



UMSL teams make GLVC tournament

The UMSL Rivermen and Riverwomen made it into the GLVC basketball tournament, securing the sixth and fifth seeds, respectively. The tournament begins this week.

◀ See Page 5

INSIDE



Dr. Ruth visits UMSL to discuss matters of sex

Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a well-known psychsexual therapist, visited UMSL last week to talk about a wide range of topics, including sex, relationships, pregnancy, disease, and more.

▲ See page 3

BRIEFS

Young loses out on UT presidency

BY TIM THOMPSON
staff writer

The search for a president at the University of Toledo has been narrowed down to two finalists. David A. Young, dean of the UMSL College of Arts and Sciences, wasn't one of them. Young had been one of five semi-finalists for the position who visited UT Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24-25, for initial interviews. After the last interview, the search committee, chaired by Joan Uhl Browne, met to decide which finalists would be recommended to the Board of Trustees.

"Now I'm going to focus on what I'm doing [at UMSL]," Young said.

According to the UT press, the two finalists will be invited back to the campus for an extensive interviewing process that will allow interaction with members of the faculty, staff, and student body.

Stephen Lehmkuhle, vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Missouri System, had also been a candidate for the position earlier this year.

Meet candidates for Registrar

Candidates for the position of Registrar will be available to meet with the campus community. The meetings will be held in 411 Woods Hall at the following dates and times:

Bruce Oates 3-3:30 p.m. on Feb. 26

William Wilson, 3:30-4 p.m. on Feb. 28

Kathy Brockgreitens, 3-3:30 p.m. on Feb. 28

The candidates' credentials are also available in the Thomas Jefferson and Ward E. Barnes Libraries.

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
Classifieds	9
The Nerd Table	9

SGA decides to oppose UM parental notification policy

BY DAN GALLI
special to The Current

The passing of a resolution that denounced the administration's plans for parental notification highlighted the SGA meeting on Feb. 20.

Joe Flees, senior board member of ASUM, spoke about the issue. UMSL as well as the three other UM schools are trying to put a new policy in place. A letter would be sent home to the parents of any students under the age of 21 caught drinking alcohol on campus. This would apply to students who are financially dependent on their parents as well as students who pay for their own education.

Flees said, "That bill would send information to the parents that we feel should be kept private."

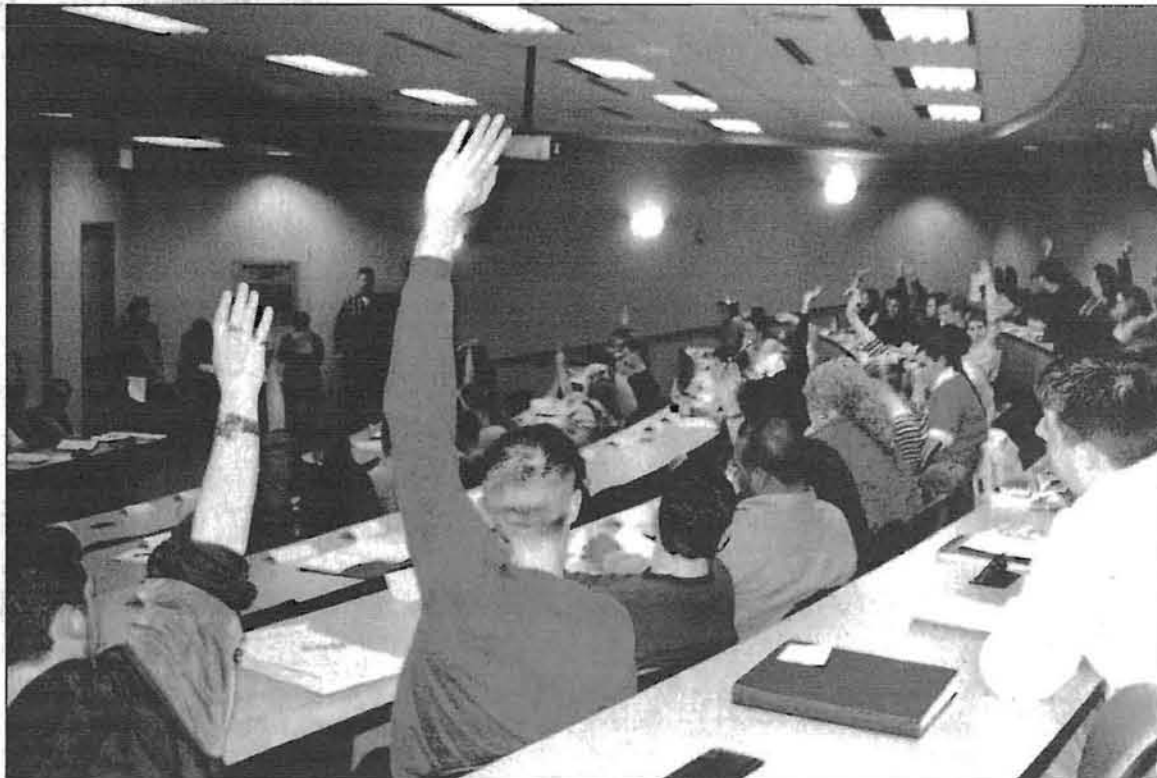
He said that parents could find the information if they wanted to, much like they can with students grades. Therefore a letter is unnecessary, because parents who are truly concerned about their child's behavior can find out about this on their own.

Flees also stressed that many UMSL students differ from other college students because many are financially independent from their parents or hold jobs. He also said this policy is unnecessary because "college is about learning about life." He asserted that students need to learn through the mistakes they make.

Sam Andemariam, a board member of ASUM, spoke alongside Flees about the issue. He suggested that the University take a different course of action, which could include fines and/or stricter rules.

Andemariam said the university should enact rules to let students know that, "If you drink, there will be consequences." Flees pointed to a University of Florida study in which students were fined if caught drinking. He claimed this reduced underage drinking on campus by around 50 percent.

There were many comments from the members of the SGA on both sides of the issue. While many agreed with the proposal, others did not. Some representatives



ABOVE: SGA Assembly representatives vote 40-11 to pass a resolution asking the University to drop plans to implement a parental notification policy. There was one abstention. BELOW: Glenn Autry, SGA Assembly representative, listens to the discussion.

wanted the proposal to contain alternatives to a letter and others voiced their opinion that the SGA should look at this issue from a parent's point of view. Another representative claimed the policy might protect the University from being held liable for accidents that occur from underage drinking.

Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs, was the only administrator to speak. She said that the sample given to Assembly members of the letter that would be sent to parents was completely outdated. The parental notification policy is in its 9th draft and now takes into consideration a student's IRS status, financial independence, and marital status among other things, she said. Students would also have time to talk to their parents before the letter got to them, she said.

see SGA, page 10



Maggie Matthews/The Current

Maggie Matthews/The Current

Lawmakers hope to pass lower legal limit soon

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff writer

At the perfect drinking age for a college student, Becky Sommer, 21, a communication major, slowly shook her head from left to right last Thursday afternoon at the thought of drinking alcohol and driving.

"I've known a couple of people that have been involved in accidents with drunk drivers," she recalled while sitting in a soft-cushioned chair on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center.

One of those people is a close friend, who, at age 17, was hit so hard by a drunken driver four years ago that she was "thrown from the car," Sommer said.

Her friend's passenger, 16, was killed in the crash when her side of the car was hit by a drunken driver traveling over 100 mph, she said.

The driver that was speeding suffered damage to both his legs, one which had to be amputated, Sommer said.

"Basically, I think people need to understand the consequences of drinking and driving," said Megan Pedelty, 24, as she sat a few feet across from Sommer. "They shouldn't do it at all."

Both Sommer and Pedelty are in favor of a proposed bill that will lower the legal blood alcohol content level in Missouri. The bill, HB 302, has been approved by the House of Representatives and will soon hit the Senate floor, said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Craig Hosmer, D-Springfield.

The bill, if passed, will change the legal BAC from .10 to .08 percent, making it easier to convict drunk drivers. The first-time penalty for driving with excessive BAC will also be changed from a class C misdemeanor, which is punishable with a 15-day jail sentence and a \$250 fine, to a class B misdemeanor, which calls for a maxi-

see ALCOHOL, page 10

Wrangling over 'tuition' continues

BY STEVE VALKO
staff writer

On Feb. 13, the Missouri Senate passed a bill that modified a statute which prevented by law the University of Missouri from charging tuition.

The new law reads

"All youths, resident of the state of Missouri, over the age of sixteen years, shall be admitted to all the privileges and advantages of the various classes of all the departments of the University of the State of Missouri; provided, that each applicant for admission therein shall possess such scholastic attainments and mental and moral qualifications as shall be prescribed in rules adopted and established by the board of curators; and provided further, that the board of curators may charge and collect reasonable tuition and other fees necessary for the maintenance and operation of all departments of the university, as they may deem necessary."

The words restricting the University of Missouri from charging tuition have been repealed.

The actions of the Missouri legislature stem from a class-action lawsuit filed in January 1998 by Robert Herman, who works as an attorney for the law firm of Schwartz, Herman, and Davidson. In the lawsuit, Herman says the University could not charge tuition, as written in the statutes.

Herman noted that the school started charging "educational fees" by credit hour in 1987. The University of Missouri collected over \$287 million, and 33-45 percent would represent

tuition, he said. That wasn't the way it was in years past, he said.

"For 1986, there was only a one-time fee per semester of \$400," said Herman.

Herman said that the school defends its actions in three ways.

"Number one, it's not tuition," Herman said. "Number two, we don't have to listen to what the [Missouri] legislature says. And number three, you can't have the money back because of legal technicalities."

"We've always charged educational fees," said David Russell, director of University Relations for the UM System. "I think the whole purpose of the legislation being considered in Jefferson City is to clarify that, so that it's immaterial what you call it. [The bill] simply affirms the fact that state institutions have to charge something for the education they deliver."

Herman acknowledged Senate Bill 25, saying that it would let the school out of its obligation to students. Herman said that the University is "crying to the legislature" to fix this problem.

Herman said that the case is ongoing, and both the University and he have been filing motions back and forth. Herman was able to question University of Missouri system President Manuel Pacheco in a deposition.

"He admitted they charged tuition for instruction," Herman claimed.

Russell said it wouldn't surprise him if someone inadvertently referred to educational fees by a different name, but that when it comes down to

it, students have to pay something for the educational services the state gives them.

If the ruling does stand up, there would be serious financial implications for the University of Missouri. They would have to refund all tuition charges within the statute of limitations, which Herman said would be three years before the lawsuit was filed in January 1998.

