



Happy Holidays! ▲ See Section B

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Missouri Court of Appeals hears cases on campus

Court tries cases ranging from assault and robbery to second degree murder

BY BECKY ROSNER
Staff Writer

On Monday, Nov. 18 at 1:15 p.m. in Century Room B of the Millennium Student Center, the Eastern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals held proceedings at UM-St. Louis for the first time ever.

The Court of Appeals appears at all different locations throughout the state. There are three appellate courts in Missouri. The eastern district is the state's largest appellate court. The courts try to move around in an attempt to make the cases more convenient for the attorneys and to give different communities a chance to see the courts in action.

The room was full of men and women in business suits, but there were hardly any students present at the event. News Channel 5 was present at the occasion and had a story on the 6 p.m. news that night, praising the event. News 5 reporter Sharon Stevens commented that she was surprised not to see very many students in attendance.

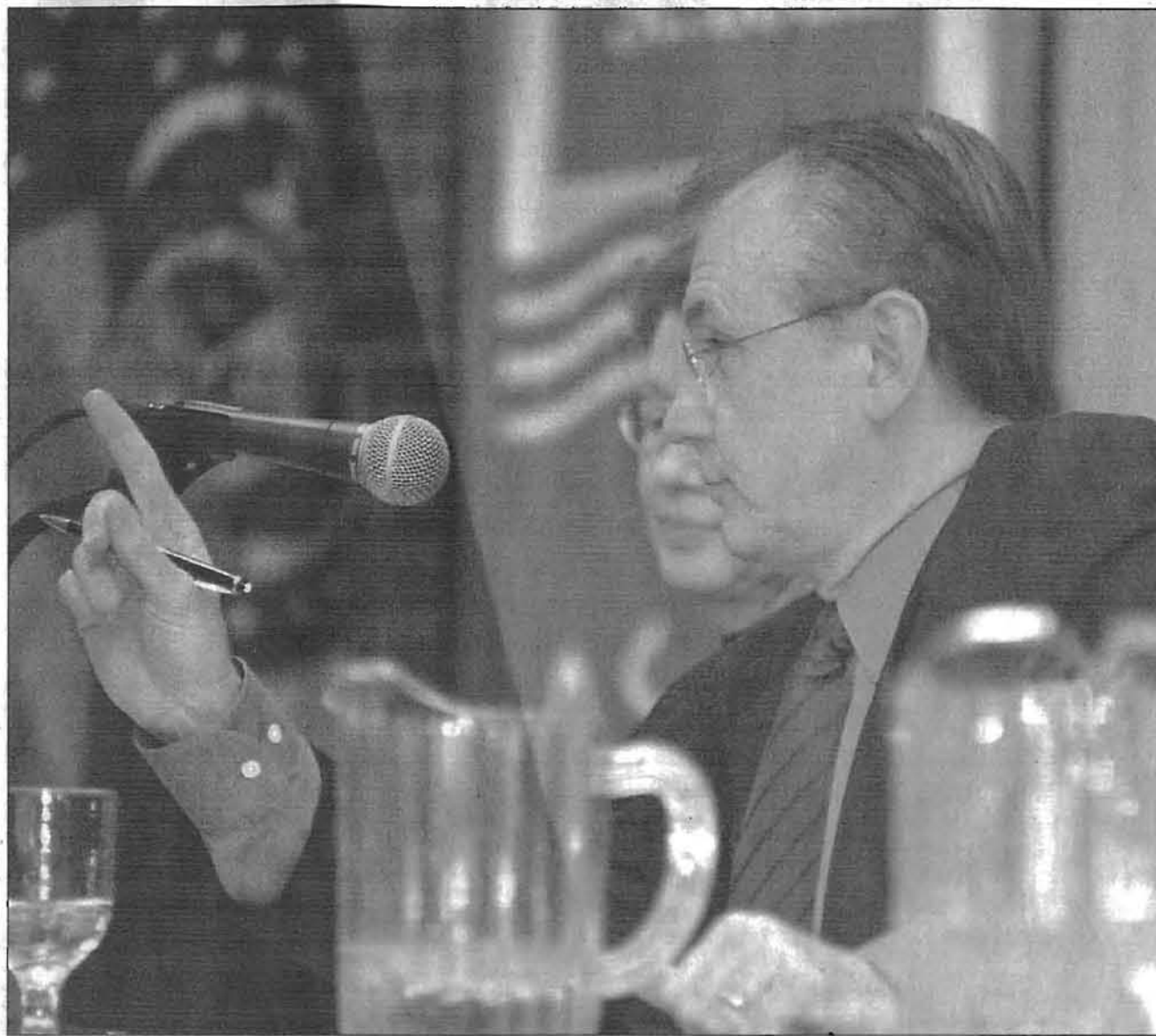
"I didn't hear anything about the event," freshman Carl Mertens said. "I saw something about it on the news and thought that it would have been interesting to see."

Chief Judge Lawrence E. Mooney led the cases along with Judges Kathianne Knaup Crane and Sherri B. Sullivan. The cases ranged from assault to second-degree murder. The judges heard five cases total.

One of the cases dealt with a man named Shane Habermann, who was in a bar fight. He grabbed a knife out of his pocket and slashed a man's throat outside of the bar. The man with the knife was much smaller than the man that he was fighting against. The appellant's lawyer, Raymond Jared Capelovitch, said that he did it in self-defense.

Another case that was presented was that of a sexual predator named Thomas Ingrassia, who somehow escaped from prison while in transport. The appellant's lawyer stated that he is not able to control these behaviors; however, Ingrassia has not been seen since October of last year. The state's respondent, James Robert Layton, argued that it was not be certain whether or not they would be able to locate Ingrassia for a re-trial.

After all of the cases were presented, the judges were dismissed, and all of the lawyers and on-lookers left the room. A reception followed the proceedings, where the public was given the opportunity to chat with the judges and lawyers.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Governor Bob Holden spoke to the public Tuesday afternoon to present his "Fair Share Budget Plan." Holden laid out his plans to increase state revenues by closing tax loopholes and holding corporations accountable. Afterwards, he opened the floor for questions from the public. Holden is on a tour of Mo. to explain why the state is in its current budget crisis and what is being done to rectify the situation.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ilene Peyton, a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic, took advantage of the open forum to ask Governor Holden to continue funding Medicaid.

Holden comes to campus

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Mo. Gov. Bob Holden came to UM-St. Louis Nov. 26 to discuss the current budget crisis and to seek possible answers from those in attendance at the press conference.

Holden was accompanied by Linda Luebbering, director of Budget and Planning; Carol Russell Fischer, director of the Missouri Department of Revenue; and Don Phares, professor of Economics and Public Policy at UM-St. Louis. Phares was hired by the state of Mo. to examine the current budget crisis and find where there are possible leaks in the state tax system.

The state of Mo. is currently facing its largest budget crisis since World War II, according to Holden, with a budget shortfall that could surpass \$500 million by the end of the next fiscal year.

In response to the shortfalls, Gov. Holden has cut the state budget by

almost \$900 million in the last fiscal year. Almost \$290 million, or 37 percent, of the cuts have come from the department of Higher Education. The UM-System has fallen on dire straits; administrators gave consideration to closing one of the four UM campuses.

New President Elson Floyd tried to assure the citizens of Mo. at his press conference earlier this month by saying the UM-System would remain a four school system, but he would have to work hard to ensure the financial security of the institutions.

Gov. Holden tried to allay the fears of the citizens of Mo. by asking for their advice in stabilizing the budget, while at the same time stressing the need to reduce state expenditures by more than he already has.

According to Holden, even though he has eliminated almost \$900 million from the state operating budget, the need to reduce more exists. He went on to say that he has cut almost 1000

jobs from the state of Mo., and more are set to be cut.

“**Gov. Holden tried to allay the fears of the citizens by asking for their advice in stabilizing the budget, while at the same time stressing the need to reduce state expenditures....**”

“We must address the problems of the declining state revenue,” Holden said. “We must also take into account what the people of Mo. want.”

According to Holden, one of the biggest problems facing Mo. is loopholes in the tax structure that allow for money to be funneled away from the state budget.

Holden said the “Geoffrey Loophole,” needs to be addressed by the legislature immediately to stop the flow of money out of Mo. According to Holden, the “Geoffrey Loophole” allows for large companies such as Toys R Us and Home Depot to create dummy corporations in Delaware and, with some reorganization of paperwork, transfer their profits out of state so they will not have to pay taxes on them. According to Holden, this loophole costs Mo. more than \$5 million annually. Mo. is currently suing two companies, Acme Brick Co. of Texas and Gore Enterprise Holdings, to try and recoup some of those lost funds.

“Other states, including our neighbor Ill., have done away with this loophole; it's time we did so too,”

Holden said.

Holden also discussed the benefits of banking out of state for corporations. According to Holden and his staff, Mo. is the only state in the country that allows corporations to avoid paying state taxes on income from out of state investments such as bank deposits, stocks and certain loans. By closing this loophole, the state would save \$24 million per annum.

The last loophole Holden discussed was the “Yacht Loophole.” Under this loophole, citizens who purchase a boat weighing more than five tons are allowed to pay a watercraft tax instead of the state sales tax. The watercraft tax has a maximum payment of \$3,050.00, which means that if a person buys a \$300,000 yacht, they would still only pay \$3,050.00 in taxes, or one percent.

see HOLDEN, page 8

Officer fires seven shots at suspect near campus

BY ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

A Bel-Ridge officer shot a suspect in the leg last Tuesday after the man pointed what appeared to be a gun at Jonathan Terris, a Normandy Police officer.

The shooting happened at 2:15 p.m.

“**After the shooting, Normandy Police discovered that what appeared to be an automatic pistol that was pointed at the officer was not a real gun.**”

on the driveway between Normandy Middle School and the Lucas Crossing Elementary Complex on Natural Bridge Road, directly across the street from UM-St. Louis South Campus.

Terris attempted to pull over the suspect after he was clocked at 113 mph while driving west-bound on

Natural Bridge. The suspect, Shawn E. Brown, 26, is an African American male from 4978 Loughborough Ave. Brown was driving a green Ford Explorer.

“At Lucas and Hunt and Natural Bridge, he [Terris] saw the car speeding and then clocked him at 113,” Normandy Police Chief John Connolly said.

Brown then continued driving west-bound on Natural Bridge and pulled into the driveway between the middle school and the elementary complex where he stopped his vehicle.

“The officer told him repeatedly to put his hands where they could be seen. He stepped out of the car and had a gun in his hand. He raised it at the officer,” a Normandy Police Lieutenant, who wished to not be identified, said.

Terris then fired seven shots at the man, one of which hit him in the upper-right thigh.

After the shooting, Normandy Police discovered that what appeared to be an automatic pistol that was pointed at the officer was not a real gun.

“It was identical in almost every way. I don't know why someone would point a fake gun at an officer,” Connolly said.

Brown was taken to DePaul Health



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Normandy police block off the driveway between Normandy Middle School and the Lucas Crossing Elementary Complex last Tuesday after a man was shot in the leg by a Bel-Ridge officer.

Center for treatment. He was charged with resisting arrest, careless and imprudent driving and assaulting a law

enforcement officer. His bond is set at \$10,000.

According to Connolly, no one else

was injured in the shooting. Some vehicles parked near the scene were damaged.

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
Features	3
Opinions	4
Sports	5
Arts & Entertainment	6
The Village Idiots	10
Classifieds	11
A Parrot Says	11

Bulletin 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 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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Spring Semester 2003 Schedule

Classes begin 8 a.m.	Monday	January 13
Martin Luther King Holiday	Monday	January 20
Spring recess begins 5 p.m.	Saturday	March 22
Classes resume	Monday	March 31
Classes end at 11 p.m.	Monday	May 5
Intensive study days	Tues. & Wed.	May 6 & 7
Final exams begin	Thursday	May 8
Spring semester closes	Thursday	May 16
Spring Commencement	Saturday	May 17

December

Zeta Phi Beta

ZPB will be hosting Boogie Nights, a Talent Showcase, in the Pilot House on Dec. 13. For more information or to sign up, call 370-5233 or email questions to zeta_rho@finerwoman.zzn.com

Mon 2

Dept. of Chemistry

"Stereoselective Methodologies Using Chiral Allenamides and Ynamides" will be held at 4 p.m. in room 451 of Benton Hall.

Tues 3 & Fri 6

Helping Hand

Helping Hand Organization will be have a clothing drive Tuesday and Friday this week. Drop off clothes on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 190 of the MSC (the Multicultural Relations Center), next to The Nosh.

Wed 4

Campus Ministry

The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry will be having a free Bible Study from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The study is held every Wednesday. The ministry is located at 8000 Natural Bridge Road. Call 385-3000 for more information.

Thur 5

Pre-Vet Club

Pre-Vet Club is sponsoring an open mic night in the Pilot House. The event will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is free for those performing. Tickets are \$2. There will be door prizes, entertainment and free food.

Fri 6

Career Services

There will be a resume writing skills workshop from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 327 of the MSC. Advanced registration is required. Call 516-5111 for more information.

Fri 6 (cont.)

Program Board

The University Program Board is sponsoring a field trip to Dave & Buster's. The group will be meeting in the gravel lot in front of the MSC at 7 p.m. The event is open to anyone. Individuals can get 130 points for \$5, plus a ride to and from school. Space is limited. To sign up, go to the Student Life office.

Mon 9

Last day of classes

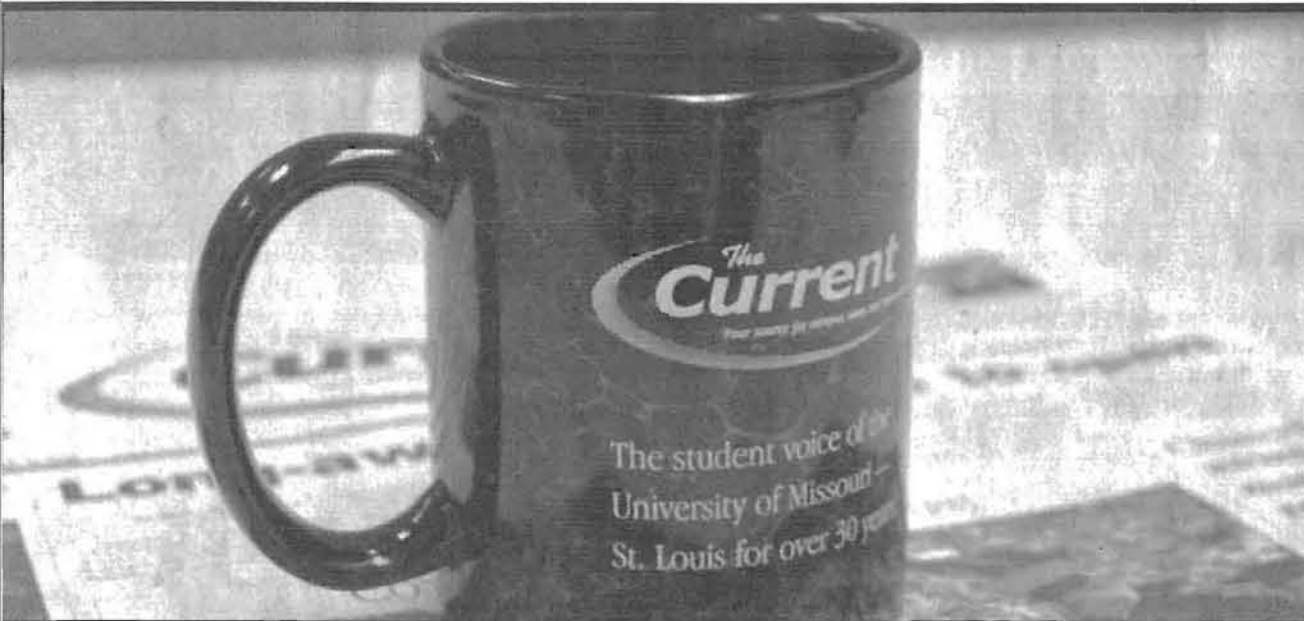
Tues 10

Intensive Study Days

Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 10 and Dec. 11 are intensive study days. No classes will be held.

Thur 12

Final Examinations begin



The Current, get caught up in it.

Check out the newest issue of *The Current* for spring 2003 on newsstands Monday, Jan. 13.

University of Missouri - St. Louis DR. KING ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Requirements

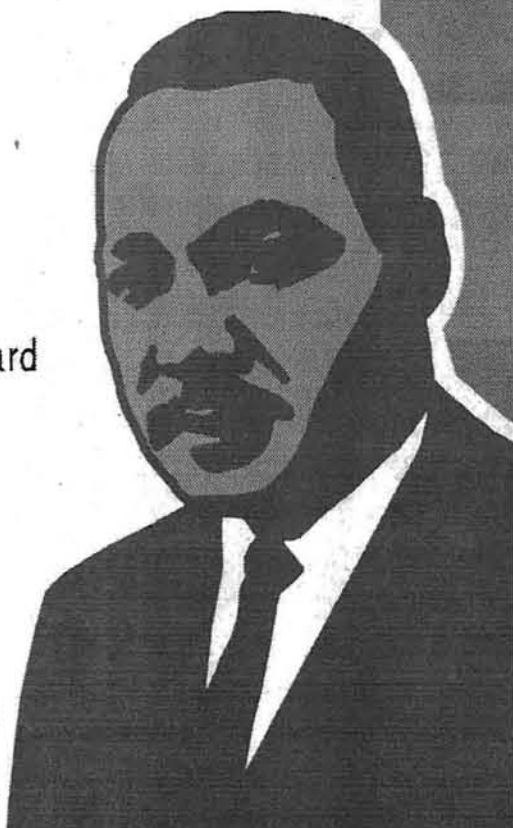
- *Limited to 500 words (double spaced typed)
- *Must speak to the philosophy of Dr. King
- *Neat and grammatically correct
- *Must be currently enrolled UMSL students (fs 02 & ws 03)

Submissions must be recieved in the Office of Student Life by Friday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m.

1st Place	\$500
2nd Place	\$300
3rd Place	\$200

Winners will be presented with their award on Monday, January 20th at the annual MLK Holiday Observance

Please contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291 for more information



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Phares speaks on economic future of Cuba, U.S. relations

BY KIM SILVER
Staff Writer

Don Phares, professor of economics and public policy, gave a lecture on Monday, Nov. 18, regarding the possible economic future of Cuba and its relations with the United States. Phares was the featured speaker at the Monday Noon Series hosted by the UM-St. Louis Humanities Department.

"I have never been to Cuba. Dr. Phares has opened my eyes to see how things are in their society," said Lester Ali, senior.

Phares incorporated an impressive slide show into his lecture. The slides were composed of photos taken between 1999 and 2001, when he studied in Cuba. During the presentation, Phares discussed the culture, government and social and economic status of Cuba. Following the lecture, UM-St. Louis professors, staff, and students, as well as members of the St. Louis community engaged in an in-depth discussion on the present economic and political status of Cuba.

The Castro government passed Decree Law Number 77 in 1995 to encourage foreign investment opportunities. The new law allowed firms to enter into partnerships with Cuba-owned corporations. This allowed property ownership, income tax exemption and the transfer of real estate for business. The new law was highly characteristic of a capitalistic

society.

"All of Havana is in a bad state," said Phares.

Until the 1940s and '50s, the city was taken care of. A large percentage of the revenue was generated from tourist money. Since that era, the government is "starved for money," said Phares. "Housing the population has adequately failed."

“
‘I have never been to Cuba. Dr. Phares has opened my eyes to see how things are in their society.’
”

- Lester Ali, senior

Currently, Alamar housing projects serve as homes for more than 100,000 people. These complexes are not aesthetically pleasing. The unattractive concrete complexes are devoid of quality plumbing and electrical systems. Cuba is still deficient of 100,000 to 1,000,000 units necessary to adequately house the population. The growing problem persists because there is not enough capital through government to obtain the resources necessary for development.

