



Fall for 'Crush'

▲ See page 6

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

UMSL alum up for state election

BY HANK BURNS
Staff Editor

Education will be the main focus for UM-St. Louis alumni Michael P. Rohrbacker as he runs for the office of Missouri State Representative for the 100th district.

Rohrbacker feels that by having fair property tax assessment might open up the possibility for more aid.

"I don't think any fair and reasonable citizen is against paying property taxes to support the Mehlville School District, but I think they are against their assessment going up 25 percent in one year, which I can totally understand," Rohrbacker said. "I don't feel that the assessments were fair and that's one thing I want to fix."

Rohrbacker attributed the unfair assessments to the lack of an elected individual in charge of assessments.

"Part of the problem is that our assessments go up so high, because we don't have an elected assessor like a lot of counties do. We have a lot more money that comes in for property taxes than we get versus state revenue for a lot of the school districts."

Rohrbacker said that a majority of St. Louis County school districts have had their state aid frozen since 1993.

"So, if (school districts) got \$100 in 1993, they're getting \$100 in 2002, which you know isn't worth the same amount as it was in 1993. It's worth about \$70. So, whole harmless is a really ridiculous problem."

Among Rohrbacker's reasons for getting into politics is the education he received at UM-St. Louis.

"UM-St. Louis helped me find a really good major," Rohrbacker said. "My major is in Communication Theory, which is very useful for politics. I learned how people communicate and how people receive information. So with that knowledge, I think I'll be able to communicate my message a lot more effectively than someone who may have a degree in business or something."

Recently, the University of Missouri system took a \$500,000 budget cut in response to the policy at the UM-Columbia campus, prohibiting staffers from wearing patriotic symbols. Rohrbacker feels that the cut was unwarranted and that there were other ways to address the issue.

"I'm sure it was an effective way of dealing with the problem, as far as getting their attention, but a simple phone call might have been a little bit better," Rohrbacker said. "I wouldn't have cut the budget because when you do that, you're not really hurting the people that say they can't. Maybe the more effective method would've been to discipline the person in charge who issued that memo as opposed to cutting the budget for the station."

He does feel, however, that the students do have the right to show their patriotism.

"There's nothing wrong with showing a little pride in your country. That does not affect your ability to be a journalist, especially if you're working in the country," Rohrbacker said.

CORRECTION

Frederick Eccher, Jr. filed the grievance against the R.A.R.E. slate. Eccher was improperly identified as Eccher III in *The Current*, Issue 1052, page 11.

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Black Expo 2002: Artistically united

BY MICHELLE ELKINS
Staff Writer

This is the second year for the Annual Black Unity Arts Expo. Developed from a meeting of the minds with members of the Ahmadi Muslim Student Association and the Associated Black Collegians, the members felt there needed to be an avenue where the black community could come together to showcase their talents. Talent is defined as visual or performing arts or any type of artistic expression.

"I recognized that there did not seem to be a lot of programs for the black students in particular and I felt we needed to change this," President of Ahmadi Muslim Student Association Kareema Shaheed said.

In the past, there were a lot of programs that black students put on but there has been a lack of programming in the last few years. The expo was created to bring about community effort, love, brotherhood and sisterhood and to show support for one another. An artist herself, the expo is close to Shaheed's heart and she feels that it is an avenue for people to express their views and ideas in an artistic way other than academics.

The expo consisted of a visual art exhibit including oil paintings, photography, jewelry and crafts. Poetry was a part of the performing arts piece where word artists showcased their talents at the closing ceremony of the celebration. Featuring a visual arts exhibit on Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26, "Marketplace" was a new piece that was added this year to bring vendors in to sell books and items pertaining to black culture. In

see UNITED, page 10



Theatre classes, first act of new theatre dept.

BY KELLI SOLT
Senior Writer

Two new classes have been offered this fall to begin building the new theatre and dance department.

The classes are Fundamentals of Acting and Introduction to the Theatre.

UM-St. Louis is advertising for two professors to fill the new positions and has formed a committee to review resumes. The positions are advertised nationally in publications such as the "Chronicle for Higher Education" and "The St. Louis Post."

"I already have about 20 applications," Professor of Music and Chair of the Committee James Richards said.

"We will begin reviewing applicants on April 29. The positions needed are in different areas. One position will require acting and directing expertise; the other will need to be more of a technical designer for lighting, sound, operating saws and machines and building sets," Richards said.

The committee will then draw up a short list of about 10 of the top candidates to present to the dean, two candidates will be invited to interview with faculty and interact with students.

The classes are the first performing arts classes to be offered at UM-St. Louis since the deactivation of UM-St. Louis's theatre department in the 1980s. A degree will be proposed with the addition of new faculty.

The College of Fine Art and Communication is composed of three departments, music, art and art history, and communication, as of January 1. The theatre and dance department will join with the others in the college.

"The buildings are split in music and art, and the communications department which has a large number of students is located in the smallest building," John Hylton, interim dean of the theatre and dance department said. "My hope is that in five to seven

Theater courses offered Fall 2002

Fundamentals of Acting
021
TR 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
3 credit hrs.

Introduction to the Theatre
080
TR 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
3 credit hrs.

years, we will have an arts and communications district on campus," he said.

The Performing Arts Center will provide a place for productions both from the University and the local community. Former productions were held in the J.C. Penney Auditorium and at the former Honors College.

"It will help us to attract resources from the community and continue to develop the excellence of the college," Hylton said.

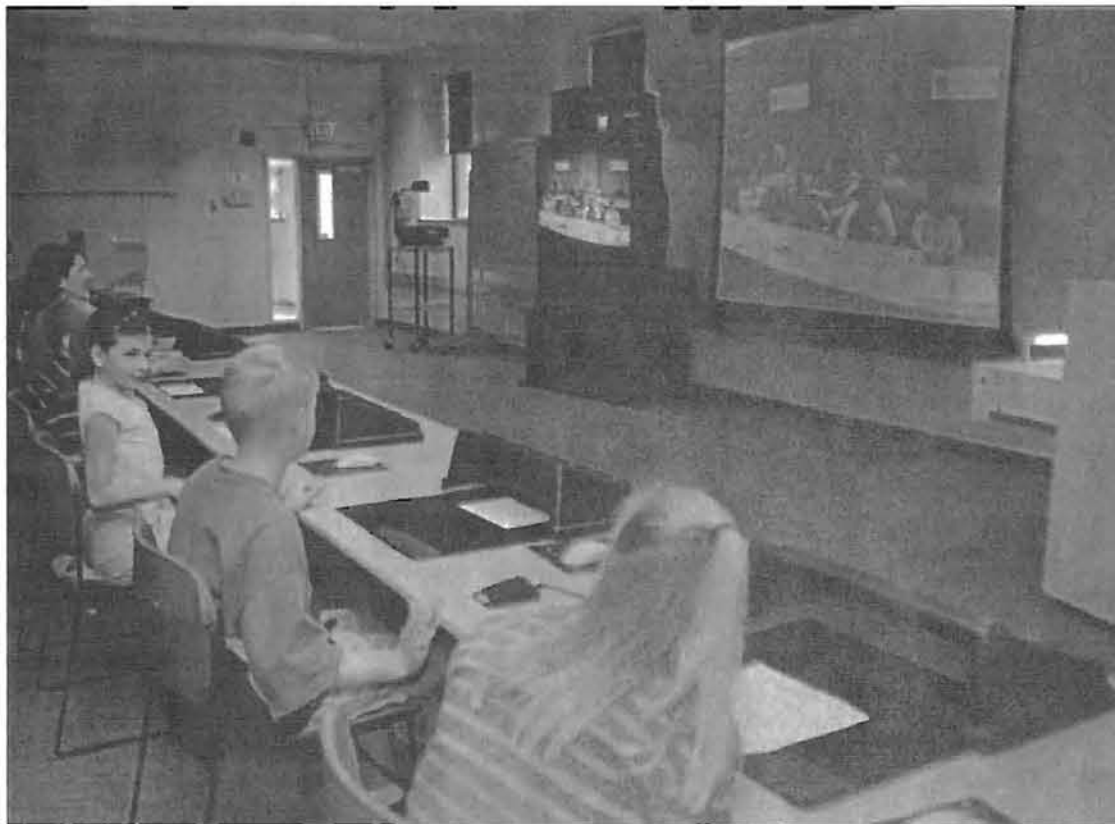
"The chancellor is providing the funds for the new professors, and a combination of campus resources, support from the community, and the state will be needed to build the program," Hylton said.

"We are working as quickly as we can to do a good job. The whole production process will be so much better when we have a strong faculty to work on it," Richards said.

The classes this fall will focus on acting and the technical aspects of theatre. They will be located in Lucas Hall. The faculty members will have offices in the Human Resource Building. As the department is established, classes in dance will be added.

The classes will move into the Performing Arts Center once construction is complete in the spring 2003.

Crossing the Atlantic, virtually



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Friday morning, fifth-graders from Avery Elementary School in Webster Groves had the chance to "meet" their research partners from Ysgol Gymraeg in Wales through a real-time Internet video conference. The students were taking part in the World Play Project, a program started by Assistant Professor Lori Schneider, which aims to link St. Louis students with students abroad. Although the children had previously exchanged letters and email, this was their first face-to-face meeting. After each student finished a prepared presentation about himself, the line was opened for questions. The students eagerly seized the opportunity to find out what life is like on the other side of the Atlantic. In some matters, the students found much in common. In response to the question, "What movie stars do you look up to?" one of the Welsh girls caused quite a few giggles when she remarked demurely, "Well, we really rather fancy Leonardo DiCaprio ..."

Bullet In Board

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

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Mon 29 University Singers

The University Singers and University Chorale will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Provincial House Chapel on South Campus. The concert is free and open to the public. Call x6607 for more information.

Mon Monday Noon Series

The 23rd International Storytelling Festival is kicked off with a presentation at the next Monday Noon Series. Three storytellers from the festival - Barnes Bradshaw, Dianne Moran and Carole Shelton - will spin their historical tales with props and in costume. The performance will be held in 229 J.C. Penny Conference Center. For more information, call Karen Lucas at x5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh/>.

Tues 30 Golden Key

Golden Key International Honor Society will be selling Krispy Kreme Donuts on the second floor of the MSC. There will be a meeting at 4:45 p.m. afterwards.

Tues Rec. Sports

There will be an Aikido Meeting at 3 p.m. at the Mark Twain Building. This is an organizational meeting to see what the interest is on the campus. For more information, call Rec. Sports at x5124.

Tues International Studies

The Center for International Studies presents, "Rebuilding Japan" by Masato Kimura. The lecture will be at the Alumni House at 7:30 p.m., with a reception at 7 p.m.

Wed 1 Sociology

The sociology department will host a lunch for sociology students from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Century Room B in the MSC.

Wed Independent Film

"You Are The Coolest Girl in the USA." by UM-St. Louis student Pavel "Pasha" Zalutski, premiers at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House in the MSC. Admission is free. For more information call x4710.

Thur 2 Self-Defense

Alpha Xi Delta is sponsoring a self-defense demonstration and instruction taught by 4th-degree black belt Antonio Gray. The demonstration will be in the Pilot House from 2-4 p.m. For more information, call Kristi McCoy at 412-5422.

Thur Party

The Big @\$\$ Blowout will be held in the Pilot House from 8 p.m. until midnight. There will be food, beverages and a live DJ. The party is free.

Fri 3 International Studies

The Center for International Studies presents, "High Tech Labor Market in China" by Shuming Zhao. The presentation will take place in the University Club, located at 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd. Tickets are \$22, which includes lunch and parking. To make reservations, contact John Garavaglia at (636) 458-5374.

Fri Delta Sigma Pi

Delta Sigma Pi is sponsoring a trivia night at the St. Peters Knights of Columbus Hall. Tickets are \$11 in advance. For more information call (314) 628-9392.

Fri Rec. Sports

Rec. Sports will be hosting an Intramural Medal Golf Tournament at St. Charles' Gold Course. Tee-off anytime and turn scorecards in at the course. Student and faculty/staff categories with t-shirts awarded to winners of each division. For more information call Pam Steinmetz at x5123.

Put it on the Board!
Place your event here free for UM-St. Louis organizations. Call 516-5174 or email TheCurrent@jinx.umsl.edu

The Campus CrimeLine

April 19
Property Management personnel reported that a new door valued at \$400, which is located on the first level of the La Grau in the Daughters of Charity dorms, was damaged as a result of an unknown person who apparently attempted to kick the door open. The incident was between April 10 and April 19.

April 22
Victim reported that an unknown person cut two of her tires on her 1991 Toyota Celica while it was parked in front of 2924 University Meadows Drive.

An instructor for the University reported that an unknown person entered her office through an unlocked door at the CCB Building and stole her cell phone and a ring

of keys that she had left in the lock.

An owner of a vehicle reported that his automobile was damaged by another vehicle while parked on the second level of the Millennium Garage.

