



**Chocolate:
from humble
beginnings
to millions
of hearts**

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THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

UMSL weighs bike rack proposal

BY AMANDA MUELLER
Staff Writer

Martin Pion, Coordinator of the Ferguson B.I.K.E. project, has recently presented UM-St. Louis with a proposal that would install bike parking racks on campus.

The purpose of the proposal is to promote bike riding. The proposal is currently under consideration by the RS Chancellor of Administrative Services.

"The primary objective of this project is to reduce congestion on the roads, and clean our air."

- Martin Pion,
Coordinator of the
Ferguson B.I.K.E. project

"The primary objective of this project is to reduce congestion on the roads, and clean our air," Pion said.

Installing the bike racks is part of a three-year project, paid for partially by federal grant money. The program has allotted \$8,000 for the first year and will match every dollar from UM-St. Louis by a four to one ratio.

According to Martin, St. Louis is currently out of compliance with the Clean Air Act. So far nothing has happened because of this violation but several environmental agencies are pushing for the government to do something. Installing new bike racks will hopefully cut down on air pollution from cars driven to work by students.

There was a verbal agreement made between Pion and then Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, G. Gary Grace. Nothing was done with this verbal agreement and now it is up to the new Vice-Chancellor, Joanne Bocci. This past Friday she promised Martin she would give her decision in one month. The problem now is that there is a budget crunch and purchasing these bike racks would only add to expenses.

UM-St. Louis does have a few bike racks on campus now but Pion said they are a bad design. Pion said UM-St. Louis would have some options if they agreed to the program.

"UM-St. Louis can test a half dozen different bike racks and see which ones work better," Pion said.

Some other ideas in the program have been to provide bikes on a trial basis for some students, bike education classes and a bicycle transportation center. This center would have inside bike parking facilities and places for riders to shower and clean up before class.

"These options haven't all been discussed, but they are possibilities," Pion said.

One fact both sides agree on is that student involvement is needed. Bocci's concern is whether or not students would actually use the new racks.

"Unless we install them as part of a program to promote bicycle transportation we shall never know the answer," Pion said.

For more information regarding the proposal visit home.swbell.net/mpion/pdfBIKE/UMSL_Bikeracks.pdf.

Burns files trademark

Former student demands compensation for his contribution to UM-St. Louis

BY NICK BOWMAN
Senior Editor

Saturday night. The basketball teams suit up. Head coach Mark Bernsen prepares his team. And the Rivermen jog onto the floor of the Mark Twain Center, ready for another contest. This is what most people think of when someone asks about the Rivermen - sports.

However, for former student William "Bill" Burns, "The Rivermen" is a 36-year-old tradition that started with a simple three-color pastel, which he sketched for a shot at \$25 and immortality. He received neither in return.

The time is fall 1965. The campus, which had recently undergone a name change from Normandy Residence Center to Missouri University-St. Louis, was in a search of identity; and Dean of Students Harold Eickhoff felt that this identity could be found in the student body.

On April 26, 1965, Eickhoff met with an Image Committee of students and faculty. There was a mutual agreement that "MU-St. Louis (the name at the time) should break away from MU-Columbia in regard to colors, nickname and mascot."

Carl Huffman, a member of the committee, suggested that a contest be held with submissions being taken from the student body, with the best submissions being put to a vote of the student body. The committee agreed, and the contest was initiated, but it gen-

erated very little response by the student body. The committee met again, and decided that perhaps finals week was not the best time to hold an event of this sort. Huffman then moved to re-open the contest in the fall, and carry over the few submissions that were entered in the spring automatically. In addition, Huffman threw in a \$25 prize for the winning mascot. The contest was publicized throughout the campus, as well as in "The Mizzou News" (now "The Current").

This time, the contest drew a bit more attention, as over 30 submissions were entered. The Image Committee met again, and chose three: The Knights (a reference to King Louis IX, who was, among other things, a soldier and crusader), The Geminities (a reference to the campus's pioneering spirit), and The Rivermen (an embodiment of the colorful, romantic heritage of St. Louis, according to Burns.)

Shortly after this ballot was accepted and put to a vote of the students, a protest and petition ensued. Dwight Stevens represented the student protest in a Nov. 22, 1965, Student Assembly (now the Student Government Association) meeting, and read a petition, signed by 1080 students and 35 faculty, that opposed the ballot and it's choices. After much debate, a motion was made and passed to accept the petition. Shortly after, Chancellor James Bugg "technically voided" the contest.

Shortly after this, Burns transferred to Southern Illinois University -

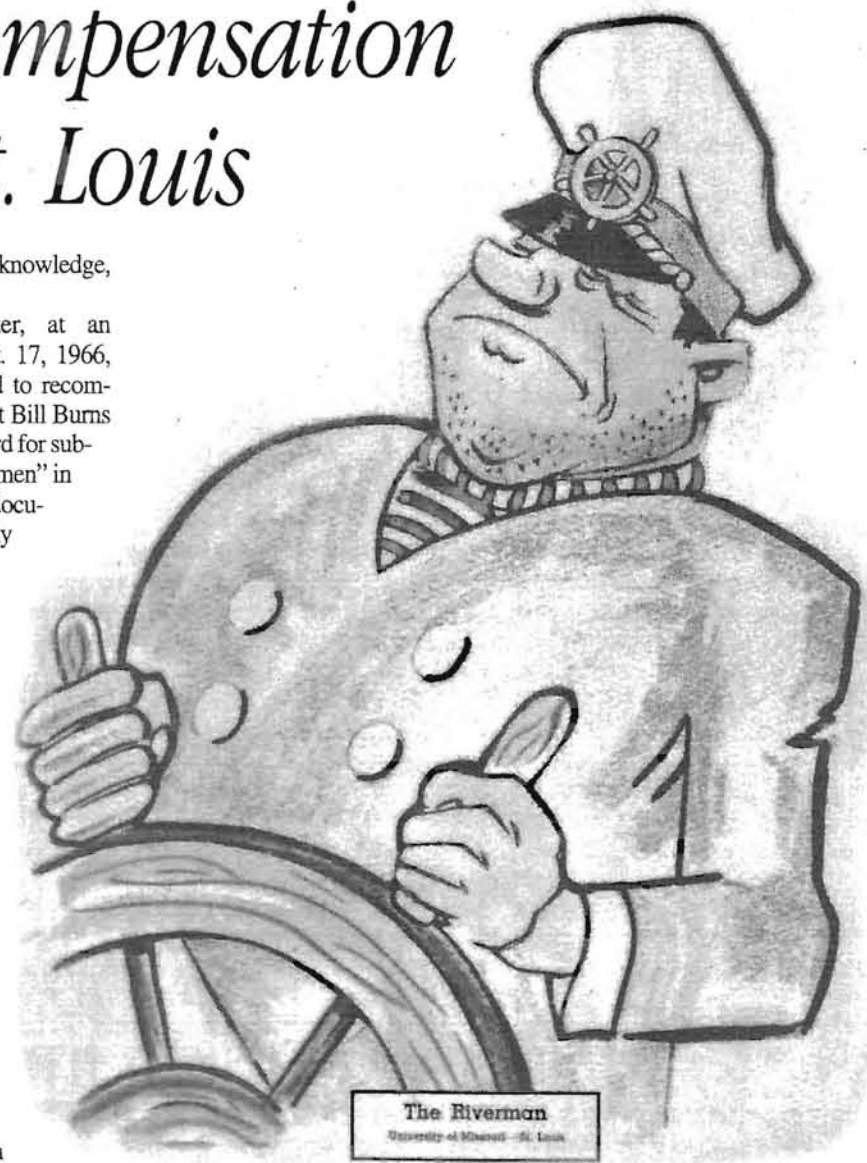
Edwardsville, and, to his knowledge, MUSL was still MUSL.

About one year later, at an Assembly meeting on Oct. 17, 1966, Mary Killenberg motioned to recommend to the Chancellor that Bill Burns receive the \$25 dollar reward for submitting the name of "Rivermen" in the contest. Although not documented, MUSL apparently adopted the Rivermen mascot after the contest in an administrative meeting that did not involve the Image Committee or any student interest. The motion was passed.

As of Feb. 8, 2002, Burns is still awaiting payment and certain unspecified "insularly demands."

"I kept my end of the bargain," Burns said. "I gave them the drawing and their name, they never kept their end."

