's springtime at UM-St. Louis, which means you can count on three things: the temperatures will get warmer, senioritis will plague the student body, and constitutional reform will be on the agenda for the Student Government Association.

The latter has been a perennial issue ever since it was discovered that the SGA is operating under two sets of rules: a constitution from 1988 and bylaws from 1993. Although this situation has existed for years, the assembly has failed to remedy the problem which could be done by approving and presenting to students for a vote a new constitution that would serve as the sole set of rules for the SGA to follow.

Having dual rules has been a threat looming over the efficacy of the assembly; this year, that threat became a reality. When SGA vice president Carrie Mowen resigned, SGA president Darwin Butler took advantage of the ambiguous governance to appoint an acting vice president of his own choosing. When Butler's work release from jail was revoked, we were left with an acting president whom we did not elect and who accomplished little during his tenure.

The rules were questioned once again when Butler appealed his expulsion from the SGA on the grounds that his due process was violated. The procedure used to expel him — calling two meetings in one day, leading to an excessive number

of absences for Butler — was based on the assembly picking and choosing whatever portions of the constitution and bylaws that served its goal.

An SGA committee has accomplished the long and tedious task of drafting a new constitution. Only three steps remain for the document to become official: approval by the assembly, ratification by the student body, and approval by the administration. The first step should have been accomplished at last month's SGA meeting, but a handful of representatives prevented this from happening.

The first problem was that discussion of the constitution was placed late in the meeting's agenda. By the time the assembly got around to the issue, many SGA representatives left what had already been a lengthy meeting, preventing the quorum necessary for approval. The second problem was Steve Wolfe's introduction of 18 amendments (several of which were unnecessary), the discussion of which was so time-consuming that it would have been difficult for the assembly to carefully consider them all in a single meeting. The third problem is the propensity of several SGA members to give lengthy soliloquies on most issues facing the assembly, including the constitution. Their grandstanding bogged the assembly down in pro-

see CONSTITUTION, page 8

Students lose out on parking again

The Chancellor's decision to strip the Student Court's power to preside over student traffic appeals is in a word - insulting.

The latest parking-related decision is nothing but the latest parking-related slap in the face to UM-St. Louis students. First it was the decision by the University (anything that works for the faculty works for us) Senate to allow themselves to park in student spaces. Now it is taking away the only student forum with any real power to overturn tickets.

The Student Court is replaced by a board appointed by the administration. It will be a three-panel board consisting of one faculty member, one staff member and one student. The student will be appointed by Joanne Bocci, the interim associate vice-chancellor for Student Affairs.

Having Bocci choose the lone student representative is a joke. Bocci has already proven her ineffectiveness in dealing with student matters. Bocci was the one who advised the Student Court to consult the General

Counsel on how to proceed with the Darwin Butler appeal. We certainly got a timely response out of that one, in fact we're still waiting for an answer even though the appeal is over and done with.

The students should decide who their representative is going to be. Put the candidates on the April student government association ballot. That way the administration cannot

see PARKING, page 8

LETTERS

Butler just a victim of his own actions

I find it rather ironic that Darwin Butler tries to blame everyone else for his problems. It is about time he learns to take responsibility for his own actions. Instead he acts like there is a big conspiracy aimed at him.

After committing crimes in Nevada, Mr. Butler was given probation and a second chance. Then he decided to steal someone's credit card and purchased items on it, and was sentenced to jail. Again, Mr.

Butler was given another chance by being allowed 80 hours per week for school and work. Instead he decided to violate the rules of this privilege he was granted. How many chances should someone receive?

The thing I find most offensive is his complaint about increased education fees. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank him for my higher taxes to pay for his incarceration. Also, for people such as Mr. Butler that steal, for my high-

er insurance premiums. This money sure would come in handy to pay for my tuition.

So Mr. Butler I am sorry; I do not accept the invitation to come to your pity party. I think if you need someone to blame, you should look at the mirror inside your jail cell.

-T. J. Fahning
law abiding senior

SGA assembly needs you

Do you belong to a recognized student organization on campus? If not, the Student Government does not represent you.

Why, you may ask? The simple answer is the lack of elected representatives representing the students from the various colleges and schools here at UM-St. Louis.

Organizations are required to be represented in the Student Government Assembly as a condition of receiving funding from the Student Activities Budget Committee. Many of these organi-

zations attend Assembly meetings only to keep their funding. Unfortunately, these representatives generally look out for their own self-interests. For example, at the March 16 SGA meeting, they voted down amendments that would strengthen the representation of all students, not just the minority of students who are in student organizations.

If you are unhappy with not being represented, there is hope for you. The best kept secret of the Student Government Assembly is

the elected representative from the various schools and colleges. Along with voting for President, Vice President and Comptroller in the SGA Elections on April 17 and 18, you will be voting on elected representatives from the various schools and colleges. The problem is that the SGA Constitution requires one elected representative from the various schools and colleges, but these seats go almost completely empty.

see WOLFE, page 8

Thrill of basketball still alive in NCAA

Many say that Division I college basketball has lost its luster. They say that with so many underclassmen and high schoolers leaving the ranks early for the NBA, that the continuity just isn't there anymore.

Well anyone who saw Michigan State's 88-71 National Championship victory over Florida Monday night can tell the nay-sayers differently.

The two teams were direct opposites of each other. Michigan State is loaded with seniors, players who instead of defecting early for the money decided to stay one last season to live out a dream. Meanwhile, Florida's team is made up primarily of underclassmen. Seven of Florida's top ten players were either freshmen or sophomores. Experience prevailed.

Michigan State, led by Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson, combined to show America that dreams do come true. Both hail from Flint (Michigan's equivalent to East St. Louis). Despite growing up in poverty, without any monetary luxuries, both had the will-power to pass up the NBA's money after outstanding junior seasons in order to play for a National Championship. It's what college basketball's all about.

Both saved their finest games for the biggest one. Cleaves had 18 points and four assists including three 3-pointers in the first half which really set the tone. Peterson scored 21 points, 15 in the second half when the game was on the line.

The story was Cleaves. Four minutes into the second half, Cleaves

badly turned his ankle. After getting it re-taped on the bench, Cleaves returned to finish the game.

Cleaves was at best 20 percent of his usual self with the injury. But his leadership and inspiration were all Michigan State needed to win the championship.

Florida couldn't take advantage of the injury. The Gators tried to exploit it, but Cleaves was too smart, too experienced.

Cleaves' team mates rallied behind him, picking up the physical slack while he took care of the emotional end.

Hobbling about the court for the last 15 minutes on basically one leg, Cleaves resembled the Black Knight from "Monty Python's Quest for the Holy Grail." Cleaves proved that the ankle sprain was merely a flesh wound as he persevered through the pain.

Then came the classiest gesture of all. With about 20 seconds left in the game, Michigan State coach Tom Izzo called a play in which his team intentionally committed a traveling violation so he could get each senior off the court one-by-one.