April 23
A vendor from an ice cream company reported that his company's

van was cut off by another vehicle, causing him to strike a light standard located in Lot K. The subject who had caused the accident then exited his vehicle and forcefully took his daily receipts from his shirt pocket before fleeing the scene.

Victim reported that an unknown person entered her unlocked vehicle while it was parked in the Fine

Arts Parking Lot and stole the faceplate to her stereo and a cigarette lighter.

April 24
The victim of vehicle damage reported that his vehicle was struck by another vehicle while parked in Garage P. The driver of the striking vehicle apparently left the scene.

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



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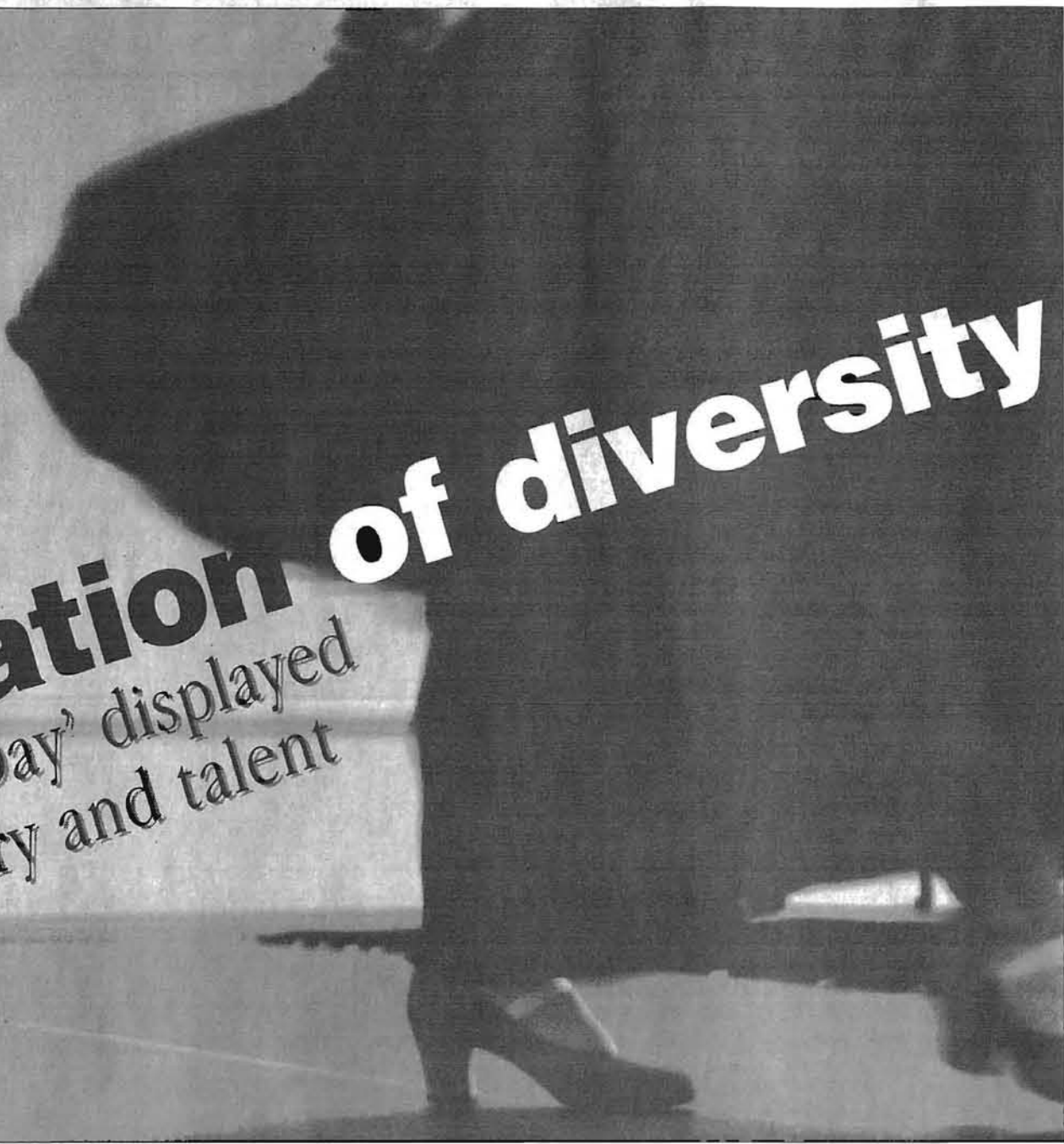
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You must be 16 to work here, 20 to wait tables

Flamenco dancing was part of Multicultural Day held on April 26.

A celebration of diversity

'Multicultural Day' displayed a mix of history and talent



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

BY KELLI SOLT
Senior Writer

The diversity of the human spirit was celebrated and demonstrated at UM-St. Louis in the century rooms at the fifth annual Multicultural Awareness Day last Friday afternoon. Spoken word, dancing and martial arts entertained about 50 students and community members. Talented and dedicated individuals displayed enthusiasm and support regarding cultural heritage and uniqueness.

"UM-St. Louis is the most culturally diverse of the [UM] system, and we take great pride in that; it is something that we hold dear," Deputy to the Chancellor Don Driemier said.

Amber Tabares, a full time UM-St. Louis student and mother of a five-year-old son, shared spoken word to begin the performances. She is a national recording artist, and her record has gone platinum three times. The poem communicated the need to look past labels that divide people and

"UM-St. Louis is the most culturally diverse of the [UM] system, and we take great pride in that; it is something that we hold dear."

-Don Driemier
Deputy to the Chancellor

instead focus on the oneness of humanity. Victor D. Little, an actor and local business owner, performed "Hats," written by Joseph Cornelius; he received a standing ovation. This visual representation of blacks

through-out history told the tale of the oppressive trend that started on African slave ships. Little told the story as he assumed characters of blacks brought to life by the hats he wore. The hat worn for the present day was, fittingly, a graduation cap to show the power of knowledge.

After seeing the performance of "Hats," Reginald Petty an East St. Louis native who brought artifacts

from his collection of African art, gave actor Little a 45-year-old corn husk hat that he found in Mississippi to add to his props.

Petty has the fourth largest collection of African art including pieces that date back 7000 years.

"I spent 15 years in Africa as a deputy director of the Peace Corps; wherever I went I was collecting," Petty said.

Fabric art, fossils, coins, bronze figures, slave bracelets and tribal masks are examples of the pieces that passersby were encouraged to pick up and handle.

"I've got about 1,500 pieces; so this is just a few. I want people to touch it and see how it feels," Petty said.

The performances were also interactive. Participation was encouraged, and volunteers joined in to play castanets for the Flamenco dancer, to learn hula dances and to try out martial art techniques.

Residential Life director Kimberly Allen, who also practices Tai Kwon

Do with the World Martial Arts Academy, demonstrated self defense moves and split wood with a spin-heel kick.

"I was happy with the turnout, but I wish more would have turned out. I am more excited by the excitement that the students and participants are showing," Director of Multicultural Relations Gwendolyn Packnett said.

"Overall it was very informative; it was good to see many people out here with mixed nationalities," Elementary Education Major Aisha Johnson said. "It was the first time I had ever seen Native American dancing."

Student organizations tables included Associated Black Collegians, African American Leadership Council, Ahmadi Muslim Student Organization and SGA Multicultural Affairs Committee.

The event was sponsored by the Multicultural Relations and Academic Affairs office. Co-sponsors included the Center for International Studies, Department of Fine Arts and Communications, Multicultural Leadership Council, Office of Equal Opportunity and Student Activities.

Curt Coonrod, vice-chancellor of student affairs, thanked international students for sharing their cultures with UM-St. Louis during the International Dinner on April 20.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

International Week provides awareness of other cultures

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

Tea leave chicken from Hong Kong, egg cake from Taiwan, chicken sate from Indonesia and pud Thai from Thailand could be tasted at the International Banquet on April 20.

The International Banquet was a part of the International Week 2002, the biggest international event on campus, held from April 15 to April 21. The week was designed to celebrate the diversity of cultures UM-St. Louis has on campus.

"This year, we [tried] to attract non-international students," President of International Student Association, Zackry Hamid said. "Besides enjoying the food and cultures, we hope they [made] new friends."

The International week opened with the International Fashion Show on Monday, April 15, in the Millennium Student Center. The show represented 10 countries and the traditional clothing

International Week events on campus April 15-20

- 15 Fashion Show in MSC
- 17 Mirthday outside MSC
- 20 International Dinner in the Pilot House

of each. There was also entertainment from international students, such as dancing and drum playing.

On Wednesday, April 17, the international students had 10 booths at Mirthday.

The games held by the international soccer players were the next day in Mark Twain Building.

The event closed by having International Banquet in the Pilot House where 19 countries participated in preparing some dishes from their home countries. Tickets for the dinner were \$5.

"Food is always excellent," International Student Advisor Christopher Sullivan said. "The most authentic food in St. Louis."

Monica Farrell, senior academic Advisor for College of Business Administration, saw it from a different view. She felt a sense of joy and satisfaction from seeing American students sitting at round tables with international students while eating and talking. It was a different atmosphere since the tragic events of Sept. 11.

"After Sept. 11, the students from Middle East were especially scared. Teachers mentioned they were skipping classes; their parents were pressuring them to come home," Farrell said. "But this event makes people more concern and more caring about each other."

Hacking your way to freedom from theft

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



EMILY UMBRIGHT

A few weeks ago I wrote about my car breaking down and how I remained optimistic despite the fact that the event broke me financially. Last week I held my tongue when someone broke into my car, which I had just fixed the week before. But when someone hacks into a website and steals my credit card number and aggressively racks up enormous debt, I feel it is time to speak out. But about what? My superb luck?

When I discovered the shattered passenger window lying on the floor with my backpack, filled with school books, some medicine and a checkbook and another bag filled with clothes missing, my silly misconcep-

tion that robbers would be smart enough to know when something is worth stealing was destroyed. They didn't even take my radio.

While the whole ordeal was an inconvenience to me as I had to get a new checking account, copy classes notes and find a way to fix my window, the strangest and demented thought hit me—at least I had these things and can replace them. Suddenly, the blame that was originally put on societal deviants, such as street people and crack addicts, was transformed into blame on the current state of society. The people who broke into my car were ignorant of the concept of private property and the freedom for an individual to park

wherever they want without fear. I was convinced they were products of their stark environment, which they are unable to get out of due to the conforming nature of society. The thieves were acting in a manner resembling survival of the fittest.

This is not to say the blame was put completely on the "good" people. In the back of my mind was the thought that the robbers were just looking for things they could pawn, perhaps to support an addiction, but the idea pacified me for a while. That is, until the bank notified me that someone had gotten my account number online and was purchasing email accounts. Email accounts of all things!

I explained to the bank that I had just had a few things stolen the week before and that it was possible for the thieves to have access to my account, but the person I spoke to explained that this hacking had been going on for two weeks in areas outside of St. Louis. Imagine the chances that I could be ripped-off in the physical world as well as in cyberspace within a two-week timeframe. Again, I had to ask myself what is wrong with people, and what is wrong with my luck?

In this case, my previous opinion of theft is no longer valid. Unlike the people who vandalized my car, hackers

see HACKING, page 9

EMILY UMBRIGHT

EDITOR

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Student film to be shown at UMSL

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

It is usual for a director to be excited about his film before the premiere and hope the best things for it. What is rather unusual about this director is he is Pavel "Pasha" Zalutski, an UM-St. Louis student. His film, "You Are the Coolest Girl in the U.S.A.," will have its premiere at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1 in the Pilot House.

Zalutski, junior, filmmaking, said that the film that was originally a class project in his video production class became a more personal project.

"It was originally just a three minute project that changed to a 30-minute short-film," Zalutski said. "It became the project of my whole life."

"Coolest" deals with Tanya Smirnova (Nina Sorokopud), a Eastern European college student who moves to America and has to deal with all of the culture shock and problems of moving to a new country—a subject that both Zalutski and Sorokopud, who are from Belarus and the Ukraine, respectively, understand.

"There were some good days and some bad days when I moved here," said Sorokopud, junior, political science, who said she sometimes felt like the protagonist.

see FILM, page 9

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Political infighting in the SGA is enough

While the UM-St. Louis Student Government Association provides a higher-quality student representation than that of most other SGAs, it still has its own problems. Infighting before, during and after the recent SGA elections, has led many students to question the effectiveness of this student governing body. With constant bickering over mundane details, it is nearly impossible for the members of the SGA to accomplish any of the body's goals.