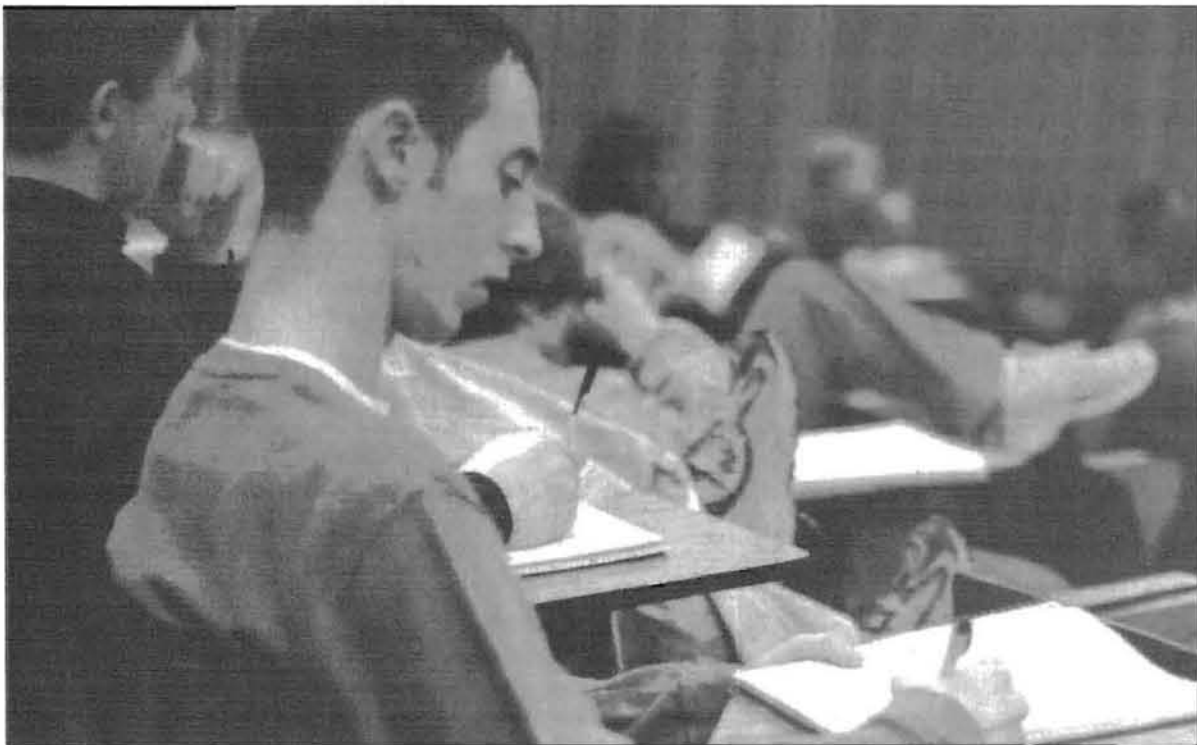
Jump to July 1996. Burns, who is living on a houseboat in Port Richmond, Calif., was working as a columnist for the now-defunct "Richmond Channel," among other freelance jobs. In his pursuit, he began to use the Internet; and a visit to the UM-St. Louis homepage brought to his attention The Rivermen, which he felt was his invention. Burns then sent an e-



mail to Bob Samples, the director of University Communication, explaining the history of the Rivermen and what he felt was fair compensation. Burns had contacted the University on only one other occasion before 1996. He raised the issue in 1971 during a

campus visit, but it went nowhere. Burns and Samples discussed the issue in various meetings and phone conversations in order to find some sort of solution, and that's when Burns

see TRADEMARK, page 7



T. J. Schaefer, a senior Business and Marketing major takes notes from Assistant Professor Wiland's lecture in the "Understanding Terrorism in the 21st Century" class.

New course in terrorism offered this semester

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis students are learning about the background of terrorism in a new course.

Inter-Disciplinary 051-Understanding Terrorism in the 21st Century: Sept. 11, 2001 and Aftermath, was added to the course listings for the Winter Semester.

The course consists of 15 instructors from 8 different disciplines.

"I think it was a wise decision to spread out the subject material across the fifteen professors/instructors and eight departments who can each bring a more specialized view of the complex nature of terrorism," Nelson said. "I can't imagine a class covering the subject more thoroughly."

According to the syllabus, the objective of the course is to attempt to offer some larger perspectives and context for understanding the recent events involving the World Trade Center and

Pentagon bombings and the aftermath. The course will discuss a variety of topics, including the implications of biological weapons of mass destruction and how terrorists get funding. All topics will be presented through lectures, readings, films, slides and in-class discussion.

In the first three classes of this course, J. Martin Rochester professor of political science, spoke on terrorism in a historical and contemporary perspective. He noted early on that the United States has had virtually no terrorist attacks on our shores. Rochester also led a discussion on the five tendencies of terrorism.

Eric Wiland, assistant professor philosophy, took over the next four class meetings. He went into a lengthy discussion of who is considered a terrorist and what actions are considered terrorism. Wiland made the point that there is "no easy definition" for either term. He also led a discussion on the principals of what are usually considered to be just

and unjust causes for war. Five students who replied to an email survey said that they have been enjoying the first few classes.

Stephanie Burns said she is taking this class because of the way she was affected by the terrorist attacks.

"I have never been so shocked and scared in my life. I didn't know exactly all of the details about what was going on or how our country was going about handling it so I took this class to learn more about the tragedy and what was being done about it," Burns said.

Burns also said the course book has been very informative.

"The book we were asked to purchase for this course is very addicting. It has a lot of articles from books and magazines and newspapers about terrorism and I can't put it down," Burns said.

To find out more information about this class contact Lana Stein, chairperson of the political science department, at 516-6480.

UMSL Campus has hired a pied piper

BY JOHN WALTON
Staff Writer

According to legend, when the village of Hamelin had a rodent problem, they hired a piper. In that same tradition, UM-St. Louis has hired a "piper" of their own to help with a solution to a problem with a different animal - the Canada Geese.

Dorene Olson, who owns WyndSong Border Collies and Canada Goose Management, is attempting to solve the problems caused when geese and people share the same area. She will use her trained Border Collie to "persuade" the geese not to inhabit certain areas of the campus.

"My business is to use the Border Collie and habitat modification of the geese in conjunction with each other to address the problem of geese in great numbers in urban areas," Olson said.

Habitat modification is used on landscape golf courses, urban parks and corporate grounds so they don't look attractive to geese. The Canada Geese seek urban areas that provide a body of water, plenty of grass and few trees.

To aid her business, Olson uses Piper, her 3-year-old collie. He was born in Georgia and has worked on ranches from Montana to the Deep South. The collie has worked in goose control at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He has also been trained to rescue waterfowl that had been pets but were abandoned by their owners. Some of these birds

were on campus at Bugg Lake. The birds were flightless and at mercy to predators. The rescued animals were adopted into approved homes.

"When I come on campus, I tell Piper the specific animal I want him to manage," Olson said. "He will not attempt to herd other animals in the task."

Piper works via her commands. Olson uses the language used by ranchers.

"Way to me," tells him to move the geese counterclockwise towards her.

"Come by," will tell him to move the gaggle in a clockwise direction.

"That'll do, Piper," means the task is completed.

When Olson and Piper are separated by a long distance, she gives the commands on a whistle.

As Piper moves the geese to her, they take flight and leave the area. This process, repeated, will teach the geese not to reside in that location.

The strain between man and goose is severe. Farms and cities pay high medical and legal costs as a result of attacks on people as ganders protect their nest. Goose droppings are a threat to public sanitation, especially to young children. Another expense is spent on population control of the species.

Carol Usery is the horticulturist at UM-St. Louis. "We can't grow grass in some areas on campus because of the numbers of geese," Usery said. "Other plants have suffered by being trampled by geese. They are here in large numbers because of safety and [because] people feed them."

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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 5:00 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Mon 11 Monday Noon Series

Basque Women Writers' Vision of Nationalism" Writing a Nation, Creating a Space. Maite Nunez-Betelu will analyze several novels written by contemporary Basque women to show women's roles and their understanding of nationalism as portrayed in their works.

11 Homecoming Events

A Blood Drive will be held in the MSC, Century Rooms A & B from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Banner Wars will be held at 12 p.m. in the MSC Rotunda.

11 Wesley Foundation

There will be a lunch and bible study from 11 a.m. until noon & from noon - 1 p.m.

Tue 12 Homecoming Events

Penny Wars will be held in the Nosh of the MSC at 12 noon.

12 International Honor Society

The Golden Key International Honor Society will be having a meeting in the Student Organizations office on the 3rd floor of the MSC. All members are encouraged to come to discuss upcoming events.

Wed 13 Homecoming Events

The 3rd Annual Big Man on Campus event in the Pilot House from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Bonfire/Pep Rally in parking lot in front of MSC

Elections for Homecoming Court 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Thur 14 Homecoming Events

Powder Puff Football: Romans vs. Greeks, Mark Twain Field 2 p.m.

