



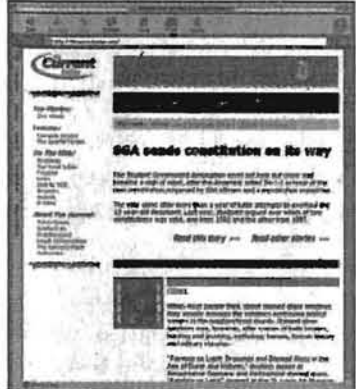
Bruce Willis stars in 'Unbreakable'

▲ See page 6

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

**INSIDE**



**Website to get new look, more features**

TheCurrentOnline.com will be upgraded over the holidays. The site will feature improved message forums, weekly polls, and much more. This is our last print issue of the semester, but any breaking stories will be published on the web. So, keep checking and have Happy Holidays!

▲ thecurrentonline.com

**BRIEFS**

**Professor receives teaching award**

Congratulations to Michael Murray, professor of communications, who received the Theodore Clevenger Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Murray was honored for his book, "Teaching Mass Communication," and his work supervising a national on-line course syllabus project.

**Health Services offers flu shots**

For those looking to beat the bugs, University Health Services is offering flu shots by appointment. The shots cost \$12 and can be paid with student charge, cash, or check. To arrange for a shot, call 516-5671.

**Irish harp recital**

Master Harpist Tracey Fleming will present "The Irish Harp: A Performance with Historical Reflections" this Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in room 205 of the Music Building. For details call 516-5980.

**New literary magazine on campus**

Promotions for Pierre Laclède Honors College's new lit mag, "Bellerive" will take place during an open house to be held from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. this Wednesday. For more information call 516-6870.

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**UMSL police earn accreditation**

BY JOSH RENAUD  
senior editor

*UMSL becomes first Missouri university with internationally-accredited force*

The University of Missouri-St. Louis police became the first university police department in Missouri to receive international accreditation last week.

At a conference held Nov. 30-31, the UMSL police were accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. COLEA has established a professional standard throughout the country and the world based on 400 criteria.

The UMSL police department worked almost two years to receive

the accreditation. Sgt. Al Wirt and officer Tony Griemel were instrumental in bringing UMSL up to par, said police chief Bob Roeseler.

"It was a massive undertaking," Roeseler said. "There's some costs that were involved. A lot of changes needed to take place and policies had to be rewritten so that everything was covered."

Roeseler said they had to change policies and operational procedures dealing with a range of issues like promotional processes, handling

complaints about improper conduct, and prisoner transport.

"We decided that it's not only important to meet our own standards, but it's important for us to look at what the overall public feels is important," Roeseler said.

UMSL is the first university in Missouri with a police force that has achieved this distinction. About 50 other universities in the nation have also been accredited. In the St. Louis area, several agencies have also been accredited, including St. Louis

County, University City, and Clayton, Roeseler said. The University of Missouri-Columbia is also attempting to receive the accreditation.

"It's a feather in [the police department's] cap and it's a feather in the University's cap," said UMSL spokesman Bob Samples. "But I think it really means a lot for the students. Students should have confidence that this is a very competent police force-not just a security force, but an actual police force."

The University will have to go through re-accreditation every three years, Roeseler said. This process will force the police to demonstrate that they are really implementing the new policies that they've written and achieving the goals they set.

"I'm proud of the people that did it, because it was a whole lot of work," Roeseler said. "I think [it will help us] provide a lot better quality service to the campus community as a whole."

**THE STUDENT CENTER**



Darren Brune/ The Current

Students on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center watch as balloons fall from the third floor. The balloons were released to mark the conclusion of the Grand Opening festivities held Nov. 28.

**It's OPEN!** See page 11 for our photo coverage



Paul DeGregorio, UMSL's director of Outreach and Development observes the recounting process in Broward County.

**Outreach director helps Bush recount team in Florida**

BY TIM THOMPSON  
staff writer

The 2000 presidential election is one of the closest in U.S. history, and one UMSL staff member has participated in the continuing drama.

At 7:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time election night, Nov. 7, CNN predicted Al Gore the winner in the vital state of Florida. The network based its decision upon the lead Gore had at the time, about 5 percent, combined with extensive exit polling data.

One hour later, they and many other national networks retracted their previous prediction and said that it was too close to call. It remained that way until 1 a.m. when Bush suddenly pulled ahead of Gore by 51,000 votes with 93 percent of the precincts reporting. As a result, the major networks then declared George W. Bush the winner in Florida, and subsequently, the next president of the United States.

Gore phoned Bush and congratulated him, and prepared to make a concession speech to his supporters. Less than a half hour later, the situation took a dramatic turn.

Gore had a late surge in Florida and his aides urged him not to concede. He phoned Bush again and retracted his previous concession.

By the middle of the next morning, 99 percent of the precincts had reported, and Bush was only ahead by 1800 votes. This smaller margin mandated a statewide recount. Some of these recounts were made by hand, which was supported by the Florida Supreme Court in a unanimous decision.

To help supervise the count and make sure the process was completed as accurately as possible, both Bush and Gore sent teams of specialists down to Florida. These people had vast experience in supervising recounts. One of these specialists lives and works right in our own backyard. He is Paul DeGregorio, the Director of Outreach and Development here at UMSL.

DeGregorio received his B.A. in political science from UMSL in 1990. He has been the Director of Outreach and Development since 1993. He has had considerable experience in the

see RECOUNT, page 8

**Old parking garages pass structural inspection**

BY JOSH RENAUD  
senior editor

The three oldest garages on campus-C, D, and N-passed inspection during the Thanksgiving break.

The garages were inspected by Sverdrup as part of an annual inspection process, said Harry Marler, supervisor of Facilities Services. The inspections took place Nov. 22-26.

Only one garage needed immediate attention, Marler said. A beam connection in Garage N was shored up until the contractor provides instructions for a permanent repair.

According to the campus Master Plan, Garages C, D, and N are all supposed to be torn down eventually, said Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction. New garages on West Drive, East Drive, and north of the UMSL North Campus MetroLink station will

replace these. The garage on West Drive is complete, and one of the two garages slated for East Drive is now under construction.

The master plan, drawn up in 1993, calls for building a park-like setting where the garages are located now. The park would include ponds, sitting areas, walkways, lighting and landscaping, Darandari said.

This could change, Darandari said, because the master plan is supposed to be revised very soon.

"During the master planning process, decisions will be made on land uses and types of facilities and so on," Darandari said. "This area will need to be looked at during [that] process."

Garages C, D, and N are inspected in detail annually because of their age. Marler said his staff also performs more frequent visual inspections when they have the opportunity as a standard procedure.

# Bulletin Board

## Monday, Dec. 4

•The Story of Christmas will be presented at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the Millennium Student Center.

•Sixth Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, sponsored by Administrative Services, will be held at 4:30 p.m. There will be carolers, refreshments, hot apple cider and cookies for those who would like to join in the holiday festivities at the Alumni Circle. The Fourth Annual Luminary Observation for Aids Awareness, sponsored by the Residential Hall Association, will also be held.

•Floor Hockey Playoff Tournament will be held at 7 p.m. at the Mark Twain Gym.

## Tuesday, Dec. 5

•Taizé Prayer, a time for song, scripture, prayer and meditation, will be held from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Room 316 Millennium Center. The event is sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, the Catholic Newman Center and the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministries.

•Kwanza Presentation As part of the holiday festivities, Auxiliary Services has planned a presentation of The Story of Kwanza to be held at noon in the Fireside Lounge of the Millennium

Student Center.

•Coed Volleyball Playoff Tournament will run from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain Gym.

•Catholic Mass will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge Road, located across from the West Drive entrance to north Campus. For more information call 385-3455.

•The Irish Harp, a performance and History lecture, will be held from 12:30-1:45 p.m. in Room 205 of Music Building. Master Harper Tracey Fleming will perform. For more information call 516-6495.

## Wednesday, Dec. 6

•Young Artists from Opera Theatre of St. Louis will give a musical presentation from 12-1 p.m. in room 205 of the Music Building on South Campus. The event is free and open to anyone. For more information, call Katie Matsumoto at 516-5980.

•Booksigning for "Altered States" The first issue of "Bellerive," a new writing publication from the Pierre Laclède Honors College, will be celebrated with a book signing by its student authors from 12:30-4:30 p.m. in 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: Bulletin Board, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Honors College Convocation Hall. Food and beverages will be provided and copies of the magazine will be available for purchase.

•The Holocaust in Greece, sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center of St. Louis, will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Summit Lounge, University Center. Mark Mazower, University of London, Birkbeck College, will discuss the German invasion of Greece in 1941, deportations from Salonica in 1943, and the attempts to extend deportations to the rest of Greece in 1944. Call 516-6495 for more information.

•Soup and Soul Food, a simple meal and time for prayer, meditation and reflection, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Normandy United Methodist Church, 8000 Natural Bridge Road. For more information call Chris Snyder at 409-3024 or Roger Jepsersen at 385-3000. All are welcome.

•Indoor Soccer Playoff Tournament will be held at 7 p.m. at the Mark Twain Gym.

## Sunday, Dec. 10

•Catholic Mass will be held at the South Campus Residence Hall Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Dec. 12

•Chancellor's Holiday Dinner will be held at the Millennium Student Center Cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pick up complimentary tickets at several locations throughout the campus. Call 516-5446 for more information.

•Catholic Mass will be held at the Catholic Newman Center at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 385-3455.

•University Chorus & Orchestra Concert will be held in the Chapel at the Marillac Provincial House on South Campus from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For more information call 516-5980.

•Taizé Prayer, a time for song, scripture, prayer and meditation, will be held from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Room 316 Millennium Student Center.

# Looking for a job?

The Current is now hiring for the following positions:

- Managing Editor
- Business Associate
- Production Associate
- Production Assistant
- News Editor
- Distribution Manager
- Staff Writers
- Web Assistant
- Advertising Associate

There are also many benefits to working at my offices. They include:

- Good Resumé Material
- Learn About Computers
- Work With Friendly People
- After-Work Activities
- Very Flexible Hours
- It's On Campus

If interested, all applicants should drop off a resumé and cover letter to 388 Millennium Student Center or e-mail us at [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu) or call us at 516-6810.

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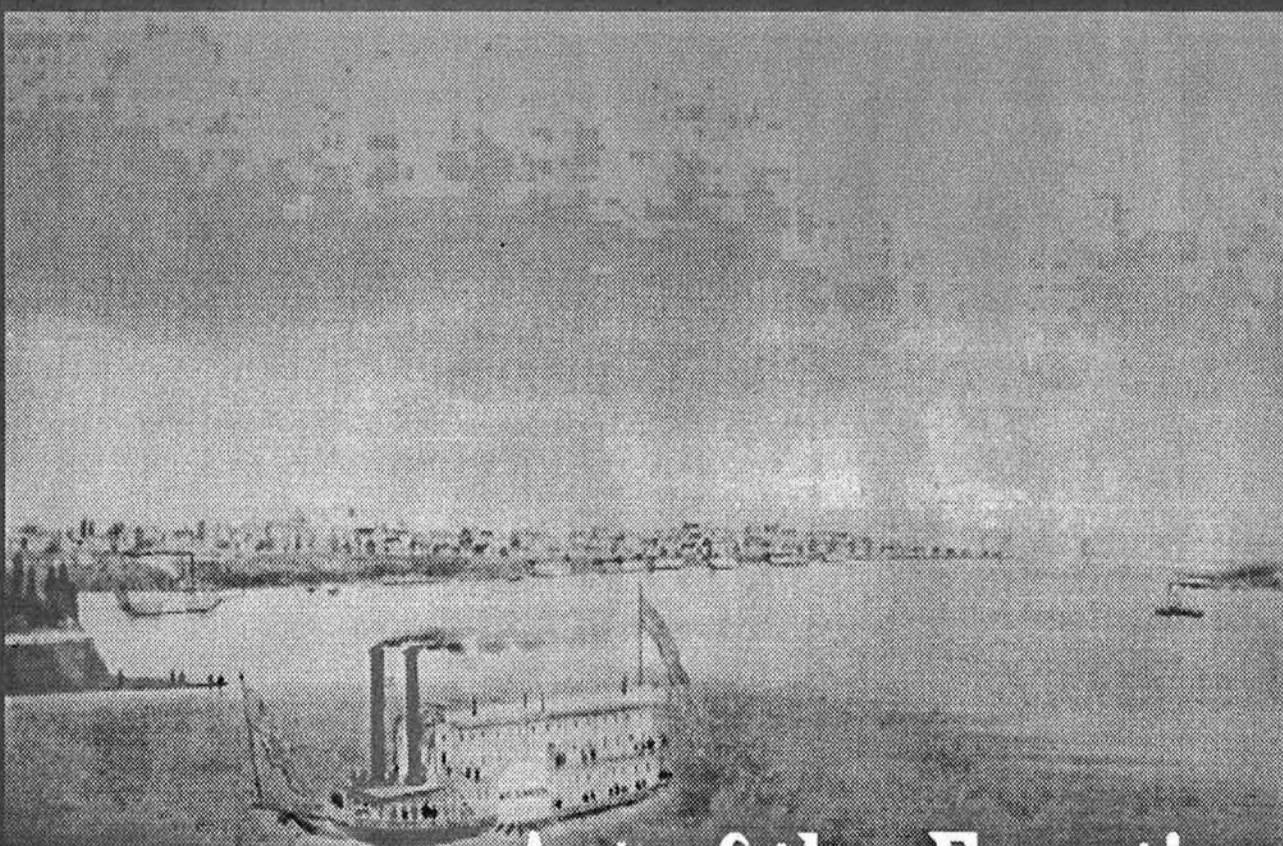
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MCMA



## St. Louis and the Art of the Frontier

St. Louis Mercantile Library at the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis

November 20, 2000–January 31, 2001

An Exhibition of Paintings, Drawings, Prints, Sculpture and Books

For general information, please call (314) 516-5000.