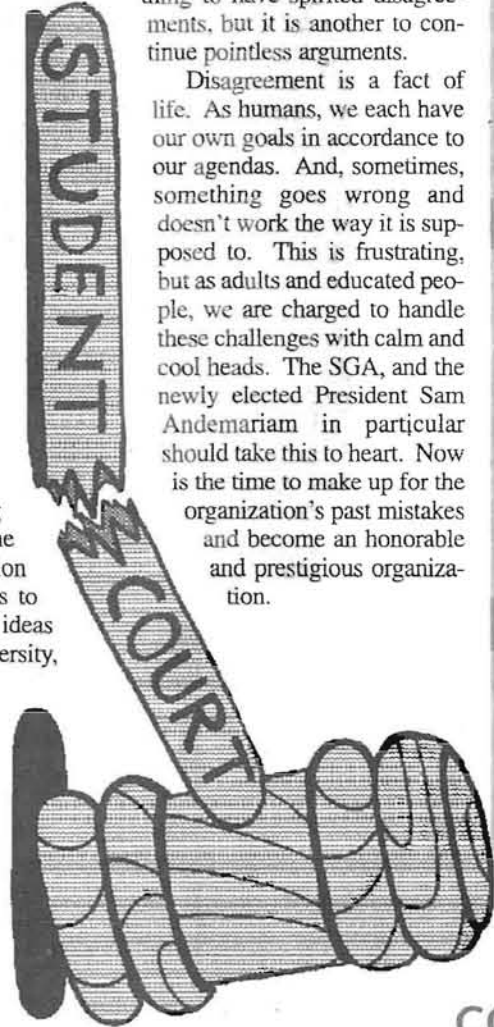
So, the SGA needs to take note. There are many things that an SGA needs to do in order to be an effective governing body. Sorry. None of these things include maintaining internal strife.

The main concern of the SGA and its officers should be student representation. It is the job of the SGA to be a watchdog on campus, looking out for the rights of the student population that it serves. The SGA needs to constantly come up with new ideas and new ways to better the University, looking at proposals from the point-of-view of the average student. The SGA, when given the power of student governance, was given the responsibility of representing and serving the student. When anyone on campus - from the average professor to the chancellor - infringes on a student's rights, it is the SGA's job to step forward and stand in defense beside that student.

It is also the job of the SGA to properly represent the University through promotion, service on the campus and community and proper demeanor. Much of the service and

promotion could even be coordinated in conjunction with the Student Activities Council and may bring the SGA together as a group. But, even without the service, the group should be somewhat tight-knit. It is one thing to have spirited disagreements, but it is another to continue pointless arguments.

Disagreement is a fact of life. As humans, we each have our own goals in accordance to our agendas. And, sometimes, something goes wrong and doesn't work the way it is supposed to. This is frustrating, but as adults and educated people, we are charged to handle these challenges with calm and cool heads. The SGA, and the newly elected President Sam Andemariam in particular should take this to heart. Now is the time to make up for the organization's past mistakes and become an honorable and prestigious organization.



'The main concern of the SGA and its officers should be student representation'

The issue:

With grievances and complaints abound, the newly-elected Student Government Association has already had its share of action; all of it counter-productive. Students are wondering what is in store for the new year.

We suggest:

The SGA get busy continuing what T. Ryan Connor started; creating a professional, student-friendly image. SGA has remained relatively quiet in the past two years because of its good relations with the students.

So what do you think?

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

Urban Hunt

If I never do anything more exciting/annoying/tedious/anxious again, I will consider the job hunt the worst possible task that has ever plagued humanity.

Now, of course, I preface this by saying that anything worth getting is worth the fight, but this hunt has been downright ridiculous.

I'm a communication theory and rhetoric major (to which you reply, "You want fries with that?") and I love it. I've always been amazed by the complexity of the conversation and have devoted my life to the study of it.

I have four years of professional journalism experience between the "Arnold-Imperial Rock," the "Suburban Journals" and the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch," all while carrying a 3.2 GPA. I have worked at *The Current* for the better part of three years and have served as the Editor-in-Chief in one of our most successful years in recent history. I served as the president of the Missouri College Media Association for the 2001-2002 academic year, and under my leadership we have basically re-written the MCMA constitution and guidelines.

I am a member of the executive council of Sigma Pi Fraternity, International, Delta-Zeta chapter, and I am a UM-St. Louis cheerleader.

Why am I bludgeoning you with all of these details about my life?

Because in two weeks I will be unemployed.

I'm sure many of you have also realized the impact of the slow economy on our futures, and personally, I'm fairly frustrated. After all, it's quite the catch-22 that we "need more experience in the corporate world," and yet we can't get hired in the corporate world without experience. I put my application in at a giant conglomerate public relations firm—a firm that touts its internships among the best—and heard nothing back. Not even a call, not even an utter, as if somehow, somewhere, in a magical mailroom somewhere, my application was forgotten.

How can I check on my status? Well, calling and speaking to someone would be the initiative that one would expect from a journalist. But phone calls are not accepted. So I sit, but for how long? Well, as much as I respect his role, Yossarian I am not.

So rather than wait for Goliath to get a hold of me, I sell myself to the many other not-so-big partnerships in the area. One by one. I contacted them, and got a better response: every third group or so would call back. Hey, one out of three ain't bad.

Finally, frustrated with the job search and terrified at the prospect of being unemployed, I began to sweat bullets. Big ol' .44 caliber bullets, and lots of them. But being able to see that large pasture of green—and I don't mean grass—prompted me to pool my resources together and sell myself to Johnny Corporation yet again.

Having expended all of my contacts, I resorted to petty theft; I stole

page 1,745 of the Yellow Pages. And right between "Psychotherapists" and "Publishers" lay my future—"Public Relations."

As I skimmed the list, I began to contact the individual groups, in no particular order other than those that sounded more professional and less like a law firm or fanatic movement.

The first few calls I made yielded no results, just additions to my ulcer.

As I scratched out another opportunity with my pen, I made one last phone call.

No, I wasn't offered a job, but I was referred to a very small group that "may be able to help someone with my interests."

I called this group and spoke with their lone student worker who, incidentally, was leaving very shortly.

To make this very long narrative short, I am interviewing next week, and maybe the fruits of this oft-bared epic will finally yield, and I'll get my first round with Johnny Corporation in the ring.

After all, isn't that why we're all here?



NICK BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UMSL supports liberals

Enough is enough. I am getting tired of seeing any liberal values jammed down my throat at this campus. Last weeks episode with the anti-abortion demonstration was enough to make me mad. Just because there were posters that showed abortion for what it really is MURDER, this was no reason to remove them from campus. And before people start screaming that these posters were offensive, stop and think about the other items that are offensive on this campus that are allowed:

1. *The Current* runs ads for MURDER on a regular basis, when they sell ads to the companies that are promoting the morning after pill (RU-486)

2. The AIDS quilts that have been displayed on the campus have shown men with erections and anal sex between men

3. The banners for the "Big Man on Campus" that promoted "Wrap it before you tap it" and "We use condoms yes we do"

4. The anti-war material that was distributed that called this country the "United Snakes of America"

5. The anti-war material that was distributed that pictured Uncle Sam as a Hitler supporter

Those are just some of the items that are allowed by this campus administration. Now I know that Curt Coonrod indicated that the anti-abor-

tion organization did not go through the proper channels to get permission, but how many bars, restaurants, tanning spas and more that hand out literature actually go through the proper channels and do not get run off campus.

The last time I looked the 1st Amendment protects all freedom of speech not a select few. It is time for this campus administration to start supporting what they say they support, "A well rounded education experience." It is time to start seeing more conservative values supported on this campus.

Chris Brown
President of College Republicans

What's your opinion?

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

- SGA bickering
- The job hunt
- The Apostle's Creed

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

The apostle test

Many years ago, I was once a shy, little third grader in St. Monica. I remember one particular spring day in Mrs. Schaffer's class. Each of us got in front of the class and took our turns saying the Apostle's Creed prayer. And after awhile it was my turn....

Not too long ago, the tables have turned. This time I'm the teacher with my children.

I've been teaching a third grade Parish School of Religion class at my church for the past six years. One of the things I want my children to learn (among other things) is to know the Apostle's Creed by heart.

Why do I want my children to know The Apostle's Creed by heart? The Apostle's Creed is a couple lines which essentially explain what as a Catholic I believe. Hopefully by knowing this prayer, I can help give my children idea of what our religion believes.

Over the years, I've always been looking for a different way to teach the prayer to my children. Most have been successful, but I still look at each year as how can I improve over last year. Often I feel like a marketing wizard trying to put new wrapping on the same product.

Learn the Apostle's Creed quick! Study the Apostle's Creed at home

and have your parents verify that you've been studying.

Need another way? No problem! Several techniques from a reading retention course (reading the prayer upside down with both feet off the ground) will have you knowing the prayer in no time. The rationale? Memorizing the prayer is so hard this way that memorizing the prayer afterwards in a normal manner will be a piece of cake.

And of course, there's the old way of saying the prayer every week that if you don't learn the prayer, you'll be sure to sleep easier.

This year I've tried to have the children memorize a little chunk at a time. One week they have to know the first three lines. Next week the next six lines, and so on.

My technique seems to be working out OK. Most children know the lines of the prayer they are supposed to know for that week. But there are always those one or two children...

As a teacher, this is where I get most nervous. I want ALL children to know the prayer. I want ALL my children to know the lines they are supposed to know for that week.

This is one fault I have as a teacher.



STEVE VALKO
Managing Editor

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- ELLIOT REED
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- HANK BURNS

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

LETTERS

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

Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi
Photography Director

Are you ready for finals?



Judith Msampha
Junior / Political Science

I guess that I am. Can't wait for summer break.



Christina Harclew
Senior / Communication

Yes, because I already have the answers to the test. And besides, I only have two finals.



Jessica Holland
Freshman / Biology

Yes. I only have three and they are pretty spaced apart.



Irene Gardiner
Junior / Psychology

Yes. I only have two tests so I'm not very nervous. I just want the semester to be over.

R-men hit losing streak

Losses to Lincoln, Southern Indiana, put Rivermen at 21-19 overall

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Baseball

BY HANK BURNS
Staff Editor

Losses to Southern Indiana and Lincoln put the UM-St. Louis Rivermen baseball team at 21-19 overall and 11-11 in their conference. The Rivermen suffered a 9-7 loss to Lincoln on April 23 and a 4-1 loss to Southern Indiana. Each game was played at home.

According to Rivermen skipper Jim

"When we did hit the ball well, it held up in the wind."

Jim Brady
Head Coach
Rivermen Baseball

Brady, the little things counted during the match-up with Southern Indiana.

"We put ourselves in a hole in about the third inning, when we got the first two guys out and I believe there was an error and then a walk," Brady said. "Then the guy hit a ball over Brody Jackson's head and he crashed into the fence and it knocked him out and the guy was able to circle the bases. That put us in a 3-0 bind. Then they scored a fluke run the next inning and that put us 4-0."

According to Brady, Jackson was unconscious for a short period of time, but was able to continue playing.

"He was very groggy, but he [Steve] got him to come to and he had a little whiplash. He stayed in the game and played the rest of the game. He's okay. He's not suffering any aftereffects or a concussion or anything like that. I think that was our worry was the possibility of a concussion. But he's fine."

Although his team was down, Brady

felt they were not out. Southern Indiana led 4-0 in the fourth inning and Brady felt that there was more time to make a comeback.

"The wind was blowing out and I thought, well, we still got plenty of game," Brady said. "Well, then the rains came and we had to tarp the field."

When play resumed, the wind direction reversed and the Rivermen were not able to come back.

"When we did hit the ball well, it held up in the wind," Brady said. "It was one of those things, a combination of just not getting good swings with some misfortune with not having the weather conditions that we had prior to the storm. When you dig yourself a hole, with wood bats in those types of conditions, it makes it difficult to come back and we weren't able to do so. The loss hurt us a lot."

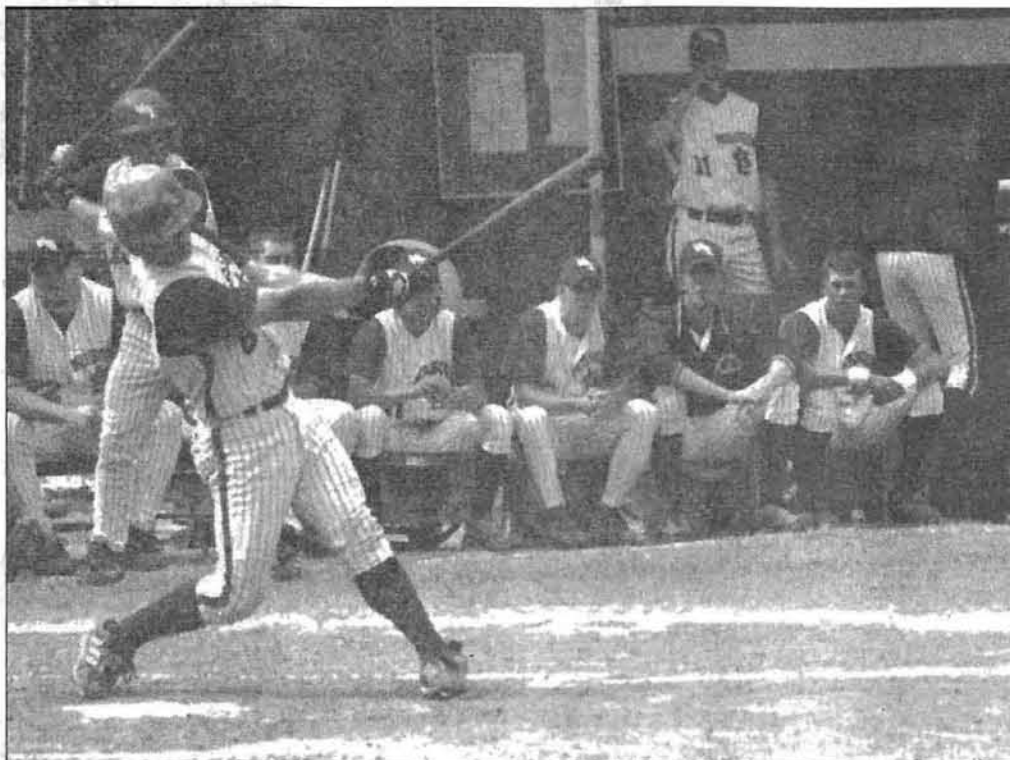
The Rivermen were attempting to carry on a three-game winning streak on April 23, when they lost to Lincoln. According to Brady, the Rivermen had the game wrapped up in the eighth inning, when the team allowed seven runs in the final two innings of the game.