Also, there might be a larger consideration as a whole if the University of Missouri cannot charge tuition. On Jan. 24, The Wall Street Journal ran an article by American University economics Professor Bradley R. Schiller. In the article, he examined the state of California's decision to offer free tuition to its residents if the student has met academic and financial requirements. Because of capacity issues, California students have a hard time getting into colleges and classes of their choice. The \$9.4 billion cost of education consumed 12 percent of the state's budget, and enrollment is expected to increase 30 percent over the next eight years.

Herman says the school should have thought of these implications before violating the law. Herman thinks the school should be OK if they lose the lawsuit. "I'm sure the judge would work something out," Herman said.

Russell said the University is confident the issue will be resolved, and that they'll let the courts address it as they're ready.

"I don't think we fault the gentleman for pursuing his lawsuit. He feels very strongly about it," Russell said. "We've made our case to the court and we've sought some clarification of the law to reflect the actual intent of the legislature. I think that's the wholesome way to approach this."

Fashion show or concert?



Bob Case and his Wild Accusations let the good times roll this past Tuesday in the Millennium Student Center during the Mardi Gras celebration.

Darren Brune/The Current

Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Feb. 27

• German Film "Run Lola Run" (1999) will be presented in Century Room A, 3rd floor of the Millennium Student Center, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Free. Complimentary snacks and sodas.

• Looking for a Bible Study
Non-denominational Bible Study meets from 11 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Tuesdays in Room 313 at the Millennium Center. The meeting on Wednesday is from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room 315. Bring your own lunch. For details, call 516-6901.

• Brazilian Carnival will be held at the Millennium Student Center, Rotonda 1st floor, from noon to 1 p.m. Call 516-5262 for more information.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 28

• Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes will be held at the Millennium Student Center in the Century Room, from 12:20 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. For more information, call Newman Center at (314) 385-3455.

• Meeting for OUT -UMSL's Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgendered Alliance- in Room 384 at the Millennium Center, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call Mathew at 516-5013 or at 636-230-7483.

• African Diaspora Literature Discussion will be held at Clark Hall, Room 211, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, call 516-7864.

• "Creating the 21st Century School: Promising Practices" will be presented by Dr. Carole Murphy from the College of Education at UMSL, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Cypress Room of the University Center. For more information, call 516-5273.

• Rec Sports Registration Deadlines today for the Racquetball Tournament of March 5-9 and the Team Trivia Contest of March 10. For more information about the events, call 516-5326.

Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Violeta Dimitrova, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, March 1

• "Courage and Conscience: Rescue and Resistance During the Holocaust" is a free lecture at the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, Kopolow Building, Board Room. Opening hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 516-6495.

Friday, March 2

• Astronomy Colloquium: "IR Observations and Models of Volcanism on Io" will be presented from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 328 at Benton Hall. Free. For details, call 516-5933.

• Soup with Sister 5 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information, call 385-3455.

Saturday, March 3

• Sigma Pi hosts its rush party at 9:00 p.m. at the Sigma Pi Fraternity House. Girls must be over the age of 18, and guys must have a valid ID. All UMSL students and guests are invited. Call 426-0078 for more details.

Sunday, March 4

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

Monday, March 5

• Monday Noon Series "Natural Bridge and Literary Editing: What Gets Published and Why" is presented by the editors Steven Schreiner, David Carkeet, and Mary Troy. The event is held in the J. C. Penney Building, room 229, from noon to 1 p.m. Free and open to the public. For inquiries, call Karen Lucas at (314) 516-5699.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

February 15, 2001

A student reported that while her vehicle was parked at Lot "Y" on the South Campus between 5:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., unknown persons tried to steal the vehicle from the lot. In the attempted theft of the vehicle, the steering column was damaged. A Pioneer brand AM/FM/CD player was stolen from the dash along with 16 compact discs.

February 19, 2001

A student reported that his Winter/2001 parking permit was stolen from his vehicle, parked on Lot "Y" some time between 2/7/01 at 9 a.m. and 2/8/01 at 2 p.m.

A staff person reported that some time between 2/16/01 at 4 p.m. and 2/19/01 at 7 a.m., various hand tools valued at \$787.00 were stolen from several

University-owned vehicles. They were stored within a fenced lot at the rear of the General Services Building. Entry into each vehicle was gained by breaking door glass.

A person was arrested at 7:30 p.m. for a parole violation in Illinois. The person was taken into custody at the Social Sciences Building.

February 21, 2001

A person was arrested on Parking Lot "E" at 10:50 a.m. on outstanding warrants.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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The Current is now accepting applications for 2001-2002 Editor-in-Chief.

To qualify, students must:

- be enrolled in good standing
- not be on disciplinary probation
- have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- have completed a minimum of nine academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

To apply, students must submit:

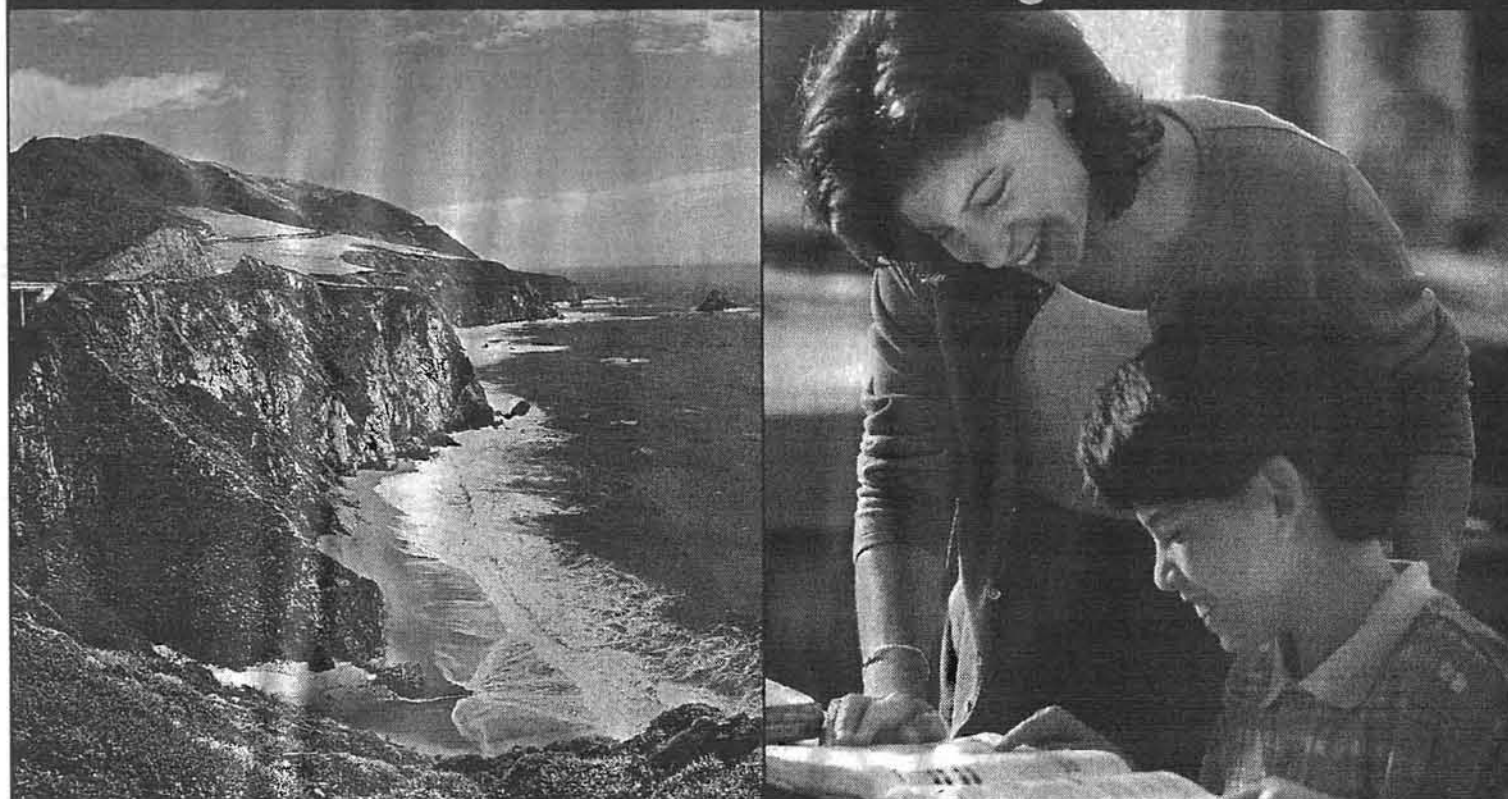
- a résumé
- a cover letter
- three letters of reference

Applicants must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand. Experience in journalism and management is strongly recommended, but not required.

Please submit all application materials to the Editor-in-Chief by 5 p.m. on Mar. 5 at this address:

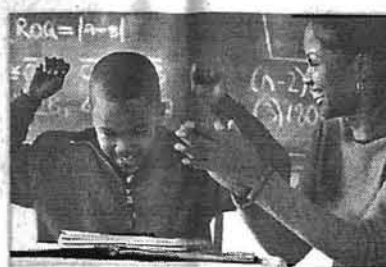
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Let's talk about sex

BY JENNIFER DODD
staff writer

Byron laces up his other hiking boot and stuffs his book bag with books. He yells to his roommates that he is off to the "library." Yet Byron arrives at the Millennium Center, takes a deep breath, and enters the room where Dr. Ruth will be discussing sex and other topics relevant to sex.

Byron sees J.C., his other roommate, and the cute blonde from last semester's public relations class. The blonde smiles at him, and Byron settles into his chair for a very entertaining and interesting lecture.

Many people at UMSL were just like Byron at the Millennium Center, where it hosted renown psychosexual therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Ruth was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1956; she obtained a master's degree and a Doctorate of Education at Columbia University.

Besides doing radio, Dr. Ruth's television career is in full swing. She is featured on Lifetime's "The Dr. Ruth Show," and she is also involved in print with her Dr. Ruth syndicated column.

Ruth was at UMSL's campus fifteen years ago, and she talked about all the recent changes that have gone on since then in the field of sex and intimacy.

The main reason for her touring campuses was to promote that "One billion unintended pregnancies has risen from one million. I want to get the number down and feel that the educational process is helpful. There are also diseases such as AIDS that need to be discussed," stated Ruth in her lecture.

One of the reasons why Ruth attracts a large audience is because she uses catchy sayings. "There is a Jewish tradition that says a lesson with humor, is a lesson retained," and that sex is a private matter," commented Ruth.