Special thanks are extended to members of the

E. Desmond Lee Collaboration who have loaned art to this exhibition, or given valuable advice, including the Missouri

Historical Society, the Saint Louis Art Museum, the St. Louis

Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

and the Washington University Gallery of Art, as well as

other locally-based institutions such as the collection of

A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Bank of America, the Campbell

House Foundation and the Woodcock Foundation for the

Appreciation of Art, and other institutions including the

Amon Carter Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Joslyn Museum,

National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian,

Newberry Library and Yale University's Beinecke Library.

Announcement courtesy of Mary Ann and E. Desmond Lee.

### Illustrations:

Above: George Catlin, *St. Louis in 1832*, print ca. 1865  
(Courtesy: Collection, A.G. Edwards and Sons, Inc., St. Louis, MO)  
Below: Alfred Jacob Miller, *Departure of Caravan at Sunrise*,  
watercolor ca. 1837 (Courtesy: The Bank of America)

St. Louis and the Art of the Frontier

# Bundle of joy

## Profs welcome third child

BY STEVE VALKO  
special to the Current

At 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 19, 2000, accounting professors Stephen Moehrle and Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle became parents for the third time when John 'Jack' Reynolds-Moehrle was born into the world.

Both Reynolds-Moehrle and Moehrle are very happy about being parents once again.

"I think it's wonderful, it's exactly what we needed: one more good kid," Reynolds-Moehrle said.

"[Having a baby is] the greatest thing, nothing compares to having a child," Moehrle said.

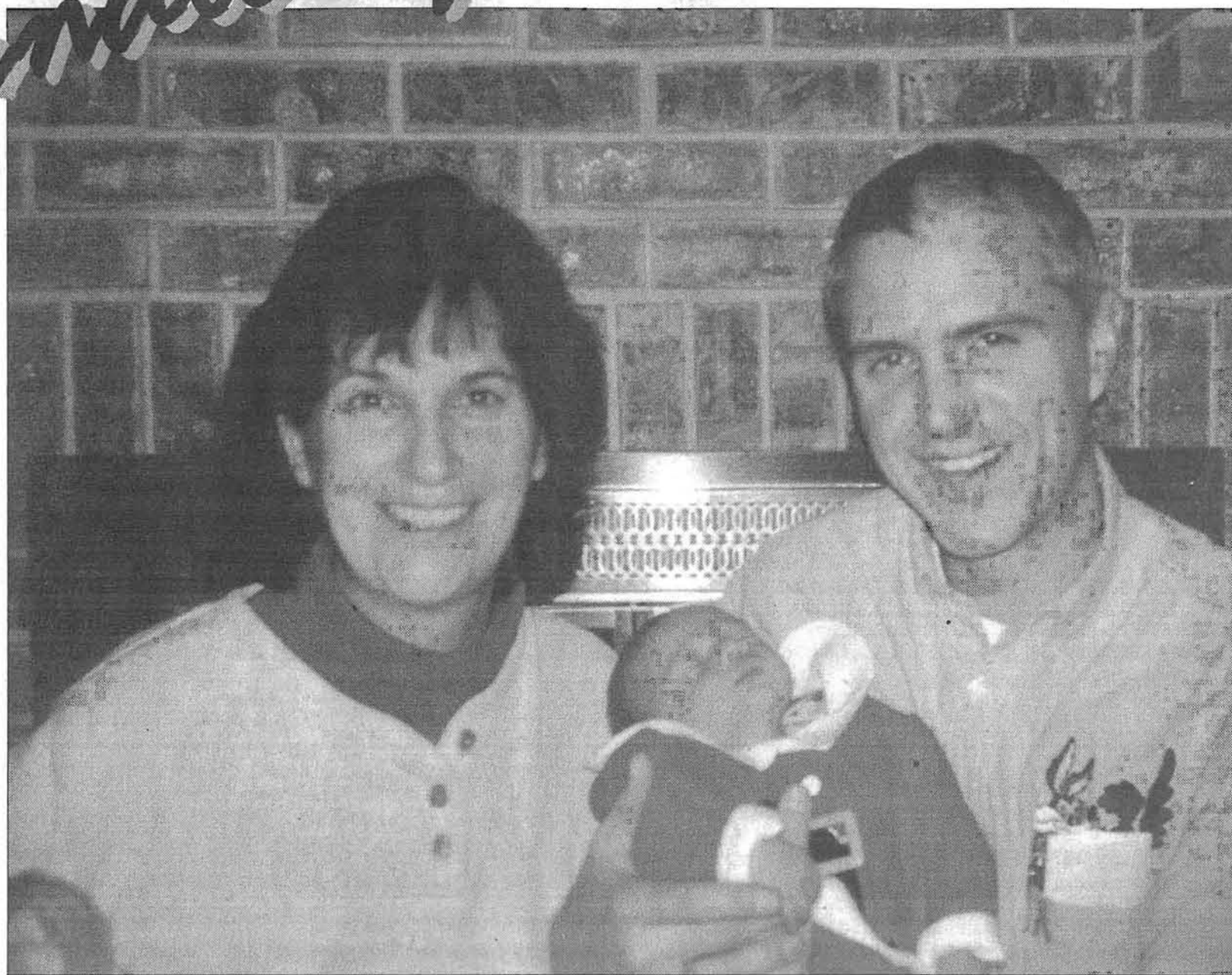
Asked how the baby is doing, Reynolds-Moehrle said, "[John] is doing just fine. He's been a very relaxed boy so far. He's doing a lot of sleeping. He's letting his Mom and Dad get a real good start."

Moehrle also had the same perspective, "[John's] fine. He's letting [Jennifer and I] sleep a little bit. He's been perfect. He's been very, very easy so far."

The Moehrle's new baby is a welcome addition to their family, which includes their two daughters; Libby, 10, and Allison, 4.

"[Libby and Allison] are happy the baby is here, and they're anxious to help with him. [Allison] seems to be more protective than jealous. She's the one who makes sure everyone has their hands washed before they hold the baby, even Steve and I," Reynolds-Moehrle said.

"We sent [Allison] to 'sibling class' and she learned [how to care for the baby] and she's such a sponge for information, so now we



Accounting Professors Stephen Moehrle and Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle with their new son John.

hear about it. We're always having to wash our hands," Moehrle said.

Reynolds-Moehrle, who has been teaching "Financial Accounting and Reporting I" during the fall semester, scheduled her class so that she could get all her lectures in before the expected due date in late November.

"I finished my lectures the Thursday before he was born, which covered the new material," she said.

She also said the only things left in the semester were tests and projects. But who would substitute during her class time?

Her husband and accounting professor, Stephen Moehrle. She does keep in contact with her students through her website, though.

"[Moehrle] is mainly just helping move the paper. There's really not any new material to take over. He's bringing home the tests and bringing home the exams to help grade," Reynolds-Moehrle said.

"The only thing I've had to do was hand back exams and answer questions, so it hasn't been bad [substituting]," Moehrle said.

Moehrle was asked why they chose the middle name of Reynolds. Moehrle said they chose

the name to honor Reynolds-Moehrle's parents.

Asked if they would like their kids to show any tendencies to be accountants like their parents, Reynolds-Moehrle said that Libby is interested in theater. "She's much more likely to be an artist or actress rather than an accountant," Reynolds-Moehrle said.

Allison has shown some tendencies of being a manager someday. "Whatever she's going to do, she'll be in charge. She likes responsibility. She loves for you to put her in charge of things," Reynolds-Moehrle said.

The Moehrles are also going to be moving from their Chesterfield home to Olivette during the summer. The reason is not the latest addition to their family.

Reynolds-Moehrle said they would be moving to drastically cut their time from school "10 minutes from work rather than 40 minutes."

As for the future, Reynolds-Moehrle said she would be returning for the winter semester, but cutting her teaching load to one class during the night. She also said she might be able to come back for the finals at the end of the winter semester.

## KWMU promotes child safety, injury prevention with project

Car and other hazards to be among highlights

BY SARA PORTER  
special to the Current

This winter, radio station KWMU (90.7 FM) and St. Louis Children's Hospital are collaborating on a program to warn parents about the dangers of lead poisoning and vehicle accidents.

"This program, 'Kids for Safety,' is a collaborative effort to educate St. Louis about injury prevention for infants and young children," said Shelley Kerley, Development Director for KWMU.

Some of the safety issues that this program will focus on include lead poisoning, car seat safety, burn and scald prevention, head injury prevention and toy safety.

To deal with these issues "Kids for Safety" will introduce a variety of programs.

"We will give out free information and resource packets. There will also be information on

**"We are hoping to reach parents and educators with information on injuries, for their very young children."**

-Shelley Kerley  
development director, KWMU

our website, www.kwmu.org. Click on "Kids for Safety," Kerley said.

KWMU and St. Louis Children's Hospital will also be holding various workshops on the issues.

"On Mondays, through Dec. 11, we will have a radio call-in program for parents to call with questions," Kerley said. "Also, on Dec. 9, we will be at the Toys R Us in Sunset Hills, to discuss helmet safety."

Kerley hopes that this program will reach parents.

"We are hoping to reach parents and educators with information on injuries for their very young children," Kerley said.

Kerley says safety is impor-

tant, especially with the holidays coming up.

"That is why the hospital recommended we teach on toy safety," Kerley said.

"Kids for Safety" will stress safety issues that have an impact on the St. Louis area.

"We did a car safety check and 90 percent of the car seats were installed incorrectly," Kerley said. "St. Louis County has a very low record in lead prevention. We really hope to combat these issues."

For more information please call KWMU at 516-5968, visit their website at www.kwmu.org, or call the St. Louis Children's hospital answer line at 454-KIDS.

## Worth a thousand words PPRC to show photo exhibit

Artist set to speak on work, experiences

BY ANNE PORTER  
staff editor

Gen Obata may be a musician and an environmental graphic designer. On Dec. 8, however, his photography of St. Louis will be exhibited in the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) in an exhibit called "St. Louis: Books and Photographs." Obata, a local artist, has photographed St. Louis and will speak at a reception detailing his work and experiences.

Obata's family also has works on display on campus. Gyo Obata's architectural firm designed Benton Hall in 1964 and Woods Hall in 1974. Kiku Obata's photographs have been exhibited at UM-St. Louis, beginning in 1980.

St. Louis features not only full-size prints, but also digitally produced ones, and a miniature book offering a collection of 25 other photos. This compilation was created especially for PPRC. Jean Tucker, a photographic historian, planned the

**"St. Louisians should be interested in what [Obata] says are changes in the city..."**

-Jean Tucker  
photographic historian

exhibition.

"St. Louisians should be interested in what [Obata] says are changes in the city which have occurred over time which are apparent in the photographic books," Tucker said.

Obata selected a Thomas Carlisle quotation as the preface for one of his collection books.

"In books lies the soul of the whole past time / The articulate audi-

# FEWATNUPRES

EDITOR

ANNE PORTER  
features editor

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QUOTES

**"Education is a method whereby one acquires a higher grade of prejudices."**

-Laurence Peter  
Credit: www quotablequotes.net

**"The surest way to be late is to have plenty of time."**

-Leo Kennedy  
Credit: www quotablequotes.net

**"No brain is stronger than its weakest think."**

-Thomas L. Masson  
Credit: www quotablequotes.net

## Feedback: Thanks for taking an interest



AND THE POINT IS...  
ANNE PORTER

Back in September (three months ago, remember?), I wrote a column about the increase in my rent. This may not seem like anything extraordinary. In the column, I explained that my rent's increase was due to the purchase of my apartment and the surrounding ones by Washington University.

Yesterday, long past the time when I expected any sort of reaction from that column, we received an interesting call at the paper.

I was not there to take the call and I just heard about it today when I received a message from Josh

Renaud, the editor-in-chief. Josh said that a woman from Parkview Properties had telephoned to comment on my column.

The woman said that she thought a quote I used in my column was "misleading and hearsay."

You could be thinking that I would be very upset about this view of my column.

In fact, I see this to the contrary. The fact that this woman called just to voice her opinion makes me admire her.

So many times, so many people out there may be concerned, disgruntled and agitated about certain occur-

rences and just let the opportunity to respond go without taking advantage of it. Just the fact that she took the time to express her disapproval of my ideas and research lets me know that she reads my column.

I do not write this column to tick people off. I do not write to make everyone happy either. I hope through my weekly 500 words that I am able to inform and entertain my readers, even make them laugh or chuckle now and then.