Basketball Game vs. Wisconsin-Parkside women: 5:30 p.m. men: 7:45 p.m.

Homecoming court introduction and ping-pong championships will be held during men's half-time.

Elections for Homecoming Court 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

14 Rec sports

"A Homecoming Celebration." Drop by the MSC between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to enter the goofy "fun & games" contests. There will be lot's of prizes and give-a-ways.

14 (cont.) International Honor Society

The Golden Key International Honor Society will be selling roses in the MSC all day.

14 International Studies

The Dorians in concert will perform from 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. in the Music Building, Room 205. The Dorians specialize in traditional Irish dance, music and songs. The band's vocal repertoire includes humorous ballads, traditional love songs and songs of Irish history and politics.

Fri 15 Homecoming Events

Homecoming Dance at Windows of Washington at 7 p.m. The king and queen will be crowned and the spirit competition winners will be announced.

15 (cont.) Catholic Newman Ctr.

A 12.05 p.m. mass followed by "Soup with Sister" will be held at the Catholic Newman Center.

Sat 16 Homecoming Events

Homecoming Basketball Game Rivermen vs. Saint Joseph's women: 3:15 p.m. men: 7 p.m.

Alumni family Day from 3:15 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building

Mon 18 Monday Noon Series

Creating Harmony among Social Work Programs: A Collaboration in Field Education. Discusses will be the description, development and evaluation of an innovative three-school collaboration that includes a joint web site and field instructor orientation and continuing education.

The Current

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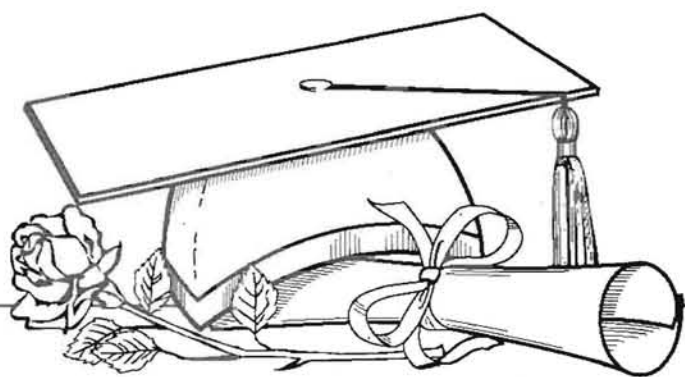
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Spring
Commencement
Saturday
May 18, 2002
7:00 p.m. • Savvis Center

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The Grad Fair, April 9, 10 & 11

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Look for detailed information in
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For further information contact the Office of Special Events at

314-516-5442

or visit the website, www.umsl.edu/commencement

Go for it!

The Current is now accepting applications for the Editor-in-Chief position for 2002-2003.

To qualify, students must:

be enrolled in good standing

not be on disciplinary probation

have a cumulative grade point average
of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

must have completed a minimum of nine
academic credit hours at UM-St. Louis

Applicants must submit:

a resume

a cover letter

three letters of reference

Please submit all application materials to
the Editor-in-Chief by 5 p.m. on March 1.

8001 Natural Bridge Rd.
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Applicants must be able to prove academic eligibility upon demand. Experience in journalism and management is strongly recommended, but not required.

Chocolate:

from humble beginnings to millions of hearts

BY KELLI SOLT
Senior Writer

Heart-shaped boxes that contain one of life's little pleasures are stocked on shelves around the world, waiting to be delivered to sweethearts for Valentine's Day. Cocoa has been cultivated for centuries. The tale of the journey is a sweet success and a great way to tell someone "I love you."

Long before you could grab a Hershey's bar at any convenience store or pour a nice tall glass of Ovaltine, the cocoa bean had experienced a rich and diverse upbringing. The earliest cocoa plantations were established by the Mayans and Aztecs in Mexico and South America. The word chocolate is said to come from the Mayan word "xocoatl" and the Aztec word "caca-hautl," which translates, to "bitter water". The earliest use of cocoa beans was a drink, Cocahuatl, made from ground cocoa seeds and mixed with water, it probably tasted a lot like a bite of baking chocolate. Aztec king Montezuma drank the chocolatey drink convinced of its aphrodisiac qualities.

Not only was cocoa consumed, it was used to pay workers and became a currency. The peoples of Central America used it as a form of payment. The use of cocoa beans as a unit of calculation was established before 1000 A.D.

In 1502, Columbus discovered the

cocoa bean on his fourth voyage to America. The Spanish traded cocoa for gold and enjoyed an early domination of the cocoa market. Interest in chocolate began to spread throughout Europe. In the 1700's shops were opened, chocolate products were made available, and in 1755, America woke up to smell the cocoa.

The first chocolate factories were in Barcelona, Berlin and The Massachusetts Bay Colony. Prior to these factories, chocolate was merely a beverage. Dutch chemist Conrad Van Houten produced cocoa powder and soon learned to add cocoa butter and sugar, and the eating of chocolate was made possible. The Swiss can be thanked for refining the process. Daniel Peter introduced milk chocolate; and Rodolphe Lindt invented the conching method, which makes it melt in your mouth. Soon fillings, nuts, and creams were added to the mix.

It is now almost inconceivable to think of a major holiday or special event without the consumption of chocolate. Chocolate is hailed as an aphrodisiac, and has been blamed for acne, headaches and rotten teeth. Chocoholics also claim it contains addictive properties.

Chocolate actually has many healthy attributes and does not cause acne, headaches, or rotten teeth. Four substances found in chocolate-theobromine, caffeine, phenylethylamine,

and serotonin have positive effects on the body. Theobromine stimulates the central nervous system and muscle action. Athletes are known to eat chocolate for quick bursts of energy. Serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain, is known for its combative power against depression. Also, the stimulant phenylethylamine is similar to amphetamines and has a positive impact on the psyche. The low amounts of caffeine, only 5 milligrams per ounce, are not enough to be harmful and can have anti-fatigue effects.

Aphrodisiac or addictive qualities have not been scientifically proven. However, many chocolate eaters admit they find pure bliss and erotic enjoyment while eating chocolate.

The Internet has plenty of chocolate lovers. Chocoholic's create virtual web sites to discuss and drool over the many types and flavors. Godiva's web site contains a decadent display of chocolate masterpieces shaped as hearts, shells and even oysters artfully mixed with the finest ingredients. Millions will flock to chocolate con-

fectionary shops this Valentine's Day and exchange money for chocolate to present to their loved ones. Once a bitter bean, now a world-wide delicacy, cocoa has progressed since its humble beginnings and is now roasted, pressed, mixed, shaped, sculpted and sold to millions of tempted tummies around the world. Whether it is Belgian, Swiss, German or American it makes mouths say "mmm."



Chocolate actually has many healthy attributes and does not cause acne, headaches, or rotten teeth.

The V-Day survey

Four students reveal their thoughts of Valentine's Day

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer



Amber La Marche
Freshman, elementary education major



Shawntele Lynch
Freshman, psychology major



Toby Shorts
Sophomore, anthropology major



Jason Shlechte
Freshman, mechanical engineering major

Q What was the best Valentine's Day date ever?

La Marche: We had dinner and then we went home and, well, you know.
Lynch: Nothing, I'm not a big supporter of Valentine's Day.
Shorts: Once, we spent a weekend at the Travel Lodge.
Shlechte: I don't think I ever had a good experience. I was never with a date on Valentine's Day.

Q What was the worst Valentine's Day date ever?

La Marche: When I didn't have a Valentine to spend Valentine's Day with.
Lynch: I was taken to the Masquerade Homecoming Dance.
Shorts: It was during a 7th grade Valentine's Day dance. She left 30 minutes after it started.
Shlechte: Nothing bad has ever happened to me, but I have done bad things. I once broke up with someone on Valentine's Day. Sometimes, [the date] would expect a gift and I wouldn't give it to them.

Q What is your idea of a romantic place?

La Marche: The Riverfront at night. It's private and pretty if you go to certain parts.
Lynch: Outside under the stars.
Shorts: At home in front of the fireplace.
Shlechte: A nice restaurant with nice lights with soft lighting and music playing, or somewhere like a beach.

Q What is your idea of a romantic restaurant?

La Marche: I like a high class very candlelit dinner.
Lynch: I'm not sure, I'm not too savvy on restaurants.
Shorts: The Melting Pot, I've never been there before but fondue sounds sexy.
Shlechte: There isn't one here (in Missouri), but in Florida, there was a beachfront restaurant where you can see the ocean.

Q What is the most romantic movie?

