



## Petit Boulevard works displayed

Vincent van Gogh may be the most prominent of the Petit Boulevard painters and may have even coined the term, but he certainly wasn't the only one. Find out more about them inside.

▲ See page 3

## INSIDE

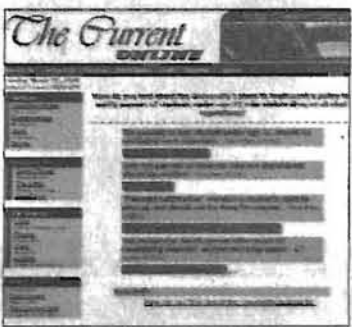


## 'Down to Earth' remain stuck on the ground

This film is at its funniest when the camera just lets Chris Rock do his stand-up work, which he does so well. The problems with the film come in other sections. Find out more about this film and also read our interview with Rock inside.

▲ See page 6

## ONLINE



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## BRIEFS

### Nobel Prize winner to talk at UMSL

Charles Townes, a former Nobel Peace Prize winner, will talk on "Stellar Interferometry at the Mid-Infrared Wavelengths" this Friday at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton. Townes won the prize for his work in the development of lasers.

### Date rape drugs to be discussed

Amy Schoenberger of University Health Services and Bob Roeseler, director of University Police, will present a program on date rape drugs this Wednesday. The program begins at 6 p.m. in Century Room B of the Millennium Student Center.

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# Touhill approves parking fee boost

BY DALILA WAHEED  
special to The Current

Chancellor Blanche Touhill decided March 1 to increase the student parking fee to \$18 per credit hour starting July 1, despite several student groups' requests to halt the rising fee.

Touhill had until March 1, when the fall Schedule of Courses is published, to make a decision on parking fee.

The \$2 fee increase is attributed to new parking garage costs, said Bob

Samples, director of University Communications.

According to the 1993 Campus Master Plan, existing garages C and D must be demolished and three new garages will be built, said Samples. Garages C and D were built for temporary use and have been failing inspections, he said.

The newly built East Garage, located on East Drive, directly across from the Millennium Student Center, is among the three and will be opening soon. Two additional garages—one

located adjacent to the East Garage and one north of MetroLink—must be built to replace garages C and D.

The parking fee will rise again if these additional garages are built, said Samples, and Touhill is not placing a cap on projected fee increases.

"Projected fees could go as high as \$24," said Samples. "I've heard different estimates, I don't know what the fee is, nobody knows that factor," said Samples.

The Student Social Work Club met with Touhill March 6, to request that

the fee be frozen at \$18 per credit hour until other alternatives had been explored by students with Touhill. The group suggested that the fees be supplemented by alumni donations or corporate sponsors, or that the University build parking lots instead of garages.

The meeting began calmly, but ended with tension, said Stephanie Falast, Student Social Work Club member.

"The problem is that she just didn't care," said Falast. "Her whole thing was, 'The MetroLink is provided for

you. It may take you an extra 45 minutes to get to school. But, my solution to you is to take the MetroLink here.'"

But is taking two extra hours to commute really practical, the group asks.

"Our big thing is, this is a working-class campus. Most of us have jobs, sometimes two, we can't take out extra loans to park on campus," said Falast.

Erica Mueller, a senior majoring in MIS, remembers when it cost \$25 per

see PARKING FEE, page 10

## Poetry in motion...



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Members of the Bethune-Cookman College Steel Orchestra play their steel drums, or "pans." The group performed in The Nosh early last week. Pans are native instruments of the Caribbean Islands. During the 1940s Ellie Manette and Simon Phillips constructed the first pans and began the development of modern steel bands. The BCC Steel Orchestra was developed to promote education and awareness of global musical cultures and tours the country annually.

## Lack of funds stops science renovation

BY STEVE VALKO  
staff writer

Students have new science laboratories thanks to phase one of a three-part renovation of Benton-Stadler Halls. The problem is that there is no money for the other two phases.

"We were hoping to get the funds from the state to continue, but we didn't get the money," said Sam Darandari, director of Campus Planning and Construction.

The completion of the first phase brought about the conversion of storage space to more efficient use.

"Phase One was primarily biology. We converted the (storage) space into lab space," said Darandari.

The second phase would include a renovation of chemistry labs and classrooms. "[Phase Two] is the renovation of all of the chemistry teaching labs, that are very much in need of [renovation]. They're basically the same labs that were constructed to the mid and early 60's," said Gordon Anderson, chair of the chemistry department. The chemistry department was really looking forward to this renovation, he said.

The third phase was supposed to deal with the heating and cooling system. It also would try to increase the number of classroom spaces.

"[Phase three is] putting new fans on the roof and new heating systems. It's nothing that students or faculty

see RENOVATION, page 10

## Assembly elections will give students ability to shape campus policies

BY LAURA BROWN  
special to The Current

Thirteen student seats in the University Assembly will be up for election late March or early April. So far, only three students have applied, offering little competition.

The Assembly is the governing body of the campus, consisting of 75 faculty members and up to 25 student members. These representatives, elected by the UMSL student body, have an important influence on campus policy.

UMSL student and current member of the Assembly, Joe Flees, is concerned about the lack of interest on behalf of the student body. Flees serves on the Libraries Committee, and the Student Affairs and Student Publications Committee.

"When there's no student presence at the meeting, the administration picks up on that and that affects their perception of student involvement on the campus," Flees said.

Most students don't even know the Assembly exists. When several students were asked what they thought about the University Assembly some assumed it was the same thing as the Student Government Association. Hardly any of them knew the importance of the students' involvement in the organization.

Lawrence Barton, chair of the Assembly and professor of chemistry,

talked about how the SGA's recent parking forum was full of concerned students. According to Barton, if these students would run for the Assembly and sit on a committee, then their voices would be heard.

"We need forceful and articulate people," said Barton.

These committees make decisions such as what buildings go where, the price of parking on campus and library hours. The list of 20 committees includes Budget and Planning, Grievances, Appointment, Tenure and Promotion, Curriculum and Instruction and Student Affairs. If you've ever had an idea or suggestion on any of these university policies, this is your chance to be heard.

"The secret is to get students to work together and speak with one voice," said Barton.

Part time and full time students who have completed at least nine hours of credit and maintain an UMSL cumulative GPA of 2.0 and above are eligible to run for the one year term. Serving requires being on at least two of the 25 committees and attending the committee meetings. Certain committees meet once a week, while others only meet once a semester depending on the committee. The deadline for applications due to the Student Activities office is still undetermined. For more information, log onto the Assembly's website. The address is www.umsl.edu/committees/senate.

## Normandy Hospital to reopen by July with focus on elderly

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff writer

A private investment company based in New Orleans recently acquired Normandy Hospital, 7840 Natural Bridge Road, with plans of reopening the facility by July 1.

National Health Care Investments Inc. plans to gear the hospital, and it's 80 beds, towards the elderly and patients in need of orthopedic procedures, says NHCI spokesperson David White.

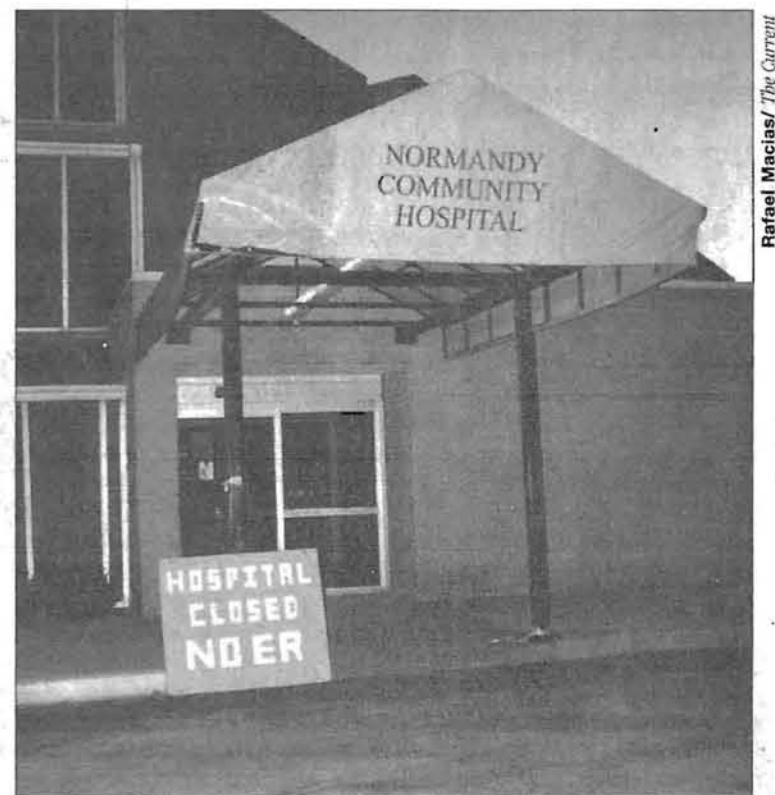
"We saw the opportunity to reopen the hospital and provide a quality healthcare facility with long term stability to serve the local community," White said.

Currently NHCI is in the planning stages, White said, as they renovate the hospital that has been closed for over a year.

When it does reopen, a limited emergency room will be open to the public, White said. Uninsured patients will be accepted in the emergency room, but a payment plan would have to be worked out, he said. NHCI hasn't decided what insurance companies will be accepted, White said.

"We're extremely happy," said George Liyeos, city administrator of Normandy, pointing out that the nearest hospitals, DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton and Christian Hospital Northwest in Florissant, are both fifteen minutes away.

"The key is getting the emergency room back open as it relates to service for this immediate area," Liyeos



Rafael Macias/The Current

A private investment company recently acquired Normandy Hospital with plans of reopening the facility by July 1. The hospital will be geared towards the elderly and patients in need of orthopedic procedures.

said. "Time is very critical."

Nancy Magnuson, Administrator of University Health Services, 125 Millennium Student Center, said that her office used to refer students to Normandy Hospital, particularly for X-rays, before it closed in January of last year.

"It was very convenient for that,"

she said. "It's [also] convenient, I think, for students, because it's just right across the street basically."

Currently, Magnuson said that students are referred to other nearby healthcare providers depending on the situation.

"If it's something that we can't handle in the office," she said.

# Bulletin Board

## Monday, March 12

•On-campus Interviews will be held at 327 Millennium Student Center. It is a free all-day event. Students must be registered with Career Services. Please call 516-5111 for more information.

## Tuesday, March 13

•Looking for a Bible Study  
Non-denominational Bible Study meets in Room 313 of the Millennium Student Center, from 11 a.m. to noon. There is also a meeting on Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring your lunch. For details, call 516-6901.

•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, March 14

•Seminar—"Robbing Drug Dealers: Violence Beyond the Law," presented by Dr. Bruce Jacobs, associate professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice. The seminar is held from noon to 1 p.m. at 229 J. C. Penney Building. For more information, call 516-5273.

•Meeting for OUT—UMSL's Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgendered Alliance—in Room 384 at the Millennium Center, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call Mathew at 516-5013 or at 636-230-7483.

•On-campus Interviews will be held at 327 Millennium Student Center. It is a free all-day event. Students must be registered with Career Services. Please call 516-5111 for more information.

## Thursday, March 15

•Weightlifting Contest for students and

### 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.

faculty/staff from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mark Twain Weight Room. No advance registration, but weigh-in required at noon today. Call 516-5326 for details.

## Friday, March 16

•Soup with Sister 12:05 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center, 8200 Natural Bridge, across from the West Drive entrance to North Campus. For more information, call 385-3455.

## Saturday, March 17

•Sue Shear Institute for Women's Leadership Lecture will be held at the Century Room, Millennium Student Center, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The speaker will be the U. S. Senator Jean Carnahan. For details, call Dayna Stock at 516-6623.

## Sunday, March 18

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

## Monday, March 19

•Monday Noon Series  
"What do we mean by genius?" is a lecture presented by Catharine Stimpson, a New York University professor and founding editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. The lecture is held from noon to 1 p.m. in 229 J. C. Penney Building. Free and open to the public. For details, call Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

## THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

### March 5, 2001

A faculty member on the South Campus received a harassing letter at 9 p.m. The letter is believed to have come from a dismissed student.

### March 6, 2001

A student reported that her Winter 2001 parking permit was stolen from her vehicle on 3/1/01 at 5 p.m., while the vehicle was parked at Garage "P."

A student reported that his Winter 2001 parking permit and a Sharp calculator were stolen from his vehicle, while parked on the first floor of Garage "D," between 2/19/01 at 10 a.m. and 3/1/01 at 6 p.m.

### March 8, 2001

A student reported that her purse was missing from the third floor hallway of Lucas Hall. The student had forgotten the purse after using the copy machine. The incident occurred on 3/7/01 between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the U.M.S. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

## WANT SOME EASY MONEY?

The Current has an opening for a **Distribution Manager**. If you are free on **Monday afternoons** and you have a **truck**, this could be the perfect job for you. For more details, call *The Current* at 516-5174.