The ovation was the biggest for Cleaves who gave everything he had on this night to bring Michigan State a victory. Fittingly, it was Michigan State alum, Magic Johnson, leading the cheers for perhaps the best player ever to wear the green and white of Michigan State.

Izzo's gesture showed exactly why the seniors chose to come back and why Cleaves played through the pain. It also made me a believer again.



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

Yesterday's protests replaced by apathy

Is there anything about UM-St. Louis that ticks you off?

I ask this because of a little epiphany I had over spring break. Rather than spending my vacation getting tan and rested at some sunny locale, I chose to spend the week in the basement of *The Current* going through old issues of this newspaper. As I pored over moldy old papers, some of which dated back 10 years, I realized that this campus must be made up of a bunch of happy, mellow students. We're happy with our professors, our tuition, our classes and our fellow students.

At least, that's how it appears. We certainly don't complain as much as we used to.

It used to be a regular practice for students here to protest or take action against things they were unhappy with. I'm not referring to students who were here in the 1970s when demonstrations and calls for change in the status quo occurred almost as regularly as classes. Even as recently as the mid-1990s, we had students here who actively and unabashedly tried to correct things about UM-St. Louis they felt were wrong.

Case in point: if you think this campus is well-lit at night, you have a group of Evening College students to thank for that. In 1990, several students in the Evening College Council posted signs around poorly-lit areas of the campus identifying these places as hazardous at night. They complained to Administrative Services, and several weeks later new lights were installed throughout the campus.

Several protests against sexism on campus occurred in the mid-1990s. In 1995, a student staged a sit-in in the

Chancellor's office to protest an alleged violation of the campus' sexual harassment policy and to demand that Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in education programs, be more stringently enforced. Two racial incidents on campus in February 1996 led to a demonstration against racism in which over 100 students, faculty and staff participated.

Judging by the lack of activity on campus in the past few years, nothing here bothers us much. Sure, there was a protest on campus about a year ago over a systemwide anti-discrimination policy that some felt was incomplete, but a lot of the protesters were from other campuses.

It would be nice if the lack of complaints was due to a lack of anything to complain about. Unfortunately, there are too many people grumbling about too many things for that to be true. I'm not sure why everyone is so quiet about the issues that bother them, but there is one thing I'm certain of: complaining to your friends over lunch in The Underground isn't going to do any good.

Maybe you think you don't have the time to take action on an issue that bothers you, such as the lack of parking on campus. But remember, all that time you use each day hunting for a parking space could be used to change things for the better. Maybe you think that as one person, you're powerless. Several of the protests listed above were spearheaded by a single student. If you're unhappy about something, chances are there are other people who are unhappy about it too.

Is there anything about UM-St. Louis that ticks you off? If so, you don't have to take it lying down.



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

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- MARY LINDSLEY
- BENJAMIN ISRAEL
- CHARMARE MALONE
- BRIAN DOUGLAS

"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.

Under Current
by Michelle Van Iseghem
staff photographer

What's your favorite coffee?



Christine Biando
Senior/Biology

“
French Vanilla Cappuchino.
”



Leonard G. Oliver II
Sophomore/Computer Science

“
Iced Cafe' Mocha.
”



Charles Rath
Junior/Communications & Pre-Law

“
Non-Fat latte', no foam,
3 equals
”



Karen Dolan
Freshman/Special Education

“
Raspberry Cappuchino.
”

Rivermen roll to No. 1 ranking

Baseball team goes 7-3 over spring break, is now ranked No. 1 in GLVC and Midwest

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff associate

While the rest of us were heading back to reality during our spring break, the 2000 Rivermen's baseball squad was continuing its dream season, taking seven of 10 games to improve to a 17-4-3 overall record.

After trouncing Fontbonne College 11-1, the Rivermen split a series with Lewis University, swept the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, dropped two games to Lincoln University and Missouri Southern, and took all three of their games from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, all en route to a No. 1 ranking in both the Great Lakes Valley Conference and the Midwest Region, and a No. 18 national ranking.

Jim Brady, Rivermen Head Coach, said these mid-season accolades mean nothing without a strong finish.

"We will worry about the rankings at a later date," Brady said. "At this point in the season, every member of this team needs to focus on the tasks at hand, to turn their attention to this season and not the postseason. The ratings will come with success."

The next set of tasks will be to defeat GLVC opponents Quincy University and Southern Indiana University on the road. During the

trip, UM-St. Louis will look to improve on its 6-1 GLVC record.

"Quincy will be a very formidable opponent who will also bring a national ranking into the contest," Brady said. "And Southern Indiana has always been a conference power."

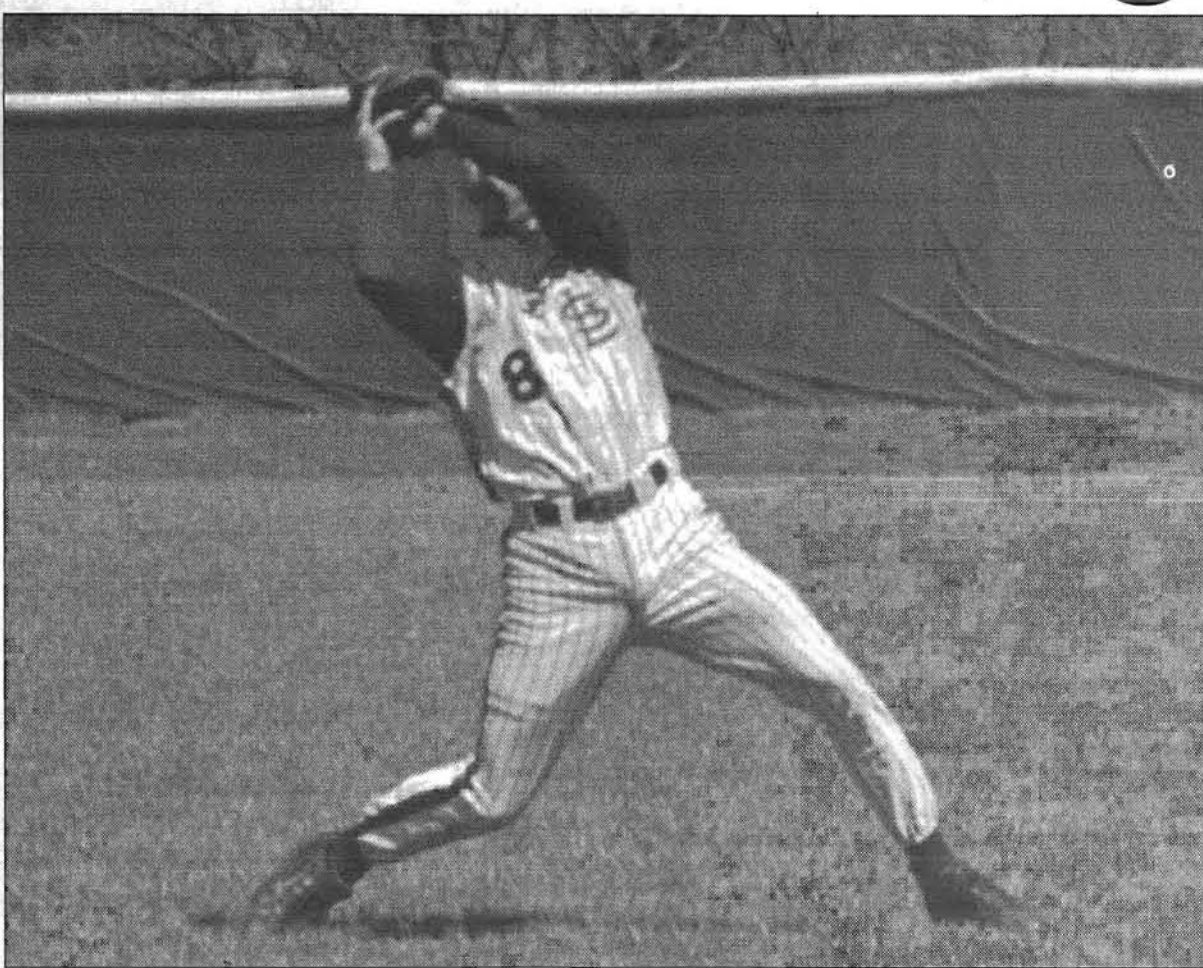
Under Brady's strict command, the entire team has been able to avoid any serious injuries, and all look to be in great shape.