La Marche: I can't think of one.
Lynch: "Casablanca" you have got to go for a classic.
Shorts: "What Dreams May Come"

with Robin Williams.
Shlechte: "Ghost" because of the true love and the whole living and dead thing.

Q What is the most romantic song?

La Marche: "Still" by Bryan McKnight, because it just says he still loves this person.
Lynch: "Can't Fight this Feeling" by REO Speedwagon, because it shows all of the mushy love feelings.
Shorts: "Crash" by Savage Garden, because it says if you need someone to pick you up that person will do it.
Shlechte: "An Innocent Man" by Billy Joel, because it's not romantic in the usual sense, but the lyrics show where he is coming from.

Q What was the best gift you ever got/gave on Valentine's Day?

La Marche: I once got this teddy bear that had a heart that said "Love" and played "Love is All I Can Give to You."
Lynch: Every year my dad used to give me a huge box of chocolates.
Shorts: Well, the best part of Valentine's Day is after the lights go down, so that's the best gift I ever got.
Shlechte: One year, I gave a girl a promise ring.

Q What was the worst gift you ever got/gave on Valentine's Day?

La Marche: Not getting anything would be the worst gift in the world.
Lynch: I haven't gotten a bad gift, so I don't really know.
Shorts: There is no such thing as a bad gift, so I never got one.
Shlechte: I once gave someone candy that I got for Christmas, that I didn't like. I once got a chick that when you held it, it would squeak.

Q What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

La Marche: It's a special day that you share with that special someone. If you don't have anyone, you can spend it with friends and family.
Lynch: It's just another day for me.
Shorts: It gives me a chance to spend money I don't have on things I don't need.
Shlechte: It means making the person that you are with happy and hoping you get a lot in return. It's not always connected to a dollar bill.

Track down a Valentine in 48 hours or less

BY STANFORD GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

With yet another St. Valentine's Day looming over the heads of the single, the lonely are quickly scurrying to find a mate—if only for the night of Feb. 14.

Here are some suggestions on how to get a Valentine in 48 hours or less.

First, check out your neighbors. Are any single? Are any cute? Choose one and slide a homemade Valentine under their door that reads, "Roses are red; violets are blue. I'm single, and so are you." See what happens; you might get a knock on your door in less than an hour. If you're lucky, it won't be the police handing you a restraining order.

Second, wait until the

taller than everyone else, start loudly wailing Elton John's "I Want Love" through a megaphone.

Candles are always romantic, and the new-age aromatherapy candles even include scents like "Love," "Romance" and "Unhealthy Fixation." Go to Illuminations in the Galleria and buy some of these. Ask the associate where you might also buy the guy or girl to help ignite your wick.

Paper Valentines may be the stuff of elementary school, but they still might work with the trendy "retro" crowd. Trek to Target and tear open a box of the "Shrek" Valentines. Pass them out to random people at the store. One word of caution: although the security guards may approach you, they are not interested—unless

"Roses are red; violets are blue. I'm single, and so are you."

mailman/woman comes to your door. Greet them dressed only in Saran-wrap and then ask them out. If they decline, don't be too surprised that your March credit card bill arrives five months late and smells funny.

If neither of those works, there's always that checker at the local Dierbergs. Be sure to look for a ring first; you're desperate, not tacky. If there's no ring, buy some flowers while you are there and then hand them to him/her. If they don't accept the floral offering, promptly walk to the customer service booth and get your money back.

Internet personal ads are very popular now; try one of those web sites. To be sure you get a response, make up a generic email and send it to everyone on the entire site. Include a flattering photograph (not necessarily of yourself.) You're bound to get something out of this one. Of course, it might be an 80-year-old woman claiming to be a 20-year-old man; but that's better than nothing, right?

A street corner isn't just a place to wait for the bus anymore, much less other, um... less pious activities. No, this time of the year, it can be a great forum. Choose the right area (think Clayton or The Loop; avoid South Grand and the West End—too much competition). Bring along a bucket to stand on. Now that you're standing

it's to make you pay for the little 2-by-3 inch rectangles with the green ogre on them. (Be careful, this stunt could just make you look like a, um...donkey.)

As UM-St. Louis students we can ride the MetroLink for free. Use it to find your Valentine. Hang a big red heart around your neck with "Be mine?" written in sparkly cursive. For added affect carry a teddy bear. Ask people if they've seen Cupid, because you've been shot; just hope it's not with an actual arrow—this is public transportation.

Greek Rush is now in full swing. Maybe you could find someone drunk at a party. What am I saying, it's Greek Rush—of course you'll find someone drunk at a party; perhaps they'll also be only wearing a bed sheet. Get drunk too, and neither of you will remember. After all, it's only for one night.

Another idea is to invite all your single college friends to dinner. Right before the entrée, announce that you need a Valentine date. Throughout dinner, randomly ask different friends across the table to go out with you on the 14th. The upshot to this approach is that the uninterested ones will quickly pay for their own meals and disappear, leaving you free to concentrate on the rest. Also, think of the money you'll save on dinner.

EMILY UMBRIGHT

EDITOR

EMILY UMBRIGHT
Features Editor

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Valentine's Day around the globe

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

For Americans, St. Valentine's Day is celebrated every Feb. 14. This means spending money on flowers, chocolates, candies and gifts for loved ones.

According to the famous legend, it was originally the execution day of Patron Saint of Lovers "St. Valentine" because he continued to perform marriages after Roman Emperor Claudius canceled all marriages and engagements so that men would go to war.

The note "From Your Valentine" was taken from the letter St. Valentine gave to his jailor's daughter, the girl he fell in love with, before his death.

Feb. 14 was declared St. Valentine's Day by Pope Gelasius around 498 A.D. Later, during the Middle Ages, people in England and France confirmed the middle of February as a day for romance, since they believed it was the beginning of birds' mating season.

Some countries in Europe, such as Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and France celebrate Valentine's Day the way Americans do.

"Five years ago, there was no such holiday," Tanya Sklyarova, exchange student from Russia said. "But today Russians spend their Valentine's with their

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

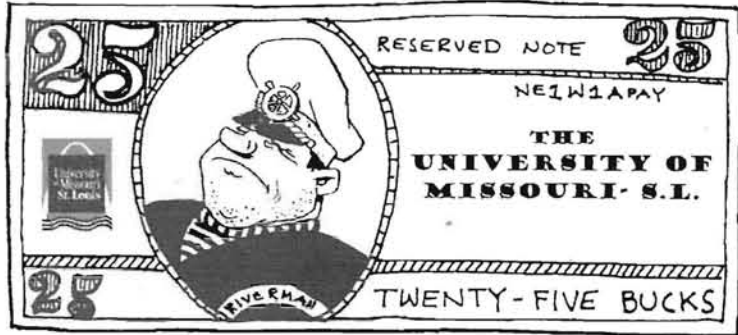
UM-St. Louis owes Burns a plaque, not the plague

Since its inception, the city of St. Louis has always shared a close relationship with the mighty Mississippi. From the French fur-traders who founded the Gateway to the West, to Lewis and Clark and their expedition to the Rockies, to the Laclede's Landing and legalized gambling, and even this newspaper's name, the river has kept this city 'in the flow' with the rest of

bers that signed a petition to cancel the contest.

Burns left UM-St. Louis after all of this (UM-St. Louis did not offer his major at the time) and, unbeknownst to him, he also left behind "The Rivermen," which was adopted as the school mascot by an administrative committee a year later.

In 1971, Burns made a visit to his



America.

In 1963, a small-but-determined University set up shop in the country club of the Belleve Country Club. Its students, 200 strong and full of energy, came to the Normandy Residence Center not knowing what to expect, and expecting the worst.

The school changed its name to Missouri University of St. Louis - the paper was called The Tiger Cub and The Mizzou News - but to student and staff cartoonist William Burns, that just wasn't enough. Dean of Students Harold Eickhoff had similar sediments, and shortly after an Image Committee was formed. Entries were accepted for a contest that students could enter, with a \$25 grand prize going to the winning submission.

Burns, having been a sailor with the Coast Guard in his post-Roosevelt High School days, submitted "The Rivermen" in hopes of tying the emerging University with the River City. This moniker drew heavy criticism from the student body, however, as the gender-specific mascot did not agree with the 1,080 students and 35 faculty mem-

bers that signed a petition to cancel the contest. Burns left UM-St. Louis after all of this (UM-St. Louis did not offer his major at the time) and, unbeknownst to him, he also left behind "The Rivermen," which was adopted as the school mascot by an administrative committee a year later.