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### Staff Writers:

Nick Bowman, Charlie Bright, Lori Callander, Jennifer Dodd, Stefanie Ellis, Rhshad Pittman, Sara Porter, Tim Thompson, Emily Umbright, Steve Valko, Tom Weathersby

8001 Natural Bridge Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174  
Advertising • (314) 516-5316  
Business • (314) 516-5175  
Fax • (314) 516-6811

campus:  
388 Millennium Student Center

email:  
current@jinx.umsl.edu

website:  
http://www.thecurrentonline.com

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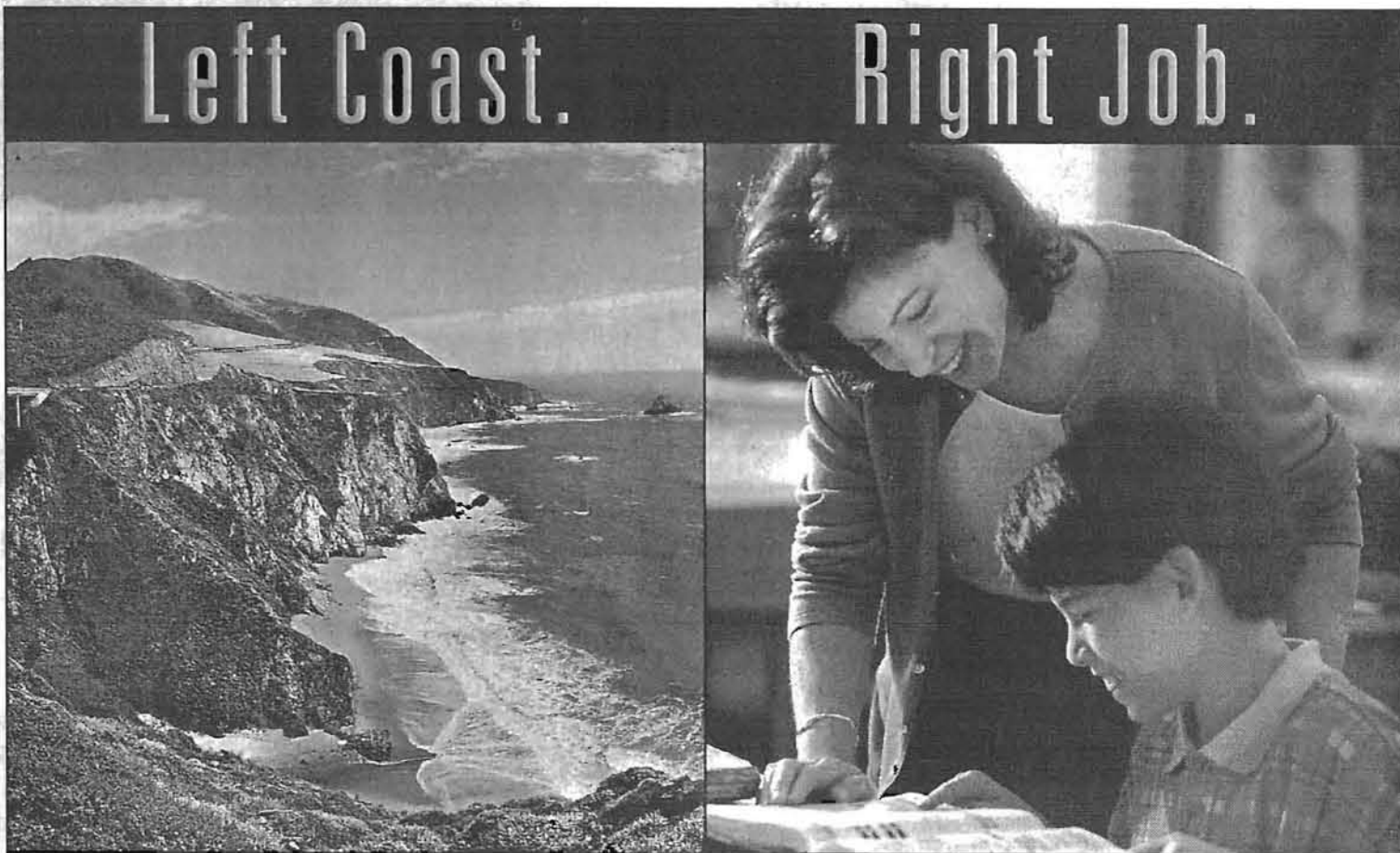
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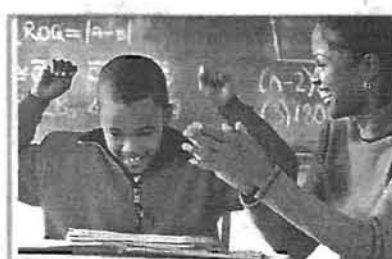
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# Vincent van Gogh on display at the StL Art Museum

BY ANNE PORTER  
senior editor

Vincent van Gogh may be the most prominent of the Petit Boulevard painters and may have even coined the term, but he certainly was not the only one.

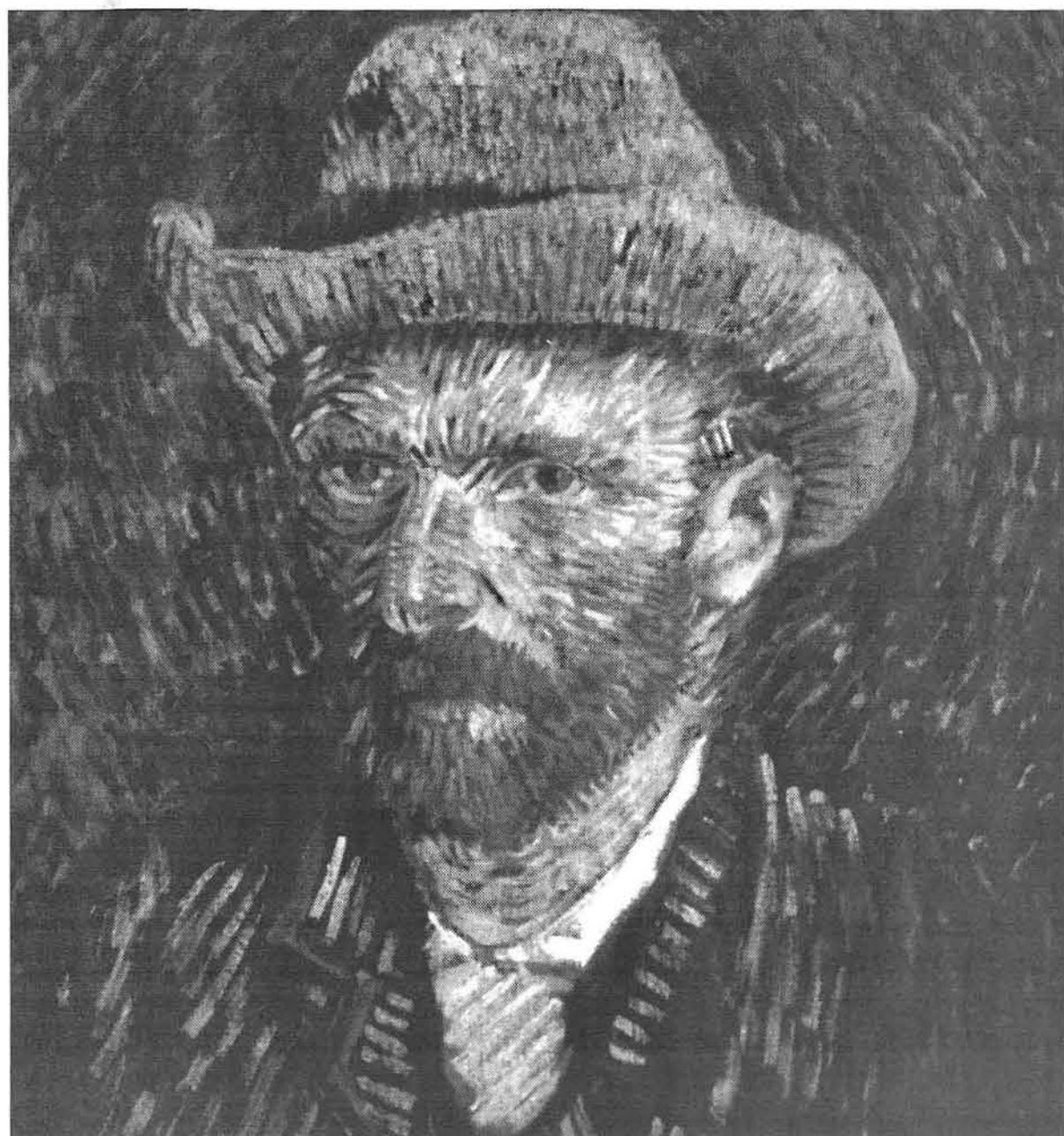
Many of van Gogh's counterparts exhibited the same talent and dedication, but are publicized far less than van Gogh. This reason makes the "Vincent van Gogh and the Painters of the Petit Boulevard" exhibition at the St. Louis Art Museum an excellent educational, as well as enjoyable, excursion to take.

Other artists featured in "Vincent van Gogh" include Charles Angrand, Louis Anquetin, Emile Bernard, Paul Gauguin, father and son Camille and Lucien Pissarro, Georges Seurat, Paul Signac and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

Different theories of Impressionism influenced the men involved in the Petit Boulevard. The Neo-Impressionists, represented by Angrand, Seurat, the Pissarros and Signac, are best known for pointillism, a technique which uses dots of colors to create an image by placing contrasting colors next to each other. This process heightens the impact to the viewer's eye.

Seurat studied theories of science and color to develop this new and innovative, although time-consuming, technique. "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" best exemplifies Seurat's work in Neo-Impressionism.

Van Gogh strength presented best



used strong visible brush strokes to create an image. This can best be seen in "Wheat Field with Cypresses" in the cloud swirls and "Self-Portrait with a Felt Hat."

"Cloisonnism," a style that incorporated strong black contour lines to accent flat color regimes, was invented by Bernard and Anquetin. "Iron Bridges at Asnieres" by Bernard best serves as a great example of this new form derived from Impressionism.

In addition to new style, the Impressionists also documented the industrial trends, provincial lives and traditions of the rural areas, the nightlife and cafe life of the cities, portraits and landscapes.

"Vincent van Gogh and the Painters of the Petit Boulevard" offers a great contrast in styles of the individual artists included. One great example is a side by side contrast of "Madame Roulin" by Gauguin next to "Lullaby: Madame Augustine Roulin Rocking a Cradle." These two in comparison allow the viewer to see the idiosyncrasies of the painter through the works themselves.

The exhibition provides a very detailed past of each artist when applied to the paintings and creates an image of what they were like when they lived and how the world appeared to each one of them.

The one disappointment to van Gogh is the expensive admission price (\$12 adult, \$10 students) and the elimination of the option to purchase to use of the headphones to take the self-guided tour. The self-guided tour cost less and allowed for more freedom.

see VAN GOGH, page 7

## Carnahan promotes women in politics

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
staff writer

March is Women's History Month. In efforts to promote the involvement of women in public politics, U.S. Senator Jean Carnahan will speak at the first Leadership Lecture sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life on Saturday, March 17, in the Millennium Student Center.

Jean Carnahan plays a pivotal role in promoting the ideas and issues the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life tries to relay to its participants. The Institute is primarily concerned with stimulating women to play active parts in the governmental

process. Founded in 1996 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, it seeks to aid women's success as participants in public policy and offices. The Institute offers various workshops designed to enhance leadership and communication skills, as well as lecture topics that deal with issues women in the public eye face.

Before stepping into the spotlight, Carnahan was Missouri's First Lady for eight years, advocating issues centered on Missouri families, jobs and schools. She co-founded Children in the Workplace, an organization that encourages employers to offer on-site daycare to employees who double as parents. She has also received numerous awards, including the Robert C.

Goshorn Award for public service, as well as 1999 Woman of the Year by the St. Louis Zonta Clubs International. Her experiences as former first lady living in the Governor's Mansion prompted her to publish two books, "Christmas at the Mansion: Its Memories and Menus," and "If Walls Could Talk," which takes a historical look at the Missouri First Families who lived at the mansion before her. Last year, a collection of her speeches was compiled and published under the title "Will You Say a Few Words."

Former Gov. Roger Wilson appointed Carnahan after the death of her husband, Gov. Mel Carnahan, on Oct. 16, 2000, just weeks before Election Day. Despite the tragedy, she

dutifully took her husband's place in the race for senator, winning the election by a 48,000-vote victory with promises of upholding her husband's views. Carnahan poses as a leading figure for women striving to make it in any professional field because of her strength, responsibility, and involvement under the pressure that comes with being involved in politics.