"We made some bad pitches and probably bad choice of pitches and we found ourselves much like we did three weeks ago at Southern Indiana where we allowed five runs in the last inning to lose the ballgame," Brady said. "Psychologically, it's tough to come back from a loss like that. That's a game that you expect to win."

One bright spot for the Rivermen, according to Brady, was the comeback of Keith Wallace. Wallace, whose earned run averaged topped out earlier this year, now has a 3.38 ERA and is 4-5 on the season. Wallace started the season at 1-5.

"He came in and he showed some of the characteristics that he displayed last year," Brady said. "That was getting ahead of hitters and making them hit his pitch and being able to spot his pitches exactly where he wanted them to go. It's just the sign of a confident pitcher."

In the final week of the regular season, the Rivermen will face Quincy and Lewis. Earlier this year, the Rivermen defeated Quincy 7-5. The team has not faced Lewis, who stand in at 26-19 overall and 13-11 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. According to Brady, the week will be a crucial one.



Top left: UMSL Catcher Chas Wigger knocks a grounder into left field.

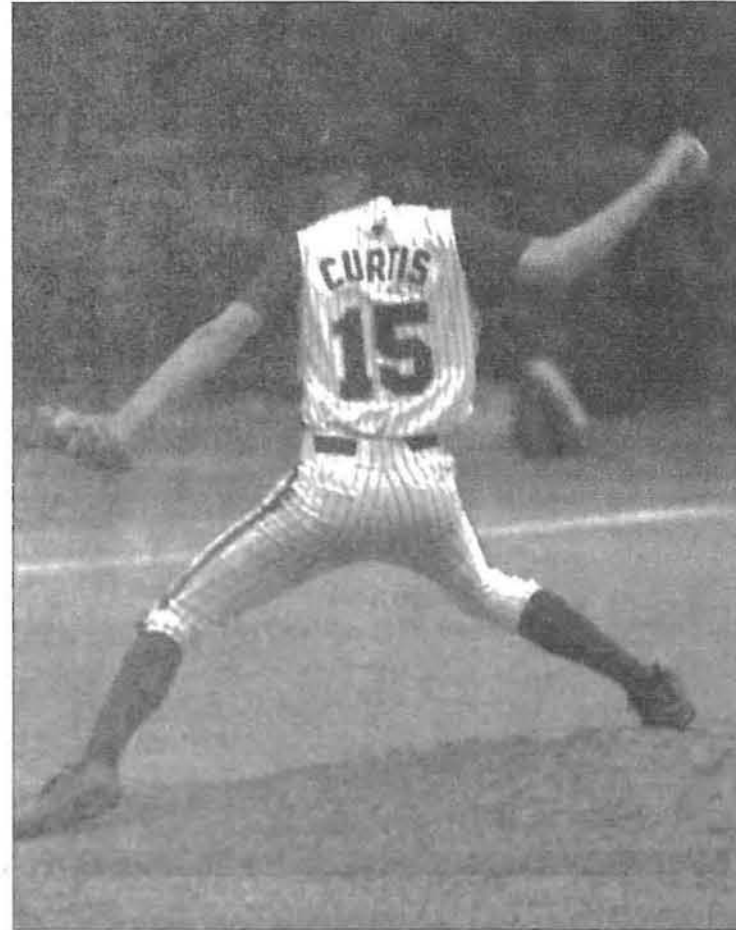
Bottom left: Infielder Jeff Viox throws to first base.

Bottom right: Right-hander Joe Curtis winds up and makes his pitch.

Photos by Kevin Ottley/The Current



"We've reached a point where there is no tomorrow," Brady said. "The future is now and that's what we have to do. Every game is like a playoff game and you gotta bring your 'a-game' everyday. If we can get on a roll here, we can take that momentum and carry it into the post-season play and the post-season tournament."



Schaub accepts hockey coaching job at Lindenwood University

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Hockey

BY HANK BURNS
Staff Editor

After a season in which the his team, the Lindenwood University Roller Hockey team, won the Division I Collegiate Roller Hockey League Championship, UM-St. Louis Ice Hockey Head Coach Derek Schaub decided to make Lindenwood his new home. Schaub, whose UM-St. Louis team was 23-4, took the offer as Lindenwood Ice Hockey Head Coach.

According to Schaub, he received an offer more than a year ago, but declined. However, after not receiving the type of support for his program that he was looking for, Schaub accepted the offer for the full-time coaching position at Lindenwood. The UM-St. Louis position was part-time.

"I guess the biggest factor is support, not only financially, but there's support there for my players if they need any help, what have you," Schaub said.

"I talk with their dean everyday.

I talk with the athletic director everyday. I talk with the president everyday. I don't know anybody at UMSL. I've talked with the athletic director a few times there, but it's just a much better situation. I could bring players in here that have special needs and they'll work with them."

Schaub said that he likes Lindenwood because it is a smaller

special attention. It's treated as a varsity sport here. My guys are appreciated by the university just like the basketball players are and the soccer players.

"They're working hard everyday, doing the same things those guys are. Why shouldn't they receive the same things in return? That's probably the best thing about it."

According to Schaub, his team's situation may get better.

"The school wants this program," Schaub said. "They want it to grow. They want it to be successful. Probably two of the best players at UMSL have already transferred and are coming here next year to play - [Steve] Hewlein and [Joe] Kuene. We won a national title. Can you be more successful than that? Statistically, no."

"Not only on the ice is a good product, but as well as off the ice. The team here, we're going to do a lot of stuff in the community next year. Not only is it a good experience for those kids, but it looks good for the university as well."

"I guess the biggest factor is support, not only financially, but there's support there for my players if they need any help, what have you."

Derek Schaub
Former Head Coach
Rivermen Ice Hockey

school and therefore there will be little chance that his team will not be disregarded.

"Not just myself, but my players as well, aren't looked at as a number," Schaub said. "You get more

Cheer squad starts new year following their 3-day tryouts

BY HANK BURNS
Staff Editor

Tryouts for the 2002-03 UM-St. Louis Cheerleading squad were held from April 25 - 27 in the Mark Twain Recreation Center. The squad, which began cheering at UM-St. Louis in 2001 at men's and women's basketball games, will have 15 members for the new season.

Before the tryouts began, new coach and UM-St. Louis grad Laura Partridge did not know what kind of a

turnout to expect for the tryouts.

"This is the first time I've done it," Partridge said. "I've sent out letters to over 60 individuals that are interested, plus 25 more that have expressed interest that have contacted me or a member of the squad. We're either going to have 5 or 500. We don't know. We're assuming it's going to be about 50 people that are going to try out."

Of those cheerleading hopefuls, Partridge hopes that there are many dedicated individuals.

"I want somebody who's going to take this seriously and not be like 'I'll go to practice when I feel like it,' somebody who's dedicated to cheerleading and manage their school and their other social activities as well. Somebody who wants to support UMSL and get the fans involved," Partridge said.

According to Partridge, there wasn't a cheerleading squad on campus to get the fan involvement. Looking at the short history of the squad that she will lead, Partridge has great respect.

Dolan sees new facilities coming

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Athletics

BY HANK BURNS
Staff Editor

With the approval of the UM-St. Louis five-year plan at the March 22 UM Board of Curators meeting, the possibilities of new sports facilities are greater. The plan includes the possibilities of an upgrade to the Don Dallas Soccer Field and the movement of the baseball field to accommodate the construction of the new Geiger Road.

"Our baseball fields may have to come in tucked to the building," UM-St. Louis Athletic Director Patricia Dolan said. "Then there will be an expansion of the baseball field. We'd have to renovate it and do lights and irrigation and do all of that. We'd also, then, have to replace the tennis courts."

According to Dolan, new plans by the Performing Arts may lead to the possibilities of having to move the intramural fields.

"As part of the Performing Arts plan, there's a possibility that the intramural fields may be encroached upon," Dolan said. "Should that happen at the same time the tennis courts might be relieved, there's a thought on campus that the area in front of Mark Twain - the Educational Park in

QT - if that gets filled in it becomes green space, that we could move a field down there and/or tennis courts. Currently, we're still looking at other options."

According to Dolan, there is also a possibility that the of a new practice soccer field. Dolan feels that this, if located on campus, would be extremely beneficial.

"We've tried to reduce the stress on our game field by practicing off-site," Dolan said. "Unfortunately, that's also taking us off-campus. I'm not fond of that. I like to have all of my fields close where you can get to a softball practice, baseball practice, soccer practice in a relatively equidistant radius. Then that would keep the reduction of the stress off the game field, because if they practice everyday on the game field and then play on the game field, it's just too much stress."

According to Dolan, the next addition of sports to the UM-St. Louis Athletic Department will most likely be Track and Field and Cross Country. The addition, Dolan said, will happen within the next seven years. And, this would open up the need for a track.

"If we move them [facilities] in the next five years, then we might as well go with track," Dolan said. "Maybe put the soccer field in the middle of it or have a facility that track and soccer would share - a concessions area - soccer going off in one area and track going the other way."

SPORTS

EDITOR

HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

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COMING UP

Skyhawks Basketball

May 2
7 p.m. vs. Dodge City in St. Louis

3
7:05 p.m. @ St. Joseph in St. Joseph, Mo.

4
7 p.m. vs. Florida in St. Louis

Baseball

May 1
Noon @ Quincy in Quincy, Ill.

4
Noon @ Lewis [DH] in Romeoville, Ill.

Men's Tennis

May 3-4
NCAA Regionals in Grand Rapids, Mich.

May 3
2 p.m. ET vs. Wayne State

4
9 a.m. vs. Ferris State or W.V. Wesleyan

'02-'03 CHEER SQUAD

Megan Bagley, Nick Bowman, Ashley Chambers, Carrie Coleman, Riannon Grimsbo, Mandy Helm, Amanda Kreidler, Krista Mires, Emily Pack, Danielle Proulx, Robert Ross, Natalie Shaffer, Colleen Songer, Eric Yeager, Aaron Costello

WEB

www.umsl.edu/
services/athletics

for the latest sports news and information

A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

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fax: 516-6811

A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS

April

29

The University Singers & Chorale will perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Provincial House Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information please contact 516-6607.

May

The University Chorus will perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Provincial Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information please call 516-6685.

The Chinese Folk Dance Company will perform a concert at 8 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. The Concert is part of the Center for International Studies' Performing Arts Series. Tickets are \$7 for students, \$11 for seniors and \$15 for adults. For more information call the box office at 516-7299.



Andie MacDowell as Kate and Kenny Doughty as Jed in 'Crush.'

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

A crush usually brings to mind teenage infatuation. But "Crush" has only half the formula - it is about a 40-something woman falling for a younger man.

Well, he's not really a teenager but it's the gap in their ages. But let's back-up. The story really centers on three fortyish women in a small, idyllic-looking English town. These three friends are gather weekly to gripe, moan or just talk about their love lives - or lack there of - while sharing gin and chocolates. While all three are successful, they couldn't be more different. Never-married Kate (Andie MacDowell) is the American headmistress of a school who has never stepped out of line but, at 40, is rethinking her good-girl ways. Outspoken and direct Molly (Anna Chancellor), a thrice-married doctor, is beautiful, but unlucky with men. Janine (Imelda Staunton), the oldest and also never married wants a guy who, like herself, is a down-to-earth homebody, but who can accept her as

she is - a smart, careful, strong woman who happens to be a police investigator. And so they gather to share friendship and the appalling lack of available men in their tiny town.

Then it comes out: Kate has had a brief romantic encounter with a man. Reticent Kate is sparing with details, but when she sees him again, more facts come out. He's young; in fact, an ex-student of hers. At first, this is great fun for the group. As the relationship grows more serious, it raises some concern among her friends, especially with Molly, who is sure Kate is going to get hurt.