In 1971, Burns made a visit to his old University, only to find The Rivermen plastered on t-shirts, hats, shorts, notebooks and other wares. Upon seeing this, Burns recalled the 1965 contest, and "The Rivermen" that he submitted, and made a connection that this was possibly his idea. Burns began questioning University officials, often drawing a blank stare. Apparently, Acting Chancellor Glen Driscoll's memo, written on Oct. 31, 1969, that states:

"In view of the enclosed I think we should go ahead and pay. You may charge it to my Contingency Fund xxxx-xxxx." wasn't sufficient proof. The issue died after 1971, becoming nothing more than water-cooler conversation, and eventually just a passing thought, until 1996, when Burns contacted Director of University Communications Bob Samples in hopes of resolving, in his own words, "a long oversight of over a 30-year duration."

Unfortunately for Burns, he also mentioned that "there are other options I may choose to exercise should UM-St. Louis continue stonewalling on this issue."

Nobody, not Samples, not even

The issue:

In 1965, Bill Burns came up with "The Rivermen" as a mascot for this University, a moniker that we use to this day. However, Burns has never been officially recognized for this gift, and now he is demanding 'ancillary measures' be taken so that he will make a profit with his honor, or he will trademark "The Rivermen."

We suggest:

Burns and the University come to an agreement that would honor Burns for his contribution, but would have no monetary ties.

Also, Burns would have to agree to drop his trademark case if the University complied.

So what do you think?

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

the University, disputes the claim that William R. Burns was the originator of "The Rivermen."

So why won't they just honor the man?

Well, for starters, if the University honors Burns in a ceremony - Samples had, originally planned to honor Burns at the 30th Anniversary of the Alumni Association - but in doing this, they would basically be admitting fault. Let's say that Touhill puts a plaque in the Mark Twain Center honoring the occasion. What's to stop Burns from turning around and suing the school for the other

see OPINION, page 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

I stood on the sidewalk across the street and watched as they tore it down. A large yellow material handler scooped up rubble in its grapple and deposited it into a metal container on a waiting truck.

It was the Old Current House, at 7940 Natural Bridge Road. I've had a love affair going with that place since I started working there 3 years ago. And my heart convulsed as I watched them demolish it.

Broken floor joists and splintered wall studs poked through piles of brick and rubble, like shattered bone through exposed flesh.

That painful scene reminded me of a similar experience I'd had the

Tuesday before. My car had broken down on the highway, which was bad enough. When I came back with a tow truck two hours later, I found my stereo and entire CD collection stolen. The center console had been ripped out. Wires and vacuum lines dangled from the hole in the dash like a baby tooth hanging by one last gummy string.

As the demolition machine continued its work, I was flooded with memories. Spending quiet afternoons in our upstairs writer's lab—the most peaceful, isolated spot on campus—enjoying the great view of North Campus through the window. Having conversations on the back

porch for privacy, since the walls throughout the house were paper-thin. The staged "throw-downs" between testosterone-drenched male staffers. Our five small but mighty window-mounted air conditioners' battling against the awful summer heat. My first day as editor-in-chief, decorating my own private office. Late-night RISK games in the news-room. The "beach party" we had on the front lawn during the Old House's last year as our office. Our work day the next spring, cleaning the Old House out—the final time I set foot inside of it.

see COMMENTARY, page 8

What's your opinion?

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

- The Rivermen and Bill Burns
• Mardi Gras and moderation
• Large and in charge

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

Am I a monster?

It funny, the fickleness of friends. In my nearly 21 years of life, I've had plenty of encounters with this sort of 'fair-weather friend' phenomenon, and to be honest it sickens me.

Take this weekend, for example. It's Mardi Gras, and being the hard-working citizen that I am, I chose to celebrate the occasion with a few close friends.

So, I set the alarm for 8 a.m., ready to jump out of bed at the first buzz and pop open a bottle of New Orleans original Southern Comfort.

My buddies - who will go anonymous - and I began to hit the juice around 9:15 a.m., after a short drive to a friend's apartment. There we met up with some more friends, and before long we were walking in a small troupe of 30 strong toward the UM-St. Louis MetroLink south station.

Having been officially intoxicated since about 9:30 a.m., I found many everyday sights particularly amusing, up to and including certain people. Also, the inside voices decided to make some noise, causing me to say rather disturbing things to people, often times in Spanish (don't ask).

Most of my buddies and I found this behavior quite amusing, much to the chagrin of the other passengers on the train. Other members of our troupe - the ones that were still in touch with their surroundings - began to recognize this, and set out to correct the behavior.

Unfortunately, after a few spirals my reasoning skills begin to deteriorate, and I simply was not about to 'put a damper on the fun' so to speak, so I 'respectfully' declined to tone it down, and took another sip.

Sounds pretty ignorant, doesn't it?

Now let's backtrack to parties previous. Since this semester started, I have 'relaxed my morals' at exactly one event. The rest? I was the sober driver, usually taking care of the same people who wished me to shut up.

Too large and in charge

My best friend Joe thinks that I am a wild and crazy guy. In fact, he got me a shirt that says so on the front. The shirt was a large size, making the shirt extremely tight for someone 6'5". The tight shirt did a good job of showing my large stomach, much to Joe's amusement.

About four years ago, I was fit as a fiddle. I remember, to stay in shape, I used to run up and down the stairs that connects Creve Coeur Lake and Creve Coeur Park. I got so good that I was able to run up and down the stairs eight times within a half-hour. Last November, I felt the same sensations I did after running the stairs: Out of breath

and exhausted. The only problem is that I just walked up the stairs to the third floor of the MSC.

I wondered, what happened to me? When I renewed my driver's license a year ago, I weighed 220 pounds. Now, I tip the scales at 240 pounds. I know that my eating habits aren't the best. If something looks good to eat, I usually eat it.

I've eaten the same way since I can remember, and I usually have stayed thin. But as I've gotten older, my metabolism has slowed down. Now, all the things that I've eaten in the past seem to be expanding my stomach more and more.

One of the best things to combat

We finally arrived downtown around 10:30 a.m., right before the start of the parade, so we're in a hurry to get to the streets. My boys and I set up shop in the perfect spot for some action, the west gate of Busch Stadium, just where the parade route bends. Then, as the floats marched by, and the drinks got emptier, we began to think to ourselves, "You know, we really should give these folks a salute of sorts."

You recall the shoulder devil and angel from Saturday morning fame? You know, the ones that represent the character's conscience? Well, apparently I didn't either, and that's why about 50 percent of the lower east side got a nice shot of six pairs of cheeks. From the reaction of the crowd, you would have thought that I was giving away some free brew.

And my girlfriend, whom when asked how I earned so many beads, I chose not to answer and who found about my escapades hours later at a party, I think only the explosion of Mount Saint Helen has produced larger shockwaves in the United States.

This is written to my lovely, understanding, beautiful girlfriend (who was less-than-amused by my actions):

Dearest Madam,

I wish to apologize for my actions per Feb. 8, 2002. Although in an inebriated state, there is no solid, empirical reason for my actions, nor is there an explanation. I only wish to continue our relationship, and if 'keeping it under wraps' is what it takes, then I'll see what I can do. I only hope that this instance can be forgotten, to be spoken of only in past tense, to future sons and daughters who would like to know what Daddy was like in college. As the Valentine's Day quickly approaches, I wish to look forward to that day, and not back on the Mardi Gras. It is with deepest regret that I look at the previous weekend, and with deepest hope that I look toward the future.



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E-MAIL info@thecurrentonline.com

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

Under Current

by Mutsumi Igarashi Photography Director

Where do you think you will be in two years?



Akiko Fujisawa Sophomore / Political Science

I will be at graduate school in Japan or the U. S.



Yoshinobu Asanuma Senior / Education

I will be a high school teacher in Japan.



Cara Cullman Junior / Education

In two years I will be teaching in a classroom! I get more excited about it with each class I take.