In 1998, the Institute for Women in Public Life renamed itself in honor of MO-Rep. Sue Shear. Like Carnahan, Shear's role as a female leader in public life is admired by the Institute. Holding the longest record for a Missouri woman to sit in an elected position, she served 13 terms in office after being elected in 1972. During

those years, she focused on women, family, and children's issues, serving on the Budget Committee and the Higher Education Committee. She was the chairman for the Joint Committee on Healthcare Policy and Planning, in addition to being vice chair on the Appropriations-Education and Public Safety Committee.

Not only does the event honor Women's History Month, but it is also the late Sue Shear's birthday. Held on March 17, at 1:30 p.m., it will take place in the Century room on the 3rd floor of the Millennium Student Center. It is free for anyone wishing to attend. For more information call 516-6623.

## Any plans for spring break?

BY JENNIFER DODD  
staff writer

It is that time once again: time for UMSL students to strip off those ten layers of winter clothing, throw caution to the wind and embark on a spring break.

Some will spend their break in Florida or someplace exotic replete with scantily clad co-eds, sunshine, and dancing till dawn. Others will use the week-long hiatus to make some extra money and forget about school work.

It is about two weeks until break, and there is still some time to do some planning, if you are interested in going someplace warmer or even exotic. One of the most popular spring break destinations is Panama City, Florida. This sun-lover's dream is situated on the emerald coast of Florida and offers quite a few temptations for weary and sleep-deprived college students. Some of the more popular clubs at PCB (Panama City Beach) are Sharkys, Spinnakers, and the always packed Club La Vela. La Vela is always jumping no matter what night it is; in fact, on the 26th of March, Ja Rule will be performing there.

If rap isn't your idea of entertainment, the WCW will be there on the 26th as well.

If you are interested in staying in Florida, another option is Daytona Beach. Spring Breakers have been going to this hotspot for a long time. Daytona Beach was popular in the 1950s, then it had a resurgence of

popularity back in the '90s and has been going strong ever since. DB is in the southern Florida near Sea World and Walt Disney World. Besides seeing Mickey Mouse and the gang, students can play golf, go fishing, sailing, boating, or just lay on the beach and catch some waves.

This spring break, some UMSL students are staying at home. "I'm not going anywhere and am just going to work at the KETC Store of Knowledge at Crestwood Mall," said Rob Hoffmann, junior.

"I am staying at home as well and I am going to work my job at the police station," said Pascha Parker, junior.

One of the reasons Hoffmann is staying at home is because it is a question of timing. "All my friends go to different schools such as Mizzou, SLU, Truman, and Wash U. We have all had different spring breaks since my freshman year."

Since more than just these two students are staying here and working, here are some places in St. Louis that are fun and nearby. Creve Couer lake is extremely busy after Memorial Day and during the weekends. It is a scenic place to fish or to sit on the sand and watch the ducks. If you are on the active side, Creve Couer lake has paths for runners, walkers, bikers, and rollerbladers. They also have volleyball nets and you can even walk your dog there. Creve Couer lake is free of admission and is located in Northwest St. Louis County, just off Dorsett Rd.

Another place to go to in Saint Louis is Dave and Busters. This entertainment venue is a great place to go,

but expect to drop some money.

They have video games where the actual game consists of you riding a simulated motorcycle, race car, or even a speed boat. They also have old favorites, such as pinball machines and skee-ball. They also have basketball, as well as simulated golf and many other exciting games.

Another aspect of D&B is that the food is very good and in large portions, with such choices as the Jack Daniel's chicken, or the southwest vegetable wraps. There are many other selections as well, but the wait on a table can be long.

If staying in St. Louis is simply intolerable, two popular exotic destinations to spring breakers are Jamaica and Cancun, Mexico. Cancun can be very expensive, but if you search on the internet for trips with student discounts, you will be able to find at least some kind of savings. STA Travel's least expensive Cancun packages cost between \$700-800 a person for a stay on the beach. The least expensive package Council Travel offers is as low as \$400 a person for a four-person group, but this package does not include a hotel on the beach.

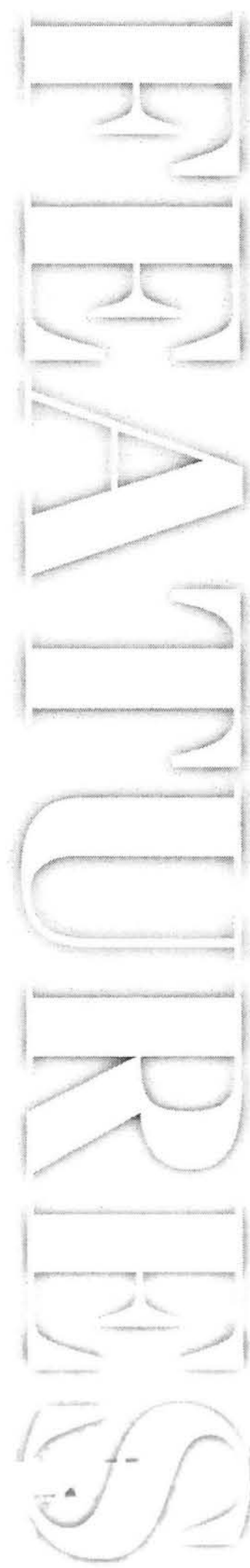
Jamaica is also a very popular destination thanks to its tropical climate and friendly, laid-back people. Jamaica can drain your wallet, so look to internet sites to help you save



money once again. Websites such as studentadvantage.com, or springbreaktravel.com offer discounts, and let you check the weather as well as driving directions if you are going to stay in the states. "I had a great time when I went to Negril, Jamaica last year. I went with about four or five buddies, but I didn't get a lot of sleep though," said Dave Sosnoff, junior at Mizzou.

Other students are planning a more resourceful spring break. "I'm going to two debate tournaments with UMSL. We are going to Boise, Idaho and Denver, Colorado," commented Cesare Veneconi, junior.

Whether students go and lay on the beach or earn some extra cash this year, at least they have a week off.



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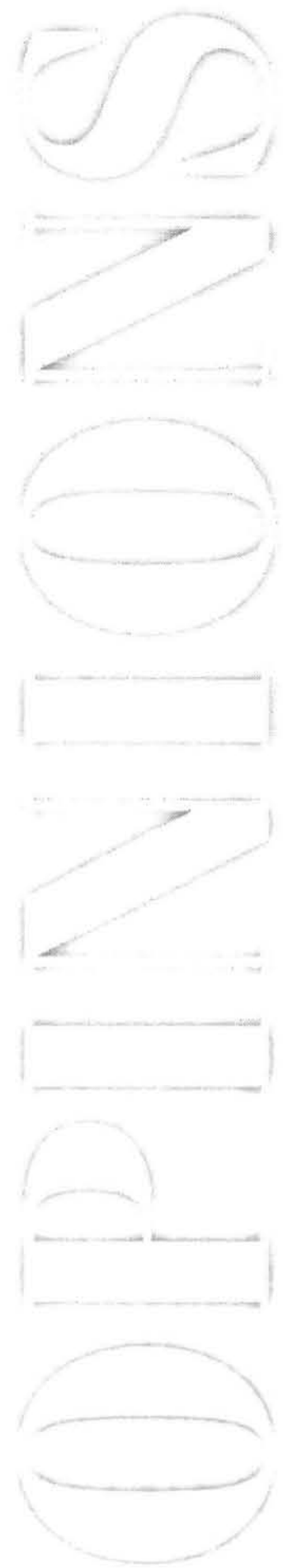
Sheldon Art Galleries will present "American Images: Southwestern Bell Collection of Twentieth-Century American Art." The gallery hours are Monday and Tuesdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday evenings and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call Sheldon Art Galleries Director at (314) 533-9900, ext. 31.

**15-18**

The Fox Theatre will present "Be Careful What you Pray For," a gospel play written by Lisa G. Reynolds from St. Louis, at 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; 3 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 3 and 7:30 on Sunday. Tickets range from \$21.50 to \$28.50 and are available at The Fox Theatre and all Metrotix locations.

**22-24**

On campus at UMSL, "El Capitan," the comic opera by John Philip Sousa, will be performed in the J.C. Penney Auditorium, sponsored by the Music Department.



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- TIM THOMPSON

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

**LETTERS**

- MAIL**  
The Current  
8001 Natural Bridge  
St. Louis, MO 63121
- FAX**  
(314) 516-0811
- EMAIL**  
current@jinx.ums.edu

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

**Under Current**  
by Mutsumi Igarashi  
staff photographer

*How do you get rid of your stress?*

**OUR OPINION**

**Normandy Hospital must meet needs of community**

When Normandy Hospital closed in January of last year, it just added to the increasing shortage of hospitals in North County and throughout the St. Louis region. This decline in health-care facilities has resulted in potentially dangerous situations for many St. Louis city and county residents.

Many neighborhoods in the area do not have a hospital nearby as a result of these closings, which also means that emergency situations are prolonged due to ambulances having to make long drives to hospitals in other municipalities. And even then, there is no guarantee that patients will receive medical attention once they arrive because of the frequent problem of overcrowded emergency rooms.

An article that ran in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in November of last year reported that emergency room visits have continued to increase as ambulances are being turned away from hospitals. Subsequently, the lack of hospitals only adds to more overcrowding of the few existing emergency rooms left.

"In Missouri and around the nation, emergency room visits have surged over the past three years. In metropolitan St. Louis, they jumped more than 9.3 percent in 1999 alone."

We believe that the reopening of Normandy Hospital can help deter the problem of overcrowding emergency rooms and also provide a much-needed local medical facility for students living on-campus and

area residents in case of an emergency situation.

In an article that ran in *The Current* in February 2000 about the closing of the Normandy Hospital, Michael Spezia, one of the 16 physician-investors of the hospital, pointed out that 1,250 patients came through the emergency room during the last month it was open. In that same article, Thomas Walther, chief executive officer of the hospital at that time, noted that the hospital averaged about "27 or 28 patients a day."

With those numbers in mind, think of the effect the hospital closing had on the community and nearby hospitals. After Normandy Hospital closed, thousands of its former patients were now entering emergency rooms at DePaul Health Center and Christian Hospital Northwest among other area hospitals. This domino effect is evident all throughout the metropolitan area in the wake of trauma center closings and cutbacks. The struggling hospitals that are still in existence now have even more patients to attend to, yet fewer resources.

With the reopening of Normandy Hospital in the upcoming months, a large burden may be lifted from area hospitals and a few more lives may be saved.

This can only happen if the new owners choose to meet the needs of the community. To stay profitable, they have said the hospital will specialize in treating the elderly.

But the owners have a tremendous

**The issue:**

With the closing of Normandy Hospital and the changes in other North County emergency rooms, a potentially dangerous situation has arisen for many St. Louis city and county residents looking for care.

**We suggest:**

The company reopening Normandy Hospital should do more than just specialize in treating the elderly. They should also reopen the emergency room and serve the needs of the community around it.

**So what do you think?**

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

opportunity right now to impact the regional hospital problem by reopening the hospital's emergency room. We hope they don't miss it.

**LETTERS**

**South Campus parking overlooked**

This is in response to the articles in *The Current* regarding parking fees escalation. I am a senior, majoring in Education, and all of my classes are on the South Campus. I do not use the North Campus at all, yet I pay full price for a parking permit. For those who are not familiar with the South Campus, it's not much to brag about. We do not have a fancy Millennium Student Center to hang out in, nor do we have The Nosh, where we can load up on reasonably good food at high prices. Instead, we have a tiny convenient U-Mart, located way in the back

of the building. Our choices of cuisine are dried up hot-dogs or Nachos. Other than that, they are always waiting for a "delivery," which explains why their shelves are bare. We do not have beautiful and convenient parking garages, instead we drive around and around until a spot opens up.

According to Chancellor Blanche Touhill, the parking fees are a "user fee." Does that mean, since I and the majority of Education and Optometry students do not use the North Campus parking garages, we are exempt from this fee or at least entitled to a reduc-

tion? When we, as students, teach for a semester, we are still expected to pay parking fees, although we are on campus half a day a week at maximum. True, we are supposed to get a reduced rate in parking during this semester, but I'm sure it won't be a significant reduction.

I would like to see the parking fees reduced for all students and more money to be spent on the South Campus. Without us, your kids will not learn, nor will they be able to see!

--Tammi Emge

**Freeze won't solve parking problem**

In meeting with Chancellor Blanche Touhill last Tuesday, March 6, we were met with some difficult issues. The high parking fees on campus are just an example of the real problem. Student's rights are being overlooked! The real solution doesn't just lie within the parking fees being frozen or reduced, the real solution is knowing the students and seeing how difficult it is to continually adjust to all the high fees. Some students are taking out second loans in order to make ends meet, just so that they can find a parking spot on their campus!

