



UM-St. Louis provides many accommodations for visually impaired students from aid in classrooms, to special walkways.

▲ See page 3

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

INSIDE



"O" is an adaptation of Shakespeare's Othello. The film is set in modern times among teens at a prep boarding school and translates the dialog to modern English.

▲ See page 6



Criminal Justice department makes a move in Lucas Hall

BY KELLY JACOBS
staff writer

The Criminal Justice Department moved last week from the fourth floor to the third floor of Lucas Hall.

Department Chairman Richard Rosenfeld said that the department moved for more space. The space was made available due to the evening college moving. Professor Rosenfeld said that the department waited until Sept. 4 so the move would not interfere with the opening of fall classes.

Rosenfeld said the move to the third floor not only gives the department more space but provides a central location for the department. The move is helpful for the advising of students, he added, by giving advisors bigger and nicer offices.

The new space is not big enough for the entire department. Only half of the faculty is able to move to the new location.

"The Criminal Justice Department's need for more space shows the growing interest in the field of criminology," he said, which has several opportunities including jobs in probation, parole and social services.

"Some graduates continue their education in the Masters and Ph.D. programs, while others attend law school," Rosenfeld said.

The Criminal Justice Department currently has about 400 undergraduate majors and more than 100 students in the graduate program. Enrollment in both programs has increased each year, he said.

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New payment policy impacts many students

BY RASHAD PITTMAN
staff editor

The new UM-St. Louis payment policy for this school year may have caused hundreds of students classes to be canceled over unpaid fees.

Last week University officials sent out letters to more than 800 students warning them of last Friday's deadline to pay at least one-third of their balance for the fall semester, University officials said. The students who didn't make the minimum payment in time were dropped from their classes.

The policy required students to pay by Aug. 10 one-third of whatever balance they had after financial aid was applied. But because of mailing problems and it being the policy's first year, the deadline was pushed back to Sept. 7, said James Krueger, vice chancellor

of Managerial and Technological Services.

Krueger said that the policy would make room for the hundreds of students on waiting lists each semester. It would also help prevent the group of about 10,000 current and former students who still owe money from increasing, he said.

"We will admit we were just too lenient for a number of years," Krueger said. "Students weren't paying. We were allowing them to carry over balances and increase their balances over a period of time, and it was just the wrong thing to do."

Krueger said the University will know this week how many students were dropped from their classes.

Up to 800 students' classes may be canceled due to unpaid fees.

The new policy also requires students to pay any remaining balances before registering for following semesters.

Krueger said he hoped the new policy influences students to apply for financial aid by the April 1

priority deadline for next year.

"We really don't want to go after students," said Ernest Cornford, director of the Office of Finance. "The only person it hurts is the person who waits at the last minute. Someone who comes in late there is no anticipated aid because we don't know what they qualify for."

During the past five years, UM-St. Louis went from allowing students to have unlimited balances to setting limits that decreased each semester from \$2,000 to eventually \$500 last spring.

Many students were shocked when they received a letter in the mail last April explaining the policy changes.

UM-St. Louis senior Yorhena Panama, a social work major, paid her balance of \$425 about a week after school started. Panama, 23, who pays out-of-state tuition, said the new policy hurt a lot of students' pocket books.

"It's hard because you have to pay upon request," Panama said. "I don't see why we have to suffer for other people's faults."

Eric Dillard, 20, a former UM-St. Louis student now attending Florissant Valley Community College, had a \$2,000 balance last spring. Dillard lived in a campus residence hall at the

time and his grants and loans wouldn't cover all his fees, he said.

"I owed money before and I was allowed to register," he said. "This was new to me. You couldn't owe \$200 let alone \$2,000."

Because he could not register he officially wasn't a student and therefore couldn't apply for additional aid, he said.

"I was stuck in a circle," Dillard said. "No matter who I talked to nobody could help me cause I needed one thing to get to the other."

As a last resort Dillard decided to join the Air Force, which he said would pay 50% of his tuition. He said he plans to return to UM-St. Louis next fall.

Krueger said the new policy is here to stay and will be enforced fully next school year without any extended payment deadlines.

Millennium Student Center is widely praised by students and faculty

BY SARA PORTER
senior writer

It's hard to believe that the Millennium Student Center wasn't open this time last year. Not even one year from its grand opening and it has already become a permanent fixture at UM-St. Louis and student life.

"I used to go back and forth from the University Center to the Underground now I just got to the Millennium Center," said junior Angela Bates, a criminal justice major. "I like that everything is under one roof."

"The Millennium Center has become a great meeting place for students to talk and get together," said Ron Edwards, audio visual supervisor for the bookstore. "I like the atmosphere."

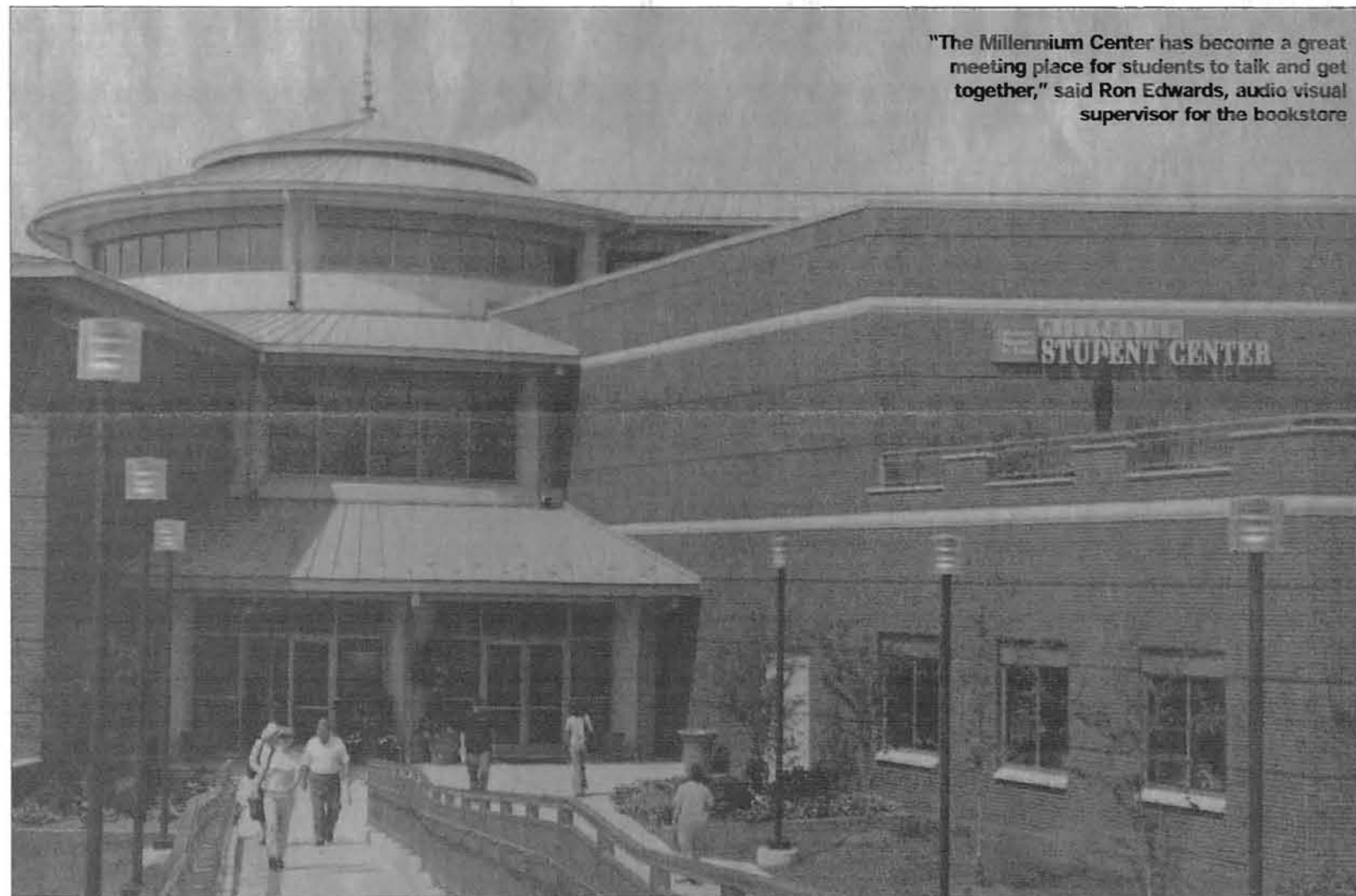
Before the Center opened officially last November, students registered for classes at Woods Hall, ate at the Nosh in the Underground in the J.C. Penny Building, and studied in the Thomas Jefferson Library.

"(Chancellor) Blanche's (Touhill) concept was to put everything under one roof," Edwards said.

Originally, the building was met with some early skepticism and dislike.

"My first reaction was why are they building this? It costs so much money," Bates said.

The Center is in itself a history of building and rebuilding and openings. The idea originally came in the 80s as part of the former University Center, eventually becoming its own new building. The Millennium Student Center was completed in the summer of 2000 and slated to open in July of that year. After a series of false starts and a labor strike by construction workers, the opening was pushed



"The Millennium Center has become a great meeting place for students to talk and get together," said Ron Edwards, audio visual supervisor for the bookstore

Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

back until Nov. 28, 2000.

To the students at UM-St. Louis, the Millennium Center is a welcome addition to the campus. "I like the way the upstairs offices are set up," said UM-St. Louis Junior Jason Wynman, a computer science major. "You know where to go. It's convenient."

Some students like the idea of an

actual student's meeting place. "It's a real student center," said Amy Portell, a junior and an archaeology major. "My old school, Florissant Valley (Community College), had something called a student center, but was just a cafeteria and a couple of other things."

"It's an actual place for students to go and do things together," said Junior Shannon Jerrals, and Elementary

Education Major.

Because of the constant presence of people, crowds gather and fill up the Millennium Center pretty quickly. "I wish there were more places to sit in the Nosh and the Chatroom, it's so crowded," Portell said.

Even though crowds are an issue with the Center, Edwards said that the Underground was a lot more cramped.

"The Underground was a lot smaller and on some of the busier days, there wasn't a lot of elbow room," Edwards said. "Besides there are more places to sit, like the chairs on the second floor, and the Fireside Lounge and Quiet Lounge."

"It really is the greatest thing that happened to UMSL," Edwards said.

Budget cuts mean fewer UMSL police officers

BY DEYLE ROBBINS
staff writer

Recent budget cuts have forced the UM-St. Louis police department to trim their work force by about 25%

The department cuts mean 16 officers have to do what 21 officers used to do. But the department is still open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year to serve the security needs of the campus, UM-St. Louis Police Captain James Smalley said.

Recent on-campus thefts, which includes desktop and laptop computers, a vacuum cleaner and VCR are nothing out of the ordinary, Smalley said. The thefts, he said, have largely occurred on south campus where several residence halls are located.

Although the main crime on campus is theft, he said, the number of thefts reported have remained steady over the past few years, according to annual crime report statistics. Theft could easily be prevented "if people would just use their heads," he said.

When leaving things in your car, he suggested locking them in the trunk and locking your car doors.

"Out of sight, out of mind," he said.

The Department publishes a pamphlet called the "Campus Crime Act Report" that reports detailed statistics on campus crime, as well as information about crime awareness and prevention. It is available at the Police Department, which is located across the parking lot from the Millennium Center, in the Telecommunity Center. The 2000 Report is being printed and is temporarily unavailable.

The police department offers round-the-clock patrols of all campus buildings, including residence halls and off-campus university business property. The officers spend most of that time on foot patrol, he said, in order to offer a visible presence to people on campus. By doing so, Smalley said the officers act as a source of information, as well as other kinds of help.

The department also maintains two Emergency Road Service vehicles to help with car troubles like flat tires, dead batteries and keys locked in cars. They can be reached by calling the Police Department at 516-5155 or 911 in case of an emergency.



Sgt. Bruce Gardiner of the UM-St. Louis Police Department

Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Bulletin Board

Monday 10

Rec. Sports Department

Rec Sports Coed Volleyball League begins tonight. Games will be played in the Mark Twain Gym every Monday and Wednesday night from Sept. 10 to Oct. 15.

Catholic Newman Center

Mass will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center, located at 8200 Natural Bridge Road. Call Father Bill Kempf or Amanda at 385-3455 for more information.

Wednesday 12

Rec. Sports Department

Rec Sports Bowling Doubles League begins today. Cost is only \$1.25 a week for three games. Your team of two can consist of guys and/or gals. This 10-week league is held Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at North Oaks Bowl. Sign up in the Rec Sports Office today.

Rec. Sports Department

Sign-up deadline for Flag Football Leagues (7-player men's and coed intramural games) are Tuesday afternoons beginning Sept. 18. Team and individual sign-ups welcomed. Register by Sept. 12, in the Rec Sports Office (203 Mark Twain).

Catholic Newman Center

Q&A will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center, located at 8200 Natural Bridge Road. Call Father Bill Kempf or Amanda at 385-3455 for more information.

Music Department

The Music Educators National Conference will sponsor its annual BBQ for students that are involved in music and music education. Applications and membership information will be available. This free event will be held, Sept. 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. outside of the Music Building, Room 105. For more information, please contact Matt Huber at (314) 780-5458.