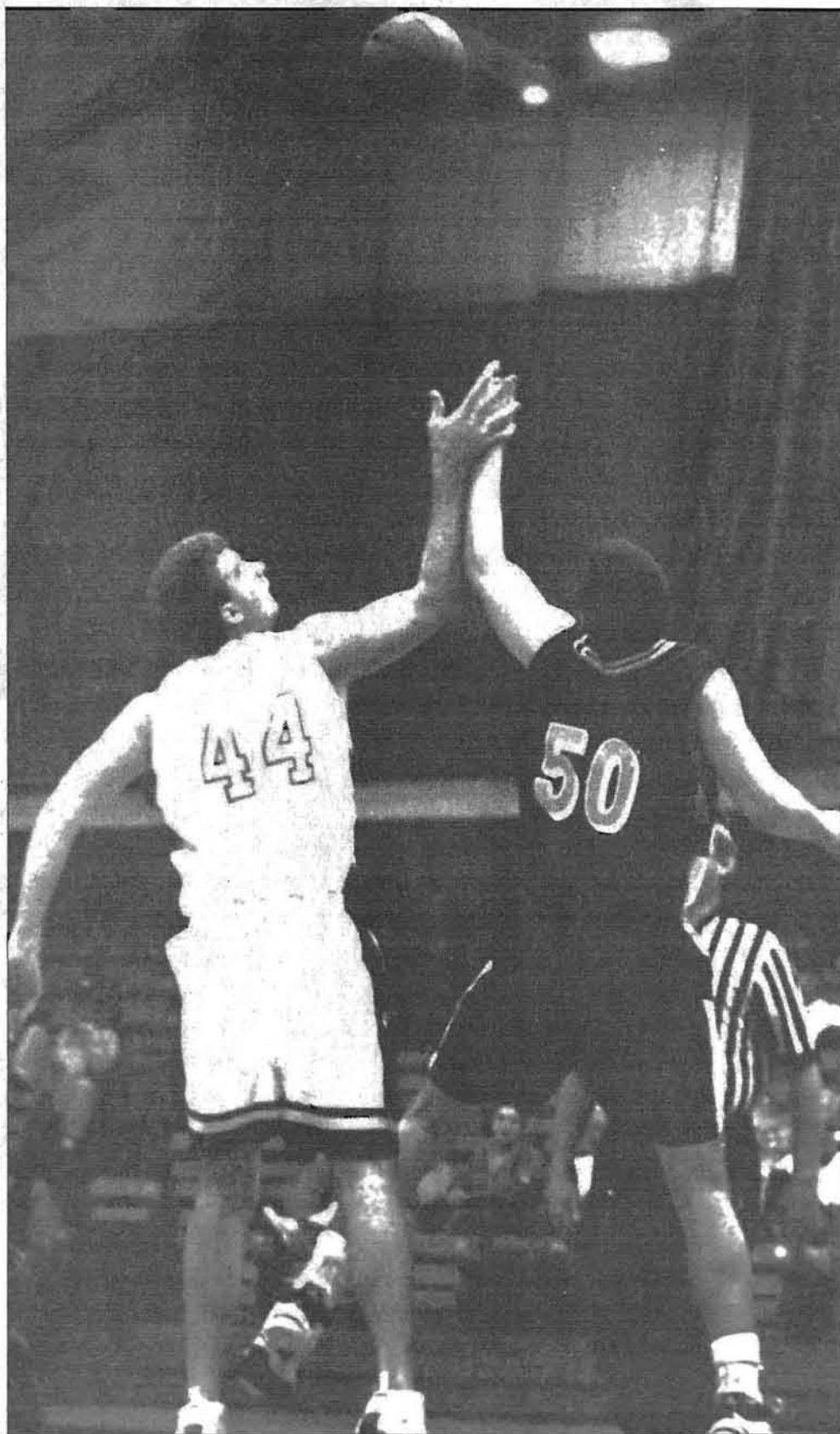


Chris Ballydier Senior / Graphic Design

More likely, still in St. Louis. Hopefully employed and gratefully still alive.

R-men claim big win

Riverman Scott Kassel, number 44, goes for the toss-up during UMSL and Quincy's Feb. 7 match-up. UMSL won that game 79-67. Kassel recorded 12 points in 37 minutes of play. Quincy's Jamal Thompson led all scorers with 24 points in his 32 minutes of play.



Sara Sorenson/The Current

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Basketball

Edwardsville, Ill. - The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team scored an important conference road win on Saturday night, beating Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 70-66, holding off a second-half rally by the Cougars to improve to 9-12 for the season.

Deryn Carter (Elgin, Ill./Larkin) helped get the Rivermen off to a hot start as UM-St. Louis scored the first nine points of the game and Carter had seven of those nine points. SIUE did not get a point until four and a half minutes into the game as UM-St. Louis shot out to an 11-2 spurt to open the game. UM-St. Louis held the lead as SIUE slowly chipped away, cutting the deficit to seven points after a three-point play. The Rivermen quickly responded with a 10-0 run to lead 28-12 at the six-minute mark. Doug Lee (St. Louis, Mo./Ladue) scored back-to-back jumpers at the end of that run for the largest lead at that point in the game.

The UM-St. Louis defense continues to dominate the rest of the half, holding the Cougars to just two field goals in the last five minutes and forced 12 SIUE turnovers to just four turnovers for UM-St. Louis as the Rivermen took a 40-20 lead into halftime. The Rivermen shot a blistering 51.7 percent (15-of-29) from the field in the first half, and hit 57.1 percent from three-point range while holding SIUE to 28.6 percent shooting from the field in the first half. Deryn Carter was the early story for UM-St. Louis, scoring 17 of the Rivermen points in the first half and Ron Heflin was the main scoring threat for SIUE, scoring 12 of the Cougars' 20 points in the half.

UM-St. Louis maintained their edge early in the first half, leading by 20 points at 57-37 with 11 minutes left in the game. At that point, the Cougars mounted a charge to get back in the game. SIUE went on a 17-4 run, and held UM-St. Louis scoreless for two separate three-minute stretches during that run. After a pair of three throws by SIUE, the lead was cut to just seven points at 61-54. Derrick Redd (St. Peters, Mo./Francis Howell) then responded with a jumper in the lane to push the lead back up to nine points at 63-54 with just under three minutes left to play.

PLAYER	TP	AVG.*
Deryn Carter	351	17.5
Scott Kassel	276	13.1
Jim Schelich	228	11.4
Jarrett Brown	149	7.1
Derrick Redd	121	9.3

*UMSL averages 68.4 points

Another pair of free throws for the Cougars cut the lead back down to seven at 63-56 with two minutes to play. Doug Lee then hit a pair of free throws for UM-St. Louis and

SIUE got another pair of their own to cut the lead again to seven points at 65-58 with one minute left in the game. The Cougars, who made a living at the line late in the game, scoring 10 of their final 16 points from the charity stripe, hit another pair of three throws to make it a five-point game. The Rivermen then went to the line leading by five and missed the front end of a one-and-one, but Jim Schelich (Washington, Mo./St. Francis Borgia) got the offensive rebound and Deryn Carter capitalized with two free throws. On the next possession, SIUE got a three pointer from Rob Baumgardner. After one free throw from UM-St. Louis, SIUE got another big three pointer, this one from Wes Pickering, to make it a 68-66 game with just 13 seconds remaining. Schelich then hit two clutch free throws to secure the 70-66 win for the Rivermen.

Three Rivermen hit doubles figures as well as Doug Lee, Jim Schelich and Derrick Redd each scored 10 points in the game and Scott Kassel (Perryville, Mo./Perryville) had a game-high 10 rebounds. Ron Heflin and Marty Perry each had 21 points for the Cougars.

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen lose early lead, fall to SIUE Cougars 64-50

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Basketball

Edwardsville, Ill. - The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen suffered a tough loss on the road, falling 64-50 to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on Saturday night. UM-St. Louis had the early lead and saw the Cougars fight back late in the first half and pull away in the second half.

UM-St. Louis scored the first bucket in the game on a three pointer from Sophia Ruffin (Chicago, Ill.). SIUE responded with a bucket on

their end of the floor before both defenses took over the rest of the half. The Riverwomen had the lead most of the half, extending to as much as a 14-9 lead after a basket by Jessica Woods (Coppell, Texas/Coppell). SIUE then went on an 8-2 run over the next seven minutes and took a 21-20 lead into halftime.

SIUE held the lead early in the second half when Ruffin connected on a layup to tie the score at 24-24 at the 16:56 mark. The Cougars then went on a 9-0 run to open up the largest lead to that point in the game. Larissa Cordiano (Melbourne, Australia) ended the UMSL scoring

drought with a three-pointer to cut the lead back down to six points at the 15-minute mark. SIUE would slowly increase the lead, and extended it to as many as 15 points at 57-42 after a three pointer from Amanda Buldman at the five-minute mark. The Cougars then hit late free throws to preserve the 64-50 win. Christy Lane (Imperial, Mo./Seckman) was the lone UM-St. Louis player in double figures with 10 points and Jessica Woods had a game-high 10 rebounds in the loss. The Riverwomen as a team shot just 29.2 percent (19-of-65) from the field and hit 6-of-23 (.261) from three-point range. SIUE hit 47.7 percent from the field in the game and was led by Ruth Kipping with 20 points and eight rebounds and Amanda Buldman with 14 points.

