

Local theaters offer unique movie-going experience.

▲ See page 6

Financial Aid could be held for drug users

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

Did you know that your financial aid can be delayed or denied for drug charges? Question 35 of the FAFSA asked about whether or not you have been convicted of these types of charges. The Higher Education Act Provision of 1998 is to blame. An article by Michael A. Fletcher of the Washington Post on Nov. 10, 2001 states that over 21,000 people with drug convictions have been denied financial aid in the first two years of the provision.

The HEA Provision of 1998 clearly states, "A student who has been convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be eligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance under this title during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following table..."

That table lists the ineligibility

"If you commit
...murder...you still
get your financial
aid, but if you have
one small drug
conviction, your
aid is denied."

Shawn Heller,
National Director of SSDP

period for the possession of a controlled substance as one year for the first offense, two years for the second, and indefinite for the third. The ineligibility period for the sale of a controlled substance is two years for the first offense and indefinite for the second.

Many people argue that this provision punishes a person twice. Others state the provision is discriminating. However, many students nationally agree that this provision needs an overhaul.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) have been working to have this provision repealed since its inception. They have many supporters, including the Association of Big Ten Schools and the United States Student Association. Their efforts have led to H.R. 786, a bill to repeal this provision. This bill is presently pending in the U.S. Congress.

Shawn Heller, SSDP's National Director was quoted at the third annual SSDP conference saying, "If you commit rape, murder, arson or treason you still get your financial aid, but if you have one small drug conviction, your aid is denied."

Ari Elias-Bachrach, president of Washington University's SSDP, said that Washington University's student government recently passed a resolution to repeal the HEA provision. Washington University was the 70th school to do so. Many other schools have since followed their lead.

SSDP has over 156 university and high school chapters nationwide. To read more about the HEA Provision of 1998 and its disadvantages, check out www.raiseyourvoice.com. For more information on the SSDP, their website is www.ssdp.com. You can also contact Ari Elias-Bachrach, president of Washington University's SSDP at (314) 458-4476.

New director hired for Performing Arts Center

BY DEYLE ROBBINS
Staff Writer

A new director has been hired to oversee operations of the Performing Arts Center, UM-St. Louis officials announced recently.

Bryan L. Rives will begin working this January to prepare the Performing Arts Center for its opening. The center is projected to open for the spring of 2003, said Bob Samples, director of University Communications.

"Bryan possessed the right combination of energy, experience and innovation," said vice chancellor of administrative services Reinhard Schuster. "He's ideal for our situation."

Samples said it is important to have a director now, even though the Center's opening is over a year away. "He has to start pulling staff together and start putting the building up for bookings," Samples said.

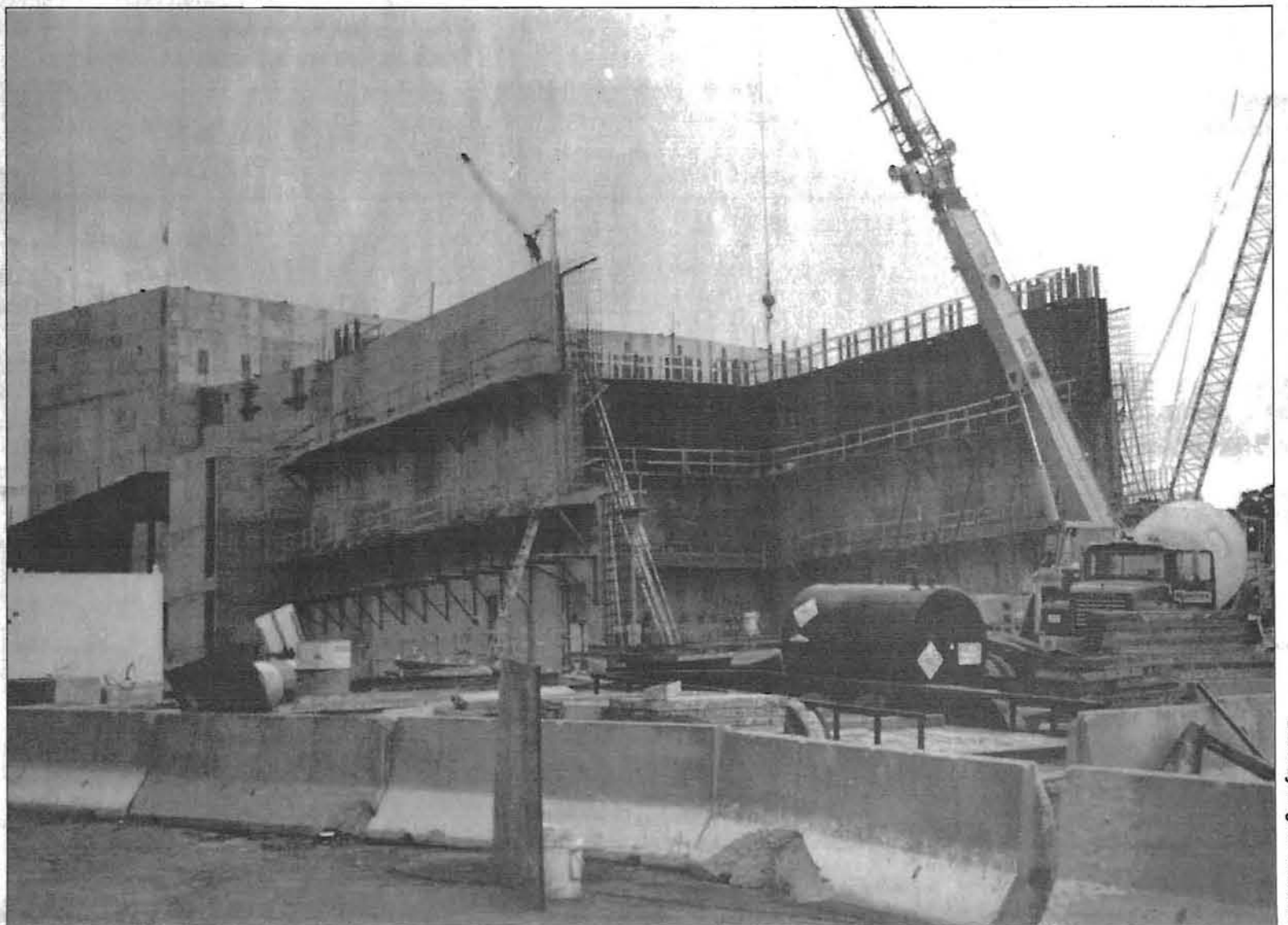
Rives, who holds a master's degree in business/arts administration from the University of Wisconsin, is currently the auditorium manager at Indiana University. He said he is looking forward to the challenge of creating a new program here.

"It is a phenomenal opportunity to create a performing arts organization from scratch," Rives said. "A performing arts center of this magnitude will be a great asset to this community."

Rives believes that staff is the key to a successful organization.

"I will be scouring the country for

see ARTS, page 8



Bryan L. Rives will begin working this January to prepare the Performing Arts Center for its opening. The center is projected to open in Spring 2003

Glassman to emphasize international studies

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

Dr. Joel Glassman, director for the Center for International Studies, was named Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, a position that he plans to use to emphasize UM-St. Louis' involvement in international studies.

"I want to be instrumental in doing what we've been doing by increasing the number of international students, increasing the number of students who study abroad, the number of student exchanges, and the international content of the curriculum," Glassman said. "We intend to do more to turn a peripheral activity to a more central activity."

Glassman, who will still remain as director for the Center for International Studies, said that the center has some long and short-term goals for their involvement. One of the long-term goals is the possibility of raising funds for a building for the Center for International Studies.

"Discussions have begun, and it will be a multi-year process," Glassman said. "We are still discussing the facets of it, what functions will be taking place, what activities, how much will it cost."

Many short-term goals include new programs for studying abroad, helping start up universities, and giving a new certificate.

The short-term study abroad program is a program for students who want to study in the summer. "We wanted to do this for students who aren't available to go abroad for a full season," Glassman said.

Some of the locations include Galway, Ireland, Greece, and two separate programs in Vienna. The Vienna programs are now full.

The Center is also involved in sending faculty members to assist in start up universities in Oman and Kuwait. "The Oman University has been in effect for five years, and the one in Kuwait will open its doors in September," Glassman said.

The new certificate would require students to take advanced courses in foreign languages, as well as studying abroad.

"Right now we have them in French, German, and Spanish, and we like them in the other languages," Glassman said. "We are just working on it now."

Glassman was asked to take the title by Dr. Jerry Durham, vice chancellor for academic affairs, because of his

involvement in international studies.

"(Durham) wanted to make a statement regarding the importance for international studies," Glassman said.

The Center for International Studies was established in 1968 to focus mainly on faculty research. Eventually, it involved other international areas, such as studying abroad, international students, and internships among others.

Glassman became involved with them in 1973 when he conducted research in Chinese politics. "I really benefited from their research, and it led to my interest," Glassman said. "They lent their support."

Glassman moved up to interim director in 1991 when his predecessor Ed Fedder left for health reasons.

"I filled in for him then, when he finally retired in 1992, I was appointed director," Glassman said.

International studies are important for a global community, Glassman said.

"In a large continental environment, the question of whether you will have a job that requires international connections is not an option," Glassman said. "There aren't going to be any cases that aren't going to engage you in the international community. The world's environment is going to be increasingly global."



Dr. Joel Glassman was named associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, a position that he plans to use to emphasize UM-St. Louis' involvement in international studies.

Mutsaers/Current

New website provides undergrads with a virtual TA

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

"Ride The Bell Curve" provides answers for academic problems posed by undergraduate students which are answered by graduate students. This online service, which can be used 24 hours a day from any computer that has Internet Explorer as a browser, will charge \$3.33 only when the students accept the solution. The money is used to pay the graduate student.

Grant Goodwin, RideTheBellCurve.com president, said that since the service began operating 31 days ago, it has processed more than 2,000 problems and solutions. They have registered more than 200 graduate stu-

dents and expect to register more than 500 by Christmas break.

"Thus far, word of our service has been solely through word-of-mouth," Goodwin said.

"We placed a few posters around Ontario campuses, and from there word has spread throughout more than 50 American, English and Australian universities. We have registered graduate students as Online TAs in 42 different fields of study."

According to the website, www.ridethebellcurve.com, their background is addressing the lack of direct assistance to high-level academic problems.

"Our primary goal is to prove that there is a market for this type of direct,

timely and expert assistance over the Internet," Goodwin said. "We expect within two years to be working toward a larger goal, the fusion of this concept with university instruction to allow for more efficient learning in all facets of the university experience."

There may be a concern that this system allows students to 'cheat' on assignments and projects. But there is no method for students to use this website in examination rooms because it is designed to be inaccessible to hand-held Internet devices.

Goodwin also said that they have had four UM-St. Louis students post problems to the system. All of them have received step-by-step solutions from graduate students.

UM-St. Louis chemistry professor David Garin, thought that it would only be popular in emergencies.

"I would not recommend it to my students," Garin said. "There are a large number of graduate assistants, tutors, instructional technology personnel, and even professors to handle most situations that may arise. Also, we encourage students to learn the material in small groups so that peers can assist with explaining some of these problems. That is one of the goals of the workshop format."

From the students' side, not many of them know about this website.

Chris Lim, a freshman, thought that it was a good idea. But it will still have some problems.

"I won't pay \$3 for the answers. Probably it is too late to get them, and you can't understand them. It is better to find out the answers from the teacher or tutor," he said.

As a TA in Marketing, graduate student Sugiarto Usman didn't agree with the service.

"For me, it sounds like a retail business. I won't participate in any kind of online TA like this," he said.

However, ridethebellcurve.com still believes that students will collaborate every time they are unable to complete an assignment. They feel that offering step-by-step solutions developed by graduate students provides a better learning experience than copying the solutions from a friend.

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Bulletin Board

Monday 3

Mercantile Library

The Friends in Art exhibit chronicles the 40-year friendship between Thomas Hart Benton, a pre-eminent American regionalist, and Lyle Woodcock, Benton's friend and patron since the 1930s. It is free and open to the public. The exhibition will run from Oct. 30 to Jan. 15 during normal library hours. For more information call x7240.

Tree Lighting

The seventh annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 4:30 p.m. in Alumni Circle will hail the Holiday Season. Carolers, hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies will add to the festivities. This holiday event is sponsored by Administrative Services.

Greek-American Art Exhibit

Nineteen Greek-American artists from the Midwest will showcase their works in a single exhibit "Expressions of a Dual Ethnicity: Greek-American Spirits Simmering Throughout the Plains" in the Century Room C of the MSC until Friday, Dec. 7, from noon until 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

AIDS Luminary

Residential Hall Association will host the fifth annual Luminary Observation for Aids Awareness at 4:30 p.m. in Alumni Circle as a part of the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Toys for Tots

The Current is hosting a toy drive for underprivileged children. Toys may be dropped off in the canister outside the current office in MSC 388 until Friday, Dec. 14. Monetary donations may slipped under the door.

University Singers Concert

The University Singers and University Chorales will present free concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Marillac Provincial House. The concert will feature works by Brahms, Kopylov, Rheinberger, des Pres, Busto, Mozart and Nelhhybel. For more information contact Katie Matsumoto at x5980.