The chancellor suggested we drive to one of the many Metrolink stations and then arrive here on campus in that manner, adding that it will take an additional 45 minutes to get to campus. I drive over 45 minutes to get to school already (over an hour in traffic) so adding on an additional 45 minutes to get a free parking spot just doesn't seem practical!

The chancellor needs to remember that I have two jobs to contend with, one of which is to help pay for her already astronomical parking fees! So, taking her offer of adding an addition-

al 45 minutes to park would mean I lose the second job.

The best way to deal with the parking fees and other campus issues is for students to voice their opinion. The more the administration hears of students caring about such issues, the more likely it is that they will create "student-friendly" alternatives to the lack of funds. We have to remember that the longer the silence remains, the longer the struggle will continue.

--Stephanie Falast

**What's your opinion?**

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

- The North County hospital crunch
- Parking fee increases
- Problems with roaches

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Campus Issues forum on [thecurrentonline.com](http://thecurrentonline.com)



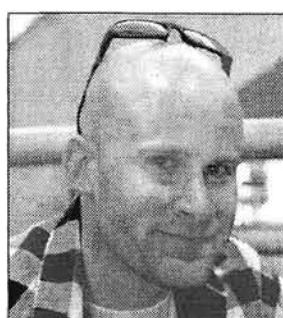
**Krystal Pease**  
Senior / Special Education

" I get together with friends and go out all day. I try not to think about stressful things in my life. "



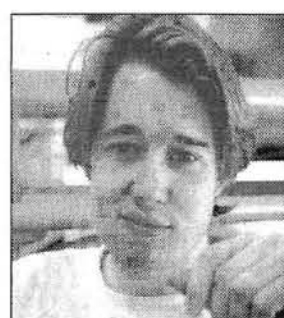
**Paige Casey**  
Senior / Political Science

" I go for a good run. "



**Casey Brown**  
Junior / Political Science

" I work. "



**Matt Kaskowitz**  
Junior / Communication

" I don't have stress, so I'm not sure about that. "

**TV impersonators raise significant questions**

There's usually some pretty funny television shows on late at night. One of my favorites is called "Your Big Break." It offers contestants a chance to dress up as their favorite music stars and perform one of their songs. The audience then chooses the best performance and the winner gets a cash prize.

Last weekend I had come home late from work on Saturday night (or Sunday morning, depending on your point of view). For some reason, when I want to wind down before actually going to sleep, either by reading a book or watching television. I flipped through some channels and found "Your Big Break" and decided to watch for a few minutes.

At one point in the show, a former contestant gave a testimonial, explaining how his "big break" had come when an agent from Las Vegas saw his performance and offered to get him a regular gig in the gambling mecca.

"Now I make lots of money and I love my job!" the man exclaimed.

Watching the contestants transform themselves into such stars as John Lennon and Donnie Osmond reminded me of an event in the summer of 1999. To kick of Welcome Week that year, UMSL brought in an Elton John impersonator called "Even Stephen."

No offense to the planners of that event, but at the time, I thought it was pretty silly. I enjoy listening to old songs as much as the next guy. Heck, listening to bands cover

lots of oldies tunes can be pretty enjoyable. But the idea of watching one man pretend to be the flamboyant Elton John just didn't seem appealing to me.

Now from what I heard, the folks who attended had a good time, and I'm glad they did. But all these memories got me thinking. Why do these people want to spend their lives mimicking someone else?

My personality drives me to seek recognition. I have an innate desire to make a name for myself. And it's just impossible for me to imagine that someone could be content taking advantage of another person's popularity in order to make a living.

But as I thought about more, I realized that everyone has tried to be like somebody else. That's what our culture does when it idolizes sports figures, movies stars and, yes, music stars. We have heroes, role models, and figureheads that we want to be like.

There are certain people who have qualities or characteristics that make them worth emulating. In my own life, I realized, I am trying to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Adherents to other religious faiths follow the teachings of others.

Maybe the idea behind "Your Big Break" isn't that far-fetched, after all. I think the larger question is, who are you going to mimic? I don't know about you, but I think I'll stick with Jesus over Elton John any day of the week.



**JOSH RENAUD**  
editor-in-chief

**When it comes to roaches, other putzes don't cut it**

They darted across the floor two days after I moved into the new apartment.

I had a suspicion about what they were, but I didn't want to acknowledge I was living with roaches. I thought maybe this was just a minor occurrence, but I knew the truth. There are no small epidemics of those nasty creatures.

When you see one, it is just a representative of thousands of others lurking on the walls, under the stove, everywhere you don't want them to be.

The next night when as I was lounging in my papazon, I saw another one lingering on the screen. I had slammed the first one with my shoe.

I knew I had to call the landlord.

To my surprise, he said he was going to call me that week to ask if I had seen any. When he was working next door with the stove, he said he had seen two of those disease-carrying threats.

This seemed like a good sign.

The landlord said he would call and tell me when the pest controllers were coming and that day, last Wednesday, I happened to be home.

Pest sprayer Bob walked in and announced in a hickish accent, "This won't hurt you girls."

I'll say now I hate to be referred to as a girl. I'm 24 years old and should not be classified as a child. Not to mention I knew by his tone that this guy thought I knew nothing except how to make fluffy pancakes.

The man sprayed with his tin sprayer around the doorway and a couple of other locations.

I asked if he was going to spray in the pantry or in the cabinets. He said all the stuff had to be cleared out. He said to his friend the landlord with the same classic flavor, "You told them they had to clean out the stuff, didn't you?"

My landlord, who I pay rent to every month, moaned a half-worthy "no."

I then clarified that I wanted the pantry sprayed and he said, "I'm picking up what you're throwing down. But I've been doing this a long time."

He offered to come back later, but never set up a time.

If I had not been home I would never have known what a lousy job this guy had performed.

I know from this experience with Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum that in order to not have "Joe's Apartment" live, I have to do this chore myself.

I went to Target and purchased three bug bombs, the equivalent of Hiroshima in my apartment. Then I'll have to wipe everything down. I think this method will work.

I don't mind learning lessons. The one I learned from this: sometimes in you have to do it yourself or else some putz will do it and say it's finished.

I just wish I didn't have to learn with roaches and my apartment involved.



**ANNE PORTER**  
managing editor

AND THE POINT IS...

# Riverwomen enter season 4-2

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

The UMSL women's softball team has won three consecutive games, improving their overall record to 4-2.

In the Riverwomen's opener, UMSL defeated Central Arkansas 4-3. In the game, Andrea Wirkus scored the game-winning run. In her attempt to steal third base, the catcher from Central Arkansas overthrew third base, allowing Wirkus to score in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Pitcher Meghan Kuebler picked up the win for the Riverwomen going seven innings and only giving up four hits on three runs while Wirkus went 3-3 from the plate, with a run and a run batted in.

The Riverwomen then went on a two-game skid in the Central Arkansas Tournament, losing 5-0 against Northeastern State and 5-4 against Evangel.

Northeastern State jumped ahead early, scoring two runs in the third inning and adding two more in the fifth and one in the sixth to secure the victory. Pitcher Kelly Jackson picked up the loss for the Riverwomen while the offense only

mustered one hit by Allison Maurer throughout the seven inning contest.

The other loss in the tournament against Evangel was a close contest where Evangel scored twice in the bottom of the seventh-inning to even the contest at 4-4.

In the eighth inning, an error by shortstop Brandy Winters proved costly as Evangel hit a single with a runner on second base to score the game-winning run. Pitcher Cassey Attebery picked up the loss for the Riverwomen.

The Riverwomen then hit a stride following three games against McKendree and a double-header against Lincoln. The Riverwomen doubled the score of their opponent in each contest, defeating McKendree 4-2 and Lincoln 2-1 and 6-3. Kuebler picked up two of the three victories for the Riverwomen, improving her record to 3-0 for the season.

UMSL hits the road this week to face Western Illinois and Truman State in double-headers before returning home to begin Great Lakes Valley Conference play against Lewis University March 24.



Darren Brune/The Current

A Riverwoman hits a line drive to the opposing team at a recent game. The Riverwomen won three games in a row earlier this season, contributing to their 4-2 overall record.

## Rivermen get first win, now 2-1

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

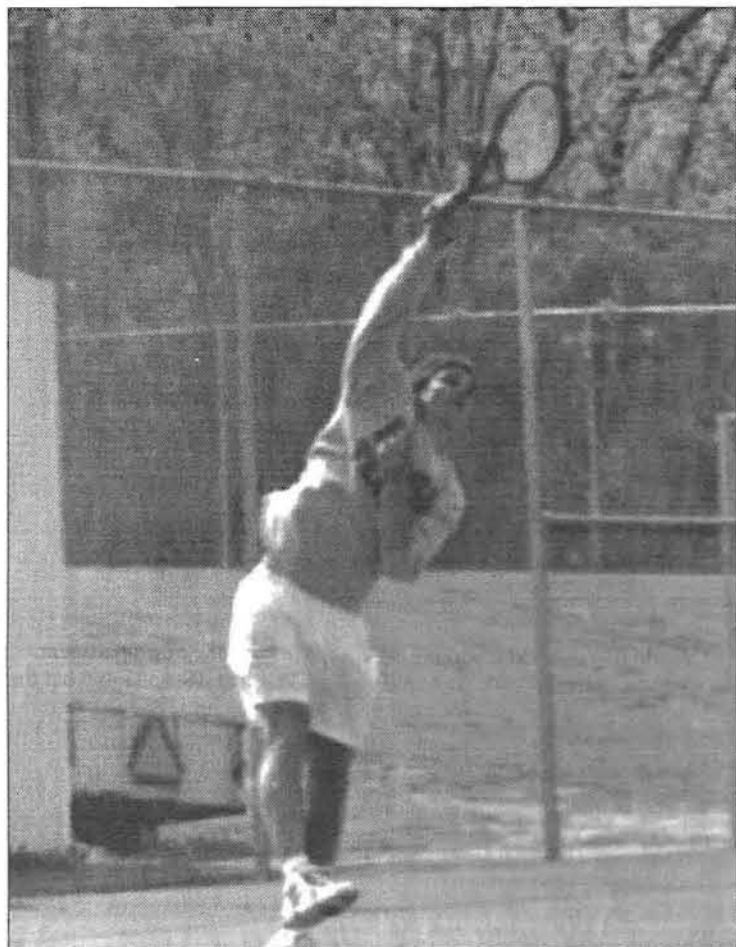
The UMSL men's tennis team served up their first win of the season, by defeating McKendree College 7-2. The Rivermen won all three doubles matches and lost on two of their singles matches on their way to the win.

The doubles competition started out the match by sweeping McKendree with Matt Vaulkhard and Mario Gruden beating McKendree's Daniel Aldaberti and Leandro Gubler 8-4 followed by Josh Heape and Minh Phan winning 8-6, and Ryan Trela and T.J. Schafer winning 8-4.

In the singles competition, Matt Vaulkhard came from behind to win the No. 1 singles match over Daniel Aldaberti. After losing the first set, Vaulkhard defeated Aldaberti in the second set 7-6 in a tiebreaker, then took the third set 10-5 in an extended tiebreaker that was played and finished just before it got dark.

Josh Heape lost a close match at the No. 2 singles, falling to Leandro Gubler 6-3, 2-6, 7-4. Minh Phan won for the Rivermen at No. 3 singles, 6-2, 7-5 as did Gruden at No. 5 singles match 6-0, 7-5 and Ryan Trela also won at No. 6 singles, defeating Dusty Foy 6-3, 6-1.

The Rivermen will play the next two matches on the road and will return home March 17 to play St. Joseph.



Darren Brune/The Current

A Riverman serves the ball to an opponent at home. The Rivermen won their first match this season last Wednesday against McKendree College.

## Baseball team kicks off strong

BY DAVE KINWORTHY  
staff editor

The men's baseball team started off this season slowly, with two consecutive losses, but appear to be coming together as the Rivermen have won three straight, moving their record to 3-2 overall.

In the first two losses of the season, the Rivermen battled against Alabama-Huntsville, the No. 4-ranked team in the nation. In the opener, the Rivermen trailed 3-0 going into the fourth inning, when UMSL evened the score out with singles from both Brody Jackson and Chas Wigger.

Alabama-Huntsville then evened the score out at 6-6, until the eighth inning, when Alabama-Huntsville capitalized and scored the game-winning run against pitcher Keith Wallace and moved on with a 7-6 victory.

In the second game, Alabama-Huntsville jumped ahead early, scoring five runs in the first two innings as the Chargers took the nightcap 11-5.

Riverman Buddy Simon went 1-3 in the game, while hitting his first homerun of the season.

The Rivermen then avenged their early-season losses to Alabama-Huntsville by defeating Evangel 9-4. Reliever Steve Hutson picked up the win for the Rivermen, as he followed starting pitcher Joe Curtis five strike-

outs in five innings.