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 submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday 13

Career Services

Career Services is hosting a "Resume Writing Skills Workshop" starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Career Services office, 327 MSC. All students are welcome to attend. Advanced registration is required for this free event. For more information, call Career Services at x5111.

Friday 14

Catholic Newman Center

The Catholic Newman Center is hosting a 12:05 Mass at C.N.C., followed by "Soup with Sister." All UM-St. Louis students are welcome. Contact Father Bill Kempf or Amanda at 385-3455 for more information.

Saturday 15

Sigma Pi Fraternity

The fourth installment of the Fall 2001 Sigma Pi Rush, "Sexy Legs 18" will start at 9:30 pm at the Sigma Pi Fraternity House, 8645 Natural Bridge Road. Women must be over 18 and men need to have a UM-St. Louis ID unless otherwise invited. Call Jeff at 630-2183 for more information.

Sunday 16

Catholic Newman Center

The Catholic Newman Center is hosting Mass at the South Campus Residence Hall starting at 8:30 p.m. All students are welcome to attend. The hall is located across from the University Meadows apartment complex and next to the Optometry Building.

THE CAMPUS CRIMELINE

August 24, 2001

University Police discovered a broken window at Benton Hall at 7:00 p.m.

August 27, 2001

*delayed report
A student reported that a Nokia cell telephone was stolen from his University Meadows apartment between 11:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. on Aug. 18.

August 29, 2001

A person reported that between 12:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 20 unknown person(s) entered his room in Normandie Residence Hall and stole cash from his wallet.

A person residing at the Normandie Residence Hall reported that between 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. unknown persons stole a \$50 bill from his wallet
At 10:35 p.m. a student reported that her estranged husband had taken her vehicle from parking garage "P" on the second

level. The husband had left behind his vehicle. The husband returned with the student's vehicle and switched vehicles.

August 30, 2001

A student reported that while his vehicle was parked on the second level of garage "P" between 12:25 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. an unknown person stole his Fall 2001 parking permit from the front windshield. The convertible top had been left open and the parking permit taped to the windshield.

August 31, 2001

A student reported that her wallet was stolen from her purse while she attended class at 100 Lucas Hall on August 30. (Editors note: classes are not currently being held in 100 Lucas Hall at this time)

A student reported having difficulties and a fight with a roommate after the roommate did not pay his share of the rent. The matter will be referred to Student Affairs office.

A staff person reported that her wallet was stolen on Aug. 30, 2001 between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. from the lobby area of Marillac Hall.

September 5, 2001

A student reported a bookbag stolen which contained books and personal papers from a restroom in South Campus Classroom Building on Sept. 4 between 10:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

A student reported a green mountain bike and chain stolen from the front of Benton Hall.

A student reported his vehicle stolen from garage "N", second level, between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The victim's keys were missing also. It is not known if the keys were left in the vehicle or not.

A student reported her parking permit stolen from her vehicle while parked in Plaza Garage between 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 31

and Sept. 4 at 3:30 p.m.

A student reported that his Fall 2001 parking permit was stolen while his car was parked at University Meadows between 12:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

September 6, 2001

A student reported that between 9:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. her vehicle was broken into and a Kenwood stereo and CD player was stolen.

A student reported that he lost his wallet between 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. at the Millennium Student Center. When the wallet was found and returned, \$60.00 in cash was missing.

A student reported that his vehicle was broken into while it was parked on the top level of garage "D" and taken from the trunk was a stereo, amplifier and speakers valued at \$1,000.

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

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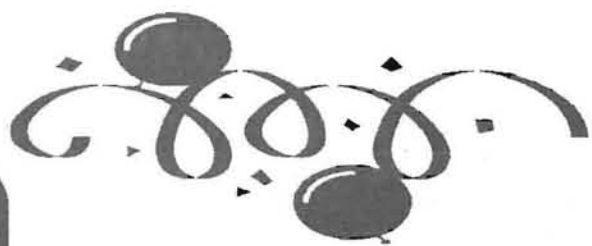
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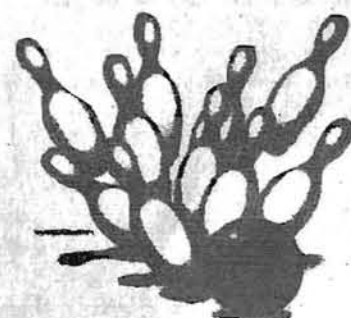
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Blind students find assistance at UM-St. Louis

BY SARA PORTER
senior writer

When English major Maggie Jost gave a speech in her class, it ran a few minutes over time. "I was supposed to give a five minute speech and it ran to fifteen minutes," Jost said.

An overlong speech is not an unusual problem for a student, but what was different was the reason that Jost ran overtime. "The teacher held up a sign, to say how much time we had left and I couldn't see him," Jost said. That's because Jost, like a few other students at UM-St. Louis is visually impaired.

UM-St. Louis provides many accommodations for visually impaired students from aid in classrooms, to special walkways. "We have Braille on the doors and most of the signs," said Marilyn Ditto, Director of Disability Access Services. "We also provide mobility training; that is, we take the students on their first day from class to class, so they can get used to their route. We work one-on-one with each individual student to provide needs that are tailor-made for them."

Students such as Jost widely received and accepted these facilities. "The people here are very good," Jost said, "I find that if I have a problem, people are very good at accommodating me."

Some of these problems center around difficulties in class. Jost, who is legally blind brought on by multiple sclerosis, still has some difficulties in her classes. "Because my degree is in English, I have to do a lot of reading, so all of my books have to be on tape. I used to be a very fast reader and it's very difficult to get to the parts you need, because you have to fast forward and rewind to the part you need. Luckily, I have a very good memory," Jost said.

Besides helping provide books on tape, Disability Access Services, also provides other needs for their classes. "We have students who need readers and writers for classes as well as aid for more visual classes," Ditto said.



Disability Access Services located in 144 MSC has helped Junior Shanta Peebles and her dog Zimmie maneuver around campus.

Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

"We do what it takes for students to be successful. All information is made accessible for students who are blind."

Despite this, Ditto says that some improvements are still trying to be made. "We are planning on some texture changes to the carpeting in the Nosh, so it's easier for the dogs and we

would also like to keep the tables and chairs stationary. Students move the tables and chairs, so it's hard for the dogs to establish a route," Ditto said. "We would also like to mark escalators so that the dogs will be able to locate the escalators."

Jost says that she has received a lot

of help from teachers and family. "I always sit in the front row and the teachers are very helpful in their explanations, they are also very good at giving a little leeway," Jost said. "My husband been very supportive in taking me to school and reading to me, books that I don't have on tape."

Even though she is blind, Jost says that she doesn't want to just be thought of that way. "Most of us who are disabled are willing to talk about it - if you ask, we don't mind," Jost said. "But, we are more than that. We are more than our disabilities."

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT
senior writer

Thoughts of class running through the minds of many UM-St. Louis students scurrying to or from the quad via the Millennium Center Bridge might be interrupted by a brief musical intermission. The installation of speakers at the heart of the bridge last semester makes for accessible campus announcements in addition to a little light-hearted ambiance as students trek across throughout the day. So, where exactly is it coming from?

"We run it out of the operations office," answered the man behind the music - Ron Edwards, Millennium Center Media Services Coordinator. "The bridge itself, I believe, is the highest trafficked area in the building and Gloria [Schultz, Director of Business and Management Services] wanted to set a mood."

If music creates a mood, Edwards' opportunity to present an enormous amount of different vibes for students enrolled in day and evening classes is limitless. The sounds stem from a randomly rotating 50-CD disk changer, with each disk containing up to 75 minutes of music. Right now, a bridge walker can hear new and old rock, hip-hop and movie themes from the 15 different variety CD's Edwards includes in his catalog. However, he said he looks to expand.

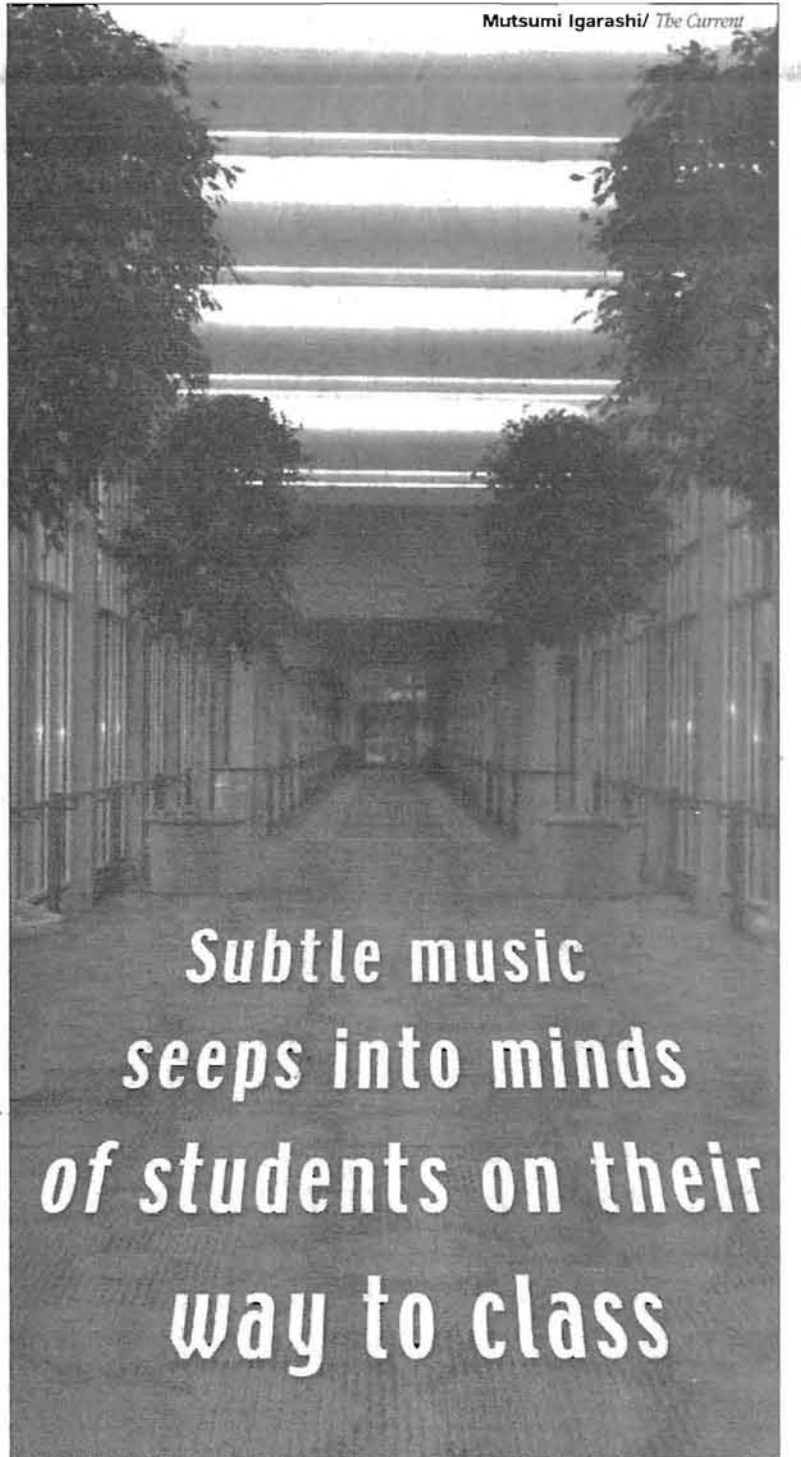
"I'm going to look for something like smooth jazz," he said.

In addition to the music, Edwards said that he recently obtained the technology to program announcements into the mix. This programming involves transferring audio media from tape onto CD, so the announcements could be included in the rotation.

"It's very time-consuming and we do it for special events," he said of the announcements he made for the first week of school.

Edwards' attention to detail in this project comes from his 14-year experience with 88.1 KDHX. While he may not play the type of music he does on his Sunday night radio show, "Nothing But the Blues," he said that he considers the bridge project a success.

"This building has radically changed the social dynamics of the campus," Edwards said. "A lot of people have heard the messages,



Subtle music seeps into minds of students on their way to class

and so far it has been positive."

"The music begins faintly at one-fourth the way across," said business major Salvo Parenti. "But you don't get the full effect until the plants. It's far too brief to have an opinion, it should be played in other places."

"They're just trying to get their announcements out the best way they can, and the music, I guess, is trying to appeal to a wide audience," senior Rob Hoffmann said. "I think people are just trying to get to the Millennium Center; I don't really think they really stop to pay attention."

The point of the music, according to Edwards, is not to invite people to lounge about the bridge waiting for their favorite song, but rather to just be aware of it and enjoy the inviting atmosphere.

"It's a long bridge, and when you pick it up, it's meant to make people hopefully feel a little better about coming in the building. This is a student building and we want students to enjoy it," Edwards said.

So, the next time you cross the Millennium Center Bridge put down that daily planner and take advantage of the brief ambient interlude.

Missouri house proposes changes to stalking laws

BY JENNIFER DODD
staff writer

Sue adjusts her glasses as she is trying to study for her math test. The phone rings, and instead of answering it, she is scared to death of it. Her pulse starts to race, her throat dries up, and her fists are clenched.