Tuesday 4

Taize Prayer

Everyone is invited to attend the Taize Prayer—a quiet time for song, scripture, prayer and meditation. The event, sponsored by Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Catholic Newman Center, Lutheran Campus Ministry and Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry, will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. in 254 MSC. This event will also be held on Tuesday 11 and 18.

Graduation Fair

From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., graduates can purchase their caps and gowns, receive their guest tickets, order announcements, look at class rings and receive information about the Alumni Association. The free fair will be in the University Bookstore in the MSC Tuesday through Thursday. For more information call Cindy Vantine at x5442.

Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5:00 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

University Orchestra

The University Orchestra will perform a free holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Provincial House Chapel. Compositions in the performance include Vivaldi's "Laudamus te" from Gloria, Hovhanness' "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night," and Corelli's "Christmas Concerto" from Concerto Grosso in G minor.

Thursday 6

Photos of New York

Shela Metzner's "New York 2000," a series of photographs of New York including the Trade Towers and other works of New York architecture, will be exhibited in the Public Policy Research Center Gallery in 362 Social Sciences and Business Building. The gallery is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit will run through Jan. 29.

Cardfest

Various card games will be played during Cardfest in 316 MSC from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is sponsored by PLHCSA. Come enjoy a game of Spades, Go Fish, Hearts, Black Jack, Bridge, Gin Rummy or any other card game. It's your draw.

Friday 7

Physics & Astronomy Forum

Jay A. Switzer from the Department of Chemistry and Materials Research Center at UM-Rolla will speak on "Epitaxial Electrodeposition of Metal Oxide Semiconductors" in 328 Benton Hall at 3 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information contact Alice Canavan at x5933.

Tuesday 11

Community Chorus Concert

The Community Chorus will present a free concert at Marillac Provincial Hall in the Chapel at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Katie Matsumoto at x5980.

Tuesday 18

Chancellor's Holiday Dinner

University Relations is hosting the Chancellor's Holiday Dinner in the Nosh at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This dinner for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff is free but tickets are required. Tickets will be available at all campus buildings. For more information contact Sara Henson at x5446.

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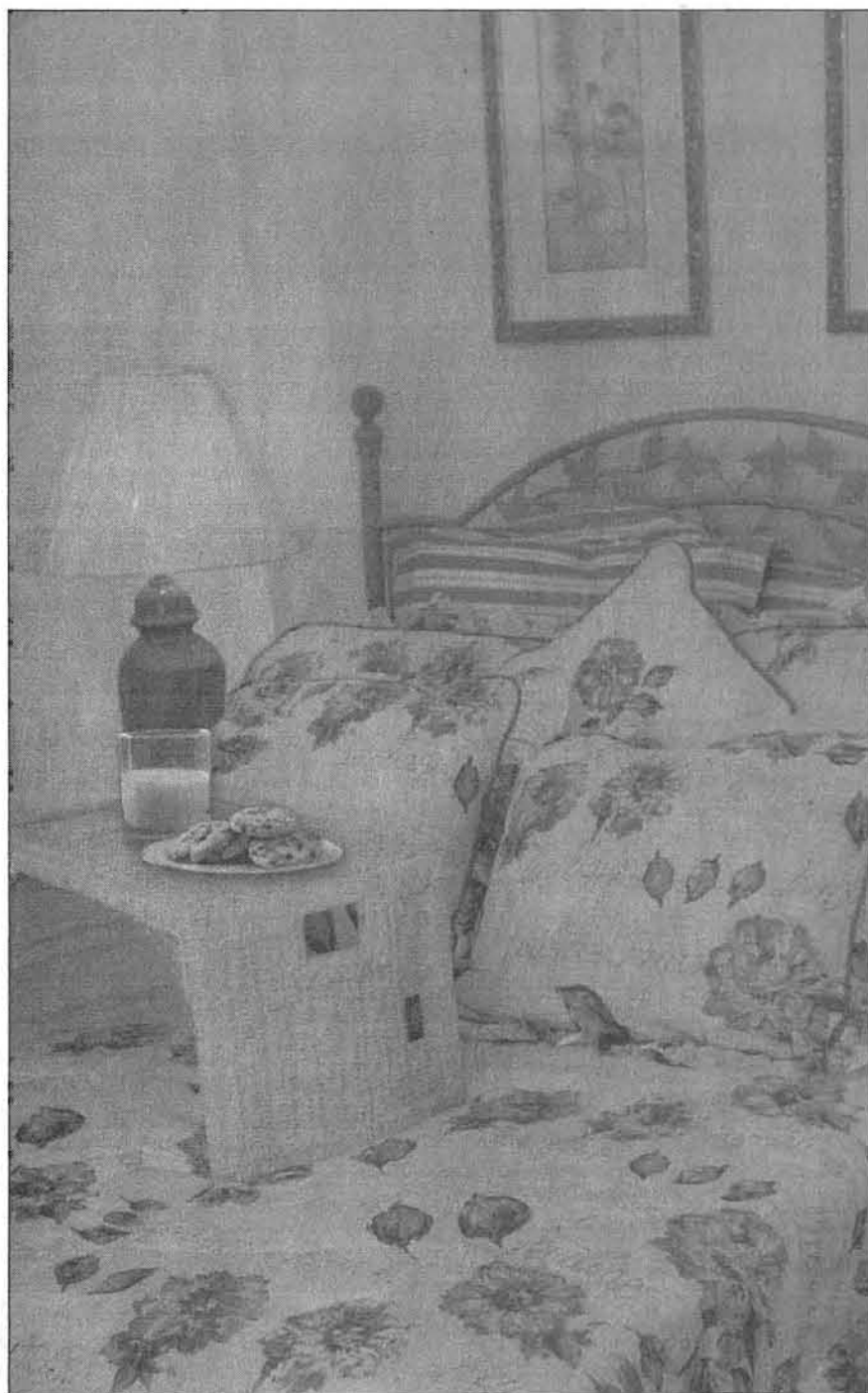
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Holiday Fest lights up UMSL

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

Holiday Fest, a week-long series of events, took place from Nov. 26-30 as a means for UM-St. Louis students and faculty to celebrate the holidays and give to the community.

This year's Christmas celebration consisted of several Christmas carols, various food baskets, plenty of organizations inspired decorations, one Neil Simon play, one trip to the ballet, and a partridge in a pear tree.

"This is the 17th year that we've been doing this as a means to celebrate the holiday," said Deni Kiehl, Student Services Adviser, and organizer of the event.

Holiday Fest began Monday with the lighting of the Giving Tree, a Christmas tree at the bottom floor of the Millennium Center.

"The Giving Tree features ornaments presented by various organizations and departments," Kiehl said. "We also have various departments collect food baskets for the needy."

Tuesday's event consisted of a dinner theater production of Neil Simon's play "Plaza Suite" (reviewed in this issue). The price of admission was five canned goods from each person or \$5 donated to Northside Team Ministries.

"Northside Team Ministries is a non-denominational organization which delivers food to people," Kiehl said. "The only requirement is you have to be in need."

Wednesday's events consisted of decorating the Giving Tree and caroling by the University Singers, Father Bill Kempf of the Catholic Newman Center, and volunteers from organizations who helped with singing and passing out refreshments such as eggnog, Christmas cookies, and was-sail (hot apple cider). The volunteers also hung the Friendship Garland, a garland signed with people's names on rings of construction paper and wrapped around the tree.

The volunteers said they were interested as a need to represent their organizations.

"We wanted our organization to



Maggie Matthews/ The Current

Music Education majors, Robin Mik and Cara Clemens and Psychology major, Patrick Ploch sing Christmas Carols during Holiday Fest on Wednesday near the Nosh.

"This is a way of giving to others and providing an outreach to give to people who are less fortunate than we are."

Matt Hubber
MENC/ Instrumental Ensemble

participate in this activity," said Susan Mason, of the Political Science Graduate Student Association.

"I got involved in it last year because I wanted to promote the University in a campus activity," said Matt Hubber, MENC/ Instrumental Ensemble.

The final event was a Student Activities sponsored trip to the Fox Theatre for "The Nutcracker" ballet, on Nov. 30.

"The [Holiday Fest] gives a sense of holiday spirit," Hubber said. "This is a way of giving to others and providing an outreach to give to people who are

less fortunate than we are."

In previous years the Holiday Fest has produced money for charity.

"The last couple of years we have collected hundreds of baskets and several hundred dollars in cash," Kiehl said.

Many organizations helped sponsor the event including Student Activities, MSC Building Operations and Auxiliary Services, the University Program Board. Gloria Schultz from the Student Center bookstore provided refreshments. Two Fraternities, Sigma Pi and Sigma Tau, delivered the food baskets to the charitable organizations.

Diwali Festival was a roaring success

BY JENNIFER DODD
Senior Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 17, the Indian Student Association put on its annual Diwali Nite. Diwali Nite is the Indian Festival of Lights. The evening was filled with music and dancing rituals as well as with modern dances. There was traditional Indian food, and a chance to learn more about Indian culture.

In order to understand how the evening went, you must first comprehend what Diwali is, and its importance to Indian culture. It is a combination of the U.S. Christmas and Fourth of July. There are presents and fireworks. There is also a religious theme to it. In this sense, the Diwali Festival is similar to Christmas. Indian people practice Hinduism, and it is more than just a religion, it is a way of life.

This festival is also about the lighting of the lamps, and each lamp signifies wishes, such as health and wealth. The lights have a double meaning because they also signify the light of hope. The Diwali festival centers around good's triumph over evil. This struggle, in which right triumphs over wrong, lasts for about five days.

"This is the fifth year for the Diwali festival at UM-St. Louis. I became president of the Indian Student Association in August."

Ever since, August we have started planning for this event little by little."

said Sujay James, a graduate student in CS.

This year's Diwali Festival was a treat for the eyes. There was a slide show in the beginning that showed various art, and Indian music to get you in the cultural mood. After the slide show there were various dances by women, many of them UM-St. Louis students.

One of the more recognizable faces was Shiva Matthews. Matthews, a grad student majoring in MIS, performed a solo dance, as well as dances with other women. Matthews had a very expressive face and the audience could tell she enjoyed showing the various dances of the Indian culture.

"Shiva is vice president of the Indian Student Association. She worked for about a month, practicing her dances. She is a very good dancer," said Sujay James.

There was also a fashion show displaying traditional Indian clothing. One of the novice models on stage received a lot of applause. The cause of the excitement was that the model, Shoeb Kahn, was last year's ISA president. The graduate student was hamming it up for the audience.

"This year's attendance was much larger than last year's, making it a success."

"We didn't have much of a budget this year, and I was really worried about how things would turn out. We sold about two hundred and fifty tickets. Last year, we had about one hundred



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Various dances were performed at the Diwali Festival, many of them by UMSL students.

and seventy five guests," said James.

The Diwali Festival helped students learn more about the Indian culture and its people.

"My goal this year for the festival was to gather all people. I wanted International students to attend as well as Americans. I wanted people to feel good at this event," James said. "I feel that it was beneficial to Americans, that they know about other cultures and traditions."

International nights feature Asian cultures

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

Two International Nights were held before Thanksgiving. The Thai Night, held Nov. 10 at MSC Century A and B, had 150 guests, while The China Night, held Nov. 16 at the Provincial House, was attended by 120 guests.

Chris Sullivan, The International Students Adviser, attended both nights. "Since our party is open to everybody, the guests include not only our members and their family or friends, but also the international people, such as UMSL students, faculty or staff."

Their performances were quite different. Thai Night featured traditional arts such as flower dance, fighting kra bee kra bong and playing kim instrument, while China Night featured ballet dancing, karaoke singing, and many games, included lucky draw.

"We cooked all the food to guarantee it was Chinese style, because most of the Chinese restaurants cook Chinese food American style," said Jun Wu, president of Chinese Student Association. "The preparation, including cooking, involved more than twenty members along with their families."

Nuttawut Kietchaiyakorn, president of the Thai Student Association,

said that they tried to change the menu and performances because he was afraid that people may get bored.

Graduate student Whinsky Harijadi, who attended Thai Night, said,

"I think last year was better since today they are running out of food." Sugiarto Usman, graduate, commented on China Night.

"I love Chinese food, it is very good. But I don't think the food is enough for everybody here."

The guests and organizers were satisfied with the entertainment. Denise Mussman, adviser of Thai Students and Dr. Haiyan Cai, adviser of Chinese Students, said that they didn't involve themselves too much in the preparation, but both were proud of their students' hard work.

"They picked different activities from last year's performance. It shows how hard they worked," Mussman said. "As a group, they work very well."

Mussman and Cai, who had been advisers since their organizations were founded, hoped that the two organizations would keep growing and stay active so that they will not only be useful for the members, but also for students.

"Students came from many countries, so I hope this event can help them to make friendship and to get to know each other better," Cai said.

When the glass is half empty, fill it up again

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



EMILY UMBRIGHT

All I really wanted was to sit in front of my computer with a Diet Coke.

Originally, I planned to write about Christmas lights, but it being the end of the semester and having other things on my mind, I couldn't psych myself up to write about something festive. Not that I wanted to tackle deep thoughts either; really I just wanted a Diet Coke.

So when it mysteriously knocked over, spilling most of its contents across the desk, which was covered in outdated press releases and tangled computer wires, I breathed a fatigued sigh of ironic gratitude.

After watching the carpet drain the carbonated beverage that I should have been drinking, I looked over to the bottle and noticed it was a quarter of the

way full—or empty, depending on your outlook.