Bryan Beckmann led the Rivermen with a 3-5 day, including one run, two runs batted in, a double and a home-run. Brody Jackson also added to the cause with a 3-5 outing with a double and a triple.

UMSL returned home for their season opener, featuring a double-header against Southwest Baptist.

In the first game the Rivermen were even at 1-1 going into the fifth inning, but UMSL scored four runs in the inning to secure the victory. Sophomore Greg Bierling picked up his first victory of the season for UMSL.

The second game got UMSL out of the gate early as the Rivermen led 5-2 after five innings, but Southwest Baptist scored three runs in the seventh inning to even the score. In the bottom of the seventh inning Wigger hit a sharp groundball to the shortstop, but Southwest Baptist committed an error and allowed Jason Meyer to score the game-winning run for the Rivermen in a 6-5 victory.

UMSL moved on this past weekend to play in the Central Missouri State Tournament, where the Rivermen faced Augustana, Nebraska-Kearney and Central Missouri State before returning home to host Fontbonne in a double-header March 13.

## Ethridge looks to next season to better women's basketball

BY NICK BOWMAN  
staff writer

Good things come in fours. During her four years as head coach of UMSL women's basketball, Shelly Ethridge has seen four consecutive winning seasons, a school record, and four Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament berths.

This season marked the first time in four years that the Riverwomen were without a T.D. Tawanda Daniel, the Riverwomen's leader in the past, left the team after her senior campaign last year and that left a very big opening. Coming off of a National Collegiate Athletic Association national tournament berth only a year ago, expectations were much higher than the 14-13 product of this year.

"Ironically, we had much better talent on the squad this year than in the

past," said Ethridge. "We lacked leadership. I really learned a lot this year in what a leader really does to a team. We gain something positive out of every year."

The Riverwomen had no defined leader through much of the regular season. Tanisha Albert and Lindsay Brefeld were the only true seniors on the squad, and with Brefeld being a solid sixth man through most of her career, Albert assumed the role of captain. She responded early in the season, but teams began to key in on her and eventually her numbers dropped. Others began to pick up the slack as Kelly Blunt and Krista Longseth had a few very solid games, but nobody was able to do so on a consistent basis. Freshmen Leah Boehme and Megan Mauck also showed signs of stardom, but again not on a consistent basis.

"I don't think there was much con-

flict," Ethridge said. "We just never had everyone on the same page on any given night, and it was that inconsistency that gave us our 13 losses. Seven overtime games...we're in every single game, but we didn't have the leadership to put us over the top."

Towards the end, two stars began to shine in Lynette Wellen and Christy Lane. As GLVC play heated up, so did Wellen, who averages 15 points an six rebounds in conference games. Wellen led the Riverwomen in scoring in 13 of the 27 games, scoring over 20 points eight times while earning three double-doubles. She ranked fourth overall in the GLVC in scoring, nailing 57 percent of her shots from the field. Wellen was also named an honorable mention All-GLVC player this season.

Lane, a transfer from UM-Rolla, caught fire towards the end of season,

eventually ending the season second on the UMSL roster with 11.6 points per game. The majority of her shots came from beyond the arc, where she hit 39 of 114.

UMSL earned a No. 5 seed in the conference tournament and went against Bellarmine in the first round before losing by their largest margin of the year and ending the season at 14-13.

"I think, in all honesty, I think this is how people expected this season to be," said Ethridge. "People saw us going .500 and sneaking into the GLVC. But that's not how I saw this year or how my girls saw this year. It's a bit of a disappointment, but something we'll work on."

With the addition of Joe Kane to the coaching staff and returning with a core nucleus of Wellen, Lane, and Katy Gwaltney, recruitment should go

very smoothly.

"Kane has so many connections in the St. Louis area and is a really quality guy," said Ethridge. "But the girls need to understand that nobody has a spot next year. Kane will bring in some very talented girls to the program and they will challenge for starting jobs. Next year is a clean slate."

One thing is clear, however. The GLVC, as well as the NCAA, is beginning to recognize the Riverwomen as more than another team.

"When I first came here, I noticed that I would walk into a gym or anywhere for that matter and go virtually unnoticed. Now when [Melanie] Marcy, Joe and I step into a gym in a high school or junior college, people know that UM-St. Louis is here."

## Show support at UMSL games, enjoy cheap date



LATEST SCOOP

NICK BOWMAN

This is the end. Another great season of UMSL basketball has come to a close. Both teams had winning seasons. Three athletes were named to the All-Conference teams and everything went virtually unnoticed by all but me and Mr. Bojangles and I can only ask why?

I have been here for the larger part of two years (that is two basketball seasons) and I still fail to realize why students just refuse to attend the basketball games or any other games for that matter.

Let's dig deeper into the issue. I know that we all have to work. I currently have three jobs and belong to

a fraternity. Everybody has to work. But I am fairly certain that most employers do not schedule all UMSL students to work only during basketball season and only on game nights.

I've been to more than a handful of games myself and no, not just because it is my job, but because it is a really cheap date. With \$10, I can get my girlfriend (who I met for the first "sober" time at an UMSL basketball game) in the front gate, feed the both of us and walk home with some change.

Speaking of fraternities, where are you guys on those nights? As Greeks, we're supposed to be sup-

portive of the campus that has given us our charter and this is how we repay them? I would love to see cheering sections where we could banter back and forth, hurling insults and hot dogs while we watch UMSL stomp on the Bellarmine Knights. Heck, the bald guy with the thick glasses that they bring with them is louder than a whole Sigma Pi chapter? I do not think so.

About the only organization that has shown any support of the teams on this campus has been the pep band. Whether there are 20 fans or 200, the band is out there pumping up the 'crowd' with a fresh mix of jazz and classic rock. So if you are

not a basketball fan, then go to the games for the music. Nobody hates basketball and music.

And then there is the group that "live too far away." Then make it a point to stick around on game day. Get out of class around 2:00 p.m., do your homework (something that we all should do more of) and head to the gym around 5:00 for the double-header. After the game, head down to Golden Greeks for a couple of \$4 pitchers and call it a night. How is that not the perfect college date?

I fail to understand how so many of my friends can find so much to complain about. They seem to feel that if you do not live on campus or

are not in an organization, that you cannot do anything on campus. Unless they transfer, UMSL is going to be their college experience and it is what you want you make of it.

Why squander the final years of our youth? Yes, many of us are in the midst of our transition from student life to professional life, but you have all heard the saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Jack must be quite a bore.

So the next time you open another issue of *The Current* and you see that Mark Twain will be hosting another epic struggle, check it out. I could really use some company at the next game.

SPORTS

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

sports editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

GAMES

Baseball

v. Fontbonne  
12:00 pm, Tues, Mar. 13

v. Lindenwood  
2:30 pm, Wed, Mar. 21

Softball

at Western Illinois  
1:00 pm, Sat, Mar. 17

at Truman State  
1:00 pm, Wed, Mar. 21

Tennis

at UM-Rolla  
4:00 pm, Thur, Mar. 15

v. St. Joseph's  
9:00 am, Sat, Mar. 17

# 'Down to Earth' remains stuck on the ground

BY CATHERINE  
MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

I have to admit it: I really like Chris Rock.

There's something about his rapid-fire smart-mouth delivery, wide-eyed look, and likeable class clown manner that makes me want to laugh. His boundless energy and direct, in-your-face approach in comedy makes him someone you can't ignore, and then he softens his comic blows with the most charming smile, as he says "I'm just playing." I just can't stop laughing at everything he says.

"Down to Earth" is a remake of Warren Beatty's "Heaven Can Wait," which was a remake of the earlier "Here Comes Mr. Jordan." Any film that's been remade so many times is going to seem rather familiar, and it would be hard to mine too much new material out of such a source. Chris Rock, who co-wrote the screenplay, gives it a try anyway and comes up with a few new twists, but the film overall is rather ordinary stuff.

For those not familiar with these previous films, the basic story is about a young man who mistakenly dies before his time. Lance Burton (Chris Rock) is a struggling young comedian who hasn't yet hit his stride and is suffering from a little stage-fright too. While crossing a street, Lance is suddenly confronted with an immedding traffic accident, which causes his overly cautious guardian angel to snatch him away to the afterlife just before he's hit. The problem is: he wasn't going to be killed in the accident. Since the angel that plucked him from earth before his time made a



Regina King plays Sontee and Chris Rock plays Lance Barton in "Down to Earth."

mistake, the authorities in heaven attempt to correct this by returning him to earth in someone else's body. Unfortunately, a suitable body isn't available and the young man is sent back as a rich old guy, Charles Wellington, who has just been murdered by his wife and her lover. The new twist here is that the rich old guy is white, whereas the young comedian is black.

While Lance waits for his "permanent" body, he meets and falls in love with Sontee (Regina King), a community activist engaged in a confronta-

tion with Wellington.

The film is at its funniest when the camera just lets Rock do his stand-up work, which he does so well. Rock's usually raw material is toned down for this romantic comedy, but still works wonderfully. The problems with the film come in other sections where the tiredness of the basic story comes through.

The problems of the film are less the fault of the writing than how it's directed. Directors Chris and Paul Weitz (whose previous work includes "American Pie" and "Antz") often

chose techniques that interrupt and detract from Rock's comic performance, rather than just letting his performance carry the scene. This is especially true in a scene where Rock passes a wall of TV sets, and then moves back and forth as they switch on and off. This bit could have been very funny, but the directors chose to chop it up, cutting back and forth between a long shot of the action and close-ups of Rock's face, rather than just staying with a long shot so we could watch Rock's whole comic reactions. The technique draws atten-

tion to the camera and the filmmaking process and away from the comedian and the comedy.

Chris Rock is a comedian, not an actor, but he does tolerable well with the dramatic parts in the film. However, his performance could have been better with a little help from the directors.

Overall the film works best when it showcases Rock's stand-up comedy, and it's unfortunate that it isn't a strong vehicle for him. Die-hard fans may still enjoy it, and hopefully future Chris Rock films will be better yet.

## INTERVIEW

### Rock never stops rolling

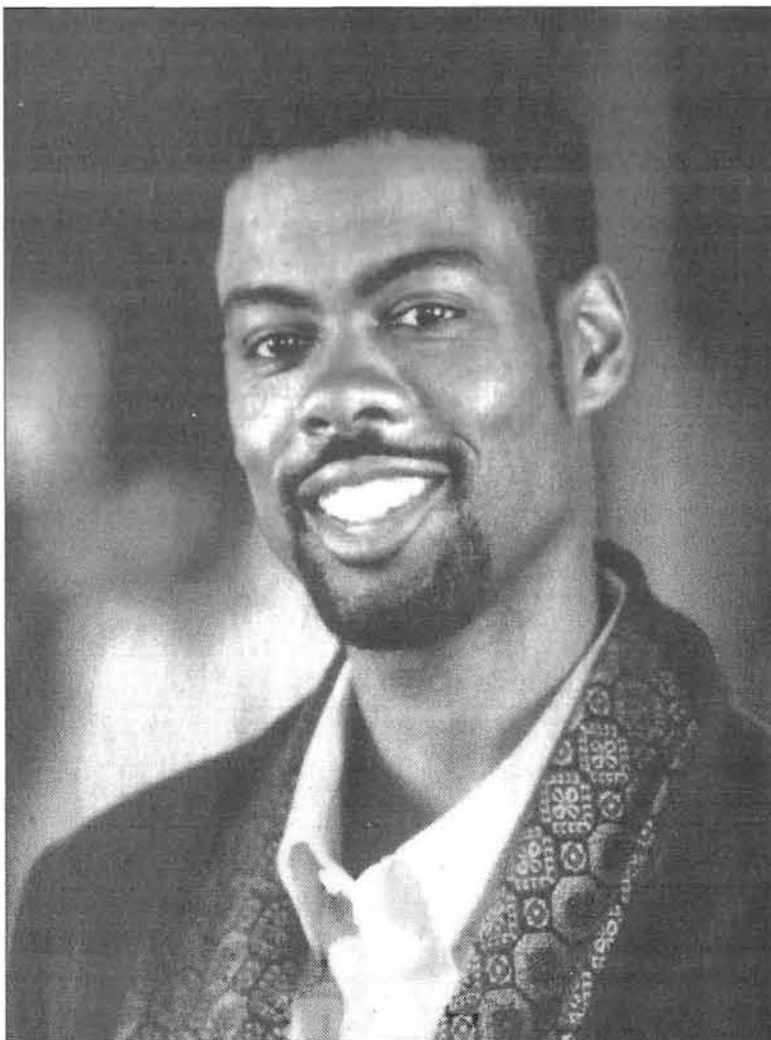
BY CATHERINE  
MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
staff editor

In connection with the opening of his film "Down to Earth," I was able to speak with comedian Chris Rock by phone during a conference call with the press. While some stars are sometimes surprisingly dull or guarded when interviewed, Chris Rock is neither of these. He was in fact refreshingly accessible, bright, and personable, joking with me and the other interviewers on the conference call, and possessed of a seemingly endless energy.