However, "health care works rea-

sonably well," Phares said. He showed the results of details of studies conducted in the area. Studies show that although health care is under-funded, the health of Cubans is generally good. The governmental system of Cuba lost 50 percent of its entire income when it broke ties with the Soviet Union. The result was a lack of funding for health care. Currently, Cuba has free health care. Unfortunately, there is not enough money to adequately staff hospitals. In addition, basic medicines such as antibiotics and aspirin are difficult to obtain for the citizens of Cuba.

Despite economic setbacks, Cubans are generally healthy; the average life expectancy is 76.6. Infant mortality is low, averaging 7.27 deaths/100 live births. In the United States, there are 6.69 deaths/100 births. The prevalence of AIDS and HIV is 0.03 percent, which is astoundingly low. The United States currently has a prevalence of 0.61 percent within its population.

"Cuba is full of culture," Phares said. The art of Cuba is evident on nearly every avenue. The streets are filled with "tall-dancers," music, vintage cars, murals and oil paintings.

Nearly 300,000 people are employed in the cigar-making business. Cigars are an integral part of Cuban culture. They are carefully crafted with quality tobacco and sell for an average of \$120 (U.S. dollars) each.

"I am from [a] country [that] was once a social republic, which has reformed to an independent govern-

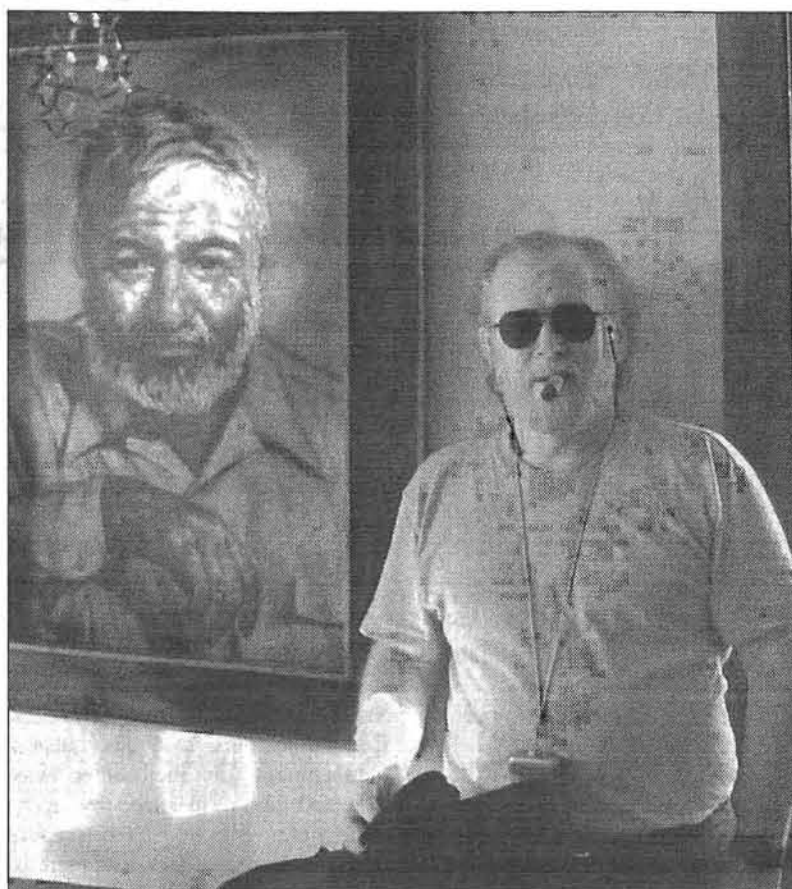


Photo courtesy of Don Phares

Don Phares, professor of Economics and Public Policy, gave a lecture on the possible economic future of Cuba and its relations with the United States.

ment. It is interesting to see how similar Azerbaijan is to Cuba. I am curious which governmental system Cuba will choose in the future," Sariya Masauova, graduate student said.

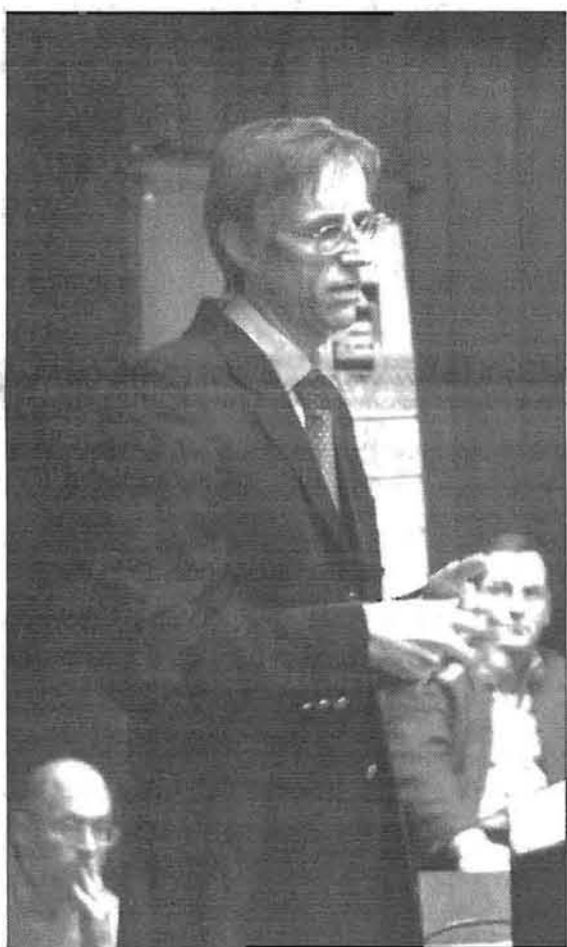
Phares expressed the hope of a gradual shift towards a mixed government consisting of both capitalism and socialism.

"Rebuilding Havana will require not only foreign investment but also a government committed to creating a healthy city," Phares said.

Phares has taught classes at UM-St. Louis since 1969. He completed his graduate work at Syracuse University. His undergraduate degree was completed at Northeastern University in Boston. He is originally from Boston. Phares will retire at the end of this year, but he plans to continue teaching courses at UM-St. Louis. Many eagerly await his photo exhibit on Cuba next spring, which will be held in the Public Policy Research Center, room 362 of SSB.

Austrian professor speaks on the Nazi regime

Alios Kernbauer, head of the archive department in the University of Graz-Austria, spoke on how Austria, specifically the Austrian Universities, changed during the years of World War II.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

In a recent lecture on the UM-St. Louis campus, an Austrian professor spoke on how, in the years before World War II, Austrian universities were effected by the rising influence of the Nazis.

Alios Kernbauer, head of the archive department in the University of Graz-Austria, said that the universities went from support of the Nazis to disgust and then denial of their involvement.

In the years before WWI, Kernbauer said that Austrian Universities had produced many well-known scientists. "Many of these scientists between 1848 and 1938 have won awards," Kernbauer said. "After the Nazi regime, only one Austrian had won an award."

In the late 19th century, the Hapsburg Monarchy was the second largest monarchy during that time period, covering most of Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Slovenia, and Czechoslovakia. Many of Austria's educators saw the regime as dated and conservative in their values, Kernbauer said. During the Hapsburg Regime, in the early 20th century, many of Austria's professors and

scholars were calling for an immediate shift in politics, partly because of opposition against the Church, and a more unified country.

"There were several educators who wanted Austria to be unified with Germany," Kernbauer said. "In 1926, a riot from some students in a university was stopped but then accepted because the protesters were calling for a unification with Germany."

After the dissolution of the Austrian monarchy in the 1920's, Austria fell into economic depression, which continued into the Great Depression of the 1930s that gripped most of the world.

"Sixty-thousand people were unemployed," Kernbauer said. "In universities, the situation worsened because of budget cuts and political tension." In 1934, the Austrians joined forces with Germany's then-rival Italy but after Italy dissolved its union with Austria, said Kernbauer, Austria was left with little choice. "In 1936, Austria had no choice but to go into friendly relations with Germany," Kernbauer said.

When Austria joined with Germany in 1938, creating the Annexation, there were few objections, said Kernbauer. "They didn't know what they were getting into."

During the regime change to Nazism in the 1940s, much of the university's curriculum suffered a massive overhaul, as did academics and professorships. Research had declined, Kernbauer said, and many of the university's professors were missing.

"Many of those who were Jewish or Catholic or spoke out against the Nazis were dismissed," Kernbauer said. "Some were exiled to other countries or sent away."

By the fall of 1938, there was also a drop in student enrollment. Because of Nazi policies, Jewish students were not permitted to enter any of the major Austrian Universities. Because of this, Kernbauer said, enrollment was at an all-time low.

"The University of Vienna had 9,000 students less than in previous years," he said.

Kernbauer also said that the curriculum changed to appease the National Socialist Government. "German replaced Latin as the official language, and many of the subjects changed to things like Racial Anthropology."

see LECTURE, page 9

Professor's passion for education reaches to Africa

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

Carole Murphy has a passion for education. This is evident from her efforts to improve the quality of learning around the world.

Murphy is an associate professor and chair in the Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and has been with UM-St. Louis since 1991.

Since then, she has served as a member of 14 different organizations regarding learning. In addition, Murphy has taught a number of doctorate study courses, has served on four dissertation committees and has served as a consultant for four different organizations.

One of her endeavors is the Tertiary Education Linkage Program, or TELP. TELP is an ongoing project between the University of Missouri and the University of Western Cape (UWC), located in Cape Town, South Africa.

This project, sponsored by School Organizational Culture and Change, is currently in its fourth year.

"We (UM and UWC) have very like universities," Murphy commented. "I think it's good for us to go see and talk to other professionals who are struggling with the same issues we're struggling with. South Africa has needs concerning education. Their schools are large and they have problems just as we do in America. The selection process for higher administration basically consists of finding good teachers and appointing them to a principal position. They receive virtually no training."

The goals of TELP include improving diversity issues and multicultural understanding, creating an exchange

program for faculty and students, creating opportunities for UWC faculty and students to study and observe educational practices through exchanges, courses and workshops, and fostering the development of a partnership between the University of Missouri and UWC to study and address educational problems from an interdisciplinary focus. There are also plans for the construction of a leadership academy. TELP's goals could be met in this Academy, which will provide professional development experiences for school administrators in order to improve schools.

Murphy, along with several colleagues, visited UWC from October 16 to November 2, to begin establishing this Leadership Academy. Two large meetings were held, and approximately 40 people attended each.

The meetings covered classroom management programs, getting the surrounding community involved with the school and successfully executing fundraisers. Individual meetings were also held with each organization that attended.

"I think my favorite part of this trip was working with the principals," Murphy said. "They have such great needs. There were strategies that we took that will really be helpful for them. It's wonderful when you see people that are struggling in a profession and you can take them information that will be beneficial. That's very rewarding."

The goals of this particular trip included explaining Missouri's structure for administrative certification, describing the process of Leadership Academy training, finding out the local happenings of Western Cape, develop-



Photo courtesy of Carole Murphy

Carole Murphy is an associate professor at UM-St. Louis. One of her endeavors is the Tertiary Education Linkage Program, or TELP. TELP is an ongoing project between the University of Missouri and the University of Western Cape (UWC), located in Cape Town, South Africa.

ing a better understanding of South Africa's political context and promoting incentives to think about the possibilities concerning educational leadership.

"This is a really important issue. We're going to affect thousands of children. I definitely think this is something we should be doing. We need to have a global perspective, and this is a great opportunity for that," Murphy said.

The University of Missouri has a long-standing relationship with the

University of Western Cape. The universities have had a connection for over 15 years.

The grant funding the TELP undertaking runs out this year, so the group is in the process of applying for another grant.

"Once we get [a leadership academy] in place in South Africa, it will be picked up by other countries. Namibia is already asking us. Two representatives came down to our meetings, and they were very interested in [starting

this program] in their country," Murphy said.

This trip achieved many goals and provided a solid frame for the future of education in South Africa.

For the first time, all of the Western Cape education agencies, regional centers and principals came together to discuss improving the state of education.

"This is a really worthwhile endeavor for all of us," Murphy said. "I'm so pleased to be a part of it. I hope we can keep it alive."

LECTURE

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Alumni office opens in MSC

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

On the afternoon of Nov. 1 students, faculty and staff crowded around the door of what used to be Klonos Copies Chancellor Touhill cut a ribbon announcing the grand opening of the Alumni Connections Office.

Joe Flees, coordinator of the Student Alumni Association commented on the organization that is now housed in the room across from the bookstore. "I'm really excited to have our grand opening. Students will have the chance to see that the alumni care about [students] and their experiences. This organization can affect students becoming alumni members after graduation."

The concept for providing students with connections to an alumni office was broached by Vice Chancellor of University Affairs Dixie Cohn, who observed this sort of organization in colleges nationwide. The purpose of the Student Alumni Association is to provide students with connections to alumni in order to broaden students' networking and provide an educational experience.

"Most higher education faculties get students involved [with alumni] while they're still school," Chancellor Touhill said. "I think this is a positive idea because it brings students and alumni together."

see ALUMNI, page 9

STANFORD

OUR OPINION

PAC or the grand name without the grand thing

As state-of-the-art as the new Performing Arts Center may be, some mysteries lie beneath its modern exterior.

This \$50-million-plus project is planned to open sometime this spring and is, according to Reinhard Schuster, vice-chancellor of Administrative Services, approximately 90 percent complete.

How exactly the building will be operated, however, remains untold (if not unknown) by the UM-St. Louis administration. There appear to be no preparations taking place for the kind of grand opening one would think such a building would receive, especially considering all the hype this project has received from the chancellor and other administrators at the University.

At the moment, no management is in place for the center; so, how exactly is this building going to be run?

Coincidentally, that same question was on the tip of Bryan Rives' tongue before the University fired him from his position as director of the Center. In fact, Rives said in a previous interview, "I don't see how this thing is going to happen." Rives questioned the future of the project in many ways, from the fact that sound equipment had not been purchased for the Center to the fact that no events had been scheduled. Events held in a place such as this are usually scheduled a year to a year-and-a-half in advance.

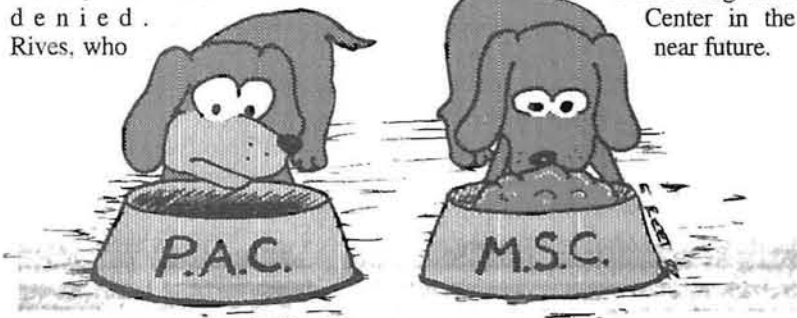
Even more concerning is Rives' saying he proposed three different budgets to the University for the Center; all were denied. Rives, who

was hired by the University to run the Performing Arts Center almost a year ago, was fired in August due to budget cuts.

Three months later, the same questions and concerns still linger. At the end of Rives' short-lived employment at UM-St. Louis, Robert Samples, director of University Communications, said that outside management for the center was expected to be in place by early September. Months have passed from this projected date, and there is still no word on who will be managing the center as the building gets closer and closer to its completion.

The new student fee that has been proposed at \$10 a semester and \$5 for summer sessions, if passed (which undoubtedly it will be), is planned to go towards the programming side as opposed to the construction side of the budget for the PAC. All things considered, it seems apparent that the University is not ready financially for this Center to be opened. It wouldn't be surprising if the Center's construction was completed, and several months went by before it was used.

Upon the center's completion and the retirement of the current UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, the center is to be named the "Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center." What a grand name for a grand building, but it is missing the grand thing. It would be safe to assume that there will be little performing going on at the Performing Arts Center in the near future.



The issue

The new Performing Arts Center is almost complete and there is still no management for the Center. Is this building going to go unused once it is completed?

We suggest

The University take some steps towards planning an opening date for the Center and explain how exactly the building will be used in the near future.

So what do you think?

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

Can't we fix the finals?

Has the person who scheduled finals ever actually taken a college final?

This year I have two 9:30 a.m. classes. The finals for those classes, however, are both at 7:45 a.m., two days in a row. I announce this not to complain, but to hopefully invoke a change in the final exam schedule for next semester.

In theory, a final exam is supposed to be the last test in a class to determine what a student has cumulatively learned in the class. While we all know that regurgitating random facts memorized for the two-hour exam proves very little, most semester grades are largely based on these ancient torture devices. That all boils down to one phenomenon for those who pay tuition: studying is tedious.



STANFORD GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Even the most conscientious of students is likely to do some last minute cramming of irregular Spanish verbs, chemical properties of the metalloids, Victorian poetry, minute political leaders and a sundry of other information assumed to be on the final—that probably won't be. Cramming means a late night before the test, filled with scratched notes, well broken in books, highlighters, coffee, pizza and probably at least one nap. If students are preparing for the final that late into the night, how are they supposed to do well on final exams planned at 7:45 a.m.?

Arguably, they can't. While I certainly don't think the University intentionally schedules finals in an effort to make students fail classes and thus raise more money for the ever-shrinking budget, I do believe that a better final schedule should be used.

Scheduling finals closer to the actual times of the classes would be much more beneficial to students because we

are accustomed to having the subject at the same time every week. When the test is several hours from the normal class time, we are thrown off. Since most classes are only two days a week, the final could be given at the normal time period for the class plus one hour. For example, a Monday/Wednesday 8 a.m. class's final would be given on Monday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. A Monday/Wednesday 9:30 a.m. class's final could be given from 9:30 to 11:30 on Wednesday. A similar schedule for Tuesday/Thursday classes would work well.

Personally, I think the entire final system should be eliminated. A final paper or presentation proves much more than any test could. With a final project, students must use the knowledge they gained in class. The tests prove nothing

more than that students can memorize a list of facts for a couple hours, scribble them on paper when prompted and then forget them upon exiting the classroom. Applying information is a higher form of learning than rote memorization of facts. Therefore, an out-of-class project demonstrating a student's ability is more telling than a grade on a paper full of soon-to-be-forgotten notes.

Until the time that either the finals schedule is changed to be student-friendly and intelligent or the era of rational determinations of proficiency begins, we, the students, will have to simply deal. Or do we? I suggest writing an email expressing your thoughts to Jerry Durham, vice-chancellor of Academic Affairs, at Jerry_Durham@umsl.edu. He is, after all, the one who can fix the finals problems.

Anyway, good luck with finals this semester. Hopefully by next semester, the schedule will be better, or finals will be totally changed.

Overdose of family can drive some nuts

A few years ago, the last thing I wanted to do was go to a family gathering. At the time, I felt I had more important things to do.

I'm talking about events that are planned to last for a few hours and then slowly stretched on throughout the day until eventually I lost hope of being able to do anything else that day. As the day goes on at these family gatherings, I would watch the conversations switch from what other relatives were doing, politics and then other issues that were exceedingly boring for me. Eventually the first conversation began again with practically the same dialogue. That is when I knew it was time to leave.

Not only did the conversation bore me, but I wanted to do something with my friends. I used to even sneak out of my house early on Christmas day before relatives had left to go do something with friends. I wasn't alone - the people I was leaving to go spend time with had the same idea in mind. Everyone thinks their family is crazy, and so did I.

One day I realized that I was the weird one, not my family. I was the black sheep of the crowd because it was only me that was not enjoying myself. At one of these particular gatherings my aunt brought this to my attention. She looked at me and said, "You've got that look on your face again. That I don't give a damn look." She was right, but I didn't real-

ize I was showing my thoughts to them all. It was all over my face. As soon as she said this, I immediately felt embarrassed. I felt awful that they could tell I didn't want to be there, and I didn't like the way I was acting. It was not necessarily my family that I didn't like, I was just being selfish.