Outlook is everything. In terms of Christmas lights, an outlook can make a retail worker feel overwhelmed by the Christmas commercialization, a little kid look to the sky for a flying sled and reindeer, or jump-start competition between neighbors to cover their homes and lawns with colored bulbs and glowing figurines.

My moment of nostalgia came, surprisingly, while driving down Tucker Blvd. last week. I happened to look up and notice lights dangling from the streetlights. Maybe I never noted them in previous years, but I thought it was nice that the City of St. Louis would take the time to decorate the city. It created an old-fashioned,

neighborhood feel, similar to the area that I grew up in.

For the split second that I looked up to appreciate the Christmas lights, I pushed aside the neglected school work I left behind to go to a show to reminisce on holiday seasons of the past. It put all of my current anxieties, worries, and doubts into perspective as I realized they would all cease in a matter of weeks.

Nevertheless, I still have to go to school, and work, and then back home to tackle the term papers and finals. I, like many people dragging themselves through the motions of daily life, seem to have lost even the slightest inkling of motivation. Yet, there must be something left to push me through to the next moments of time that will, hope-

fully, be better.

Keeping with reality, rather than a world of lights, it is only natural that I would need a jolt of energy like the one commonly found in a Diet Coke. It is also only natural that it would spill at the moment I thought I need it most. It enabled me to zone out while watching it spread across the table onto the floor, and allowed me to procrastinate the inevitable "getting down to work" in order to clean up the mess.

For a brief moment, the spilling that occurred caused me to half-jokingly ponder the eternal problem of a glass being half-empty or half-full, upon which I think I have reached a conclusion: It may start out full, then be drained to emptiness, but eventually, you'll get thirsty again and have to fill it.

EMILY UMBRIGHT

EDITOR

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Features Editor

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Upcoming Events

Finally, the last "real" week of school is here. Just before you rush out the door to settle down for a night of studying, however, pay attention to some of the things still happening around campus, namely, the Toys for Tots charity drive and the Greek-American Artists Exhibit, both taking place in the Millennium Student Center.

"Expressions of a Dual Ethnicity: Greek-American Spirits Simmering Throughout the Plains" features modern artwork by 19 Greek-American artists from the Midwest who experiment with many types of media.

The exhibit will continue through Dec. 7, from noon until 7 p.m. in Century Room C on the third floor of the MSC. The exhibit is sponsored by the Center for International Studies, the Karakas Family Foundation for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies, Hellenic Spirit Foundation, AHEPA Chapters 53 and 395, Hellenic Society of St. Louis, and the Webster University Film Series.

Toys for Tots will be collecting new toys and cash donations during the weeks of Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. The charity is specifically requesting donors to keep in mind the needs of older kids who might want things like basketballs, baseballs, and board games. The drive will be located on the second floor of the MSC.

OUR OPINION

Celebrate the season

(but don't forget your classes)

With the end of the semester only weeks away, students are beginning to pack it in and throw in the towel.

While this is a great feeling indeed, let's not forget the task at hand: passing those final examinations.

Don't be stupid. Do you really want to spoil 14 plus weeks of hard work and dedication because J.C. Penny's is having a killer sale?

Sure, we'd all love to be out in the snow rolling around and making snow angels, but unfortunately we've all made a dedication to our future—and

some of us are having it funded by outside sources i.e. parents, federal government, etc.—and we really shouldn't screw it up.

The semester has been long and tiring, but isn't that how it's supposed to be? After all, if college was easy, then we'd all have our B.S. in b.s., and wouldn't that be great?

We're all alive, and I'm pretty sure that that Chemistry class isn't going to kill you unless you let it. C'mon, as Knute Rockne would say, and "Win one for the Gipper!"

Finish up the semester, and go home. Swap war stories with your long-time friends, parents and family. Shove 37 holiday cookies in your mouth and watch 'A Christmas Story' in your underwear.

Celebrate the spirit of the season, which ever spirit you may hold holy, and Happy Holidays! And if you're stuck with that cheek-pinching Aunt Rosa, we'll, it's better than school!



E. REED '01

The issue:

For many of us, the anticipation of winter snows and warm fires is quickly setting in. And while this is a good time for family and celebration, we students tend to forget about those all-too-important final exams.

We suggest:

Students take the days in stride, and just chill. Before too long, we'll all be at home and far, far away from school. Just push through these last few weeks, salvage those grades, and go home happy. Happy Holidays from The Current!

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC or online at:

thecurrentonline.com

You can't bring a good man down

First off, I want to make it completely clear that this column is not a ego trip for myself, and indeed it does have a point.

This title, taken from a famous song by Randy Newman, says it all.

Sure, it may sound rather arrogant, but I refuse to be beaten. I firmly believe that if you are a good man you will always win.

I've never understood why my fellow man has refused to accept this.

Have you ever just witnessed a bully in action? Whether it be a schoolyard fight, a irate driver, or a overbearing co-worker, it truly is a sickening sight to see.

After all, we're the ones who will pull over on the interstate when we see your flat tire. Or hold the door open when your hands are full, or give you the last piece of bread at dinner.

Now we don't do this so you'll notice it, we do it because it's in our blood; it's what we do.

To my fellow 'nice guys' out there, I applaud you. I applaud your endurance to stand in the face of machismo and nod your head. I applaud your integrity to ignore the taunts and tirades of the pricks that inhabit this world, and your willingness to boost the little guys just one step higher, even if that step higher is above you.

People like us are what makes this fine world rotate, and who are selfless enough to do anything possible to make that rotation continue.

We are comfortable with ourselves as people and ourselves as men, and know that our virtues and morals will carry us to the promised land, wherever it may be.

As a personal example, last Thursday was the annual UMSL-SIUE basketball game. Being a cheerleader for the Rivermen, I was on the sidelines performing (please, save the homosexual jokes for another time). I was very happy to see the 500 plus fans who showed up for the game, including the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, who brought 20 plus men to the game (being Greek myself, it's nice to see our organizations at this type of event) I went up to say hello (considered a no-no by most manly standards) and we talked for awhile. And as I turned my head, one

of them spit on my back. I don't think I need to go any further, except to say that this behavior is the reason why we, as a society, will never be able to get past our ignorance. In the spirit of the season, I urge the good men of this world to give, and show what it truly means to be a man. We can honestly never rid ourselves of this testosterone cancer (indeed we need it...who else would dig our ditches or wrestle on WWF), but we can reverse it's effects. Return to chivalry, for indeed it is the only way. (And I promise you the ladies will appreciate it too.)



NICK BOWMAN Editor-in-Chief

GUEST COMMENTARY

We're all in need of something greater

The week before Thanksgiving I attended the hunger banquet at UM-St. Louis. I did not know exactly what I was getting myself into, but I left with a greater sense of the hunger problem that is in this world. I hoped that my eyes would be opened to see those in need.

On my way home from a Choral Concert Nov. 21, I saw need and chose not to ignore it. He wore thin polyester pants, worn tennis shoes, and a button-up jacket on a cold November night. He carefully stepped out to the sidewalk using his cane, on his head was a navy blue hat with "Christ is King" stitched across the front in white letters. It was cold and windy on the street, but the night sky showcased a diamond star spectacle.

Cars whizzed by, headed to their destinations. Some drivers stopped to refuel at the gas station, where Jerry makes his home. He is an older man, living behind a fence at an Amoco station near Kingshighway and Manchester.

I stopped and offered him some bread, bologna, and bananas and talked with him for a while. He said he was hungry and that he was just on his way to look through the trash cans like he does every night. A few minutes earlier he had asked if he could pump gas for one of the drivers who had stopped; the driver told him he was a "wine-guzzling nigger." Jerry explained to me that he only drank once in his life—on his 21st birthday. "Today is my 61st," he said.

Jerry has lived on the streets for six years. Many of the police officers in the area bring him blankets and coats when it gets cold. The neighbors leave

him wood to burn in his barrels, but when it gets too cold, he goes to a nearby "old folks" home for the winter. At the home, he said the workers abuse and steal from the elderly. He has been fighting Social Security without a lawyer for a while now. He recently received a letter (a neighbor accepts his mail), and he might be eligible for Disability. He is hoping the really cold weather will hold off until he gets the check.

"A few minutes earlier he had asked if he could pump gas for one of the drivers who had stopped; the driver told him he was a 'wine-guzzling nigger.'"

Jerry described how his life took a turn. "I used to own a shoe store," he said. "I don't have any family, you never know what is going to happen."

Now he still tries to work for his money, pumping gas or cleaning windows. It is not easy. The gas station stopped putting out windshield cleaning materials and paper towels because people would steal them. The night before, Jerry told me, he had witnessed a knife-threat robbery. He said, "People make calls for drugs at the payphones, crack bags are in the park-

ing lot, never have I seen a generation like this."

He was old, skinny, and probably hadn't taken a shower in a while. However, this man blessed me with the ability to see beyond my own circumstance and feel compassion.

He smiled warmly, and expressed thanks for the food and the conversation. He has arthritis in his knees and ankles, and he told me he had recently fallen in a garbage bin, which landed him in an article in the newspaper. It's funny that he ended up in another one.

People pass by the homeless on the street all the time. They tend to feel sorry, disgusted, angry, or sad. The need in this world is real. Talking with this man helped me gain a new soberness and respect for life that we sometimes take for granted. The whole time I talked with Jerry he did not feel sorry for himself, beg, or complain (aside from his body aches). He did express that he couldn't do it alone, though.

"I couldn't make it without Jesus," Jerry said. He even prayed with me before I left. We are all needy like Jerry—maybe just an illness, a family member's death, or a bad circumstance away from the streets ourselves.

This holiday season, it's important to reflect upon the meaning behind Christmas. Listen to familiar Christmas carols with a fresh ear. Think of why you give gifts instead of how much they cost. Remember the child born in a stable, and ask yourself, "What child is this?" Think of the miracle behind the menorah and open your heart to the existence of the divine. For what is man but a breath, we all need something greater.

-Kelli Solt, senior writer

What's your opinion?

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

- Christmas already?
• Can't keep a good man down
• End of the semester

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
• Write a Guest Commentary
• Visit the Online Forums at thecurrentonline.com

Christmas already?

As I was driving to my buddy's house the day after Thanksgiving, I noticed that the houses were all decorated with Christmas lights. The street lights are all decorated in green garland, and then it occurs to me: it's officially the Christmas season.

The season sneaked up on me this year. The semester has gone by as one complete blur. It seems that midterms were only a week ago, and now there are finals to deal with.

As a student, I really haven't fully enjoyed the holiday season as much as I'd like to the past three years. It seems like December is full of term papers and finals; and when it's over, it's usually a week until Christmas. One of the things that keeps me going is reminding myself that by spending this time on school work will lead to a good job where I can really enjoy the season.

I know it's the holiday season when it's time to make the holiday fruit baskets at the grocery store where I work. It's always fun carefully constructing the baskets, then inserting green tissue paper between the fruit to give the basket a fuller look. Sometimes the fruit doesn't agree with me, and falls all over the place. But more often than not everything looks OK, and I'm able to retain my title as 'Fruit Basket Master of the Universe.'

One of the events that I love to attend is the Full-Timer Dinner at the grocery store where I work. I've worked so long at the grocery store that even though I'm a part-timer, they still invite me along. We usually have a few beers, and reminisce on the year gone by. One of our associates had an incident that's still repeated to this day. Two years ago, he arrived at the restaurant before the

rest of us. While he was waiting, he passed the time by downing multiple Long Island Iced Tea's. When we got there, he was stumbling, bumbling drunk. During the dinner, he ordered a baked potato with the works. When it arrived, he grabbed the potato with two hands and smashed it into his mouth, a la Cookie Monster. Butter and sour cream went everywhere.

Of course, the best times are with family. A couple of years ago, my youngest sister still believed in Santa Claus. My mother was working as a night shift nurse, and she had to work Christmas Eve into Christmas. The family wondered, what to do? Our mother was going to be too tired Christmas morning to open presents. We finally came up with an idea: my older sister and I would take my little sister on a walk to see Christmas lights on Christmas Eve night before our Mother had to go to work. When we came back, we just missed Santa Claus, but he left all sorts of presents for us. We were able to convince my little sister, but we almost

froze our butts off in the process. My older sister, who attends college in Arizona, will stop by in mid-December for a visit. She will only be around for a few days, but our family is excited to see her and experience a second Christmas in the middle of December.

As the Holiday season kicks into full swing, I find myself growing closer to family and friends. I am blessed to have a terrific collection of both.

As the school year comes to a close, dear reader, I want to thank you for your support throughout the semester. I wish you the Happiest of Holidays and a Blessed New Year.



STEVE VALKO Managing Editor

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL BOARD

- NICK BOWMAN
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"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. Students should also include their student ID number.

Under Current

by Maggie Matthews staff photographer

What are your plans for semester break?



Demetrius Anderson Freshman / Computer Science

Relax, spend time with my family for the holidays and prepare for the next semester.



Amelia Dubach Sophomore / Math Education

Spending some time with my family and friends.