During the course of the interview, Rock described the many projects he's involved with now. Besides the just-released romantic comedy "Down to Earth," he was working on another film to come out soon, an action/spy thriller rated R, and was due to start another film next month with Anthony Hopkins. Besides this, he is in talks with director Kevin Smith, with whom Rock had worked in "Dogma."

"Next week I'm meeting with Kevin Smith (who also directed "Clerks") and I'll be in his next movie," said Rock.

The romantic comedy of "Down to Earth" appealed to Rock. "I wanted to do a romantic comedy for a long time. I didn't want to do a film with guns but romantic comedy has two elements I like: comedy and women. Of course, because it's a romantic comedy the film had to be PG-13, so I had to tone down some of my material." Rock said that he got the idea for the film after having a casual lunch meeting with Warren Beatty, who starred in "Heaven Can Wait" on which this new film is based. "Warren really liked the idea of me playing this part, although he said he'd thought about it before, and had envisioned Mohammed Ali in the part," said Rock, "But the film is really com-



Chris Rock

pletely different from his. This film is to Beatty's 'Heaven' like Eddie Murphy's 'Nutty Professor' is to the Jerry Lewis original."

Chris Rock's previous work has included stand-up comedy, a run on Saturday Night Live, and his supporting roles in films include "Nurse Betty" and "Dogma." Asked to compare "Down to Earth" to his previous work in stand-up, Rock responded "This is more mature, another side of me. No one's seen me be light. People will laugh and then say 'Hey, that was clean.' I wanted to do something that

kids could see. It's romantic comedy. They're not rated R."

Despite that, Rock said the movie was "not different from doing stand-up." When someone wondered if there was any original stand-up material in the film, Rock answered "Yes, in about the middle and at the end." Rock was the executive producer of the film and also co-wrote it. Asked if he had "writer's block" at any time, he answered "No, we had four writers, and we did the draft for the script

see ROCK, page 7

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### 'Vietnam Star' offers surprising cuisine

BY STEPHANIE ELLIS  
staff writer

It was just one of those nights. We could hear the rain tearing down on the roof as we flipped through cable channels, hoping to find a good movie that might save us from this lackluster Saturday night. It was cold, and my companions and I were hungry. But the rain was coming down in buckets.

"Should we even go out at all?" my mother nervously inquired.

"Yes!" I screamed, as I politely pushed my mother and my boyfriend through the door. "We can do this!"

Rain cap in hand (not on head), I forged a path to the car and we huddled inside, shivering all the while. As my car timidly passed Midland and journeyed down Olive, I wondered where I might find a decent restaurant without venturing too far. The Loop would be too risky—the parking usually requires too much of a trek to the restaurants. We needed someplace where we could just jump out and hurl our bodies onto a covered porch. As I drove onward, I remembered there being a Vietnamese restaurant not too far from I-170: Vietnam Star.

As I made my way into the parking lot, I saw something too good to be true—a covered porch. Although it looked a bit like an old fast-food restaurant, Long John Silvers, perhaps? Seems so. But the smell of grease and fish batter had long since evaporated, and a new smell lingered in the air—that of fresh seafood and steamed noodles.

We found that despite the weather, there was a good-sized crowd. We were immediately seated and upon opening our menus, gasped in shock: it was nearly 10 pages long! This is partly because the Vietnam Star is both a Chinese and Vietnamese restaurant. They provide a comprehensive selection from both countries. We had a

potpourri of ethnicity at our table that evening, which spanned across more than just Asia. My mother is German and she was eating Chinese food, I am part Lebanese and I was eating Vietnamese food, and my boyfriend is something of a mutt and he ate everything but the napkins.

For appetizers, my mom ordered crab rangoon (\$3.45). I thought they were very good—crisp and flavorful, not too greasy. They were served with a peanut dipping sauce. I wouldn't pair the two, but it was nice to see a spin on the same-ol', same-ol' version of these fried cream cheese wraps. I ordered the vegetarian spring rolls (\$1.95), which are basically cilantro, lemon grass, and vermicelli noodles wrapped in steamed rice paper. They are served with a delicious sweet-and-sour chili sauce. The difference between this and the typical sweet-and-sour sauces is that this is thin and almost watery, with bits of red pepper floating in it. It's not thick and corn-starch based like other sweet-and-sour sauces, which gives it a unique quality that is absolutely delicious. The rolls aren't anything exciting, but can differ in flavor from restaurant to restaurant. I wasn't too impressed with them here—they lacked the "oomph" that I have found in rolls from other Vietnamese establishments. My boyfriend Justin had the fried pork egg rolls (\$2.60). He usually eats nothing, but took one bite and pushed them away. I did the same. They were overly-saturated with pork flavor and came to us extremely greasy. They left an unsettling taste in my mouth.

For dinner, Justin ordered the Moo Shu chicken (\$7.95), which is a hoisin-sweetened onion, cabbage, and chopped chicken mixture rolled into crepe-like pancakes. I wasn't thrilled with the pungent sweetness of the

see STAR, page 7

## The good, the bad, the ugly of St. Patrick's Day



MARQUEE RAMBLINGS

CATHERINE  
MARQUIS-HOMEYER

St. Patrick's Day, that celebration of everything Irish, is fast approaching. For some of us, this means green beer, green hair, and a night of rowdy drinking in a crowded sports bar. For some, it's a visit to the big downtown parade. For those who like a little more Irish in this "Irish" holiday, there's a visit to a real Irish bar like McGurk's in Souldard, to hear some real Irish music played by real Irishmen, and the quaff a Guinness (an wonderful Irish beer) sans the green food color. Of course, you'll still be crammed in like sardines as at the sports bar, or maybe even more so.

There's always the smaller, more family-like Dogtown St. Paddy's Day parade, where at least there's a little more space for that inevitable crowd, sponsored by the local Ancient Order of Hibernians (that means they're Irish, or at least their ancestors were) Personally, I prefer the Dogtown parade to the bigger, official downtown parade sponsored by that fine Irishman, Clarence O'Harmon, but it really depends more on whether you like the big floats and marching bands or the homemade efforts in the smaller parade.

But the truth is this: St. Patrick's

Day is really an American holiday, started by Irish immigrants homesick for "The Old Sod." Until recently, it wasn't celebrated in Ireland at all, although now many Irish towns have big celebrations to cash in on American tourists. So, really, the holiday has been exported to Ireland, along with several other American holidays (like Halloween) that are now celebrated in other countries, primarily to draw American tourist dollars.

Don't take this wrong. Since I'm part Irish, and love Irish music and the Irish pub atmosphere, I'd love to spend St. Paddy's Day pretending to

be really Irish at McGurk's (or at least celebrating that heritage). But all the crowding and green beer is too much for me, so I'll hide out at home with my corned beef and cabbage (more Irish-American rather than really Irish, again). Maybe I'll listen to the Chieftains, a truly fabulous traditional Irish band, on the CD player.

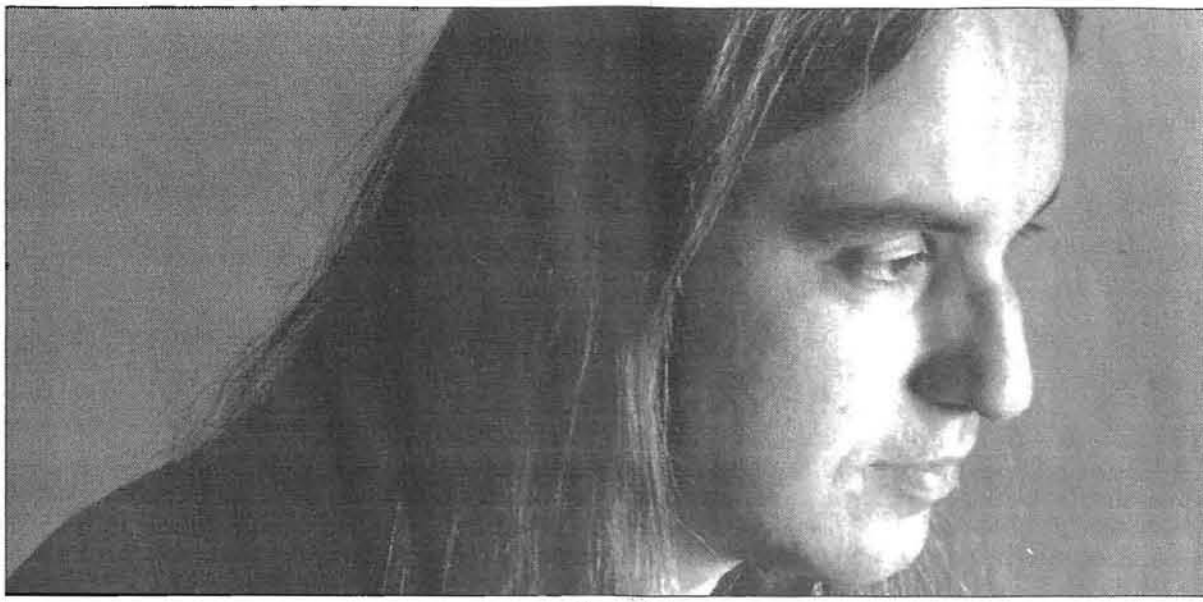
McGurk's is really a great Irish pub, opened by an Irishman (can you tell this is one of my favorite watering holes?), but I'm going to visit it some other night. People who work in the restaurant and bar business know that St. Patrick's Day is

like Christmas for bars—their biggest sales day of the year. All that drinking means there's a lot of amateurs out there having way too much to drink, and a few of those fools will actually try to drive.

So if you go out for that green beer, or even that Guinness at an Irish pub, be careful. Watch out for the fools on the road and, certainly, don't be one of those jokers yourself.

I'll be home with my cabbage and potatoes, listening to the Chieftains, thinking about my Irish grandmother and pining for The Old Sod.

ALBUM REVIEW



J. Mascis

More Light shines on the mysterious Mascis

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT  
staff writer

Above the leafless treetops, stars materialize from the dusky sky. Headlights trace the yellow lines of a windy country road. The car dips, and the headlights dimly pierce the fog. J. Mascis, guitar master of the belated Dinosaur Jr., creates brutish music that lawfully spins off into the woods.

"You need more light to cut through the fog, or something," J. Mascis trails off as he discusses his new solo album "More Light." The shy and mid-mannered Mascis drives his pre-classic rugged guitar sound towards faithful fans with the help of his backing band, The Fog. The studio makeup of The Fog consists of post-punk heavy weights Kevin Shields of My Bloody Valentine, doing some vocals, percussion, and guitar, as well as Guided by Voices' Bob Pollard, for some additional vocals.

After 14 years and seven studio recordings, Mascis decided to call it quits with the highly innovative and influential Dinosaur Jr.

"It just seemed like it was over," Mascis said. "It seemed like a good time to start something different."

From the way the solo album sounds, he has definitely moved on. The elaborately arranged music on the album seems to speak for itself. Quiet and reserved, Mascis is one of those talented individuals whose intuitive mind is more comfortable expressing ideas articulately through his art form. He says that he tends to write the music first.

"The lyrics are the last thing," he said about his songwriting process. After a pause he continued, "Sometimes I have a couple words I try to fit in."

ROCK, from page 6

in two weeks. Plus, we were doing a remake, so it was just a matter of writing new jokes."

When asked how much he thought his character in the movie was like himself, Rock responded "A lot like me, really." When asked if he'd ever gone after a woman the way the character does in this movie, Rock quipped "I have but it doesn't work."

One of the two co-directors on this film was new to directing, so I wanted to know how different this was from working with his other directors. "One of them worked with the actors and the other did the technical stuff. I had more of a say in what I was going to do—more of a collaboration, since they were new to it. With my other films, I just put myself in the hands of the director."

Rock has been working tirelessly to promote this film, with interviews and TV appearances. Of talking to the press, he said, "Talking to the press is not a drag, but it's still work. I've done about two weeks of non-stop press. There's a lot of press out there." One of the interviewers on the call noted that Rock's birthday had been the previous week, and asked if he took any time off. "No, I did an interview with Oprah. While it's was great to be on her show, it's still work; I would rather have just had lunch with her. But that's not a complaint, I'm really glad to be doing this for the movie."

Rock was asked about his criteria for picking a movie project. "I look for a good writer and a good director when I decide on a project," said Rock. As far as his next step in films, Rock said "I would like to try to direct as well as write. I would have directed this one but I had to go back to work on the show. I might direct the next one I do."