Ruth touched base on many taboo subjects such as masturbation, abor-



Left: Dr. Ruth Westheimer visited UMSL on this past Thursday and held a lecture about intimacy. She is visiting campuses throughout the nation due to an extreme increase in unintended pregnancies.

Below: Dr. Ruth autographs her book "Rekindling Romance for Dummies" for Matthew O'Brien after her lecture on this past Thursday.

Maggie Matthews / The Current



tion, oral sex, and homosexual relationships. "I feel that abortion must remain legal. Because before July 1, 1970, in New York state only rich women with money could afford to fly and get abortions in Mexico or in Europe.

"Middle-class women and others had to deal with botched abortion jobs or back-alley ones," commented the New York resident Ruth.

Ruth also went into depth about female sexuality and some of the myths that surround it. "One of the main reasons why many women don't reach climax is because they

see DR. RUTH, page 8

Battling sexes fight it out at UMSL

BY SARA PORTER
staff writer

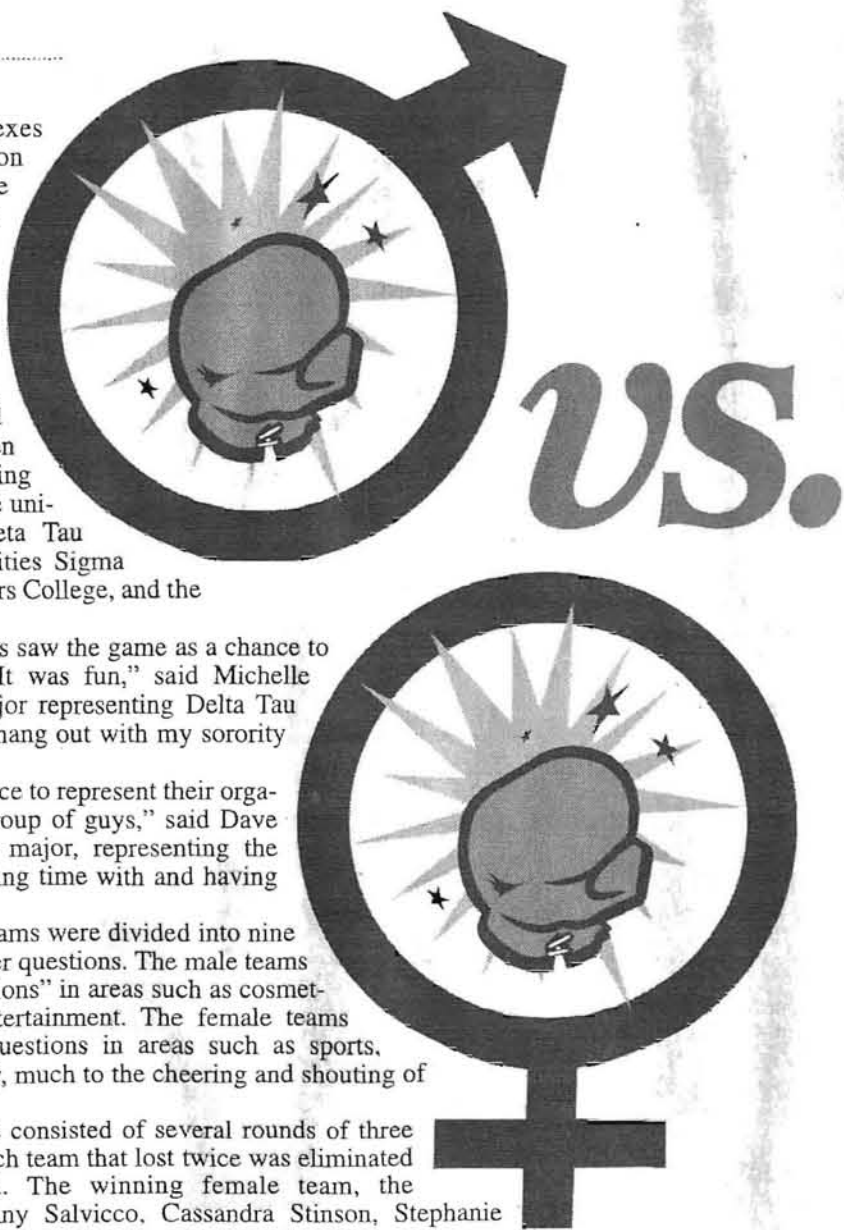
The Battle of the Sexes Tournament, which took place on Wednesday, February 21, at the Millennium Center, produced a large turnout of people who knew what product Paul Mitchell was known for (hair care), and what a dipstick is used for in a car (to measure oil). Based on a popular trivia game, the highly congregated tournament consisted of eighteen gender-specific teams representing various organizations around the university, including sororities Zeta Tau Alpha, Alpha Xi Delta, fraternities Sigma Tau Gamma, Alpha Pi, the Honors College, and the Newman Center among others.

Many of the tournament-goers saw the game as a chance to have fun with their friends. "It was fun," said Michelle Parrott, a special education major representing Delta Tau Zeta. "It was a good chance to hang out with my sorority sisters."

Other players saw it as a chance to represent their organizations. "These are a great group of guys," said Dave Banebrake, a political science major, representing the Honors College. "I love spending time with and having fun with people."

In the first round, eighteen teams were divided into nine rounds and asked 15 to 20 gender questions. The male teams were asked so called "girl questions" in areas such as cosmetics, fashion, literature, and entertainment. The female teams were asked so called "guy" questions in areas such as sports, mechanics, science, and military, much to the cheering and shouting of the audience.

The second half of the game consisted of several rounds of three lightning round questions, as each team that lost twice was eliminated leaving a few teams behind. The winning female team, the Eliminators, consisting of Ginny Salvicco, Cassandra Stinson, Stephanie Glynn, and Laura Beamer, won a traveling "Battle of the Sexes" trophy.



Maggie Matthews / The Current

(Above:) Greek Guys and (Below:) Delta Zeta compete for the Battle of the Sexes trophy in Century Hall at the Millennium Student Center last Thursday.



Maggie Matthews / The Current

REMARKS

EDITOR

WE NEED ONE!

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EVENTS

March 2-4

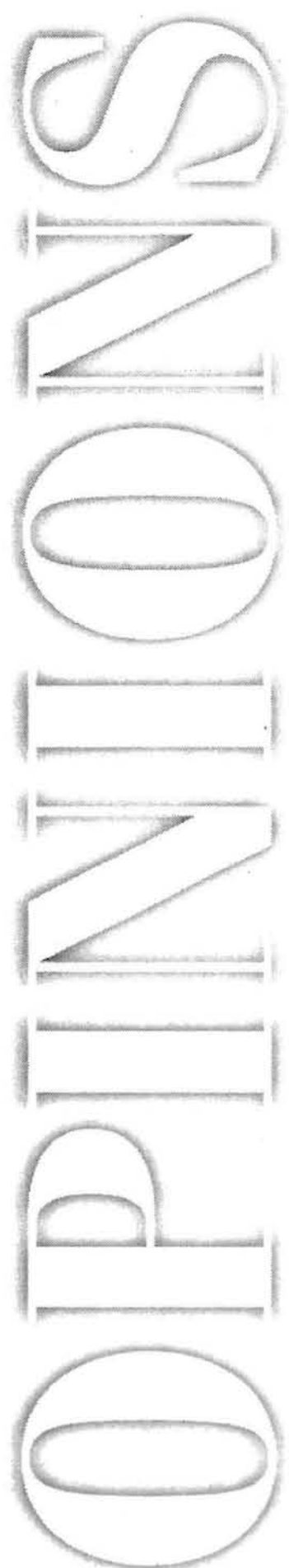
Dance St. Louis and Edison Theater's Ovations Series present Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company in "You Walk?" at the Edison Theater at 8 p.m. on March 2 and 3 and 2 p.m. on March 4. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors. Call Dance St. Louis at 314-534-6622 or the Edison Theater at 314-935-6543 for information.

March 5

Dr. Neal Barnard will read from and sign his book "Turn Off the Fat Genes: The Revolutionary Guide to Taking Charge of the Genes That Control Your Weight" at Left Bank Books at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call Lisa Greening and Michelle Hand at (314) 367-6731.

March 6

Lecturer Elizabeth Gentry Sayad will present "Two Hundred Years of Celebrations and Legacies Inspired by Louisiana Purchase" at the Missouri History Museum at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, please call Susan Clifton Alan at (314) 454-3150.



OUR OPINION

UM parental notification policy will help students

Over the last decade, underage binge drinking on college campuses has escalated to alarming proportions. It is a shameful national trend that must be reversed. Some people just don't handle alcohol responsibly, that is an undeniable fact. Every student, faculty and staff member has a right to feel safe and secure while on campus. Accordingly, college administrators have the responsibility to set and enforce rules and regulations to ensure this safety and security. As a result, we support the parental notification policy which will soon be instituted on all campuses in the UM System.

The 1990s saw drug and alcohol abuse on college campuses intensify nationwide. To augment the problem, college administrators were not diligent when it came to disciplinary action regarding students who were constantly out of control. Without any fear of prosecution, some students began drinking and using drugs on an even greater scale. With increased consumption came binge drinking. This led directly and indirectly to rapid increases in violent crimes such as sexual assaults and murder. Obviously, looking the other way and pretending there wasn't a problem ironically ended up creating a problem of enormous magnitude.

The Student Government Association had a fantastic discussion of the parental notification issue at its meeting last week. The Assembly then passed a resolution sponsored by the Associated Students of the University of Missouri condemning parental notification because it violates students' privacy rights. Unfortunately, this action and others like it fail to see the bigger, broader picture.

We strongly support a student's right to privacy. However, there are other issues involved here that go far beyond that right to privacy. For instance, there is the issue of public safety. Students who pay good money to attend a particular university have the right to feel secure while on that campus. They should feel free to go out at night, go jogging, go for a stroll, go for a drive, or just go to class without having to worry about being assaulted by an irresponsible intoxicated individual. In addition, the issue of public health is also at stake. To prove this, one can take a look at a recent Harvard University study done on binge drinking by Dr. Harrold Wexler. This turned up unmistakable evidence that such behavior during one's youth led directly to more serious alcohol problems in the future.

We believe that many positives can arise from parental notification. First, such a mandate can serve to stop a potential problem from escalating out of control. If parents of underage binge drinkers are made aware of the problem, they could intervene and help the student regain mental and emotional balance. This, in turn, could go a long way toward preventing the more serious future problems identified in the Harvard University study.

In addition, parental notification just might protect both parents and universities from future lawsuits

The issue:

University of Missouri administrators are currently developing a policy on notifying underage students' parents of multiple alcohol and drug violations. Some student groups oppose this policy, saying it violates students' privacy rights.