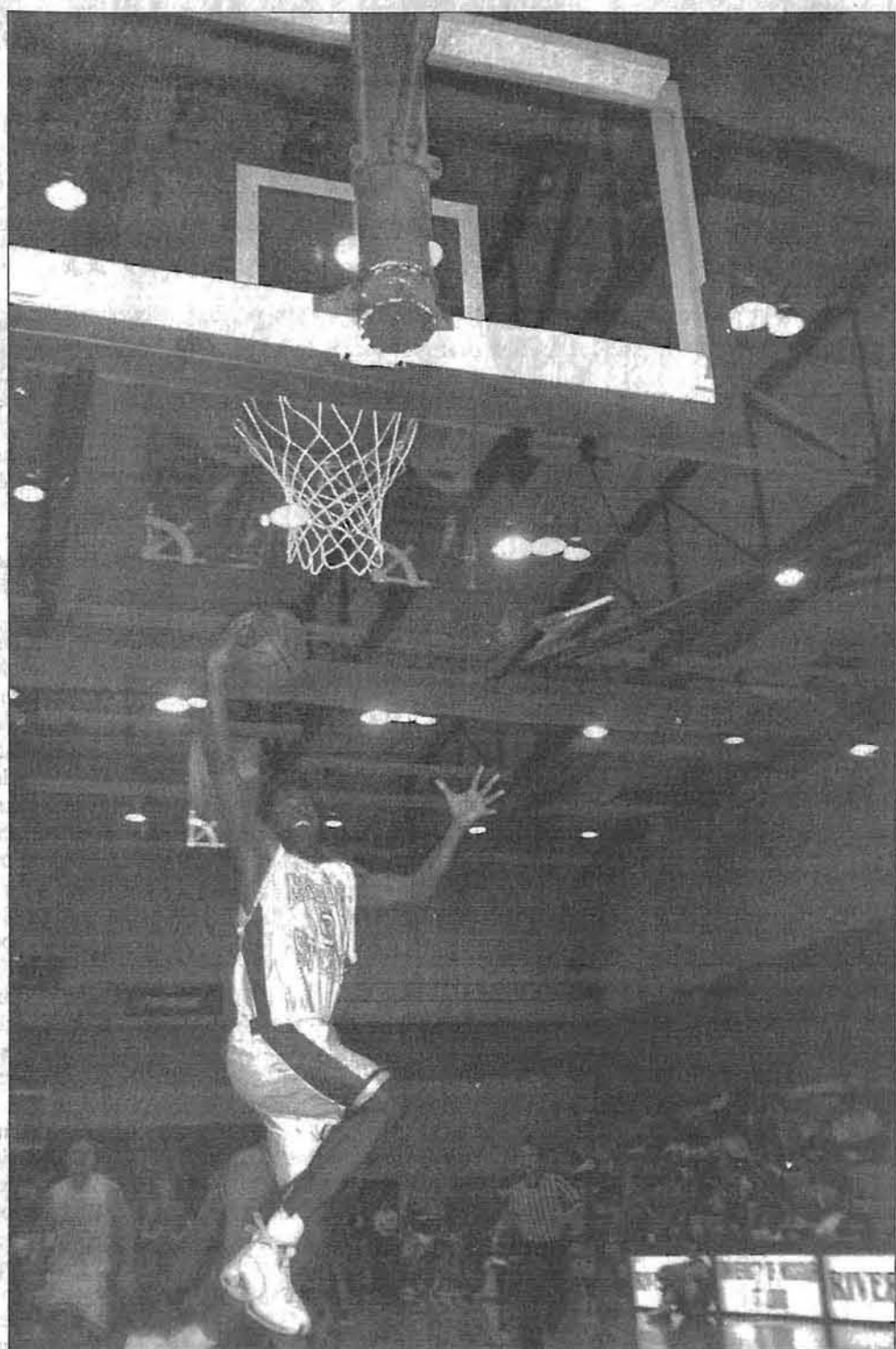
Rev. Richard Tudor Graduate / German

I'm an Episcopal priest. I work full time during Christmas and Advent.



Preethi Nallu Sophomore / Computer Science

I'm probably going to work most of the time and maybe take about 10 days off and visit my cousins.



UMSL freshman Doug Lee goes up for two points during a 80-70 loss to SIUE.

photos by Kevin Griffin/The Current

R-men drop to SIUE at home 80-70

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

The Rivermen's basketball team led in the first half of their contest against SIU-Edwardsville 32-31 with 7:00 remaining, but never could regain the lead as UM-St. Louis was defeated by SIU-Edwardsville 80-70.

In the first half, the Rivermen tied the contest 29-29 on conversions from Derrick Redd and Scott Kassel. Then UM-St. Louis moved ahead 32-31 on a three-pointer from senior Deryn Carter.

SIU-Edwardsville would rally off the UM-St. Louis lead as SIU-Edwardsville scored on consecutive three-pointers to take the lead 42-38 into halftime.

In the second half, SIU-Edwardsville extended their lead with an eight-point run that put the Cougars ahead 58-49. The Rivermen were able to cut the lead to 58-60 on a steal and layup by Redd, but to no avail as SIU-Edwardsville maintain their lead and pushed the score to 72-63 in the closing minutes.

The Rivermen were led by Carter's 21 points, while Redd finished the contest with 18 respectively. Senior Jim Schelich finished the game with 12 points and nine rebounds.

The loss was the Rivermen's first of the year, moving them to 3-1 on the season and 1-1 in the Great Lakes

Valley Conference.

Previously, UM-St. Louis defeated the then no. 8 nationally-ranked Southern Indiana by a score of 69-53.

Southern Indiana was averaging 106 points a game going into the contest, but the Rivermen's defense and Carter's 25 points and six rebounds helped pave the way towards an UM-St. Louis victory. Mindaugas Adamonis and Jim Schelich added 11 and nine points respectively in the victory.

UM-St. Louis only allowed the Screamin' Eagles to hold the lead one time during the contest, a 2-0 lead on the first basket of the game. The Rivermen then went on a 12-2 run and lead at halftime by a score of 27-21.

In the second half, the Rivermen shot 65 percent from the field and maintained preseason All American Marlowe Currie with good pressure defense. Currie would finish the game with 23 points. The Rivermen would then outscore Southern Indiana in the second half 42-32 to knock of one of the preseason favorites to dethrone Kentucky Wesleyan as the reigning GLVC champions.

The Rivermen will go on the road for two Great Lakes Valley Conference matches as UM-St. Louis will play at St. Joseph's and Indianapolis before coming home over the holidays to host UM-Rolla Dec. 15 and Harris Stowe Dec. 19.

SIUE defeats UMSL in OT

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

The Riverwomen's basketball team lost a heartbreaker as SIU-Edwardsville defeated UM-St. Louis in overtime last Thursday 72-67.

UM-St. Louis took a small lead going into halftime 31-24, but SIU-Edwardsville rallied in the second half to take the lead 56-51 with 4:08 remaining in regulation.

A steal by Lynette Wellen and a layup would close the gap to 53-56 and Christy Lane hit two consecutive three-pointers to give the Riverwomen the lead 59-57 with only 1:04 remaining.

SIU-Edwardsville would tie the game at 59-59 on a shot in the paint.

With only five seconds remaining in the contest, SIU-Edwardsville missed a crucial shot and the Riverwomen rebounded and were heading in the other direction, only to have a controversial offensive foul called on Wellen for tripping while she ran up the court.

"I didn't see the play, but the referee said that she tripped her," coach Michelle Ethridge said. "If he said she tripped her, I guess my job as the head coach is to believe the official. Luckily, she missed the free throw and then we called the timeout, and hopefully we iced her. That did not kill us too much."

SIU-Edwardsville, already in the bonus, missed on a shot that hit the back rim, giving the Riverwomen an opportunity to redeem themselves. Sophia Ruffin carried the ball up the court and was stripped of the ball as she attempted the shot, moving the game into overtime.

"We fought back in the second half and got the game into overtime with the help of Christy Lane," Ethridge said.

In overtime, the Riverwomen struck first, as Lane made another three-pointer, off her own blocked shot, to move the game to 62-59. SIU-

Edwardsville would then connect on a three-pointer of their own to claim the lead and never looked back, as SIU-Edwardsville hit two free throws off an Ebonie Halliburton foul and converted a layup as time expired to win the game.

"In the five minute overtime, with us turning the ball over and not knocking down any shots, it is hard to win," Ethridge said.

Things looked up for the Riverwomen going into the game as SIU-Edwardsville graduated their All-American Misi Clarke, but according to Ethridge, the off-season recruiting by SIU-Edwardsville patched that void in their offense rather quickly.

"They lost an All-American, but they gained an All-American in Ruth Kipping," Ethridge said. "She is just an outstanding player and our game plan was to get her out early and we had her with two fouls early. We tried to get her out, but the calls were just not going our way."

With two consecutive losses to Great Lakes Valley Conference opponents, the challenge for the Riverwomen is to rebound from them and refocus as a team, according to Ethridge.

"The thing is that we are a good ball club," Ethridge said. "With so many new players, again we are still trying to learn each other's style of play and what each other can and cannot do. I told the kids that it may be a few more games that we do lose before we figure everything out. But we definitely are a good ballclub. Every game that we are losing has been within 10 points or less. We are there, but we just need to get over the hump."

The Riverwomen hit the road this week as they travel to play against GLVC foes St. Joseph's and Indianapolis Dec. 6-8. The next home game for the Riverwomen will be Jan. 3 when the Riverwomen host Bellarmine University.

Basketball Extra

UMSL marks first GLVC win

* Christy Lane leads in scoring with 30 points and four blocks

ST. LOUIS, MO - The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team marked their first Great Lakes Valley Conference win, beating Lewis University 71-51 Saturday afternoon. The win puts the Riverwomen to 2-3 overall and 1-2 in the conference.

The first half began with a 5-0 run by the Riverwomen, which began with a three point shot by Christy Lane (Imperial, Mo./Seckman/UM-Rolla). The Flyer's gained the lead when Tracey Buchholz hit a three at the 17:17 mark. UMSL would trail for the next five minutes until Sophia Ruffin (Chicago, Ill./Rend Lake CC) tied the game at 13-13 with a three, but Lewis quickly responded to go up again by three. UMSL went on a 9-0 run to take

the lead. A jumper from Lewis would put the Flyers within two, but UMSL would spark an 11-0 run with 6 points from Lane to enter the half with a 38-25 advantage. UMSL shot 46.4% from the field and averaged 44.4% from behind the arc.

In the second half, Lewis began to inch their way back into the game with a 6-0 run, but a foul by the Flyers would put it to a halt. Two jumpers by Jessica Woods (Coppell, TX/Texas Wesleyan College) and Larissa Cordiano (Melbourne, Australia/University of Wyoming) kept the Riverwomen leading by double digits. Lewis quickly hit two buckets to get within 16 points at the 7:15 mark, but that would be as close as the

Flyers would get the rest of the game. The Riverwomen hit free throws down the stretch to clinch their first conference victory 71-51.

UMSL was led in scoring by Christy Lane with 30 points, two blocks and four steals. Jessica Woods had a career high with 12 rebounds and Sophia Ruffin added 13 points. Larissa Cordiano also contributed a career high of nine points. The Riverwomen play their last home game in the month of December this Monday, December 3, when they host Washburn with a 5:30 pm start.

(release courtesy of Todd Addington, UMSL SID)

Rivermen fall to Lewis at home

* Loss is second in a row at home, face MoBap on Tuesday

ST. LOUIS, MO - The UMSL Rivermen fell behind early in the game to Lewis University and never recovered in losing 66-58 Saturday afternoon at the Mark Twain Building. The Flyers scored the first seven points of the game, forcing UMSL to play from behind, as Lewis held off a second half rally from the Rivermen for the win.

Lewis opened up with seven points in the first two minutes of the game for an early lead. UMSL would come back and tie the game at 8-8 and stayed close the rest of the half. The Flyers then used a 4-0 run with five minutes left in the half to push the lead to seven points, 20-13. Sammy Bacino then hit a three-pointer with 0:11 left in the half to send Lewis into halftime with a 30-20 lead.

The second half saw the Flyers come out and use a 10-2 run to open the half and open up the game. Lewis led 40-22 after a jumper from Demitrius Hunter at the 17 minute mark. The lead would get to as much as 20 points, 51-31, at the 12:31 mark before the Rivermen made a charge. UMSL would score 13 straight points over the next five and a half minutes to start a 17-2 run. A layup from Doug Lee (St. Louis, Mo./Ladue) at the five minute mark then capped the UMSL rally and closed the gap to five points at 53-48, but that was as close as UMSL would get the rest of the way. Lewis hit 6-of-7 from the free throw line over the final six minutes to cap with win.

UMSL was led by Deryn Carter (Elgin, Ill./Larkin) with 14 points.

Scott Kassel (Perryville, Mo./Perryville), who played most of the game after suffering a cut around his eye, scored 13 points and pulled down six rebounds. Lewis was led by Austin Real with 18 points and Sammy Bacino added 18 points and seven assists. UMSL committed 18 turnovers in the game, including 13 in the pivotal first half.

The Rivermen fall to 3-2 overall in the season and 1-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. UMSL will host Missouri Baptist in a non-conference game on Tuesday, December 4 at 7:45 pm before heading on the road next weekend.

(release courtesy of Todd Addington, UMSL SID)

Who cares why I watch sports on TV?



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

With the Christmas season in my midst now, it is officially college basketball time for those television sports junkies. It may not be March yet, but college football is finally closing down its season and the focus goes towards my favorite corrupted sport: college basketball.