"We really have to thank our lucky stars that we have had no injuries," Brady said. "I ordered my team to stay healthy, so they will stay healthy. We want to make [athletic trainer] Jeff Eddy's job as easy as can be."

The Rivermen have pop in their bats, with the team's average of eight runs per game being supplemented by a team batting average of .302. With Bob Stehman batting .452, and five other players batting comfortably over the .300 mark, offense should not be a problem.

From the mound, hurlers Greg Bierling and Lance Wilson both have earned run averages under 2, with Bierling posting a 1.91 mark over 28 innings. Workhorse Scott Johnson stands at 2.70 over a team-leading 43 innings, all while fanning 29 batters.

"This has definitely been a team effort," Brady said. "You really can't pick out a single ball-player on this



Darren Brunel/The Current

Second Baseman Tyler Bates makes an acrobatic catch this week against Quincy.

club that is any better than the others. We get production from every last one of these men."

Despite the record, Brady and the players are not satisfied with their

accomplishments, and look to improve throughout the season.

"We can't just sit on our hands now," Brady said. "We will have to play at our peak if we want to contin-

ue our success. We want everyone to know that indeed the road to the championship will run through St. Louis."

Riverwomen slip over spring break

Softball team loses 10 out of 14 games, falls to 15-12 overall, 3-7 GLVC play

BY RACHAEL QUIGLEY
staff associate

Spring break is traditionally a time for students to enjoy a week's worth of freedom with endless partying and celebrating. For the UM-St. Louis softball team (15-12, 3-7), the break was anything but a cause for celebration as they took to the road and dropped 10 out of 14 games, ending its red-hot start to the season.

The Riverwomen kicked off their break March 24, hosting a double-header against Missouri-Baptist.

The first game ended with UM-St. Louis winning 1-0. Pitcher Kathleen Rogoz picked up her eighth win.

UM-St. Louis pitcher Megan Kuebler picked up her second loss as Missouri Baptist beat the Riverwomen 3-1 in the second game.

After hosting the double-header, the Riverwomen went on a 12-game road swing, with the first stop in Indiana to take on nationally-ranked Lewis in a conference matchup.

UM-St. Louis was not intimidated by the ranking and beat Lewis in the first game 2-1, with Rogoz picking up another win.

The second game was even better than the first as the Riverwomen got their bats going and pounded Lewis 5-2. Kuebler was the winning pitcher.

The Riverwomen traveled to play conference foe Wisconsin-Parkside.

UM-St. Louis could not get it going offensively as Wisconsin-Parkside handed Rogoz her first defeat of the season and beat the Riverwomen 0-2.

The second game wasn't any better as UM-St. Louis failed to stop Wisconsin-Parkside from scoring and lost 1-4, handing pitcher Allison Maurer her second loss.

It was off to Illinois next to face Olivette Nazarene in non-conference play March 27.

The first game had UM-St. Louis controlling the tempo as they pounded Olivette Nazarene 5-0, with Rogoz picking up her 10th win.

Olivette Nazarene took control of the second game and handed UM-St. Louis, and Rogoz, a 1-3 loss.

The loss to Olivette Nazarene may have deflated the Riverwomen as they traveled to Edwardsville to take on conference rival SIU-Edwardsville on April 1.

SIU-Edwardsville swept the double-header, defeating UM-St. Louis 1-0 and 5-1, with Rogoz and Kuebler picking up the losses for the Riverwomen.

Head Coach Lesa Bonee' allayed her frustrations about the losing efforts.

"I'm hot," Bonee' said. "There's just no excuse for the way we're playing. We are no longer playing to win but playing not to lose. You just can't do that. They've lost that killer instinct."

UM-St. Louis then traveled to Indiana to take on Southern Indiana on April 2 in another conference game and were again handed losses, with losing pitchers Rogoz and Maurer, 0-3 and 2-6.

"We're losing because of fundamentals," Bonee' said. "The hardest thing throughout all of this is that we're not losing because the other teams are just that great; we're beating ourselves and giving them the games."

The downward spiral continued for the Riverwomen as they traveled to Illinois on April 5 to take on non-conference opponent McKendree College, with Rogoz picking up her fifth loss and Kuebler picking up her fourth loss in the double-header.

The Riverwomen tried to fight back, taking the second game to 10 innings, but just could not get it done as McKendree eked out the victory, 2-3.

"This last loss was hard because we worked hard to take it to 10" innings, Bonee' said. "We've got good pitchers, and one of the best pitchers in the conference in Rogoz, and we're just not doing our jobs in backing them up."

Despite the losses, there are still several crucial conference games left to be played. The Riverwomen could still get into the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament, but Bonee' was adamant about what needed to be done.

"We've got to sweep the weekend and have got to have four solid performances," Bonee' said. "We know we can do this, and we really believe that we can turn this around. We can play against anybody, any day of the week. We've just got to go out there and get it done."

Tennis team beats illness, opponents

Rivermen go 4-3 during break, improve to 5-1 in GLVC

BY CHRIS BUNCE
special to The Current

The Rivermen's tennis team, coming off of two road wins over Northern Kentucky and Bellarmine, was looking to knock off conference rivals Indianapolis.

The Rivermen hosted Indianapolis at home, but did not fair too well losing 6-2.

"We could have played better than we did," Head Coach Rick Gyllenberg said. "We lost a couple of three set matches that could have gone either way."

The sole singles winner was Josh Heape and on the doubles side the winner was the No. 2 pairing of Minh Phan and Andy Forinash.

The Rivermen looking to rebound from the loss played host the following day to IUPU-Fort Wayne.