I also mentioned research. I do observe the world around me and see things that I believe are justified to fill in this otherwise white space of

the page.

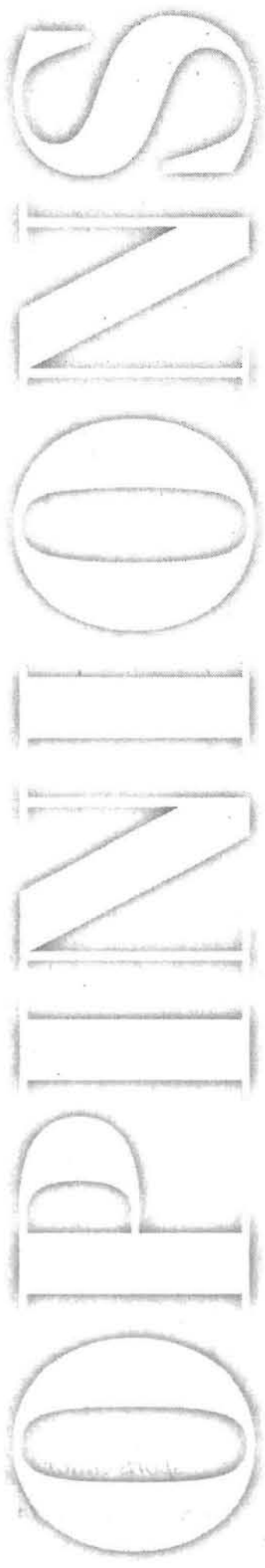
The research I perform may not be the most scientific. I talk to various people, from professionals to other students to tattoo artists. I attempt to keep with current events to support my views, so that you, the readers, will continue to read what I have to say. From what I observe, I think, ponder, question, feel, respond, and relate these things to my life and in turn to those who know me and read what I write.

Without you, the readers, we, the writers, mean nothing. We may have some theory or some experience that we want to tell you and relate to you,

but if you don't pick this newspaper up, we accomplish nothing.

Unlike other people, I have the opportunity to talk about them in a public forum. For that I consider myself very fortunate. I choose topics that I believe will be interesting and easy to relate to. So, as a reader, you have the power. You may not think you do or choose to exercise it, but you do. If you say what you consider important, we will listen and respond. Thank you very much for reading my column and *The Current* this semester. Have an excellent and jubilant holiday break, and we'll see you in January.

see EXHIBIT, page 9



EDITORIAL BOARD

JOSH RENAUD
BRIAN DOUGLAS

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

LETTERS

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

OUR OPINION

University should continue 'We love students' trend

Walking into the cafeteria on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center, it's hard to miss seeing one of the 30 huge, bright red banners which loudly proclaim "We love UMsl students."

Driving into the Millennium Student Center parking lot, it's hard to miss the red sign that reads "Faculty and staff parking only."

How does one reconcile these two very different images of our campus? It would be easy to write it off as hypocrisy and let it go at that, but we'd like to think that there's actually something deeper going on.

For a long time the prevailing attitude in Woods Hall seemed to be that the administration was here to "run the campus," and that meant running over anyone who got in the way. The old guard still exists, but more and more student-friendly voices are being heard. The Student Center itself is tangible evidence of this new attitude. It appears the climate on our campus really is changing and that better days for student-administration relations are ahead.

When student organizations began participating in the massive relocation effort to their new offices in the Student Center, Gloria Schultz, director of Business and Management Services, could be found everywhere. Instead of giving students orders, almost daily she asked what they needed to get their offices up and running again. Schultz spent countless hours visiting rooms, consulting with student leaders, making calls, and

being friendly all the while.

Schultz is not alone in taking this friendlier approach to students. It would be hard to talk to G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, without noticing his enthusiasm for student accomplishments. Rick Blanton, former director of Student Activities, was an outspoken advocate of students' rights. While Joanne Bocci, the interim director of Student Activities, isn't as boisterous, she too makes it a priority to help students with their concerns.

This trend is both refreshing and encouraging, and we'd like to see it continue.

One way the administration could put its "we love students" attitude into action is to open communications channels and address some of students' top concerns. For instance, why are parking fees so high? Why are we paying so much for textbooks? Why won't KWMU solicit more student participation? It's time to stop being defensive and start talking honestly about these kinds of questions.

Students don't expect instant solutions. But just making the effort to discuss these issues and their possible solutions will be a huge step.

We realize it's a two-way street. Tell us your concerns, too. Administrators may not realize it, but a lot of students do care about things like educational standards and institutional integrity. Tell us what your vision is for this campus. We'll both get a lot more done if we cooperate.

The issue:

The opening of the Millennium Student Center is tangible evidence of a changing climate in Woods Hall. Administrators and staff members like Gary Grace, Joanne Bocci, and Gloria Schultz all take a 'put students first' approach to their work at UMsl.

We suggest:

The administration should open communications channels with the students and answer some of their top concerns, like high parking fees and textbook prices. Making the effort to discuss these issues will be a huge step.

So what do you think?

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

LETTERS

True scientists put hypotheses to test

Evidently, Brian Douglas has not taken the time to familiarize himself with the scientific theories he criticizes in his Nov. 27 editorial ("A Matter of Principle"). He repeats the creationists' stock misconception that biological evolution is some sort of worldview or belief system, resulting in a politicized "creationism vs. evolution" dichotomy of opposing philosophies which has very little to do with truth, whether religious or scientific. Actually, the methods and logic used to arrive at creationists' conclusions could not be further from those used to arrive at evolutionary theory. The creationist's position, as recently stated by Phil Baringer in a letter to Physics Today, boils down to a simple argument based on authority. In other words, if Sacred Text X states that the Earth is 4000 years old, then I will believe this literally, regardless of evidence to the contrary, and if such evidence makes me uncomfortable, then I will simply ignore or discount it. The creationist assumes the unquestioned validity of one argument and selectively appropriates empirical data only if it supports that argument.

The scientific method, on the other hand, relies on proof and experimen-

tal evidence — nonsupporting as well as supporting. All evidence must be included; no selectivity is permitted. A theory may or may not start with a hypothesis, but the scientist tries to falsify and knock down the hypothesis as much as he tries to verify it. Empirical data is always accompanied by error bars which remind us that uncertainty exists. The presence of this uncertainty, though, does not automatically catapult a scientific theory into the realm of faith. In fact it does the exact opposite. The scientist must discover to which systems and under which circumstances a theory is applicable, and a valid theory for one system may not function well in another. This is what we see when comparing Newtonian physics to relativity: Newton's laws function very well until you approach very high velocities or extremely strong gravity. This does not mean Newtonian physics is invalid; it just means that Newton's equations must be modified to be predictive in extreme conditions. All of this is antithetical to the creationist viewpoint, which does not question or examine itself, and would never attempt to falsify itself.

By way of information, the theory of evolution does not claim that

humans evolved from apes, nor does it take a position for or against the existence of God. The actual theory states that life on Earth, human and nonhuman, gradually evolved from simpler forms to more advanced stages, and that the lifeforms which adapted most efficiently to their environment tended to survive and reproduce. While there may not be data precisely confirming each of these stages, there is ample biological, geological and paleontological evidence that the adaptation of lifeforms to their surroundings result in gradual changes in structure and function over time. No matter how much the creationists would like to make it so, biological evolution is not a belief system. Douglas makes the outrageous claim that "the scientific theories the secular world so readily accepts require a great deal of faith, and are at bottom no more logically founded than anything proposed by religion." What's forgotten here is that these theories are predictive: they work, whether or not you believe in them. If crystal field theory, quantum theory, and electromagnetic field theory operated on faith, Douglas would

see SCIENCE, page 9

Teachers should be able to display their beliefs

If creationism does not belong in a philosophy course, where does it belong? Certainly, the notion of intelligent selection does lend weight in any kind of ethics course, which, if I am not mistaken, places an emphasis on distinctions or lack thereof between right and wrong. Tallman is being criticized for being "open about his religious beliefs." In my two and one half years here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, I can recall numerous classes where the teacher has not shied away from implying his or her religious beliefs.

When does this become a first amendment issue? Will it then become necessary to terminate any Christian teacher who displays a fish on the back of his automobile, on the off chance a student might see that teacher driving? If this is the case, then it will be necessary to remove every "Darwin" fish from every science teacher's office door/automobile.

Perhaps the problem is something else. Maybe the problem is that Tallman is teaching something that the "enlightened ones" simply cannot

allow: perhaps he is guilty of the terrible combination of advancing both a capitalist theory as well as an ethical theory which is based on creationism, an ethical theory which this country as well as country's industries are built around. Unfortunately, my "Zack de-la-Rocha-esque" colleagues cannot allow this to continue, and Tallman will be terminated. I only wish I had known of Tallman's class a year ago, when I might have enrolled.

--Jeremy D. Bixby

Thanks, graduates, for making a great semester

Thanksgiving was a few weeks back, and Christmas is now in full swing even though it's just under a month away.

But now that we're here near the end of the semester, I'm getting reflective, and I feel like I need to express my gratitude, especially to some staff members who are leaving the paper to graduate.

The Current wouldn't run very well without its managing editor. This semester it was Brian Douglas, and he's done a great job.

This spring when I was trying to assemble a staff, no one had expressed interest in the job. As I thought about people who might have the right stuff for the job, Brian popped into my head. I asked him if he'd do it, and he said yes. I am glad he did.

Without Brian, it would have been near-impossible for the newspaper to accomplish all the things that it has this semester, like moving (months after we thought we would), holding the SGA debates, producing the 1000th issue, running a news department without a news editor, and so much more. He helped develop a very green writing staff into a much better writing staff.

But now, just when it seems we've figured things out, it's time for Brian to graduate and move on with his life and his writing career. I'm really going to miss his everyday antics next semester, his unique attire and body language, and most especially his support and good work at the paper. Thanks a lot for everything, Brian.

Other folks are leaving the paper, too. If UMsl didn't have this darned

graduation deal, things would be much easier here. Dave Baugher has been a faithful production associate. Two years ago, Dave was my boss when he was editor-in-chief. Last year he came back as a member of the production department, and I became his boss. At first it was awkward, especially since he just wouldn't approach layout and design the way I did. Ego is a problem for me, so my way always seems like the best way to me.

This year, the awkwardness was gone. It was a pleasure getting to know Dave and all his quirks. He did great work for us, especially on the 1000th issue. He made immense, selfless contributions to the paper over the years. Thanks Dave, for being a great assistant. There, it's in print.



JOSH RENAUD
editor-in-chief

Dana Cojocaru has also been a faithful, reliable staff member at The Current. She has always been very professional, friendly, and I'm grateful for the work she's done as our business associate. Dana, I know you will be successful in the business world. Just come to bowling a few times, okay?

I'd also like to thank Derek Evans for coming this semester. When I first met Derek, I didn't know what to think of him. Our self-described "resident obnoxious Jew," Derek has become a well-loved member of the staff, and most importantly he has written some very good stuff for us this semester. Thanks, Derek!

So, congrats to the graduates. I'd also like to say thanks to the entire staff of The Current. Everyone's hard work has made this a great semester.

Florida election mess makes UMsl look good

When addressing the U.S. Supreme Court with regard to the contested elections in Florida, one of the attorneys said the whole case could be boiled down to the fact that there was no evidence of fraud or machine failure, concluding that the entire mess was the result of "voter URRARR." I think he said more than even he realized.

While it became obvious that his odd pronunciation meant "voter error," somehow I find it inherently appropriate that the attorney, in attempting to give a definitive explanation of the situation, only confused matters himself. It was a microcosm of what has gone on for the entire election.

Laying partisanship aside for the moment, the one thing we can all agree on about this election is that it has been an utter mess. Granted that's not much of a rallying cry for bipartisan cooperation, but whatever side of the fence you find yourself on, there's a certain sick humor to the fact that one of the most important processes in our country, the contest that decides who will lead our nation for the next four years, could be so utterly screwed up by a bunch of people improperly punching holes in pieces of paper.

Those voting machines don't exactly require a thorough knowledge of rocket science to use. They are actually incredibly low-tech, being really nothing more than a

table with a booklet and a ballot slot and a stylus on a beaded chain. All the ballots I've seen were perforated to make them easier to punch and the privacy envelope clearly said to check the back of the ballot for any of that now-infamous hanging chad. The question that comes to my mind is if these people weren't able to poke a hole in an index card, do we want them to decide who will be president of the United States?

The equally infamous butterfly ballots argument didn't impress me either. Their design was admittedly terrible, but when making a decision of such importance, can't you stop and take a few extra seconds to figure out who you are voting for?

Scariest still, this problem isn't confined to Florida. Many states have similar percentages of ballots which don't register because of voter URRARR.

The Supreme Court hasn't helped much, either. As time goes on, I am becoming more convinced that the real reason they don't want cameras in their chambers is that they don't want the rest of us to see them squabbling like a bunch of school children. So much for the highest court in the land, although we can still hold out hope: from what I saw the Court treated everyone alike without prejudice, which is to say

see DOUGLAS, page 9



BRIAN DOUGLAS
managing editor

Under Current
by Mutsumi Igarashi
staff photographer



Andreas Helferich
Graduate / M.I.S.

Visit my ex-roommate in Thailand for three weeks.