We suggest:

The University is on the right track with this policy, which will help combat the alcohol-abuse problem that pervades higher education.

So what do you think?

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

resulting from drunk driving accidents and alcohol-related crimes.

In summation, universities and students alike have much more to gain from mandated parental notification than they stand to lose.

Arab nations pose tough challenge for America

Recently, Arab leaders from many different nations condemned the joint U.S.-British air strikes against Iraq. The growing anti-America sentiment in these Arab nations has been covered by the media a lot lately.

When I was in Israel just a few months ago, I was exposed to things that made me believe America and the Arab world may soon be at odds.

My group had the great fortune of meeting and talking with Palestinians and Israeli Arabs. Because of the continuing violence, the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks dominated many of these discussions.

For lunch one day, we met a Palestinian professor at a restaurant in Jerusalem. Nafez Nazzal, who is closely connected to the Palestinian Authority, was an eloquent speaker, clearly passionate about his people and their plight. He launched into a look at the recent history of the region from the Palestinian perspective—one which differs greatly from the Jewish perspective.

As Nazzal continued speaking and began fielding questions, there was definitely tension in the room. I got the impression that he didn't hold our group of aspiring American journalists in high regard. Maybe it was because we were Americans. Maybe it was because we were journalists. Perhaps it was because we were detached from the conflict going on in Israel, and he felt we didn't know much about it. Maybe he was just having a tough day.

At one point, Nazzal rose from his chair and exclaimed, "The Jews get compensation from the whole world! Why not my people? They uprooted

us, we will not forget. We are human beings and by hook or crook, we will live in our land." A momentary hush fell across the room. The conversation quickly picked up again. I marveled at Nazzal's intensity. On the one hand he was polite, but at times he seemed to hold us in disdain. I wondered what he really thought about us and the things we represented.

Later in the trip we met an Israeli journalist who described his belief that America's enemies in the future might not be Russia and China, but the Arab countries, allied together.

To some people, this might seem unlikely. Wasn't it just 10 years ago that America gathered a coalition of Arab countries and invaded Iraq? Don't we have allies in the relatively moderate Arab nations of Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

Perhaps so. But consider the differences between the "new" values of our post-modern, cultural-relativistic America and hardline Islam. Not all Arabs are Muslim, that's true, just as not all Americans are secular humanists. But I believe it's clear that the chasm between America and the Islamic Arab nations is widening.

And then look again at the headlines. Egypt chastises President Bush. Arab leaders critical of American foreign policy. OPEC decreases production, despite American demand. Mobs burn American and Israeli flags.

After eight years of Clinton's approach to foreign policy, which many Arab leader believe was one-sided, it will be interesting to see how the Bush administration deals with this volatile region.



JOSH RENAUD editor-in-chief

GUEST COMMENTARY

MSC transforming campus life

The sun was shining at UMSL the other day. Maybe it's just me, but I don't think that happens very often. I noticed the phenomenon as I walked through the Millennium Student Center to get to my class in Lucas Hall. My path is not the most direct, but I love walking through the Student Center to see all of the activity. On this particular day, President's Day, not only was the sun shining, but also the MSC was rocking. Live singers were performing downstairs. The only extraordinary thing about this scene was that I thought it was ordinary. UMSL is like it has never been in the four years I've gone here: a lively homecoming week, host of a nationally recognized speaker, and a home to banners covering every inch of available space promoting various

events. What or who is responsible for this change? While there is no one answer to this question, I have some candidates in mind, such as those dedicated and spirited individuals who work in the Student Activities office. In many ways, Student Activities resembles a neighborhood redevelopment organization. They are the neighborhood activists who get out and plant in the flowerbeds, organize potluck dinners to meet new neighbors, and sponsor parades. Just as it would be unrealistic to expect neighborhood activists to entice a Fortune 500 company to relocate to their premises, Student Activities can't do much about the quality or quantity of faculty members. What they can control, however, is the aesthetics of campus life.

And they have done just that; everything in the rotunda of space covering three floors is fostering a sense of community.

Chancellor Touhill made the initial investment into campus life by orchestrating the construction of the new Student Center. She is leading the campus as it fights an uphill battle to improve its perception in order to change its reality. The change is occurring on many levels: from the structure and the organization, to the increasing number of students who take the time to join, vote, and simply attend. I noticed the effect the culmination of efforts had on me, as the sun never left my back as I rode up the escalators and across the bridge to class.

--Marygrace Rhoda

Advertisements send sometimes hurtful ideas

The aim of advertisers is to sell, and sell using whatever technique possible from sex appeal to that intrinsic good feeling that you feel when you purchase a particular product.

I understand these people have a job and duty in this society. I saw one advertisement recently that used an issue I feel strongly about to sell their vehicle.

In this commercial, an attractive, obsessively happy couple was on the way to a theater in their SUV. The couple smiles at each other knowing that they are on the way to Fox or to the Metropolitan.

Then tragedy strikes and they see a stray dog wandering around near a busy street. Oh, by the way it was raining. Not just drizzling, but pouring. The couple looks across at each other from their seats and realize what they should do.

The man parks right in front of the curb where the dog is wandering. The man gets out of the car and gently picks up the obedient dog and places it in the car. The couple simply gives up their plans and expensive tickets and I assume take the dog home.

Then this masculine heavy voice says something like, "For doing that one thing right you do in your life, you deserve this car, which just happens to be Land Rover Discovery."

My first thought after I this commercial for the first time was wondering dogs just don't allow themselves to be picked up by complete

strangers. I know this from personal experience. A few weeks ago I saw a dog running on Natural Bridge. It was a Sunday night, a rainy one if I remember correctly.

I didn't park in the middle of the street: I parked near Woods Hall, in the fire zone. I got out of my car and ran after the dog, attempting to keep it from getting hit. The dog would not come near me, so I chased him a few yards away from the street.

This dog I didn't know, but even my own dog, Cokie, won't have anything to do with me when she runs away, except taunt and run circles around me.

I didn't walk into the street to validate a Land Rover. I don't own one. I tried to help the dog because I love animals.

Just because you commit one beneficial act in your life doesn't make material possessions the reward of your existence. And what if on your pursuit of money you ruined other lives, but you helped save a dog's life? Does that make your actions acceptable?

You can read this and say that I'm overreacting. But you can't say that, as a society, television does not affect our actions and that commercials like these are harmless.

They pervade our subconscious and make otherwise hurtful things acceptable and otherwise valued things unacceptable.



ANNE PORTER managing editor

LETTERS

UMSL pilfers students' pocketbooks

I have been frustrated by the huge increases in parking fees. We pay more than every University of Missouri school in the system. It almost seems like we are being taken advantage of, because the student body isn't united. There has been a lot of attention given to this lately, but parking is only one of the ways in which the students at UMSL are being hit in the pocket book. The food prices are astronomical! It costs on average of \$6.00 to

eat lunch in The Nosh. Why are they charging such high prices for the food? We are students here, yet paying prices for food that resemble the prices of restaurants! At other schools, there are other bookstores that sell text books, so that there is competition and an opportunity for students to have other avenues for buying the books! Not only do students then have a way to shop around for the best book price, but they can see which shop will offer

them the best price when they sell it back! UMSL is not very concerned for its students. It seems like it is run like more of a business, than a school.

When UMSL supports the students and tries working with their limited budgets, then I will start supporting them by being an active alumna.

--Stephanie Falast

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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.



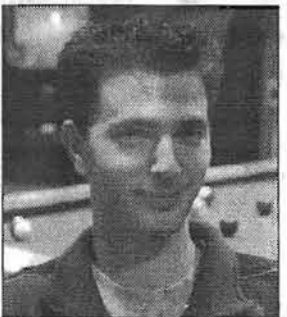
Aya Nemoto Junior / Communications

It's terrible. UMSL raises the fee for parking every year, but they don't give us enough space.



Teuaz Shiraziau Freshman / Photography

It sucks. It's terrible.



Kayuan Lavasani Junior / Computer Science

I like to park. I have a class early in the morning, so I've never had a problem.



Mehdi Emamjome Sophomore / Computer Science

I think they should pay ME to park!

What do you think about parking at UMSL?

UMSL teams reach tournament

R-women enter with high hopes

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

For the fourth season in a row, the UMSL Riverwomen basketball squad will have a winning season, which is a school record for the women's basketball program. Under the guidance of Head Coach Shelly Ethridge, the women have added to a streak that will send the team to Evansville, Ind., for the third consecutive year as UMSL vies for the Great Lakes Valley Conference title March 1-3.

In their latest contest last weekend against the St. Joseph's Pumas, the Riverwomen, led by junior Lynette Wellen's double-double, took an 80-70 decision to bump their GLVC record to 10-8, placing them in a tie for the No. 5 slot with IUPUI-Ft. Wayne. IPFW is ineligible for the tournament because their university has requested to leave the GLVC and compete in Division I athletics.

With the final remaining games against No. 2-ranked Northern Kentucky and No. 7-ranked Indianapolis, the Riverwomen will most likely head into the tournament with a No. 5 seed, which places them in a good situation to move into the later rounds of the tournament. To win the crown, however, the Riverwomen will have to face very stiff competition.

The Riverwomen ran into the tough competition this past Thursday when they mangled with Northern Kentucky on the road. The Norse jumped ahead early and led going into half-time 40-17. UMSL for the first half shot 24% from the field, compared to Northern Kentucky's 53%.

Northern Kentucky then led by as many as 30 points in the second half, defeating the Riverwomen 84-63. NKU out-rebounded UMSL 43-24 for the game. UMSL was led by Lindsay Brefeld who scored 13 points, while Tanisha Albert and Christy Lane each had 12 and 10 respectively.