As the interview was winding up, Chris Rock was asked, since this movie is sort of about reincarnation, if he were to be reincarnated, what would he like to come back as. Rock immediately responded "I'd come back as Oprah's dog—that dog is treated very well!"

Some of the songs on *More Light* are more mature than anything that Dinosaur Jr. could have ever gotten away with. "Ground Me to You" is an example of Mascis's ability to carefully arrange a track with layers of humming bass lines, cyclic pipe-sounding organs, and note-chasing guitars. Rather than the focal guitar solo, which appears in the background of this song, there is a keyboard break down. The sensitive drawl of his voice as he sings "I don't want another picture / I need you" seems to flow naturally out of the different shades of the music.

"I wrote some of the songs on the piano, which was different," Mascis said. In addition to "Ground Me to You," he referred to the mellow "Waistin'" and "Can't I Take This On" as songs that were approached from a different angle on the album.

Slightly darker, "Ammaring" has some blouse hooks that are interrupted once again by Mascis's trademark wailing guitar feedback. While he does indeed incorporate different instrumentations to convey emotion that differentiates this album from a music Mascis made with Dinosaur Jr., ultimately it all goes back to the guitar. All of his personal restraint becomes invisible and nonexistent when he speaks to his audience with his guitar.

"I'm Not Fine," one of the strongest and more confronting songs on the album, is another example of Mascis's unruly style. The force of this song is felt by the warlike banging of the drums and flame-flickering riffs. The lyrics, while straightforwardly simplistic, seem to point out every change in the music. And of course, there is a "vintagey" finger-in-the-electrical-socket guitar solo at the end. Mascis has done some song writing

STAR, from page 6

mixture, but I found the portion to be quite generous. My vegetarian dinner of stir-fried egg noodles and vegetables (\$5.95) was delicious. I loved the taste and texture of the noodles, and the vegetables were fresh and crisp. I didn't have anything left over. My mom ordered the chicken with teriyaki sauce (\$6.95), which she didn't care for. It was much too bitter-tasting, and while I normally eat off of everyone's plate more than my own, I was happy with my dinner choice.

It's difficult to characterize Vietnam Star. With such an abundant menu, it wouldn't be fair to rate it on a scale from one to ten without sampling more from the selections. I will

for the soundtrack to the Alison Anders movie "Grace of My Heart," which he also appeared in. He recently played a drummer in her new movie "Things Behind the Sun." He says that writing for a movie is different from writing for an album in that the approach is more structured.

"The music's for some specific purpose," he said. "You can watch the scene and play the music. The music kinda plays itself."

From the loose texture that connects all of the songs on *More Light*, it comes as no surprise why Mascis enjoys directing his music towards a goal. This CD should not leave the CD player for at least a month, because it will take that long to notice every detail. *More Light* is one of those albums that becomes better and better upon every listen just because every song fits and flows so perfectly together. Not a single song is better than the other. Even the all-too-cheery "All the Girls" lures the listener in after the third or fourth go-around. Rather than dwelling on the fact that Dinosaur Jr. will never have another album, think of *More Light* as a continuation of Mascis's musical process. For fans looking for something tracing back to his former role in the highly influential band, check out the last song, which shares its title with the name of the album.

Mascis's light will pierce the clouds in St. Louis at Blueberry Hill on March 26. Representing The Fog will be former guitarist for the Stooges Ron Asheton, former Minutemen and FIREHOSE member Mike Watt on bass, and George Berz from Dinosaur Jr. on drums. Ironically, Bright Eyes will be opening. Doors open at 9 p.m., and tickets are \$15. For more information, call 314-727-0880.

BOOK REVIEW

'In the Blood' laced with humor with a heartbreaking finish

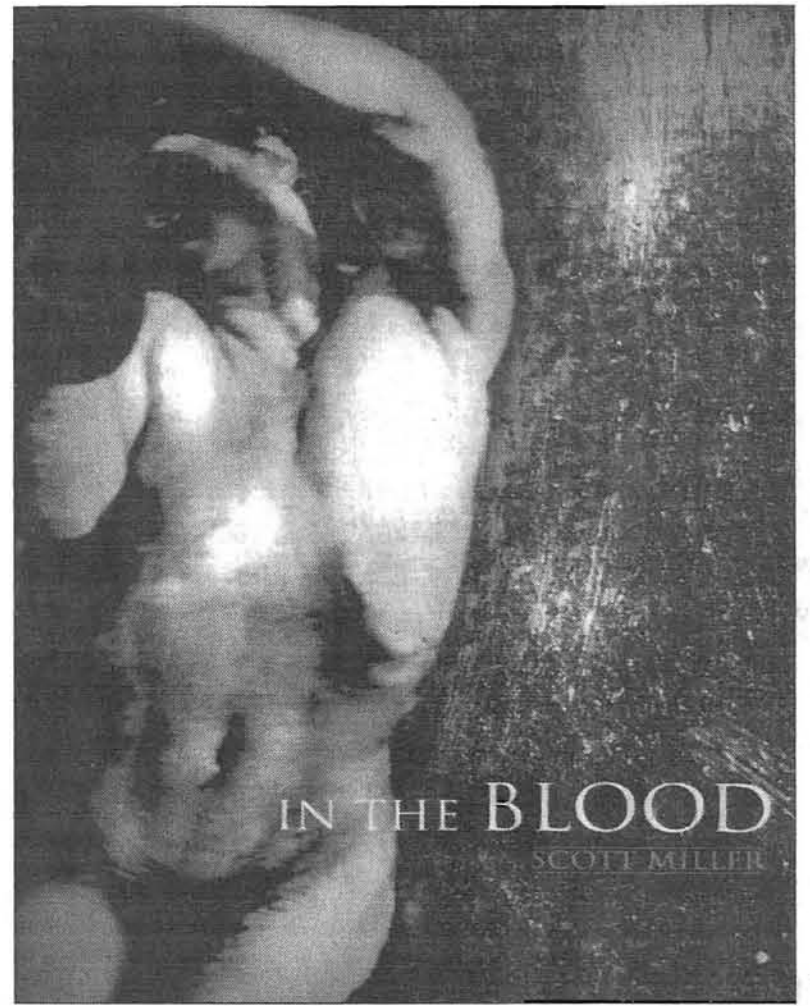
BY SARA PORTER  
staff writer

On the surface level, one could say that Scott Miller's novel "In the Blood" is a story similar to Anne Rice's "Interview with the Vampire" in that it has a stronger immortal vampire leading on a younger man and the two of them begin an affair. But on a deeper level, Miller's novel gives it a fresher perspective, presenting a story laced with wit and humor that climaxes to a heartbreaking finish.

Based on Miller's musical of the same name, "In the Blood" centers around Zach Church, a vampire rescued from suicide. While in the hospital, Zach meets Adam, a gay hematologist, and the two embark on an affair. When Adam reveals he has HIV, Zach is torn between making Adam a fellow vampire or letting him die.

"In the Blood" raises the issue of choosing suffering in immortality or dying young, which is prevalent in many vampire novels, but it is presented with humor and irony. Much of the humor centers around Adam's friends, Danny and Chaz—devoted fans of '70s television—and their female friend Rebecca all serving as commentators on Adam's and Zach's lives.

The characters are well-written and multi-faceted. Zach proves to be a very likable character, displaying his vampiric impulses, yet showing his devotion to Adam. Adam is also an excellent protagonist, yearning to



be loved. Anyone could relate to him.

The end of the novel brings all of the emotions out and raises many questions. Should Zach allow Adam to die? Should he give Adam the eternity of suffering that Zach had been

given just to let him live? Many of these questions are answered, some unsatisfactorily, in a very wrenching conclusion. Zach's decision proves to be the only answer when there is no right answer to this problem.

VAN GOGH, from page 3

"Van Gogh and the Painters of the Petit Boulevard" enables the viewer to see what many Impressionist artists were doing, not the just big names. Combined with the incredible art and background information, this

exhibition details the lives of the artists in relation to each other in way the previous exhibitions have not. "Vincent van Gogh" departs from traditional methods of exploring Impressionists and leaves a new way

to interpret an old model.

"Vincent van Gogh and the Painters of the Petit Boulevard" will be on display through May 13 at the St. Louis Art Museum. For more information call (314) 721-0072.

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# Mustang galloped onto scene in 1964

In some respects, 1964 was truly an outstanding year for the United States. The Beatles spearheaded the British Invasion, a comprehensive Civil Rights package flew through Congress, and our own St. Louis Cardinals, on the incredible pitching arm of Bob Gibson, outduelled Mickey Mantle and the New York Yankees in the seventh game of the World Series.

It was also a banner year for Ford Motor Company. For in the spring of 1964, they would unveil a phenomenon that would revolutionize the automotive industry and captivate every generation of Americans. It was christened the MUSTANG, and its legend is unrivaled in automotive history.



**TIM THOMPSON**  
history columnist

The story of the Mustang begins on a rainy October night in 1960. Lee Iacocca, the head of Ford Division, went to dinner at a local hotel in downtown Detroit with about a dozen engineers. Iacocca was a young man, just 36 years of age, and liked to surround himself with youthful, energetic people who were open to new ideas.

Over steak and potatoes that evening, Iacocca and his engineers examined the possibility of creating an automobile for everyone.

By the time desert was served, this new car, code named "T-5," had taken shape in the minds of the engineers. It would be small, comfortable, light, sturdy, quick and sleek. The car would also be a sporty two-door model, yet would be able to seat four people, giving it an immediate advantage over the Corvette.

There was one significant obstacle confronting Ford, however. Just a few years prior, its leading engineers had flushed 250 million of the company's money down the drain attempting to create another so-called car for everyone.

They termed it the Edsel, and it was a disaster.

Iacocca had to convince Henry Ford II, the head of the company, that this new car would not fall on its

face the way in which Edsel did. Ford was thoroughly skeptical at first, but Iacocca kept pressing. Finally, during a heated face-to-face discussion, Ford pointed his finger at Iacocca and said, "If I approve this new car, can we sell it?" Iacocca jumped from his chair and shouted, "YES!" Ford then put his signature to it, and work began on the Mustang.

Over the next three years, nearly 1,800 engineers would labor day and night creating the perfect design.

Iacocca himself worked seven days per week every week making certain that everything connected with the Mustang was completed with the greatest amount of precision and efficiency.

Finally, in the spring of 1964, the first Mustangs arrived at Ford dealerships.

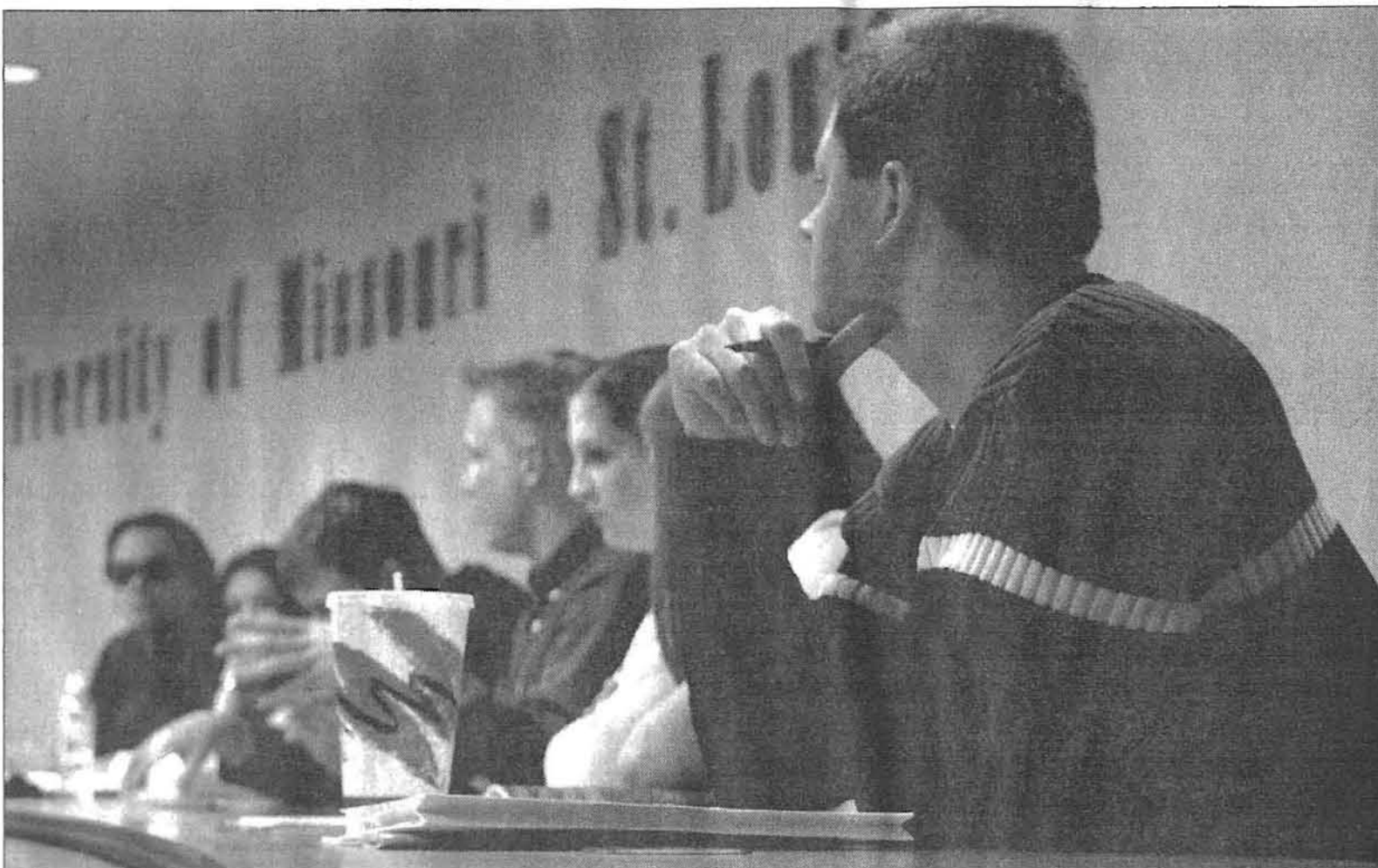
The car appeared simultaneously on the covers of Time and Newsweek. 100 were donated to major newspaper reporters throughout the United States. Enormous advertising space was purchased in more than 2,600 publications. In addition, the Mustang became the pace car for the Indianapolis 500 and was displayed at the World's Fair in New York City. The president of Chevrolet was actually sent one as a gift!