I think one reason that I used to not be excited about spending the holidays with my relatives was because the majority of them live in St. Louis. Seeing them was not an annual event, but more like a bi-monthly event or more. Finally, I realized this was a good thing. I know a lot of people who hardly know their grandparents, cousins and other family members. I, on the other hand, had close relationships



ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

with those family members that lived in town and was not thankful for that.

Realizing what is most important is part of growing older. It took a while, but I have realized that keeping family close is one of the most important things of all. Nowadays one of my favorite ways to spend my time is spending it with family.

I have also learned a lot from friends of mine who don't have a close family. Family is what you make it. Whether it be co-workers, friends, or relatives, the people that are most important to you are your family. They don't have to be biologically related. You pick them, and they pick you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Step toward a peaceful resolution

Dear Editor,

The UN resolution on Iraq that has been accepted by Saddam Hussein is a step towards a peaceful resolution, yet it still provides too many opportunities for war. If carried out the way most of the members of the UN Security Council intend it to be, then war can easily be averted. However, the resolution is written in such a way that it makes it easy for the United States to justify military action. If the inspectors believe that Iraq is lying or being uncooperative, they will report back to the Security Council, which will then consider possible consequences. The problem is that member states of the

Security Council are allowed to provide intelligence information to the weapons inspectors. The CIA could easily release false information that makes it appear as if Iraq is not complying. The Bush administration has already stated that it would not tolerate any "deception, denial, or deceit from Saddam." The administration has also stated that, although the U.S will consult with the Security Council, it does not need to wait for another resolution to be passed before declaring war. One must seriously question whether the U.S government is looking for a peaceful solution to this conflict. President Bush and his administration had been pushing for military action against Iraq for several

months until enough of the international community spoke out. If one looks at the facts, it appears that their plan has not changed much, which was a terrible solution in the first place. The political, economic, and moral consequences are unspeakable. The citizens of America must keep our government from exploiting the loopholes found in the UN resolution and lead us into war. The political, economic, and moral consequences would be disastrous. Call your political representatives and tell them to ensure there is no war with Iraq.

Justin Stein
Freshman
History

What's your opinion?

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

- Performing Arts Center
- Finals and their schedules
- Family and the holidays

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

Under Current

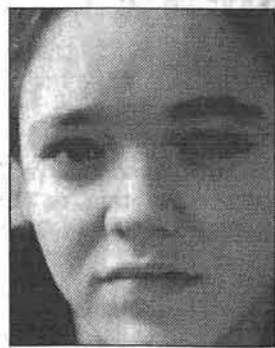
by Mike Sherwin
Photography Director

Who is your favorite Bond, James Bond



Ted Gatlin
Junior
Secondary Education

Sean Connery really seems to embody that British attitude...and he was the original.



Carly Issitt
Graduate
Library Patron

Well, I just saw my first Bond film a couple of weeks ago with my boyfriend. It had Timothy Dalton, who I thought was great.



David Hausmann
Graduate Student
Psychology

Oh, Sean Connery. He was Bond when I was a kid and he'll always be the best.



John Mixon
Optometry
Computer Science

I like the current Bond, Pierce Brosnan. Well, maybe that is because he gets to star next to Halle Berry.

R-women win opening tournament, destroy Illinois-Springfield in home opener

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Soccer

BY JOE CURTIS
Staff Writer

Putting all doubt aside, the UM-St. Louis Women's Basketball team has exploded into the new season with some remarkable play by shooting off three dominating wins to open the season.

Coming off a dismal season last year, Coach Shelly Ethridge was very pleased to see her team come out and play so well. "I didn't know what to expect from our group. I knew we were capable of a lot of things, but with some of the conditions, like the long trip and playing on the road to start, the girls just stepped up, and I'm very pleased," said Ethridge.

The Riverwomen opened play by traveling to the Saginaw Valley Tournament, which took place November 22 and 23 in Michigan. Unfazed by the twelve-hour bus trip, the Riverwomen won the tournament, defeating Finlandia University and the host team Saginaw Valley in dominant fashion.

The ladies defeated Finlandia University in the first game 71-61 and went on to beat Saginaw Valley 70-56 to take home the trophy.

The tournament win was a total team effort, but seniors Christy Lane, Sophia Ruffin, and sophomore Ebonie Halliburton lead the way. Entering the game against UM-St. Louis, Finlandia came in with a 4-0 record, but with solid play and a game high 23 points from senior guard Ruffin, the Riverwomen claimed their first win of the season.

In game two against Saginaw Valley, it was another senior in forward Lane who had the hot hand scoring a game high 28 points, which earned her the MVP award for the tournament. Ruffin also was honored by being selected to the All-Tournament Team.

"I am extremely proud of Christy; if she can shoot like the way she did that night, we are going to be really good. Her goal is to not get into a shooting slump because she can really shoot the three," said Ethridge.

off the bench in both games and impressed her coach in the process. "I'm also proud of (Ebonie) Halliburton because this tournament showed me how much she has matured from last season. She played excellent defense and showed leadership by good floor management," said Ethridge.

November 27 brought Illinois-Springfield into town for the Riverwomen's first home game of the season. The ladies provided the home fans with something to cheer about by thrashing the opponent 116-84.

Six members of the UM-St. Louis team scored in the double digits as they poured on the points in the victory. Guards Ruffin and Halliburton again led the way, by each scoring 17 points.

Scoring was not the only thing the Riverwomen did well against Illinois-Springfield; they recorded 14 steals in the game. Rebounding and defense are goals that the team has this year to be competitive, and so far they have responded by averaging 10.7 steals per game to the opponents' 3.0 per game.

Sophomore Halliburton has come off the bench in all three games to lead her team in assists with 17 and 3-point shooting percentage .571, 8-14.

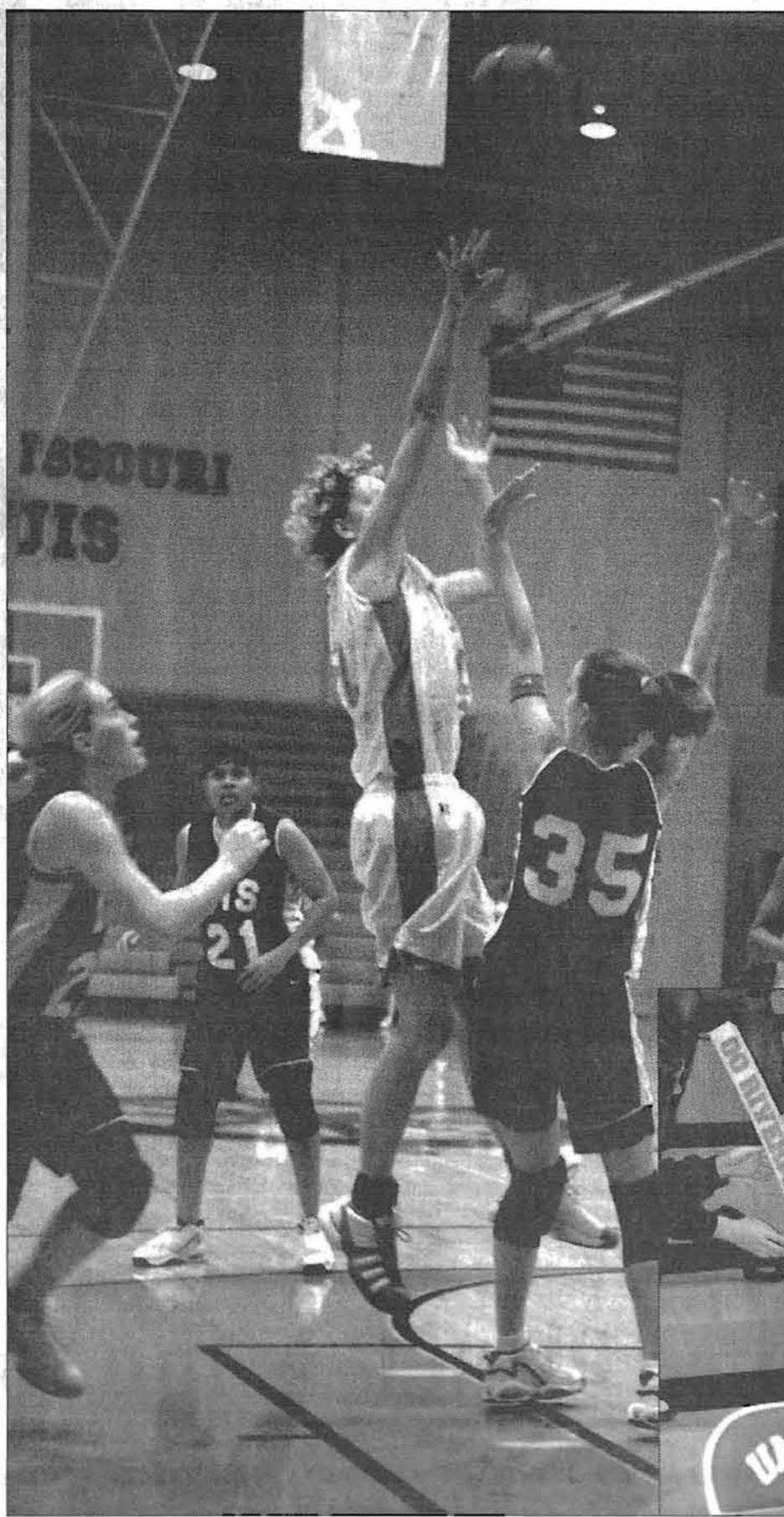
Senior center Jessica Woods grabbed 8 total rebounds to lead the way and also scored 14 points. Woods also leads her team in rebounds per game, averaging 8.7.

Coach Ethridge feels that Illinois-Springfield is a comparable team to most teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, so this victory shows that UM-St. Louis can do well in the conference.

"Illinois-Springfield compares to a lot of teams in our conference because of the physicalness they play with; they have two girls that are 6'11" and solid, and we will see that again in the future."

The Riverwomen are soon to be tested by GLVC games coming up, with their next four games all being conference play.

With the first three games being behind the ladies, Coach Ethridge had this to say about their efforts. "I feel we are playing very good right now. I'm pleased by our number of turnovers we have forced. We are taking good care of the ball, managing the clock, and taking good shots. I'm excited, and I hope we continue to play like this."



LEFT:

The Riverwomen's Christy Lane makes a jump shot during the second half of play Wednesday evening. The Riverwomen dominated the game, defeating the Prairie Stars, from University of Illinois-Springfield 116 to 84.

Mike Sherwin / The Current

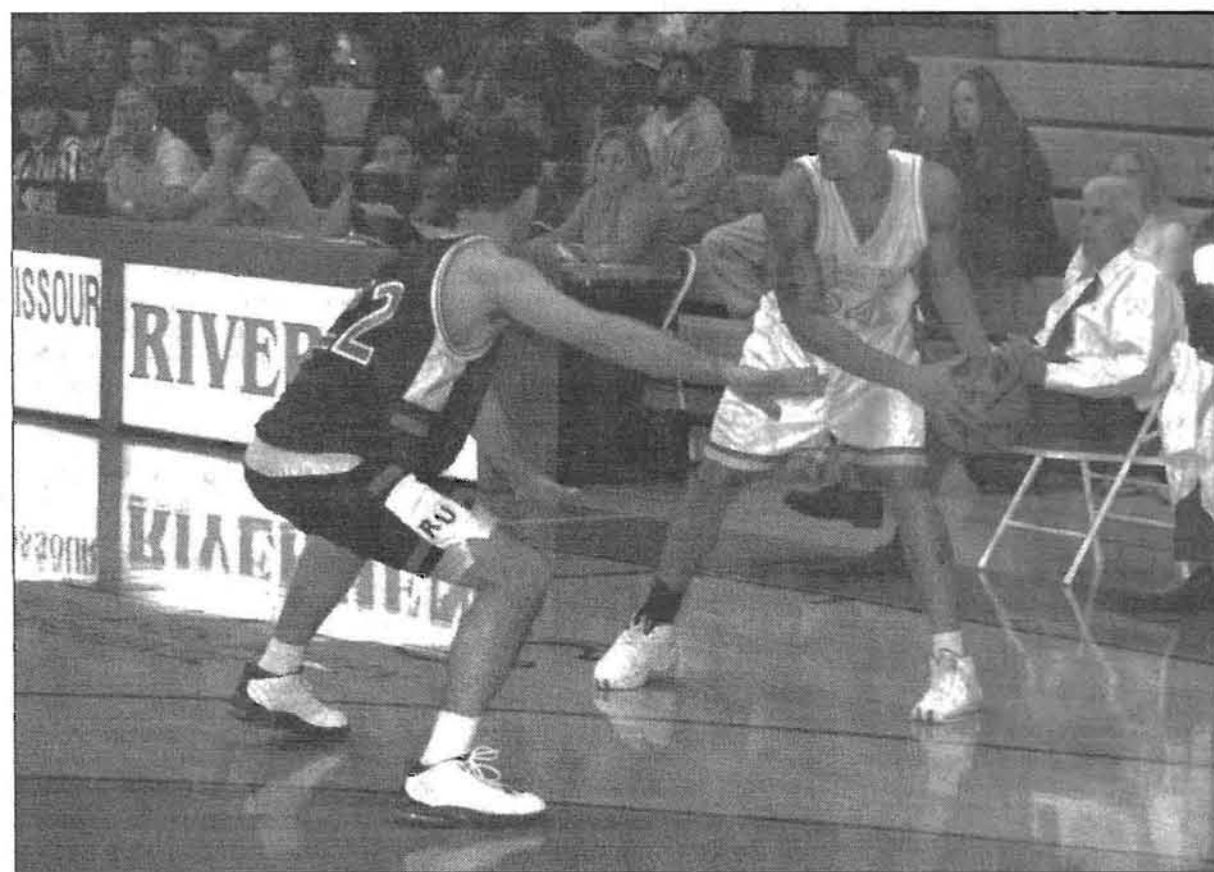
BELOW:

Fans of all ages (and sizes) are welcomed at all UM-St. Louis sporting events. Here, young fan Clarke Taylor shows his support Wednesday evening for UM Basketball. Both men's and women's basketball teams won their respective matches.

Kevin Ottley / The Current



UPDATE: R-men even out their season, now 1-1



Kevin Ottley / The Current

UM-St. Louis forward Jonathan Griffin looks for an open teammate during last Saturday's game against Rockhurst. The Rivermen were defeated 64-60.

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

Larry Wells led four UM-St. Louis players in double figures, scoring 24 points, as the Rivermen defeated Harris Stowe 82-69 on Nov. 25. Jonathan Griffin also had a big game for UM-St. Louis, scoring 18 points and pulling down a game-high 15 rebounds for his first career double-double. With the victory, UM-St. Louis improved to 1-1 on the season.

UM-St. Louis took control late in the first half, leading by as many as 11 points before going into halftime with a 33-24 advantage. In the second half, the Rivermen pushed their lead to as many as 18 points, 40-24, after two Larry Wells free throws with 18 minutes left to play. Harris Stowe then chipped away at the UM-St. Louis lead, cutting the deficit to just four points, 57-41, with 11:34 remaining. UM-St. Louis responded and pushed the lead back up to double digits at the ten-minute mark.

The Hornets closed the gap again with under four minutes to play, cutting the UM-St. Louis lead to seven at 72-

65, before the Rivermen scored six straight points to secure the win.

Larry Wells led all scorers with 24 points, and Jonathan Griffin added 18 points and 15 rebounds. Jo'Van Fisher also had a double-double in his first game as a Riverman, recording 11 points and pulling down 11 rebounds in the win.

The Rivermen dropped their Nov. 23 season opener to Rockhurst University after seeing an early second half lead evaporate as the Hawks closed out a 64-60 win at the Mark Twain Building.

UM-St. Louis led by nine, 31-22, at halftime and extended that lead to 35-22 to start the second half. Rockhurst then scored seven straight points to cut the lead to six points. The Rivermen then came right back with seven points of their own, including five straight by Derrick Redd, to push the lead to 42-29 with 13:32 left to play. The Hawks chipped away at the lead, cutting it to five points, 58-53, with five minutes remaining.

Rockhurst then scored nine straight points over the next four minutes to lead 62-58. Missed free throws late by the Hawks kept UMSL alive, but the Rivermen could not get a shot to fall in the closing minutes, losing 64-60.

With another year comes a new set of hopes, dreams



The ABCs of Sports

HANK BURNS

Got a comment or question?

E-mail it to

HFLB4@juno.com

At the beginning of each year, it is a time-honored tradition to make a resolution. Everyone makes promises that they may or may not be able to keep and builds dreams that may or may not be likely to come true. In any event, it is these dreams and promises that we set that keep us striving toward something, day-after-day and year-after-year.

I have many wishes and resolutions for the coming year, many dealing with my education and others that may be categorized as personal goals. And of course, there are many things that I would like to see happen in the world of sports. But, with these dreams that I would like to see come great responsibilities. So, the following is a look at several of my wishes and my resolutions - what I promised in return.

1a). Wish

The St. Louis Cardinals will have an excellent chance at the National League championship this year and definitely

have a great shot at winning the World Championship. Once the starting pitching staff is set, which is merely a matter of who goes into which slot, the Cards will be fine.

1b). Resolution

If the Cards do disappoint this season, I will not get angry and resort to childish acts of violence, vandalism, thievery or any other felonies. Although losses such as the season-ending loss the Cards suffered in 2002 do put me near my threshold of mental stability, I will try to set a good example for Cards fans everywhere and remain a gentleman through such disappointments.

2a). Wish

I wish for the UM-St. Louis Rivermen baseball team to win the 2003 Great Lakes Valley Conference championship and make it to the NCAA Division II World Series. The Rivermen, led by the near-legendary

Head Coach Jim Brady, will have much to show off this coming season in all areas of their game. Over the past 15 seasons, the Rivermen have learned how not to disappoint their fans, maintaining winning records in each of those seasons.

2b). Resolution

Again, as is the case with my previous resolution, I will try not to get dejected if the Rivermen have a lackluster year. I will always try to remember that the members of the team are students. I will remember that, as students, we have many obligations that are difficult to handle, and those obligations are no different than those of the Rivermen and are quite possibly even more difficult to handle.

3a). Wish

I wish that the St. Louis Rams will be able to end their current season on a winning note. The team, which recently has had quarterback problems remi-

niscant of those had by the fictitious Miami Sharks from *On Any Given Sunday*, is fighting the proverbial uphill battle (and a humiliating one at that). If the quarterbacks stop dropping like flies and one of them finally ends up proving that they are the man for the job, the Rams record just barely finish with a winning record and maybe even a wildcard berth. The latter would be the case if the offense finally wakes up and starts acting like the mean blue and gold point-making machine of old.

3b). Resolution

If the rotation of quarterbacks continues and a leader does not step up, which is a hard thing to do with big men like Tampa Bay's Warren Sapp always looking for their next sack, I resolve to not throw things at the television set as I watch yet another QB go down and a new one come in. I will not walk into a sports apparel store and buy Rams jerseys for the sole purpose of having a monster bonfire.