Why is Sue so scared of 'Ma Bell'? Because Sue is being stalked, and her stalker uses any outlet he can to get to her. He can cyber stalk her, call her, drive by her apartment, call her at work, and in general make her life a living hell.

According to a victim who has been stalked by her ex-boyfriend, the results can lead to death. "My ex-boyfriend was released after serving a short nine months. He continued to contact me, struggled with calling his probation officer. Not only did I love him, I just wanted him to get strong and to leave me alone."

"He was still coming to my house and blowing his horn for me to come outside, leaving gifts, and calling me at work. I treated him like a criminal and obtained copies of his cellular phone bill. But there's a twist: I recently allowed him to weasel his way back into my life and I realize I was wrong in giving in."

Once I realized my mistake, I asked him not to contact me. He has been asked not to call me at work or come by the house, and he still does. The probation department has been notified, and they really don't seem to care that he is in constant contact with me."

On July 22, a stalking victim on the Suite101.com website said, "I just don't know what to do now that I slipped and made a terrible mistake by talking to him again. Do not ever have contact with your stalker ex-boyfriend or not."

Since incidents like this have happened all across the country and in

Missouri, there have been proposed changes to Missouri's stalker law. Craig Hosmer, a Democrat from District 138 who has been with the House of Representatives since 1998, introduced Missouri House Bill Number 582. Matt Bartle, a Republican from District 56, co-sponsored the bill. "The proposed bill adds a definition for unconsented contact, and when a stalking victim who provides a mailing address be notified upon the release of the stalker from custody," the Bill states.

When it comes to the actual crime of stalking, there is a stiffer punishment. House Bill 582 states, "Combines the current crimes of stalking and aggravated stalking, renaming it as third degree stalking, expands the scope and increases the penalty for a third and subsequent offense within 5 years to a class C felony with a mandatory sentence of not less than one year without eligibility for parole."

There are some helpful ideas for people like Sue. If the stalker is on a restraining order and is ignoring it, find out the name of the judge who issued it and write him a letter and call the chamber office until you get a response. "Judges take it very personal when anyone disobeys an order that they have issued," Suite 101.com states.

"Also, after you have contacted the judge, call the police every time he bothers you, and speak to the Watch Commander. Make it perfectly clear that this man is violating a judge's order, and you are in contact with the judge over this matter. The Watch Commander does not want to be caught napping on the job, if he finds out that they are not responding to a court issued order," according to the website.

"Once I realized my mistake, I asked him not to contact me."

EMMA TURNERS

EDITOR

ANNE PORTER
features editor

phone: 516-5174
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'Fusion' promises a night of fun for area college students

"One night, six schools, thousands of students."

That's the promise of "Fusion", a gathering of students from colleges across the St. Louis area, taking place at Union Station on Friday, September 14 from 6:30 PM to 12:30 AM.

Already tired of studying? Need to get out and meet some people? Well, here you go.

This is one way to start off the school year, with a big party of thousands of students.

"Fusion" features intercollegiate activities, food, and live music, all to give you a break from all those classes and all that homework. Even if the activities don't interest you, the booths, food, and bands and the chance to mingle with all those other students might make for an interesting evening.

The bands, activities, and booths wrap up at 9:30 PM and the party moves on to dancing in the Hyatt Grand Ballroom until 12:30 PM. Dancing is always a great way to wear yourself out and burn some calories (and fun too).

The organizers of this event are also offering a free ride on Metro Link with your student ID sticker, so you don't even have to worry about how to get there and back. Just ride the Metro Link from campus right to Union Station.

If you want more details, you can contact the campus organizers at 516-5291.

OPINIONS

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

OUR OPINION

U Meadows a raw deal

The University Meadows has unleashed an unwelcome surprise this school year by raising the price of rent on their apartments.

For the 2001-2002 school year, the Meadows have raised monthly rates on all their apartments, including a two-bedroom apartment from \$384 a month to \$396 for each renter. The rate for a one bedroom apartment has jumped too, from \$530 a month to \$550 a month. The rates also increased the previous year.

Why is this the case? Company policy says worker's compensation at the University Meadows mandates a rent hike. Company policy is to raise rates each year.

Unlike what most people think, UM-St. Louis does not run the Meadows; it has a management company run the Meadows. Century Campus Housing (CCH) is located in Texas and manages several University housing communities, primarily in the Midwest and Southwestern parts of the United States. So why is a company located in Texas blindly raising the rental rates for students in the St. Louis market?

It's hard to see how the students are getting more for their money, as there are several problems with the Meadows.

For starters, many of the apartments that student pay handsomely for are far from acceptable living environments. During the winter, many student do not have warm water. Some rooms have exposed floorboards from

shoddy carpeting, and loose tiles in the bathroom and kitchen areas. The on-site dumpsters are hardly emptied on a timely basis, and the resulting trash is strewn throughout the compound. There is a lack of parking spaces that forces a student to park outside the gated Meadows community late at night. Also, the Meadows had trouble adding new student ID access numbers to their computer system. The solution? Delete all the old files and add the old card numbers back into the computer, and hope that students can get in the gates until then.

There are many cheaper alternatives around the area, which include Mansion Hills. Mansion Hills apartments cost \$400 for a one bedroom apartment and \$265 for each person in a two-bedroom apartment. While the two bedroom apartments come unfurnished as opposed to University Meadows, Mansion Hills represents a better bargain in the long-term. Several UM-St. Louis students already live there. Why can't UM-St. Louis better promote this alternative?

Having on-campus housing is very beneficial to UM-St. Louis. On-campus housing brings the student community together and gives students close access to UM-St. Louis. However, the University has to find a way to show students that there are cheaper alternatives than the University Meadows. Otherwise, CCH will nickel and dime students from living on-campus.

The issue:

UM-St. Louis' highly promoted housing community, University Meadows, has again raised rental rates for the school year. The decision has come from their Texas based Housing Management Company, Century Campus Housing.

We suggest:

UM-St. Louis should better inform students of cheaper housing alternatives near campus.

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else on your mind. You can also visit the various forums on The Current Online!

GUEST COMMENTARY

Reader reflects over meaning of Labor Day

I always find Labor Day sad. It is the one holiday that seems to celebrate the end of something good; summer. And this was a typical Labor Day. It was a day of end-of-the-summer baseball, Bar-B-Q, and brew. A day of insect repellent, potato salad, and (Can you believe the kids are back at school already?) Yes, it is one of those holiday is that force kids all over America to spend the afternoon completing homework that has been put off over the long weekend.

At our house the charcoal was burning and the kids, including me, were reluctantly starting our homework when my wife arrived home from work. She was laden with chicken, and potato salad, and cantaloupes for our holiday feast all neatly packed in plastic Wall-Mart bags. She made the rounds to each family member pausing to give out a hug here (for our bull mastiff who has separation issues), some encouragement there (for a kitten we're trying to litter-box train) and finally, a slap upside the head for not starting homework earlier. (That one was for me.) I got the message and settled down to my task.

As we finally sat down to eat I told my wife to quit jumping up and down and fix herself a plate. (After all, the kid is seventeen years old. We adults are capable of getting our own can of soda out of the cooler.) She said okay, but went and got the kid a soda and grabbed me a new cold brew without

my asking. It was when she handed me the ice-cold can that I began to think about the holiday from her point of view.

Up before dawn to make it to work on time. Work a full shift cheerfully passing fried foods out a drive-thru window to people who had already partaken of enough holiday brew to think they're cute, when they are really just obnoxious. Then she gets the watch the obnoxious people drive off to enjoy the holiday as she scurries to prepare the next obnoxious patron's order.

Following that she has to run to the store to pick up our holiday dinner. She tries to pick out an extra-special meal while pushing a cart down aisles crowded with afternoon holiday shoppers picking over what the early-bird holiday shoppers have already decided wasn't extra-special. After the store she stops on the way home to fill up the gas tank so that her husband can sneak in five more minutes of sleep before his two-hour commute on the day after the holiday.

And what greets her when she finally reaches hearth and home? A paranoid dog, a loose-bowled kitten and a husband that spent the morning watching some guy snap the tune to Wipeout on the Telethon instead of doing his homework so that he would have some quality time to spend with his wife.

Then it is time to cook the special holiday dinner. She fights charcoal flare-ups, ducks water balloons and constant interruptions from the kids while swatting at bugs. (The kids used up all the insect repellent.) Eventually, she gets the meal on the table. That is when the real interruptions begin. (Where is the Catsup? Where is the mustard? Are these real Hot Dogs or the Turkey junk? Do you know how many people salmonella killed last year? There is a bug in my soda, I need a new one.) When she gets up to get the kid another soda her husband tells her that he and the kids are mature enough to take care of themselves.

But she knows better. Next, dinner is over and it is time to clean the dishes and straighten up the house. Now, maybe, just maybe, there will be some time to relax! Nope. The kids need clean clothes and lunches packed for school tomorrow. Her husband helps by pointing out that she is so lucky someone invented permanent press, and that she doesn't iron the way his mother did. Then he points out that there is a rip in his lucky pants that has to be mended. Oh, and could she get him another brew first, cause he is almost done with his homework and doesn't want to loose his train of thought?

see LABOR, page 12

What's your opinion?

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

- University Meadows Rental Rates
- Construction on Interstate 70
- Understanding Diversity

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

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

So the UMSL community is diverse; point?

Over the weekend I had the honor of accompanying many of my fellow UM-St. Louis student leaders on a Leadership Training Development retreat at Trout Lodge in Potosi.

Like most conferences, I really wasn't all that excited about the prospect of leaving a very taxing and busy lifestyle as the publisher of "The Current" (the majority of our work is done on the weekend) to attend yet another leadership seminar. Indeed, neither was my production and advertising staff, who pulled some extra hours to pick up the slack, as did the man who wrote the column below this one. (Note: I really to appreciate y'all keeping the presses running in my absence)

It's Friday at "The Current", and as the staff is preparing for yet another tedious staff meeting, I'm tying up the loose ends and handing Mr. Valko the keys to my baby for the weekend. (Oh, that's a hard feeling, almost like giving your 16-year-old son the bullets to a sawed-off shotgun and letting him fire at an apple balanced on your forehead.)

So I'm off to Potosi to learn how to be a leader. Again.

Early on in the trip down, my eyes began to wander down the isles of the charter bus. Nothing looked unusual. Similar to the UM-St. Louis campus, the bus was 60 percent female, 30 percent African-American, 10 percent international, 12 percent purple, and 100 percent tired.

Sometimes, though, seeing is only just that. As I began to eavesdrop on some of the small conversations, I noticed a few things. The biggest, I feel, is that I do think that I was the only person on the bus that was seeing this conglomeration in these terms. That is not to say that is

the only thing that I cared about, but it was definitely on my mind a bit.

I wondered how we were going to get along. I thought about the racial divisions that I've seen in my three years at this University, and how they have affected my life. I was not nearly so "prejudiced" as I am now. Not the prototypical "black-on-white" bullplop of fame, but generally how I talked to anyone of a different creed, color, or nationality than my own.

I think that as people in a very socially segregated society, we tend to, by the nature of our being, assume that people want to talk about their differences.

This is one of the first lessons that I learned from the weekend. I quickly learned (as my new bud Corey, a member of the Society of Black Engineers could attest) that a large part of our first conversation had nothing to do with our differences. In fact, in the three days that I

got to know Corey, and Usomound, and "pre-Vet Jenny," and Quincy Pittman and many other student leaders that were of obvious different social, economical, and racial backgrounds, not once did any of us discuss our differences.

And I'm fairly sure that goes for the rest of the 70-plus people who attended the retreat.

What I saw was a veritable coming together of races, sexes, ideals and values. A summit of people; real people with real morals and ethics with real problems and real questions.

I did not see color because I didn't want to, I didn't tell myself that Quincy and Corey and Parker were not blacks, but my peers. I didn't have to.

I didn't see color because it just

see LABOR, page 12



NICK BOWMAN
editor-in-chief

Growing construction continues to haunt I-70

Coming and going from UM-St. Louis seems to slowly take longer and longer due to construction on Highway 70. There always seem to be new things that the Missouri Department of Transportation is doing to I-70 to make the drive longer.

At the beginning of the summer, Eastbound I-70 was converged into two lanes around the airport. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) displayed a sign telling everyone that the construction would be done in the fall. They never specified a date, and eventually took the sign down.

The construction cannot be completed soon enough. The construction has caused serious back-ups, especially during rush hour. I remember over the summer getting off from my job in West County at 4:30 p.m., jumping in my car to make 5:30 p.m., making good time, until I hit the traffic jam that starts at St. Charles Rock Road.

Westbound I-70 has new features helping to add to the congestion. The far right lane is blocked off on a bridge near the airport. The result is

more traffic jams during rush hour times, usually near the Highway 170 interchange.

The problem has been compounded by the eastbound 70 converging into two lanes at the Highway 170 interchange. The traffic jam that results from this decision isn't that big of a deal, except that it is the way a lot of UM-St. Louis students take to get to school.

Finally, MoDOT has closed the eastbound Hanley to exit ramp from Sept. 4 through September 10. This means that drivers wanting to make a right-hand turn have to wait for the traffic light, so that the drivers who want to make a left-hand turn can go. MoDOT finally did the inevitable, by simply closing the eastbound Hanley exit ramp last week. Not that this would be a problem, except that UM-St. Louis still holds classes with less access to the University.