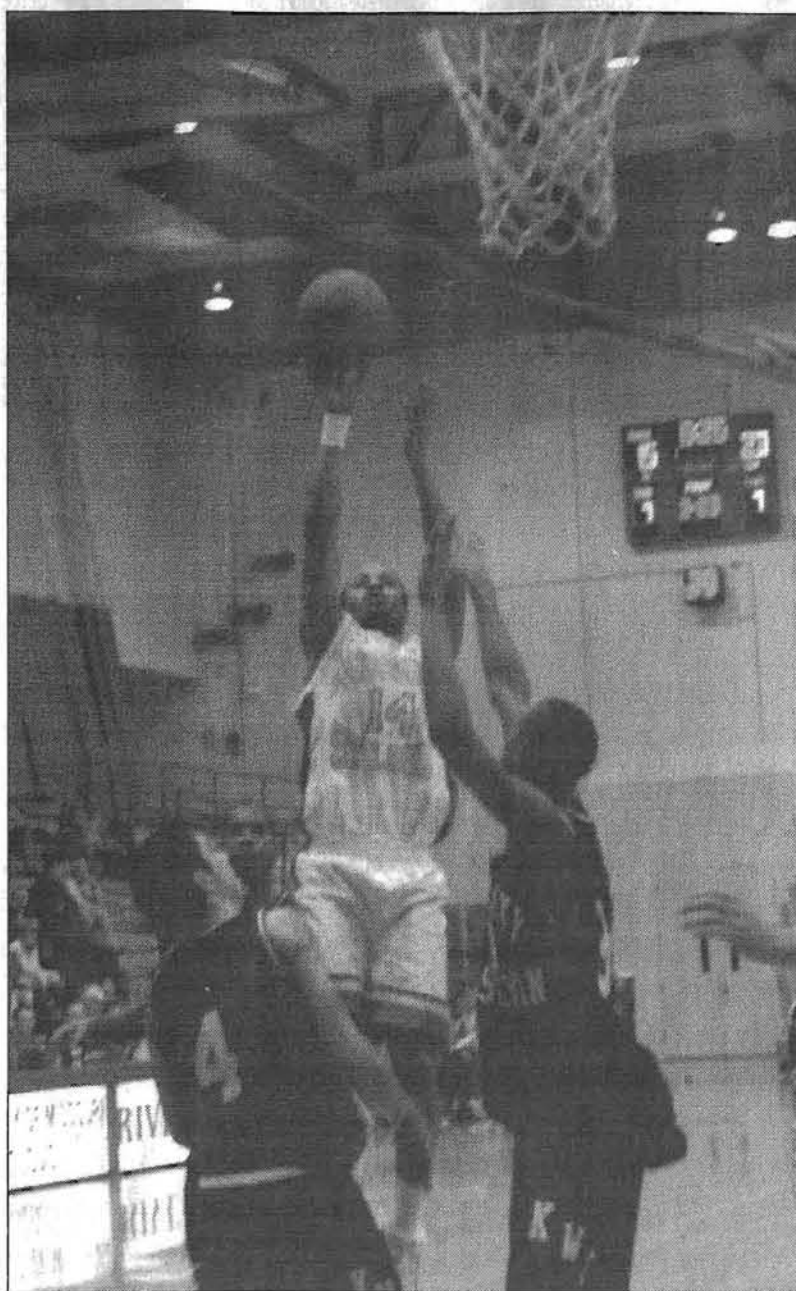
The GLVC has a reputation for producing top-quality teams and this year's crop is no exception, as three teams in the conference have received national attention. Northern Kentucky has played its way to the No. 8 spot, while Southern Indiana sits No. 15. Most appalling, however, is Kentucky Wesleyan, who despite a 5-13 overall record in the conference, received an honorable mention. To compare, UMSL has a 14-11 overall record, and both teams have common opponents.

Memories of last season's NCAA national title run are very much still vivid in the minds of the Riverwomen. The Riverwomen advanced to the second round of the GLVC before losing a contest to Indianapolis. UMSL had a 20-point lead in the game, but the Greyhounds closed the gap and eventually won the contest 70-69, stalling the Riverwomen's advance to the title match.

The season appeared to be over when Assistant Coach Melanie Marcy fielded a phone call that many would consider a lifeline. The selection board had seeded UMSL in the NCAA national tournament and the Riverwomen advanced to the second round before falling to Northern Michigan 97-73.

This year, Ethridge will have a couple more weapons to attack with in Christy Lane and Lynette Wellen, but minus Tawanda Daniel from last season. Both players have come on very strong as of late and will be looked on to carry the brunt of the workload for the team.

One thing the Riverwomen will try to avoid in the postseason is overtime games. This year, the Riverwomen played a total of seven overtime contests, including two that have gone to double overtime. UMSL is 3-4 in those games and .500 in the double overtime contests.



Darren Brunel/The Current

Greg Ross takes aim over a wall of opponents at a recent game. Ross has played an important role in the Rivermen's success this year.

Rivermen set sights high in GLVC playoffs

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

With only two games remaining in the 2000-2001 season for conference foes Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky, the Rivermen's basketball team looks poised to make another run for the Great Lakes Valley Conference title. With a 67-53 victory over Saint Joseph's College last weekend, UMSL has worked into the No. 5 spot in the GLVC. The top eight teams from the conference are invited to Evansville, Ind., for the annual tournament.

Senior Greg Ross is expected to lead the charge into the postseason, as in his last two games, he scored over 20 points, including a season-high 26 against St. Joseph's. Brian Markus and Jim Shelich will also be looked upon to produce from three-point land, where both men are hitting over the .300 mark.

The Rivermen's defense, a match-up zone style, has continued to be among the stingiest in the GLVC. Through last weekend, opposing teams have found themselves scoring an average of 66.1 points per contest. Only one team, Kentucky Wesleyan College, was able to score in the triple digits, a 70-101 out of the Rivermen on Nov. 30. Since that game, only one team has broken the 80-point mark as No. 2 nationally ranked Southern Indiana scored 84 on Jan. 15. UMSL held Truman State to a season-low 34 points in a victory Dec. 30.

Throughout the season, UMSL has

experienced a fair share of ups and downs. The Rivermen's post-season hopes looked dark in the beginning when the team started GLVC play with five straight losses. In fact, the Rivermen did not reach .500 in conference play until last weekend's victory.

"A season is a growing process," said Head Coach Mark Bernsen. "You can't predict how a team is going to do in the first few games. The team needs to build together, find out what works and what doesn't, and learn and grow from there."

When the Rivermen arrive in Evansville, they will more than likely face either Lewis or St. Joseph's. UMSL lost to Lewis in their only meeting of the season 65-75 Jan. 3, but defeated St. Joseph's in both contests, so the prospects of a long stay in Indiana are fairly good.

However, in order to take the GLVC crown, the Rivermen will have to go through three of the best 25 teams in NCAA Division II basketball. As of Feb. 19, Northern Kentucky, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Southern Indiana were all ranked nationally no. 15, no. 4, and no. 2 respectively. Those three teams also occupy three of the top four spots in the Great Lakes region as well. Last year's team was ousted in the first round by then-defending national champion Kentucky Wesleyan 65-70. This is the second year in a row under Bernsen that UMSL has been invited to the tournament.

Lane makes welcome addition to UMSL

BY NICK BOWMAN
staff writer

Jefferson County is the home of big trucks, big crops, and big sports. Fortunately for UMSL, Christy Lane was the third.

Since Lane learned to lace up her own high-tops, she has played basketball for local teams in her hometown Imperial, Missouri. As a girl, she first suited up for St. Johns of the CYC league, and has not looked back.

"I've always wanted to play basketball," said Lane, "and I don't want to stop. I'd love to finish my career here and maybe play professionally."

In her first year at UMSL, Lane has made an impact on her teammates and her head coach, Shelly Ethridge. Throughout this season, Lane has been near the top in 3-point percentage, points, and minutes. She also recorded two double-doubles in a row during Homecoming Week, the first two of her UMSL career.

"When we brought Christy in here, we expected a lot from her," said Ethridge. "She's really come into her own, and you can start to see that the other teams in our conference are beginning to recognize that."

Before coming to UMSL, Lane already had been recognized. As a high school student, Lane played for the first Seckman High School varsity squad in that young school's history. This created an odd situation, because Seckman was formed by using students and faculty from the overly-crowded Fox High School. Both schools are in the same school district and conference, which pitted Lane against many of her former teammates.

"It was a little weird playing against those girls [at Fox]," Lane said. "But at the same time, starting a new program was a lot of fun. It was an overall good experience."

While earning a 3.8 GPA in the classroom, Lane centered the varsity

Jaguar squad to a Suburban South district title in 1998, the school's first. During her senior campaign, Lane played her way to the first-team all-state squad while earning Player of the Year honors for the Suburban South conference, and eventually earning the respect and attention of college coaches.

But Ethridge would not win the initial battle. That distinction would go to the University of Missouri-Rolla, where Lane made both the squad and the grade.

"I chose Rolla because the school has a very good reputation," said Lane. "I could get a solid degree and also I wanted to get away from home a bit."

However, Lane soon found that the field of grain in Rolla would not suit her tastes, and found herself quickly losing confidence in her coaching staff, who seemed content with a mediocre squad.

"It got to the point that if we won five games, that was a successful year," said Lane. "And that really frustrated me. I knew that I couldn't stay in Rolla, and that was a scary feeling."

So Lane did the unthinkable, and asked her coach for a release. This was particularly tough because until an NCAA athlete is released, he or she is forbidden to talk with any other school.

"It was one of the hardest things that I've ever had to do," said Lane. "I didn't know if I'd ever get to play ball again."

Fortunately for UMSL, Lane had a few close friends that went to Riverwomen games, and talked to her about the team. When Lane heard about the success that Ethridge had been having, that they had just qualified for the NCAA national tournament, she was excited.

"I got to talk to Coach [Ethridge], and the whole feeling up here was great," said Lane. "The quality of basketball here is great, and people seem to really care. There are a lot



Darren Brunel/The Current

Christy Lane attempts a shot for two over a fallen opponent at a recent game.

SPORTS

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

sports editor

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GAMES

Baseball

at Evangel College

2:00 pm, Fri., Mar. 2

v. Southwest Baptist

12:30 pm, Tues., Mar. 6

Softball

v. Missouri-Rolla

4:00 pm, Thur., Mar. 1

at McKendree

1:00 pm, Sun., Mar. 4

NEXT WEEK

Meet the new Baseball and Softball teams as *The Current* introduces you to a whole new season of UMSL sports

Congratulations to Rivermen on suprising season



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

What a difference a little bit of patience makes this season for the Rivermen's basketball squad. After a slow, 1-6 start to the season, UMSL has certainly shown that some light does exist at the end of the tunnel.

I never would have thought (and I apologize to Head Coach Mark Bernsen) that this Rivermen's squad would have made it to the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament this season, let alone be in the hunt for a no. 4 or a no. 5 ranking going into Evansville, Indiana.

But you have to remember that I come from the generation at *The*

Current that is not used to the Rivermen's basketball team winning games, let alone being over the .500 mark this late in the season. The "Meckfessel Era," as I call it, was made up of a team that had no heart, no dedication and most of all, no enthusiasm for the game. They made no attempt to get a large crowd at the Mark Twain Gymnasium to see the Rivermen play during the regular season.

The team was a bunch of self-indulged players who were out for statistics, not victories. Once Bernsen took the reigns at UMSL, the tides changed and discipline began.