This is the time where I can sit down in front of a television at a bar, my house, my fraternity house (who should have won a contest for most support at the latest UMSL basketball game for having the most people there) or a friend's and be comfortable.

The television is like a magnet (almost like a gravitational pull) when it comes to basketball for me, though. I may be only 5'9", but I can certainly wish I was out there. I can say that my team won when really, I did not do a

damn thing except yell at my television until they pulled out the victory.

In the Midwest alone, there is enough quality basketball going on to never leave the television. The University of Illinois is currently ranked in the top five in the nation. Prior to them losing to the University of Maryland, the Missouri Tigers are ranked in the top five as predicted, and promise for a great showdown between them and Illinois later this season. The UMSL basketball programs have increasingly gotten better over the past few years, and have crowd support behind them for the first time since I have been a student here. In high school action, the Vashon Wolverines, I would assume, are ranked in the top 10 in the nation this year.

What more could any basketball-loving fan want besides that?

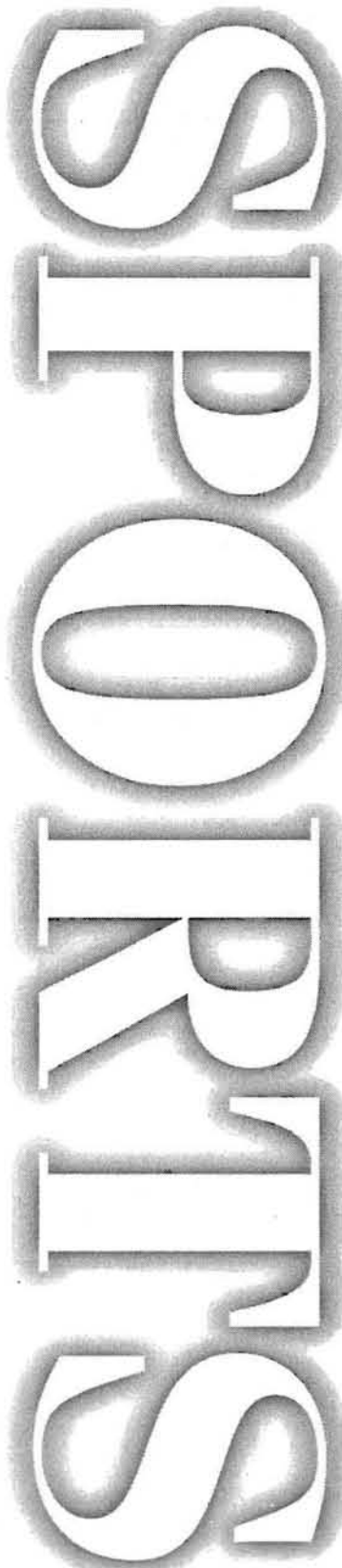
This is the time where we showcase our best talent in the Midwest and see how it can handle the Dukes and the Kentucky Wesleyans and the Peoria Manuels of basketball. With the holidays, there are more tournaments that these teams will be playing in, and competition is fierce.

One of the best and the cheapest tickets in town over the break is the Meramec Tournament. I have memories that last a lifetime from there. From Larry Hughes and Justin Tatum of CBC, to DeSmet's and our very own student coach Jason Frillman handling the point guard duties, there have been numerous players who have advanced past the high school ranks of college basketball.

The best exhibition of high school basketball at this tournament was when Ryan Robertson and his brother Troy Robertson teamed together for St. Charles West to win the tournament one year.

The older Robertson (Ryan) put on a three-point show that amazed everyone in the crowd, including myself while I was in grade school, hoping that I could grow to be just a little bit taller.

My plea is simple for this Christmas break: enjoy your time away from school (we all need the time away, just make sure you come back) and go watch some of the purest basketball in the state of Missouri. You may not need your television anymore.



EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

Sports Editor

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THIS WEEK

Basketball

3
Washburn
Women 5:30 p.m.

4
Missouri Baptist
Men 7:45 p.m.

6
@ St. Joseph's
Women 5:30 p.m.
Men 7:45 p.m.

8
@ Indianapolis
Women 1 p.m.
Men 3:15 p.m.

15
MU-Rolla
Men 7:45 p.m.

19
Harris Stowe
Men 7:45 p.m.

20
@ Lincoln
Women 5:30 p.m.

29
@ Central Missouri State
Women 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 3
Bellarmine
Women 5:30 p.m.
Men 7:45 p.m.

Jan. 5
Kentucky Wesleyan
Women 1 p.m.
Men 3:15 p.m.

WEB

log onto

www.umsl.edu/
services/athletics

for the latest sports news
and information

Independents Day:

Local theaters offer an unique movie-going experience

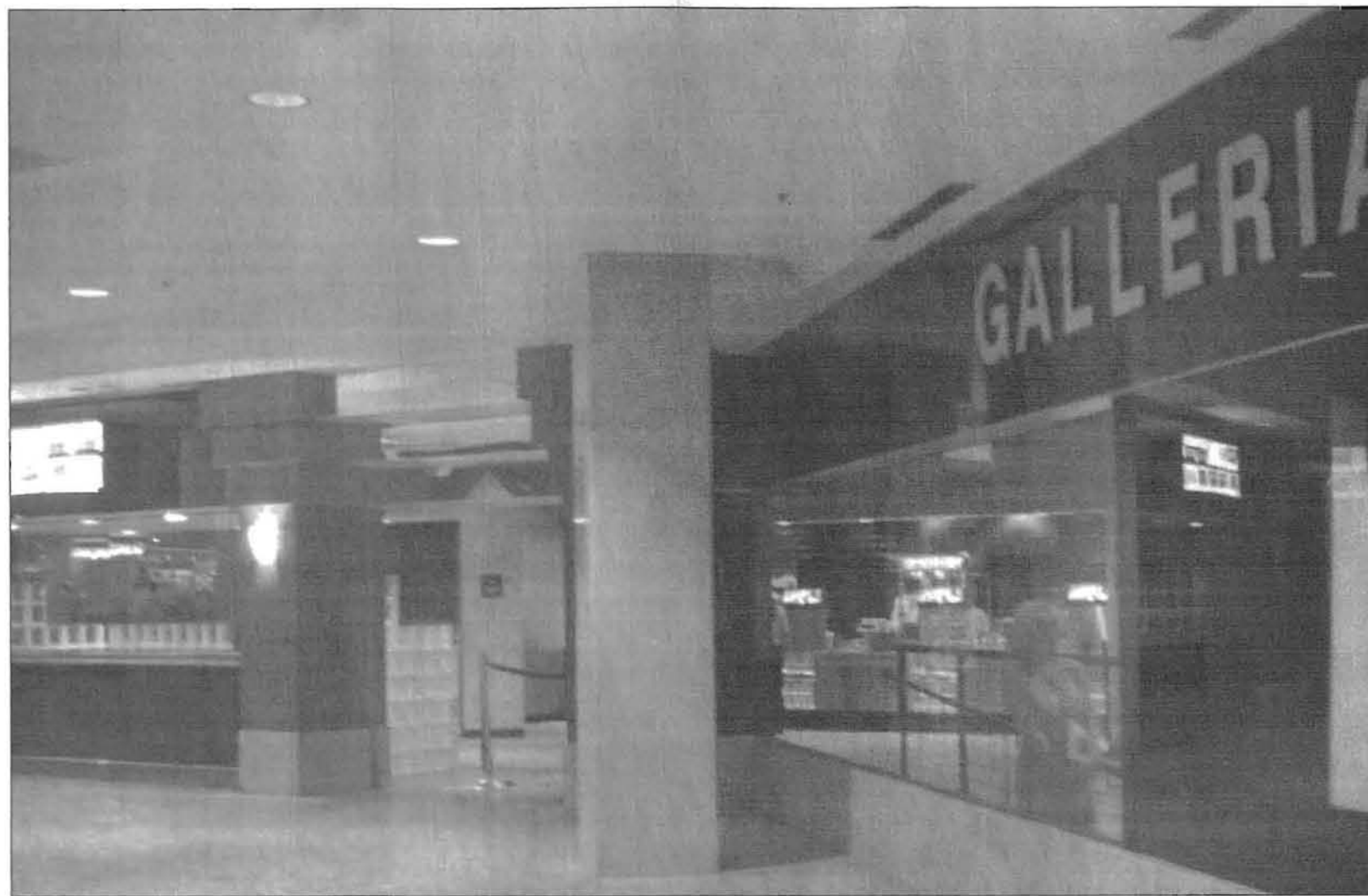
BY CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

Most movie theaters in St. Louis are alike in many ways. They all have multiple screens, similar decor and architecture, the same snacks, the same movies. Telling one multiplex movie theater from another is sometimes hard. Looking at the same snacks at the concession counter, listening to the same ding of video games, and looking at the same geometric decor, do you sometimes think "restaurants and clubs are all different, why are movie theaters all basically the same?"

There are a few alternatives. One of those is the Chase Park Plaza Theater, located in the Chase Park Plaza hotel in the Central West End, which offers a different kind of movie-going experience. The Chase has films beyond just the mainstream blockbusters, in a more elegant venue in a beautiful historic hotel. The decor is brass and red plush, the theaters have murals painted on the walls, and the concessions offer Ted Drews ice cream and the chance to have a glass of wine or beer with the films. No video games are around. Down the hall is Eau, a hot new upscale restaurant with a great vodka bar, which makes the Chase a great spot for a special dinner and a movie date, or just to have cocktails after the show.

The Chase is run by local movie entrepreneur, Harman Moseley. Moseley is one of two independent theatre owners in the St. Louis area. The Chase and the Hi-Pointe are the two independent theaters in town, both offering a one-of-a-kind experience for local film fans. The Wehrenberg theaters are also local, but they are more of a regional, big chain, offering a theater experience similar to the national AMC chain. The other national chain in town is Landmark, which operates the Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac theaters. Recently, Moseley has been expanding his line of alternative movie theaters, with new theaters at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Clayton and the Galleria Mall. Moseley's plan is to offer an alternative to the usual multiplex theater, which usually cater to teens and preteens. His theaters cater to young adults and older by offering a more sophisticated setting, more thoughtful films, and a wider

see INDEPENDENTS, page 7



photos by Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

"Restaurants and clubs are all different, why are movie theaters all basically the same?"



(above) The grand opening of the newly refurbished Galleria theater was Nov. 24. (left) Actress Janet Leigh made an appearance at the theater before a showing of her film, the Alfred Hitchcock classic, 'Psycho.'

EDITOR

CATHERINE
MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

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A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS December

3

The UM Swing Society will have a dance and lesson at the Marillac Provincial House. The lesson is 8 p.m.-9 p.m., the dance is 9 p.m.-midnight. The cost is \$3 for students, and \$4 for others.

5

A free student recital will be at noon in Room 205 of the Music Building.

11

The Community Chorus will perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Marillac Provincial House Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public.

WEB

Feeling out of touch? Miss "The Current A&E" over the semester break? Want to know what's going on in movies, music, and more? Well, check our website at thecurrentonline.com!

This year during the semester break, the print edition of The Current might take a break, but not our website.

We will be posting a calendar of upcoming films and release dates, as well as reviews of such hot movies as "Ocean's Eleven" and "Lord of the Rings," and more. We'll also post lists of some of the A&E events taking place around town, including concerts, star interviews, theater reviews and CD reviews.

So, don't forget us as those finals wind down. Check out thecurrentonline.com and take in some of the great entertainment coming up, once you slam the books on those last tests.

CONCERT REVIEW

St. Louis found what they were looking for at the Savvis center

BY JENNIFER DODD
Senior Writer

U2 played to a sold-out show at The Savvis center on Wednesday, Nov. 28. Everyone from people I work with at Old Navy to the DJs at 101.1 FM "The River" said that it was an amazing concert, and one of the best ones they had ever been to.

The bad news is that U2 is not going to be touring after this tour winds up. Luckily, one of their concerts from New York City airs often on VH-1 music television.

U2's opening act was Garbage. The lead singer, Shirley Manson, had traded in her trademark fire-engine red tresses for a shortly cropped blond hairstyle. Garbage played many of their hits, including "Stupid Girl" and "Don't Worry Baby."

Manson's performance was very dynamic, with her strong vocals and endless energy. Unfortunately, the crowd right near the stage was still getting warmed up, and they weren't that enthusiastic. Garbage also played a couple of songs from their new album, "Break Me," that hasn't been released yet. A couple of the new songs were "Cherry Lips" and "San Francisco," a new pulsating song with a hard edge to it.

U2 played songs that were mainly from two albums, "The Joshua Tree" and the new "All that You Can't Leave Behind." They played songs from the new album, such as "Beautiful Day" and the whole audience sang to "Stuck in a Moment."

The "moment" song has a special meaning to the band, because it is dedicated to former lead singer Michael Hutchinson, of INXS. Hutchinson died three years ago, as the result of suicide. Hutchinson was a good friend of Bono's, and Bono, wished that he could have told him, "that the stuck in the moment shall pass."

After the "moment" song, U2 played songs such as the controversial "Sunday Bloody Sunday," and "Where the Streets Have No Name,"

"Even after two hours of music, the audience was still begging for more."

and of course, the crowd favorite, "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For." They also played two new songs, "Angel," which had a very nice melody, and "Kite," which was also a new one, and the lyrics were quite powerful: "from the rooftop to the floor. Life is fragrant." I was quite surprised on this song; I always knew U2 wrote good lyrics, but the meaning behind the words was so much more powerful in person.