The Riverwomen fell to 7-15 on the season and 4-12 on the season. UM-St. Louis will be home next week for some crucial conference matchups against Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday night and against Saint Joseph's on Saturday afternoon.

UM - St. Louis women's basketball team fell to Quincy University 81-53 after the Lady Hawks hit the Riverwomen with a 19-0 run early in the second half.

In the first half, UM-St. Louis scored the first bucket by Ebonie Halliburton (Belleville, Ill./East Belleville HS). The Lady Hawks then led for the next five minutes until a jumper by Christy Lane (Imperial, Mo./Seckman/UM-Rolla) tied the game at 10-10. A quick foul by UM-St. Louis put Quincy on the line where Kristin Traub hit both foul shots. The Lady Hawks then sparked a 10-0 run topped by Heather Vonderhaar to make the score 23-13. UM-St. Louis would get within six points, but would trail by 10 at the 3:48 mark. A jumper by Lynette Wellen (Aviston, Ill./Community Central HS) started to diminish the spread. Two jumpers by Sophia Ruffin (Chicago, Ill./Rend Lake CC) put the Riverwomen within two at the 1:54 mark. Quincy responded with two jumpers, but Jessica Woods (Coppell, TX/Texas Wesleyan) and Wellen hit two buckets to go into the half only trailing 31-29.

Quincy came out strong in the second half, starting with a three-pointer. UM - St. Louis Halliburton answered with a bucket to get within one point.



Sara Sorenson/The Current

UMSL's Kelly Blunt, number 50, ponders her next move as Quincy opponents move in for the steal during the Feb. 7 game. UM-St. Louis lost 81-53.

UMSL and the Lady Hawks would go back and forth and tie the game 41-41 at the 14:58 mark. Quincy then hit 19 unanswered points ending with a jumper from UM-St. Louis' Wellen with 7:38 remaining. The Riverwomen got within 18 points, but that would be as close as UMSL would get the rest of the game. The Riverwomen fell to Quincy by the score of 81-53.

The Riverwomen were led by Ebonie Halliburton with 11 points. UM-St. Louis had three players with 10 points, Lynette Wellen, Jessica Woods and Sophia Ruffin. Woods also contributed nine rebounds and a career high of two blocks on the night. Quincy was led by Courtney Vonderhaar with 25 points. A quick start by Southern Indiana put UM-St. Louis in a hole that team could not climb out of, losing 90-67 at USI on Saturday night.

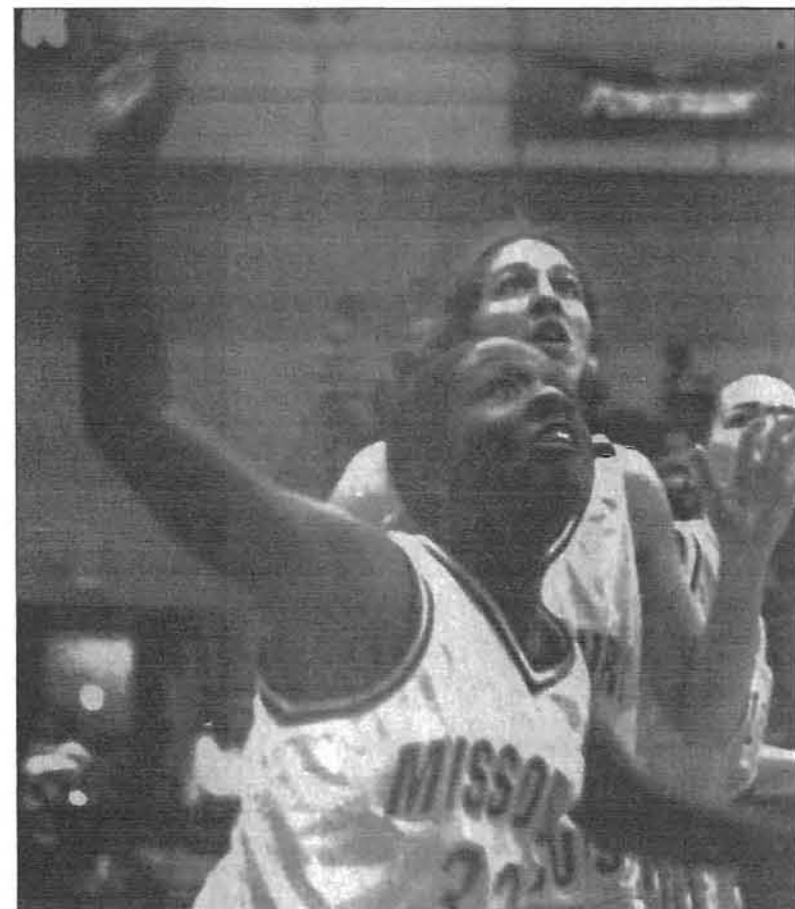
Southern Indiana jumped out of the gate quickly, scoring the first five points of the game before UM-St. Louis connected on consecutive baskets to make it a 5-4 game early. A jumper by Sophia Ruffin (Chicago,

Ill.) hit a jumper to tie the game at 8-8 with 16:40 to play in the half. USI then held UM-St. Louis scoreless over the next five and a half minutes as the Screaming Eagles went on a 16-0 run over that span to open up a big lead at 24-8. The Riverwomen were held without a field goal the last seven minutes of the half, relying on seven free throws for the only points over that span as USI went into halftime leading UM-St. Louis 43-23. Jessica Stuckman and Jasmine Moore led the Screaming Eagles with 17 points each at the break.

The second half saw UM-St. Louis stay fairly close, thanks to 17 second half points by Sophia Ruffin, who finished with 22 total points in the game. Christy Lane (Imperial, Mo./Seckman) also helped out in the second half, hitting three buckets from three-point range and scored 15 of her 17 points in the second half.

The Riverwomen fell to 7-13 on the season with the loss and stood at 4-10 in the GLVC.

See the Feb. 18 issue for more reports, scores and statistics.



Sara Sorenson/The Current

Ebonie Halliburton, number 33, goes for a rebound during the Quincy game.

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen 2001-02 Statistics Thru Feb. 9

PLAYER	Reb.	AVG.	TP	AVG.*
Wellen, Lynette	127	5.5	274	11.9
Lane, Christy	136	5.9	274	11.9
Ruffin, Sophia	77	3.3	256	11.1
Halliburton, Ebonie	65	2.8	181	7.9
Woods, Jessica	184	8.0	168	7.3

*UMSL averages 64.9 points and 39.7 rebounds

SPORTS

EDITOR

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Sports Editor

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COMING UP

Basketball
12

7 p.m. - Men at Missouri Baptist

14

7:45 p.m. UW-Parkside at UM-St. Louis men
5:30 p.m., UW-Parkside at UM-St. Louis women

16

1 p.m. Saint Joseph's at UM-St. Louis women

RESULTS

Basketball
Men

9

*Bellarmine 90 at Saint Joseph's 74

*Kentucky Wesleyan 90 at UW-Parkside 79

*at Lewis 81 Southern Indiana 68

*Northern Kentucky 80 at Indianapolis 61

Women
9

*at Saint Joseph's 82 Bellarmine 72

*at UW-Parkside 87 Kentucky Wesleyan 58

*Southern Indiana 79 at Lewis 74

*Northern Kentucky 56 at Indianapolis 52

WEB

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for the latest sports news and information

A&E

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS

March

3

The University Chamber Winds will perform a concert at 3 p.m. in the Provincial Chapel. The event is free and open to the public. Please contact 516-2263 for more details.

7

March 7-April 6
Gallery 210 will present "Graphic Work by Robert Stackhouse: Drawing and Prints from the Belger Foundation." Gallery 210 is open from Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information call 516-5592.

A Percussion ensemble concert will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Millennium Center. The concert is free and open to the public. Please call 516-6646 for more information.

WEB

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www.thecurrentonline.com

'Black Hawk' stares down the barrel

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

"Black Hawk Down," Ridley Scott's tale about a failed military mission in Somalia, is an artistically worthy film that strikes remarkably close to American's thoughts as we cope with the potentials of war. The film has the look of gritty realism, convincing portrayals of brave young soldiers under fire and the immediacy of being in the middle of battle.

It is also a film I never want to see again. "Black Hawk Down," is a far cry from the traditional war movie, where we get clipped dialog through clenched teeth from Sylvester Stallone (or Bruce Willis or John Wayne), and each piece of action starts cleanly. The battles are nicely roped off, we get a third-person view of the action and we can subconsciously feel the rhythm of the explosions and gunfire. Most war films follow this mold in some way. But with the opening sequence of "Saving Private Ryan," we were exposed to a new approach. This one puts the audience into the middle of the chaos of battle, trades third person for first person view and, as confirmed by the veterans who were there, creates a real feeling for the terror and confusion of the experience. But whereas this was only the disturbing first few minutes of "Saving Private Ryan," Director Ridley Scott takes this a step further in his film. Once the battle starts, we are always on the ground or in the air with the soldiers under fire, except for brief cuts back to the commanders at camp.