MoDOT has a contract that says that all three I-70 lanes would be open in either direction by the end of 2002. The deadline cannot come soon enough for UM-St. Louis students.



STEVE VALKO
managing editor

Under Current

by Maggie Matthews
staff photographer

Do you believe in aliens?



Naomi Schirokawa
Sophomore / Psychology

" I do because the universe is so huge. "



Tim Redel
Freshman / Elementary Education

" I don't know. I believe in UFOs. But the origin of them I don't know. "



Wonani Mhango
Junior / Computer Science

" No. They only happen in this country. "



Charonda White
Senior / Criminal Justice

" No. I really don't think aliens will come down here and scoop up a human. "

Kicker men lose in St. Chuck, win at home

Rivermen head into GLVC play with .500 mark on season, ready to face conference

BY DAVE KINWORTH
staff editor

Over the last week, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen played their last non-conference games before the start of the Great Lakes Valley Conference season begins. The team had hoped to use this time to retool and refine any rough edges before the conference stretch.

On Sunday, the team drove down a crowded and under construction I-70 to face the Lindenwood Lions in St. Charles.

Not much was made of the contest, however, as the Lions made quick work of the Rivermen by way of a 1-3 victory. Jake Hopson scored the only red and gold goal, briefly quieting the small crowd of 50 on hand for the contest.

UM-St. Louis came back to this side of the Missouri River on Thursday to play host to Missouri Valley College, and to a much friendlier crowd of 125-plus.

Avenging the earlier loss, the Rivermen came out firing on Missouri Valley, nailing two early goals withing the first seven minutes of play. Hopson scored his second goal in as many contests to start the early rally, sitting on the receiving end of a deflection from the Missouri Valley netminder. Less than one minute later, Kirt Spencer of Trinidad and Tobago corralled another MoValley deflection and sent it into the back of the net at the 6:36

mark.

MoValley struck back about halfway through the first half, however, as Tyson Ferreira took a ball that caromed off of a UM-St. Louis defender about seven yards from the net and sent in.

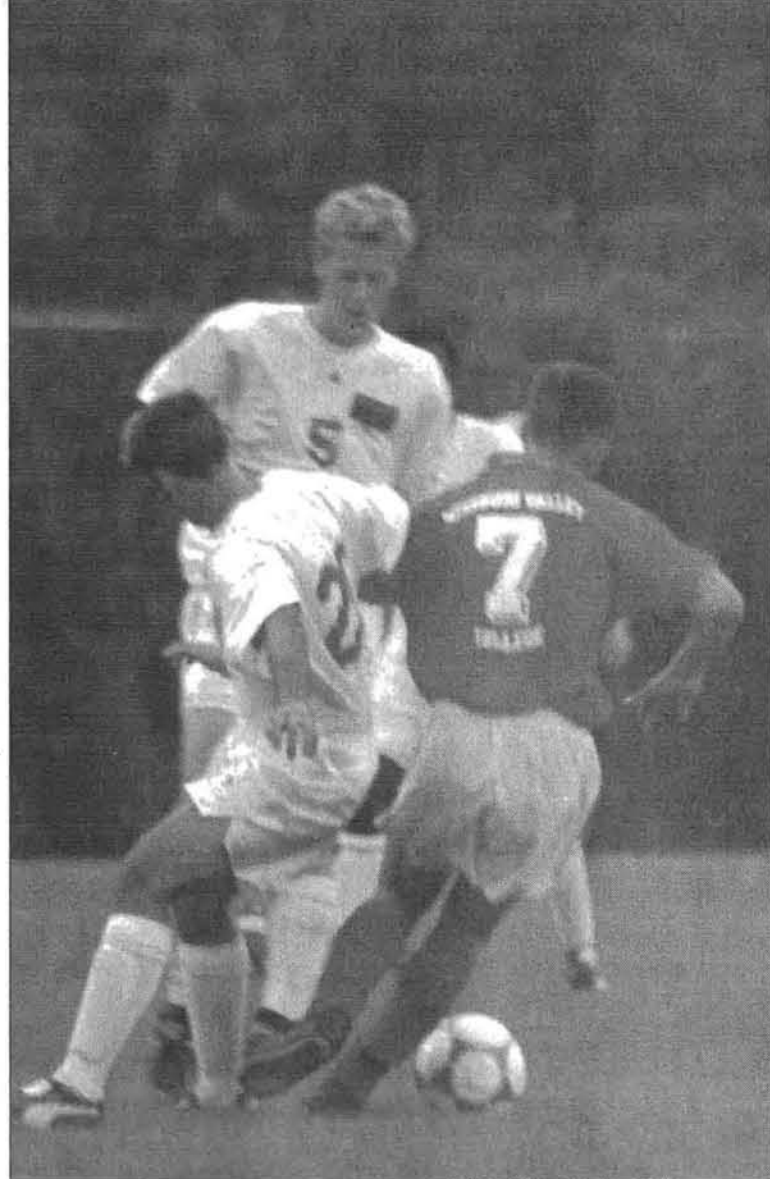
UM-St. Louis took the lead into the second half, and battled to add to the slim lead.

Scoring was quiet until the 50:00 mark, where Spencer found another way to beat the MoValley goalkeeper, shooting from over 20 yards out and finding the upper right corner of the net. The two goals were Spencer's first of the season.

Jason Barclay sealed the coffin for MoValley, tallying his first goal of the year at the 75:17 mark. Kyende Bormentar was credited with the assist.

After the Missouri Valley contest, the Rivermen will move on to conference play as UM-St. Louis hits the road to play at St. Joseph's and Wisconsin-Parkside before returning home Sept. 21 to host Lewis University and SIU-Edwardsville.

Last season, the Rivermen lost both contests against St. Joseph's and Wisconsin-Parkside. Lewis University was knocked off by Wisconsin-Parkside during the conference tournament and Wisconsin-Parkside went on to win the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. After the loss, Lewis rebounded to advance to the third round of the NCAA Tournament.



Photos by: Sara Sorrenson The Current

Netters split matches in K.C., ready for GLVC to begin play

BY DAVE KINWORTH
staff editor

The UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team finished the Rockhurst Tournament with a .500 record as the Riverwomen went 2-2 last weekend.

In the first match, the Riverwomen faced host Rockhurst College and lost in three straight games 34-32, 30-24 and 30-14.

The Riverwomen were led in the contest by lone-senior Holly Zrout who recorded nine kills, while Barb Drake finished respectively with six. Three Riverwomen registered double-digit defensive digs as Daria Sak led all with 13, with Janae Paas and Ashley Richmond recording 10 respectively.

Rockhurst recorded 45 kills while the Riverwomen only recorded 28. In the third game, Rockhurst recorded 14 kills while only making five errors, while UM-St. Louis only recorded six kills and had eight errors.

But the Riverwomen bounced back in the second match of the day against Bryant College as UM-St. Louis won in three games 30-24, 30-24 and 30-20, moving the Riverwomen's overall record to 4-2 on the season.

Drake once again led the team with 12 kills, while Kathryn Freeman recorded seven. UM-St. Louis also played hard on the defensive side as the Riverwomen recorded 50 defensive digs compared to Bryant College's 39. The Riverwomen also recorded 16 total team blocks compared to Bryant College's seven.

The Riverwomen then moved on in the second day to defeat Southwest Baptist in four games 30-23, 30-26, 24-30 and 30-27.

Drake and Zrout led the team with 12 and 11 kills, while Kelby Saxwold recorded 14 defensive digs, while Zrout recorded 10 to her credit.

The Riverwomen only recorded six errors per game on the offensive attack, while Southwest Baptist

recorded 11 in each game.

In the fourth and final contest of the Rockhurst Tournament, the Riverwomen fell to Pittsburg State in five games 30-23, 30-24, 21-30, 25-30 and 12-15. The loss moved the Riverwomen's overall record to 5-3.

The Riverwomen recorded 82 defensive digs during the contest, with five Riverwomen in double digits, including Daria Sak who led all with 18. Maureen Monahan and Saxwold would each accumulate 12 during the contest.

During the first two games, the Riverwomen only recorded seven errors, but in the third and fourth games, the Riverwomen recorded 17 to force the fifth game.

The Riverwomen's conference schedule begins as UM-St. Louis travels Sept. 14 and 15 to take on SIU-Edwardsville and Southern Indiana, before hosting their first conference match Sept. 21 and 22 when Southern Indiana and Indianapolis come to the Mark Twain Gym.

R-women almost top No. 8

BY DAVE KINWORTH
staff editor

The Riverwomen's soccer team almost pulled off a major upset this early in the season as UM-St. Louis took no. 8 nationally ranked Mercyhurst to overtime, before eventually losing 3-2. The loss was the second in as many days to ranked opponent for the Riverwomen as previously host no. 14 Ashland University defeated the Riverwomen.

In the Mercyhurst contest, the Riverwomen got out to an early 1-0 lead as Regan Dyro scored 6:30 into the contest. But Mercyhurst would have an answer as they evened the score at the 14:34 mark.

Mercyhurst outshot the Riverwomen in the first half 5-4, but came out flying with 12 shots on

goal. Lindsey Siemens had the answer though as she broke a 1-1 tie 66:40 into the second half for a Riverwomen's 2-1 lead. Siemens would finish the game with a goal and an assist on Dyro's goal in the first half, while only taking three shots on goal for the contest.

But Mercyhurst answered again as they scored at the 70:25 mark to send the contest into overtime. In overtime, Mercyhurst took the first and final lead of the game when they scored at the 100:23 mark to seal the victory and squash the Riverwomen's thoughts of an upset.

UM-St. Louis goalkeeper Rebecca Senn stood strong in the nets as she recorded nine saves on 21 total shots from Mercyhurst.

The Riverwomen moved on this past weekend to host the UM-St. Louis Tournament. The agenda fea-

tured UM-St. Louis taking on Grand Valley State and Ferris State, while the fourth team in the tournament was Great Lakes Valley Conference rival SIU-Edwardsville.

After the UM-St. Louis Tournament, the Riverwomen begin conference play Sept. 14 and 16 as UM-St. Louis travels to play St. Joseph's and Wisconsin-Parkside. Last season, the Riverwomen defeated St. Joseph's in the first round of the GLVC Tournament 2-0, while then soundly defeating Wisconsin-Parkside 4-1 in the semifinal. Wisconsin-Parkside advanced to the semifinals by upsetting no. 2 ranked SIU-Edwardsville.

The Riverwomen will return home Sept. 21 and 23 to host Lewis University and SIU-Edwardsville in UM-St. Louis' conference home openers.

Rec Sports is best way to stay active at UMSL

BY DAVE KINWORTH
staff editor

Rec Sports is a vital organization that allows students to participate in a variety of events, ranging from bicycling to soccer to paintball.

This fall semester, Intramural Coordinator Pam Steinmetz believes that participation is definitely the key to a successful year ahead.

"We had very good numbers last year," Steinmetz said. "We are just hoping that we can duplicate last fall's numbers. I can't remember

how many teams we even had for flag football. We really like to have those numbers, but of course we are always looking for more. With the amount of students that attended the orientations, we are hoping that is going to bring us some more numbers."

Rec Sports does not just deal with athletics, but rather is well-rounded to all students.

"Our motto is something for everyone," Steinmetz said.

"If the students get into the building and get into the Rec Sports office, almost everyone can find something on our schedule that fits both their interests and their time schedules. We always try, during the league sports, to give varying skill levels."

One new event Rec Sports is offering is a hayride for all UM-St. Louis students.

"Everything that we offer, offers a great opportunity on campus to meet new people and build friendships."

Steinmetz said. "It is an off-campus outing and gives people a chance to intermingle with others on campus. It is something different to do to get away from the books."

Last year, Rec Sports introduced arena football to the UM-St. Louis student body. This season, Steinmetz and Rec Sports are looking for new, fresh ideas that UM-St. Louis students can participate in.

"We are always planning to increase participation," Steinmetz said. "We have been talking to Residential Life people to see if we

can bring some of our activities to them. Again though, our door is always open for anyone who has a new activity just like arena football last season."

With participation comes visibility, and Rec Sports is trying to become more noticed throughout the campus this semester.

"One of the ways to increase participation is to encourage individuals to sign up," Steinmetz said. "We do everything we can to keep an individual. If we

can catch the individual and they become fans of our program, then they are going to go out and get more individuals. Making people happy in our program is number one. It is word of mouth more than anything. All you can do is make the one person happy and hope for the best."

Rec Sports kicks off this fall semester with volleyball beginning Sept. 10, bowling Sept. 12 and flag football Sept. 18.

"Everything that we offer, offers a great opportunity on campus to meet new people and build friendships."

~Pam Steinmetz

SPORTS

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sports editor

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THIS WEEK

Soccer

14
at Saint Joseph
5:00 p.m. Women
7:30 p.m. Men

16
at Wisconsin-Parkside
12 p.m. Women
2:30 Men

Volleyball

14
at SIU-Edwardsville
7 p.m.

15
at Southern Indiana
2 p.m.

2001 Redbirds: hit it big or bust it big time?



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTH

One of the biggest disappointments and surprises of the summer and fall has been the play of the St. Louis Cardinals. They have hit rock bottom and now we see the rise to hopefully another playoff-bound year.