All the intense preparations paid off, and then some. 100,000 Mustangs were sold in the first four months alone, and nearly 500,000 found their way into homes around the world by the end of its first year.

New factories and assembly lines had to be built to keep pace with the unbelievable demand. The automotive industry had never seen anything like it.

By the close of the 1960s, three million Mustangs could be seen on roads all across America. Ford had redeemed itself for the Edsel disaster.

The Mustang was far more than just an automobile. It was a phenomenon. Most importantly, it was a shining example of American engineering brilliance at its best.



Mark Hendershot (right) listens as Joe Flees (center) makes a point during the March 6 SGA meeting.

Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

## SGA asks for Student Court nominees

BY DAN GALLI  
special to The Current

*Court won't be approved in time for elections, Connor says*

The need for applicants for the Student Court highlighted the brief SGA meeting on March 6 in the Student Government Chamber.

According to Ryan Connor, SGA president, the Student Court handles matters of grievances between organizations and students. It also handles impeachment proceedings for the SGA president and interprets bylaws of the SGA Constitution when requested.

It does not at this time handle hearings on traffic appeals, he said.

"We hope to be able to do traffic appeals again. It was handled in a careless manner. [The administration] took it away and it's going to take some work to get it back," Connor said.

Connor said that he will bring forward two candidates and an alternate at the next SGA meeting, and that he wanted the Assembly to bring forward one nominee and an alternate.

The candidates will not be approved in time for the SGA elections. The Student Court normally handles any grievances about the election. So why weren't candidates put in place in time for this year's election?

"It's tough to find people. There are many people who are graduating this semester who would have done it in the fall," said Connor. "I am looking for quality people because I want a strong Student Court and it is hard to find people who want to get involved."

Connor said he would recommend to the SGA at the next meeting that a Judicial Committee handle any grievances.

LeAnn Brooks, a member of the Student Social Work Association reported that she had met with Chancellor Blanche Touhill earlier in the day. Touhill approved an increase in the parking fee to \$18 per credit

hour, effective July 1, 2001. Brooks said that the request for a freeze on fees for the following year was denied.

Ellory Glenn, SGA vice president, said that April 18 would be the first day for elections. He said that rules and applications would be available soon in the student government offices, Student A activities, Thomas Jefferson Library, and main bulletin boards.

"My last goal as a student is to get the 20 seats filled for the at-large representatives," said Glenn.

The administration thinks the SGA represents few students and that it is splintered, said Glenn. The SGA will not be taken seriously until this perception is gone, he said.

Chris Tisdal spoke on behalf of S.T.A.R.S. (Students Taking Advantage of Resource Services). Tisdal voiced the concerns of handicapped students on campus.

He claimed that many things on campus advertised as handicapped accessible are not. The electronic door by the University Bookstore is not opening electronically. There is no electronic door, only a ramp, in the SSB by the coffee bar. Restrooms are not easily accessible for the sight-impaired and it is also difficult for the sight-impaired to walk across the bridge and through the Millennium Student Center because there is no consistency on the path.

Tisdal wanted to work with the SGA to get a committee started to make life on campus better for handicapped students at UMSL.

Michelle Roth also spoke on behalf of University Health Services about an interactive discussion of the date rape drug. It will be held March 14, from 6-8 p.m., in Century Room B of the Millennium Student Center. She hoped for a turnout of 50-100 students.

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#### Happy St. Patrick's Day Jackie

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by Marty Johnson

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## Mock Trial team puts in long hours preparing for national competition

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN  
staff writer

In only their second year of existence and already competing at a national level, the UMSL mock trial team's success has been called "phenomenal."

"This is huge," team president Matthew LaMartina exclaimed, as the pitch of his voice goes up a few octaves. "This is a massive, massive, undertaking."

On Thursday morning, one of the team's three squads will meet on campus and get ready for a 10-hour drive to St. Paul, Minnesota, where the annual National American Mock Trial Association national competition will be held. Forty other teams will join them.

Area schools such as Saint Louis University and Washington University are also competing, Danielle Smith, the team's treasurer said.

The eight-member team will compete in a Federal Courthouse in front of some of the area's local judges in a real-life trial format from Friday through Sunday.

Smith, LaMartina, Gina Mitten, Homecoming Queen April Cline, Lakisha Dowd, Charlie Rosene, Jen Suedemeyer, and Mike White will all

compete.

"This is only the second year that we're participating in mock trial," Smith said, "and we're already competing on a national level. This is unheard of."

The national competition will be similar to the format that the regional competition at Wash U had. Each team will be required to argue both sides, give opening and closing statements, and act as the defense or plaintiff in a civil case concerning a lawsuit against a tour service at Mount Everest.

"It's a lot like what you would see on the TV show 'The Practice,'" said LaMartina. "That's exactly what we do."

But despite the lawyer/courtroom atmosphere, LaMartina stressed that the team wasn't just a "pre-law or poly-sci" organization.

"It's a program really based in problem solving, thinking logically, and thinking on your feet," he said. "And analyzing data. It's all built around the confines of the American trial system."

At the national competition two more witnesses will be added to the Mount Everest case, and each team will be told only thirty minutes in advance whether they act as the defense or plaintiff, which is the same

as the prosecution in a criminal case. The eight-member UMSL team will face four rounds, twice as the defense, and twice as the plaintiff, LaMartina said. Each round is one trial which last about three hours, Smith said.

As a new organization, the mock trial team started out with a \$200 budget, Smith said. But with the approval of Gary Grace, vice chancellor for student affairs, and Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor for student affairs, the team was able to receive supplemental funding for expenses to the national competition.

In the past year, and earlier this year, Smith says that the organization was funded by Alumni and local attorneys and judges.

In between competitions, the mock trial team is coached by local attorneys Chuck Caisely and Matt Devoti.

In the midst of the three-hour weekly team meetings, and the scrimmages with SLU on Sunday evenings, the team members spend about ten hours a week preparing for competition, Smith says.

"It's like a part-time job," she added.

Yet, through the late nights of stressing over competitions, Smith says that the whole experience is "fun, fun, fun."

## Charter school lawsuit set to begin in May

BY TIM THOMPSON  
staff writer

On Monday, March 5, 2001, Judge Julian Bush of the 2nd City Court in St. Louis granted TAARP Inc. a preliminary hearing in its lawsuit against the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The hearing is scheduled for May 7.

The African-American Rite of Passage Learning and Education Institute and Arthur J. Kennedy Skills, or TAARP, is suing UMSL over the revocation of their charter by Chancellor Blanche Touhill on Sept. 13, 2000.

Touhill, after receiving the recommendation from a three person administrative panel, based her decision upon the following information. First, TAARP submitted a new application for a charter school that was to be operated with the assistance of a new and entirely different educational management partner, Charter Consultants. Secondly, this new educational management partner would have a significantly smaller role than that of Beacon Education Management Inc., the previous partner, in the overall operations of the charter school. This included, but was not limited to, the hiring and dismissal of instructors and principals, the setting of economic goals and standards, as well as control over teacher evaluations. Third, most of these day-to-day operations would be run exclusively by TAARP officials rather than the new management partner, Charter Consultants.

UMSL administrators are simply not convinced that officials at TAARP have the sufficient experience, expertise, and qualifications necessary to "satisfactorily undertake

such an expanded role and responsibility.

In a letter to Lamar B. Beyah, chief executive officer and founder of TAARP, Touhill stated that the new charter, which was submitted in Jan. 2000, represented "a serious breach of our agreement."

Beacon Education Management Inc. severed its ties with TAARP on Aug. 19, 1999 after the charter school failed to find the proper facilities necessary to provide over 426 kindergarten pupils with a place to learn.

Michael B. Ronan, chief operating officer of the Massachusetts-based company, expressed his frustration over the entire situation in an interview given to the Post Dispatch. "We have provided this charter school all the assistance we could," Ronan said. "It was just not feasible for us to continue."

Soon afterward, TAARP began searching for a new management partner, eventually signing an agreement with Charter Consultants, a firm out of Belleville, Ill. The partnership became effective in early Jan. 2000.

Upon receiving the letter of revocation from Touhill, Beyah immediately filed an appeal to UM System President Manuel Pacheco, who upheld Touhill's decision.

This led directly to the lawsuit being filed by TAARP. It didn't come as a surprise to UMSL administrators, including Bob Samples, director of University Communications.

"I believe we acted in the best interests of the community as a whole. This includes taxpayers, teachers, and students alike," said Samples. "We did the right thing by denying the charter."

Lamar Beyah sees the situation from a different perspective. "What

UMSL did was illegal," Beyah said. "They committed a breach of contract. UMSL believes that all day-to-day decisions in the charter school can only be conducted by the management partner. That is simply untrue and also illegal."

According to Beyah, a non-profit organization that enters into an agreement with a non-for-profit entity cannot have total control over the management decisions.

"This was the whole basis for UMSL's attempted revocation of our Charter," Beyah said. "In addition to this, UMSL is now questioning whether or not Charter Consultants is qualified to make management decisions."

This is yet another point in which Beyah completely disagrees with UMSL. "Charter Consultants is a highly qualified organization," he said. "They operate the Charter Academy out of Belleville which has been in business for 18 or 19 years, and are known as the charter school experts in this area. They are very qualified."

When asked what might have motivated UMSL to revoke TAARP's charter, Beyah said, "I think they are looking at my past and what happened some 16 years ago when I was incarcerated. They are making a poor judgment."

Beyah went on to defend himself by stating, "I rehabilitated myself when I was in prison. I have a wife and children and contribute to the St. Louis community."

Beyah expressed his thoughts concerning the viability of his lawsuit. "I feel very confident in the eventual outcome," he said. "I believe we will be victorious."

### RENOVATION, from page 1

would see necessarily," said Anderson.

The completed phase one cost around \$2.5 million dollars. According to Darandari, Phase two would cost \$5 million and phase three would cost \$16 million. The renovation is financed by money in the state budget.

Anderson notes that the plan for renovation has been in place for about four years, but other issues came up

"[The project] didn't happen then because the Performing Arts Center became the number one priority of the campus. We pulled all these plans out last year, and we're doing so this year," said Anderson.

The earliest hope to get the funding for the project would be in late 2002, the start of the new fiscal year for the state.

"Most likely we won't get the money until 2002. If tomorrow they tell us we're getting the money, we can get started tomorrow," said Darandari.



Construction of a three-phase renovation of Benton and Stadler Halls was halted after completing only the first phase because of a lack of funding.

### FEE INCREASE, from page 1

semester to park at UMSL.

"I can handle \$25 a semester. I can't handle \$200 per semester," said Mueller. The fact that UMSL is a commuter school and students have to drive strengthens the argument against higher parking fees, said Mueller.

Over the next year, Touhill will ask for alternatives to parking fees

and discuss options with various people on campus, including students, said Samples.

Falast questions the Touhill's gesture.

"She didn't really give the students a chance to meet with her before she made this decision," said Falast. "She didn't give the students a chance before she raised it from \$4 to

\$18. So we don't have a lot of confidence that she's really going to consider our viewpoint before she makes the next decision."

The Student Social Work Club was invited to meet with Touhill again, within a month, in which they will share more suggestions.

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