SPORTS

EDITOR

HANK BURNS

Sports Editor

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fax: 516-6811

COMING UP

Basketball

Dec. 2

• Women - 5:30 p.m. at Northern Kentucky

• Men - 7:45 p.m. at Northern Kentucky

5

• Women - 5:30 p.m. vs. Saint Joseph's

• Men - 7:45 p.m. vs. Saint Joseph's

7

• Women - 1 p.m. vs. Wisconsin-Parkside

• Men - 3:15 p.m. vs. Wisconsin-Parkside

9

• Men - 7:45 p.m. vs. Harris Stowe

14

• Men - 3:15 p.m. at UM-Rolla

19

• Women - 7 p.m. at Lincoln

30

• Women - 6 p.m. at Oakland City

Jan. 2

• Women - 5:30 p.m. at SIUE

• Men - 7:30 p.m. at SIUE

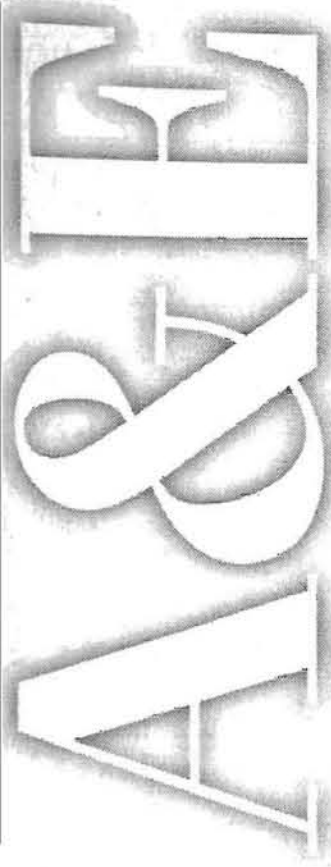
4

• Women - 5:15 p.m. at Quincy

• Men - 7:30 p.m. at Quincy

WEB

Check out the R-men and R-women sports at www.umsl-sports.com



EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

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A&E Calendar

Movies

Film openings are subject to change.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Far From Heaven' a blast from the past

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

This film is an amazingly accurate recreation of the overblown Technicolor melodramas that Hollywood churned out constantly in the late big studio period. It is exactly like a movie of the 1950s except in one respect. Unlike most movies of this

“
The technical accomplishment of the film can not be overstated. Every detail of a 1950s Hollywood movie is recreated.
”

era, it deals with not one but two of the most forbidden topics of that repressive time: race and homosexuality.

If you are not up on your history, you might need a little reminder about the era in which this film is set. Rights for non-whites and equality for women were far in the future. Racial segregation and even racism were accepted; homosexuality and most rights for women were not. Women accepted that they were inferior to men and were expected to only concern themselves with house and home, openly forbidden to work in most jobs. Likewise, African-Americans lived restricted, second class lives, excluded from most careers. Like the Victorian era, a hint of gossip could destroy a life and cause one to be cast out of mainstream, mid-

dle-class white society, the only part of society with any power. Conformity was the goal, and the price for individuality was steep.

Cathy Whitaker (could there be a more perfect '50s name?), who is played perfectly by Julianne Moore, lives the perfect 1950s life as the suburban housewife of successful businessman Frank Whitaker (Dennis Quaid), with a station wagon, two kids (a boy and a girl, of course) and coffee klatches. Cathy's friends tease her that she's a radical because she donates to the NAACP and can manage a polite conversation with an African American. Although husband Frank is very successful and appears well-liked, we can see there is something wrong in his relationship with Cathy and maybe in his life.

At first, it seems like the secret might be a drinking problem—scandalous in the 1950s but a scandal that could be overcome. Instead it is something much worse, something that can't even be whispered. The truth comes out when Cathy catches her husband in the act with another man. Ashamed and well aware that this problem could destroy his life in the rigidly homophobic '50s, Frank agrees to go to a doctor to be cured of his "illness."

Distraught and filled with self blame, Cathy has no one to share her anguish with and responds to the kindness and attention of her college educated African American gardener Raymond (Dennis Haybert). The gardener is intelligent, cultured, mannerly—a perfect man in every respect, except that he is the wrong color and restricted in this segregated time to menial work. Their friendship, forbidden enough, blossoms into something more, as unthinkable as Frank's transgression. Soon, gossip—the most powerful social



Julianne Moore and Dennis Quaid star in "Far From Heaven," a period film about the 1950s and the prejudices that accompanied the era.

force in the 1950s—begins to circulate.

The technical accomplishment of the film can not be overstated. Every detail of a 1950s Hollywood movie is recreated. From the garish, overdone, eye-popping color to the unrealistically perfect detail of every costume and set (nothing in these films could look worn, dirty, or even everyday—everything must be beautiful) to the idealized, perfectly WASPY people speaking rigidly melodramatic dialog, every aspect is covered. The film has period titles, peri-

od photographic style, and even includes a score by Elmer Bernstein, who created some of the best movie scores of that time, including the one for "The Great Escape." The acting, likewise in the style of the period, by all the principles is superb, especially Moore.

And therein lies much of the problem with this film. Watching the overblown artificial antics of this era perfectly recalls the boredom and squirm factor this exceedingly phony style of filmmaking evoked. Watching

this film is just like watching a real 1950s Hollywood film—painful. It was this style of filmmaking that thankfully inspired the rebellion in foreign filmmaking, which brought us Akira Kurosawa, Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini and other great directors, as well as film movements like French New Wave films and even the rediscovery of silent films.

see HEAVEN, page 7

MOVIE REVIEW

'Treasure Planet' is fun for kids and adults

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

Animation has taken a serious turn towards more adult fare recently. Many filmmakers are finally realizing that animation isn't just for kids and are experimenting with more adult sto-

rylines, less musicals and less "black and white characters," instead featuring characters who are neither good nor evil. Some films have been criticized for this approach; some have been praised. To this newest trend comes Disney's "Treasure Planet," which may or may not get criticism,

but it definitely receives praise from this critic, mostly for its beautiful animation and fascinating characters.

Loosely based on Robert Louis Stevenson's book, "Treasure Island," the sci-fi film focuses on Jim Hawkins, a young boy who reads a holographic book about a pirate crew who buried

their treasure on an unknown planet. Jim believes that this Treasure Planet could be real, though his mother, Sarah (Lori Metcalf), isn't sure. Fast forward twelve years and Jim (Joseph Gordon Levitt) is now a reckless, rebellious teen who is constantly in trouble with the law. After rescuing a sailor who dies after warning Jim to "Beware of the cyborg," Jim acquires a map to Treasure Planet and goes on a sea voyage with a crew who look more like patrons of the Mos Eisley Cantina in "Star Wars." They include Dr. Delbert Doppler (David Hyde Pierce), an intelligent but cowardly astrophysicist; Amelia (Emma Thompson), the feline-like captain; Morph, a little pink shapeshifter; and Silver (Brian Doyle Murry), the ship's cook who happens to be a cyborg.

The movie is filled with gorgeous animation. Everything is given exquisite detail, like the holographic book and the ship, the R.S.S. Legacy. The movie's best setting is a crescent moon spaceport, which despite the obvious swipe at Disney's rival Dreamworks, is still a beautifully detailed scene with buildings, ships and characters, both human and alien. The scene with a supernova and the crew is breathtaking and heartstopping. The aliens are well-drawn and characterized, giving each one its own uniqueness.

The voice acting is excellent and dramatic. Levitt is at first somewhat flat and monotone as Jim when he's in his rebellious stage, but he grows into a much more mature and well-rounded

character, making him a very palpable and believable hero.

Thompson and Pierce bring a lot of warmth, humor and depth to Amelia and Doppler, making them a humorous, argumentative couple that slowly grows into a more affectionate, loyal couple. Unlike in other Disney films, this romance is very understated, without any loud songs or declarations of love. Instead, it just grows from animosity to flirtatiousness to romance, making Doppler and Amelia's union memorable.

As sidekicks, Morph and Martin Short as BEN, a marooned, are distracting but charming. Morph stands out in his scenes as he imitates the other characters. Short is a little annoying as BEN, but he starts to grow a little on the viewer, particularly after he becomes a more integral part of the mission after his memory chip is returned.

Silver is one of the best Disney villains to date, simply by not being a complete villain. Unlike other Disney villains in the past, Silver is given a conscience, so that while he wants to get the treasure, he isn't willing to kill Jim, a boy he has grown to love as a son. Murry brings out both the sinister and warm sides of Silver with his vocal talents.

"Treasure Planet" is a much more dramatic story than Disney films in the past. If the viewer is willing to put aside the mindset that all Disney films are "cutesie fluff" then he or she should be in for a fun ride.



Photo courtesy Disney Enterprises Inc.

Jim (right) shows the makings of a fine "spacer" when John Silver (left), a cyborg ship's cook with a hidden agenda, takes him under his wing. "Treasure Planet" will appeal to both children and adults with strong animation and a good plot.

MOVIE REVIEW

Kevin Kline shines in 'Emperor's Club'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

It is inevitable that people would expect "The Emperor's Club" to resemble "Dead Poets Society," given the way the film has been promoted. In fact, "The Emperor's Club" is more like a high quality sequel to that film, the kind of sequel that is as good as the original, just as one had hoped.

The parallels are obvious. Both take place in an exclusive boy's school and feature a charismatic, honorable teacher, bent on inspiring his charges to be something more than ordinary. However, Kevin Klein's classics teacher, Mr. Hundert, aims not to encourage his students to grab opportunity but to reflect on the impact of their actions on society. To illustrate his point, he tells his charges of an ancient ruler, as accomplished a conqueror as many others, but forgotten today

because gathering wealth and power were his sole accomplishments; he did nothing to change society. Despite being a rather stiff fellow, he is committed to teaching and is well liked by the students. The students strive to give their best possible since he sets high standards for himself as well as for them. His success as a teacher is finally challenged when a new boy enters the classroom. Sedgewick Bell (Emile Hirsch) is unlike any kid he has met before. He is defiant and a class cut-up who talks back to the professor, charms the other kids with his break-the-rules confidence and unbalances and dismays the straight-laced instructor. Exasperated, the teacher arranges to meet with the boy's father, a senator (Harris Yulin). Meeting the Senator is a revelation to Mr. Hundert, and spurs the teacher to see this kid in a new light. He becomes determined to break through to reach the student, yet the process changes the teacher too.

The old teacher, who pursued his work as a straightforward, guileless, even naive, academic has been outmaneuvered in his career by slyer colleagues who concentrated on wooing donations rather than on being an outstanding teacher.

Much of the success of this film hinges on the acting. Klein is charismatic as the teacher in the classroom, but shy and otherworldly in his interactions with adults outside of his little bailiwick. That the teacher is intelligent and easily sees through his students, no matter how cagey, is contrasted with his much more naive adult interactions, highlighting his flaws. Klein communicates this subtly with style and appeal. The actors playing the kids are marvelous as well, not just the outwardly self-confident and inwardly conflicted Sedgewick Bell, played splendidly by Emile Hirsch. All the characters of the boys are well drawn, and wholly realistic. Especially



Kevin Kline stars as Mr. Hundert in "The Emperor's Club," a movie the will inevitably draw comparisons to "Dead Poets Society."

good is Jesse Eisenberg as Louis, who undergoes some dramatic changes under the influence of Sedgewick. This talented young actor also is appearing in a leading role as the 16-year old

nephew in the new film "Roger Dodger."

see EMPEROR'S CLUB, page 7

Dec. 6

Equilibrium - futuristic film with nods to 'Fahrenheit 451' and 'The Matrix,' among other sources, with Christian Bale
Adaptation - head-bending romantic comedy with Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep; directed by Spike Jonze
Being John Malkovich
Analyse That - sequel to the comedy about a Mafioso in therapy, with Robert DeNiro, Billy Crystal, directed by Harold Ramis
Empire - drama about business investment between a Wall Street banker and a South Bronx drug dealer trying to change his life, with John Leguizamo
My Kingdom - retelling of Shakespeare's 'King Lear,' set among gangsters in modern Liverpool, with Richard Harris.
Satin Rouge - Tunisian film about the world of belly dancers

Dec. 13

Maid in Manhattan - romantic comedy with Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes
Das Experiment - chilling tale based on psychological experiment of the '60s that recreated the prisoner and guard situation among college students
Hot Chick - comedy with Rob Schneider as a girl
Star Trek: Nemesis - 'Next Generation' and 'Voyager' casts come together in this next installment in the Star Trek series

Dec. 18

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers - second installment in the epic Tolkien trilogy

Dec. 20

Antwonne Fisher - directorial debut of Denzel Washington; about a disruptive young man working through his abusive background, with a psychiatrist played by Washington

Dec. 27

Metropolis - the restored silent film, a classic that influenced the look of every horror and science fiction film after it.
Narc - gritty crime drama about the hunt for a cop's murderer, with Oscar-quality acting by Ray Liotta

HEAVEN, from page 6

Ultimately, it worked its way back to the US to generate the revival of great filmmaking in the late 1960s and 1970s. As much as 1950s movies provided a spark for change just by being so awful, actually watching a film of this era is hardly a pleasant experience, as the movies are alternately laughable and miserably cardboard.

However, there is one aspect in which "Far From Heaven" is different from a real 1950s Hollywood melodrama. This film deals with two forbidden topics of the era, something almost no movies really did in this era, except for a few "B" films and rare works like "Imitation of Life." Presumably, director Todd Haynes thought that only one "forbidden" topic would not generate enough interest to hold a modern audience in their seats.

The question that has to be asked is why this film was made. Was it to show modern audiences what the 1950s were really like? Was it to honor Douglas Sirk, who directed "Imitation of Life"? "Imitation of Life" was a powerful social commentary, although it was in some ways constrained by the times. In this film, a young light-skinned African American woman passes for white, concealing her true background and severing ties with her family, even her beloved mother. While the film is a searing commentary on the evils of segregation, it is still a film of those times and moralizes against her efforts to escape the social restraints of her race by punishing her for her deception.

There's only one problem: none of these promises are delivered. Clockwise succeeds in little more than sounding like a light-hearted rock and roll band. Not one song on "Healthy Manipulation" commands any real attention, not even the first time one hears it. The songs all fit into the "you've heard one, you've heard 'em all" category.

Now, none of the songs are bad. In fact, they're all fairly good but they just don't grab listeners by the throat and say "Listen to me, or else!" "Healthy Manipulation" is an album

and a landmark of its era.

But that was then; this is now. There is nothing scandalous now about talking about interracial marriages, although they are still not very common. Likewise, being gay has lost much of its hidden nature for many. In a complete reversal from the 1950s, the current social climate allows movies to cover the most shocking of topics; people are more willing to tolerate discussion of once forbidden subjects, and it is actual behavior that lags behind both. Making a film about race and homosexuality in the 1950s would have been remarkable; making one in 2002 hardly tickles the meter.

So what is the point of this film? Well, if the point is to show modern audiences, who may idolize the 1950s as the era of perfection, the real truth about the racism, rigid constraints on behavior, and cruelty of the McCarthy era and that little echo of the repressive Victorian age, then the film succeeds. If the film is designed to wow critics and film buffs with its ability to recreate a movie from another era, it achieves that goal on the technical aspects only. If the point is to make a comment on racism or homophobia—well, that's not exactly new ground.

Mostly, the film is just a curious exercise in filmmaking technique, of interest to a limited, knowledgeable group. Hopefully, a few of the folks who adore the fifties will get some much-needed education and a jolt about what those times were really like. But for most people, you're much better off to just go rent "Imitation of Life," a much more significant film because it really was meaningful to make that statement in that era, rather than paying good money to see this imitation from the safe distance of 2002.

CD REVIEW

Clockwise: nothing new

BY MATT SCHORR Staff Writer

Clockwise is a new band that hails from Sin City - or Las Vegas, Nevada, as most people know it. The five-member band bursts forth claiming to be larger-than-life and louder-than-hell with their debut album, "Healthy

that one buys only if it's on sale or being handed out for free, because the only time to play it is when there's a need for some background music during a party or road trip. The melody of every song comes off sounding extremely mellow, despite efforts to the contrary by using heavy distortion on the guitars.



Clockwise's debut album, "Healthy Manipulation" brings nothing new to rock and roll. Their songs have a "been there, done that" quality when compared to the rest of the musical community

Manipulation," which features the songs "Lay Her Down" and "Aware." They describe their sound as taut and riff-driven and say their album was designed to command listeners' attention by being inventive and charismatic.

While the distorted guitars hum gently in "No Sympathy," lead singer Austin Leduc declares, "F--- your selfish lies." Fred Durst yelling, "You're best bet is to stay away motherf---er!" or "I might break your f---in' face!" makes perfect sense in a loud, pulse-pounding song like "Break Stuff." However, Clockwise's harsh lyrics seem very out of place.

All in all, "Healthy Manipulation" by Clockwise isn't a bad CD. It just doesn't offer anything new or exciting.

Parents will have good cause to be nervous about this album. It's riddled with curses and obscenities. This is another problem with "Healthy Manipulation." Because it succeeds in being little more than mellow-sounding background noise, the swearing and obscene remarks really don't fit. While the distorted guitars hum gently in "No Sympathy," lead singer Austin Leduc declares, "F--- your selfish lies." Fred Durst yelling, "You're best bet is to stay away motherf---er!" or "I might break your f---in' face!" makes perfect sense in a loud, pulse-pounding song like "Break Stuff." However, Clockwise's harsh lyrics seem very out of place.

All in all, "Healthy Manipulation" by Clockwise isn't a bad CD. It just doesn't offer anything new or exciting.

EMPEROR'S CLUB, from page 6

The cynical tone that darkens the original story is somewhat blunted in this film. In a particularly timely theme, the plot creates a confrontation between the ruthless attitude that "the end justifies the means" in the quest for wealth and success against the personal rewards of ethical behavior and character. With deceit and greed among CEOs dominating headlines, the cry in the wilderness in support of morality is refreshing.

Sadly, some critics have seen this uplifting theme as too idealized. This kind of comment can be made about nearly any inspiring film, and in truth, this film is not groundbreaking or astounding. But it is a good film

and an enjoyable film, in the vein of other movies about the work of teachers, like "Goodbye Mr. Chips" or "Dead Poets Society." Often, Hollywood tries to do this kind of inspirational theme and serves up something too phony and too corny to swallow. However, this story is much more successful, in part because the professor in "The Emperor's Club" is flawed and human. It is a warm-hearted movie to suit what the holiday spirit is supposed to be about. The idea that one should set high personal standards and contribute to society is a much-needed message in a world dominated by the likes of Ken Lay.

Advertisement for birthrightstlouis.org. Features a woman's face and text: "FREE TEST, with immediate results, detects pregnancy 10 days after it begins. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING & ASSISTANCE. All services are free and confidential. You Are Not Alone. Pregnant? www.birthrightstlouis.org"

CD REVIEW

A cappella group grows beyond roots

BY KATE DROLET Staff Writer

It isn't easy to find a music group that can combine soulful ballads and jingles about donuts and still manage to produce a CD that keeps listeners satisfied. Chapter 6, a Christian a cappella band out of Decatur, Ill., manages to do just this.

A.D. Stonecipher, Jarrett Johnson, Nathan Pufall, Chuck Bosworth, Mark Grizzard, John Musick and Luke Menard make up Chapter 6.

Chapter 6 began as a Milikin University ensemble in 1995 and became an independent, student produced group in 1998. Since then, Chapter 6's success has grown tremendously in the a cappella genre. The band has released two CDs: "A Capella 101" and their more recent work "Live."

Some of the band's distinctions include winning "Audience Favorite," "Best Original Song" and "Best Original Arrangement" in the 2000 Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes. The group's other awards include being the



Chapter 6 is a Christian a cappella band from Decatur, Ill. The group began as a Milikin University ensemble in 1995. The group became a student produced group in 1998.

2001 International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella Grand Champions, winning "Best Original Arrangement" and "Audience Favorite" at the 2002 Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes and being the 2002 Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes Champions.