Terence Herbert excelled last season, although he was kept out of the GLVC tournament due to an eye injury, which later received surgery.

Greg Ross, I believe, is the only player that was part of the Meckfessel era that is still here and has blossomed under Bernsen and his defensive system and the up-tempo offensive aggression. Ross, the leading scorer this season for the Rivermen, has shined this season with a very defense-minded Rivermen's team.

The team ranks no. 1 in the GLVC in defense and it shows why they have been so successful this season. The old saying, "defense wins basket-

ball games," definitely proves true this season because of the overall winning percentage of this year's squad. Their offense is produced off of their stingy defense with quick guards in Michael Hamilton, Greg Ross and Anthony Love, while the trio will also be visited by an old friend, Juan Dumphord, who returns from some academic problems to join the Rivermen's team.

The Rivermen may not be a big team size-wise this season, but the little people are definitely making it easier to write about basketball this season. The little things that the Rivermen are doing right are showing

and the attendance for both the Rivermen and Riverwomen's games is improving due to signs of productivity from the teams.

The Rivermen will enter the GLVC tournament as an underdog this season because, well, who is UMSL in basketball? All of the teams in the tournament do not have the capabilities of the Rivermen's squad, but a warning for them: defense wins games. The Rivermen will surprise a couple of teams in the GLVC tournament this season, but have definitely made a mark for themselves in the conference as a team that is blossoming into a winning program.

'Recess' plays well for kids and animation fans

BY SARAH PORTER
staff writer

There are two kinds of animated films in this world. One is the kind made for families with adults in mind, such as the epic Disney films, and many of the Dreamworks movies, such as "Prince of Egypt" and "Road to El Dorado." The other kind of animated film is the one that is strictly made for kids. "Recess: School's Out" falls under the latter category. That does not make "Recess" a bad movie; it just makes me the wrong age for seeing it.

Based on the Disney television series created by Paul Germain and Joe Ansolabehere, "Recess" follows the adventures of a group of elementary school kids as they hang out, get in trouble, and play under the strict eyes of their principal, Mr. Prickly (Dabney Coleman playing another variation of the egomaniac character he honed in such films as "Nine to Five" and "Tootsie"). Also keeping an eye on them is the loud, overbearing Ms. Finster (April Winchell, veteran of the animated series "Goof Troop" and "Mighty Ducks").

T. J. (Andy Lawrence), the leader of the group, is sad because all of his friends are going to camp this summer, until he sees strange men coming in and out of the school. In real life they would be janitors doing some heavy summer cleaning, but since this is Movieland, they are scientists working for the insane Phillip Benedict (played hilariously by James Woods), who plans to alter the moon's rays to get rid of summer vacation. T. J. springs into action by recruiting his friends, the athletic Vince (Ricky



The Kids of "Recess" (from left) - Vince, T.J., Spinelli, Gretchen, Gus and Mikey.

D'Shon Collins), the gentle giant Mikey (Jason Davis), the tough Spinelli (Pamela Seagal), the mousy Gus (Courtland Mead), and the brainy Gretchen (Ashley Johnson), as well as other students and teachers, to fight the bad guys.

The plot is the typical kids-are-convinced-that-there-are-villains-and-no-one-believes-them story. Take away the animation and replace Lawrence and the others with a very young Tommy Kirk, Hayley Mills, and Annette Funicello and it would fit right in with the old Disney comedies of the '50s and '60. Many of the jokes, such as the ones dealing with baby

'Recess: School's Out'
Length: 85 min.
Rated: G
Our opinion: ★★★

thermometers and body humor were aimed squarely at kids and the kids in the audience loved them.

The characters were overplayed, but were expected to be. The kids fell to assigned stereotypes, the Tough Kid, the Brain, the Leader, and so on. There were only two I really enjoyed: Spinelli, because she had the best lines, such as when she was con-

vinced Benedict was an alien, and Gus, who did a cute parody of Patton at the end. Woods' Benedict went to scenery-chewing extremes as a comical villain. The flashback scene, set in the '60, explained how he became insane was the best.

For animation buffs like myself, one of the more interesting parts about this movie is pointing out the voice-overs found in cameos. It's almost an all-star cast for the animation set, with such voice actors as Dan Castellanta ("The Simpsons"), Diedrich Bader ("Buzz Lightyear of Star Command"), Kath Souci ("Mouseworks"), Tress McNeille

("Animaniacs"), E.G. Daily ("Rugrats"), Tony Jay ("Hunchback of Notre Dame"), and Clancy Brown ("Superman") lending their vocal cords to this production.

This is definitely a good film for the kids to kill a Saturday afternoon, or a cartoon fan to hear how many actors they recognize, and if you're a fan of '60 music, stay until the end. There's a performance of "Green Tambourine" sung by Robert Goulet. That, if anything, is worth the price of admission.

Now playing at many major theaters.

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

a&e editor

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fax: 516-6811

MUSIC

February

26

Dri
with 8 Bucks,
Experiment
& Ultraman
7 p.m.
Galaxy

March

1

Stiff Nek Roy
The Way Out Club

2

Patty Larkin
8 PM
The Sheldon

SeXicoLor
with Spiders
The Way Out Club

2 & 3

The Babes
7:30 PM
SIUE Dunham Hall Theater

3

Billy Coma
with
Highway Matrons
and Ouija
The Way Out Club

7

Fred's Variety Group
The Way Out Club

8

Illustria
The Way Out Club

9

St. Louis Philharmonic
Orchestra
8 PM
CASA in U. City

CONCERT REVIEW

Modern a cappella group gains appreciation

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT
staff writer

The Anonymous 4 delivered their interpretation of a medieval ascension mass to a highly appreciative audience Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Sheldon Concert Hall.

The moment the house lights went down, the four female singers were received by an enthusiastic yet reserved clapping of hands. Dressed in black dresses that dusted the floor, and sheer black scarves that wrapped around their shoulders, Marsha

Genensky, Susan Hellauer, Jacqueline Horner, and Johanna Maria Rose crossed the low-lying stage as the crowd hushed. But where were the instruments?

The music came from within each member of the a cappella quartet. Like a real medieval mass, all of the chants were sung in Latin. However, it did not matter that the words were indecipherable, because their voices blended so well together. The formless, intuitive message of music hypnotized the otherwise intellectual audience to attention.



Susan Hellauer, Jacqueline Horner, Marsha Genensky, Johanna Maria Rose from left to right

Just when their attention began to falter, the quartet brought it back, using the power of poetry. Because the Anonymous 4's entire program was based on texts dating back to about c.1000, the group incorporated elements of literature to relate more modern ideas with the medieval ones. The program traced the birth-death-rebirth cycle as it appears in the Bible. Among the chosen literary selections were Ovid's "Metamorphoses," William Butler Yeats' "Second Coming," and William Blake's "The Four Zoas." While the selections were appropriate, the actual readings left room for improvement. These women are singers by nature. When the poems were read, the rhythm of the lines was over-emphasized, detracting from the words themselves. The messages of the poems still came across to the audience, as people read along in their programs.

Despite the quartet's novice poetic performance, the singing was expertise. While the central theme was based on religious practices, the attention was focused on the vocal arrangement. During "Kyrie: Celestis terrestrique," which followed a reading of the "Metamorphoses," one of the singers held a note while two harmonized. The result was a vocalized human violin sound backed by rhythmic chanting. Three members of the quartet functioned as instruments, emphasizing the rising and falling of the remaining soprano vocalist. While this metaphysical stir of sound occurred on the low-rising stage, the audience sat in utter stillness.

The Anonymous 4 communicated the Latin language by the effective use of various tones. "Lectuin: Et vidi celum," a chanting of Revelations 21:1-5, was delivered in a monotone. However, the pitches of each voice added depth and range to the somber

see ANONYMOUS, page 7

ALBUM REVIEW

Nothing new in Hootie



Jim "Soni" Sonefeld, Dean Felber, Darius Rucker, Mark Bryan from left to right

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
staff writer

Hootie and the Blowfish released their fourth album to little fanfare. This was a blessing in disguise for both the band and consumers, as "Scattered, Smothered, & Covered" is an uninspired collection of covers and B-sides that weren't included on previous albums for a very good reason. The cover art and songs for "Scattered" were determined by ballot at budweiser.com, a good indication of how clearly the band and fans were thinking when they put it all together.

This isn't to say that the album is bad, it's not. There's just nothing new here. Hootie's first Atlantic Records release (Cracked Rear View) sounded the same as this one, even though Hootie wrote their own songs for that album. Maybe this is because of the heavy influence of the artists on this new CD, or it could just be that lead singer, Darius Rucker, sounds the same no matter what he does.

As the songs sound virtually identical, and I can't really tell what Darius is moaning about in any of

them, I don't have many comments about the individual songs, because it doesn't seem like there are any.

One track of note is "Driver 8," a song that was done earlier and better by the band REM. Imagine the voice from "Hold my Hand" and "Only Wanna Be With You" singing Roy Orbison's "Dream Baby" (which also appears on the album).

In my opinion, a band has to go a long way before it earns the right to do a cover album, and while Hootie has been around for a while, there isn't enough there musically to merit making new versions of songs that were better left to the people who made them famous. On the other hand, the second half of the album seems much more interesting than the first half, if only because the songs are more familiar. Listening reminded me of a night of karaoke at which somebody does a fair job of singing. The difference here was that this album of covers makes no attempt to sound anything like the originals, but rather puts a distinctly "Hootie" spin on everything, distorting the originals in a way that borders on painful at

see HOOTIE, page 7

As Black History Month ends, meet Bert Williams

As Black History Month comes to a close, I wanted to introduce you to a great African American performer I learned about in my studies of early film history.

Two of the greatest film comedian/directors of all time came out of the silent comedy era - Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin. In the 1920s, Chaplin was considered to be the most famous man in the world, the first international superstar, the greatest comedian in the world, while Keaton's great genius as a director and performer was more fully recognized in the '50s and '60s with the rediscovery of his silent films. A lot of the great performers of early film came out of vaudeville, the wildly diverse and wildly popular entertainment of the turn of the last century,

and both of these men met or worked with all the great performers of that day, in both film and vaudeville. Yet both Chaplin and Keaton wrote in their autobiographies with awe of the privilege of even meeting the man who was considered the greatest performer in the world: Bert Williams.

In an era of extreme racial prejudice, Bert Williams was an African American comedian/singer/pantomime actor who broke every color barrier of his time. Today he is all but forgotten, but this supremely talented man was once regarded as the greatest entertainer in the world, and was the first to break the color barrier both in vaudeville and on Broadway. Vaudeville was variety, featuring comedy, singing and dancing, magic, stunts and novelty acts, all on pro-

grams that would run continuously throughout a day. But in the late nineteenth century, black performers were restricted to a black version of vaudeville called minstrel shows. Ironically, the minstrel shows predated vaudeville, and early vaudeville was a white version of these popular entertainments.