In the middle of the set, the band took two guys out of the audience and let them play. One of the guys they brought out played the guitar. Bono, the lead singer, picked him out of the crowd because he had Irish colors on his shirt. U2 is from Ireland. The plucked-out guitar player and key-

boardist joined U2 for their rendition of "Knock Knockin', on Heaven's Door." The whole audience went wild when the young man walked around the stage, strumming his heart out.

Towards the end of the concert, while U2 was playing "In the Name of Love," they had a picture of Martin Luther King Jr., and towards the end of the song they had a short clip of audio with King giving a speech.

Another moving moment in the U2 concert was on their encore, when the band played "One Love." During the performance, the big screen behind them showed all of the people who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 tragedy. They listed everyone on the flights that went down, including the

crew members. The band also listed the NYPD and The New York Fire Department. I was stunned to see how many firefighters had lost their lives, and also there were brothers who had lost their lives trying to save people.

In the first twenty minutes of the show, an audience member handed Bono a American Flag. Bono then wrapped himself in the flag for awhile during his performance. He didn't let the flag touch the ground, which I found very respectful.

U2 put on an amazing performance, and everyone I spoke with seemed to agree with that sentiment. They had two encores and played for over two solid hours. Even after all that music, the audience was still begging for more.

THEATER REVIEW

'Plaza Suite is a sharp and witty comedy

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

Neil Simon's witty comedy "Plaza Suite" was performed Nov. 27 at the Millennium Student Center as part of the Holiday Fest activities. Instead of an admission price, audience members brought food that was donated to the Northside Team Ministries, a non-denominational group that gives to people in need.

The play took place over a period of over forty years. It dealt with three individual segments involving three couples in Room 719 of the Plaza Hotel in Central Park, New York. The same four actors performed, amazingly enough, all three stories.

The first segment, "Visitor from Mamaroneck," set in 1955, dealt with Karen and Sam Nash (Patricia Reynolds, Clint Underwood) who celebrated their 20th anniversary in the hotel room where they celebrated their honeymoon. The couple at first has slight disagreements that evolve into more serious arguments, as the dissolution of their marriage becomes apparent to themselves and the audience.

The second segment, "Visitor from Hollywood," set in 1976, is about the reunion between Hollywood producer Jesse Kiplinger (Dennis Hurley) and his neurotic former girlfriend, Muriel Tate (Jennifer M. Wall), that culminates in an affair. Kiplinger and Tate's dialogue goes around in circles as Kiplinger wants to get away from Hollywood, and all Tate can talk about are the stars Kiplinger knows and his pictures.

The third segment, "Visitor from Forest Hills," set in the present day, tells of a husband and wife, Roy and Norma Hubley (Reynolds and

Underwood), who are trying to convince their terrified daughter Mimsy (Wall) to attend her own wedding. This segment featured more physical comedy than the other two, as the parents get more and more injured trying to force their daughter out of the bathroom.

The actors displayed their range quite well, playing many different characters in this play. Wall and Hurley in particular stood out in their characterizations. Hurley's roles went from a confused bellhop, to a smooth producer, to a spacey groom, all with relative ease.

In the first and third segments, Reynolds and Underwood played similar characters—an argumentative married couple—but in both they exhibited wonderful chemistry in their arguments with each other.

The setting was a very small and basic sitting room of a hotel. It looked like many other hotel rooms but not quite grand enough for a ritzy hotel. Slight interesting adjustments made to reveal the passage of time, such as different flowers for each segment, and the phones changed from rotary, to touch-tone, to cell phone.

The music played during intermission also did its part to reveal the different time periods. The first segment was preceded by piano R&B music from the 1950s. The second featured disco songs, such as "How Deep is Your Love" and "Popcorn Music." The final segment contained mostly pop music, like Sting and The Coors. It was an interesting way to show the different time changes and moods each segment featured.

"Plaza Suite" was a slight, funny comedy, full of witty dialogue and presented some humorous and insightful looks at marriage and relationships.

'Spy Game' not up to the challenge

BY KELLY JACOBS
Senior Writer

It is nice to finally see an intelligent movie, but sometimes intelligent movies get too complicated for their own good. "Spy Game" is Director Tony Scott's (Enemy of the State) latest project dealing with the world of secret intelligence.

"Spy Game" is the story of a mentor, Nathan Muir (Robert Redford) and his protege, Tom Bishop (Brad Pitt), who are both faced with a challenge to make a huge sacrifice for someone they care about.

It is 1991, and Muir learns that his former student and partner Bishop has been arrested and charged with espionage in China. The CIA doesn't want to risk the country's rocky relationship with China in an effort to save the suspected spy.

The CIA questions Muir to try to get the goods on Bishop. They don't want to have to make a trade for a criminal. Muir discovers this fact, and does everything he can to give the CIA some information, while getting some of his own information. He makes a lot of sacrifices and goes against many people in order to help his former partner.

Muir takes the task force and the viewer back through flashbacks to the beginning of his partnership with

Bishop. While talking to the task force, he manages to outwit them.

"Spy Game" is a good brain stimulator, but at times is too complex to follow. The plot is slow during most of the film, except for some action and suspense scenes, but they are few and far between. At times, the schemes and deals become really complex. It also doesn't help that half of the movie contains flashbacks. By the time the movie ends, two hours have passed, and the viewer is left with a predictable outcome of the story.

Redford and Pitt both had decent performances, and they had a good chemistry between them. Plus, for all of the women in the audience, they weren't bad to look at either.

Director Tony Scott did a good job with the aerial camera angles and the change in color of the movie. The aerial angles and the angles that pan quickly are some of his signature moves. They are very similar to the moves in "Enemy of the State."

"Spy Game" is entertaining to those who like a dark and challenging movie. It is not a bad movie, but the darkness of the film and the slow plot will surprise you if you are expecting an action-packed film. Redford and Pitt have strong performances, however "Spy Game" is a challenge that can wait to be rented.



Veteran CIA officer Nathan Muir (Robert Redford) teaches Tom Bishop (Brad Pitt) everything he knows.

INDEPENDENTS, from page 6

variety of concessions.

There is a bit of a range in the theaters. The newly opened Ritz Carlton is the most sophisticated and upscale of the Moseley venues. The Screening Room serves as a meeting space for the elegant hotel during the day, and the hotel itself offers the theater's concession. This theater in an exclusive Clayton hotel will be one of the ritziest places to see a film in St.

Louis.

The Galleria will be the most family-friendly of the group, which fits well with its mall locale. The grand opening of the newly refurbished Galleria theater was last Tuesday, Nov. 24, with an appearance by movie star Janet Leigh and a showing of her film, the Alfred Hitchcock classic, "Psycho." Fans lined up an hour in advance for the charity event, dur-

ing which Leigh signed autographs for two hours before the screening. Donations for tickets went to historic film preservation efforts, courtesy of AMC.

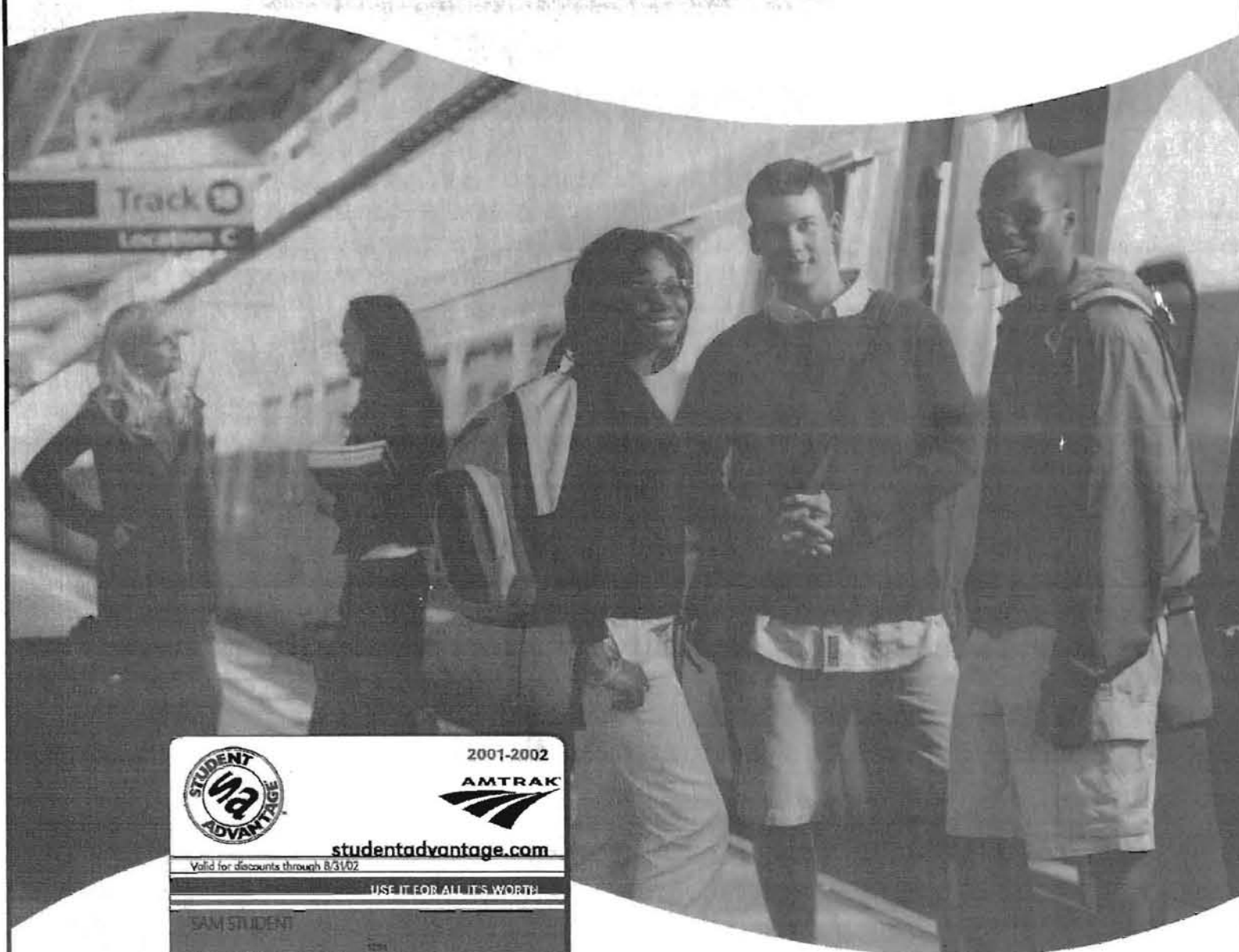
Two theaters of the Galleria complex are now open and four more will be opening over the next few weeks. The remodeled theater, located in the mall's lower level in the same spot as the previous theater, is very appealing

to the eye. A glass wall faces the mall's staircase and food court, allowing passers-by to see in. The marble-floored lobby has murals depicting an old-fashioned movie shoot, seats and tables to enjoy a snack off to the side, and a beautiful glass-brick enclosure for the box-office. Theaters are done in tasteful red plush, and there are family bathrooms in addition to the regular ones.

Like at the Chase, Moseley plans to serve wine and beer along with an appealing line-up of concessions. Of the six theaters of various sizes, the largest four are planned to have stadium seating. The theater will perhaps book a somewhat more mainstream mix, including family films, but still steer away from the strictly teen/pre-teen films that are favorites in the multiplexes.

It's always nice to see a local business grow, and this sounds like an appealing group of theaters for a serious film fan like myself. I'm guessing that other college age and up filmgoers might want to skip the noise, seat-kickers, and nachos of the megaplexes and try out an alternative theater like the Chase, Galleria, or Screening Room at the Ritz.

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ARTS, from page 1



Bryan L. Rives will begin working this January to prepare the Performing Arts Center for its opening.

Rives has already made several trips to UM-St. Louis to become familiar with the needs of the campus and the community. He said he wants to learn what resources are already available on campus before he puts together a plan of action for the Performing Arts Center. Rives said that it's important to keep in mind the opportunities that will be created for business and marketing students, as well as for students directly involved in the arts. "The Performing Arts Center needs to be a learning lab for students," Rives said. Rives said he is looking forward to working with various faculty members in developing the College of Fine Arts and Communication, which was recently established at UM-St. Louis. The college has named professor of music John B. Hylton as its interim dean while the search for a permanent dean is underway.

School of Optometry gets federal funding

BY BETH WILSON Staff Writer

It is estimated that 11,000 of the St. Louis region's children have an unmet need for eyeglasses. The parents of these children cite the reasons the needs are unmet is unavailability and inconvenience. However, these children will now have access to eye care, thanks to Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond. Bond announced \$500,000 in federal funding for a children's vision program at the School of Optometry on Nov. 26. Bond said at the press conference, "Many eye diseases or eye problems are not readily recognizable, it's extremely important that there be screening for young people and adequate eye care early on in a child's life." He then went on to talk about his own vision problems. Larry Davis, the dean of the

School of Optometry also said at the press conference that the long-standing strategic goal for the school "is to contribute to the social welfare of the community through critical and related service programs." This funding will help them achieve that goal. The \$500,000 has been allotted to a program called Gateway to Eye and Vision Care for Every Child. The funds will be used to help create a mobile eye screening van. The UM-St. Louis Mobile Eye Unit will provide on-site vision screening and eye examinations. It will also provide convenient access to eyeglasses for children within the St. Louis region, especially to those children living below the poverty level. The School of Optometry provides eye and vision care to 1,000 children aged 18 and under annually in the St. Louis region.



Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond announced \$500,000 in federal funding for a children's vision program at the School of Optometry on Nov. 26

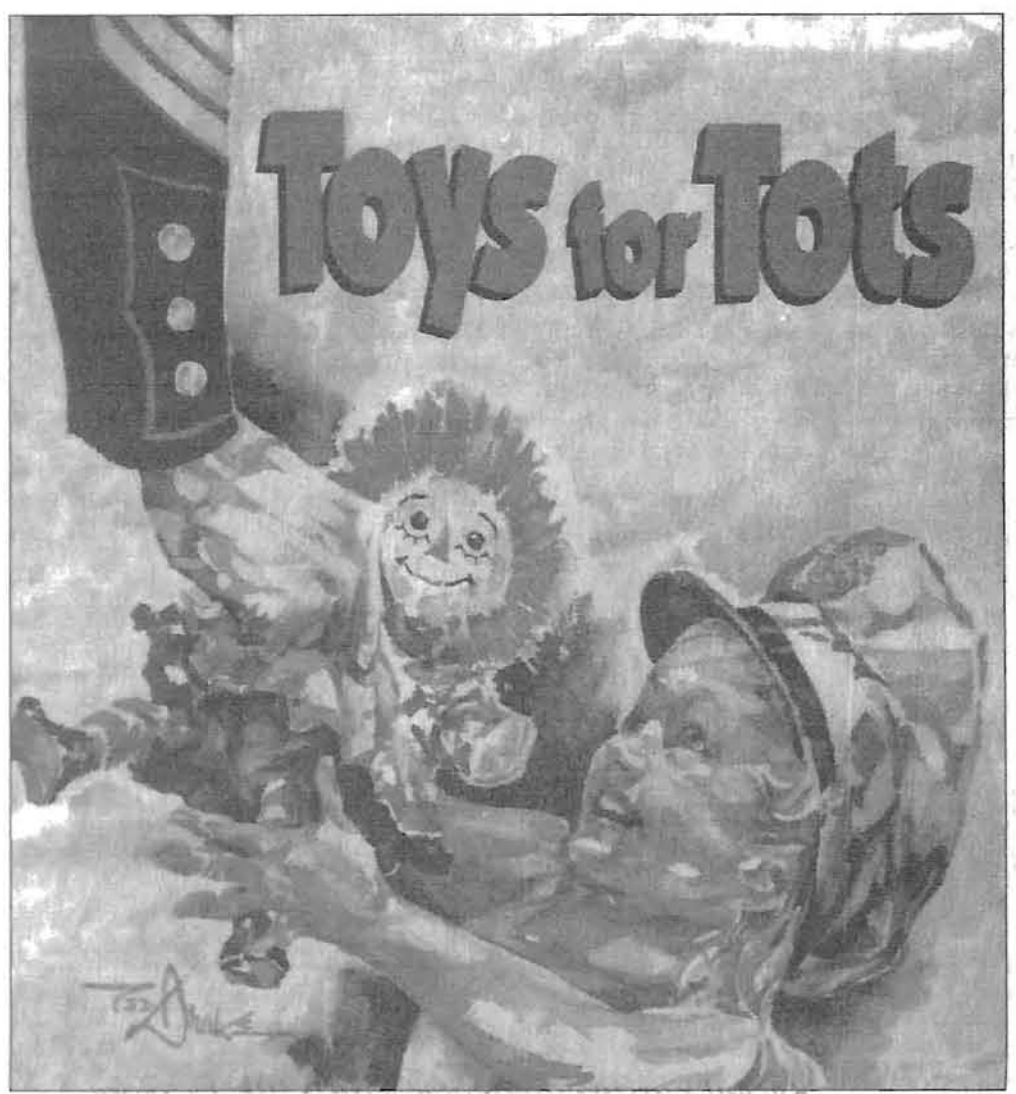
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Advertisement for St. Louis Public Schools. Text: "It's where St. Louis meets the future... www.slp.org". Includes details about teaching applications for Special Education, Music, Math, Language, Family and Consumer Science, Physical Education, Elementary Education, and Social Studies.

This year, The Current is joining with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for the 54th annual Toys for Tots Campaign. Over the past 53 years, the Marines have distributed over 272 million toys to needy children across the U.S., making it one of the major Christmas charitable endeavors in the country. Through arrangements made with local Marine Corps Reserve office all donations made through The Current will go directly to needy children in the St. Louis area. Please join us in helping to make this holiday season memorable for all St. Louis children.

Stop by our table on the second floor rotunda in the MSC from 11am - 1pm, Monday through Friday or drop off toys anytime from 10 am - 6 pm Monday through Friday outside The Current's office at 388 MSC.

Deadline is Friday, December 14.



The Greek Times Greek of the Month

nicole unger - november



Zeta Tau Alpha has been a major part of life. Soon after my initiation in the fall of 1999 I became Recording Secretary and was then a part of the Executive Council. I enjoyed my leadership role in the chapter so much that I ran for President the following year. I am now finishing up my term and look forward to holding another Executive Council office my final year. While holding executive positions I have always had an office on the Program Council as well. These offices include Service Chair and Alumni Relations this past year. I enjoy programming, so I jumped at the opportunity to help organize our Think Pink Week events this October for breast cancer awareness, and put together our first ever Think Pink Lip Sync. As a Zeta Tau Alpha I have been able to participate in many service projects benefiting the community. Helping others is definitely something that I enjoy doing, so having a role in events such as Habitat for Humanity, Race for the Cure, ZTA's own Rake and Run in the fall, our Heart and Sole Shoe drive in February, and the Starlite Run in Tower Grove Park to raise money for new trees are just a few of the things I've taken part in this year as a Zeta. Being a Zeta has also opened up other doors for me as well. Because I am president of my organization, I was able to attend UM-SL's leadership retreat this past September. I learned a great deal about being a stronger leader, prioritizing, and working with others on campus. Having a role in the Greek community is not the only thing that consumes my life. I am involved in other organizations outside of Zeta, one being the Barnes College Student Nurses Association. As a nursing student I have been able to get to know other students with the same major, and help out the community as well. It is important for me to support my university in any way that I can, so I became a Student Mentor this past summer for New Student Orientation. I had a blast doing it, and at the same time I made connections with staff members as well as other students. I am also working with members of the other two sororities for Panhellenic's annual Big Man on Campus competition. The rest of my time is dedicated to getting good grades and working part time at Barnes-Jewish Hospital as a Patient Care Technician. I enjoy my job; it is preparing me for a career in a hospital as a registered nurse. My life would not be as fulfilling today had I not decided to become a Zeta Tau Alpha. I love my sisters and truly believe in what my organizations stands for. After I graduate, I hope to become a Traveling Leadership Consultant for Zeta and visit different chapters across the United States. I wouldn't be the person I am today had I not gone Greek.

Sigma Tau Gamma reaches out to community, service to the elderly

This past month has been full of community service projects as well as house projects. We held our clothing drive the last week of October to benefit the Salvation Army taking donations up in Student Activities and at our house. This was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone who helped us. We had our annual Halloween Party the Friday before Halloween. Everyone was dressed up in their best costumes and it made the party outstanding. On Halloween night the Sig Tau's were down at the Bel-Ridge Community Center for the annual Halloween Party put on by Bel-Ridge City Hall. We decorated, dressed up, and handed out candy while hanging out with all of the kids who attended. Altogether we went through 400 bags of candy and had a great time. The first week of November was one of the busiest I've ever seen at our house. We remodeled the entire

Zeta Tau Alpha

Zeta Tau Alphas know what it means to get involved, from SGA officers to Homecoming committee members and much more. This past October we were busy getting things in order for our annual "Think Pink Week" to promote breast cancer awareness. Pink ribbons could be seen all over campus. Our first ever "Think Pink Lip Sync" was a huge success and we thank all of those who participated in the event. A special congratulations goes out to the first place winners Rob Wilson and Nurse Amy. Because of so many generous people at UM-SL we raised over \$200 for breast cancer awareness. Zetas were also seen at the October 28th Ram's home game passing out pink ribbon stickers for breast cancer awareness. The Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity has teamed up nationally with the NFL to promote breast cancer awareness. This is an exciting step for Zetas everywhere because now a bigger difference can be made. The women of Zeta Tau Alpha have also been busy having a good time with sisters and other Greeks. On October 26th we went roller skating with Sigma Pi Fraternity and on November 2nd we went on our annual hayride with Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. Both were great times and good chances for the new members to meet new people. Hanging out with fellow sisters is the best part of being a Zeta. No matter where we go or what we do we always cherish the times spent together. Our Initiation and Chapter Retreat were also this semester where we had the opportunity to bond and make new memories together.

Alpha Xi Delta

Laughter, smiles, and friendship: These are the memories made every last Sunday of the month when the women of Alpha Xi Delta participated in their national philanthropy, Choose Children. Since its inception in 1992, Alpha Xi Delta College Chapters and alumni associations have given over 500,000 hours of service and donated over \$100,000 to local agencies in their communities. On October 28, the Epsilon Xi Chapter here at UM-SL visited with the children of St. Vincent's Children's Home on Florissant Road in Bel-Ridge. The children decorated pillow cases that will be given to sick patients at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Activities such as these give the women of Alpha Xi Delta time to brighten a child's day. Plans are set for a few of the members of Alpha Xi Delta to meet five of the children from St. Vincent's to deliver the "Get Well" pillow cases to the hospital. The Fall 2001 new member class also has plans of their own. Their event will be held at Missouri Baptist Children's Home on St. Charles Rock Road. The new members hope to organize a field day complete with prizes and many exciting activities for the children. Alpha Xi Delta's interest in children and awareness of the pressing needs of children in society today lead them to participate and interact with the youth of their community in hopes of creating a new and brighter future. The Epsilon Xi Chapter would also like to welcome our newly initiated new members. Congratulations.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

December Edition

Busy fall for Sigma Pi men

October and November have been busy months for us here at Sigma Pi; our fall pledge class began and 11 men who sought initiation into our Fraternity. The number of men still proceeding is 8. This is good for us here at UM-SL, nonetheless as we would like larger classes, the quality of these men is proving to be much more beneficial. Also, October was the month of our Brotherhood Retreat at our headquarters in Vincennes, Indiana. It was a time much enjoyed and valued by the active chapter. At the same time two of our alumni, Michael Brodeur and Thomas Holt, married their fiancés, congratulations gentlemen! We ended the month with a successful Halloween party and thank all who attended. We also escorted the ladies of Delta Zeta on a Haunted Hayride and the

ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha on a rolling skating expedition. We extend our thanks to these fine women for their support and time. November has brought about yet another election of our Housing Corporation in which four good alumni members earned positions. The only downside for them that day was yet another loss in our annual Alumni/Active football game. This contest contained far better play than last year. We also have just successfully defended our Intramural Football Championship after beating a great team in the Midwest Maulers. In floor hockey we lost to the men of Sigma Tau Gamma in the playoffs. This month also brought about another year of Old Newsboys Day for us as well as preparations for Toys for Tots.



Delta Zeta expands by 19

It has been an exciting and eventful semester for the women of Delta Zeta. We recently initiated 19 women to our sisterhood and are so proud to welcome them. Our chapter just keeps growing larger and stronger! Delta Zeta has been busy on campus this semester. We participated in the ZTA Lip Sync and won third place! The chapter also collected clothes to contribute to the Sigma Tau Gamma clothing drive. We are proud to see our fellow Greeks working so hard to help the community and we were happy to be of help. The women of Delta Zeta also raised money for the American Red Cross in hopes of helping the families of some of the Delta Zetas lost in the September 11th tragedy. It is not always work in Delta

Zeta- we try to have plenty of fun as well. We held a Hawaiian date party last month and it was a success. We also held a mixer with Sigma Pi Fraternity in October and had a great time at a Haunted Hayride. We also had a great time karaoke bowling with the men of Sigma Tau Gamma. We went on a chapter retreat last month and found that this was a great sisterhood weekend. We learned a lot about each other and had a great time hanging out together. Delta Zeta also celebrated our Founder's Day on October 24, kicking off our Centennial year. Sadly, we will be saying good-bye to many of our members as they graduate in December. We want to thank all of these women for all they have given to Delta Zeta and especially, to this chapter. They will be missed by all of us.



Religion affects the way scientists study nature



MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

Our view of nature is directly influenced by our 'presuppositions,' or underlying assumptions about the universe. Religion usually carries many presuppositions with it, like the belief in a higher being or a god. Religions could be considered a sort of 'presupposition base,' where we learn our most basic and primitive assumptions about the world.

Broadly speaking, some religions can be divided into two categories: Eastern and Western. These groupings are not totally inclusive but they are useful for making some of the broadest distinctions between religions.

One difference between Eastern and Western traditions is what might be called the 'movement of universal energy.' Most of the major religions believe in a sort of energy that moves through the universe and is controlled by a god, or gods, and other entities. Western religions tend to picture this energy moving in a linear manner, while Eastern religions more commonly picture this energy moving in a cyclical manner.