This film is beautiful to look at, with lush location shots and sets, and gorgeous costumes in vivid color. The material comforts of the women's lives is the ironic backdrop to their romantic disappointments and the consistency of the visual beauty through the ups and downs of the story underscores some of the more poignant scenes.

"Crush" is pretty much a "chick flick," although I think most women will be able to see a man's touch in the writing and directing, as you can in "Sex and the City." The film is predominantly comedy but also delves to the relationships and jealousies between women when men come into the picture. In this way, the film harkens back to classic "women's pictures" of the '30s and '40s, with a man disrupting a friendship between women and bringing out the catfight. This film doesn't quite go as far as the

classics, but the tension might draw a few more men to this story than the usual chick flick. Despite this, there are some valid points about friendships and romances made in "Crush."

The film is a very polish effort by British first-time writer/director John and doubtless we will see more good films from him in the future. As always, Andie MacDowell is timelessly beautiful and is surrounded by a strong supporting cast in Imelda Staunton and Anna Chancellor. Chancellor deserves special recognition for her difficult role as the sometimes-villainous Molly, which she pulls off brilliantly. A story that revolves around women over 40 and romance is refreshingly different. We are used to seeing films with older actors involved with young actresses and it's nice to see the idea turned on its head. The story works well and is surprisingly believable. Plus, how could you not like a film with a character who is identified in the credits as "Mr. Unspeakable Lying Bastard?" Ladies? Come on now. Although it may draw more female moviegoers, "Crush" is a pretty, pleasant film that's worth a look for both men and women.

Fall for 'Crush'

INTERVIEW

'Crush' director speaks about his film

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

A writer/director in filmmaking is like a singer/songwriter in music. Both imply a simpler, less big-budget approach and promise something truer and more personal and often a higher degree of artistry.

John McKay is the writer/director of "Crush," the new British romantic comedy starring Andie MacDowell, which opened here recently. Just before the opening, John McKay visited St. Louis, and we had a chat about his first feature film.

Current: Your film got a great deal of attention at the Sundance film festival when it appeared there. How did that make you feel?

McKay: It was great fun to show it to an American audience. I must admit I was a bit nervous about it because I guess I see it as a little British film. I wasn't sure how much of the humor an American audience would get. But one of the screenings was at a multiplex, where people besides the festival audience could see it, and that one was actually the best response, so it appears the humor works over here too.

Current: Tell me something about your background.

McKay: I'm Scottish. I come from a very small town by the sea on the east coast of Scotland. I started out as a sort of comedian and actor and a writer. I wrote for TV in the U.K. and theater for about 10 years. When I turned 30, I decided I was sick of other

people ruining my scripts, and I would rather ruin them myself, so I became a director. I went to film school, made half a dozen short films and got offered the chance to write and direct a feature film. I had written a play called "Crush," about a headmistress of a school who has an affair with an ex-pupil. At this point, it came back to me, and I thought that there was more I could do with that idea. I was interested in her friends and how they might react, and how they might all survive small town life. At that point, I knew this group of doctor friends, who were working too hard to find boyfriends. They used to gather together for smoking and drinking and eating trash food and talking, and they called themselves the "sad fuckers club." Of course, I couldn't use that name but I

thought I could put the two ideas together.

Current: How did you choose Andie MacDowell for the lead role?

McKay: I had to have someone who you would believe had been "good" all her life, working for the community and helping others. Andie MacDowell is the Olympic champion at being "good," so I thought it would be funny to watch her be naughty. What I didn't expect was this fragility she also wanted to express.

Current: This is very much a woman-centered film. What drew you to write and direct a film about the sexes and relationships of women?

McKay: Well, there is a long tradition of men writing or directing women's pictures, going back to (classic Hollywood director) George

Cukor. So I think guys can do it. What drew me to this was that I found when I wrote about men in relationships, that the men wouldn't do or say things but that women would. So it was easier to write about relationships for women characters. Also, I wanted to write for great actresses, because it seems that we lay off actresses just when they are getting good. They spend their early life working at their craft and learning how to do it, and as they reach their 40's, just as they get to where they have enough craft and life-experience to be fantastic, roles become few. So in a sense it was a craven business decision to tap into this unused pool of talent. I thought these gals are great; why not write great roles for them.

see CURATOR, page 9

CD REVIEW

Former pitcher shows he can get a few hits too

BY ELLIOT REED
Staff Writer

It's not every day a former three time-Major League Baseball All-Star and American League Cy Young Award winner (1993) can strap on a Les Paul and earnestly front a band, but such is the case with Jack McDowell and his band Stickfigure. Their third studio release, "Ape of the Kings" is a surprisingly impressive collection of 13 rock'n'roll tracks in the tradition of Tom Petty.

Perhaps better known as "Black Jack" during his days with the Chicago White Sox, at 6'5" Jack McDowell's lanky physique actually became the band's official moniker. With his cleats and glove now on the shelf, he's now free to fully explore his musical aspirations.

Don't be fooled by McDowell's

successful career in professional baseball; he's been playing guitar for the better part of 20 years. Each of the 13 songs on "Ape of the Kings" carries a unique sensibility within the genre of modern rock, simultaneously exploring the boundaries of a catchy tune while paying homage to the rock of years past.

"Call Me Crazy" starts and finishes in a rockabilly manner that would make Chuck Berry proud. The opening track, "The Grave," ironically maintains a feel-good and radio friendly rock rhythm, ideal for any sunny day road trip through the Midwest countryside.

The following track "One Down," however, gives the most accurate taste of Stickfigure's influences. If you're familiar with the previous work of bassist Mike Mesaros, 10 seconds into this track you'll be scrambling through



your old collection of Smithereens CDs looking for "Blood and Roses." While Jack McDowell seems to have artistic credit for stickfigure's writing, Mesaros' influence is undeniable throughout the album. This is especially true on "One Down," which harkens to a lost Smithereens B-side.

While instrumentally the album displays a breadth of artistic exploration, don't expect too much in the way of original and thought provoking lyrics. Although largely based in McDowell's real-life experiences, these narratives become quickly mired in repetition, hyperbole and abstraction (think in terms of the album's title, a word switch on "King of the Apes," and look for a number of such simple reversals throughout the album). In "Long Drag," be prepared for the off-tempo insertion of "she's a long drag off a filter" to be repeated ad nauseum.

"Clumsy Regretter" postpones the lyrical repetition momentarily, only to dwell on obscure contradictions, beginning with "A summer day, it starts to snow, still coming down or could I be wrong?" When "Regretter" gets to the chorus, "It's love" is repeated to the

point where any meaning it might have had is lost. Sadly, this doesn't seem to be the objective the song aims to reach.

As an album, "Ape of the Kings" is a worthy effort. To fans of Tom Petty and the Smithereens, you'll hear a satisfyingly delicate blend of the new and familiar. If you're of the ilk of rock fans for whom lyrics simply prevent the song from being an instrumental, you've got a little more than 45 minutes of auditory enjoyment ahead of you here. If lyrics are your bag, well, you'll definitely have to lower your standards some; otherwise, you'll miss out on a unique and eclectic rock experience.

You may have a chance to hear this band live. According to their press release, Stickfigure is scheduled to perform at Mississippi Nights on Friday, May 10. Call (314) 843-9829 for more information.

MOVIE REVIEW



Patrick Warburton, Tim Allen, Ben Foster, Rene Russo and Zoey Deschanel are tied up in 'Big Trouble.'

'Big Trouble' is big fun

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Last year, there was a film promised to recreate the madness and mayhem of the 1963 classic comedy "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." While that film didn't quite make it, the new comedy "Big Trouble" comes a whole lot closer.

"Big Trouble" has hot and cold running comedians, racing in a wild run at you from every direction plot. Many comedies try this comic craziness formula but few have the organization and focus to keep all the balls in the air. But "Big Trouble" not only keeps all the plotlines flowing like a symphony, but it is energetically fun and funny throughout the whole roller coaster ride. Best of all, Tim Allen finally appears in a funny movie, one that can really showcase his talents.

The film is based on a novel by humorist Dave Barry. It all starts with this young, innocent, peace-and-love

guy, Puggy (Jason Lee), who is "stuck in the '60s." The always sunny Puggy travels to Florida and ends up living in a tree. The tree affords him a view of the backyard of an affluent family, obnoxious lawyer Arthur Herk (Stanley Tucci) and his long-suffering wife Anna (Rene Russo) and teenage daughter Jenny (Zoey Deschanel), where some very odd things are taking place. Into their lives stumble ex-newspaper man turned adman Eliot Arnold (Tim Allen) and his teenage son Matt (Ben Foster). But wait, this isn't really just their story. Like the classic comedy I mentioned, each character starts out with their own storyline, storylines which then collide into a crash of comedy. So we have Russians smugglers running a waterfront dive as a front and an East Coast hitman (Dennis Farina) sent on an assignment, gripping about how unprofessional the whole set-up is, along with some dumb-as-a-rock Miami Dolphins fans. Add to the mix, a bunch of teens engaged in a long-

'...the film itself very carefully unfolds its road map to comedy and keeps you from getting lost.'

running game of tag with a squirt gun, and a tough, smart female cop (Janeane Garofalo) whose beefcake male partner (Patrick Warburton) is just smart enough to breathe, plus budding romance on a couple of fronts.

Sound confusing? Really, the film

is hard to summarize but not hard to watch, as the film itself very carefully unfolds its road map to comedy and keeps you from getting lost. The fun of the film is how all these people come together to deal with a common problem. This jigsaw puzzle of a plot is great fun to watch, with humor that reaches from slapstick to farce to satire.

"Big Trouble" is refreshingly funny. This film was originally set for release in mid-September last year, but was held back after 9-11 due concern about some of its plot. Careful viewers will probably notice details that indicate the film was made before that tragic date, but the plot device is an absurdity and the overwhelming silliness of the film takes it far from anything that would be actually scary.

If you like comedy, especially of the absurd Dave Barry variety, or often wondered why Tim Allen couldn't be in a better comedy-run, run to see "Big Trouble." It is, without a doubt, a big fun movie.

MEN, from page 6

Current: Your film is very gorgeous visually and has a higher level of photographic beauty than you sometimes see in independent films. The locations are all so lush and colorful. Sometimes, independent films compromise on the visual quality, choosing to shoot on video or digital rather than film to save money. But this film looked very polished. Was the film very well funded, or are you just very careful?

McKay: The later. My interests lie somewhere between European cinema and the polished look of classic [1930s Hollywood director Ernst] Lubitsch films. It never was going to be a film about gritty realism. Part of the package was that these were women who had some style and taste, who live in a rather pleasant place. In a way, I wanted to set up a stylish and stylized world and then make a documentary there. The film was shot in the English

Cotswolds, a quaint area with beautiful rolling hills, on 35mm cinema-cope. I was very careful about how I framed shots, but then I gave the actors some leeway in what they did.

Current: So there was some improvisation. Since you were an actor, I guess you were aware what an actor could bring to a scene.

McKay: Yes. When you live with a movie in your head for two or three years, you've got a plan, something you can fall back on. It's easy for a first time director to worry a lot about what's in the scene and getting that shot, but all the audience is really looking at are your actors. To the audience, the actors are your movie.

Current: With "Crush" opening around the U.S., what's your next project?

McKay: There's a movie that we just cast called "Knickers," it's a comedy.

For up to date movie and music reviews check out *The Current* online edition. www.thecurrentonline.com

COMEDY REVIEW

'Men' in the Hall perform in St. Louis

BY MICAH ISSITT
Staff Writer

The Canadian sketch-comedy troupe "The Kids in the Hall" has been amusing fans since the mid-'80s with their unusual brand of cross-dressing sketch comedy. On April 20, they made their first appearance at the Pageant Theatre in St. Louis as part of a North American comedy tour, which started a few years ago.

"Kids" consists of writers and comedians David Foley, Bruce McCulloch, Kevin McDonald, Mark McKinneys and Scott Thompson. The comedy group was formed in and around Toronto in the early '80s. American audiences were first treated to their unique comedy around 1989 when the Kids produced a sketch comedy show for HBO and the CBS networks.

Eight years after the Kids' show went off the air, all five original mem-

bers decided to take the act on the road.

The two-hour live performance featured some of the fans' favorite sketches mixed with new and updated material. The fans were enthusiastic, even at times interrupting the group's flow by shouting out the endings to certain jokes. The comedians seemed to take the crowd's interference with good humor. In fact, crowd "participation" led to some of the more memorable moments, as the Kids were distracted from their sketches, ruining their lines but coming up with some hilarious improv in response.

The group also revived some of their fan's favorite characters. Among them was the chicken lady, a hybrid chicken-woman who works for a traveling freak show and spends her evenings trying to find a man to fulfill her sex drive. Another sketch featured Bruce McCulloch as Gavin, a young boy who tells improbable anecdotes

about other children in his class.