UM-St. Louis won in fine fashion 6-1 despite No. 1 singles player Scott Goodyear losing his match. The Rivermen won all three doubles matches.

The Rivermen, with a record 4-4 overall, took their team to South Carolina for a three match shoot-out at Hilton Head.

With No. 1 singles player Goodyear scratched at the last minute due to illness, the Rivermen's hope of beating nationally ranked Depauw definitely took a different approach. The Rivermen lost 8-1.

"The Depauw match was a little deceiving with replacements at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles," Gyllenberg said. "The match was closer than the score indicated."

The Rivermen then went up against nationally ranked Carnegie Mellon.

The Rivermen pulled off a 5-4 upset that lasted over four hours.

With the match tied at 4-4, it came down to the No. 3 singles match that would decide the match. Minh Phan won 7-5, 5-7, 7-5.

"The match was very exciting, but at the time I was very nervous," Gyllenberg said.

The Rivermen closed out the three day shoot-out with a 7-2 loss to the University of Alabama.

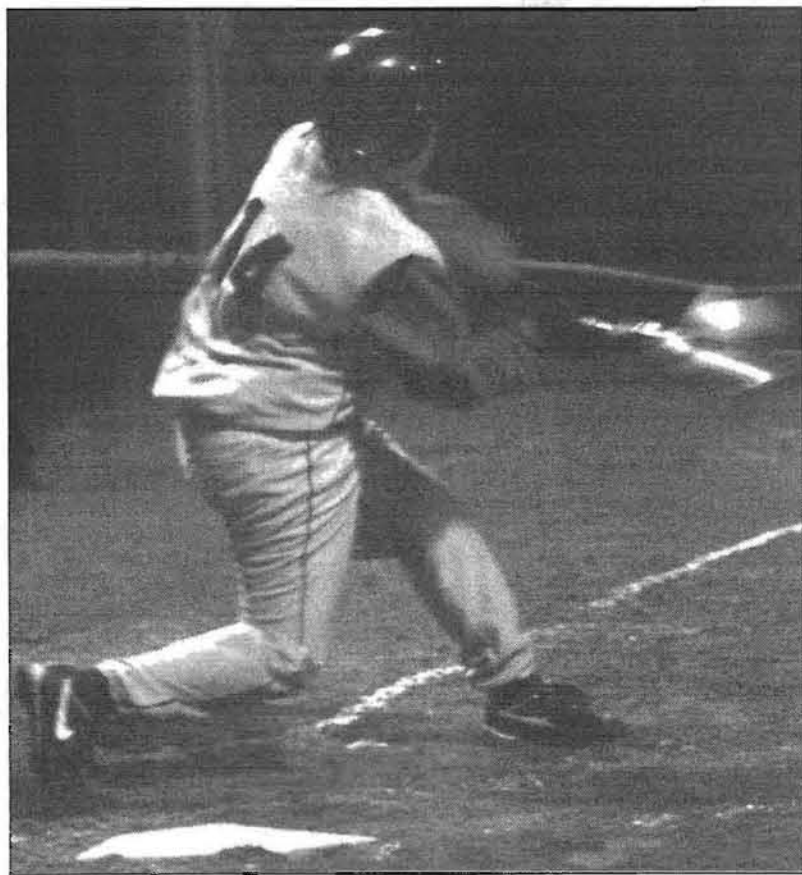
Upon arrival at home, the Rivermen concentrated on the next three Great Lakes Valley Conference matches.

The Rivermen played St. Joseph's and blasted them 5-0 along with a 8-1 blowout over Lewis University.

In the last match, the Rivermen played host to UM-Rolla. The Rivermen had a strong outing, winning 6-2.

This leaves the Rivermen with a current record of 5-1 in the conference and 8-6 overall.

UM-St. Louis now hits the road for three important conference match-ups against Quincy University, Southern Indiana and SIU-Edwardsville.



Darren Brunel/The Current

Amy Schriber makes solid contact against Missouri Baptist.

GLVC STANDINGS

| Baseball | | Softball | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Team | GLVC Record | Team | GLVC Record |
| North Division | | | |
| 1) Lewis | 6-3 | 1) Southern Indiana | 12-2 |
| 2) Indianapolis | 5-3 | 2) Lewis | 8-2 |
| 3) Northern Kentucky | 3-3 | 3) Wisconsin-Parkside | 8-2 |
| 4) Wisc.-Parkside | 3-6 | 4) SIU-Edwardsville | 13-3 |
| 5) Saint Joseph's | 4-5 | 5) UM-St. Louis | 5-7 |
| 6) IUPU-Ft. Wayne | 1-8 | 6) Northern Kentucky | 4-5 |
| South Division | | | |
| 1) UM-St. Louis | 8-2 | 7) Bellarmine | 6-8 |
| 2) SIU-Edwardsville | 6-4 | 8) Quincy | 8-8 |
| 3) Southern Indiana | 5-4 | 9) Indianapolis | 4-6 |
| 4) Quincy | 5-4 | 10) Kentucky Wesleyan | 3-8 |
| 5) Kentucky Wesleyan | 5-5 | 11) St. Joseph's | 3-11 |
| 6) Bellarmine | 2-6 | 12) IUPU-Ft. Wayne | 1-13 |

Opening day a special experience for this old Cards fan



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

The first time for everything is eventful and I had one of those times this past Monday when I went to my first home opener for the St. Louis Cardinals.

One thing I would like to recommend to all Cardinal fans this season is do not, and I repeat do not, ride the MetroLink down to the game. The ride may be quicker to get to the ballpark, but on the way home, the feeling of tuna fish inside of a can comes to mind. Maybe even a herd of wild boars trying to break the fences to freedom could be a good comparison.

It was a great game nevertheless as

the Cardinals trounced the Chicago Cubs and that Sammy Sosa fellow. Not only did the Cardinals win, but they did it without Mark McGwire.

The fans went nuts as the starting lineups were announced with McGwire starting at first base, but when his spot in the lineup came up, it was already filled with another player. Questions rang out everywhere, where is McGwire?

Little did we know at the game, McGwire was experiencing back spasms and sat out the second game of the series as well.

Well enough with the McGwire

antics, let's talk about the game experience itself.

With the stadium packed with Cardinal red everywhere, I thought that everyone was bleeding or something special was happening.

It truly was as all of the longtime Cardinal fans came out once again in their true patronage and supported the home team. The baseball tradition in St. Louis was inevitable. The heritage of the Cardinals and even the St. Louis Browns was portrayed at this game.

The one thing that truly lacked at the game was the wave. I know that it really stinks when you see all of those

fans in front of you showing off their armpits and the terrible body odor, but it was one thing that I wished that I could have seen.

Another reason why the wave should have occurred was because of the freezing, winter-like conditions at the game. But of course the next day, the temperature was back up in the upper 70s. The wind chill at the game had to be in the lower 40s and the soda (I mean beer for those of us over 21) was too cold to drink. My short sleeve shirt, by the end of the game, was turned into a long sleeve shirt.