Dave Schuster
Graduate / M.I.S.

Christmas.



Lemmy Maingi
Graduate / M.I.S.

Travel and visit friends in two other states.

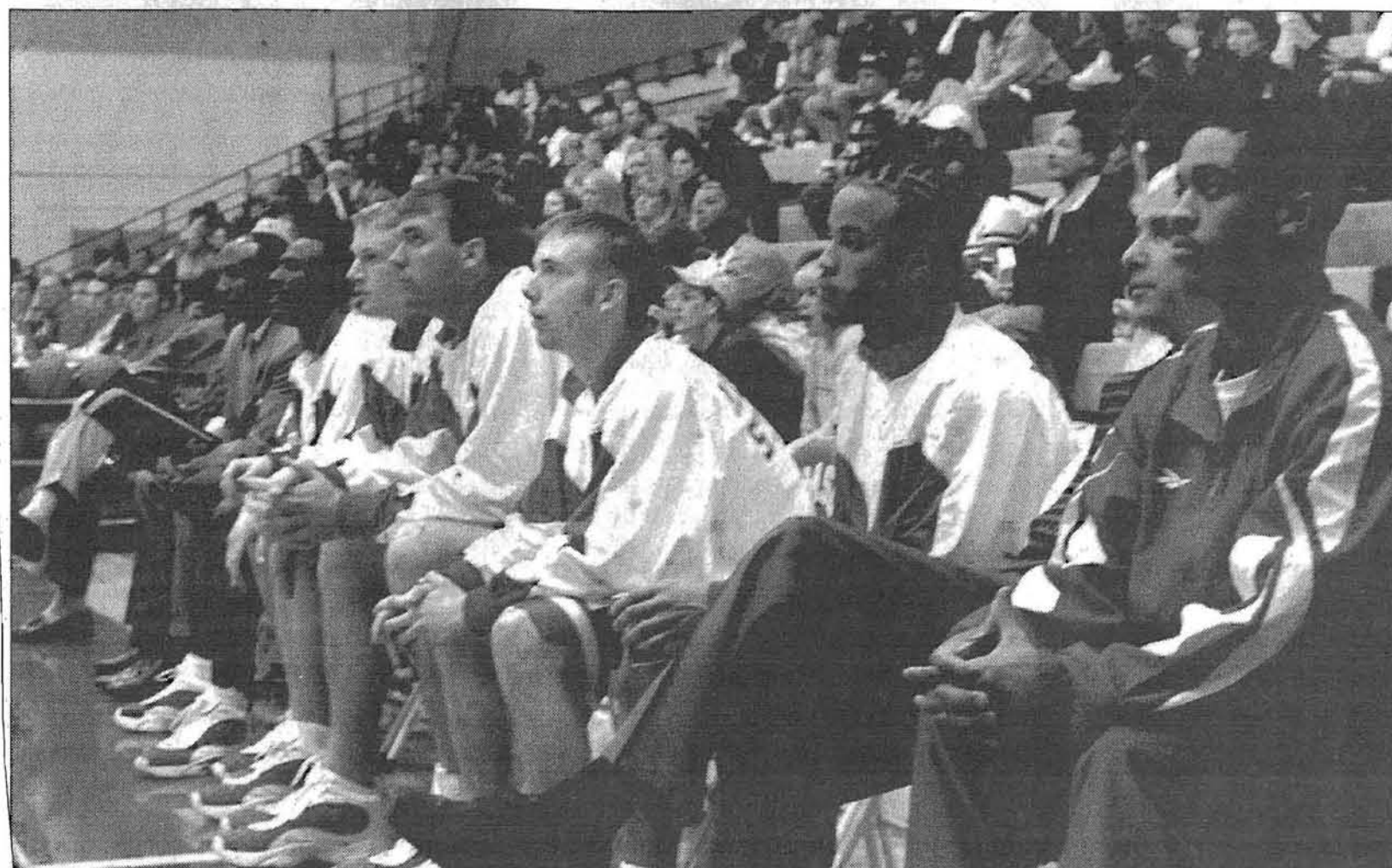


Tammy Sulze
Graduate / M.I.S.

Christmas.

What is your plan for winter vacation?

# Rivermen stuff Northwood for win



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

At a recent game, the Rivermen basketball players keep their eyes fixed on the game as they anxiously await their chance to play. The Rivermen defeated Northwood University but lost two games on the road, bringing their overall record to 2-2.

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

The 2000-2001 Rivermen took an impressive 76-62 victory over Northwood University November 25.

The game, played at Midland, Michigan in front of 111 faithful Northwood faithful fans, marked the first road game of the season for the undefeated Rivermen.

With the return of Juan Dumphord to the line-up, who had been out with a blood clot in his left hamstring, Rivermen's Head Coach Mark Bensen added a few more weapons to his arsenal. Dumphord had seven assists, a pair of buckets and a steal in 22 minutes of play, but is quickly meshing into the run-and-gun style the Rivermen have adopted.

With Michael Hamilton heading the offensive front, the Rivermen shot to an impressive 45-37 lead at the half. Hamilton would finish the game with 23 points on 14 shots, while wrestling the ball away from the Northwood offense four times.

Jim Schelich and Michael Coleman also recorded double figures in scoring, with Coleman earning his first double-double of the season, adding 12 rebounds to his 12 points.

see RIVERMEN, page 9

## R-women bounce back from first loss

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

After dropping the 2000-2001 season opener to Ferris State University, the UM-St. Louis Riverwomen have rebounded to a 2-1 record, with victories against regional opponents Lincoln University and Fontbonne College.

In the first contest, Mark Twain Recreational Complex hosted the Blue Tigers of Lincoln. The Riverwomen re-adjusted their starting lineup for the home opener, starting freshman Kelly Blunt in place of Megan Mauck. Blunt also started against Fontbonne.

"I am happy with Kelly's performance," said Head Coach Shelly Ethridge. "She is gaining some confidence offensively and defensively, she is one of our best rebounders."

Despite strong play from junior Lynette Wellen, who led the Riverwomen with 11 points and added six rebounds, turnovers and missed shots kept UMSL from pulling ahead. At the 20:00 mark, the Riverwomen were up only four points.

"We didn't execute and we need to take care of the ball," said Ethridge. "We had a lot of unforced turnovers."

The Riverwomen eventually won by a three-point margin, 55-52. UMSL shot 29 percent from the field, 11 percent from three-point range and lost possession of the ball 16 times.

"Although we won the game, we didn't feel like it was a victory," said Ethridge. "I would like to see a more aggressive team, a less timid team, but we're young and still learning."

UMSL had a couple of days to retoul and refine their game before heading back to Mark Twain to host Fontbonne. This would be the

see RIVERWOMEN, page 9

## Rec Sports boosts participation

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

With intramurals nearly wrapped up for the 2000 year, a lot of signs have pointed to the continuing growth of the programs within Recreational Sports.

This past fall semester has been highlighted by the competitiveness of both the outdoor soccer league and the flag football season.

"It fluctuates from semester to semester, but I attribute it to good team captains," said Pam Steinmetz, Assistant Coordinator for Intramurals. "If you get a kid who

comes in here and is really interested in the sport, then they are going to rally a team behind them. If you get those kind of kids in early as freshmen or sophomores, it helps the program build for the next three years."

In soccer, the season was highlighted by the Normandy Rovers, 6-0 going into the semifinals, being defeated Thaiger, the no. 4 seed in the playoffs. In the other semifinal, Melee surprised Sig Tau 2-0 and eventually defeated Thaiger 4-0 in the championship.

"That was a very big upset," Steinmetz said about the Normandy Rovers' loss. "I always like to see

upsets, nothing against any teams. It is always nice that surprises can happen to a team because it keeps everybody interested and excited. It was just one upset after another."

In flag football, the Has Beens and Sigma Pi entered the playoffs as the two no. 1 seeds and they proved that they were worthy as both advanced to the championship match. The Has Beens defeated Sig Tau in one semifinal, while Sigma Pi defeated Melee to advance. The Has Beens entered the championship match with a +106 point differential, but Sigma Pi prevailed in the match 20-13 to capture the title.

see INTRAMURAL, page 9

## New player helps club: 40 points in 12 games

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

As a freshman at UM-St. Louis, Jeff Wear is making a name for himself in the world of men's hockey. While only playing 12 games this season with the team, Wear has accumulated 20 goals along with 20 assists to his credit.

This outburst reminds many UMSL hockey fans of when Ben Gilbertson and Ryan Craig first joined the team, but Wear has some individual accomplishments that prove noteworthy as well.

While at Fort Zumwalt South, Wear became the team's all-time points leader as he recorded 110 goals and 73 assists. Fort Zumwalt also retired Wear's jersey #14 to show his impact on his high school hockey team.

"Initially, I was in shock," Wear said. "Then the emotion came out because I realized that something was coming to an end."

From Fort Zumwalt South, Wear decided to attend UMSL, but not until August. Wear came to UMSL not in condition enough to even play for the hockey team.

"I was playing in a men's hockey league over the summer, and it proved that I could still score and play hockey," Wear said. "I didn't skate much all summer and playing hockey was kind of a spur of the moment thing."

The influence that current Rivermen Mike Winkler, Jake Todd

and Joe Kuene had on Wear was crucial to Wear wearing the Rivermen's jersey this year.

"I saw how successful UMSL was in high school and friends of mine decided to come to UMSL and make it a better program," Wear said. "We all discussed it at the high school All Star game."

The expectations of Wear, once he decided to play for the Rivermen, were not so high as Wear did not know what to expect. But Wear is now the leading scorer for the Rivermen, with 40 point accrued in only 12 games and currently on the first line.

"I didn't know how to react," Wear said. "I knew a couple of people on the team, but I missed the tryouts and hopefully I would make the second or third line. This whole year has been a dream for me. Basically, from the players to the coaches, my performance has been quite a shock."

Being the no. 1 scorer on the Rivermen's squad this season, Wear is wary of being the target of the opponents in the later parts of the season.

"Since I am a freshman, they key on the veterans and the guys who scored in the previous years," Wear said. "Later in the year, I can see people gunning for me."

Wear also commented on how the team has taken him in and looked above his freshman status.

see HOCKEY, page 9



Darren Brunel/The Current

Freshman, Jeff Wear, helps defend the goal during the UMSL Hockey Club's game Friday night. Wear has had 20 goals and 20 assists this season and expects many more.

# SPORTS

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sports editor

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## GAMES

### Men's Basketball

v. Washburn  
7:45 pm, Wed., Dec. 6

at Quincy  
7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 9

v. Benedictine College  
7:45 pm, Mon., Dec. 18

### Women's Basketball

v. Central Missouri State  
7:00 pm, Tues., Dec. 5

at Quincy  
5:15 pm, Sat., Dec. 9

v. Webster  
7:00 pm, Tues., Dec. 19

Visit the UMSL athletics website at

[www.umsl.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/athletics/athletics.html)

## Rams need to show heart before they can improve



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

With the mighty St. Louis Rams falling to a tie for the first place with the low-caliber New Orleans Saints, the football scene in St. Louis has taken a turn from optimistic to pessimistic.

Fans are quickly jumping off the bandwagon, and the tides have changed from the Super Bowl champions of a year ago to the St. Louis Cardinals and the Neil Lomax era. But not all is glum in the Rams' situation, as the team is starting to get the necessities to become the Super Bowl contender that they were a year ago.

With Kurt Warner now coming back to the helm of the Rams, the feel-

ings should shift as Warner is now the leader of the team once again. Not that Trent Green did a bad job in the past five weeks, but Warner is what the Rams need at the moment. They need a leader to be on the field and be inspirational to their offensive woes as of late.

With the Rams taking on the Minnesota Vikings, a team that has already clinched a playoff berth, the leadership capabilities of Warner coming off of surgery will be tested. The team will look to Warner to compete with the highly potent offense of Dante Culpepper and his duo of Chris Carter, a player who became the second all-

time to record 1000 receptions, and Randy Moss, a player who will break the record at some point in his youthful career.

But do the Rams and their terrible defensive unit stand a chance against these Vikings? The Rams could already have an answer as the Vikings have dominated their opponents through strong pass rushes on quarterbacks and Robert Smith leading the charge running up the offense.

The Rams need to show that they are still the team to beat in the National Football Conference with a gutsy performance against the Vikings. This means that there can be no more spe-

cial team blunders and the defense needs to pick up the intensity. The Rams need to suck up any more injuries that may be sub-par (turf toe) and show what kind of team that they were last season.

The secondary on the Rams' defensive side needs to limit the amount of penalties that it causes through defensive interference due to the speedy wide receivers that the Vikings have. They need to be composed and step up to the capabilities that all St. Louis fans have anticipated throughout this entire year.

If the Rams want to be a contender this season for a playoff berth and even

the NFC West title, they need to show the one thing that they have lacked this entire season: heart. DeMarco Farr and the rest of the defensive line need to show that although the team lost key ingredients from last year's championship, they still have a big impact on how the team fairs in the game.

If the defense can limit the Vikings' potent offense to less than 24 points, then the Rams' offense should be able to lead the charge to the bounce-back of the defending champions and be a pivotal point to the revival of the Rams in the 2000-01 campaign.