For many fans, the Kids' long time appeal may have something to do with their ability to include material about sensitive and controversial issues. Group member Scott Thompson has been very successful by being open about his homosexuality and writing many hilarious jokes on the subject.

One of Thompson's most popular routines involves his posing as the outrageously effeminate character Buddy, who with martini and flamboyant clothing gives humorous monologues about his sexual escapades. For the live show, Thompson gave a topical monologue about Buddy's adventures in the Middle East, culminating in a hilariously graphic homosexual encounter with Saddam Hussein. Buddy finished by saying, "At least for that one night, there was peace in the Middle East."

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Writing about speaking



MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

the linguistic level we are most familiar with, mainly through primary education.

The referential level consists of the "meanings" we assign to the words and the symbols that make up the words. The word "moon" refers to the satellite that orbits the earth, and the word "blue" refers to the experience of a color sensation.

These referential meanings are only part of the picture, however, because there are deeper levels of linguistic meaning we rarely notice. The philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty explored human gestural communication, including nonverbal signals like smiles, frowns and threatening motions.

Merleau-Ponty suggests that gestural communication is the origin of all human language, and further that underlying all of the complex referential meanings we build into our words is a kind of "vocal gesture," which

still carries the majority of the meaning. In other words, it's not so much what you say, but how you say it.

To understand this idea, it might help to listen to people having a conversation in a language you do not understand. Try to do this discreetly and respectfully, for your own safety. Observe their body language and listen to the sounds of their voices.

What you do not understand is the referential meanings behind the particular words, but you will find there is still a high level of communication that you are able to decipher, carried in the "way" the speakers speak and their bodily gestures.

If you could follow these people around for several weeks, which is not recommended, you would find that your familiarity with the speaker's style of speech would allow you to understand much more of what they spoke about.

The speed, cadence and tone of

their voices gives information about their emotional states. They accompany this with gestures like smiles and hand motions that provide a deeper level of meaning.

Careful attention will alert you to one striking similarity that all languages share. Some words attempt to mimic the sounds of phenomena in the environment. We say "whoosh" to signify something displacing air and "splash" to represent the rapid displacement of water. Each language accentuates a slightly different experience of the sound, but all languages share this imitative dimension. Imitation of environmental sound might be the most likely path for the genesis of sounded language itself.

Attention to this basic level of language might eventually give the impression that more information is transferred beneath the words than in the words themselves. This level of linguistic meaning provides us with

the base to which we add secondary levels of meaning.

One of the most interesting things about this idea is that it may provide evidence that humans are not the only animals capable of speech, and further, that humans could learn to understand and communicate with other-creatures. Most animals do not use their language in a referential way as we do, nor do they develop alphabets. Animal language is most likely locked into that basic level of instinctive meaning that still underlies all of our peculiar human dialects.

Most pet owners claim to be able to "understand" and "communicate" with their pets. Animals respond to our voice patterns, tonality and body language. Some pet owners believe their animals learn certain words like "sit," "stay" or their name. It is more likely, however, that the animal learns to understand our body language and tone. Try giving your pet a command

in a different voice and without the usual accompaniment of body language and the animal is not very likely to understand.

Presumably this would also be true for animals in their natural environments. How many times have you heard a bit of bird song and thought that the song seemed happy, sad or nervous? Usually we dismiss these thoughts, reminding ourselves that we cannot possibly understand what goes on inside the mind of a bird. This may be true, but how do we know that the impression we originally received from the song was not correct? Perhaps that gut feeling is an impression of some instinctive communication.

With careful attention, we might learn to decipher the meanings present in the tone and rhythm of animal noises. A dog's whine, a bird's song and a human's sentence might all be built on a universal tongue.

UMSL student runs jewelry business

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

Www.Gemstoneart.com, a sole proprietorship that sells gemstones, including birth stones and jewelry, is run by Ryan Kolter, an UM-St. Louis student majoring in computer science.

It is an Internet business that sold online via Ebay with the username Gemstoneart and on Kolter's website, <http://www.gemstoneart.com>.

"Gemstoneart.com developed from a fascination I have always had with gemstones. When I started to earn enough money at my job, I started to buy gemstones," Kolter said. "I got interested first in stones when I saw a piece of optical quartz. Ironically, I don't have a piece in my collection."

Kolter realized that it turned into a very expensive hobby; therefore, he began to sell smaller stones to finance it. Someone suggested that he sell jewelry, so he purchased some "how to" books on subject and started making it. One of his friends in Canada began to deal his gemstones and jewelry as well. Next, someone suggested that he develop a website. One thing led to another, and finally, the business officially opened on Jan. 2.

His motto is "Good Gems, Good Jewelry, Good Prices, Guaranteed!" According to Kolter, a steady hand, good eyes and an understanding of what stones will look good in what settings are needed by a crafter. He prides himself in good craftsmanship and extremely low prices.

"My costs are very low because I know the owners of mines in a variety of countries," Kolter said. "I have a friend in Thailand who deals with a number of mines. I also buy a lot of



Ryan Kolter

stones from a clearing center in Brazil and a few stones from two businesses in the U.S. that deal in Mexican and U.S. gemstones primarily."

His cost is low also because he runs his business purely by the Internet. If he had a store, he would have to pay the overhead and that would increase the prices.

"I think that running your own business is exhilarating. Although it needs a lot of work, I'm proud to be able to hand out my own business cards," Kolter said.

Running his own business pushes him to wake up at 5:30 a.m., and to go to sleep at midnight, five days a week. The business itself takes only between 10 to 20 hours a week, but he also has to work 40 hours per week and study.

Asked about his key to success, Kolter said, "First, only start a business if you already love to do what you are going to turn into a business and if you can devote the time to it. Second, expect to have to line up your finances yourself. Last, but not least, always be respectful to the people who have to process your paperwork."

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CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Nothing but the blues at Monday Noon Series

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

"St. Louis is the second largest blues town in the world after Chicago..."

This line is from the Monday Noon Series on April 22, when John Erblich, St. Louis harmonica player, presented "Everything you wanted to know and did not want to know about blues harmonica." He was helped by Ron Edwards, bottleneck guitarist and radio programmer of a weekly blues music show on KDHX FM 88.1.

Elbrich was from St. Louis and went to school in New Orleans. Although he was not majoring in music, he has been playing harmonica for 25 years, "Just because I like it," he said.

Erblich and Edwards talked about the importance of the harmonica in the history of blues music. They told of the historical origins and development of the harmonica, in addition to describing the layout and tablature of the harmonica.

"Many people think blues comes from certain parts of the East Coast," Erblich said, "But the fact is, many guitar players are from Mississippi and Tennessee."

Edwards and Erblich also mentioned some harmonica artists, such

as John Lee Sony Boy Williamson, who brought the harmonica to St. Louis after moving from Memphis. Williamson took the instrument and made it popular in the U.S. with a different concept.

"Sony Boy took harmonica up front as a solo instrument," Edwards said. "When he sang, there was no harmonica. But in the middle of the song, he played solo harmonica just as the way he was singing. So, suddenly harmonica became as important as the voice in blues."



Farika Rusli/The Current
John Erblich, St. Louis harmonica player

"Technology has always driven music in one form to another," Edwards said. "In 1937, the first electric guitar was made."

In the 1950s, harmonica players began to use amplifier harmonica sound. Rice Miller, also known as Sony Boy Williamson II, played a harmonica into a microphone without any added effects.

There are about 50 major harmonica players in St. Louis, so it is now called by many "the harmonica town" as well as "the piano town." The largest blues town in the world is Chicago because of many recordings being made there, and St. Louis is the second largest.

otherwise they would not steal. While we all struggle with the desire of always needing more (of anything) and share in the idea of staying on top and getting ahead, the only thing that separates a thief from a normal person is that thieves are unrestricted in their methods for getting ahead both consciously and legally. I have found the best way to deal with this problem is to leave you car doors unlocked, your windows rolled down and have nothing in your bank account. If some people feel they have the freedom to enter your personal domain, let them. At least you will feel liberated by the fact they can do nothing more to you.

FILM, from page 3



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

"You Are the Coolest Girl in the U.S.A.," will have its premiere in the Pilot House at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1. The film is directed by Pavel "Pasha" Zalutski (left) and stars Nina Sorokopud.

"We are revealing the most private concerns of her life."

- Pavel "Pasha" Zalutski, Director
"You Are the Coolest Girl in the U.S.A."

Zarutski said that his culture shock was very short lived. "My culture shock was only two days," Zarutski said. "I managed to overcome it by getting involved in film."

One of the things that Zarutski finds interesting in film is its portrayal of humanity. "I believe that film can glorify mankind, by being straightforward about vice, suffering and pain," Zarutski said.

Despite the subject of culture shock, both Zarutski and Sorokopud say that the film is about a lot more than that, but more about typical human suffering and how people deal with it.

"We see what goes on when [Tanya] is alone," Zarutski said. "This film shows the thread of human feeling pulled so much that it threatens to tear."

In particular, Zarutski said that Tanya's suffering is shown in her most private moments. "[Tanya] would prefer to hide from the public," Zarutski said. "We are revealing the most private concerns of her life."

For the selection of the lead role, Zarutski advertised for a specific type of Eastern European woman, to play the role. When he couldn't find one, he appealed to Sorokopud.

"She was involved in the project

originally, and she lived across from me," Zarutski said. "So, I told her, 'you know everything about this girl, please play her.'" Sorokopud agreed.

Sorokopud said that even though she strongly identified with the character of Tanya, the coincidences are merely superficial.

"Sometimes I had a really hard time with this girl," Sorokopud said. "She doesn't want to show anger, but I do."

"I do share some qualities with Tanya, and sometimes I see myself in her, but I am not Tanya. I'm Nina," she said.

The film was shot around UM-St. Louis and in areas off campus, including the Metrolink station. Zarutski and Sorokopud both say that during filming they made a good contrast.

"Our goals were different," Sorokopud said. "Pasha's was more serious, while I was more relaxed."

Zarutski said that Sorokopud's relaxed nature helped him. "I was extremely satisfied with how she could portray [Tanya]," Zarutski said. "When I would take filming too seriously, she would be like a cold shower to relax me."

Sorokopud has equally high praises for Zarutski. "[Zarutski] has desire," Sorokopud said. "When we were filming you could see the fire in his eyes."

Though this is Sorokopud and Zarutski's film debuts, they take differing views about how far they are willing to continue their film careers.

"This is my first and last film," Sorokopud said.

Zarutski wishes to continue his studies in film. "I do have some other film projects in my head," he said. "I don't know where they will take me, in Belarus or here in America, but once I start, they will go on."

The premiere is free with a free dinner afterward and is sponsored by the Center for International Studies, UM-St. Louis-TV Club, Chancellor's Office, Center for Humanities and Residence Halls Association.

HACKERS, from page 3

are educated people who have wonderfully high-paying jobs in the computer industry. While it is my understanding that some hackers try to destroy computer systems for political reasons, the people or person who dug their claws into whatever website I had ordered off of was in it for the money. But what is the purpose of having more, when he or she probably has plenty?

The only resolution I can make in my mind is that thieves must live very meaningless lives, with meaningless material items that were once meaningful to someone else. But, the thieves do not even know what meaningful is,

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In bloom on campus



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Photos by Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

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UNITED, from page 1

co-sponsorship with Multicultural Relations and the Associated Black Collegians, it presented the second or third largest artifact exhibit from Reginald Petty, with pieces that date back to 4000 B.C., which proved to be an interesting highlight this year. Culminating activities took place on Saturday, April 27, which included a reception for all artists, student academic appreciation, and a dance that evening that included the UM-St. Louis campus and the community at large.

Shaheed hopes the expo will instill a little pride in the students and to bring about visibility to what black students have to bring to the UM-St. Louis campus.

"In order to help bring about change, people have to buy into the concept of what it is that you are doing," Shaheed said. "If they don't believe in their campus and don't believe that UM-St. Louis is for them, cares about them, has an interest in them and then they won't support the campus, they just become people who come take classes and leave."

"We do have activities during black history month but UM-St. Louis is a year round campus, to me this should be something that goes on year round, and while we can't do an exhibit every month, I think this is the beginning to help them find an avenue," Shaheed said.

"Black organizations could have a

little more solidarity, we have to learn to trust one another again. Some unfortunate things have happened in the past that divided us. It's going to take some time to rebuild. We can quickly tear down but it is a slow process to build back up," Shaheed said.

While Ahmadi is a spiritual based organization, they are also concerned with activities that bring about oneness and unity to the campus community. The religion of Islam being the second largest religion in the United States it is still one of the most highly misunderstood religions in the world. There is a lot of confusion now with Middle East situations and the bombings.

"Those are just incidents that I call radical views or radical thinking gone haywire. It is also a part of the responsibility that we have to educate the UM-St. Louis community to help them understand what the true position of Islam is on those things," Shaheed said.

Ahmadi is planning future workshops and is looking forward to getting more involved on campus and working with other organizations.

"A lot of the kids call me momma, I guess it is part of my nurturing nature. I like to see people get along and work together," Shaheed said.