The game in a nutshell was a great

experience, as I got to have great third base-side seats under the pavilion just in case it rained and the Cardinals won.

This season seems to be so promising for the Cardinals with the talented pitching staff and the long-ball threats that the offense possess in Jim Edmonds, Ray Lankford, Mark McGwire and Fernando Tatis. As long as the core of the team remains intact and healthy throughout this season, we could be looking at the Rams winning the Super Bowl, the Blues winning the Stanley Cup and the Cardinals winning the World Series.

SPORTS

DAVE KINWORTHY
sports editor

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Upcoming Games

Baseball

- vs Truman (at Ballwin)
noon, Tues. Apr. 11
- at Northern Ken. (DH)
noon, Sat., Apr. 15
- at Indianapolis (DH)
noon, Sun., Apr. 16

Softball

- vs SIU-Edwardsville
5 p.m., Wed. Apr. 12
- at Kentucky Wesleyan
1 p.m., Sat., Apr. 15
- at Bellarmine
t.b.a., Sun., Apr. 16

Men's Tennis

- vs SIU-Edwardsville
3 p.m., Wed. Apr. 12
- at GLVC Tournament
t.b.a., Apr. 20-22

Next Issue In Sports

- Baseball update
- Softball update
- Latest Scoop

A&E

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
films editor

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Upcoming Concerts

April

10

Smashing Pumpkins
American Theatre

11

Rockin' Highliners
Generations

Gunga Din
Side Door

Richard Shindell. With Don
Conoscenti
Gargoyles

12

Ekoostik Hookah. With
Seven Days
Mississippi Nights

MxPx. With the Hippos &
Ghoti Hook
Galaxy

Sister 7
Side Door

18

Korn. With Spike & Mike's
Sick & Twisted Animation
Festival and Stained
Kiel Center

25

Static X. With Pitchshifter
and Reveille
Mississippi Nights

Movie Openings

April

14

Keeping The Faith

East Is East (Limited
Release)

Where The Money Is

American Psycho

28 Days

The Girl Next Door (Limited
Release)

Do you like to write music reviews? Come work for us! See page 7 for more details!

FILM REVIEW

'High Fidelity' entertains while taking believable look at relationships, life

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"High Fidelity" is a heck of a movie, a romantic comedy that will appeal to sophisticated film fans as well as those who just want a good story. This romantic comedy has a story that is both funny and serious. It's about sorting out universal issues about relationships and life presented in a way that is honest and believable. Although the film is primarily from a man's point of view, the characters and story are so true and real that it will appeal to both genders, and it would make a perfect "date movie".

Directed by Stephen Frears, whose previous work includes "The Grifters" (also starring John Cusack) and "Dangerous Liaisons," the film tells the story of Rob Gordon (John Cusack), pop music aficionado and owner of a used-records store in Chicago, whose girlfriend Laura (Iben Hjejle) has just left him, causing Rob to reevaluate his life and relationships.

Who couldn't identify with such a situation? Rob is a kind of everyman character who gives an honest guy's point of view of his past with women and his obsession with music. To help (or maybe hinder) him in his quest for understanding, Rob is surrounded by an assortment of recognizable and equally real characters. His two employees, Barry (Jack Black) and Dick (Todd Louiso), are a pair of quirky types with an awesomely encyclopedic knowledge of pop music and the snobbery of real connoisseurs. Everyone knows someone like these two, and Barry's loud opinionated personality contrasted with Dick's shy, awkward scholarly demeanor generate plenty of laughs, as they debate each other or sneer at those who know less about music.

The acting in this film is uniformly good.

Black and Louiso present hilarious performances as "music nerds" Barry and Dick, and the humor is sharpened

Top five reasons to like "High Fidelity":

1. Great story, with realistic characters about issues that everyone will identify with.
2. Stylish directing and great acting that will appeal to both those who like art films and those who just want great entertainment.
3. It's funny!
4. Cool music and great visuals for the credits.
5. All those top five lists.

by Cusack's deadpan to irritated reactions to their behavior.

Iben Hjejle, a Danish actress who pulls off a perfect American accent, is very good and just as real as Rob's girlfriend Laura, and through her portrayal, women will understand her reasons for leaving, even if Rob doesn't.

Equally good is the star's sister Joan Cusack as Liz, who tries to stay friends with both Laura and Rob, and helps balance the male-centered focus of the film with a woman's view.

Tim Robbins is excellent as the middle-aged, pony-tailed Ian, and his scene with Cusack in the record store is one of the comic highlights of the film. Excellent work as Rob's former and possible girlfriends is also present from a sterling cast in smaller roles, including Catherine Zeta-Jones, Lisa Bonet, and Lili Taylor.

Director Stephen Frears' direction immediately grabs the audience, focusing on the main character without particularly drawing attention to the film-making process. To allow the audience to hear the main character's inner thoughts, Rob speaks directly to the audience and narrates his own story in a way that is so seamlessly blended with the action that we are hardly aware of the transitions - no



ABOVE: Record store owner Rob Gordon (John Cusack, second from right) and his employees talk with singer Marie De Salle (Lisa Bonet, right).

LEFT: Barry (Jack Black) belts it out with his band during a CD release party at Rob's record store.

'High Fidelity'

Length: 107 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

easy feat in film.

The director effectively balances the story between its comic and serious elements, and characters actions tell as much of the story as their dialog. John Cusack, D. V. DeVincentis, Steve Pink, and Scott Rosenberg adapted the screenplay from the best-selling book by Nick Hornby.

While the story was originally set in London, Cusack and his co-writers easily moved the tale to Chicago and made the most of the new locale in the film. The film is filled with references to pop music, the music itself and endless "top five" lists. The credits that



open and close the film are a treat with creative music-related visuals.

This film works in so many ways, with its artistic direction, honest and appealing story and characters, humor, and music, that it's sure to be a hit with a broad audience. The film works as

art, as a comedy, and just as pure entertainment.

"High Fidelity" is sure to go into many people's top five list of films to see, with a bullet. And I wonder how many records Cusack is going to sell for the Beta Band?

FILM REVIEW



Aristocratic British doctor Portia (Charlotte Coleman) weds Bosnian immigrant Pero (Edin Dzandzanovic) as her once-disapproving high-society parents look on.

From high-society Britons to Welsh soccer hooligans, 'Beautiful People' has it all

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"Beautiful People" is a film about chaos and coincidence, comedy and conscience. It's about life in modern cosmopolitan London and blends the stories of snobby aristocratic Britons, young "soccer hooligans" resentful of foreigners, Bosnian refugees lost in new land and struggling with a new language, and others and considers, in both serious and comic ways, how their lives intersect.

This English language film is in many ways very British, but director Jamin Dizar, a Bosnian who is now a British citizen, also brings an outsider's view to the London scene. Dizar creates a blend like its mixed British and Bosnian cast. While the film lacks a star that American audiences will recognize, and really is an ensemble piece rather than focusing on one character and story line, the film ties all its stories together and keeps the audience laughing.