The question that has been going around St. Louis though is are the Cardinals good enough and have enough left in them to make the playoffs? If they are, can they overcome the Houston Astros for the division title or will they settle for the wild card?

Nobody but the Cardinals have the answers to these questions. They have shown that they have what it

takes during their hot month of August, but can they catch Chicago?

The Cubs have never put much scare into the Cardinals until this season. The Cubs and their sub-par starting rotation (excluding Kerry Wood) have overexcelled and now it is their time to streak towards the lockers and head home for the season. John Lieber is not a great pitcher. He is just getting good run support and that is all he has asked of the Cubs lately.

The Cardinals have one of the best starting pitchers in the National League in Matt Morris. Morris, with a 19-7 record heading into this past Sunday's game, has carried the bulk

load for the Cardinals. Daryl Kile is still the ace of this staff, but Morris has elevated his game to the next level. He is now in the elite status where Kile, Randy Johnson and even Curt Schilling rest. Morris is currently tied with Schilling for the best record in all of Major League Baseball.

With a hot starting pitcher in Morris and Kile, and even an occasional no-hitter by rookie Bud Smith, this team seems destined for the playoffs. The offense as of late has done everything they should have done earlier this season. They got rid of Ray Lankford (something I thought should have been done two

years ago), and Albert Pujols has solidified himself as the National League Rookie of the Year and in some counts is a consideration at Most Valuable Player.

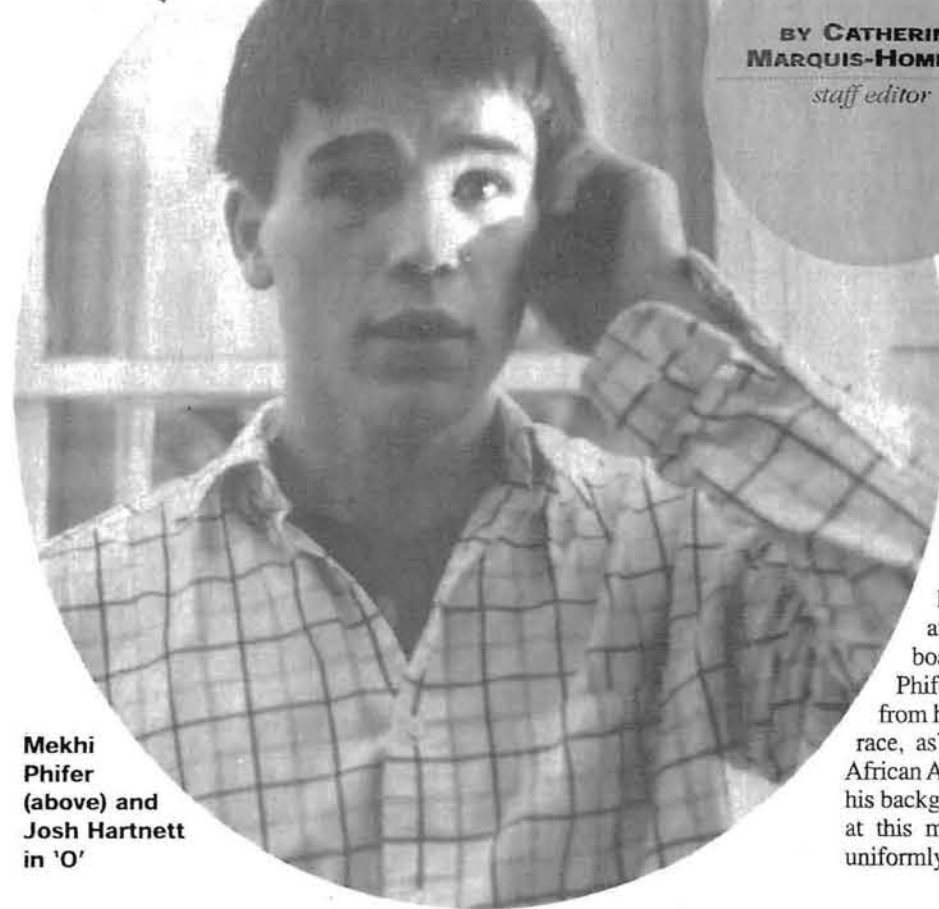
Even an unmotivated Jim Edmonds earlier this season has stepped to the plate and delivered during crucial stages down the stretch. If Edmonds finishes with a .300 batting average, 25 or more homeruns and 90 runs batted in, all that was in the past will stay in the past.

The main contributor besides Pujols this season has been the gritty Placido Polanco. His determination reminds me of the ex-Cardinal

Rex Hudler. He is always hustling every play and wants to make himself better as a player. He has filled the void and left Tony LaRussa no choice but to insert him into the lineup.

The pitchers and hitters must stay in the same frame of mind if the Cardinals are to get to the postseason. Once they get to the postseason, Houston, Arizona and even Philadelphia or Atlanta may be wary of what could happen. The Cardinals could become the next Oakland Athletics team to get really hot as a ballclub and rally off numerous wins in a row on their way to the World Series.

'O' scores points with retelling of Othello



Mekhi Phifer (above) and Josh Hartnett in 'O'

In recent years, there has been a plethora of teen movies that are essentially Shakespeare's plays, mostly comedies, retold with modern language and in a modern setting. Many of them are designed to just make a

buck providing entertainment, using his marvelous characters and stories while sidestepping Shakespeare's language and the challenge that it might present to modern audiences. Of course, for fans of Shakespeare, the loss of the beauty and poetry of the words usually eliminates any appeal these films might have.

"O" is a much more serious effort, an adaptation of Shakespeare's Othello that departs from this trend in several respects. While the film is set in modern times among teens at a prep boarding school and translates the dialogue to modern English, similarities with early adaptations end there.

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

For one thing, this story is based on one of Shakespeare's best tragedies, Othello. It represents more of a retelling of the story than strict translation, although it follows the story fairly closely. Another thing that sets this version apart is the intent of the filmmaker to make a more serious film. The result is a powerful but not flawless film that represents a worthy effort.

In this film, Othello the general becomes Odin, a high school basketball star at an exclusive Southern boarding school. Odin (Mekhi Phifer), nicknamed O, differs from his classmates not only in his race, as he appears to be the only African American at the school, but in his background. While the other teens at this mixed-gender school appear uniformly affluent, Odin comes from

a poor background and is at the school on a basketball scholarship. Despite these differences, Odin is popular and successful at the school, both on and off the court, and appears happy and comfortable in his role as a leader and star at the school. Unfortunately, Odin's teammate Hugo (Josh Hartnett), Iago in the play, harbors a secret resentment and begins a hidden plot for Odin's downfall.

Changing Shakespeare's characters from adults to teenagers changes some of the dynamics of the story, which is one of the reasons this film is more of an adaptation than a pure translation. The story is approximately the same, but no real effort is made to directly preserve the dialogue, allowing it to flow more naturally from the speech of modern teens. The parents in this story often take the role of the nobles in Shakespeare's tale, as authority figures and powers to which the characters owe allegiance, a device that works fairly well.

Odin's coach and his ardent supporter (Martin Sheen) is also the father of teammate Hugh (Iago in the play). Desi (Julia Styles), Desdemona in the play, is Odin's secret girlfriend and the daughter of the head of the school. Having Hugo as the son of the coach and Desi as the daughter of the headmaster actually adds motivation to Hugo's plotting against his friend O and heightens the tension in the romance between O and Desi. Racial tension also plays a greater role in this adaptation than is apparent in the original play.

The film is consistently well acted, with a talented cast. The look of the film is dark and ominous in spots, bright and insular in others, which fits well with the tale. Setting the story at an isolated Southern school helps restrict the students' interactions with the outside world, creating a micro-

cosm for the drama. The sport scenes are believable and action filled, and well integrated with the story. The movie features a hip hop score, which seems like a good choice but in fact doesn't always work well with the shots. The directing and photography of the film are artful and effective.

Fans of Shakespeare are divided on the recent interest in updating or changing the time and place of his plays, a trend that extends to the stage too. Generally, fans might accept a setting in another time or place, but like to hear the original words, as the beauty of the language is one of the treasures of literature. However, a modern setting presents a problem with the language, as the mismatch becomes too obvious for any audience to ignore. Some fans may accept serious adaptations such as this film as homage to the work, rather than just exploitation of a good story. Certainly, "Romeo and Juliet" has been used countless times in this way, going back at least to "West Side Story." But purists prefer both the language and the setting to remain intact.

The setting in a modern time and place is well used by director Tim Blake Nelson, but the loss of Shakespeare's words is a big obstacle. This film was actually made over a year ago and release was held back in light of the real life incidences of high school violence, which are mirrored in the tragic ending of this story. The director rightly resisted pressure to change the story to a happy ending to speed its release, which would have significantly diminished the film.

The resulting film is a powerful, strongly told tale of jealousy and emotion that plays very well with its teenaged characters. While not a flawless film and not something that will interest the purists, it certainly gives you your money's worth, something many recent films didn't do.



EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E editor

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A&E Campus Calendar

September

10
Monday Noon Series. Melissa Roundtree, curator of the Fine Arts Program at Hallmark Cards, Kansas City will give a lecture on the work of Sol Lewitt in Room 229, J.C. Penny building. Admission is free. The Monday Noon Series is sponsored by the Center for Humanities.

11
Foreign Film Series. The movie, "All About My Mother" will be shown on the third floor of the Millennium Center at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. the Foreign Film Series is sponsored by Student Activities and the University Program Board.

17
Monday Noon Series. Susan Gregg, associate artistic director of the Repertory Theatre will speak on theaters place and value in society, in Room 229, J.C. Penny Building. Admission is free. The Monday Noon Series is sponsored by the Center for Humanities.

MOVIE REVIEWS

The dark comedy 'Ghost World' haunts the mind

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

The summer after you graduate high school has an eerie feeling. While it seems on one level like any summer before, underneath lies the awareness of the permanent change. Whether one goes to college or straight to work, the coming fall will be like none before, and the promise and uncertainty looms over the sameness of the summer. It is an unsettled feeling of both exhilaration and doubts about the changes to come. It is a time of transitions in all aspects of life, in one's sense of who you are, and in one's relationships. This shared experience is what draws you into the black humor of "Ghost World."

In one of the best films of the year, director Terry Zwigoff brings forth a stunning adaptation of Daniel Clowes' graphic novel "Ghost World." The film explores the summer after high school's end for two intelligent and cynical young women who view themselves as outcasts at odds with the strip mall-filled world around them. This dark comedy is one of the not-to-be-missed films for serious film fans.

Finally freed from the restraints of school, long-time friends Enid (Thora Birch) and Rebecca (Scarlett Johansson) plan to get jobs and then an apartment together. But summer is long and they are in no hurry, as they amuse themselves ridiculing both the odd and the more conventional people around them. While they see themselves as outsiders, they also disdain the freaks and geeks they come across. Nothing escapes their biting wit as the long-time friends cast a harsh eye on

the falseness and blandness of the chain stores and strip malls around them. Eventually, one of their practical jokes brings them in contact with Seymour (Steve Buscemi), a lonely middle-aged collector of old 78 recordings, who soon becomes a fascination for Enid.

The film is both funny and profound, filled with experiences that everyone who has passed through this phase of life will recognize. The film is also intensely visual, with a lush, deep, colorful look that is pleasing to look at but also harkens back to its origins as a comic book, while also referencing the bright primary colors that dominate Enid's and Rebecca's increasingly strip mall-filled town. The smothering of individuality under corporate sameness is an underlying theme in this tale.

Basically, it is the believability of the characters that drives this film. Enid, Rebecca, and the people who surround them are all filled with the quirks and contradictions that real people possess, rather than the simplified cookie-cutter appearance that many more traditional movies often give to teen characters. Excellent acting allows us to see the conflicts and doubts that cross their minds, particularly in the case of Thora Birch. Birch, who previously appeared as the daughter in American Beauty, gives a fine performance in this film as the more impulsive and outgoing Enid, but all the actors do excellent work, with Johansson's reserved Rebecca and Buscemi's charming and pathetic Seymour as fully drawn, believable

see GHOST, page 7



Voltan (David Ogden Steers) puts CW Briggs (Woody Allen) and Betty Ann Fitzgerald (Helen Hunt) in a hypnotic trance.

'The Curse of the Jade Scorpion' returns Woody Allen to pure comedy

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

Once upon a time, Woody Allen was considered the greatest comic filmmaker of his day, whose every film was met with eager anticipation. Eventually, he abandoned comedies in favor of artistic dramas, some of which were more successful as pieces of film than others, but which were less popular than his comedies. In recent years, he has become perhaps better known for his messy personal life than for his films. A few returns to lighter comedy have not all been successful, although his tragic-comic "Sweet and Lowdown" was a highlight of recent years.

Fortunately, "Curse of the Jade Scorpion" is a successful romantic

comedy, a funny and charming film that is a return to pure entertainment, with flashes of the wit that made Allen famous. The film is light and fast comedy, appealing to the eye, with a 1940s setting and look that will delight fans of classic Hollywood screwball comedies and film noir mysteries. The film is just simple fun, without the darkness or seriousness more often found in Allen's films.