Bert Williams' talent was so great that he was able to cross these barriers, first as a member of the comedy team of Williams and Walker, and later on his own. Williams performed his combination of singing, comedy and pantomime acting on stages formerly restricted to whites only. Buster Keaton, who was a child performer in vaudeville, said in his memoir that race restrictions of the South meant that black and white

performers couldn't stand on stage at the same time, but he thought this was particularly stupid, since everyone mingled freely backstage. But Williams' career took him further, so that he broke through the color barrier entirely to perform side by side with whites in otherwise all-white performances in vaudeville and on Broadway.

In the early years of film, many famous vaudevillians were recorded on film, and one of Bert Williams' most famous routines, the Poker Game Pantomime, was filmed. This piece of film and Bert Williams' musical recordings on wax cylinders (state-of-the-art for the day) are all we have now to record the work and talent of the man who was the first African American to star with whites

in a big-time vaudeville sketch, to star in the Ziegfeld Follies with such greats as W. C. Fields, Eddie Cantor, and Will Rogers, and to be the first black admitted to the Actor's Equity union (the actor's show business union).

I have seen the film clip of Williams and it is an astonishingly funny and touching piece of acting that both transcends its time and makes one sad that more of his work wasn't recorded for future generations.

It is a shame that more people don't know about Bert Williams, the talented African American man about whom the two greatest silent comedy filmmakers spoke with awe as the greatest entertainer of his time.



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Olympic hockey victory rekindled American spirit

The time was 8 p.m. The place was Boulder Hill, Illinois. The date was Feb. 22, 1980. I remember running all the way home from hockey practice, storming into the house, flipping on the television, and turning the channel to ABC Sports. As the picture formed on the screen, I can still hear those famous words from Al Michaels, "Do you believe in miracles? YES!!!"



TIM THOMPSON
history columnist

getic college boys who wore their hearts on their sleeves, and played with a passion that ignited the American spirit. The game itself was nail-biting throughout. It was tied after the first period at 2, and knotted once again at 3 with about 11 minutes to play. Then, in one of the greatest moments in American sports history, team captain Mike Eruzione, whose name in Italian means "eruption," scored a goal right through the legs of two Soviet defensemen. The

crowd erupted into a deafening roar. People cheered and hugged one another in a moment of intense ecstasy. Goalie Jim Craig would then mesmerize the crowd by thwarting a furious Soviet assault, blocking 14 shots over the remaining 10 minutes, thus securing the most improbable victory in Olympic history. The 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team achieved an impossible dream. They were a group of working-class college students just like you and me, who played the game of their lives, defeating the most powerful team in the world. In doing so, they revitalized the American spirit and made people proud to be Americans once again.

Michaels was referring to the United States hockey team's stunning 4-3 victory over the Soviet Union at the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid, N.Y. It was one of the greatest moments in the history of sports, and came during a time when Americans desperately needed something to cheer about.

The 1970's were far from the best of times for the United States. There was the ongoing struggle in Vietnam, the killings at Kent State, the Watergate scandal, runaway inflation, double-digit unemployment rates, enormous interest rates, outrageous taxes, and a crippling gasoline shortage.

Things became so unpleasant in the United States that president Jimmy Carter said the country was suffering from a "malaise that was sapping our national will." Then came the coup de grâce.

On the afternoon of Nov. 4, 1979, Iranian fundamentalists stormed the American embassy in Tehran and took 54 civilians captive. When a military rescue operation by U.S. Special Forces ended in disaster a few weeks later, the spirit of Americans sunk to an all-time low. Americans needed a lift, and needed it badly. Ironically, it would come from a bunch of college kids just like us.

In the summer of 1979, a college hockey coach, Herb Brooks, began recruiting and training a group of young students for the 1980 Winter Olympic Games to be held at Lake Placid, New York. He had his work cut out for him, and then some.

Since winning the gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games, the fortunes of the U.S. hockey team had hit the skids. In fact, they failed to make the medal round during the next four Olympics.

On the other side of the coin, the Soviet Union dominated hockey with incredible fervor. Its Olympic team won four consecutive gold medals, and in the fall of 1979, humiliated the NHL all stars in a three-game series.

The Olympic games are supposed to be for amateur athletes only. However, the Soviet players were all veterans with more than a decade of experience under their belts. They were also army officers. They played hockey year-round. This gave them a tremendous advantage—an unfair advantage, I believe.

Despite the seemingly impossible odds, Herb Brooks would not be unnerved. He pressed his young recruits, and trained them hour after hour and day after day. By September, he had succeeded in molding them into a cohesive unit.

After a whirlwind European tour that saw the team win 41 games, the American players began to believe in one another. Team USA's spirits were riding high, and its confidence grew as the Olympic games drew near. Then disaster came.

On Feb. 9, just three days before the opening ceremonies at Lake Placid, Team USA took on the Soviet Union at Madison Square Garden in a fund-raising exhibition game. The Soviets annihilated the Americans 10-3. It was a humiliating defeat that seemed to put the Americans in their place.

When the hockey competition got underway, the Soviets rolled over Japan and the Netherlands in the opening rounds by a combined score of 33-4. They appeared to be invincible.

However, the Americans advanced in the opening rounds as well. They tied Sweden 2-2 on a last second slap shot, slammed Czechoslovakia 7-3, and stormed from behind to defeat the West Germans 3-2. Incredibly, Team USA had advanced into the medal round.

Then came the showdown with the Soviet Union on Feb. 22. The Soviets, full of themselves, expected to skate to yet another easy victory. However, their expectations would be dashed that night by a group of young, ener-

ANONYMOUS, from page 6

song. The music was not meant to be heard in a negative sense, but rather of an expression of the will of God. All of the vocalists announced the will with conviction, and again the audience was hooked.

While the Anonymous 4 did a beautiful job expressing their interpretation of an ascension mass, the audience had to keep in mind that it was just that—an interpretation. Because they did not have sound recording in the year c.1000, no one really knows how these chants are supposed to be sung. Anonymous 4 chose how to emphasize the melody and tones of each chant that pierced the silent house.

The quartet could not have chosen a better venue than the Sheldon Concert Hall. The highly simplistic

theatre has perfect acoustics in addition to an art gallery and museum on the bottom floor. The stage thrusts out from the walls just high enough to be eye level with the audience sitting in the middle of the orchestra seats. There was also a balcony from which everything could be seen and heard, meaning that no seat is a bad seat in the concert hall.

The group took in a thunderous applause by the audience, and after coming out three times for bows, humbly received a standing ovation. After the concert, the audience, composed mainly of scholars, musicians, and Beatle Bob, mingled in the lobby where CDs were being sold. The Anonymous 4 also came out to greet their public and sign autographs.

HOOTIE, from page 6

Fans of the original versions of any songs on this album will be disappointed, and fans looking for something new from Hootie will likewise be unentertained. If you really, really can't live without owning everything Hootie has done, you might find buying this album worthwhile, but I doubt even hardcore fans like yourselves could listen through it more than a few times.

I haven't totally lost faith in Hootie's ability to put out good music, but they should stick to their own songs rather than sticking their noses in other people's albums.

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Professor lectures on African Churches

BY SARA PORTER
staff writer

Jacob Olupona, new professor of African-American studies at UMSL, will present his lecture on African churches in America at 4 p.m., February 28, in Room 331 of the Social Science Building. He hopes the audience will gain an understanding in an immigrant group he feels is dismissed.

"I hope that they will learn more about the African immigrants," Olupona said. "There is quite a bit of study on South African, Asian, and Caribbean immigrants, but there needs to be more focus on the African immigrants and their ways of life and traditions."

Olupona will lecture on the role of African immigrant churches and how they contribute to the American society. "This is a project that mapped the presence of African churches, and I will display some of my data that contributed to this project," Olupona said.

Olupona says that his lecture will discuss many issues connected with

these churches "The issues of identity, construction of the churches, the role of women, participation of civil rights, and their contributions to their community," Olupona said.

For Olupona, this study took a year and a half to two years to research. "I traveled to various American cities such as New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Washington DC, and San Francisco," Olupona said. "I interviewed various people, studied and attended many churches, and took part in a lot of research."

The churches, Olupona found, are an important part of the African immigrants' lives. "There is a new social network in these churches," Olupona said. "People come in to experience the American Dream, and society must be able to help them."

Olupona, a graduate of Boston University and former professor at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife-Ife, Nigeria, and the University of California-Davis, will begin teaching at UMSL in September. His lecture will be free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Center for International Studies at (314) 516-5753.



Jacob Olupona, new professor of African-American studies, will lecture on African Churches in America this Wednesday.

DR. RUTH, from page 1

don't give themselves permission to. A woman has to give herself permission to be pleased and sexually satisfied," said Ruth.

Another topic that Ruth brought up was male sexuality issues. "At a certain age, the man is no longer in the psychogenic cycle, where he gets aroused by just thinking or lusting about sex. When the man reaches this point, he needs physical stimulation from his partner in order to become fully aroused. Also, Viagra is a very good thing as long as it is coupled with the proper education," stated Ruth.

Besides bringing up current issues such as abortion, Ruth also brought up the importance of cancer awareness. "There is a lot of notice about women doing breast self-exams, but not a lot about men's cancer risks."

Once a month, men should examine their testicles; and should be on the look-out for any irregularities. If these irregularities are caught early, it will save the man a lot of time and possibly his life," said Ruth.

Ruth also empathized with the single crowd in the room and made a nice comparison to single lifestyle. "Get involved in something you enjoy or take up a new hobby. Because at least you gained something out of the evening, even if you didn't meet your perfect match. Also, go out there and look and be involved in the action," commented Ruth.

Ruth also brought up the coupled life. One of her newer books is "Rekindling Romance for Dummies." In the lecture, Ruth cited examples from the book.

"Drop off the kids at the neighbors for the evening or the in-laws and rent a hotel room. Decorate the room with flowers and champagne and enjoy each other's company. Yet, this solution is only for couples who have let the flames of passion simmer to a small steam."

"If the relationship cannot be salvaged by this romantic interlude, then the fire has gone out. The couple probably needs to see a therapist to work out some issues," said Ruth.

Ruth also discussed break-ups and when to get into a new relationship. "Take your time getting into a new relationship and don't rush into anything. Be careful with your heart and guard it carefully. Also, try to remember that people tend to drag out old hurts into a relationship," advised Ruth.