Black humor and irony in the British manner abound in this film, in which farcical family disasters and cross-cultural miscommunications dominate rather than politics.

'Beautiful People'

Length: 116 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★★★

While the Bosnian war does loom in the background, the film is more about interpersonal communication and our common humanity than about Bosnia.

The resulting film leads logically and step-by-step into hilarious, improbable situations, with a little underlying message that in the end a little honest communication and the realization that we're all human goes a long way.

There is a very funny scene in which a Welsh anarchist (Nicholas McGaughy), injured in a bombing attempt, tries to explain his political beliefs and why he hates the English to his hospital roommates: a Serb (Dado Jehan) and a Croat (Faruk Pruti). The Welshman, in turn, has trouble keeping them straight as he listens to the complaints of both the Serb and Croat, who were involved in an accident while trying to kill

see BEAUTIFUL, page 7

INTERVIEW

Cusack talks about acting, directing in 'High Fidelity'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

John Cusack, star of "High Fidelity" as well as its co-writer and co-producer, is both a popular and well-respected actor. Recently, I was able to interview him by phone in a conference call about his new film, "High Fidelity." What follows is an excerpt from the interview:

Q: This movie seems to give insights into the male psyche. How typical of men do you think the character Rob is?

A: The character is dead-on. Someone might be from a different background, but the emotions are about the same, for myself and most guys I know. I think every man would recognize himself in Rob.

Q: What was your goal in making this film? Is it autobiographical, or just entertaining?

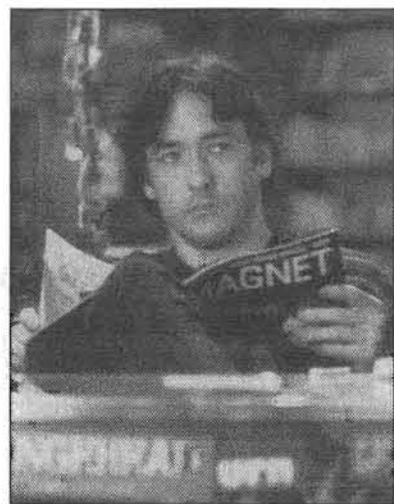
A: It's not autobiographical. It's supposed to be both entertaining and provocative. I like to make comedies that are thoughtful as well as funny. I like that in novels and in movies.

Q: In many of the scenes, your character Rob speaks directly to the camera. Why did you take this approach?

A: We wanted him to express his inner thoughts. In the book, he plays the fool, he's in denial, he's lazy, and that's easy to do in film, but the character also has to be complex to be insightful. Most people have both sides. When he speaks to the audience, the character is also honest, real, in his self-examination, but shows how he has also been shaped by painful experiences.

Q: How have you and your sister (Joan Cusack) evolved as actors through working together so often?

A: I don't know how we have both evolved but I hope the work has evolved over time. I always love working with Joanie. In my work now, I'm less concerned now with other's opinions. Most critics liked "High Fidelity," but some reviewers didn't like it because it was too nuanced, that Rob was not always a likeable character. Joanie and I are most interested in



Cusack

what's true rather than what's well liked.

Q: Now that you've tried writing and producing with "High Fidelity" and "Grosse Pointe Blank," will you try directing?

A: Yes, but I would want it to be something I wrote, or something I really liked.

Q: How easy or hard was it to adapt the story to a new locale?

A: As soon as I read it, I could picture it in Chicago. I knew just where that music store was, where he was a D.J., all the clubs. We talk to the author (Nick Hornby) about if he would mind if we changed the location to Chicago, and he said it was OK. He felt that the themes were universal, about men and women and about music, and could be in any large city, not just London. Every city has these kinds of spots.

Q: How much do you or other actors have to give up to get the film made the way you want it?

A: If you want big box office, you have to give up some of the story for the character that people want - to be that likeable character. I like those kind of movies too - blockbuster popcorn movies. Sometimes you do that kind of movie; sometimes you do something else, like "Being John Malkovich," where the character isn't always likeable. Kevin Spacey does some of both movies like that too.

Q: What do you think is the scariest thing about dating?

A: At first when you're dating, you get a rush every time you look at that person, but after you've been with someone for awhile, they become just people. So you reach a point where you're left wondering if this is the right one, or if the next one is the right one.

Q: Of all the characters you've played in films, which do you think is most like yourself? I read that you once said you were most like the character, Lloyd Dobler, who is somewhat like this character, Rob. Do you think you're more like Rob?

A: I don't remember saying that. I don't agree that the characters are alike. Rob is more downbeat, a man trying to reclaim his soul. I don't know which character I'm most like; they're all part of me.

Q: Which of your roles do you feel is least like yourself?

A: I don't know; they're all part me. Maybe the character in "Say Anything."

Q: How much of yourself is in Rob?

A: Rob is an everyman, someone that everyone can relate to, everyone's been on that relationship roller coaster. He's a version of all of us.

Q: What will your production company, New Crime, be doing next?

A: We might be doing something with Cameron Crowe, called "Et Tu, Bob."

Q: How difficult was it to adapt the book into a movie?

A: It's difficult. You always have to leave out some parts, which is tricky, but once the script is done, it's easy.

Q: How did you cast the roles of the two music store employees?

A: I already knew Jack Black, and I knew he would be good in that role - he had talent, and he was funny. Todd auditioned for the part and he was just right. You see these kinds of guys everywhere. They see themselves as a kind of underground royalty, which they are, in a way. And Jack... is the king of another planet.

Q: "Being John Malkovich" was nominated for an Oscar. Did the Oscar winners surprise you?

A: No, the Oscars are a lot about

see CUSACK, page 7

CUSACK, from page 6

publicity campaigns, they don't mean that much. They're too self-congratulatory for my tastes, like the movie industry congratulating itself for its own work.

Q: How was it working with Tim Robbins?

A: It was fine; we had a great time. I've known him for a long time, and worked with him on one of the first films I was in. I was 16 and he was 26, but we became great friends. We've worked together in a lot of films, (such as) "Cradle Will Rock" recently.

Q: Did you grow up in Chicago?
A: In Evanston, which is near Chicago. From about 17 on, I lived in L.A.

Q: How did growing up near Chicago shape you?

A: Chicago has lots of local theater, doing really good and avant-garde stuff, not just "A Christmas Carol" every year to please a certain audience. It was a really good training ground, a good chance to develop my craft.

Q: One of the themes of this film is about growing up and becoming an adult. When did you first feel like an adult?

A: This morning at 10.
Q: Do you agree that music plays a

role in people's lives, that certain songs stay with you all your life?

A: Yes. Music is autobiographical; I have certain songs I associate with certain people, certain women, certain times.

Q: In shooting this movie, how much was improvised?

A: There was some improvisation within the script. We'd shoot a scene as it was written in the script, then we'd let the actors play around with it.

Q: What did you think of the film "Being John Malkovich"?