# With 'Unbreakable,' director's success remains unbroken



**TOP:** Bruce Willis (left) plays David Dunn, the sole survivor of a catastrophic train wreck. Samuel L. Jackson plays Elijah Price, an eccentric stranger who is fascinated by Dunn's unexplainable survival. **ABOVE:** Price offers a bizarre, supernatural explanation for Dunn's survival. **RIGHT:** Dunn is a man with an extraordinary gift.

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

Last year, the summer's sleeper hit was "The Sixth Sense," a surprising, little-promoted thriller whose popularity grew with word-of-mouth recommendations. This year, the writer-director of that film is back with another strong thriller film "Unbreakable."

Like "The Sixth Sense," you will enjoy "Unbreakable" more if you know nothing about it. I was lucky to see "The Sixth Sense" just by chance, without any advance information, and I enjoyed that film a great deal. Not so lucky were those who hadn't seen it by the time all the press coverage started, many of whom had the film spoiled for them by too much information about its plot. Which leaves me, the reviewer, with a sort of dilemma: how to tell you about this film without spoiling it for you.

So I will tell you just enough. Since there will be a lot of interest in this film due to "The Sixth Sense," I will refer to the director's previous film more than I usually would, in an effort to give you a feel for this one without giving away too much. First, "Unbreakable" is a very respectable follow up to the director's previous film, in which he wisely chose to again cast Bruce Willis in the leading role. I didn't like this film quite as much as the previous film, but others, whose opinions I respect, liked it more. Whether you enjoy this film more or less than "The Sixth Sense" will depend on how much its premise appeals to you. This premise resonated less with me than "The Sixth Sense," but you might find the opposite is true. Regardless, it is a very well done film.

Bruce Willis plays David Dunn, a man who is a passenger on a commuter train that is involved in a horrific accident. He awakens in a hospital emergency room to learn that he is the sole survivor of the accident. More amazingly, he is completely unharmed by this disaster. Puzzled and disturbed, he leaves the hospital to return to his unhappy home life with his estranged

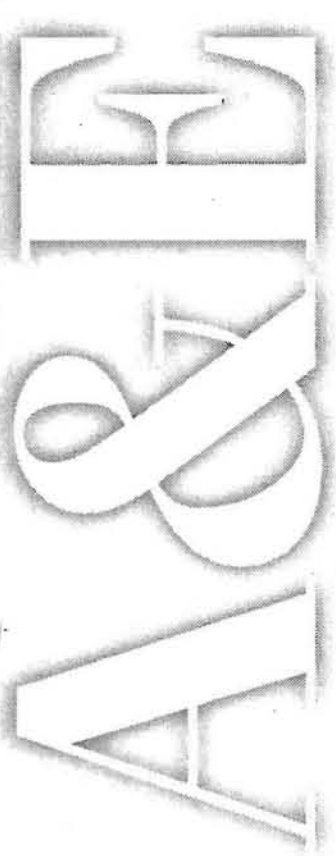
**'Unbreakable'**  
Length: 125 min.  
Rated: PG-13  
Our opinion: ★★★★★

wife Audrey (Robin Wright Penn) and his adoring son Joseph (Spencer Treat Clark). Shortly after this devastating event, he is contacted by Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), a stranger who has read about the accident and his survival. What happens next and how this contact affects him will have to remain unsaid for you to enjoy the film.

"Unbreakable" shares certain characteristics with its predecessor, but it is by no means the same movie, nor is it (thankfully) a sequel. M. Night Shyamalan wrote and directed both films and the style of the film strongly shows that it is the work of the same man in its look, its pace, its choice of images. The film has a dark and brooding look even in the midst of the most ordinary and everyday situations, suffusing the whole film with an uneasy eeriness. While this film also has Bruce Willis appearing with a child actor, the focus is much more on Willis and on Samuel Jackson, who plays a rather odd, even mysterious character who is afflicted with a genetic disease that makes his bones very fragile. Both Willis and Jackson turn in strong underplayed performances, with equally strong work by the supporting cast. Like "The Sixth Sense," a lot of the emotional expressiveness is carried by the child actor, although this is a much smaller role and the performance is not as strong as Haley Joel Osment's.

There were a few scenes that did not work dramatically as well as they should have, especially one involving a gun during a confrontation in a kitchen, where the stiff dialog caused the audience to laugh during what should have been a dramatic situation. I felt less moved by the characters and

see UNBREAKABLE, page 7



## EDITOR

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## MUSIC

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Vertical Limit

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Viridiana (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)  
Jean de Florette (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

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The Emperor's New Groove  
The Gift

16-17

Jean de Florette (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)  
Manon of the Spring (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

22

Chocolat  
Wes Craven Presents  
Dracula 2000  
Cast Away

23-24

Manon of the Spring (Tivoli's classic world cinema series)

25

All The Pretty Horses  
Enemy At The Gates  
A Hard Day's Night (classic re-release)  
Vatel  
Finding Forrester  
Tailor of Panama  
An Everlasting Piece  
Moulin Rouge  
Malena

## FILM REVIEW

### 'Family Man' sticks to tried and true formula

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT  
staff writer

"The Family Man" is a movie that you may not have actually seen, but could piece together from other Christmas movies if you had half a chance. Does this mean it isn't worth your time and money? Quite to the contrary actually, it's a great movie with great performances from some impressive stars. Sometimes it's a good idea to stick with what works.

Name a Robin Williams movie that has a comical and unconventional hero who helps a youth, upsets people in authority, and ends with everyone being just a little bit wiser for the experience. Give up? There is no wrong answer, from "Patch Adams" to "Good Will Hunting," all of them follow essentially the same premise. But this doesn't make them bad movies. I liked all of them, and by the same token, I really enjoyed "The Family Man" starring Nicholas Cage and Téa Leoni.

"It's a Wonderful Life" asks (and answers) the same basic premise as this film, "What if..." The story is about Jack Campbell (Nicolas Cage), whose wealth and power make him a very happy man. After helping a stranger with mysterious powers (Don

**'The Family Man'**  
Length: 130 min.  
Rated: PG-13  
Our opinion: ★★★★★

Cheadle), Campbell wakes in the suburbs to his beautiful wife Kate (Téa Leoni) and children, both of which he never had. The comedy of this modern Christmas miracle story is offset by serious issues that come up regarding the value of money and the importance of family.

Cage, whose face has been all over the screen in past years, did an amazing job showing the growth and change of a character whose ties to Dickens' Scrooge are easy to pick out. Téa Leoni, whose most notable appearances were in "Deep Impact" and NBC's "The Naked Truth," was breathtaking in this film. Her performance was such a remarkable portrayal of a wife trying to hold her family together that I began to wonder about how her real marriage (to David Duchovny) is doing.

An adorable little girl, the Christmas glimpse of a life that could have been, and the warm fuzzy feeling

see FAMILY MAN, page 7

## CONCERT REVIEW

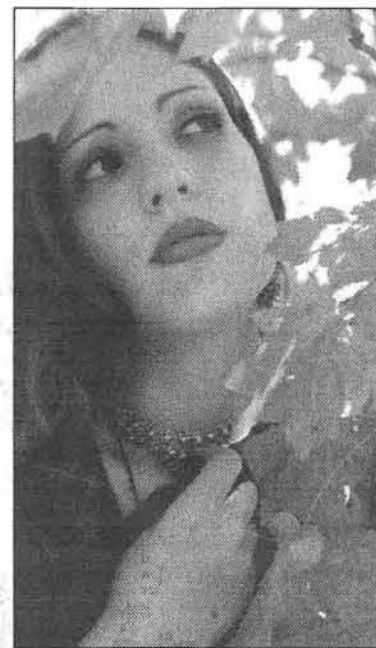
### Open mike night turns up some impressive acts

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
senior editor

I'm a bit leery of open mike nights. Too often you hear some guys screaming to the tune of a guitar that sounds more like it's falling down the steps than actually being played, or else you get bad poetry readings a la Ginsberg. When I walked into the Pony Express and saw a guitar, a computer, and some conga drums set up, my enthusiasm didn't exactly soar. But when The Higher The Fewer took the stage and actually started playing, I was impressed.

The band, comprised of vocalist Rose McCann, guitarist Troy Howard and drummer Jonathan Laufersweiler, played six songs for a 30-minute set that hardly sounded like something you'd hear on an amateur night. McCann's vocals showed a well-developed range, both high and low. Howard's playing had all the smoothness of a classical background, but still had enough edge to keep the sound vital.

I wasn't sure what to make of the conga drums at first. Laufersweiler seemed a little awkward when the set started, but once he was warmed up, he did an admirable job of pulling a wide variety of sounds from the congas, whose odd complement gave the



Rose McCann is the vocalist for The Higher The Fewer.

band a fresh sound.

With the exception of one song borrowed from a friend, the band wrote all of its own music. The lyrics, written by McCann, were very striking, with lines like, "Deep in the nowhere of your soul, I'll be picking up the pieces of your broken halo," from the band's last song of the night, "Broken Halo." When asked to list her influences, McCann cited Kate Bush, Bel Canto, Siouxi and the Banshees.

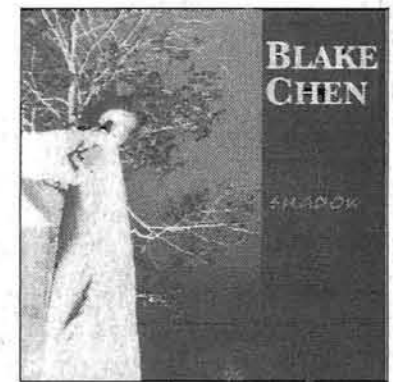
"I would say Tori Amos, but that's too standard," McCann said. "Every girl singer says Tori Amos."

Howard, who wrote the music, said he enjoyed a wide variety of styles, including 1930s jazz, rock from the early 1980s, surf rock, "and a myriad of other goth and silly bands."

Howard also programmed the drum and bass tracks.

"The computer has always been a part of it," Howard said. "In my first band we destroyed a Commodore 64 on stage."

The calm sound of The Higher The Fewer didn't sound likely to destroy anything, so don't be alarmed, but if you like to see new bands, do go and see them now at one of the open mike venues around town, before you have to stand in line



BLAKE CHEN

other info can be found on the band's website at [www.unsuave.com/~illium/thf](http://www.unsuave.com/~illium/thf). "The Higher The Fewer" only has about a half-dozen songs right now, but they have five to ten more in the works, and hope to have an album out soon. The band is currently looking for a bass guitarist and another drummer.

Though they were better than several groups I've paid to see, THF was actually opening for another act Blake Chen. The Detroit-based artist was touring in St. Louis to promote interest in the odd brand of music he calls "gothic folk-tronica." Chen's music combines synthesizers, sampled tracks, unique vocals, and an acoustic guitar. The end result is hard to describe—something like you'd get if you combined The Cure, Moby, and REM into one act.

The result is beautiful on CD, but Chen seems to be more comfortable in the studio than he is onstage. The one-man band was obviously a bit nervous. It didn't help when his computer had technical difficulties—one of the downsides of techno music.

But Chen fought through, proving that there is more to his music than a laptop. His use of the acoustic guitar and his very unique voice gave his songs a genuine, live feeling that offset the electronic elements of his act. If Chen is still polishing his showmanship and debugging his computer, he certainly makes up for it with his recorded tracks. Copies of "Shadow" were distributed at the concert. The album shows Chen's talent in a variety of styles, from dark techno to gentle ballads.

The lyrics were very poetic. In a few places, Chen relies too heavily

## When finals and films collide



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

So here at last is the end of the semester, with those looming term paper deadlines and the crush of finals. When you finally pull yourself through the end-of-semester frenzy, you can reward yourself for all your hard work with a trip to the movies. For this is that holiday-time, pre-Oscar movie deluge when films flood the theaters with some of the year's best. This is the time of the Christmas movie (such as Jim Carrey's "The Grinch"), the silly comedy (such as "Dude Where's My Car?"), and the uplifting Oscar hopeful (such as Tom Hanks' "Castaway")—or so they appear to be in the ads. Besides all the big blockbusters you'll see advertised everywhere, a

few smaller film gifts are under the tree for the more thoughtful or serious film aficionado.

Those who like classics should check out the Tivoli theater's foreign classic matinee series or the Betty Davis classic "All About Eve" running this week, and closer to Christmas, Bing Crosby in the musical "White Christmas."

During the semester break you don't have to see only uplifting or holiday-themed films; some promising-looking, darker, serious movies are also being offered. Those who like a serious, intellectually weighty film might check out "A Time for Drunken Horses," an artistic and moving Iranian film about the human

cost of war, or "Requiem for a Dream," the gritty and jagged follow-up to last year's independent film hit "Pi." Other intriguing and unusual films coming this season include Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," an homage to martial arts films and Chinese hero mythology, the dark and disturbing independent film "Ratcatcher," or Geoffrey Rush in "Quills," a film about the Marquis de Sade and the freedom of expression.

Catch a serious movie or two, an Oscar contender block buster, and a holiday-themed comedy, plus at least one musical performance at the new Pageant Theater, and you'll be mentally refreshed and ready again for

**BOOK REVIEW**

**'Fasting Girls' makes for absorbing study of anorexia**

BY SARA PORTER  
special to The Current

Many people think of anorexia nervosa as a fairly new disease, originating with the death of folk singer Karen Carpenter and made prominent by supermodels and waifish actresses. Not so, argues author Joan Jacobs Brumberg, in her fascinating new book "Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa."