The three-day visual and performing arts expose took place April 25-27, in the MSC on the third floor rotunda.

APOSTLE, from page 4

Many of my students have known the prayer forward and backward, but I sometimes focus on the children who didn't learn the prayer. I used to spend my time thinking the year was a failure because one or two children didn't know the prayer by heart.

Over the years, I've found to make peace by getting most of my students to know the prayer. I find myself happier with my children's performance.

But not content. One of things what I want my children to know is why they say

the prayer in the first place. It can be encapsulated by the first two words of the prayer, "I believe."

I want them to remember that the prayer is what Catholics believe, not just a whole bunch of lines that some mean teacher forces them to memorize.

Our last class before the test was last week. I constantly reminded them of the test and to know the prayer.

My teaching is done for the year. It's time to find out how much my children have learned.

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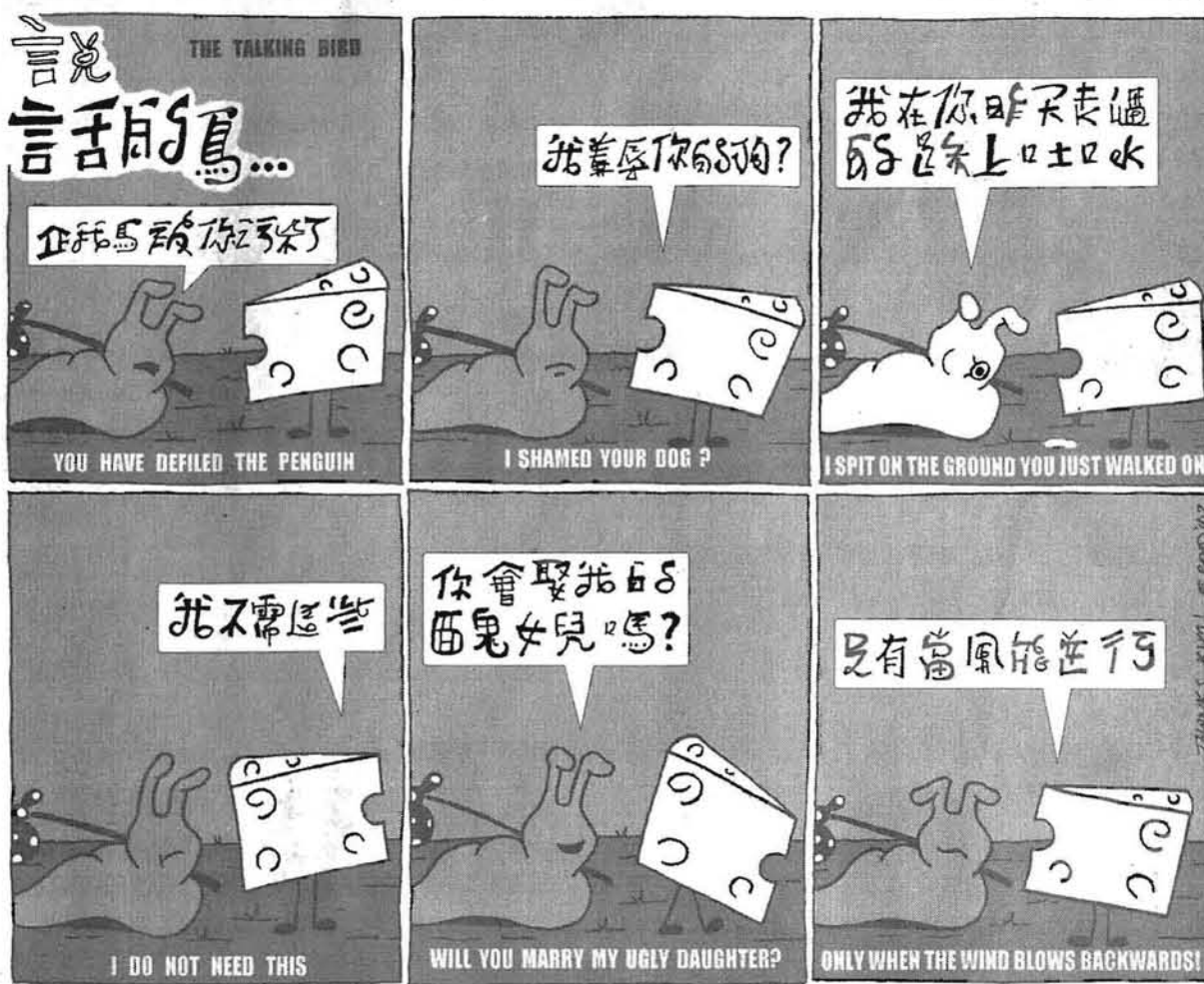
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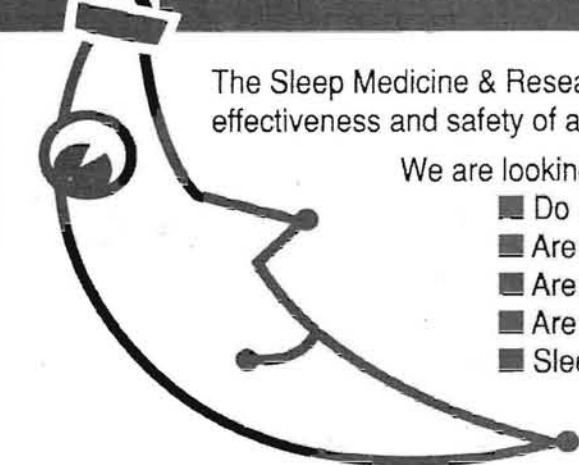
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Participation in this study will require one clinic visit and one overnight stay. Duration of the study is one to two weeks. Monetary compensation will be provided.

Return form to:
Sleep Medicine and Research Center
232 S. Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Best time to call _____

How much wake time do you experience during the night? _____

How many hours of sleep do you usually get each night? _____

List all medications you are currently taking _____

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Thursday	May 9	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
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Monday	May 13	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	May 14	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
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Thursday	May 9	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday	May 10	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Tuesday	May 14	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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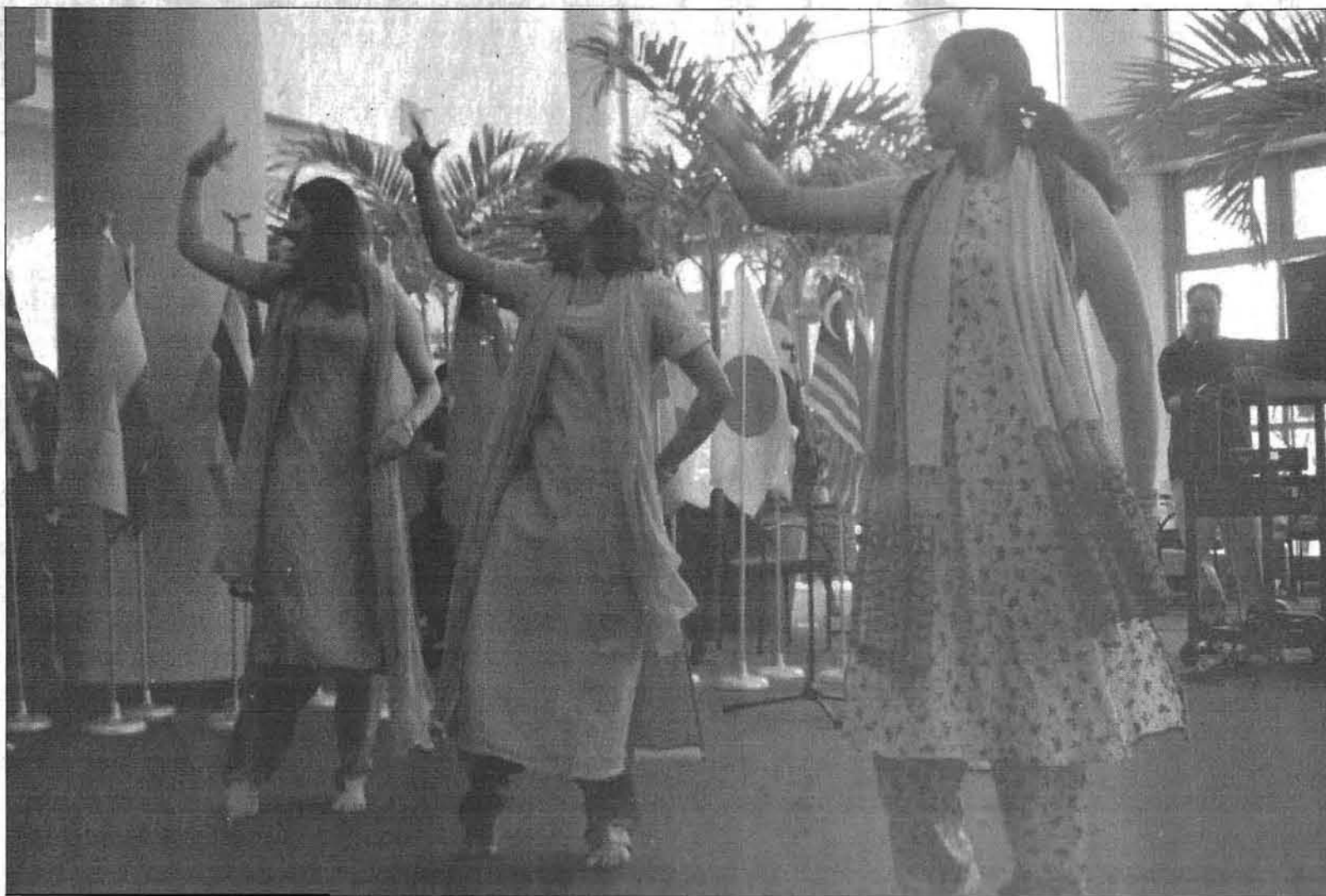
• For books having national demand, the wholesale company will pay 15% to 40% of the new price.

• Discounted books are shipped to a wholesaler who recycles them to other colleges and universities where they are needed.

• Old editions have no national value.

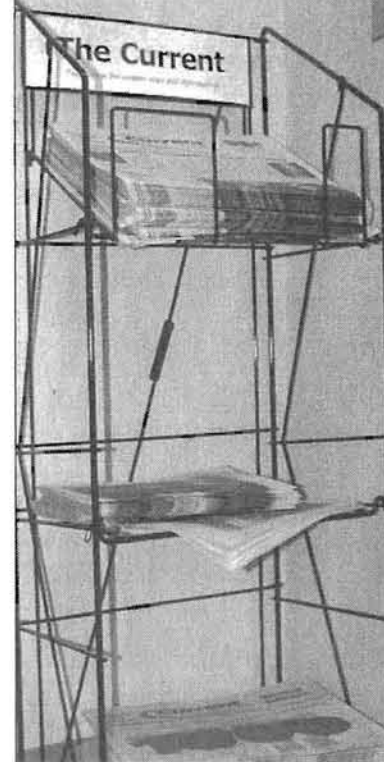
International students show their stuff

Students displayed costumes from around the world for the International Fashion Show in the Millennium Student Center Atrium on April 15 as part of International week.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

Get you news here every Monday.



ART, from page 3

where they offered "CatDog" [a Nickelodeon cartoon] toys."

Despite his choice of sources, Pranschke says that he is not a toy collector. "They were just lying around, just things I accumulate."

The beauty in everyday things is important to the artist said, Heather Corley, junior, printmaking, who entered a series of prints called, "The Chair."

"I chose chairs because I think that they are beautiful," Corley said. "I enjoy the beauty in everyday things." Some of the artwork was inspired by places that were memorable to the artists, such as Jami McNall's "Chinese Parking Lot" and "Chinese Fare."

The "Chinese" photos/lithographs were made when McNall, senior, graphic design and photography, lived in China where she worked as a shoe designer, she said.

"The 'Chinese Parking Lot' is actually a joke," she said. "Every one in China rides bikes, and there were hardly any cars. I tried to capture the true essence of what the culture is about," McNall said.

"Chinese Fare" was based on McNall's encounter with a friendly peddler.

"In China I was the human oddity, so the people were of the extremes, either really friendly or really rude," she said. "This man just looked at me and kept smiling and smiling, so I

grabbed my camera."

Much of the artwork was based on more abstract concepts, such as Adam Trautt's "Mind" and Kiersten Michele Torrez's "The Heavy Side, The Soft Side, and Attrition."

Trautt says that with his digital photograph, "Mind," which featured a small keg of dynamite lit inside a man's head; he was trying to explore creativity.

"The dynamite is the creativity bursting out of someone's mind," Trautt, senior, graphic design, said. "The fingers in the guy's ears are supposed to be trying to block the creativity out."

Torrez' series was based on a lost love that may have returned, she said. The prints also consisted of a female model surrounded by ticket stubs, origami flowers and other things that Torrez said were meaningful in the relationship.

"The model stands for myself," Torrez said. "It's kind of an abstract self-portrait."