A: I would have done it for a dollar! Sometimes I just have to feel that the thing is good. It was such an original script. When I heard it had been financed, I knew John Malkovich had done it, so I called him up. How much it makes doesn't matter much.

Q: Do you try to do films that last?

A: No, I don't think you can know what will last. Many great classics were box office failures. You need a few years to see if they're great films.

Q: The soundtrack to "High Fidelity" is great, but a lot of the music is from the '80s or older. Do you think it is as easy to feel as strong about today's music?

A: Not as much. The last band I

felt really committed to was Nirvana, but I think I could get into the Beta Band.

Q: Were you the one who first read the book, "High Fidelity"?

A: No, I did "Grosse Pointe Blank" for Disney. They already had optioned this book, and asked me to do it.

Q: What was it like working with Woody Allen (in "Bullets Over Broadway" and "Shadows and Fog")?

A: It was a great experience working with someone that accomplished. He's very talented and gives the actors a lot of freedom.

Q: I thought that "Annie Hall" and "High Fidelity" were very similar, in some ways the same kind of story.

A: In some ways, "Annie Hall" was the upper class, East Coast style of this story. This story is more current, and more salt-of-the-earth.

Q: Next year's Oscars are a distant thing at this time, but do you think this film might be nominated?

A: I don't like the self-congratulatory nature of the Oscars. The people involved love movies but there's too much politics; they (the Oscars) seem sanctimonious. But if they nominated me, that would be cool.

BEAUTIFUL, from page 6

each other on the street. "No, no, HE's Serbian, I'M Croatian."

Another very funny sequence leads to a foreigner-hating youth (Danny Nussbaum) waking up from a drug-induced stupor to find that he's been airdropped into Bosnia along with

some humanitarian supplies. You'll just have to see the film to find out how he arrived at this ridiculous situation and the hilarious end to his tale.

Throughout, the humor is dark, farcical, and rather absurdist in this film that was a prizewinner at the 1999

Cannes Film Festival. Along with its humor, the film has considerable charm and warmth as well. If you like dry British humor and a good story, you should like this thoughtful comedy.

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Student Government Association

Elections

Monday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 18

Where you can vote:

University Center Lobby

Mark Twain Center

Research Building Lobby

SSB near Red and Gold lounge

Marillac Hall Lobby

Ballot boxes will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Winners will be announced during Mirthday, Wednesday, April 19

If you have questions, please contact the SGA office at 516-5105.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

PARKING, from page 4

just choose some puppet whom they can control and the students would have one impartial representative.

Don't worry administration, the other two appointees will more than be able to overcome the lone student representative. It is very easy to see that most rulings on student parking appeals will be a 2-1 vote with the faculty and staff appointees voting against the student.

It is a perfect example of how UM-St. Louis works. Give the students some say, but grossly outnumber them with faculty representation so their opinions still won't matter. The administration gives a cou-

ple public relations superfluous reasons for this hostile takeover, but money is the bottom line reason for this decision. Since Rick Eccher took over as Student Court chief justice on Jan. 20, 67 out of 123 parking appeals have been overturned. This is up from just 9 out of 135 earlier this year before Eccher and the Student Court justices were officially elected. The administration doesn't like this loss of revenue, so it decided to play "let's screw the students" again.

The administration is asking students to trust them to act in their best interests in parking appeals.

How can the students trust an administration that has been audited twice? How can the students trust any faculty and staff member to act in their own best interests with so many recent injustices being handed to the them by a disproportionate University Senate?

It doesn't matter how much research this University gets, how many qualified professors are asked to retire because of fiscal crisis, or how many Performing Arts Centers are built. This University will still remain second-rate as long as students are treated like red-headed step children.

CONSTITUTION, from page 4

tracted and unnecessary discussion. SGA officers have taken a promising first step to solve the problems of last month's meeting. They will hold two special meetings this week devoted solely to discussion of the constitution. Doing this will allow representatives to focus their attention on the document and give them adequate time to carefully deliberate the rules

that will affect the student body for many years to come.

We hope that SGA representatives will follow the lead of their officers and take steps to ensure that the proposed constitution becomes a reality. The assembly needs to engage in a timely and efficient discussion of the issue and avoid hindering the proceedings with superfluous speeches and

amendments. They should remember that using this issue as an occasion for personal glory rather than an opportunity to work in student body's best interest is inexcusable.

Constitutional reform shouldn't be an annual spring ritual. The assembly needs to ensure a smooth ratification process now to prevent fiascos from happening again.

WOLFE, from page 4

In last year's election, only seven students ran for 22 seats. These seven students are automatically elected to the Assembly.

Elected Assembly representatives represent all students - not just the minority of students who are in student organizations. When these seats are vacant the student body suffers because only organizational views are heard in Assembly meetings. These elected

representatives are important in that the Assembly can represent the views of all UM-St. Louis students.

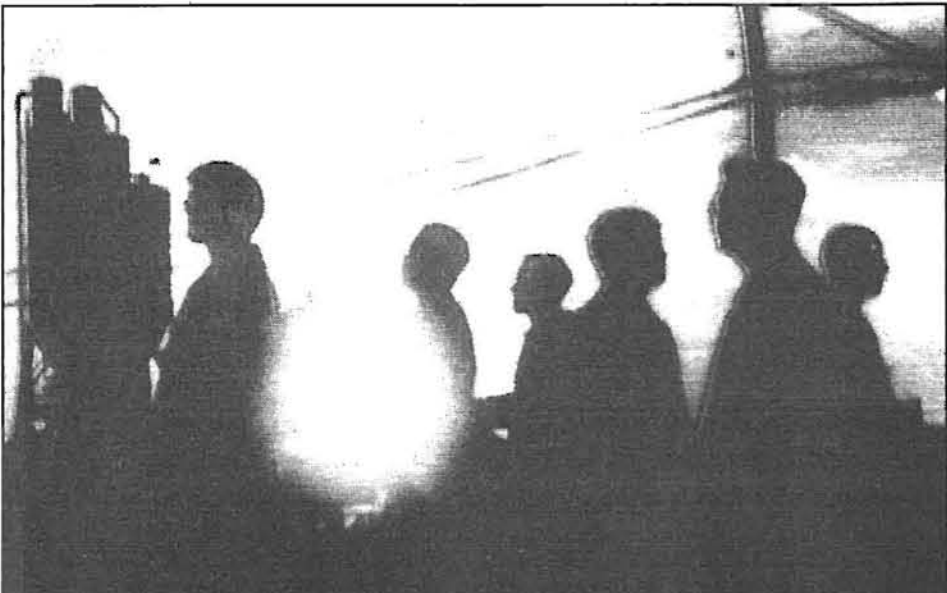
The solution: If you care about your school, then run for the elected representative seat from your school or college. The requirements: be in good academic standing and attend one SGA Assembly meeting a month. It is that simple.

If you should happen to miss

the deadline, you can have yourself and some of your friends write your name in when you vote on April 17 and 18.