Woody plays an insurance investigator, C. W. Briggs, at a security company, a kind of rumpled and nerdy gumshoe detective who is nonetheless the best investigator in the company. Briggs is in a head-to-head conflict with the company's new woman efficiency expert, Betty Ann Fitzgerald (Helen Hunt.) In a time when few women held office jobs besides secretary or receptionist, Fitzgerald is in a position of power and her steely

demeanor reinforces this. Of course, the investigator is full of sexist indignation at her power over him and his inability to sweet-talk her into making exceptions for him. Despite Briggs' reputation for successful investigations, Hunt's character is dismissive and determined to get what she wants, and brushes off his complaints. Their mutual dislike is the starting point for some hilarious verbal sparring and rapid-fire insults in a plot of twists and surprises as the office embarks on a hunt for a mysterious jewel thief.

Good writing and intelligent dialogue are the marks of any Allen film. There are many expected Woody Allen traits here: the film is set in the 1940s, an Allen favorite opens with simple black and white titles, and comedian Woody has the starring

see SCORPION, page 7

Here's what you might find on the A&E page this year

MOVIE MARQUEE



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Rather than doing a rant on films, which I certainly will do throughout the year, I thought I would do a little introduction to the A&E page for new readers.

Welcome to the A&E page. A&E means, of course, Arts and Entertainment, and that's what we'll try to feature throughout the coming year. Mostly, we do reviews on this page, and our staples are movies and music. But we will also be making an effort to cover anything related to arts and entertainment that might be of interest to students. A particular focus will be placed on arts and entertainment taking place on campus or with a campus connection.

Sometimes the page might be all movies, sometimes it will be all music, sometimes a mix of things. Art events, book reviews, restaurant reviews, and more will be in the mix. Nearly always we'll run a calendar of upcoming events. Sometimes this will be a calendar of events on campus, sometimes new movies coming out, and sometimes upcoming concerts.

Mostly, this column will be written by me, the A&E editor and film critic, but sometimes Emily Umbright, our music critic, might write it. While Emily will write many of the music reviews and I'll write most of the film reviews, we have some other excellent writers who will sometimes write these

reviews, as well as providing other reviews and articles.

Some of our writers wrote for this page last year, notably Emily Umbright, our chief music critic, Sara Porter, who wrote most of our book reviews as well as other reviews, and Charlie Bright, who wrote music and movie reviews. Emily, Charlie and Sara are all excellent writers, as you'll be aware if you read *The Current* last year, and they are being joined by our promising newer writers and sometimes writers from other sections, which should give this page a wonderful variety of voices, tastes and styles.

Since people have different tastes and interests, this variety of opinions

will keep things interesting.

We will be doing plenty of movie reviews, on a wide range of films. Both the mainstream and more offbeat or independent films will be included in the mix, and maybe even the work of local filmmakers sometimes. Film reviews and interviews with stars and directors will be included, and local and campus film events will be covered as well.

Music reviews of new CDs will be mixed with concert reviews and interviews with band members. We'll cover a wide range of musical tastes and will get local bands on the page too. We'll try to keep you updated on concerts coming up and special events related to

music, on campus and in the area.

Theater reviews, profiles of art showings, book reviews, restaurant reviews, and articles on any art and entertainment related events that catch our eye will come and go on this page, which hopefully will provide an interesting mix with our music and movies standards. On-campus events will get a special spotlight, as will A&E with a student connection. New kinds of reviews, on different A&E related topics are likely to appear as well.

Hopefully, we'll have an ever-changing variety backed by some standards that will give you an A&E page that's always lively, informative and entertaining itself.

Amazing animated films

BY SARA PORTER
senior writer

Animation has gone through many changes over the years, from the early hand drawn styles to the computer-generated movies of Pixar studios. Each style has left an indelible mark on the style, and have transformed it from the kid's movies of yesteryear to the more dark, adult 'toon of today. Here is my list of the 10 most influential animated films, which represent different styles, times, and studios:

10. "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" (1988)- The first constant animated/live-action film puts 'toons in the real world. Detective Eddie Valiant (Bob Hoskins), the movie's hero, is beautifully set into Toon Town, which is inhabited by characters from the Disney, Warner Brothers, and the now-defunct Tex Avery studios is a feat not easily reproduced.

9. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993)- A stop-motion masterpiece written by chill-master Tim Burton puts some of the most frightening nightmares onto the silver screen. Monsters, vampires, skeletons, and witches, inhabit gothic Halloweentown. This film is complimented by the excellent singing voice of Danny Elfman, the movie's composer, who portrays Jack Skellington, the spook who aspires to be "Sandy Claws."

8. "The Last Unicorn" (1982)- This film, animated by Rankin-Bass (the team that did "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"), was based on Peter Beagle's novel of the same name. The big eyed characters, darker tones, and highly magical creatures are anime-inspired. This film also breaks the mold of a 'fantasy film' by retaining the books unhappy ending.

7. "Pinocchio" (1940)- The second Disney film, it paved the way for later films to come. The hand drawn animation style may seem dated by today's standards, but the plot still holds well, with unforgettable scenes like the Pleasure Island sequence and the scene that places Pinocchio, Gepetto, and Jiminy Cricket in the belly of Monstro the Whale.

6. "Prince of Egypt" (1998)- Dreamwork Interactives first animated

film brings the story of Moses reverence and respect. The voice cast including Val Kilmer, Ralph Finnes, and Ofra Haza, as well as superb animation, help bring vaulted events like the Burning Bush and the Parting of the Red Sea to life.

5. "Atlantis" (2001)-The animation is spectacular, one of the best I've seen in a long time. The characters, particularly Milo and Helga, were drawn in more of the pulp 40's and 50's style, giving the movie a 'graphic novel' look. The backgrounds of Atlantis are impressive, from the tunnels and caves to the continent itself, which looks like it rises above the scene. A scene where the band of adventurers battle Leviathan appears to be animated characters superimposed on a live-action background.

4. "Road to El Dorado" (2000)- Dreamworks latest animated film showcases some of the most life-like computer generated scenes in modern animation, as well as a very witty script that pits two con artists in search of the fabled city of gold. Voice-overs from Kevin Kline and Kenneth Branagh accent the humor of the story.

3. "Emperor's New Groove" (2000)- Despite the movie's hurried appearance-it took only a year and a half to make-the humor of the movies shines in the clever use of caricature, including a spoiled emperor turned into a llama (David Spade) and the script that wittily pokes fun at animation clichés.

2. "Mulan" (1997)- This film stars a strong-willed intelligent animated heroine named Mulan (Ming Na Wen), a woman who joins the army in disguise as a man. The scene in which Mulan and her band of side-kicks battle the Hun army sports animation reminiscent of the wildebeest stampede in "The Lion King."

1. "Fantasia" (1940)- Some consider this Disney classic the first true "music video". Classical selections were brought to life by animators, each one telling their own unique story. Unforgettable images such as Chernabog and Mickey as the sorcerer's apprentice make this film an earmark of feature-length animation.

CD REVIEW

Subtraction makes Ben Folds a plus

BY JOSH ROTHMAN
the diamondback

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. — There are only a few musicians who gain mainstream success with the use of a piano. Billy Joel and Elton John are the obvious examples. You would have to search pretty far to find another.

When Ben Folds Five hit the music scene in 1994, their piano-driven, guitarless rock sound reminded people of Todd Rundgren. On lead vocals and the piano was Ben Folds, a skinny man who, like most mid-'90s musicians, liked to poke fun at the establishment in one way or another.

Folds is making his return to the recording world after the breakup of his band late last year. Their first two studio albums received critical acclaim. Of course, that means that most people had never heard of them. When they scored a minor hit with 1997's "Brick," the future looked bright. However, their follow-up album, The Unauthorized Biography of Reinhold Messner, left much to be desired. Eventually the trio (yes, trio) decided to go their separate ways.

All three members of the group moved on to new projects last November. While drummer Darren Jessee began playing New York City clubs and bassist Robert Sledge began producing bands in his North Carolina studio, Folds began work on his solo album. What resulted is a mixture of Folds' piano, his need to mature and a desire to fulfill rock star dreams.

Rockin' the Suburbs opens up with the catchy, hand-clapping, programmed-beat song "Annie Waits." Here, the listener hears the story of a girl who is waiting, "for the last time," for her boyfriend's phone call. Sadly, it seems it may never come.

On the title track and first single, Folds screams out about being "male, middle-class and white." With lyrics like "I take the cheques and face the facts/That some producer with computers fixes all my shitty tracks," Folds takes a shot at

the bubble-gum pop of today's music.

Later, Folds takes us on a trip to a music store, hearing the rock and roll dreams of "Zak-without-a-c" and "Sara-with-no-h." These are typical dreams of youngsters hoping to make it big in the rock world. We have all had them at one time or another.

Folds makes it painfully obvious on Rockin' the Suburbs that these dreams are still present inside of him as well. "Fired" presents a possible explanation for the band's breakup. It seemed, despite three studio albums and years of touring, Ben Folds Five would not achieve fame together. Folds cries that he is "just an ordinary guy/And all I want is to be loved." "I just want to walk away," he sings, which is exactly what he did.

Every time the album quickens its pace, Folds attempts to slow it down, mixing in a ballad for every two upbeat songs. In songs like "Carrying Cathy," "The Luckiest," and "Gone," he seems to be pining for his former band mates. Folds sings, "I think that you should spend some time alone." Perhaps he is calling out to Jessee and Sledge.

Without the presence of his band, Folds relies heavily on his musical talents and plays all of the instruments on Rockin' the Suburbs. John Mark Painter and Fleming of the band Fleming and John, provide additional orchestration and vocals on some tracks. The hidden gem of the album is "Fred Jones Pt. 2," a duet with Cake frontman John McCrea.

The sound that is present on Rockin' the Suburbs is almost the same as what can be found on any Ben Folds Five album. If this is Folds' transition into a solo artist, it leaves one to wonder what exactly the whole point of the breakup was.

The rock world may have passed Ben Folds by. In an era where the radio is dominated by rap-rockers and MTV is ruled by pre-teens, Folds is a throwback to when musicians were musicians first and celebrities second.

GHOST, from page 6

characters. A supporting part by Dave Sheridan as Doug, a lowlife type with a bad haircut and karate moves who hangs out at the local convenience store, is especially outrageous and amusing.

With "Ghost World," director Terry Zwigoff fulfills the promise of his previous film, "Crumb," an acclaimed biography of '60s underground comic book artist R. Crumb. Elements of that film seem to echo in this one, as Seymour is just as obsessed with the music and look of the '30s as R. Crumb seems, and actor Steve Buscemi even resembles Crumb somewhat. The echo is strengthened by the drawings in Enid's notebook, done by Crumb's daughter Sophie, whose work resembles her father's.

Zwigoff worked closely with author Daniel Clowes, who wrote the graphic novel, and this screenplay along with Zwigoff, an effort that paid off in terms of an adaptation that is both faithful the novel and cinematically powerful.

The film veers back and forth from comically absurd to dark and foreboding, as the girls' summer wanes and they are faced with the changes in themselves and their world. The emotional pendulum of the film makes it sharply poignant, somewhat unsettling, but always fascinating. This film is likely to make you think - no checking your brain at the door. Both deep and humorous, this dark comedy is just the antidote for serious film fans after a summer of less than stellar films.

SCORPION, from page 6

role. As is usually the case, the film is full of well-known supporting players, including Charlie Theron, Elizabeth Berkley, Dan Aykroyd, and David Ogden Stiers, whose sole role sometimes is to feed lines to comedian Allen. But funny lines these are. Whatever you may think of Allen personally, it is a delight to hear such hilarious verbal sparks. The talented cast all turn in sharply drawn performances, sprinkled throughout the film like jewels.

The film is peppered with 1940s

movie archetypes, starting with Allen's own character in movie-detective hat and trench coat. If you are a fan of classic Hollywood films from the '40s from film noir starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall to screwball comedies starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant, you'll enjoy this romp. The dialogue is fast and snappy, the plot is full of twists, and the look of the film is both pretty and retro. Woody Allen's skillful writing and comic timing make this light comedy a delight.



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Classifications keep the American dream at large

BY STEVE BRAUNTUCH
Daily Pennsylvanian

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — The editors at U.S. News & World Report have developed a system that they believe accurately identifies the best colleges and universities in the nation.

And they're certainly not alone. Countless other lists of the "best colleges" in America are published in guide books and magazines every year, with each organization promoting its own compilation as the best source for evaluating schools.

But the more popular these rankings become, the more some members of the higher education field are asking the same question: So what? "There are probably a dozen outstanding universities in the country that stand by themselves," University of Pennsylvania provost Robert Barchi said. "It doesn't make a lot of sense to say that one university is the best university out there."

Despite the University of Pennsylvania's recent success in the U.S. News rankings — the University jumped to fifth place on the latest list, released Thursday night — Barchi is one of many administrators across the nation who have criticized the process of assigning rankings to schools. Like others, he claims the criteria don't necessarily reflect the educational opportunities a particular university offers.

But Erik Olson, editor of The Princeton Review's Best 331 Colleges guide book, said he believes that the rankings play a much more important role than administrators are willing to admit.

"Schools are obsessed with rankings," Olson said. "When schools end up on a less coveted list, they try to poke holes in our methodology. But when they're on the other side, they include it in their marketing package."