This book takes the reader from the Middle Ages, when young women between the ages of 15 and 21 would ritually fast to achieve sainthood, through the Victorian era, when the disease is first named, all the way into the 21st century when "You look anorexic" has almost become a catchphrase for anyone considered too thin.

Besides being just a history of the disease, this book also goes into great and dramatic detail describing the anorectics. Rare is the reader who can forget the story of Ann More, a sixteenth-century woman, who believed she was able to live without eating, or the story of Mollie Fancher, a Victorian-era clairvoyant, whose parents refused her food. This book also chronicles celebrities, some well-known for having had the disease, like Carpenter and Growing Pains star Tracey Gold, some not nearly as well known for having it, like the poet Lord Byron.

Fasting also deals with beauty and society's obsession with the perfect look and how this contributed to the disease, such as the pencil-thin models of the 1960s, the 1800s when women would literally take out parts of their ribs to fit into their corsets, and the waif models of the 1990s like Kate Moss. This book even includes copies of old advertisements, such as Lucky Strike cigarettes, that encourage complete abstinence from food.

"Fasting Girls" provides a very absorbing, fascinating look at people who are obsessed with being thin and a society that is obsessed with keeping them that way.

**FILM REVIEW**



Amaneh Ekhtiar-Dini stars in "A Time for Drunken Horses." The film tells the story of four Kurdish children struggling to survive in a world of hardship.

**Iranian director takes sober look at life in Kurdish village**

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS  
senior editor

Set along the war-torn border of Iran and Iraq, "A Time For Drunken Horses" captures the sense of humanity that so many other human interest stories miss.

The film tells the story of four Kurdish children struggling to survive in a world of hardship. Their mother died in childbirth some years before, and their father is often gone on smuggling raids, so responsibility for the family falls on the shoulders of the young Ayoub, where it does not rest easily. Ayoub's efforts are complicated when his chronically ill brother Madi takes a turn for the worse, and the doctor informs him that his life depends on having surgery across the border in Iraq. However, the doctor tells Ayoub that even if the operation is successful, Madi is only likely to live for several more months.

**'A Time for Drunken Horses'**  
Length: 77 min.  
Rated: Unrated  
Our opinion: ★★★

Faced with this awful decision, the rest of the film follows the family's efforts to raise the money for the surgery with the not always welcome help of their uncle.

The story line is very straightforward, but the real gem of this film is its portrayal of day-to-day life in a Kurdish village. Iranian director Bahman Ghobadi draws on his own experiences to bring an uncommon sense of reality to the film. That reality is a harsh one, but the ever-present humanity of all of the characters keeps "A Time for Drunken Horses" from degenerating into that kind of sob story which is the fate of so many attempts at social commentary. For

all of its weighty allusions, the film never loses sight of the people who populate it.

The rugged, yet beautiful, mountain landscape of the Iran-Iraq border provides a dramatic contrast to the human elements of the film. The war, though never seen on camera, is always in the background, with talk of land mines, death reports, and the sounds of distant gunfire.

The one weakness of the film is its ending, which I found unsatisfying due to its lack of resolution. Exactly what happens is left open to speculation, but the pessimistic tone makes it hard to imagine a happy ending.

However, there wasn't much pessimism at the Cannes Film Festival, where the film won Ghobadi the highly prized Camera d'Or award for new film makers.

"A Time For Drunken Horses" opens this Friday at the Plaza Frontenac.

**ALBUM REVIEW**

**Local samba band's new album bombs**

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT  
staff writer

Samba Bom is a local group with a Brazilian sound. Their CD, Samba Mundo, is soft and easy to listen to, so much so that I almost forget to listen as it plays. If you're not familiar with the musical genre of samba (and I'm no samba expert), it's the stuff playing in the background of your favorite Mexican restaurant. Think big hats and maracas. Now you're getting the picture.

It's an ambitious effort, producing a samba album in St. Louis, and I admire the attempt to show midwesterners what the rest of the world is doing. It just seemed like I couldn't stop thinking about eating at Casa Gallardo during their delicious breakfast buffet. They have omelets and desserts and... See? Here I am, listening to the album, typing, and I still can't stop thinking about Mexican food. It seems to me that this is a unique reaction to an album, but I can't deny the rumbling of my musically sensitive stomach.

The lead singer/percussionist, Moacyr Marchini, has a distinctive voice, but I didn't find it particularly appealing. The album is a mixture of both Spanish and English, but the studio mixed it in such a way that the words are indecipherable in either language. Reading the lyrics in the

book doesn't help much. I have the feeling that because English isn't (at least, for their sakes, I hope it isn't) the first language of the members of this band, that they are at a huge disadvantage in songwriting.

The album begins with the chiming of a clock, which I'm sure the band thought was remarkably clever. The fourth song begins with the static sound of an old plastic record that has played itself out, while the sixth (which is over four minutes long) starts with a few seconds of percussion that must be repeated several hundred times without significant variation. The last song on the album, "Batucada," has a familiar feel to it. If you saw the cartoon version of Tarzan, then you'll remember the section where the apes start making random noises with the things they find in the human camp. The apes develop their song into a remarkable orchestrated melody. This song sustains those seemingly random percussion noises for three and a half minutes without evolving (except by becoming louder).

I wanted to enjoy this album. I was looking forward to the culture that a little samba might bring to my life. Also, it is a local band, and I wanted to give a nod to talent in our area. I'm almost sure there is merit to this CD, and if I were Brazilian I might have been able to pick it out.

**Get off your keister**  
and visit *The Current* at 388 Millennium Student Center.  
Tell us what you think.

**CONCERT, from page 6**

on rhyme, effectively rhyming himself into a corner, but with enough good lines to fill a small volume. Shadow sounds much closer to the work of a pro who's still shedding a few amateur feathers than someone you see at open mike nights.

Chen said he was influenced by Moby, Bob Dylan, U2, and Beck.

"I always have to be playing music and listening to music," Chen said. "It's like sustenance for me."

Blake Chen tours up and down the Midwest out of his home base in Detroit, making stops in St. Louis and Chicago. For more information, visit [www.Blakechen.com](http://www.Blakechen.com). If you're looking for one of his CDs, try Vintage Vinyl or look online under Amazon.com, or CDnow.com.

Make no mistake; these artists are still up and coming. Their acts have some rough spots, but they still have the originality of someone who hasn't been through the studio mill. If you like to see the cutting edge where new bands and styles are emerging today, Blake Chen and The Higher the Fewer are good bands to check out.

**UNBREAKABLE, from page 6**

less involved in their dilemmas, due to my lack of acceptance of the film's basic premise (which you will have to wait to see), but found that I enjoyed the film by the end.

If you enjoyed "The Sixth Sense," the film is a worthy second effect, but not quite as good as the first, although I may have thought

this primarily because the more unusual premise of this film had less appeal to me. Viewers with an interest in comic book mythology may be find this film particularly interesting. But even without that special interest, "Unbreakable" delivers an unbroken promise from the director's previous film.

**FAMILY MAN, from page 6**

pervading the film are all common elements to a wonderful example of a Christmas movie. This movie is the ultimate film for anyone wanting to bring a date. If your date doesn't fall immediately asleep when you get back from the theater, you can bet

you'll have a great night by saying this simple phrase, "I'd give up everything for you."

See "The Family Man." Try the phrase. Have a very merry Christmas.

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# "Art" should stir discussions, arguments

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

Art can be a subjective thing. While there are works that everyone will agree are "art," for some people, art might mean only the traditional forms, such as painting, while others might include other forms like photography. Even in the area of recognized art forms like painting, there is plenty of room for disagreement about what is or isn't "art." One thing is certain, the potential for argument is high.

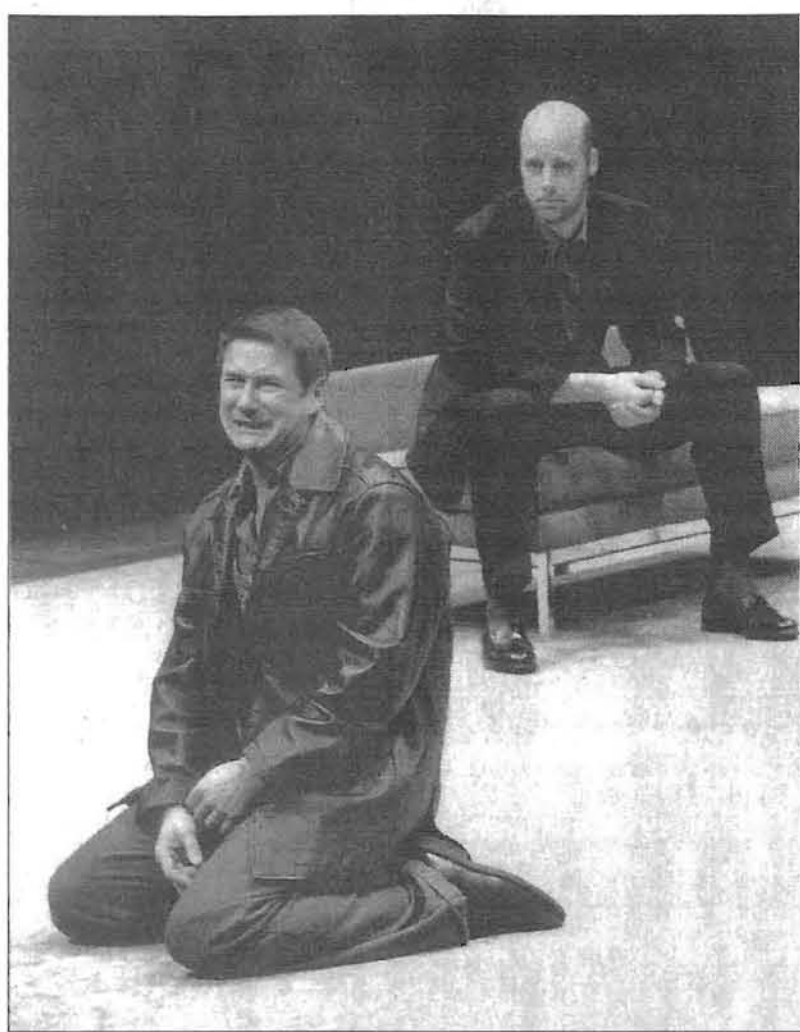
"Art" is the name of the new play now running at the St. Louis Repertory Theater in Webster Groves. This one-act comedy explores the friendship of three men in light of their reactions to one friend's purchase of a modern art painting. The painting precipitates a storm of reactions that reveals more about each of them and their interactions than only their opinions of art.

The play focuses on the long friendship of three men, Serge (Anderson Matthews), Marc (Remi Sandri), and Yvan (Paul DeBoy), and the apparently all-white painting that physician Serge has purchased for the princely sum of 200,000 francs - about \$30,000. Marc dislikes the painting intensely and views it as worthless, but instead of confronting Serge, he attempts to recruit the eager-to-please and vacillating Yvan in supporting Marc's opinion about Serge's foolish purchase and poor taste. Yvan appeases Marc by agreeing to visit Serge and confirm Marc's opinion of the painting, but when he arrives at Serge's apartment, he begins to waver. The apparent blankness of the canvas

brings to mind the children's tale of "The Emperor's New Clothes" as the friends begin to argue about whether there is or isn't any color in the painting. Eventually, the friends circle around the topic in an increasing hostility that brings other factors in their friendships to the surface.

There are always some constants about plays at the Rep. The production and performances are always good, no matter what the play, which always guarantees a pleasant experience on that level alone. The visual appeal and creative use of the single set, with equally creative lighting effects for needed breaks and transitions in the play, set the right tone for the piece, without distracting from the real focus of the play, the three actors who comprise the entire cast. Another constant of the Rep, the high-caliber performances of the actors, are probably the best part of the evening, as their pauses and perfect timing extract the last laughs from all the material.

Although the play has plenty of laughs and funny moments, which were skillfully milked by the excellent cast, the play is basically a single joke. Once we've worked out the dynamics of the three friends, the play seems to move in circles for too long, without a stronger new direction. Fortunately, the play is fairly short and the level of the comedy is maintained, so this is not a great problem. The play could also benefit from a little more introduction in the first scene regarding the nature of the relationship between Serge and Marc, as this wasn't immediately clear to me. A little of the confusion may be due to cultural differences, as this play is translated from



Yvan (Paul DeBoy, left) becomes distraught over the argument of his friend Marc (Remi Sandri) and their attacks on him as well.

the original French.

The play is running along with a showing of paintings and other works by St. Louis area artists in the lobby of the Rep, along with personal state-

# Cherry Poppin' Daddies shine on "Soul Caddy" CD

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT  
staff writer

It's not that I don't have rhythm, I just can't dance. This CD changed that. I realized, while listening to "Soul Caddy" from the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, that sometimes you just have to get up and shake yourself into oblivion. This album has such a wide variety of musical types on it, I couldn't figure out what kind of dance I should be doing, which was a good thing since I'm familiar enough with any form of dance to do it properly.