The band's talent is well displayed on their recently released CD, "Live." One of the songs that really stood out as an exception was the Rockapella classic "Change in My Life," originally written by artist Billy Strauss.

see CHAPTER 6, page 10

A 4-panel comic strip. Panel 1: A boy says "Boy, Billy, it's such a dull day." A girl replies "It sure is. I wish we had something fun to do..." Panel 2: A boy offers "Hey, kids! Here's something fun! Try out my cereal!" A girl says "um... no thanks." Panel 3: A boy says "Oh, c'mon! My cereal is filled with yummy bits and berries!" A girl replies "Hey, dude, we don't want your berries!" Panel 4: A boy says "Rudy S. 1/2a You're a loooong way from your mamas, boys" and "GET IN HERE, GUYS!!". A girl replies "Alright, count you keep watch while I hold 'em down..."

Advertisement for the movie "Maid in Manhattan" featuring Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes. Text includes: "Revolution Studios & Columbia Pictures Current invite you and a guest to a special screening. Stop by The Current offices at 388 Millennium Student Center to pick up a complimentary screening pass for two to see. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 5th. Ronnies 20 Cine 5320 South Lindbergh St. Louis, Mo 63126. OPENS IN THEATERS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH!"

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Advertisement for "Corner Coffee House". Text includes: "'CORNER COFFEE HOUSE' Get your caffeine here. Bring a friend, Bring a book. Great place to study or just hang out. Free cup of coffee anytime after 4 p.m., plus free DSL Internet access or \$1 off any coffee drink. LIMIT ONE PER PERSON with coupon. Offer good until 1/15/03 the corner coffee house, 100 N. Florissant Rd. in Ferguson."

HOLDEN, from page 1

However, if a person buys a 30,000 dollar boat, they would have to pay a six percent tax.

According to Holden, the watercraft tax was created "in case the Russians invade the lake of the Ozarks. If a person pays the watercraft tax, the Coast Guard can commandeer their boat to fend off the Russians."

Holden went on to say that not everyone in Mo. is out to beat the system, that most Missourians want to pay their fair share but no more.

"Ninety-eight percent of all Mo. businesses pay their fair share [of taxes]," Holden said. "It's the other two percent we have to be concerned with."

According to Phares, Mo. has been in a recession since 2000, and ordinarily, two years later a state would be pulling out of a recession and experiencing a rebound. Unlike ordinary recessions, however, Phares said, there were three factors involved in this recession that make it unique.

According to Phares, those factors are:

- The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 severely crippled American confidence in both their government and its economic structure. Confidence levels

are on the rise, but it has been a slow process.

- The burst of the "dot.com" bubble had a detrimental effect on consumer confidence. Before 2000, "dot.com" businesses were taking over the marketplace, and it was assumed that this was the wave of the future. When that marketplace collapsed, billions of dollars were lost.

- The corporate finance debacle that rocked American confidence has had a massive effect on consumer confidence. Companies such as Enron and Worldcom have been exposed for evading taxes and receiving tax breaks from the government, severely shaking confidence in the stock markets.

Phares reiterated the point that many states in the country are experiencing financial crises of their own. Texas is facing a budget shortfall of between \$5 billion and \$18 billion, but their situation is so extreme, they have no way of knowing how bad it will get.

"All indications are we are still in it [the recession]," Phares said. "And [research shows] we may not have bottomed out yet."

According to Phares, the combined 50 state budget shortfall will be some-

where between \$50 billion and \$100 billion by the end of the fiscal year, with more damage expected next fiscal year. In Mo., Phares stressed the need for tax system reevaluation.

"The tax system has not been examined since 1968," Phares said. "I think we'll all agree that things have changed since then."

According to Phares, the tax system is outdated and also "leaks," meaning the state is not taking in all the funds it should be receiving.

"If you look at tax expenditures, it can sometimes be difficult to ascertain a purpose [for that expenditure]," Phares said. "These expenditures are growing in size in Mo. and elsewhere. thirty-seven of the 50 states are examining their tax expenditures."

Some questions were raised at the meeting about the disparity of funding between the K-12 education system and the higher education system.

According to the State Budget Overview, K-12 received \$2.5 billion in funding from the state this year, while higher education received only \$841.4 million in state funding after absorbing the cut from Holden's office earlier in the fiscal year.

According to Holden, the scope of



Mike Sherwin/The Current

"Ninety-eight percent of all Missouri businesses pay their fair share [of taxes]," Holden said. "It's the other two percent we have to be concerned with."

the cut became necessary when Mo. House of Representatives Republicans blocked his use of the Rainy Day Fund to help bail out the public universities.

"The senate passed the usage by an overwhelming margin," Holden said. "But the House blocked the Rainy Day Fund use, and that precipitated the cut to Higher Education."

Holden's stop at UM-St. Louis was the fifth in a series of stops around the state. Other stops include Springfield, Mo., Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Kansas City, Mo.

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Hepatitis A is risk for students

BY **KIM SILVER**
Staff Writer

There are more cases of Hepatitis reported in the world than of any other disease. It is transmitted by close person to person contact, fecal-oral contamination, travel to areas with high rates of the virus, unsafe sexual practices and contaminated food and water.

The disease can be transmitted in ways that easily slip one's mind. Sharing a toothbrush or shaving razor with an infected person can transmit hepatitis. The disease can also be transmitted by getting tattoos and piercings with contaminated needles.

College students should be aware of this highly contagious disease. Students who share close living quarters, such as dormitories and apartment complexes, should be especially careful. The disease can be prevented by simple measures, such as handwashing; experts suggest washing hands frequently for 20 seconds, using hot water and soap. This is an effective preventative measure

because Hepatitis A can live on unwashed hands for 4 hours.

Studies show that over 70% of students travel internationally during college. Popular spring break areas such as Cancun, Mexico, have high rates of the virus, and preventative measures should be taken. Experts suggest that if you are injured while travelling, you should never receive a blood transfusion or injection in a foreign country. You should allow physicians to stabilize you, and then return home immediately for further treatment. In addition, you should never drink tap water while visiting a foreign country. Doing so may increase your risk of exposure to the disease.

Studies show that 34.5 percent of college students have had sex with 6 or more partners. Fifty percent of people infected with the disease do not know how they got it.

Many students are not aware that Hepatitis A can be transferred by sexual practices, which includes much more than vaginal intercourse; oral and anal sex are included in this cate-

gory. "Approximately 7 out of 10 individuals will get symptoms," Nancy Magnuson, director of University Health Services, said.

Symptoms of the disease include yellowness of the skin, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, vomiting and nausea. When a person becomes infected, they will carry the virus for a period of about 30 to 180 days. People with Hepatitis A miss an average of 4 weeks of work. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 20% of infected adults require hospitalization. Sometimes, however, no symptoms are apparent. Death may result from liver damage due to complications and lack of treatment. At this time there is no cure for the disease.

The most effective preventative measure is to receive a vaccination; therefore, it is very important to talk to your doctor about receiving the Hepatitis A and B vaccines if you have not already done so.

"We have the vaccine available at UM Health Services for students, faculty and staff," Magnuson said.

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Science of the very small - 2

University of Oxford physicist David Deutsch is close to publishing an article that he says will solve one of the greatest scientific mysteries of all time. Deutsch says that his research proves that our universe is only one



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Science Columnist

Deutsch believes the answer to this problem lies in the theory of the "multiverse." The theory says that there is a separate universe for every possible reality. For instance, there is a universe where the Saint Louis Cardinals have won every single World Series and another universe where Saint Louis is named Saint Kermit the Frog. Yes, in the multiverse theory, there is a universe for every possibility you can imagine.

What does this mean for our perception of trees, birds and rocks? This means that the particles making up an object like a tree, for instance, are in fact occupying many separate universes at once, and for each parallel universe there is a parallel version of you there to observe it.

Deutsch bases his idea of the multiverse on the theory of "quantum computation." This is a kind of "super PC" currently under development by physicists that uses the strangeness of the quantum universe to perform computations at unbelievably high speeds.

The hardware for quantum computing is still at a very basic stage, but the theory about how these computers process information is quite advanced. Deutsch believes that quantum computers will soon be able to simulate any conceivable quantum state, including the basic structure of the entire multiverse itself.

The theory behind quantum computing and the multiverse says that information cannot always travel freely between all the possible universes, but must usually remain locked within one universe at a time. If information did flow freely between all universes, we would live in a chaotic world where we would see the contents of multiple universes at once, and we could not rely on our senses. Luckily for our sanity, information usually stays contained within one particular universe at a time.

This means that when we look at a tree, the information entering our eyes from the tree is coming from within our own universe. Meanwhile, a separate version of us and the tree exists in another universe, receiving different information.

Sometimes however, Deutsch says, the universes peel apart and come together for an instant before snapping back into their original shape. This peeling and recombining is the basis of

the strange quantum effects that have puzzled physicists.

"Universe peeling" is also the root of the amazing potential of quantum computing. Quantum physicists believe that one day a quantum computer will be built that performs more simultaneous calculations than there are particles in the universe. At this point our universe will lack the computational resources to perform the calculations, and so quantum computers will simply share their calculations with other versions of themselves in separate universes.

Once the computer is given a sufficiently complex problem, a huge number of versions of the computer split off from this universe into their own separate local universes, working on parallel strands of the problem. A split second later, the pocket universes combine into one and the strands are pulled together to produce a single answer. As Deutsch says, "Quantum computers are the first machines humans have ever built to exploit the multiverse directly."

A more concrete understanding of the multiverse will have to come with time as these machines are built and their potential is demonstrated. For now quantum mechanics still seems like fantasy, and the findings of quantum physicists are generally understandable only to quantum physicists. These ideas may not affect your daily life in any meaningful way for quite some time, but for people who think on a quantum level, these theories are the sharpest edge of scientific inquiry.

Science has once again brought us close to the realm of science fiction. Just think, in millions of parallel universes many parallel versions of you stopped to read this newspaper. Some of the many yous passed over this article all together, other yous read the first few sentences and moved on uninterested, and some of the yous read the article to the end and laughed, thinking that the whole thing sounds ridiculous. In some universe there must have been a version of you who read the article, loved it, and spent the rest of the evening thinking about the possibilities of quantum computing and parallel universes. There is even a universe where YOU are a quantum physicist, spending every day exploring the minuscule realm of sub-atomic phenomena. Which universe are you in?

ALUMNI, from page 3



Kate Drolet/The Current

Chancellor Blanche Touhill cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the grand opening of the Alumni Connections office Tuesday. Touhill summarized the importance of keeping alumni connected to the campus. "Most higher education facilities get students involved [with alumni] while they're still in school. I think this is a positive idea because it brings students and alumni together."

"Students can get an idea for jobs, and there is an opportunity for mentoring. I know the alumni are excited for this bridge between themselves and students."

Students can get involved with the Student Alumni Association by visit-

ing the office located at 256 MSC and meeting with Joe Flees or by contacting the student steering committee.

"The benefits of being involved with this organization are that students can get to know alumni. You aren't in school forever, so the more contacts a

student makes, the better off they'll be. I also think being involved builds a sense of pride and loyalty to the institution," Chancellor Touhill said. "I know the students are looking forward to being alumni, and I know the alumni care about the students."

LECTURE, from page 3

“
The oppressiveness
in the Austrian
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ended in 1945 with
the end of WWII,
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shift in University
policies and attitudes.

”
“They weren't permitted to use research from any of the targets of the Nazi regime except as contradiction and ridicule.”

During this time, the student organizations in the University emerged into one student group, having one student leader in control. Kernbauer said that this student leader presented great control over the other students. "Often, he reported to the professors and to the director," he said.

The oppressiveness in the Austrian Universities finally ended in 1945 with the end of WWII, resulting in yet another shift in University policies and attitudes. Originally, the Austrian government wanted to dismiss all of the professors who were affiliated with the Nazis, but this proved a problem, Kernbauer said. "If they dismissed every professor who had pledged union to the Nazis then most of the Universities would close," Kernbauer

said. "Instead, they discovered, through each professor, how close and how high up they were in the Nazi Party and whether they joined before or after 1938."

Even though the political attitude in the universities before the war was a more liberal belief, Kernbauer said, after the war the attitude was more conservative and denying of the events during the Nazi regime. This denial still persists in some circles, even when Kernbauer did his research in 2000 and 2001.

"Many of the former SS officers would not talk," Kernbauer said. "Some of the universities did, and the archivists talked, but a lot of the people who were young and involved didn't want to remember."

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Robert Clarke (314) 516-5286 rac@studentmail.umsi.edu
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THE VILLAGE IDIOTS



Jason Granger

Adam Bodendieck



You like us, you really like us! We were amazed at how many people sent us nice letters. Apparently, there are those out there who appreciate this little corner of "The Current." The best part, though, is that a lot of the letters we received were actually funnier and more well thought out than anything we've ever written. Anyway, we'll be printing some of the letters over the next few weeks, starting right here and right now with this gem:

Dear Idiots,

In response to your plea asking people who like you to write in, I have come up with a list of the top ten reasons why the editor should continue running your column.

10. You openly admit that you're idiots, and honesty is a respectable trait.

9. You make the guys our daughters bring home look wonderful by comparison.

8. You realize that admitting you are capable of love, as in "Love, Adam and Jason," and being masculine are not mutually exclusive traits.

7. Adam's picture is cute in a you-are-way-too-young-and-immature-for-me sort of way.

6. The comments in your column, when not said in jest, can be used as an educational tool: "Girls, when a man admits his comments are misogynistic, run fast!"

5. Jason and Adam's friendship is proof that no matter how lacking you are, someone will love you, a thought that should give hope to all.

4. Guys like Adam and Jason make male-bashing jokes so easy, and feminists need to laugh more.

3. Adam and Jason perform a valuable community service: They give hope to others who also have poor writing abilities that they too

can get their sophomoric crap published.

2. Their column, as stupid as it is, actually causes students to pick up the paper, if for no other reason than to exclaim, "And I thought after reading last week's column, they couldn't get any stupider!"

And the number one reason for keeping the Village Idiots is...

1. After reading about \$90,000 pay increases and \$100,000 remodeling jobs on campus while having our student fees perpetually increased, we need the comic relief!

-Sincerely a feminist with a sense of humor (John Callahan was wrong, we really do exist!)

Dear feminist friend,

Thank you for the kind (sort of) words. However, being the noble journalists that we are, we don't want to be accused of showing only one side of the proverbial coin, and we definitely don't want our egos to swell up to the point that we can't get our heads in the door, so we would like to present the Village Idiots' top ten reasons why we should be fired immediately:

10) We really aren't idiots, and as such, we have been living a lie. Subsequently, we're now both carrying around enough guilt to start our own religion. WE CAN'T LIVE THIS WAY ANYMORE!

9) As so many people have pointed out, our humor is sophomoric, even though we are both going to graduate within the next year, which technically makes it seniorific (Seriously, look it up).

8) Our editors are getting jealous of our popularity and are seriously considering giving us the boot anyway. Why fight the inevitable?

7) Jason is jealous that his picture was not called cute. He is tired of

Adam always getting the chicks while he has to sit there and be the third wheel. Jason has feelings too!!

6) We are misogynistic, approve of drug use and apparently condone date rape. Translation: We're worse than Hitler and should be drug out into the street and shot.

5) We actually don't like each other all that much. Our editors stuck us together as some kind of sick joke. Truth be told, Adam is hatching a plot right now to kill Jason (or at least give him a swift kick in the shin) and take over the column (although he might have a tougher time being News Editor...that job can be hard at times).

4) We are afraid of getting typecast. That can be the death of a career, and our careers are so promising. Adam is getting daily offers from the Spice Channel and Jason just got a great offer from the St. Louis City Sanitation Department.

3) Due to the recent budget cuts, The Current really can't afford to pay us, paltry as our salaries may be. We think that it's a giant conspiracy on the part of Gov. Holden, who harbors a deep-seeded resentment against us and has secretly wanted to get rid of us since day one. WE'RE NOT GOING AWAY, BOB! WE'LL HAUNT YOU TILL THE BITTER END!

2) We both have a burning desire to leave it all behind and concentrate solely on reforming the Traveling Willburys (Bonus points to anyone who knows what a "Traveling Willbury" is). (Jason's note: Actually, there's no burning desire on my part, this is just another hare-brained scheme devised to get me some lovin' from the ladies, since as was already established, Adam always gets the chicks. He's such a

bastard.) (Adam's note: I can read everything you type, Jason. What do you think this is, Shakespeare? You think you can just "aside" whenever you want and no one will see/hear you? Jerk.)

And the number one reason to get rid of the Village Idiots (drum roll please, Max Weinberg):

1) Dear Abby is out to kill us, so we really need to get into hiding before it's too late. That's right, we're the Salman Rushdie's of the advice column community. Someone help us!

-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots,

What should I do if my roommate and I are basically the only ones who drink and know how to party in University Meadows? The only reason I ask this question is due to the fact that my roommate and I have been warned on numerous occasions for being too loud and partying. We stick out like sore thumbs. I thought college was supposed to be about partying and still having enough in you to go to class the next day. I believe that most of the residents in the Meadows are weak, don't know how to have fun, and are making us look bad. I could only imagine how they would react had they gone to Mizzou. Any suggestions?

-D-

Dear D,

Perhaps your parties just need that special spark, that certain quality that will leave your friends and neighbors no alternative but to be drawn to them like so many moths to a flame. (Because if everyone attends your party, no one can complain, right?) Fortunately for you, we can help! (Did you expect anything less?)

You can now rent the Village Idiots for parties and other special occasions, e.g. bar mitzvahs, circumcisions (don't worry, we don't do any of the actual cutting), etc. We can be rented out either individually or as a pair at a special discounted rate. For a small fee, we will come to your place, drink your alcohol, and hit on your roommates/girlfriends/house pets, whatever.

We are currently in the process of getting a fee increase approved by SGA that would negate the fee we are currently forced to charge. If our proposal passes, all students will be billed \$3 per credit hour and subsequently be allowed to utilize and exploit us whenever they so desire (although reservations are recommended) without having to pay any additional expenses. What a bargain! Students, make your voices heard! At the next SGA Assembly, be sure to stand up and proclaim your support for the "V.I. Party Fee."

-Love Adam and Jason

If you have a question, send us an e-mail: VillageIdiotsJA@yahoo.com. If you don't like e-mail, you can bring a question to us on the third floor of the MSC, room 388.

!!!DISCLAIMER!!!

Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger are by no means qualified to dispense advice. They are a couple of stupid college guys. Please do not send them serious questions. It will be assumed that if you send them questions, they are in jest and open to Adam and Jason's own particular brand of humor. This column is intended to be read as parody.

-The Management

CHAPTER 6, from page 7

The chorus of the song, "...But with you I belong, 'cause you help me be strong, there's a change in my life, since you came along," combines strong harmonies and exceptional vocals to give listeners a true sense of the talent represented on the album.

Another noteworthy track is the legendary "Bohemian Rhapsody." The group performs the song amazingly well, considering no synthesizers or audio-enhancing equipment is used. Performing such a renowned piece can be risky, but Chapter 6 not only maintains the integrity of the original recording, but they also add

With such a variety of themes and talent on the "Live" album, listeners of all kinds can enjoy Chapter 6.

positive qualities through the a capella nature of their performance.

"Live" is undeniably a non-traditional album. However, atypical as it may be, all listeners can enjoy this CD. It features slow ballads, such as the aforementioned "Change in My Life" and Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed." The CD also has its fair share of bouncy, sometimes even goofy, jingles, such as "Folgers" (a rendition of the coffee ad song) and "Krispy Kreme" (a tribute to Krispy Kreme donuts). Other well known classics are featured, including Louis Prima's "Jump, Jive, and Wail" and "Istanbul," the 1990 song by J. Kennedy and N. Simon. Upholding the group's Christian base, the inspirational "And They Praised God" is included.

"[The best thing about working with Chapter 6] is that I get to make music with my best friends! Furthermore, I feel that, as a brotherhood, Chapter 6 continually challenges me to new levels of spiritual accountability, patience and effective communication," Stonecipher said.