Nicholas Thompson, an editor for Washington Monthly magazine, has written numerous articles criticizing the criteria that organizations like U.S. News use to evaluate colleges. He believes that some major universities attempt to exploit the natural flaws in the system.

"University administrators will come in and they'll say, 'You should

change your rankings to account for more of this,'" Thompson said. "Some universities have hired consultants to look at where they can improve in their rankings."

Although Thompson said he believes such lobbying has very little effect on the final product, others say that schools have a great deal of power over where they land in the rankings.

"A lot of that data isn't necessarily that reliable because you can tweak it really easily," said Diane Craig, co-author and research analyst for The Top American Research Universities, a report geared more toward faculty and administrators than students.

"You can change your policies to make yourself look better," she added.

Craig, for one, feels that there is little or nothing separating the top 10 schools on any of the lists.

The U.S. News list "lends itself to believe that there is a big difference between number one and number 10," Craig said. "It gives the impression that they are much more different than they actually are."

But Robert Morse, director of research for the U.S. News college issue, said he believes the rankings have created a strong basis for comparison.

"We're using indicators that measure academic quality," Morse said. "To say that using those indicators isn't producing some measure of academic quality is something we don't agree with."

Morse said that the U.S. News list is not meant to take the place of college visits or alumni interviews.

"We're not saying that they're supposed to be the sole factor that students should use," Morse said. "We're not trying to accomplish a fool-proof way."

Olson agrees, adding that he believes students have to start the college process somewhere.

"When you're first starting out your college search, there has to be some sort of standard for comparison," Olson said.

Unlike many other rankings, including those at U.S. News, The Princeton Review uses student surveys to rate all 331 schools. In addition, the book presents lists in indi-

vidual categories, such as the best party school or most beautiful campus rather than giving each school a comprehensive rank.

"We don't say that this is the best college because we don't believe that one college is the best college for every student," Olson said. "Our goal is to help each one of our readers to find the right school for him or her."

But many believe that no matter what the list says, it can't assure a student that one particular school is right for him or her.

Stuart Rojstaczer, a professor of earth and ocean sciences at Duke University, is an outspoken critic of rankings, claiming that the current role of rankings is to reassure insecure students about their college choice.

"You're paying a lot of money for a product, and you want some assurance that the product you're buying is worth it," Rojstaczer said.

Regardless of the flaws with college rankings, lists like the one published by U.S. News have never been more popular.

And the popularity of college rankings has led many to create alternative ways to evaluate the nation's top schools.

Craig's empirical study groups universities based on whether they are in the top 25 or the top 50 schools in categories such as total research, private support and faculty awards.

Rojstaczer created rankyourcollege.com, a tongue-in-cheek online site that pokes fun at rankings by creating a new list of schools each time the Web page is loaded.

Thompson suggests a system in which grades and student surveys are taken into account.

"You could try to measure actual learning on campus," he said. "Instead of just using arbitrary numbers, they should actually go out and try to measure actual learning."

Despite all the controversy over college rankings, most believe that it is not likely that one standardized system will be created to evaluate schools any time soon.

"You're trying to put all universities into one mold, and in fact, they're not created that way," Barchi said.

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The science of love

BY MICAH ISSIT
science writer

Human beings are social animals. Because we are social animals, love is our most important human emotion. These thoughts have been affirmed by poets, philosophers, and psychologists and now, in recent research, biologist Humberto Maturana, a Chilean biologist and philosopher, has recently teamed with a group of psychologists and scientists to explore the biological basis of love.

The group's findings were published independently in the journal article "The Biology of Love," published in the German book Focus Heilpädagogik. The group's arguments about the biology of love have profound implications for the way all human beings view their lives.

Maturana and associates first try to show that love is a biological state of the body. This means that love and all other emotions are defined as physical conditions of the body and not simply mental conditions. The bodily state of love is what makes it possible for a human animal to accept another person as a significant other that he or she can coexist with. This state of "coexistence" is defined in biology as sharing food and space. Without the physical state of "love" a person cannot form a significant bond with another person.

Maturana next explains how we have evolved to coexist with one another through the use of the emotion love. Certain primates have societies that are based on the emotions of aggression like baboons, or on the emotions of competition as in chimpanzees. We human beings may be closest to bonobos in our behavior.

Bonobos are primates whose society is based on the emotion of love and the actions of sexual behavior. Most primates only show sexual behavior during certain times of the year, and only for reproduction. However bonobos, like humans, use sexual behavior in many situations other than reproduction. They use sex as a way to show friendliness and love for one another and to resolve conflicts in their society.

We humans also use sexuality and other forms of affectionate behavior for many purposes other than reproduction. We use sexual behavior to build and strengthen the bonds between us. Maturana et al. argue that love is the emotion that allows us to form social relationships and is the basis of our family oriented society. We are biologically built to be social beings and love is the basis of our social existence, and so love is the cen-

tral emotion of our biology as well.

The central nature of love in our biology means that we are not human beings if we do not have love. Human beings that are denied all love have been known to become ill and possibly die. Maturana argues that we are physically built to be love-dependant creatures and that the changes that love causes in our internal biology keep us healthy. Love in this sense refers to the love that we derive from relations with our friends and family and possibly most importantly from our relationships with mates. The formation of love bonds is essential to our lives as human beings.

The understanding that love is the central human emotion has profound implications for the way in which we view the other emotions of human existence. This also has implications for our view on human intelligence. Maturana et al. define intelligence as the ability to understand and form social relationships. When most people speak about intelligence, they refer to problem-solving intelligence, which is a very minor mode of personal intelligence. This limited view of intelligence makes us view some humans as more intelligent than others, but the understanding that intelligence is the ability to form social relationships leads us to understand that all humans have the same basic level of intelligence.

In evolution the human species has undergone an increase in intelligence that is primarily a matter of increasing our ability to interact socially. Intelligence, then, is primarily a matter of learning how to incorporate other people into your life and form functional relationships with them. If we view intelligence in this way it is easy to see that love is the only emotion that can increase intelligence.

Often it is believed in western psychology and culture that self-reliance and personal ambition increase intelligence, but the findings of Maturana and his associates suggest that these personal goals reduce our intelligence because they separate us from others. A person that dedicates him or herself to the acquisition of personal intelligence in school or in a job will actually gain less intelligence than someone who engages in relationships of love.

Maturana adds that the qualities of self-reliance and ambition that are often so valued in the psychological community can only bring about a sense of vain accomplishment which is short lived in comparison to the long lasting happiness that comes with sharing our lives with other humans. We

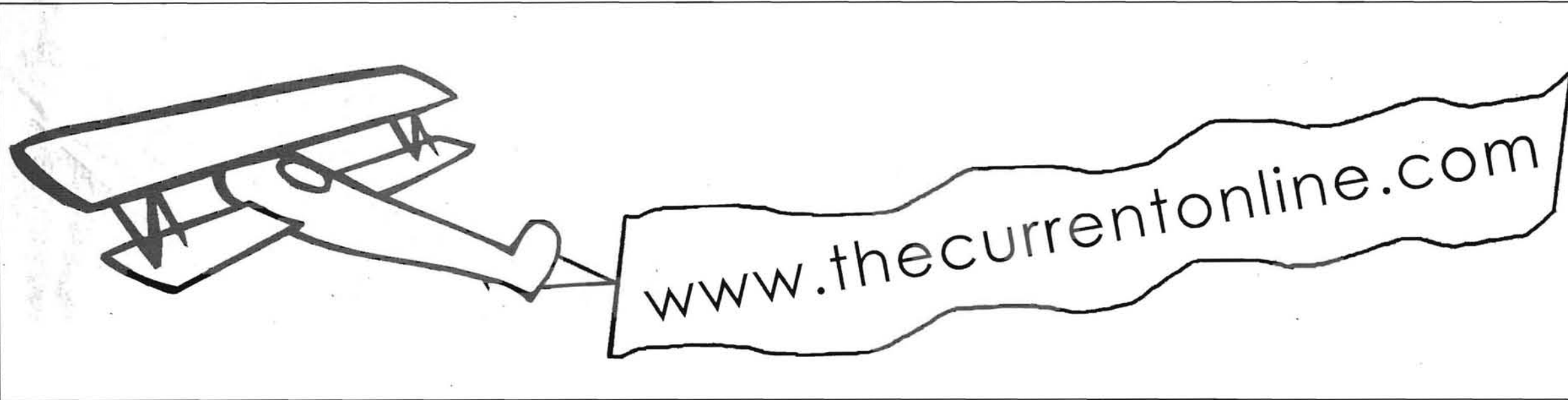
are often taught to value personal accomplishment and development but as organisms of love we can only reach personal development through loving others. It would seem that as humans there is nothing more beneficial to our development than to love and to be loved.

Maturana and others are not speaking about love as a moral or philosophical virtue; rather they are referring to love as a central part of our biological well-being. In this way love is nothing special for human beings; in fact it is the way humans always behave unless they put forth effort to act in some other way.

Maturana believes that love is the only emotion that is not learned, and that requires no effort. The emotions of aggression, anger, and fear require effort to develop and are learned from our mother/infant interactions. In contrast, we are born with the capacity to love and we spend our entire lives trying to find loving relationships. All of our goals as humans are aimed at finding love of one form or another. We seek to become better people so that others will love us. We create institutions of religion, psychology, and economic and personal ambitions to reduce our need to find love. These scientists believe that these other activities will not replace the need for intimacy and love in our personal lives.

Maturana believes that denial of our instinct to love is the basis of all human suffering. Denial of love towards other people allows us to behave in cruel and aggressive ways. Denial of love for the rest of nature allows us to destroy the natural environment. Denying ourselves the love of others may be one of the primary causes of depression. It seems that we must allow ourselves to find trust and compassion in our social relationships to be healthy, both physically and mentally.

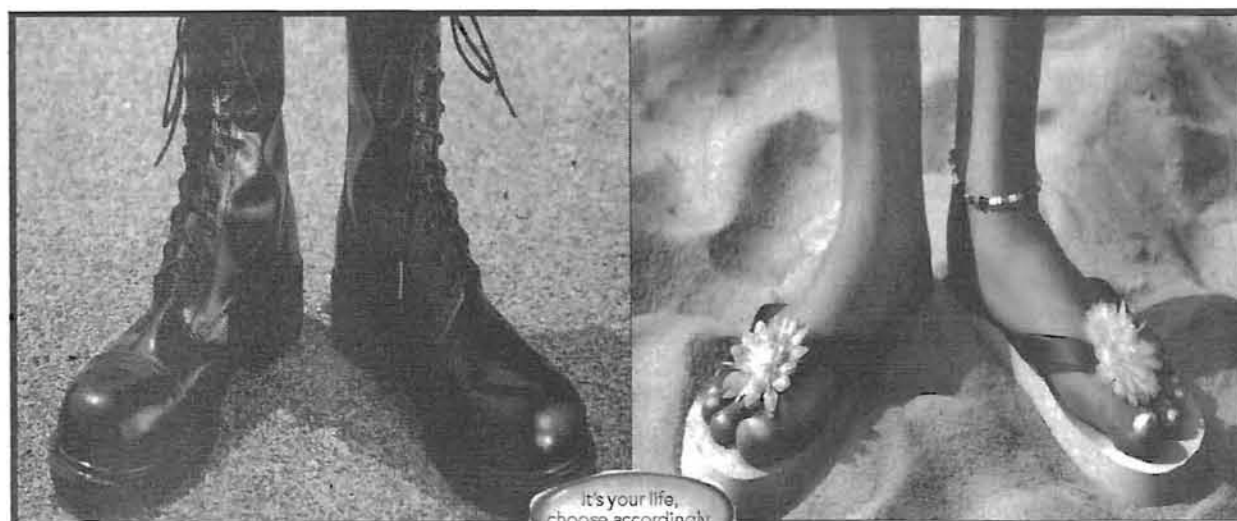
Maturana and his associates believe that love is so basic to human existence that a better scientific name for our species would be Homo sapiens amans, which means intelligent loving human, to better reflect our essentially loving nature. Working and living together with love and affection is the reason that our species has developed to our current level of culture. In our society it is seen as negative for a person to value his or her relationships as the most important part of their lives, but this research suggests that it is only by cultivating our relationships that we can find the intelligence and the happiness that we seek.