One of the more unique entries was "Anniegators," a children's book about alligators, written and illustrated by Jenny Gordon, junior, English and studio art. Gordon says that this book started out as a gift to her sister, Annie.

"Annie is multiply handicapped, and there is a family joke about alligators and her feet," Gordon said. "I made this book so she could read it."

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BIOLOGY, from page 3

Derby said. This center is operated jointly by the physics department, the biology department and the school of optometry. It visualizes molecular images of the action of nerve cells, studying the effects at the level of the molecule structure directly. Dr. Lon Wilkins, who works with the nerve cells of that Missouri native, the paddlefish, is one of the directors of this center.

The biology department has been growing and expects to be remodeling more labs and building more lab space. Besides seeking out faculty who can bring in their own funding to support their research, the department has also sought out other grants and funds for improvements to labs in the department, according to Derby. A few years ago, Sigma donated equipment for a modern molecular biology lab for students, and other organizations and companies have followed suit.

The biology department's resourcefulness in finding outside funding has helped it to continue to grow despite the changes and budget cuts at UM-St. Louis.

"We don't expect to be significantly hurt by budget changes," Derby said, "although that hadn't always been true in earlier years. We now take a different approach."

However, budget cuts and alternative funding have some drawbacks, since funds are committed to particular projects only. "We are going to get some funds from the university for updating some labs," continued



Biology Department Chair Dr. Albert Derby

Derby, "but these funds had been expected earlier and had been postponed. We had to wait until they were available, although the work had been approved."

The strongest effects on budget tightening might be on undergraduates. While graduate students do their work in labs that have their own grants and support and take fewer classes, undergrads might find limited classes are offered.

"We can't offer some classes because the instructors who taught them are no longer here," Derby said. "Although, we are interviewing candidates now for two faculty positions."

Undergraduate classes that had been taught by adjunct instructors and those taught by now-retired faculty are most often affected. Limited funds from the university also effect support personnel, who may also have had more contact with undergrads. Some faculty members have funding that limits the amount of classes they teach. These kinds of fiscal restraints tend to impact the courses beyond the big introductory ones but not necessarily the ones that are graduates only.

Despite any temporary barriers, the biology department is set to keep growing. Through its focus on tropical conservation and ecology, combined with its growing genetics and molecular research, UM- St. Louis Biology is firmly set on the path to leadership in a field that will be very important to everyone's future.

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Yoshinobu Asanuma, Senior, Education, and Akiko Fujisawa, Senior, Political Science enjoy a ride at Mirthday in front of the Millennium Student Center.

Photos by Mutsumi Igarashi / The Current

Mirthday 2002

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

People dressed in white and multi-colored t-shirts and shorts and jeans walked around. The heat beat down from the sun as the wind blew sending papers flying from the booths.

It was another typical Mirthday at UM-St. Louis—except for the red and white booths.

Mirthday, the annual carnival, decided to take an international approach this year.

As part of the University's International Week, the booths at Mirthday sponsored by various international students organizations were featured prominently in an international village setting.

"We wanted to promote the International Week," Coordinator for the International Student Services Mary Anne Souris said. "Part of this week consisted of a fashion show complete with music and dancing on Monday and an International Dinner held on Saturday night."

The International Student Organization sponsored a booth to guess flags, countries and their capitals.

"[International Week] is basically to let American and International Students know that we are here," Souris said.

Each international organization displayed booths that showed something about the culture they represented either by decoration, instruction or by simply in a game.

The first booth was the booth sponsored by the Vietnamese Student Organization, which featured a traditional Vietnamese game called Mancala.

"Mancala is similar to the game of checkers, but you have to think," Matthew Thai said, a graduate student in the School of Optometry.

Mancala consisted of gathering small stones in one hole in a wooden plank and then dropping them one at a time in the other holes until the player comes to an empty hole and stops and gathers the stones from the next hole. The player with the most stones at the end wins.

The next booth was the Chinese Student Organization—Mainland, which featured a display consisting of Chinese characters, as well as writing names in calligraphy.

Next, following a booth that belonged to Ekata, the Indian Student Association. Members of Ekata, a word that means togetherness, according to Ekata President Sujai James, who tattooed "mahendi" ornate black decorations up and down women's arms and bidi, colorful decorations on their foreheads.

"Mahendi is a decoration for bridal wear," Ekata said. James said that the bidi was representative of the central

growth in the nervous system of the woman's body.

"Tradition says that the bidi is tattooed on the woman's forehead to show that the whole body of the woman is under (the husband's) control," James said.

The Hong Kong Association displayed a "mah jongg"—Chinese checkers board, a basket of oranges, which is a good luck symbol, and hand stamps of traditional characters displays of the animals in the Chinese zodiac. The animals included a wheel that described characteristics of each animal and the year they were born.

Traveling from Hong Kong to Thailand students were greeted by the Thai Student Association. Thai student members, Paweena Sriwongmaj and Kridakvin Klinkesorn, presented brochures and pamphlets explaining their country and its sights. The brochures featured detailed Buddhist temples and prominent festivals.

"Thailand has a very unique culture," Sriwongmaj said.

The Arabian Student Association showed "n'ha ma she-sha," a purple jeweled bottle which a peppermint scent emerged if a person breathed into it, as well as offered tattoos of people's names in English and Arabic.

They also displayed small silver replicas of traditional formal decorations, such as the "khumanger," a small dagger.

"The [khumanger] was used for hunting mostly, but now is used for decoration," economics and management student, Buthaina Al-Kharrusi said.

The Japanese Student Association offered names written in calligraphy and information about Japan in booklets, books on haiku, and CD-ROMs supplied by the Japanese Consulate, as well as a couple of grotesque masks.

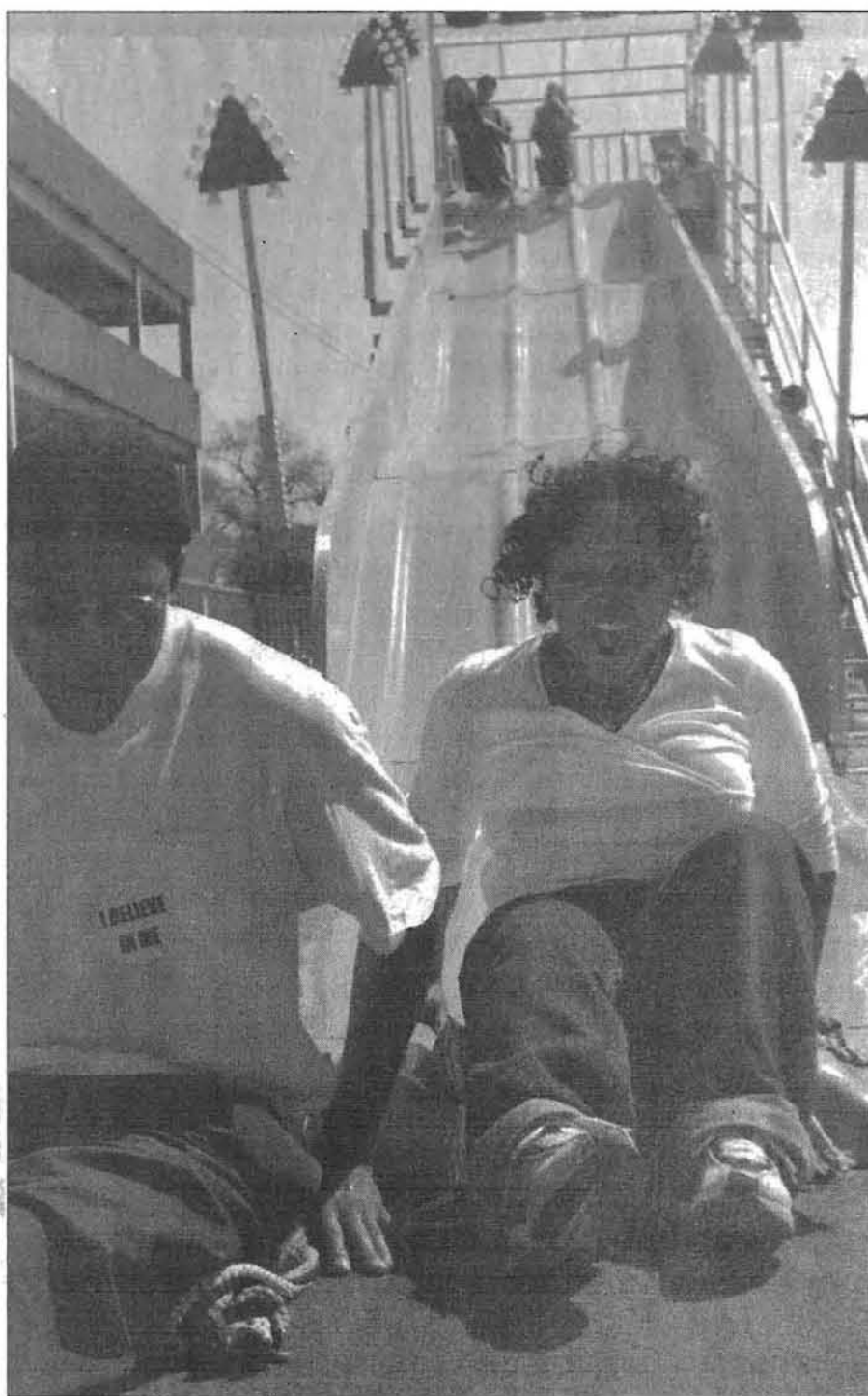
The Muslim Student Association used Mirthday to educate the curious about the Muslim religion by displaying copies of the Qu'ran and pamphlets on the religion itself.

"We feel that the Muslim religion has been getting a bad reputation since Sept. 11, but that is not a representative of true Muslim," Ersin Ertikin said.

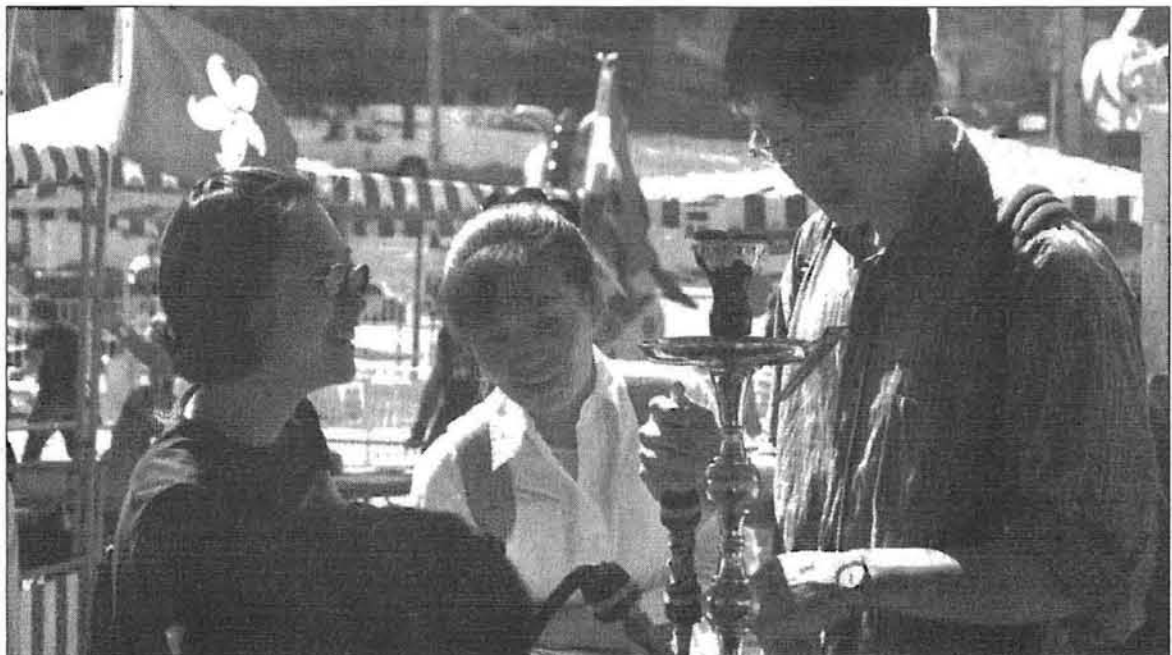
The last booth, the Pakistani Student Association, displayed clothing and decoration. One of the objects were gold necklaces and bracelets given to a woman after her marriage. Afshan Ahsan, senior, MIS, also showed the "khusia" formal bejeweled shoes that were hand embroidered and beaded.

"It looks like it takes awhile, but the people who make these are very talented, and they make them in no time at all," Ahsan said.

The international booths presented different artistic and cultural insights to their countries and drew large crowds to Mirthday curious to take insights into other countries.



Left: Alenzo Harris Junior, History and Laqueisha Mayberry, Freshman, Biology, ride down the fun slide.



Bottom Left: Kim Joo Suk, International Business, Kim Ji-Hyun, International Business, and Choi Jung Hye check out one of the Mirthday booths.



Bottom Right: One of the many booths at Mirthday featured temporary tattoos.