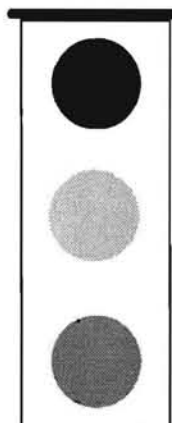
With such a variety of themes and talent on the "Live" album, listeners of all kinds can enjoy Chapter 6.

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Student Life

December

Your Guide to Cultural, Athletic, Recreational, and Social Activities on the UM-St. Louis Campus

The Mumford Manor Murder Mystery

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 pm

The Pilot House

Admission: 5 cans of food, to benefit Northside Team Ministries Amateur sleuthing, mystery solving, and interactive fun!

Holiday Fest 2002

Community Reception and Tree Trimming

Wednesday, December 4

10 am- 2 pm and 4- 6 pm

Millennium Student Center

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Wednesday, December 4

4:30pm

Alumni Circle

Help us welcome the holiday season with carolers, hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies!

Dave and Buster's

Friday, December 6

bus leaves at 7 pm; returns at 10 pm

\$5 gets you a ride out there + 130 points on a Power card (regularly 3 points per \$1!). Space is limited- sign up in MSC 366 by 12/04.

Christmas Shopping

Saturday, December 14

bus leaves Aroma's at noon; returns at 6:30 pm

Love shopping, but hate trying to find parking? Come shop with us! We'll hit the Galleria and the new West County Mall. Open to all UMSL students. Space is limited- sign up in MSC 366 by December 11.

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<http://thecurrentonline.com> current@jinx.umsu.edu

Help Wanted

Part-time office work in Kirkwood insurance office. Insurance experience helpful but not required. \$8.00/hr-no evening or weekend hours. Call 314-821-0308 or 314-821-1956.

Work on campus
The Current is looking for ad designers. Requirements include evening and weekend hours, experience with QuarkXPress and Photoshop. Submit a cover letter and resumé to Anne in MSC 388 or call her at 314-516-5183.

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Hunter green sofa bed, one year old, in excellent new condition; perfect for dorm or apartment. \$200. Please contact Shane or Holli @ (314) 805-6571.

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Misc.

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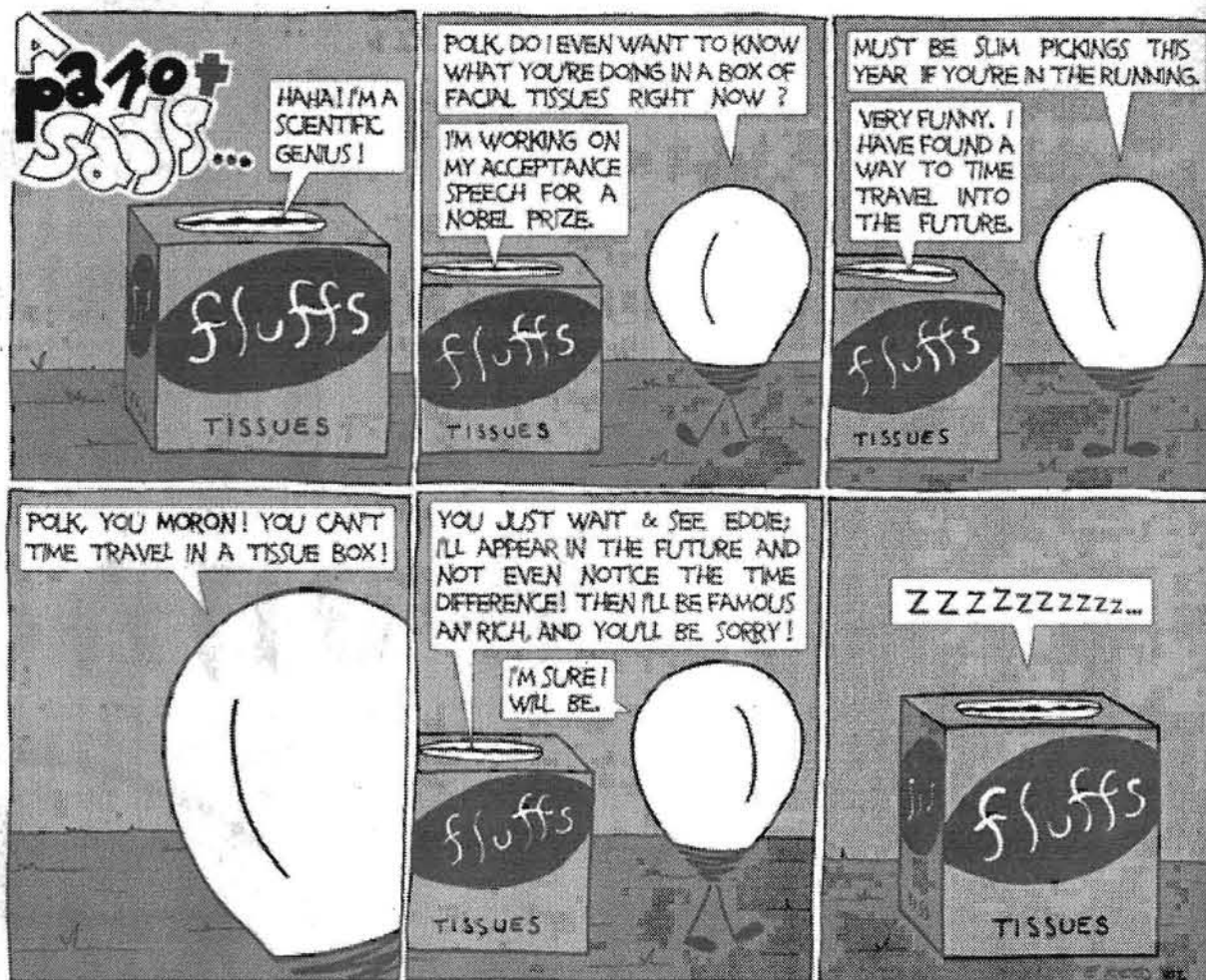
Housing

Roommate Wanted
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University Meadows Apartments Student Community is seeking to hire certified fitness instructors to lead Aerobics and or Kickboxing/Taebo classes on site once a week for one hour January - May. Monetary compensation will be provided. Call 516-7500

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Truck for sale. 1996, half-ton 4x4 Dodge Ram. Standard 5-speed transmission, V8, electronic locks and windows, tilt steering, cruise control, cd player, running board, hitch receiver, 4 new tires. 124,800 miles. \$9,000. Contact Michele at (636) 239-1111 at ext. 209.

1994 Toyota Tercel, \$1999!! 149,xxx miles. Radio, cassette, 2dr., blue, 4-speed manual, new starter, new brakes. Runs & looks great, clean. Call Thebe @ 314-729-7226/page 424-0936.

88 Mazda, 125,000 miles, 4 door, red, sunroof, cd player, excellent condition. Call 314-540-3586. \$1,800.

91 Red Lumina 3.1, V-6, 4-dr, 140k, auto, rebuilt 10k ago, cold A/C, alloy whls, PL/PW, runs/looks good, few flaws, want \$1500. Contact Jim at jimtheclarkster@hotmail.com or 314-365-1274.

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2000 Jeep Wrangler Sport 4.0L 6 cyl - MPI Alarm, sound system, cd player, soft top, custom bumpers, custom side steps. Good condition. 314-576-5445.

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For Sale Three short-haired kittens. One white, one white and black, and one white and orange. No reasonable offer refused. Call Britanya at 314-223-7525. I have pictures.

1991 Honda Accord \$1200 or B.O. One owner, 2DR, 4 cyl, 5-speed manual, maintenance records available, some body damage, high miles. Can be seen close to campus. 452-2729.

1992 Lincoln Continental Good condition. Dark Blue. Price: \$1900 OBO Call: (314) 583-2557 mam88@studentmail.umsu.edu

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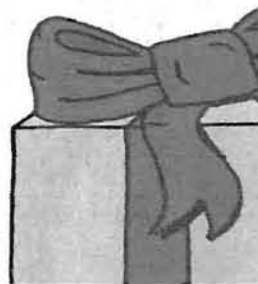


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The Current

Happy Holidays



Need help finding great holiday gifts? ▲ See page 5

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Christmas' past mixes secular & sacred

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

known throughout the centuries as a generous gift giver who rewards good children. His legend spread

Moore and the drawings of caricaturist Thomas Nast. In Moore's famous poem "The Visit from St.

used was in 1882.

Christmas Decorations -

The mistletoe was used in many homes and associated with pagan rituals. The Christian church at first banned the use of mistletoe, instead substituting holly, which was used as a symbol for Christ's death. Now both evergreens are used in conjunction around the home.

well as dancing.

Over time the carols became

Along with the Christmas season come many traditions that could bring a lot of questions. Why do we let some guy come into our house in the middle of the night once a year? What's the deal with Christmas cards? Why do stockings have to be by the fire? Why does Christmas fall on December 25? Is Santa's reindeer named Donner or Dunder?

Here are some interesting facts on Christmas and how these traditions started. All of these can be found on the website The Urban Legends Reference Page at <http://www.snopes.com> or How Christmas Works at <http://www.howstuffworks.com/christmas.htm>.

December 25 - Contrary to popular belief, Jesus Christ was not born on this date. In fact, most Bible scholars place his birth at being sometime in the spring, because of the fact that "shepherds watch their flocks by night" only in the spring, which is lambing season.

Early Christian priests chose this date as an alternative to the Mithraism, which was a Roman Pagan holiday celebrating Apollo, the Sun God. These priests saw many of the newest followers still celebrating Mithraism, also known as Saturnalia, or solstice, so they needed a December holiday to compete. The Catholic Church decided to officially recognize Christ's birth on the 25th and called it Christ's Mass. Christmas took hold in the rest of the world after the Roman Emperor Constantine became baptized in 337 A.D.

Santa Claus - The Santa Claus story started with a saint: Saint Nicholas of Asia Minor. St. Nicholas was the patron saint of toys, children and, oddly enough, thieves. He performed many charitable works for people throughout his life, including giving gifts to children and providing dowries for poor girls to save them from prostitution. By the time he died, he had developed a cult following. St. Nicholas became

through many countries under many names: Sinter Klaas in Holland, St. Nicholas in Germany, and Father Christmas in England, among others. He was often pictured as a tall man in a long white beard and bishop's clothes riding a horse and accompanied by a small dwarf called Black Peter, or Perznelkin, whose job it was to give naughty children switches and coal. When the Dutch immigrants began arriving in America in the 18th and 19th centuries, they took the legend of Sinter Klaas with them, changing his name to Santa Claus.

The Santa Claus image that most Americans are familiar with came from the writings of the poet Clement

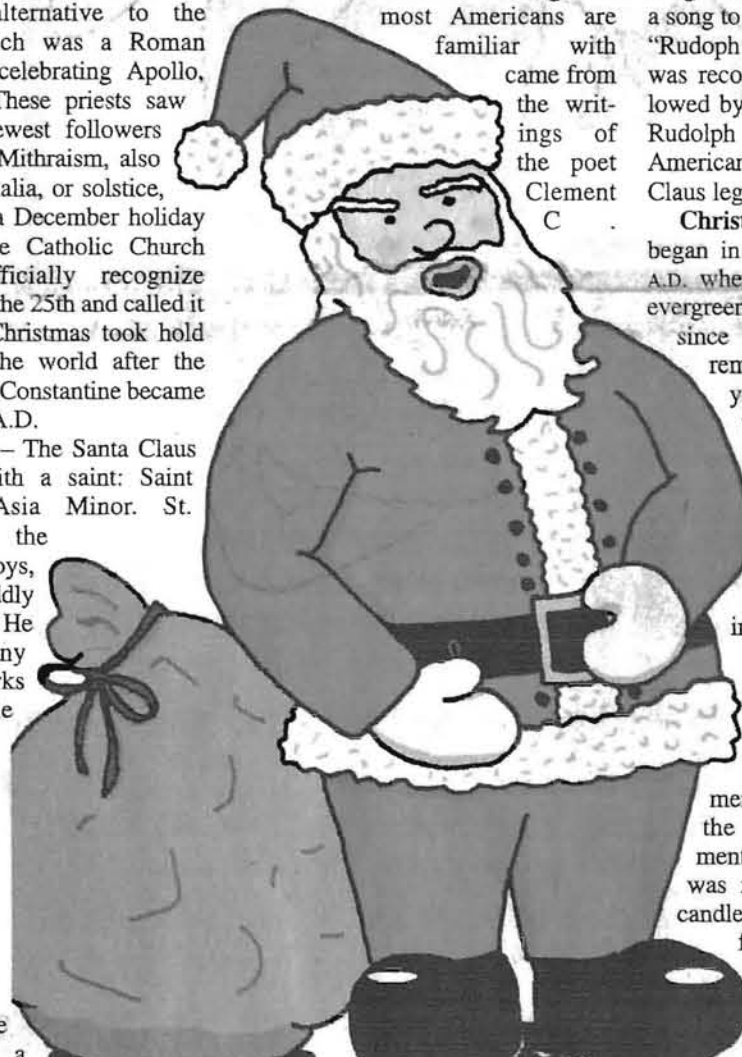
Night Before Christmas"), Santa is described driving a sleigh with eight reindeer and coming down a chimney to give the presents. Nast's drawings in 1863 showed Santa Claus as a plump, merry looking old man dressed in red. His 1866 drawings portrayed him as the maker of toys, and his drawings in 1869 illustrated Santa's workshop in the North with a cheerful bunch of elves, a far cry from their ancestor, Black Peter.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer - Rudolph was created in 1939 in a book by Robert L. May, a copywriter who worked for Montgomery Ward Department Store, as a promotional gimmick to sell a new book and toy for Christmas. Rudolph was an instant success selling 2.4 million copies its first year. May's brother-in-law, songwriter Johnny Marks, then wrote a song to go with the book. The song "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" was recorded in 1949 and was followed by a popular special in 1964. Rudolph is the only 20th century American contribution to the Santa Claus legend.

Christmas Trees - This tradition began in Germany as early as 700 A.D. when people would honor the evergreen tree in pagan ceremonies, since it was the only tree that remained green throughout the year. By 1800, Christmas trees were popular in Germany, England and other European countries. The Christmas tree tradition immigrated to America with Pennsylvania German immigrants.

Christmas Ornaments - In the Victorian era people began decorating their trees with candy, cookies and ribbon. The department store Woolworth's sold the first manufactured ornaments in 1880. Martin Luther was reportedly the first to put candles on the Christmas tree. The first time electric lights were

Over the centuries, the benevolent Christmas spirit, now known as Santa Claus, has been depicted many different ways.



UMSL students' X-mas wish list

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

"What do you want for Christmas?" is a question that many parents ask. Every year they insist that we make a list so they have an idea what to buy, but no matter how many years a Ferrari appears on the top of our list, one never seems to appear in the driveway on Christmas morning. Here are a few student wish lists, with some realistic and some not-so-realistic holiday requests.



Nicole Fletcher: "I want a gift card to Target, some Nine West boots, a Rockwear velour outfit, some Timberlands, and some clothes for my son."

Brooke Carnes: "I'd love a day at a spa and maybe a charm bracelet."

Ricardo Lima: "A Subaru Impreza."

Derek Davenport: "I want a leather coat, some new CDs, tools, and a new watch."

Griffith Taylor: "Being an international student, I'd like a trip home so I could be with my family over the holidays."

Amanda Swaller: "I'm holding out for an iced tea maker. I also want a computer and a new pair of glasses."

Travis Guzman: "Music equipment. I really want some new microphones."

Jhanah Haynes-Mark: "I want a Gameboy Advance, a blue UMSL track jacket, a DVD player, a whole new wardrobe, some light-up sneakers, and a Jeep Cherokee."

Shayla Turner: "I want a black Ford Tonka truck with glass packs, a DVD player, an apartment, car insurance money, tuition money, just plain money, plane tickets to Washington for Spring Break, a shopping spree, and maybe my own fashion designer."

Randy Sommers: "Free parking!"

Tori Caldwell: "Diamonds, Tyler on a platter, and shoes."

Tyler Cross: "I'd like a blue Chevy S10, a new wardrobe, the Army guy from my philosophy class, and a beautiful feathered evening gown."

see PRESENTS, page 3b

Christmas lights up St. Louis

BY BECKY ROSNER
Staff Writer

During the holiday season there are many things that people are able to enjoy around town. One of the most fascinating sights around the area is one that will brighten up anyone's day: holiday light displays.

There are many places in and around the St. Louis area that provide drive- and walk-through displays. These events often cost a small fee, but in return they supply people with something different to do once a year.

One captivating display that is available to see is the Way of Lights Christmas display. This display is located in Belleville, Illinois, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Nearly

one million lights create

electro-art sculptures, life size figures and displays portraying the Christmas story. The admission is free; however, donations are accepted and the park is open November 22 through January 8, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more information call 618-397-6700.

Another breathtaking exhibit is Santa's Magical Kingdom located in Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park next to Six Flags. There are more than two million lights in the 35-acre

park that is filled with animat-

ed scenes and special effects. Christmas music plays in the background while people can view such displays as Santa's flying reindeer, toy land, the tunnel of lights, a 350-foot waterfall of lights and angel flight training school. You can view this in your car or call ahead and reserve your own carriage by calling 636-458-1757 for groups of 4-20 people. It is open every night from November 15 to January 3, from 5:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., 11:00 p.m. on

Fridays and Saturdays. Winter

Wonderland is another awe-inspiring Christmas presentation. It is located at Tilles Park and is presented by St. Louis County Parks. This exhibit includes a tunnel of lights, a stream of lights with deer drinking from it, elves building toys and Old Man Winter. The park is open November 22 through January 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Friday. The display is open on Saturdays for horse-drawn carriage rides only, which are available

solely with reservations. Tickets

are available at ticketmaster.com and at all Ticketmaster locations.

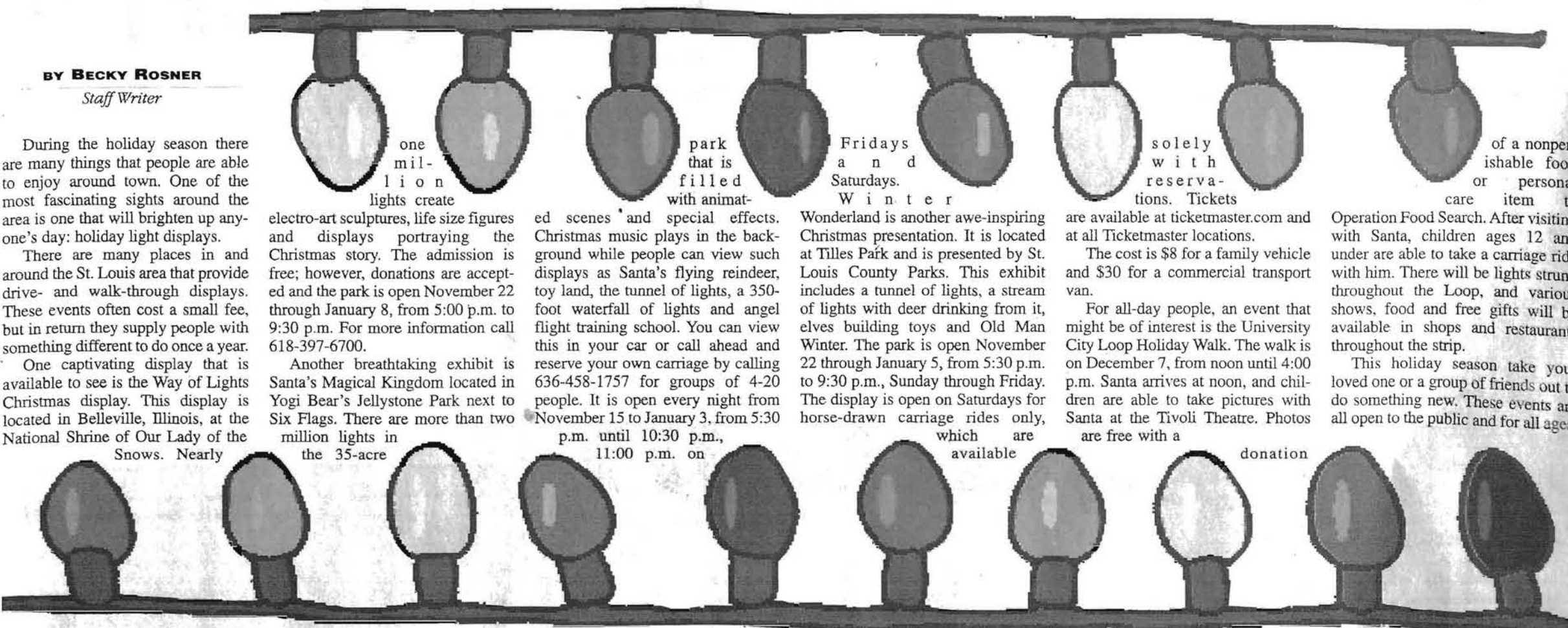
The cost is \$8 for a family vehicle and \$30 for a commercial transport van.