"Diamond Light Boogie" is among the catchiest tunes you haven't heard. It sounds like a song I might have expected the Daddies to play, but after that first track, things start to get really strange. If Smashing Pumpkins got together with They Might Be Giants, and both groups were on an acid trip through the seventies, they'd put together something like this. With tracks like "God is a Spider" where in God is "tryin' to block my path" and "Bleeding Ceremony" which is about something ambiguous but still deeply disturbing.

The CD came with the words to the songs, which is a good thing because nobody would ever figure them out on their own. These songs work very well on a musical level, and when one reads the lyrics, they

also make sense in an abstract way. "It's a bittersweet record about loneliness and disillusionment," lead singer Steven Perry said of the album, "Deep down inside, I'm a sentimental guy, and I'm disappointed with a lot of what I see nowadays. That's what this record is about."

Despite the sad tone of several of the songs, there is enough of a beat to please any swing fan. Even the songs (like the magnificent "Saddest Thing I Know") that are a bit slower than Daddies fans might traditionally enjoy, have so much musical quality, that you won't be able to help but enjoy them.

This is an album that makes the rotation in my CD player, which is a rather tough nut to crack. Its variety and orchestral swinging undertones make it a good album for parties and dances. If this album could get me off my keister, it can do the same for almost anyone. Fans of the Daddies' earlier work won't be disappointed, and those who are new to the swing scene will love the combination of different genres. After "Soul Caddy," there can be no doubts that the Cherry Poppin' Daddies is not a band that can be railroaded into any single genre. This is a group of diverse musicians who shine brightly in this CD that would make a great stocking stuffer for anybody who likes music.

## RIVERWOMEN, from page 5



Fans enjoy a recent basketball game in a crowded Mark Twain building.

Mutsaers Igarashi/The Current

last chance to fix any problems before heading to Kentucky for the opening of Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

With the return of Britney Dowell, who had been sidelined with a knee injury, Ethridge fielded a very strong starting five. Besides the 97-55 victory, this game proved to be very pivotal to the development of this team and the season.

Christy Lane, a sophomore transfer from UM-Rolla, established herself as the offensive leader, hitting a school-record .875 from downtown on eight shots, en route to scoring 28 points.

This performance broke Monica Steinhoff's record of .700 on ten shots, set in 1992 against Lincoln.

"I met with Christy this morning [the 29th of November] and told her I expect a lot from her," said Ethridge. "She needs to take charge of our offensive scoring."

Lane, along with Krista Longseth and Tanisha Albert who each scored 12, led the Riverwomen to a commanding 51-28 lead. As a team, UMSL shot 60 percent from the court, a full 20 percentage points higher than Fontbonne College.

## INTRAMURAL, from page 5

antly surprised with the individual teams in that they are a bunch of independent students who do not know each other, but they somehow form into a team and stay pretty cohesive. They have even been competitive this year and that is always good to see as they keep their interest all the way to the end."

With the signs pointing towards more competitiveness in the intramural leagues, the next spring semester holds more promise than ever.

"I am hoping that the same interest and enthusiasm will be there and carry over into the next semester," Steinmetz said. "It usually does if we have a good fall. We are trying something new because we had ten teams for flag football. We are trying a new version of football called arena football. It is just four-man teams with a non-contact sport. It is going to be a little mini-league. It hopefully will feed coming right out of who played in the fall."

## HOCKEY, from page 5

"Besides Schaub and Gevers playing a little prank on me, they have made me feel welcome and welcomed me as not just a freshman," Wear said. "The team chemistry is great and it shows at 10-1-1 because we just get along."

As far as the remainder of the year is concerned, Wear is very optimistic about his offensive production in the stretch run to earning a berth in the NCAA tournament.

"I have 40 points in 12 games, so I would like to get between 70-100

points," Wear said. "I want the team to win the league and get a berth in the NCAA tournament. As long as I keep producing and the team keeps winning, we will be in the hunt. I am a win-first kind of player."

## RIVERMEN, from page 5

Although the UM-St. Louis offense was very impressive, hitting 58 percent of their shots from the court and 13-17 from the charity line, the defensive effort set forth was equally strong.

The Rivermen forced Northwood to cough up the ball 20 times, while holding them to 33 percent from the

court. Also, the Rivermen out-rebounded Northwood 41-31, with Coleman, Scott Kassel, and Greg Ross pulling in the majority of those. Schelich also contributed with five rebounds.

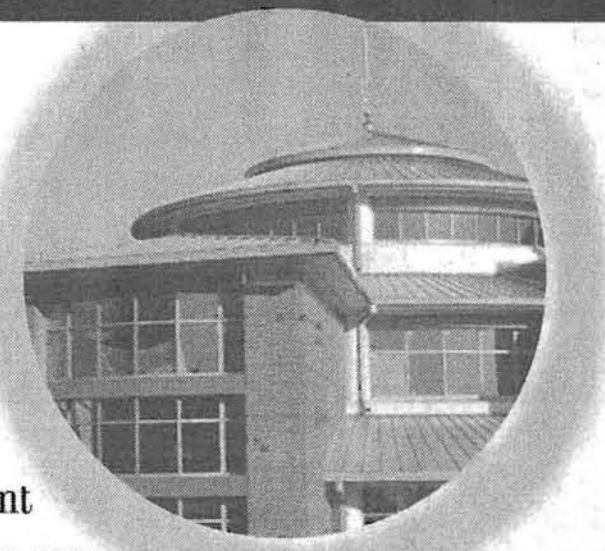
The loss dropped Northwood to 1-3 for the year. Since defeating Northwood

UMSL has lost two games on the road to the defending National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II runner-up, Kentucky Wesleyan and Bellarmine College, bringing their record to 2-2. The Rivermen will play Washburn College on Dec. 6 in a non-conference matchup.

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- Joel Hollinger — BA English
- Laura Peebles — BS Biology
- Meghan Tate — BA Anthropology

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



# 'Bellerive' showcases Honors College talent

BY JENNIFER DODD  
special to the Current

The Pierre Laclède Honors College is often ignored by the general public at UM-St. Louis. Hopefully this will not be the case any longer as the Honors College publishes a new literary magazine, called the "Bellerive". The "Bellerive" is not a computer virus, but instead, it is the hard work and sweat of Honors' students on the UM-St. Louis campus.

Although there are two literary magazines already in circulation around the UM-St. Louis campus, add the "Bellerive" to your reading list. There is the "LitMag", which showcases work from UM-St. Louis faculty and students and the "Natural Bridge", which focuses on outside writers and is run by the

faculty. "Natural Bridge" was created to add visibility to the M.F.A. program by allowing graduate students to work on the selection and designing process of a publication. The need for the "Bellerive" was obvious to Nancy Gleason, director of writing.

"I am surrounded by so many students with talent and they were interested in publishing their work," Gleason said.

The "Bellerive" was started last semester by Sam Schneider, who is now a sophomore, and Harmony Wade, who is now studying in Africa. Schneider and Wade started the "Bellerive" from the ground up.

"Matt Dunn and David Barberro helped with the start-up of the "Bellerive" as well, but they ended up not staying on the committee,"

Gleason said.

A hidden aspect of this literary magazine is that the students will be able to fine-tune their writing skills.

"In the Honors College instead of tests, usually the students have to do a piece of writing with a heavy emphasis on research. I felt that we weren't challenging our students, and so the "Bellerive" is another source of writing," Gleason said.

Everything can be found in the pages of the "Bellerive" from non-fiction to poetry and even some photographs. In fact, one of the essays in the "Bellerive" was selected in an essay-writing contest.

"Darro Thomas won the contest and her essay loosely translated is called 'New Religion.' The essay

is about the story of the Serb-Croatian people and their struggle of religion," said Wendy Waddell, senior and layout editor.

Besides having heart-wrenching stories, the "Bellerive" is groundbreaking, because it is the first literary magazine started at the Honors College.

"I tried to be very objective as an editor, and I believe this magazine turned out well," Waddell said. Another aspect of the "Bellerive" is that they were careful not to step on any toes of the other magazines.

"I made certain not to overlap with the "LitMag", and that there are no duplications," Gleason said.

There will be an open house this Wednesday in the Convocation Hall in the Honors College from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

## EXHIBIT, from page 3

ble / Voice of the past."

In congruence with his view of the past, Obata believes that his photographs capture distinct views of the city offered at particular points in time. Through these recordings, the changes are preserved and observable to the viewer. Obata selected the digital technology to allow more freedom to enhance and create texture and mood in a particular scene. In comparison to the edge of digital, the feel of an old photo is created by the use of Somerset paper, which makes the image appear older and more silver.

Digital photography is actually a

card and not film. The card contains one to two hundred pictures and is placed in a digital camera. Through this technology the artist can view the images on the card in the camera or via a computer and delete what he or she chooses, which allows space for more photos to be taken.

Digital also allows for higher resolution and more precise detailing in scenes.

"St. Louis: Books and Photographs" will be on display through Jan. 22, on the third floor of the Social Science Building. For more information, call the Public Policy Research Center at (314) 516-5145.

Got advertising work? Call Tom at 314-665-5516

# Holiday Store offers chance for merry Christmas

BY SARA MUELLER  
special to the Current

## Family Resource Center's project in eighth year

The Family Resource Center is planning its 8th annual Holiday Store and it needs the help and generosity of UMSL students. The Holiday Store is a place for Center's clients to shop for their children free of charge. The Holiday Store benefits approximately 300 families.

The Family Resource Center helps low-income families through eight different programs. A few of these programs include family treatment, mentoring, an after-school program, and a pre-school program.

During the holiday season it is important to remember those less-

advantaged. Some people do not have the means to provide gifts for their family during this season. That is where the Family Resource Center steps in.

A therapist signs parents up ahead of time, and then they can shop at the store. Each therapist sets up his or her office as a different department.

For example, one office may be designated for young boys and have trucks and action figures. Another office could be designated for teenage girls and have gift certificates, jewelry, and perfume. Once the par-

ents pick out the gifts, they can wrap them there.

In order for the store to be a success and offer these families a brighter Christmas, the Family Resource Center relies on the cooperation of the community. They are collecting new or slightly used gifts for children between the ages of newborn to 18 or 19. They are looking for toys, books, clothes, gift certificates, and any other appropriate gift.

Donated gifts can be dropped off at the office located at 3930 Lindell, if necessary the gifts can be picked

up by the staff, but prefer it if the gifts are dropped off. For directions or more information those interested can call Muriel Webb at 534-9395.

"We ask that the gifts be in by the 11th because the store opens on Dec. 15. It is open the following week also on the 18th, 19th, and 20th," Webb said.

If everyone picks up one gift while doing their holiday shopping, their efforts will make a big difference. Hopefully, the Holiday Store will provide a happy Christmas morning for these families.

## SCIENCE, from page 4

have a tough time switching on his personal computer, desk lamp, TV or cell phone. Douglas also asserts that "science is not scientific because it is practiced by humans." Human factors certainly influence the questions asked by scientists, especially when those questions involve social and psychological issues. But the carbon-dating results that reveal a rock to be millions of years old will be the same whether the experiment is performed by a Christian, Buddhist, Rastafarian or atheist, and regardless of what the researcher "wishes" to see. No amount of wishful thinking will make that rock younger. A gas chromatography/mass spectrometry analysis of St. John's Wort flowers will reveal the presence of hypericin, whether or not we want it to be there.

The creationists' true goals are social and political rather than religious; their activity diminishes faith as well as science and has the sad effect of trivializing both in the minds of the public. In my experience, those people with the strongest faith are the most eager to put it to the test, and they welcome each new scientific discovery as an illumination of the created cosmos. Contrary to Douglas' claim that scientists "scoff" at questions about the meaning of life, most scientists of my acquaintance are spiritual people and hold themselves to high standards of evidence and proof in interpreting the natural world precisely because of their respect and awe for this universe we live in.

--Elizabeth A. Amin  
Graduate Student

## DOUGLAS, from page 4

that it was equally rude to everyone in their turn.

The one positive thing we can draw out of all of this is that, viewed against this backdrop, our political wranglings here at UMSL, with the SGA and the Student Court and the tug of war between the Chancellor and the faculty, don't look nearly as bad as they did a year ago. If anything, they fit right in. Indeed, since the SGA has proved that there is such a thing as life after Darwin, we can hold out the hope that eventually this whole mess will pass and we can get on with our lives.



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# Surprise attack pushed U.S. into World War II

**“Y**esterday, Dec. 7, 1941— a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces from the Empire of Japan.”

These words were spoken by President Franklin Roosevelt to a joint session of Congress after one of the most devastating moments in American history. Roosevelt was referring to the Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Hawaii.

Throughout 1940 and into 1941, the Japanese waged a ruthless war in China and French Indo-China (Vietnam). Japan's government, led by fanatical army leaders like Hideki Tojo, was determined to create an Asian empire subservient to Japan.

The United States vehemently opposed this perverted dream. It placed embargoes in 1937 and 1940 in an attempt to halt their expansion.

FDR made it clear to the Japanese that the embargoes would only be lifted when they removed their forces from these nations and ended their aggression.

The Japanese responded by signing the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy on Sept. 27, 1940. By doing this, Japan had, in effect, drawn a line in the sand.

To some Japanese leaders, war with the United States seemed inevitable.