For example, in Western tradition, Christianity views energy in the form of souls, which may be thought of as the essence of earthly organisms. This energy flows from God, the creator of all things, through the rest of nature. God is the beginning of the universe and so the history of the universe, according to Christianity, has come outwards from God like a ray from a fixed starting point. This type of thinking is basic to Christianity, and so in learning about the universe from this set of presuppositions, Christians are taught to think about the universe in a linear manner and find linear relationships among the phenomena they study.

A contrasting example from Eastern tradition is in Buddhism, which views the universe as a cyclical movement of energy. In Buddhism,

the universe was not created at a single point in time by a supreme being. In fact, the icon of Buddhism, Siddhartha Buddha himself, was not a god at all but a teacher with a unique, understanding about the movement of universal energy. In the Buddhist conception, the universal energy has always existed and moved in a cyclical manner through different stages of existence. Trained in this manner, Buddhists are likely to view nature as if cyclic changes are its major mode of occurrence.

Imagine a Buddhist scientist and a Christian scientist examining the same phenomena in nature, such as the evolution of life. The Christian, with his or her tendency for linear thought, might view evolution as a progression through time from primitive to more advanced organisms. The Buddhist might see the same evidence as the Christian and conclude, quite differently, that life is moving through a pattern of changes that match cyclical changes in the environment.

These contrasting views of evolution could both be drawn from the same observations and yet yield different predictions about the future evolution of life. The Christian would predict that life would continue to get more complex unless some cata-

strophic event caused life to start over at a more primitive state. The Buddhist might believe that life would go through stages of greater or lesser complexity in response to the immediate demands of the environment.

For years in Western science, evolution was conceived as a linear process of change toward a state of ultimate, or at least penultimate, complexity. Many people still view this most complex of processes in a linear manner, though Darwin himself realized that evolution does not always move toward complexity even when it appears to, because we don't notice when evolution decreases complexity as readily as we notice when complexity is increased.

The more researchers learn about evolution, the more they validate the Buddhist concept of cyclical patterns in nature. Some theorists have suggested that extinctions and peaks in biological complexity seem to cycle over time. Sometimes life forms will seem simple and evolve slowly to fit with their environment, becoming very complex in the process. At other times, periods of extinction will reduce the complexity of life forms, which might eventually spread over the entire planet.

This same pattern can be seen

throughout science as a whole. Patterns that were once viewed as linear cause and effect relationships are now being seen as cyclical patterns of change.

It's obvious that cyclical changes are important in nature. Many natural phenomena only seem to behave in a linear manner when we examine an isolated part of their life cycle and don't understand the full pattern that we are witnessing. Some apparently linear phenomena may actually be parts of more comprehensive cyclical phenomena.

Researchers are discovering new and more intricate cycles in virtually every field of science. For example, certain chemicals in the brain and in the other bodily systems seem to cycle through stages of greater and lesser concentration. Animal and plant populations sometimes cycle through periods of greater and lesser density.

The early history of science in Europe and North America was marked by a reliance on God as the ultimate explanation of every phenomenon. All of nature existed in a linear relationship, with God as the starting point. This view is still common, but even many scientists who believe in God as the ultimate creator now allow for the possibility that certain process-

es act on their own in nature.

Today Western scientists recognize a large variety of patterns as natural and the members of different traditions have begun to become more familiar with each other's methods, but some Western scientists still hold certain biases based on their religious presuppositions.

Eastern science is much better acquainted with the principles of energy flow in the universe. Most Western scientists are unfamiliar with ideas such as acupuncture, which is the Eastern art of manipulating energy flow in the human body for medical benefit. Western science is only slowly becoming accustomed to such ideas, even though scientists in the Eastern traditions have been using these methods for centuries and achieving surprisingly positive results.

It may be beneficial for all scientists to attempt to understand the many methods that may be used to study nature, because success in science comes from finding the best possible understanding of nature's processes. Both the Western and the Eastern traditions have achieved remarkable success in their own rights, but with even the incremental blending of cultures that we witness today, science is leaping forward as never before.

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Final course grades can be obtained electronically by any of the following methods:

- 1 **Student Access to Records at UM-St. Louis (S.T.A.R.)**
STAR is available through the Registration & Records web site (<http://www.umsl.edu/~register/star.htm>).
- 2 **Touch Tone Registration and Inquiry Network (T.R.A.I.N.)**
TRAIN is available from any touch-tone telephone, by calling (314) 516-7000, option 4.
- 3 **MyGateway Course Information System**
There is a new icon for "Semester Grades" at the top of the "Welcome" page, once you have logged in to MyGateway (<http://mygateway.umsl.edu>).

Accessing grades electronically allows you to see your grade immediately after it is recorded by your instructor. Fall 2001 semester grades should be available by Thursday, December 27, 2001. Winter 2002 semester grades should be available by Thursday, May 23, 2002.

To access the MyGateway system, you must know your GatewayID and password. You can look up your GatewayID online at <http://gatewayid.umsl.edu>. If you have any questions about your Gateway ID or password, call the Technology Support Center at (314) 516-6034.

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THAT'S WHY.

Board votes to raise SLCC tuition

Student tuition raised from \$40 per credit hour to \$48

BY HANK BURNS
The Montage

With promises of a better education and better quality for students, St. Louis Community College's Board of Trustees voted during their Nov. 19 meeting to raise the student tuition from \$40 per credit hour to \$48 per credit hour.

For board member and one-time board president Michael Rohrbacker, the adage "you get what you paid for" applies to SLCC's current financial situation.

"The longer we delay, it's not so much that it's going to hurt," Rohrbacker said. "If you don't have the funds to do the innovative instructional technologies, which is very expensive, you're going to end up having worse of a product of student. You need to have a little bit more money available and the only way to do it is to raise tuition."

In addition to the basic tuition fee increase, a \$3 per credit hour technology fee will be introduced. According to Rohrbacker, the tuition fee and other new fees will allow for more accessibility and better service for stu-

dents.

"I think that this was a good compromise," Rohrbacker said. "The best part is, you're going to see a lot of money coming out to each of the campuses. You're going to see a direct impact."

"It's going to really affect your

"Student cost of tuition is one in which we try to stay accessible and affordable. So even with the increase, we'll still remain under that recommended lid of 25 percent of student cost of their education."

might not have if there were other suitable options.

"Tuition increases are never easy," Moss said. "You don't want to increase the tuition but judging by the state holdbacks and the fact that we want to continue to give you the quality education that we're proud of, we

increase, we'll still remain under that recommended lid of 25 percent of student cost of their education."

"I think it would keep us competitive. It would make sure we have technology for students. It would make sure students have more access with their clubs and co curricular activities. So, I think what it's done is added is added some elements that we needed, especially now with the state pulling back on their resources."

While the ultimate decision to increase the tuition was made by members of the SLCC Board of Trustees, Rohrbacker stressed that students had more than simple input.

Henry Shannon
Chancellor, St. Louis Community College

don't have any other choice."

The last time a raise in tuition was made was six years ago. SLCC Chancellor Henry Shannon stressed that the increase makes up for each year that there was no increase.

"The need for it was great," Shannon said. "Student cost of tuition is one in which we try to stay accessible and affordable. So even with the

student government, I couldn't get students to come do anything, but now we had students from each campus we had the student government presidents and they liked the general proposals and they had a really good feel for all of it," Rohrbacker said. "Hopefully I think we got a compromise that everybody can live with. We gave students an opportunity to talk."

Campus events

Why should students attend?

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

In an earlier interview, Karen Lucas of the Center for Humanities expressed her hope that more students would attend the Monday Noon Series along with the already interested community members.

A student attending the Student Activities-sponsored "Drive-In Movie Night" said that only four people attended and left before the film was over.

These are common difficulties among many on-campus events: plenty of talent, plenty of variety, but an extremely small audience to show it off to.

UM-St. Louis students sparsely attend many of the on-campus cultural events. Just as students should show their support for the University's sports teams, they should also show their support for the cultural and entertainment events that are held on campus.

There are many reasons why students should make it a point to attend such events. These events are affordable. Many college students don't like having to pay \$7.50 to see a movie or \$35 to go see a concert. But the on-campus events are priced just right for students. The International Performing

Arts Series offers a \$5 discount for UM-St. Louis students for their performances. Many other on campus events use discounts for UM-St. Louis. Many things, such as the Student Activities events, Gallery 210 and most of the music concerts are the price every student loves: free.

The on-campus events also bring enough variety to please everyone. Since this semester began, I have seen a Kenyan choir, a Japanese puppet show, a modern art exhibit, a classical/jazz concert and others.

Other departments on campus sponsor many different types of events. Student Activities sponsors public meetings, movie nights, and other public activities. Gallery 210 presents photo exhibits, paintings, sculpture, and a student show at the end of the year. People looking for variety should look at their own school.

I remember what that is like having had a sister in theater (as well as other siblings in choir and band) and she was often frustrated when the crowd was a very small one. She even once told me, "I might as well have performed in front of a mirror."

There is a lot of talent in UM-St. Louis, and in the performers who come here. We should allow ourselves to see it.



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Do some Christmas shopping at the fabulous Flower Depot, visit the North Gallery, have a Holiday Cappuccino at the Corner Coffee House, enjoy a delicious dinner at the Thyme Table Restaurant (reservations: 521-0440) and cap off the evening with a special Holiday treat at the WhistleStop Custard Shop.

As an added treat, there will be Christmas music and refreshments served at a beautiful Ferguson church.

Free Jolly Trolley rides for the tour are available for senior citizens at 4:00 pm and again at 6:00 pm, but you must make reservations when you purchase your ticket at the Flower Depot.

Tickets: \$10 per person

Tickets available beginning Friday, November 23 at the following locations:

- City Hall • Ferguson Library • Flower Depot •
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Wednesday, December 5
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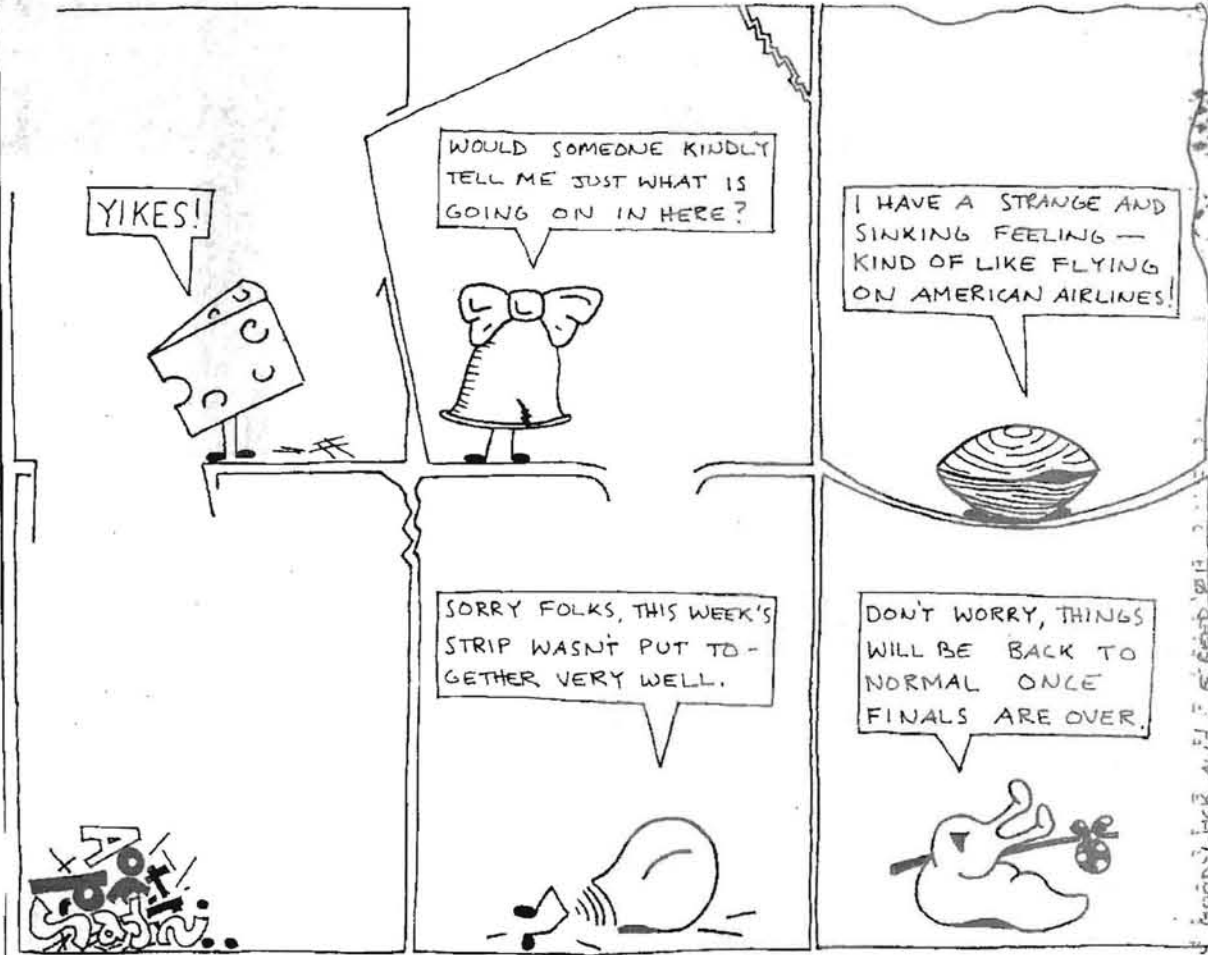
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