For all-day people, an event that might be of interest is the University City Loop Holiday Walk. The walk is on December 7, from noon until 4:00 p.m. Santa arrives at noon, and children are able to take pictures with Santa at the Tivoli Theatre. Photos are free with a donation

of a non-perishable food or personal care item to

Operation Food Search. After visiting with Santa, children ages 12 and under are able to take a carriage ride with him. There will be lights strung throughout the Loop, and various shows, food and free gifts will be available in shops and restaurants throughout the strip.

This holiday season take your loved one or a group of friends out to do something new. These events are all open to the public and for all ages.



Favorite Christmas T.V. specials

BY SARA PORTER
A&E Associate

It's that time again, time to travel to the Island of Misfit Toys, or laugh at Charlie Brown's little tree, or feel a lump in your throat when the Grinch's heart grows three sizes bigger and breaks the measuring device. While in the middle of studying for finals or decorating the house, it might be a good idea to watch these Christmas specials that bring back fond memories.

Here, in chronological order, is a list of some good specials to view for the holiday season. Some are well known, and some are a little more obscure:

1. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer (1964) This special was what established the stop motion animation company Rankin-Bass as the undisputed king of Holiday Shows. The story of Rudolph the little reindeer (Billie Mae Richardson); Hermey, his elf/dentist friend; and Yukon Cornelius, a miner (Paul Soles; Larry D. Mann), who leave the North Pole after being ridiculed, is still as funny and pleasing to watch, particularly the sweet scene on the Island of Misfit Toys.

2. A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965) This story about Charlie being roped into a school production of the First Christmas is the first ever animated Peanuts special. It is full of humorous lines, such as Lucy's list of Charlie's phobias and passing out the parts in the play (in the hopes of being "the Christmas Queen") and is just as

meaningful now as it was in '65, especially in regards to the fear that Christmas is getting too commercial.

3. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (1966) This is the definitive version of the story of the mean Grinch who tries to stop Christmas from coming to Whoville. Boris Karloff's narration is very clever and well-spoken. The Grinch is very humorous as a crabby villain and as a sweet, reformed Grinch, and of course there's his scene-stealing dachshund, Max, who is roped into the job of reindeer and Thurl Ravenscroft's singing, in "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

4. The Little Drummer Boy (1968) This was Rankin-Bass's second Christmas special and contained a more poignant, darker storyline than Rudolph. After, Aaron (Ted Eccles), the titular character's, parents are killed, he acquires a hatred for people, only having three animal friends. He meets the three Wise Men (Paul Frees), who are following a mysterious star, and follows them to the manger in Bethlehem. Though the religious storyline may put off some people, this special is a very beautifully acted, seriously told story with the same stop motion style as "Rudolph."

5. Frosty the Snowman (1969) Another Rankin-Bass film, this one about the "jolly, happy soul" who is sent to the North Pole to avoid the warm air, is still a very funny special. Though Jackie Vernon makes a very warmhearted Frosty, the show is definitely stolen by the hilarious magician villain, Prof. Hinckle (Billy De Wolf) and his wise-guy rabbit sidekick, Hocus Pocus.

6. 'Twas the Night Before

Christmas (1974) Though this one used to be shown every year around Christmas, it has fallen out of favor but still should be viewed if possible. After an editorial appears in a town newspaper saying that Santa is "a fraudulent myth," Santa refuses to come to the town. So, a local clockmaker tries to make a clock that Santa will hear on his rounds, only for things to go awry once more. It's also a nice and not too heavy handed story about believing in faith and imagination over science and reason.

7. Small One (1978) The second religious story on this list, this time by Disney. A little boy (Sean Marshall) is told to give up his beloved donkey, Small One, to the market. They meet cruel owner after cruel owner, until they meet a kindly man who offers to buy the donkey for one piece of silver so he can take his pregnant wife to Bethlehem. Though not as dark as "The Little Drummer Boy" and not as much in circulation, this is still a very sweet and touching story.

8. Christmas Eve on Sesame Street (1978) Believe it or not, Sesame Street did exist before Elmo, and here's documented proof. This special is about Big Bird and his attempts to find out how Santa Claus gets into those skinny chimneys without getting stuck. It alternates with a take on the popular O. Henry story, "Gift of the Magi," which stars Bert and Ernie. "Christmas Eve on Sesame Street" captures all of the hilarious characters and values that the television series does.

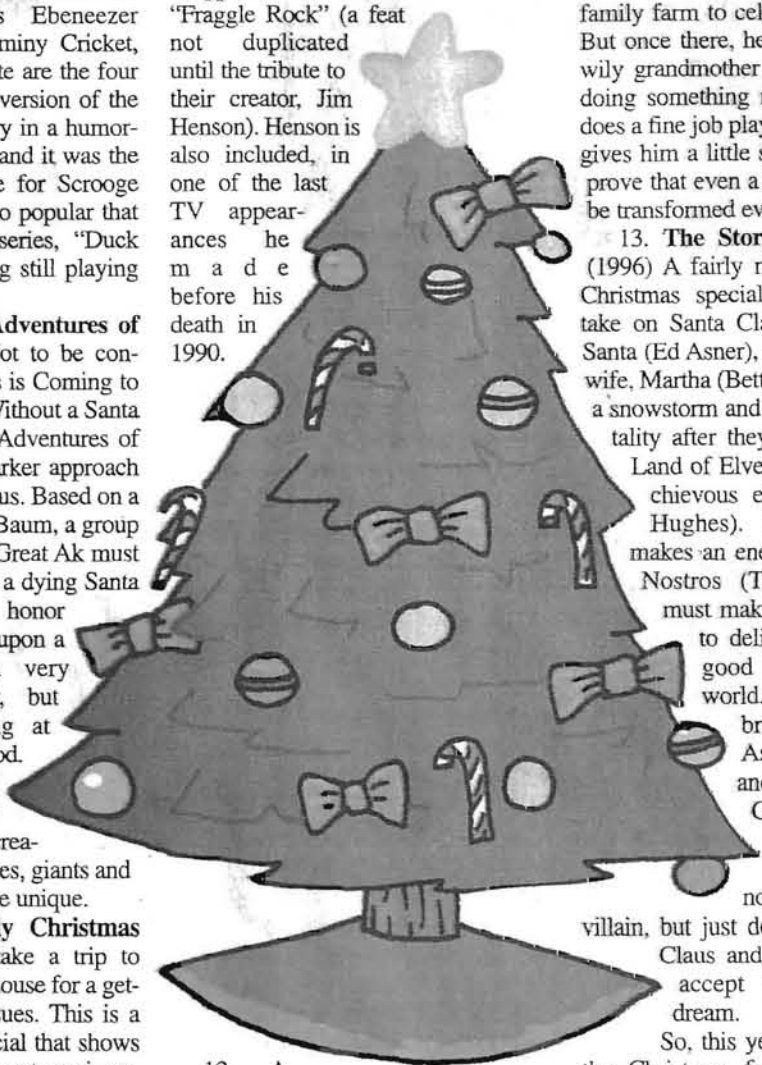
9. Mickey's Christmas Carol (1983) Out of all of the "Christmas Carol" parodies, this one might be the

best, with the Disney stars taking on the roles of Dickens' characters. Mickey Mouse is Bob Cratchitt, Scrooge McDuck is Ebenezer Scrooge and Goofy, Jiminy Cricket, Willie the Giant and Pete are the four ghosts. It's a charming version of the classic that tells the story in a humorous but respectful way, and it was the first major cartoon role for Scrooge McDuck, who proved so popular that he acquired his own series, "Duck Tales," with Alan Young still playing the role.

10. The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus (1985) Not to be confused with "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "The Year Without a Santa Claus," "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" takes a darker approach to the story of Santa Claus. Based on a short story by L. Frank Baum, a group of fairy folk led by the Great Ak must decide whether to grant a dying Santa Claus immortality, an honor never before bestowed upon a mortal. This was a very poignant, moving story, but perhaps too disturbing at times for its own good. The scene with the fairy folk is particularly interesting, as fascinating creatures, such as fairies, elves, giants and goblins, appear, each one unique.

11. Muppet Family Christmas (1987) The Muppets take a trip to Fozzie's mother's farmhouse for a get-together, and chaos ensues. This is a very funny holiday special that shows all of the typical Muppet zaniness, such as an all-monster "Night Before Christmas" comedy routine between Fozzie, a snowman and a turkey that

adamantly does not want to be dinner. It unites the Muppets from "The Muppet Show," "Sesame Street" and "Fraggle Rock" (a feat not duplicated until the tribute to their creator, Jim Henson). Henson is also included, in one of the last TV appearances he made before his death in 1990.



12. A Garfield Christmas (1987) following on the heels of Charlie Brown, the lazy cat finally got his own Christmas spe-

cial. Garfield (Lorenzo Music) is less than thrilled when John (Tom Hoge) takes him and Odie on a trip to his family farm to celebrate the holidays. But once there, he bonds with John's wily grandmother (Pat Carroll), even doing something nice for her. Music does a fine job playing the cat and also gives him a little spark of niceness to prove that even a lazy, selfish cat can be transformed every once in a while.

13. The Story of Santa Claus (1996) A fairly new addition to the Christmas specials and yet another take on Santa Claus' life. This time Santa (Ed Asner), a toymaker, and his wife, Martha (Betty White), get lost in a snowstorm and are granted immortality after they stumble upon the Land of Elves and rescue a mischievous elf, Clement (Miko Hughes). Even though he makes an enemy of their leader, Nostos (Tim Curry), Santa must make good on his wish to deliver a toy to every good child around the world. The voice acting is brilliantly cast with Asner as Old St. Nick and Curry as Nostos. Curry is particularly memorable in making Nostos not so much a clear villain, but just doubtful about Santa Claus and slowly learning to accept the man and his dream.

So, this year in the middle of the Christmas festivities, pop in a video or turn on the TV and get reacquainted with some old friends. It's a nice way to spend a holiday evening.

Easy, homemade and chocolate Give the gift of fresh-baked cookies

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

One of my favorite holiday traditions as a child was preparing gift packages for the elderly in my church and neighborhood.

Although the contents varied each year, one thing was always constant: the spirit of the season was contained in those gifts. Today, I just don't have the time to make all the goodies that went into those treats. But I still often want to give a similar gift. So I let those I give to do the work by giving jars of cookie mix. Easy and fun to prepare, these are great gifts for anyone at nearly any occasion. While they say "homemade," they certainly aren't homely once they have been decorated. They're so simple even the children can get involved to make these homemade gifts for their teachers.

Below I have included some of my favorite jar cookie recipes. Each one takes less than 15 minutes to make; and if you make several at a time, each will probably take less than 10 minutes. All they take are a few simple dry ingredients, a little patience and some 1-quart jars.

GOURMET BAR MIX

- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/4 c. old-fashioned oats, blended
- 1 (5.5 oz.) milk chocolate bar, grated
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. chopped nuts
- 1/2 c. chocolate chips

Layer the ingredients in the given order into a wide-mouth 1-quart canning jar. Pack each layer in place before adding the next.

On a small colored card, include the following baking instructions:

- GOURMET BARS
(makes 24)
- 1 jar Gourmet Bar Mix
 - 1/2 c. butter, softened
 - 2 eggs, slightly beaten
 - 1 tbsp. milk
 - 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter, eggs, milk and vanilla. Add the Gourmet Bar Mix and stir until well blended. Spread batter into a lightly greased or sprayed 9"x12"x2" glass baking pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Cool in pan. Cut into 2" squares.

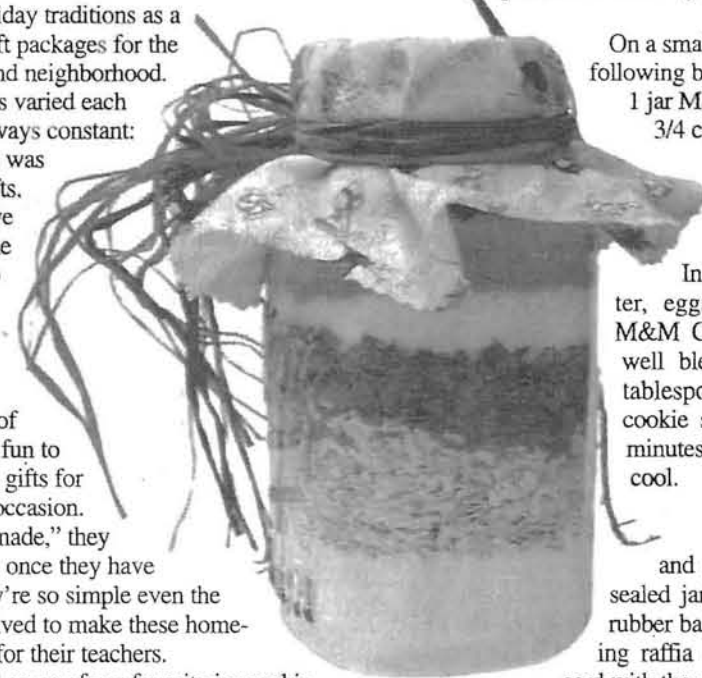
Cut a 9" circle of fabric and place over the top of the sealed jar. Secure the cloth with a rubber band. Then, using coordinating raffia or ribbon, attach the gift card with the recipe.

I prefer a crumbled toffee bar or a dark chocolate bar instead of the milk chocolate bar.

M&M COOKIE MIX

- 1 c. M&M candies
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/4 c. sugar

Layer the ingredients in the given order into a wide-mouth 1-quart canning jar. Pack each layer in place before adding the next.



On a small colored card, include the following baking instructions:

- 1 jar M&M Cookie Mix
- 3/4 c. butter, softened
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a large bowl, cream butter, eggs and vanilla. Add the M&M Cookie Mix and stir until well blended. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer to wire racks to cool.

Cut a 9" circle of fabric and place over the top of the sealed jar. Secure the cloth with a rubber band. Then, using coordinating raffia or ribbon, attach the gift card with the recipe.

Feel free to use Reeses Pieces, holiday M&Ms, peanut/crunchy/etc. M&Ms or any other similar candies.

Although they do take time, one of my favorite things to include in a Christmas basket is a clove-studded orange. The fragrant smell of these orbs was used in antebellum times to decorate the house. Bring them into your house by simply pushing whole cloves into the skins of ripe oranges. If the orange's skin is tough, use a pencil to make a tiny hole before you insert the clove. Tie a ribbon around the orange and hang it anywhere you want a fresh holiday smell.

A final item to add to your gift basket is a potpourri sachet made from the same material as the cover of the jar of cookie mix. These can be placed over air vents to fill the entire house with aroma.

Just place all the above in a basket, attach a ribbon and a gift tag, toss in some candles, cinnamon sticks and candy, and you have a homemade gift perfect for anyone. And since all these items are non-perishable, the basket can be left for someone without worrying about refrigeration.

Spend the evening with holiday classics

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

If the weather outside is frightful, you might want to curl up with a good holiday-themed video. The list is mostly Christmas, mostly classic and generally familiar, with a few surprises. To be on this list, first of all, a movie has to be a good film. Generally, these films are sentimental, funny, romantic or all three.

1. "It's a Wonderful Life." Everyone knows this top pick. "It's a Wonderful Life" is a Christmas tradition in many families. James Stewart is perfect in Capra's 1946 film about the triumph of the little man who lives a good life. The film is typical of Capra's style and just right for the season.

2. "The Bishop's Wife." A classic Hollywood romance with an angel and snowy nights, so there are points in common with that first one. This 1947 film is more romantic; the angel is a now-deceased husband helping his widow get through life. The cast is ideal, with Cary Grant, David Niven and Loretta Young.

3. "White Christmas." Another classic pair is "White Christmas" and "Holiday Inn." Although everyone recognizes the name of the first one, the famous song is in "Holiday Inn." Both are musicals with romance and comedy. "Holiday Inn" was the first one and is peppered with Irving Berlin music, song and dance in the grand tradition of Hollywood. The story of two entertainers opening a resort that is only open during the holidays is farfetched but a great showcase for Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. This film was such a hit that they followed it up in 1954 with "White Christmas," starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney.

4. "Holiday Inn." The quintessential Hollywood big-color holiday musical, with Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby. See the previous listing.

5. "A Christmas Carol" You can't have Christmas without Dickens. The best version ever of "A Christmas Carol" is the 1938 one with Reginald Owen. This black and white British classic has never been surpassed, even if the early sound quality is not the best. The wonderful acting and perfect sets and pace make up for the technical shortcomings.

6. "A Christmas Story." A more quirky but completely charming holiday film is the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story." Everyone who's seen this film with its rambling tale of long-ago childhood is pulled in by its combination of nostalgia without corniness. Even if you forget the title, you'll recognize it if someone describes it as that movie with the kid who gets his tongue frozen to a flagpole.

7. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." This is a holiday must - the original one, of course. This was a 1957 TV special, but the Dr. Seuss animated story narrated by British actor Boris Karloff, the original Frankenstein monster, is as perfect as possible. And so are those weird songs.

As for the Jim Carrey version, it's not even close.

8. "The Gold Rush." This silent comedy might not spring to mind, but it has a holiday setting, although it's New Year's Eve, not Christmas. But the sentiment and tone are right in Charlie Chaplin's great 1925 classic "The Gold Rush." The story takes place in an Alaskan gold mining town and the pivotal New Year's Eve scene is astonishing.

9. "Miracle on 34th Street." The 1947 tale of a man named Kris Kringle is warm, sentimental and very Christmas-y. Child actress Maureen O'Hara appears in this holiday favorite that is aired on TV throughout the season and was the top holiday classic until supplanted by that James Stewart film (you know which one).

10. "Scrooged." All right, this is the oddball on the list. This 1988 Bill Murray comedy is the Fractured Fairy Tale (for those who know Moose and Squirrel) version of Dickens' classic. If you haven't seen "A Christmas Carol," you have no business watching this, but if you have seen the proper version, the parody is priceless.

Buy them as gifts or just watch them with friends and family, but either way, these films will lift your holiday spirit.

MARGOT KIDDER stars in

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

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Cold and flu season arrives

BY NICHOLE RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Cold and flu season has arrived once again, and students must now prepare to battle viruses that keep them from doing homework and going to class.

Colds are the most common illness in the world, and according to the Protocare Corporation, will affect 90 percent of the population at least once a year.