**TIM THOMPSON**  
history columnist

During a cabinet meeting in February 1941, a grand strategy was developed. Japan's military forces would conquer several island nations to secure desperately-needed resources such as rubber and oil. Then, they would conquer and fortify a string of Pacific islands. The Japanese planned to build airstrips on these

islands and place long-range fighters and bombers on them. They would then be able to establish a defensive perimeter that would make them invulnerable to attack. Thus, the United States would have to accept Japanese dominance in Asia.

There was one flaw in their plan. The balance of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, totaling some 94 ships, was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It was in a perfect position to strike at the Japanese and prevent them from conquering the islands of the central and south Pacific.

To the Japanese, this fleet was a thorn in their side and they devised a plan to eliminate it.

They would attack it while it was anchored in the harbor. On Nov. 26, 1941, a Japanese force left the Kurile Islands and proceeded toward Hawaii using a northern route of advance far away from the regular shipping lanes. This allowed them to sail within 200 miles of the island of Oahu undetected. At 6 a.m. on Dec. 7, they launched the first of two attack waves that would total 353 aircraft.

The first wave appeared over Pearl Harbor at 7:49 a.m. Their flight leader, Mitsuo Fuchida, gave the order to attack at 7:55 a.m., saying "Tora! Tora! Tora!" which means: "Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!"

For the next hour and 45 minutes, an inferno of destruction rained down upon Pearl Harbor. When the smoke cleared, the United States had lost 7 battleships, 3 destroyers, 3 cruisers, a target ship, a seaplane tender, a repair ship, and 188 aircraft. In terms of human losses, 2,403 U.S. service men

were killed and 1,178 were wounded.

The attack on Pearl Harbor infuriated the United States. The next day, recruiting lines all over the nation wound around city blocks. Isolationism was replaced by patriotism.

The Japanese never achieved their dream of an Asian Empire as they were soundly defeated by the United States in just over 3 years of warfare.

Today in Pearl Harbor, the USS Arizona Memorial stands as a reminder of the U.S. servicemen who were killed 59 years ago this very week.



## RECOUNT, from page 1

electoral process. For instance, from 1985-93, he was the director of elections in St. Louis County. In addition, he has done considerable work as an election advisor in many foreign countries. During this time, he had conducted 25 recounts, and supervised two hand recounts. In the last few years, he has been very active in training election officials in how to maintain accuracy and efficiency.

When the mandatory recount in Florida became apparent, the Republican strategy team contacted DeGregorio, a Bush supporter, immediately.

"I received a call to go to Florida and lend my expertise to Broward County near Fort Lauderdale," DeGregorio said. "Gore carried Broward by 68 percent, so it is heavily Democratic."

While in Broward, DeGregorio worked with Jane Carroll, the supervisor of elections, someone he has known for many years.

"It was a fascinating experience for me," DeGregorio said. "For five days, I was the floor manager. I supervised 20 of Broward's 60 recounting teams. There were four people to each team, so I was responsible for 80 people."

The supervising officials were not permitted to do any of the counting, nor could they even touch any of the ballots. "I looked at the ballots and challenged some of the determinations being made," DeGregorio said. "We debated on many of the dimpled, pregnant, and chad ballots. I saw ballots that I felt were for Bush and others that appeared to be for Gore as well."

While in Florida, DeGregorio observed thousands of ballots. He saw dimples both ways.

"The problem here is that there is no way to determine the actual intent of the voter," DeGregorio said. "A lot of what is going on here is second-guessing."

Some people feel that this presidential election has exposed flaws in the system. DeGregorio concurs.

"The situation in Florida shows just how messy elections have become in the U.S.," DeGregorio said. "We definitely need to improve the election system."

DeGregorio offered some detailed insight into some of the problems plaguing the election process in the U.S.

"First of all, many of the counting machines used today are nearly 25 years old," DeGregorio said. "They were implemented in 1976, during the early days of computers."

DeGregorio went on to say, "A possible solution to the problem would be touch-screen voting, which is similar to an ATM. The only drawback being that it is very expensive."

"DeGregorio said he believes that if something is not implemented soon, the American people just might lose faith in democracy.

When DeGregorio was in Florida, the issue of absentee military ballots was in the forefront of discussion.

"Although I did witness protesters on both sides of the issues, I did not see any heightened anger," he said.

Even though Bush was certified as the victor by a razor-thin margin of just 539 votes, Gore is still waging a legal battle over various ballot and election issues across the state of Florida.

The U.S. Supreme Court may very well be the final arbiter in this ongoing saga.

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Director Bill Richardson leads the Pep band during the Grand Opening of the Millennium Student Center. The band performed pop tunes like "YMCA" and a medley of Beatles songs. The Pep Band was followed by performances by the Wind Ensemble, the Jazz Band, and the Jazz Combo.

Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

# THE WAIT IS OVER

(from the left) Ayo Olson, SGA comptroller, Ellory Glenn, SGA vice president, Ryan Connor, SGA president receive the key to the Millennium Student Center from Chancellor Blanche Touhill during the grand opening ceremony.



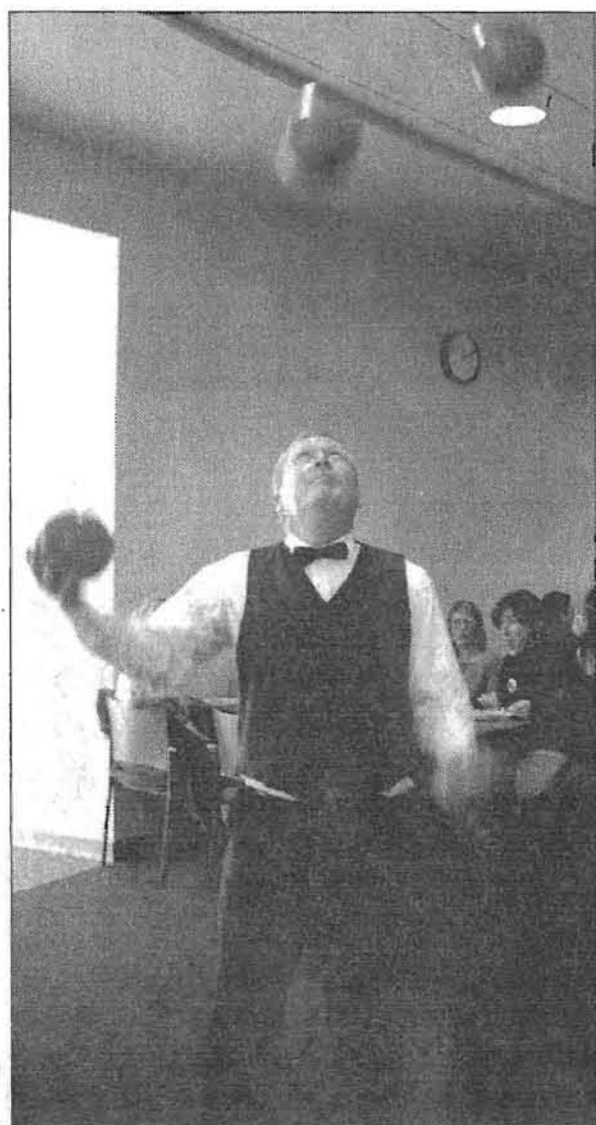
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This summer, folks at UMSL were preparing to open the Millennium Student Center at the start of the fall semester. When that date had to be pushed back to October, many were disappointed. The University probably made up for it with a huge grand opening celebration held last Tuesday.

There was definitely pomp. Students were treated to free food and drink, performances from the different UMSL bands, a juggler, a TV giveaway, and more. The building

was rocking and rolling all day.

The ceremony itself was about students. It capped off "Student Appreciation Month," which had featured all sorts of contests and prizes. Chancellor Blanche Touhill presented the officers of the Student Government Association with a symbolic key to the building, and the Millennium Student Center was officially declared open. Also officially opened was the new pedestrian bridge that connects the Student Center with the quadrangle.

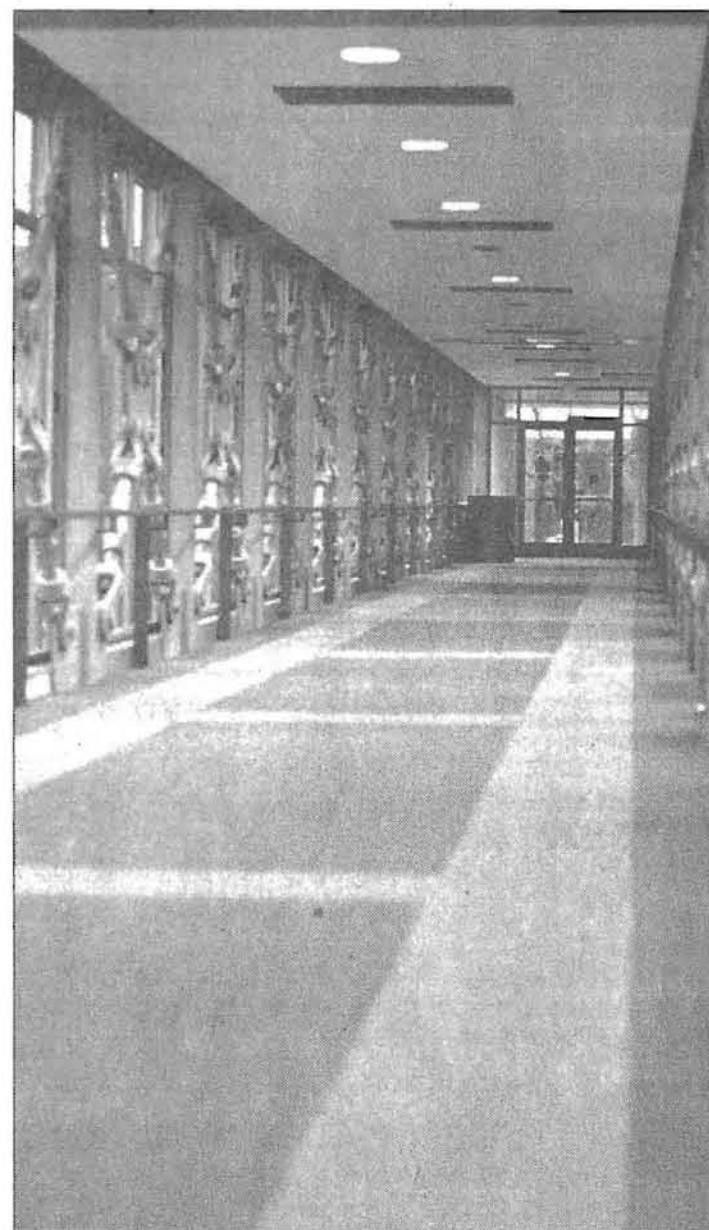


Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

During the Grand opening ceremony, students were entertained by a juggler who juggled balls, bowling pins and other objects. Later he went outside and juggled lit torches.



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current



Darren Brune/The Current

ABOVE: The pedestrian bridge that connects the Millennium Student Center with the quadrangle was also opened last week. This bridge is expected to have heavy traffic as students make their way to the Student Center before and after classes. The bridge is climate-controlled.

LEFT: Students on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center watch as balloons fall, marking the official grand opening of the Center.

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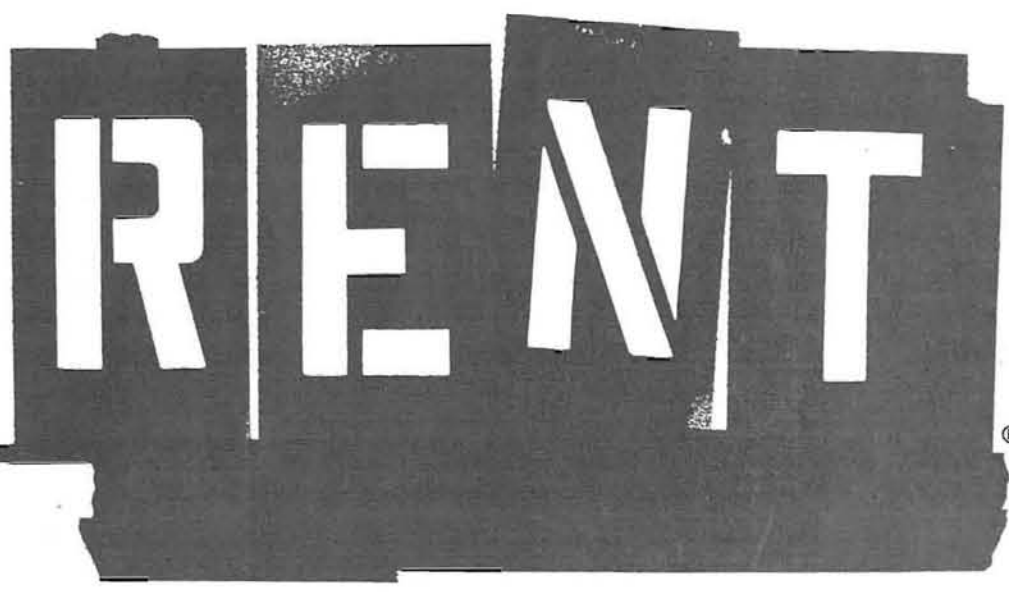
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