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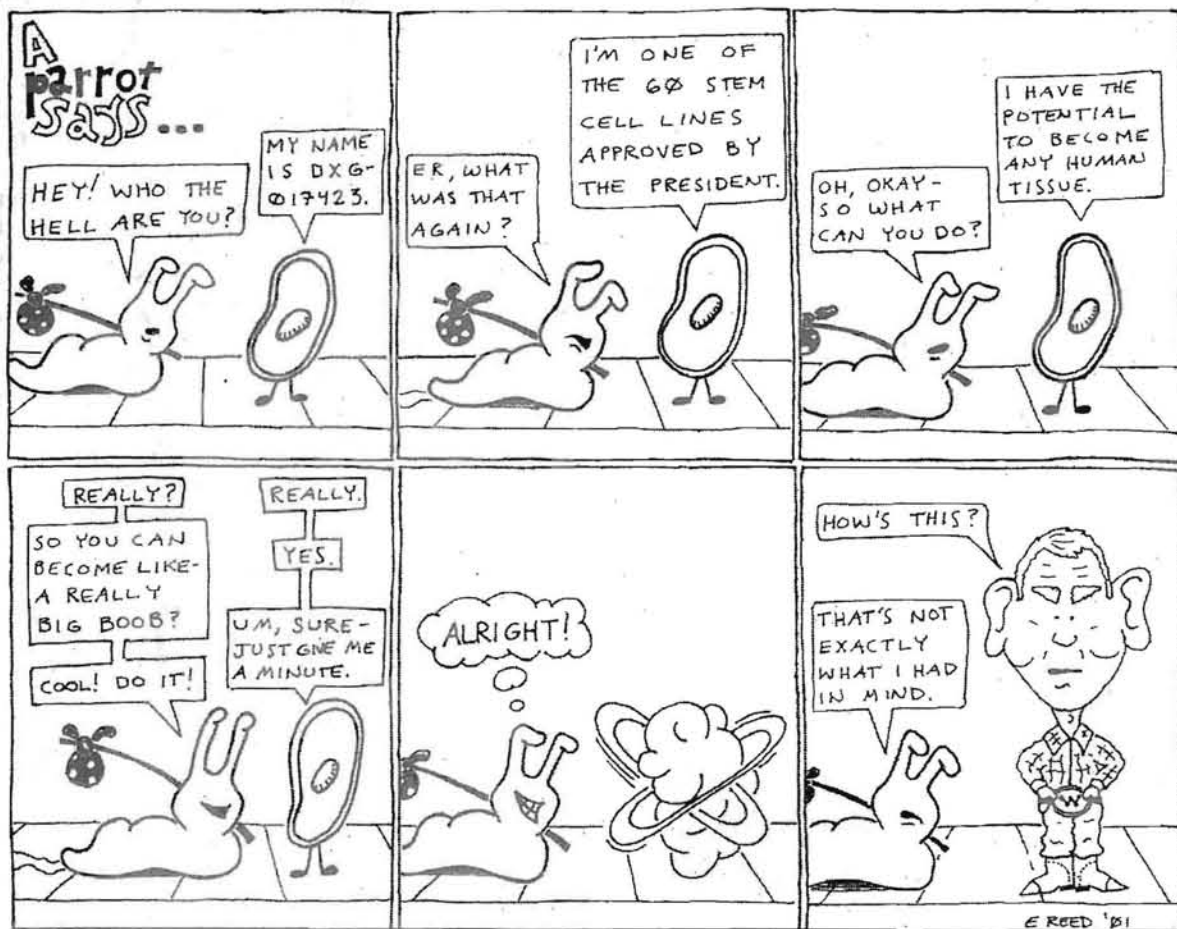
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Happy B-Day Candace!



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LABOR, from page 2

Finally, the kids are in bed, the bull mastiff has been soothed, and the kitten is...the kitten...What happened to the kitten? Oh, who cares? It is time for bed! She falls into bed exhausted. She can't go to sleep. The bedroom light is still on. She asks her husband if he's through with his homework yet. He says yes, but he's trying to write an article on how Moms are the true heroes of Labor Day. She mumbles, "That's nice dear," as sleep finally overtakes her. Her last thoughts are: "Thank God tomorrow is just a regular day with her husband at work and her kids at school and no holiday hassles to deal with."

Labor Day Indeed!

By Bill Cummings
Curmudgeon At Large

BOWMAN, from page 2

didn't matter. When we arrived at the lodge, our biggest concern (besides what to do that evening, which is a different story for a much different place) was to come back to UM-St. Louis as better men. To pick up some traits from others that under normal circumstances we would not ever have the means nor the will to do.

Maybe it was circumstance. Being locked up with 80-plus student leaders for three days will make anyone either a damn good listener, or a superb stonewall. (80-plus Alpha personalities tend to clash a bit)

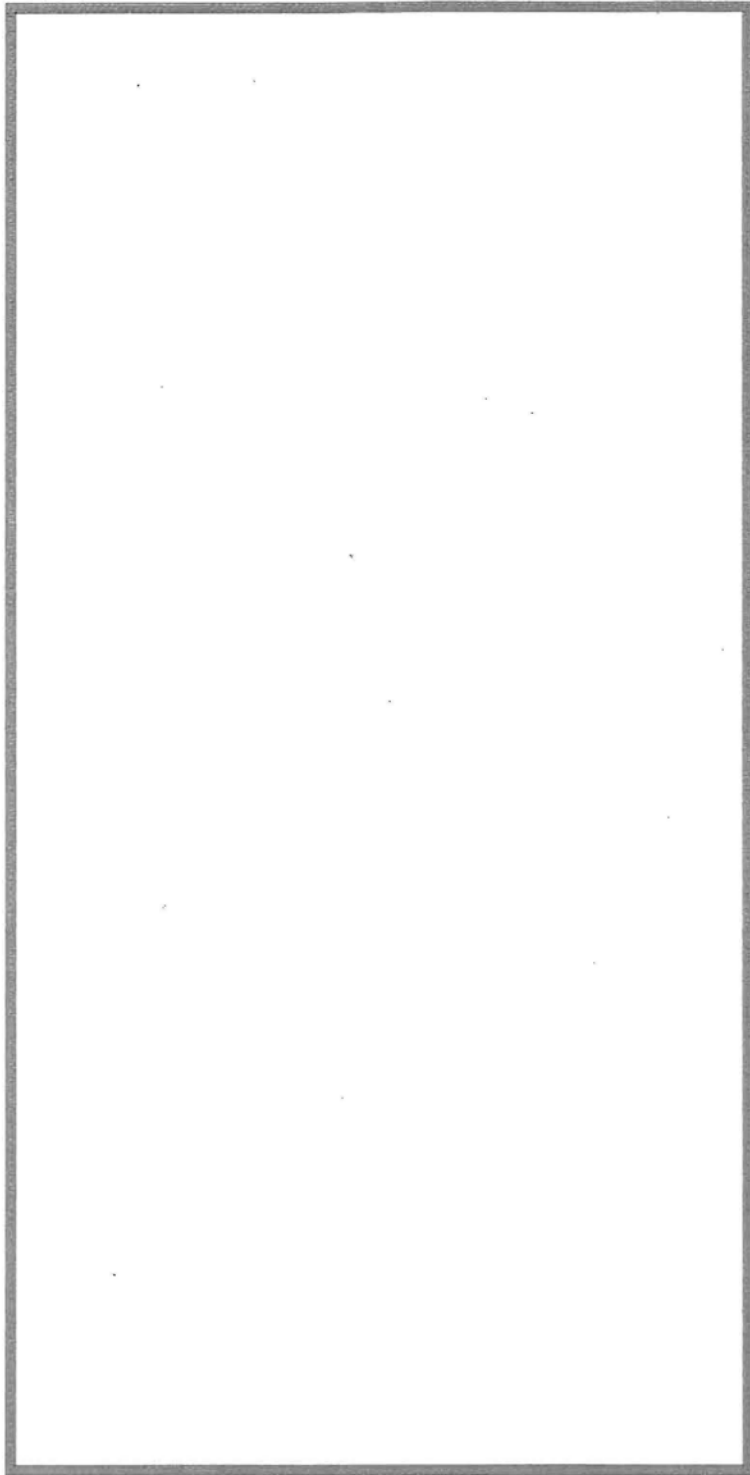
I feel, however, that because of the Alphas in the group, minds were spoken. Thoughts were conveyed openly with no regard for repercussion. They weren't always pleasant, but they were honest. And non-threatening. And people listened.

Listened. Anyone can hear a guest lecture on racial equality, or attend a seminar on how to understand international students, or how to live with a vegan roommate, or how not to treat a woman in the workplace. But do we listen? Do we care?

We've all heard the diversity and equality speech ten times if we've heard it once, but none of it ever seems to register. We didn't care then, and we don't care now.

Scratch that, because I know at least 80 people who do care, and that is why they are your leaders. That is why they will take us to a good life, and that is why they are successful.

"Snow White in a Blizzard"



She looks lost, huh? Well, if *The Current* can't get any more staff writers, soon we'll all be lost in the same blizzard! Think you have what it takes? Get out of the cold and stop by our office today! 388 Millennium Student Center, ask for Steve at ext. 6810

The Current, get caught up in it!

'King of Pop' aims to reclaim throne, career

BY FRANCISCO CANGIANO
The Flyer News

(U-WIRE) DAYTON, Ohio — The King of Pop, Michael Jackson, is planning a full-scale comeback.

The man responsible for many innovative dance moves and several No. 1 hits is planning on releasing his new material internationally Oct. 29.

Invincible is Jackson's first album of entirely new material in more than eight years, thus making it the most anticipated album of the year.

Invincible is reported to have cost a record-setting \$30 million to make.

The album will be released in the United States and Canada on Oct. 30. Jackson recorded 50 tracks with

some of the industry's most expensive producers, ultimately choosing only 15 of them for the new album.

The first single, "You Rock My World," was written and produced by Jackson and Rodney Jerkins.

The song includes a funny intro between Jackson and movie star Chris Tucker.

The video is expected to be released the first week of September.

In addition to the release of Invincible, Jackson will be taking the stage for "Michael Jackson: 30th Anniversary Celebration, The Solo Years."

This celebration, jam-packed with celebrities and musicians, will take place today and Monday in Madison Square Garden.

This will be the first time Jackson

will perform onstage since his 1984 "Victory" tour. Tickets for the celebration sold out in a record-breaking five hours.

Pop princess Britney Spears will sing "The Way You Make Me Feel" along with Jackson; while the King of Latin Pop, Ricky Martin, will sing "Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough."

Jackson is expected to share the stage with many artists including his brothers, Jackie, Marlon and Randy.

Other artists who are set to be part of this huge celebration are Marc Anthony, Liza Minnelli, Slash, Shaquille O'Neal, Nelly Furtado, Missy Elliot, Mya, Destiny's Child, Gloria Estefan, Whitney Houston, Usher, Shaggy, Marlon Brando, Kobe Bryant, Samuel Jackson and many others.

COLUMN: Cell phone crazy

BY SUZANNE MCKAY
Daily Mississippian

(U-WIRE) OXFORD, Miss. — At one time or another, from any classroom on campus, you are certain to hear the ring of a cell phone that some idiot forgot to turn off. Maybe it's one of those annoying jingles that gets in your head, or - if you're lucky - someone has downloaded "Dixie" and it's blaring over the previously-silent room.

Either way, the number of cell phones on campus is staggering.

Rest assured, that same overwhelmingly popular guy is on the phone again as soon as he steps foot outside of class. If you follow him, you'll probably catch him mumble the words to clue you in to his intellectual capabilities (you know — "dude" at the beginning and end of every sentence). Inevitably, the conversation will reach its peak as he gets to his car (a Trans Am, what else?). Without a second thought, he wheels out of the parking lot and speeds off while chatting away about polymer science.

So, what's wrong with this picture?

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reported that 85 percent of the more than 100 million cell phone customers use their phones while driving in their car. Surprised? I wasn't. I use cell phones in the car. Chances are, you do too.

But the country is in an uproar about cell phone usage while driving.

Accidents resulting from someone using a cell phone have skyrocketed in the past couple of years. Sadly, so have the deaths.

Last September Brooklyn, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, passed the first ban on cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. Currently, eight states have restrictive legislation pending. At least 15 states have proposed similar bills, only to have them die in committee.

Accidents are occurring; people are dying. But is the current proposal of banning usage while driving really the answer?

Personally, I have a problem with the government telling me when I can and can't talk on the phone. However, when I become a danger to myself or others, I'd like to think that someone would step in. After all, it's against the law to consume a certain amount of alcohol and attempt to drive.

I know what you're thinking: "I don't swerve when I talk on the phone. I'm not a danger to anyone." But you're wrong.

The chances of you getting behind the wheel of your car and having an accident dramatically increase when you've got a cell phone in one hand, especially on campus where the driver must be aware of the myriad of pedestrians. If all this is true, why are there so many debates concerning the bans?

Well, for starters, I'm sure the vast

majority of Congressmen own and use cell phones while driving down the road. Businessmen and stockbrokers and students (and seemingly everyone else on the road) conduct their business while traveling. Yes, the ability to call someone from your car while en route somewhere else is convenient. It's extremely convenient. But is it worth it?

The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association justifies it by reporting an average of 100,000 calls placed to 911 every day. While the number of lives cell phones may contribute to ending has in no way reached the numbers they may have saved, we still have to consider the possibilities.

When you get right down to it, is it really that imperative that you dial up right there in the middle of 5 p.m. traffic? Probably not. Convenient? Yes. Necessary? No.

I'm not asking you to knock on the window or wave down those that are gabbing while driving (probably not stopping for you in the crosswalks, nonetheless). I'm just asking you to think about the possible consequences beforehand. Keep your road conversations to a bare minimum, and be aware of your surroundings. If you are being bombarded with phone calls because of your enormous popularity, do us all a favor and turn the damn ring off. Despite your dire need for social acceptance, some people still go to college to learn.



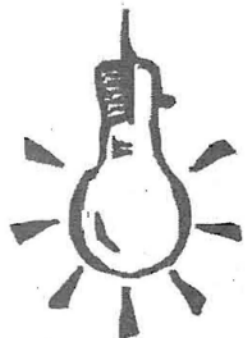
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