Having said that, students need to take action to assure that they fall into the other 10 percent, those who are not affected. Colds are a respiratory disease and can be caused by many viruses, but the main culprits are rhinoviruses, or viruses of the nose. These viruses prey on the throat, nose, upper breathing tubes (trachea and bronchi) and the nasal sinuses. They penetrate the skin's lining, causing the symptoms that so many people are familiar with. Symptoms such as coughing, runny nose, sore throat, sneezing, watery eyes and sinus congestion afflict millions of people per year. Fever, muscle aches, nausea and fatigue may also occur, but usually these are symptoms of the flu and not a cold. Flu is caused by influenza viruses and tends to be more severe and

longer lasting than a common cold. Most symptoms show up one to four days after contact with the virus and typically last for five to seven days but can continue on even after that. For the average person, a cold is no big deal, but for younger children and the elderly it can be a mat-

“
Washing hands frequently is one of the easiest and most effective ways to stay healthy. This includes washing after blowing noses or covering a cough.
”

ter of life or death if not treated quickly. Anyone is susceptible to cold and flu when the risk factors are present. These include coming into contact with a sick person, practicing poor hygiene such as not washing hands or covering mouths, improper eating and not getting adequate rest. Sleep deprivation and malnutrition affect college students more

than the rest of the population, as students tend to stay up late into the night and eat on the go more often. According to Kathy Catsamulik, health educator of University Health Services, these factors cause the immune system to deteriorate, which likens the probability of becoming ill. Prevention is the key to beating the virus.

To avoid contracting the cold and flu viruses this winter, there are a couple of easy things that can be done. Washing hands frequently is one of the easiest and most effective ways to stay healthy. This includes washing after blowing noses or covering a cough. Immediately dispose of all used tissues, humidify dry air, avoid close contact with sick people, dress accordingly, drink plenty of clear liquids (at least two quarts) per day and get enough sleep. Sleep is an effective way to ward off symptoms when fighting an illness, and ignoring this fact can worsen symptoms and may delay recovery.

University Health Services is offering flu shots while supplies last. Anyone interested should call 516-5671 to set up an appointment. They will be administered in room 131 of the Millennium Student Center.

Catsamulik encourages students to get the flu shots as soon as possible. “The flu doesn't discriminate.”

Watch for Santa, not weight gain

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH
Editor-in-Chief

Parties during the holidays always have at least one table sagging under the weight of a variety of tempting delicacies. Unfortunately, many people notice the sagging also extending to their hips, thighs, abs and um... cheeks.

Here are a few suggestions to keep from gaining too many pounds this holiday season so that you can fit into your new clothes after the New Year:

1.) The fewer people you know at a party, the more time you will spend grazing food. Try to attend parties with a friend. Meet people. Mingling with the crowd not only keeps you away from the fattening dips, but it

also keeps you active so you're less hungry and burning more calories.

2.) Offer to bring a food tray to the party. That way, you can insure that you have something low-calorie you can eat. Taking a fruit, vegetable or seafood tray puts you in control of your food selections.

3.) Eat before you attend the party. Even a small healthy salad will help curb your hunger for five slices of cheesecake.

4.) Drink water at the party. The water will keep you from wanting more eggnog, liquor and punch—all of which contain a large number of calories.

5.) Eat pretzels. A small handful of pretzels will expand with the water and make you feel full.

6.) Stay away from the creamy,

rich “nibbles.” Savory or sweet, these hold many calories in their small sizes. Instead eat vegetables and fruit. Shrimp or prawns with cocktail sauce are also a good idea.

7.) Watch out for dips. Most of them are high in calories. It's easy to eat a lot of dip while munching on something healthy.

8.) Anything wrapped in bacon has hidden calories. Bacon's flavor comes from fat and salt. The fat goes to the hips; the salt causes swelling and water-retention.

9.) Eat slowly. The longer you take to eat something, the less you will eat.

10.) Above all, moderation is key. Eat two meatballs, not five. Sip one cup of mulled cider, not two. Nibble on two cookies instead of six.

Movies for the Holidays

All the new flicks for December

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

School will soon be out, and you will want to go to the movies. December is a movie bonanza because studios like to release their best films at the end of the year. December brings us the top popular entertainment films, the big-budget epics, the Oscar contenders and studio's “prestige” films. If it is big and serious, it will be released in December. Even the better and bigger independent or foreign films come out in December, although they sometimes don't make it to St. Louis until later.

Here is a run down of the list, but be warned—some of these films will not make it to our area until January or later. They only have to be released before January somewhere in the country to be considered for the Oscars. The independents are especially subject to change, and many are only slated for a one-week run.

Check our website (www.thecurrentonline.com) for reviews as the films come out. This is the best possible list to date.

New ones already out:

Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights - animated holiday musical comedy about the eight days of Hanukkah, voiced by Adam Sandler and with his style of humor.

Treasure Planet - Disney animated comedy, voices by Emma Thompson, David Hyde Pierce.

Solaris - Science fiction/mystery/romance starring George Clooney, directed by Steven Soderbergh.

Standing in the Shadows of Motown - documentary about backup musicians for many of Motown's greatest bands.

Roger Dodger - tale about a cynical fast-talking ladies man who decides to show his 16-year-old nephew how to pick up women.

The Man From Elysian Fields - former St. Louisan George

Hickenlooper's tale about a failed novelist who finds work at an escort service; stars Andy Garcia, James Coburn (his last role), and Mick Jagger.

They - combination horror film and psychological thriller, the buzz indicates it might be better than its title. About a woman who witnesses a horrific scene that awakens memories.

Bloody Sunday - documentary-like film about the Northern Ireland

a widow who enters the world of belly dancers.

Maid in Manhattan - romantic comedy with Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes, about a maid mistaken for a guest in a fancy hotel.

Das Experiment - This German language film is a chilling tale based on psychological experiments of the 60s, with college students playing prisoners and guards with surprising results, stars Moritz Bleibtreu from ‘Run Lola Run;’ one week only at Tivoli.

The Hot Chick - comedy with Rob Schneider as a girl, no need to say more.

Star Trek: Nemesis - ‘Next Generation’ and ‘Voyager’ casts come together in this next installment in the Star Trek series.

Drumline - Harlem drummer is recruited by college marching band.

Rabbit-Proof Fence - Australian drama about three Aboriginal girls who escape from a 1930s state school, stars Kenneth Brannagh; from director Philip Noyce (‘Silver’).

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers - second installment in the epic Tolkien trilogy, filmed concurrently with first; same cast, same high quality, same Oscar possibilities.

Antwone Fisher - directorial debut of Denzel Washington about a disruptive young man working through his abusive background with a psychiatrist played by Washington.

Gangs of New York - director Martin Scorsese's historical epic, based on non-fiction book, about struggle and clashes between Irish immigrants and American-born inhabitants in the slums of mid-19th century New York, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Liam Neeson; an Oscar possibility.

Wild Thornberry's Movie - big screen version of popular animated kid's TV show.

Two Weeks Notice - Hugh Grant and Sandra Bullock star in romantic comedy about a clueless boss and his overlooked, overworked assistant.

Children of the Century - lush French-language historical drama about romance between older woman and younger man, 19th century writers George Sand (Juliette Binoche) and Alfred de Musset (Benoit Magimel).

Pinocchio - live-action version of the fairy tale starring Italian comedian/director Roberto Benigni (‘Life is Beautiful’); an Oscar hopeful.

Catch Me If You Can - based on a true story, about the pursuit of a con artist who impersonated a doctor, airline pilot and history professor, collecting millions of dollars in countries around the world; starring Tom Hanks, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Walken.

Chicago - movie version of the hit Bob Fosse musical based on a 1920s gangster-era murder, starring Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere; an Oscar hopeful.

About Schmidt - drama about a recently widowed retiree and his relationship with his daughter, starring Jack Nicholson; another Oscar hopeful.

Metropolis - the restored silent film, a classic that influenced the look of every horror and science fiction film after it, one week only at Tivoli.

The Hours - based on the Pulitzer-prize winning novel, about writer Virginia Woolf and two women affected by her work, starring Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore; a top Oscar contender.

Adaptation - head-bending comedy from Spike Jonze, the director of ‘Being John Malkovich,’ starring Nicolas Cage (in double roles), Meryl Streep.

Intacto - Spanish-language thriller about a WWII concentration camp survivor with the gift to steal or give “good luck” at will, pursued by someone whose luck he stole, stars Max von Sydow, directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo, from Sundance festival.

Life of David Gale - story of anti-death penalty activist who is falsely accused and convicted of the rape and murder of another activist, stars Kevin Spacey, Kate Winslet, Laura Linney.



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HOLIDAY WISH LIST

- 1 - What's your favorite Xmas dish?
- 2 - What do you want for Xmas?
- 3 - What are your biggest plans for the Xmas break?

Sally Truong

Russell Cohoon

Travis Zalot



International Business

History

Accounting

1. Cheesecake!
2. A car!
3. Going to meet my boyfriend's parents.

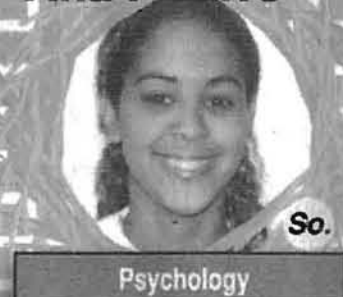
1. I love me some eggnog!
2. A rug so my feet don't get cold in the morning.
3. Seein' all my friends.

1. For some reason we always have turkey, just like Thanksgiving.
2. Money!
3. Just to see my family.

Mariana Aiex

Ana Pizarro

Barney Schlachs



Business

Psychology

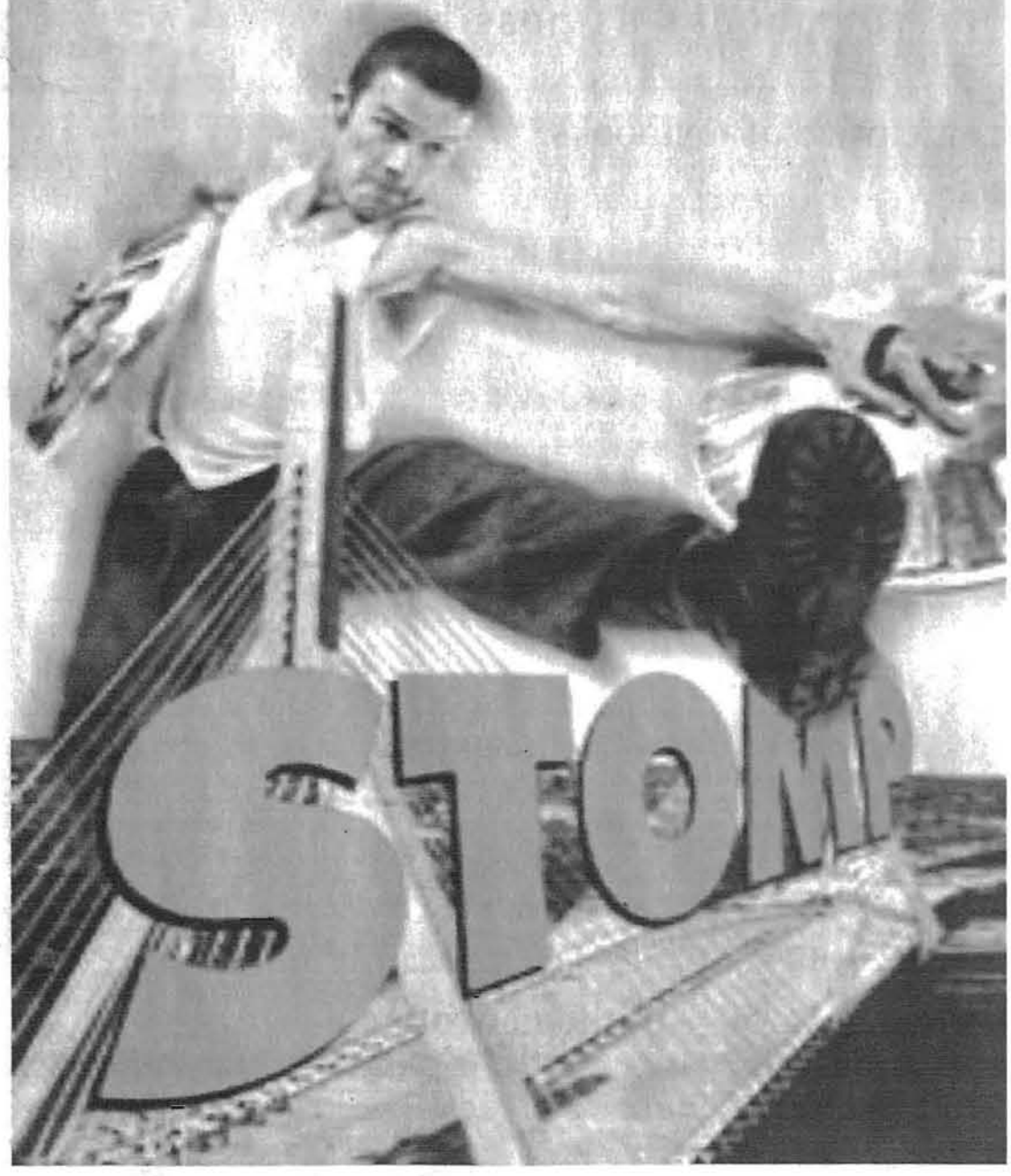
Computer Networking Tech.

1. I like turkey.
2. My boyfriend. I miss him.
3. Going back home to Brazil.

1. Rice with granules and turkey.
2. I don't know.
3. To spend time with my family and friends and to go to parties.

1. We usually have apple pie.
2. Dodge Dakota truck.
3. Going to New York to see some shows for a few days.

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Holiday gift ideas

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

You're standing in the Galleria with a few dollars in hand, racking your brain for original gift ideas. As Christmas approaches quickly, those feelings of gift-anxiety set in.

Everyone has been in this situation at one time or another. Many wait until the last possible minute and peruse the aisles of stores looking for end of the season discounts. This year, instead of enduring that all-too-familiar sense of panic, here are ten simple (and relatively cheap) ideas for family, close friends and significant others.

10. Money may not be original, but it is definitely appreciated by college students. Money in a funny card can go a long way. For those people who seem to have everything, you can't go wrong with cash.

9. A massage. Those with stressful lifestyles will appreciate a gift certificate for a relaxing massage. The Backrub Co. offers a 5-minute scalp massage for under \$10. For under \$25, you can purchase a 10 or 20 minute back massage or a 15 minute foot massage. Massage accessories are also available. The Backrub Co. is located in the Galleria Mall.

8. Clothes can be great gifts. Make sure that you know the size of the person you're buying for and be sure

to keep your receipts. Be careful when buying apparel for others. Have a general idea of their style and clothing preferences.

7. Jewelry is a classic gift for boyfriends or girlfriends. Watch for discount prices and good bargains at any retail store. For women, a bracelet or necklace can be a meaningful gift. The guy in your life might appreciate a watch.

6. A Framed Picture. Remember that crazy girl's night out or your romantic getaway? If you've got memories of those unforgettable moments caught on film, then pictures can make great gifts. Wal-Mart and Kmart sell inexpensive, creative frames of all styles. You can frame a single photo or create a collage.

5. A Basket with a Theme. Instead of buying one large gift, you can put together a basket full of little things. For a girl, a basket with a shower poof, some bath salts, some bubble bath and smelly soap make a relaxing bath package. A guy's basket can contain things pertaining to his interests.

4. Books. Since a large portion of college student's shelves is dedicated to schoolbooks, regular books can be a refreshing change. Check out the book and magazine section of any variety store. If you're looking for a certain book, your local Waldenbooks or Barnes and Noble can help you.

3. A Palm Pilot organizer. If you

don't mind spending a few dollars, a Palm Pilot is a useful gift. Prices range from \$99 to \$500. If you're shopping for someone who already owns a Palm Pilot, many accessories are available for each model (make sure you know what model the receiver of your gift owns). Palm Pilots can be found in electronic stores and online.

2. Movies are always appreciated. With all of the highly rated movies that hit screens in 2002, a variety of choices are available. "Spiderman," "Lord of the Rings," "Star Wars Episode 2," "Austin Powers 3" and Harry Potter were some popular movies in the last year that are now out on video and DVD.

1. Gift Certificates. When Christmas shopping, there is always a chance that the item you painstakingly pick doesn't fit or isn't really desired. Gift certificates eliminate this risk. Nice restaurants, clothing stores and some malls offer certificates.

This will ensure that the person you are buying for will enjoy his or her gift.



Kwanzaa: neither religious, political

BY KIM SILVER
Staff Writer

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-African holiday based on historic African traditions. The observance takes root from celebrations of the 1st African crops. The festivities begin on Dec. 26 and end on Jan. 2 of each year.

Kwanzaa celebrations are neither religious nor political. Instead, the focus is centered on enrichment of family values and cultural growth. Founded in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, millions have grown to appreciate and celebrate the holiday.

The depth of Kwanzaa is far-reaching. Its purpose is to reaffirm and restore African culture. In addition, the celebration was created to introduce and reinforce Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles).

- These principles are:
1. Umoja (Unity)
 2. Kujichagulia (Self-

- Determination)
3. Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
4. Ujamaa (Cooperative



- Economics)
5. Nia (Purpose)
6. Kuumba (Creativity)
7. Imani (Faith).

This year, several Kwanzaa celebrations will take place in St. Louis. On December 4, at 4:00 p.m. there will be a festival at Weber Road Library, located at 4444 Weber Road.

Call 314-638-2210 for more information.

Monday, Dec. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. St. Louis Community College-Meramec will have a Kwanzaa celebration complete with music and refreshments. Admission is free. Call 314-984-7661 for details.

A Kwanzaa Holiday Expo will be held Dec. 8 through 10 at the America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza. The celebration will include an education summit, African, African-American and Caribbean food, poetry, live music and dance performances. Call 314-367-3440 for details.

Umoja (Unity) is one of the fundamental principles of Kwanzaa. This holiday is designed for African American growth but does not exclude those of other ancestral backgrounds. Kwanzaa is a celebration of growth that extends far beyond the African-American culture and can be embraced by cultures globally.

Ring in the New Year

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

As kids, New Year's Eve was exciting because you were allowed to stay up until midnight. As you got older, the novelty of staying up late wore off. Now that you're college students, midnight is when you begin doing your homework. Now that late nights are the norm, here are some things to do on New Year's Eve that will make it just as exciting as it was when you were younger.

If you are not going to be in the St. Louis area, check out the activities wherever you are. If you're looking to ring in the new year out on the town, many clubs host New Year's parties. If you don't want to go out, a night at home doesn't have to be boring. Invite friends over and have your own bash. Rent some movies, have everyone bring food and welcome 2003 together.

If you're going to be in the St. Louis area, you won't want to miss the Grand Center's "Light up the Night." This celebration begins at 6 p.m. and will feature an opening ceremony with a lighting of the streetscapes and buildings. The main stage will be located across the street from the Fox Theater at the Grand Boulevard and Washington Avenue intersection.

Performing arts entertainment and activities will be held at Grand Center's streetscapes and park, inside its churches, in Sheldon Concert Hall, Grandel Theatre and the Continental Life Building. More than 150 musicians, storytellers, dancers, singers, actors, puppeteers and visual and media artists will be present. Local and regional bands will perform, and the Celestial Theater group will perform their black-light special effects. To add to the entertainment, mimes, jugglers, stilt walkers, fire-eaters and

magicians will be in attendance.

Local chefs will display their creations with a "Food as Art Café." Sponge Bob Square Pants will also make a special appearance. 2002 will conclude with a fireworks display.

For more information about this event, visit www.firstnightstl.org. Admission is \$7.50 if ordered in advance or \$10 on New Year's Eve. To order tickets, visit any MetroTix outlet including Famous Barr, Streetside Records, the Fox Theatre box office and some Schnucks Video Stores. You can also order by phone at (314) 534-1111 or online at www.metrotix.com.



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Example:

- You paid \$64 for a new textbook. We will pay you up to \$23 or 50%.
- You paid \$34.50 for a used textbook. We will pay you up to \$23 or 50% of the new price.

WHOLESALE: THE NEXT BEST OFFER

- For books having national demand, the wholesale company will pay 15% or 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.