Make a difference in school. Run for an elected representative position in SGA. Also, don't forget to vote on April 17 and 18 in the SGA elections.

-Steven Wolfe



"With influences ranging from experimental acid jazz to classic Bayou bands such as the Meters, Galactic stirs up a groove stew so tasty you can practically sink your teeth into it." -- Newsday

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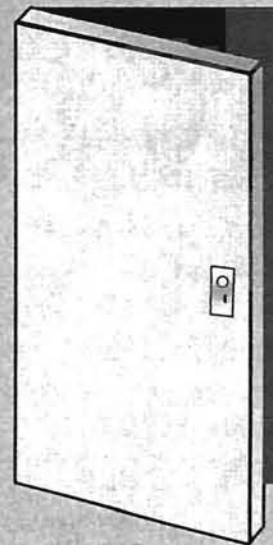


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We are looking for students interested in writing, web design, production, and a host of other areas.

Volunteering is a great way to get your foot in the door and make yourself a good candidate for a paid position. So what are you waiting for?

Special SGA Meetings

Approval of New Constitution

Tues. April 11 2:30 p.m.
72 JC Penny

(If necessary)
Thur. April 13 2:30 p.m.
229 JC Penny

All proposed amendments should be submitted to the SGA Office by April 10 at 12:00 noon in order to be distributed.

For more information call **516-5105.**

BODY SHOTS



"There are movies that define every decade." "Body Shots" is one of these movies. It explores a few days in the lives of 8 young men and women living in Los Angeles. After a night of alcohol, sex and moral choices, things begin to go awry, and their lives will never be the same. The aftermath of one night begins to take a toll on each and everyone in the group. Values and self worth are challenged, friendships are threatened and these four young men and four young women look back on what happened and struggle for the answers to very difficult questions.

The characters are based on stereotypical young adults who talk openly about how they feel regarding various issues which affect their lives. However, when one of them accuses another of rape, it forces many more difficult discussions about what exactly happened that night. These four women and four men are forced to remember what they did or what they ignored and face the consequences of their actions.

While "Body Shots" deals with many of the important issues faced by today's young adults, alcohol abuse and its consequences seem to be the most significant. It is apparent that some of the characters have no recollection of their choices or actions and some are dared to take sides and finally come clean with honest impressions of their friends. They are quick to judge others while trying to avoid being judged themselves. They all search for the willingness to find the truth, face their deepest fears and forgive one another.

As Spring Break approaches, plans are being made to party non-stop for days. Many students will cut loose, and many more will witness first-hand the wild behavior of their peers. The yearly college ritual of drinking too much, partying too much and wearing too little can produce a similar scenario as seen in "Body Shots".

While it is a rite of passage for many students to experience Spring Break, think before you act and eat before you drink.

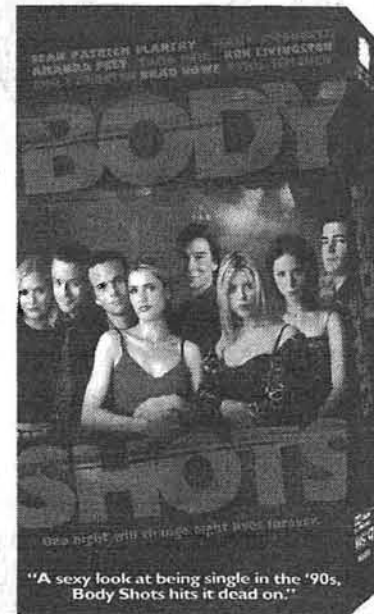
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BY PATRICK WESTON
special to The Current

Friday the international Take Back the Night event will make its UM-St. Louis debut. An annual tradition dating back to the 1970s, Take Back the Night combines marches, rallies and vigils in order to "protest the fact that the streets women must traverse in their daily existence are not safe and are often the sites of violent crimes," according to the Women's Center newsletter.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. in front of Marillac Hall. A candlelight march will proceed to the J. C. Penney building where a rally featur-

ing a yet-to-be-named guest speaker will occur.

"[Take Back the Night] focuses on violence against women and children," said Annette Curdt, Program Director of the Women's Center. "Violence needs to be curbed."

Along with the Division of Counseling, the Women's Center is sponsoring the event and invites everyone to attend. "We're looking for involvement from students, faculty, staff and the community," Curdt said.

It is the latter the program focuses on, Curdt said. "Violence is not a problem on campus per se, but we encounter it in domestic and dating

situations." Women's Center volunteer Maria Pittman added, "We felt a need to do something about it."

Sgt. Alfred Wirt of the UM-St. Louis Police confirmed that the school does not have a violence problem. "It's generally a safe place," Wirt said. "We don't have a problem with hate crimes or violence. Mostly we deal with theft and auto theft." Statistics indicate that the only account of violence towards women or children in recent years is a rape in 1998.

For more information on Take Back the Night, contact the Women's Center at 516-5380.

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fessors' English proficiency in their evaluations. Deans in turn are to report the number of faculty members with questionable English proficiency to the chief academic officer.

Lehmkuhle said that e-mail surveys were sent to 5,000 students throughout the UM system between Feb. 24 and March 8. Of the 1,649 respondents, 648 had instructors with a native language other than English; 248 of these students said that their instructors' poor command of English hindered their ability to learn.

Lehmkuhle said that the grades issued to the 248 students who reported a problem "looks within the normal range." Twenty percent of the students received A's, 31 percent received B's, 25 percent received C's, 10 percent earned D's, and the remainder either failed or withdrew from the course.

The report shows that 308 students from UM-St. Louis responded to the survey. Approximately 13 percent reported a problem with the English proficiency of their instructors.

The survey also showed that the most problematic subjects for UM-St.

Louis students were computer science, mathematics and business. Students from other campuses reported problems in other areas such as biology, chemistry and engineering.

Lehmkuhle said that the survey results would help administrators concentrate their efforts to improve communication between students and their professors.

"The survey identified specific academic disciplines that the students reported being problematic, so [department chairs and deans] know which departments need improvement," Lehmkuhle said.

Lehmkuhle also urged the board to consider the importance of exposing students to faculty members of different cultures.

"The future employers of our students insist that students must learn to interact and work with people from other nations and with different cultural backgrounds... the incidental learning about language and cultural differences associated with taking a course from an international faculty member may be as important as learning the

specific content of the course," Lehmkuhle said.

"On the other hand," he added, "we need not place a student in a situation where the chance of learning course content is unusually low because of the English language proficiency of the instructor."

Lehmkuhle said another survey would be done next year "to determine if their strategy to focus special effort on a few disciplines is successful."

Michael Rankins, vice president of the Student Government Association, testified in favor of the proposed legislation. He said he believed that the solutions presented at the Curators meeting would not resolve the problem.

"I think they have tried to work through the deans before, but there haven't been any significant effects," Rankins said. "There's still professors here who can't speak English."

Chris Benjamin, a representative of ASUM, said that the organization would continue its lobbying efforts in Jefferson City and that the proposed legislation may take the form of an amendment to a bill.

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