A final note is that Ruth delved into her private life and compared the wants of the romantic relationship to a turtle. "I collect turtles and turtles carry their home on their back and they can get up and move whenever they want. If the turtle wants to move, then they have to stick out their neck. The same thing is true in a relationship: you have to communicate your desires and needs to your partner. Sometimes it can be embarrassing, but you have to stick your neck out and do it," said Ruth.

Byron has a coffee date next Thursday with the blonde from the Dr. Ruth's lecture. They are meeting at Breakaway Cafe to discuss human sexuality and his idiot roommates, who pick chicks up at the library.

Samba Bom kicks off Fat Tuesday in MSC

BY LORI CALLANDER
staff writer

The Mardi Gras carnival is an ancient religious custom that has been modernized into the wildly secular celebration familiar to us today. This modern version is the epitome of free expression, which celebrates a rich blend of traditions from various cultures and creeds. The United States, known as the "melting pot," is rich with diversity represented by a variety of religions and cultures from around the globe. It is no wonder

that the Mardi Gras carnival, which celebrates diversity, has come to a vigorous boil in the Midwest - the center of the melting pot.

St. Louis is home to the second largest Mardi Gras celebration in the nation. Despite the weather last Saturday, thousands of spectators gathered in the streets and bars of Soulard to watch the parade and join in the merriment. However, the REAL Mardi Gras holiday does not actually take place until Fat Tuesday, which falls on February 27 this year. Fat Tuesday ("Mardi Gras" in French) is the last evening before the beginning of the fast of Lent in the

Catholic Church. In order to bring the celebration to the UMSL community during the school week, the Hispanic-Latino Association (HISLA) has sponsored a festive musical event, which features the Brazilian band Samba Bom.

Samba Bom, meaning "good samba," is a band comprised of international musicians who have come together to produce a medley of Brazilian beats. Authentic Brazilian music celebrates the rich heritage of the country and reflects a blend of cultures and musical styles. It derives from the music of native South Americans, with contributions

from the folk songs of the Portuguese and the rhythm of African colonists. The seductive and celebratory rhythm of the samba beat includes many percussion instruments. Moacyr Marchini, who provides percussions and vocals in Samba Bom, leads the band. He feels that Brazilian music is enhanced by the combining of diverse musical cultures to make one interesting and enticing sound.

Samba Bom will add Brazilian flare and flavor to the Millennium Student Center as they perform traditional samba music on Fat Tuesday, February 27, beginning at noon.

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SGA, from page 1

After much discussion, a vote was finally taken. The SGA resolution against the policy passed by a vote of 40-11, with one abstention.

Other news: In his report, Ryan Connor, president of the SGA, encouraged every student to attend the parking forum on Feb. 27 in the Student Government Chamber on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Many administrators have been invited.

"We are going to get a lot of questions answered," Connor said. "If we don't let the administration know how unhappy we are, there is no reason to complain."

Connor said that because parking fees are optional, the administration can raise them without going before the Board of Curators. Connor wants to know why we don't have sufficient parking on campus yet we have very high fees. There will be a lot more debate about this issue on February 27th.

Ellroy Glenn, vice president of the SGA, also spoke. He said the University is looking for a registrar and has 4 candidates who will be interviewed from Feb. 22-28.

Glenn also said that the SGA Election Committee had set up a tentative schedule for the upcoming campaigns. Registration will take place from March 12 to April 4. The actual campaigns will take place from April 7-28. The elections will take place May 1-2, though that may be extended two more days. There would be a one-day lull for votes to be counted and the winners would then be announced, he said.

Michelle Senkerik spoke on behalf of the Big Event Committee. The Big Event is a national community service day. This is the third year UMSL is taking part and the work will take place at an orphanage, she said. The tentative date is April 14.

Senkerik also said 5-10 co-sponsors are needed. She encouraged everyone to "go to [their] organizations and let them know we need volunteers."

Rob Wilson from the Office of Student Activities then made several announcements. Pam Yates also spoke on the need for two students to travel to South Africa during Spring Break as part of a student leader visit.

UMSL helps build Cyber Center

BY DALILA WAHEED
special to The Current

The Technology Learning Center is joining St. Louis' oldest and largest mental health organization in a community outreach program to develop a Cyber Community Center in North St. Louis.

The Cyber Center is an entrepreneurial venture of Provident Counseling that will provide residents, particularly those in the Penrose and O'Fallon neighborhoods, with access to technology, computers, and educational and employment resources through workshops, tutorials and training.

Provident has been awarded \$152,000 from the state's Department of Economic Development through UMSL.

Money issued from the state must be funneled through a state institution. Provident chose UMSL because of the university's location and expertise—Carl Hoagland in particular, said Iggulden.

Hoagland, Emerson Electric Co. professor of Technology and Learning, and a few fellow staff members will train the center's staff members on computer technology methods.

Eager to begin, Hoagland said, there will be internship opportunities at the E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center for participants who excel in the program.



Rafael Macias/The Current

UMSL's Technology Learning Center is helping to develop a Cyber Community Center in North St. Louis. The Cyber Center, located at 4008 Shreve, will be opened by the end of March.

The Cyber Center, located at 4008 Shreve, will be opened by the end of March after renovation is complete, said Janet Iggulden, Provident Counseling director of marketing. The

center, previously equipped with four computers, will have the capacity to hold 24 workstations, providing services for 200 participants of all ages by the end of the year.

Speakers discuss segregation

BY DALILA WAHEED
special to The Current

"Is St. Louis still segregated?" was the question presented by Mannheim Park, a student sociology organization, in a forum hosted by two sociology scholars last Tuesday.

Teresa Guess, an associate professor that readily admits "I'm addicted to sociology," and Harry Bash, also associate professor emeritus, who jokingly approached the sociological theme that race is a concept by saying "I bet you took me as white," combated with one another in an informal debate.

Bash reiterated the realities of segregation that have transcended American history.

"There remains a consistency of

popular complexions and unpopular complexions in the U.S. and many other places," said Bash. "White is right. If you're brown stay around. If you're black stand back."

St. Louis is segregated and will remain segregated until institutionalized racism, like bank lending practices that make it difficult for poorer people to receive loans, said Guess.

While passing flyers to promote the forum Willie Smith, a senior majoring in sociology and a member of Mannheim Park, realized that students are conscious of current segregation and disinterested.

"Many people said, 'Duh! Is St. Louis segregated?' and they didn't come.

The audience of the forum was

mainly sociologists: students and professors. But the forum was for those who do not know about segregation, said Smith, who says not attending is "like not voting."

Bash pointedly recalled that the Underground, UMSL's previous café, was obviously segregated. While it's not as obvious at The Nosh, UMSL's new café, few students were willing to dedicate more than 45 seconds to discussion of segregation. Yes, they notice it. No, they do not care. One student was passionate about the issue. "As far as the African struggle goes, the issue for the black community was never about social integration," said Tommie Williams, a sophomore majoring in adolescent psychology.

Committee considers extending library hours

BY NICOLE MANOUGIAN
special to The Current

Some UMSL students have expressed concern that the hours of the Thomas Jefferson Library (located on North Campus) do not meet everyone's needs and should be made more accessible. The Faculty Senate University Libraries Committee has been working on this issue.

Currently, the library closes on weekdays at 10:30 p.m. This becomes a problem for students taking night classes. Their classes end around 9:45 p.m. and that leaves little chance to fully use the library's resources.

"This is the committee's largest concern," said Ellory Glenn, vice president of the Student Government Association. "Every student attending UMSL should have access to all the resources the University has to offer," he said.

In order to try and resolve the situation, the University Libraries Committee is proposing a trial period, during which the library would match the hours of the Millennium Student Center, said Joe Flees, a member of the University Libraries Committee. Flees said he feels that to build a foundation for a traditional campus, the campus needs to be

kept available to all the students on it. The University Libraries Committee will just test this idea out first, to see how much use the library receives. Glenn said he feels confident in the proposal, because his research showed other universities' libraries are open until at least midnight on weekdays.

Amy Amott, interim director of libraries, is also in the middle of researching. She is in the process of gathering statistics of student use of the library.

"The library wants to meet the needs of the students," she said. "But the matter doesn't simply lie within wants, it's a matter of needs," she said. "It's not so simple to just change the hours. Security and budget matters must be dealt with as well," she said.

Flees said there is a question whether the students are using the library's resources, or if they are just using the high-speed computers. If they are just using the computers, Flees said, then the problem lies in the hands of Information and Technology Services.

Presently, the library is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m., Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m.

ALCOHOL, from page 1

mum of six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

With Gov. Bob Holden showing support for the new bill, Hosmer is hoping for Senate approval within the next couple of weeks, he said.

The new bill not only makes sense safety-wise, but financially as well, said Hosmer.

Missouri is losing about \$3 million a year in federal money, because it has not followed in the footsteps of 19 other states and made the change from .10 to .08, Hosmer said.

It's "irresponsible" not to take advantage of the federal money, he added, especially with the revenues being down for the upcoming fiscal year.

"It makes good fiscal sense," he said.

In 2003, the federal incentive for having a legal BAC level set at .08 will be increased to \$8 million, and it will continue to increase, Hosmer said. By 2005, the incentive will reach \$32 million, he noted.

Hosmer said the most recent state to lower their BAC to .08 was Illinois. Studies had proven that the change has saved about 47 lives per year, he said.

"And we're expecting something similar in Missouri," said Hosmer. "Whenever you reduce the fatalities, you reduce the accidents, so I'm sure there's a direct correlation."

To exceed the current BAC level while behind the wheel, which is essentially no different than driving

while intoxicated under state law, would be like a 170-pound man drinking 6 to 7 beers in an hour on an empty stomach and hitting the road, Hosmer said. Under the proposed law, drinking 4 to 5 beers in the same situation would be enough to exceed the .08 BAC level.

"One of the abilities you lose at .08 is the ability to self-regulate... next thing you know you're at .15," Hosmer said.

Dan Byrd, 24, an English major at UMSL, doesn't think the drop from .10 to .08 will make that much of a difference. The majority of the people getting pulled over are well past the legal limit, he says.

"What's the difference?" he asked.

"I just think they're too heavy-handed with it already," Byrd said. "[And] it's costing college students a lot of money."

But yet, he says, he doesn't want to promote people getting three and four drinking and driving violations either. That would be "completely unacceptable," he says.

He's had friends who've driven while intoxicated, he said, and he's seen them suffer the consequences.

"They usually have to switch insurance companies for a stupid mistake; it's a dangerous mistake to make," Byrd said.

Yet, it "teaches them a lesson," he said.

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