This is not a "cool stuff blows up" kind of movie; nor is it an action film in which all the explosions run like clockwork backlighting the hero with blazing guns. It's a not horror flick with blood and gore-so overdone it's not real. Here, the director went for realism and maximum historical

authenticity with careful research and technical advisors. Like the film just cited, the horror of the film comes from the simple reality and close-up first person point of view. And since the point of view doesn't change, the effect is nauseating rather than thrilling.

The story is based on a real event during the war in Somalia. The American troops and other international forces were in that country to help end a bloody civil war. The American commanders would like to seize the biggest warlord in Mogadishu and think they have an

matter how smart you are if a bomb lands on you and blows you in half. Only luck really matters, although being smart and fast help. What follows is a gut-wrenching descent into hell. Everything they try to get themselves out of seems to make things worse. Confusion, fear and emotional exhaustion are the dominant feelings of the characters and of the audience.

The action in the film is a bit difficult to follow at times since you are so close to it. Adding to the confusion is the fact that it is hard to tell the characters apart. The cast of young, even-featured, mostly white men, all with

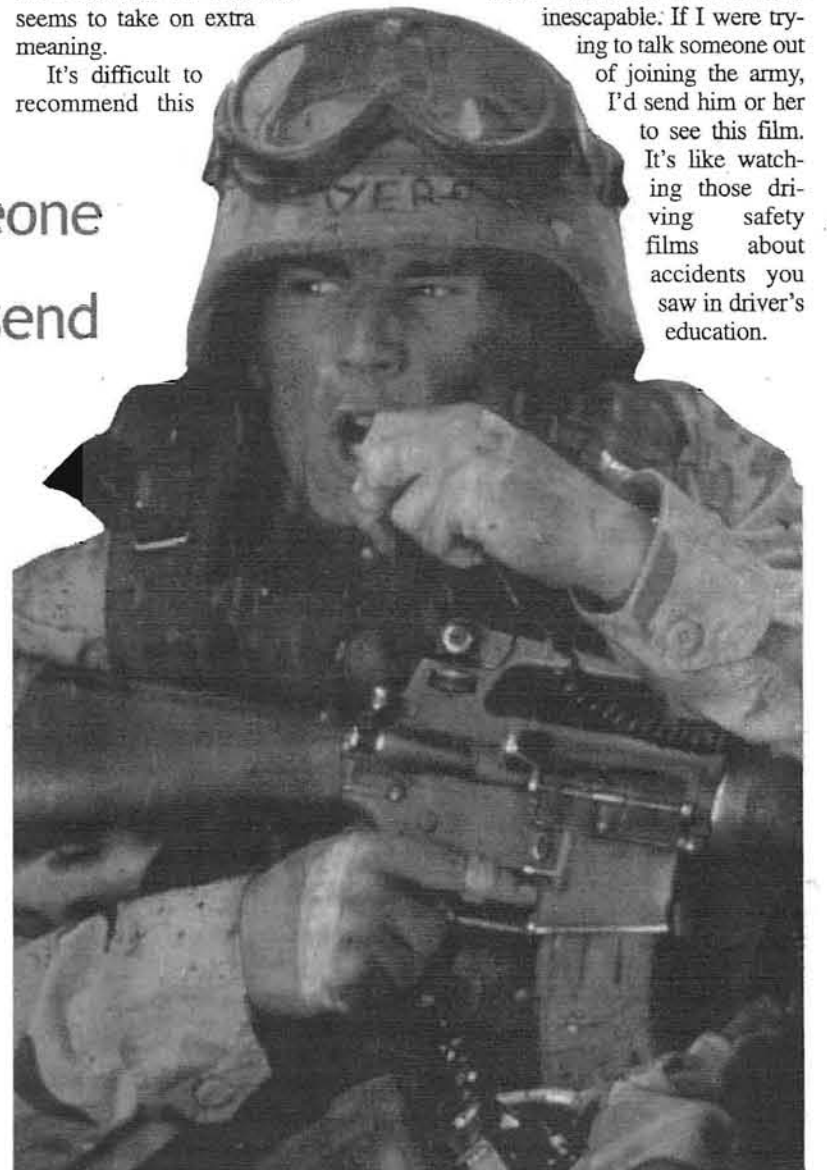
much stronger. One of the most striking parts of the film comes in the final scenes when we come to realize how physically close the soldiers were to safety. In the end, some of them walk to the allied Pakistani's encampment, where they are met by men in white robes carrying glasses of water for them on silver trays—a remarkable image of civilization. Although the film was shot before Sept. 11, seeing the Pakistanis in this role seems to take on extra meaning.

It's difficult to recommend this

film since it was such an unpleasant experience, although I can't fault it artistically (except for the purloined music).

The director never expressly indicates that this is an anti-war film, but it's easy to see it that way. While all the soldiers are noble and brave and even their commanders mean well (even if they misread the situation), the overwhelming feeling that war is a terrible beast with a life of its own is inescapable. If I were trying to talk someone out of joining the army, I'd send him or her to see this film. It's like watching those driving safety films about accidents you saw in driver's education.

'If I were trying to talk someone out of joining the army, I'd send him or her to see this film.'



BOOK REVIEW

'Love Lessons' provides insight on bad breakups

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

The Japanese film "Rashomon" dealt with the rape of a woman and the murder of her husband by a thief. The movie is told from the points of view of the woman, the thief, an eyewitness to the events and even the deceased husband (with the help from a mediator). Each person describes the events differently, and none of the versions coincide. Instead each version is told in an attempt to make the narrator look good.

Therapist Sherry Amatenstein's intriguing book, "Love Lessons from Bad Breakups," could be described as the self-help version of "Rashomon." The book describes the stories of 21 couples and their breakups giving three different sides to the stories and what went wrong: the man's point of view, the woman's point of view and Amatenstein's analysis over what went wrong. Just like "Rashomon," each version is designed to make the teller look good. Amatenstein gives a middle ground to both narrators by pointing out not only where the couples shone in their pairing, but also where they erred.

Each chapter features different problems in each individual couple's relationship, such as Rachel and Greg, a couple who Amatenstein says were more drawn to each other by lust and desire than love and commitment. Another interesting story involves

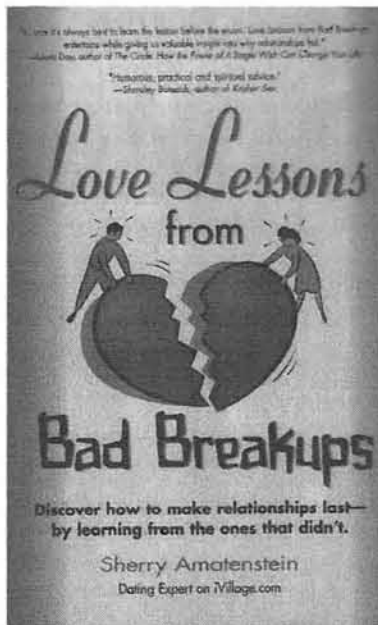
Sloane and George, a couple who according to Amatenstein had one thing in common: they both loved George and thought he was the greatest guy on earth.

By reading the stories from the couples' points of view, the reader gets to experience each person as an individual. In their own words, the narrators vary coming off as petulant, vain, selfless, argumentative, moody, forgiving and sometimes whiny. They emerge as people we could actually know.

Amatenstein also does the reader a favor by not editing the narratives and allowing the couples to really speak for themselves. In these narratives, the reader can almost hear the couples' voices. Ed, a self-described "thug from the Newark projects," describes a fight between himself and his former wife, Jan, by saying, "When I curse, Jan would call it emotional abuse. I was just doing my thing. God understood."

A stand-up comedian, Estelle, describes her boyfriend Paul's attempts to draw her to Christianity by saying, "In this case, the obstacle to lasting love was this hope that one day I'd wake up and have Jesus in my heart. There was more of a chance of my winning the lottery—I don't play—than suddenly embracing the Son of God."

Just like in "Rashomon," "Love Lessons," offers different views and the reader is unable to tell who is truthful and who isn't. Maybe, the reader can learn something above the shouting.



"Love Lessons" offers different views and the reader is unable to tell who is truthful and who isn't.

Top date movies: picks for this Valentine's Day

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

A popular date is to go to the movies. A great date movie shouldn't be just a "chick flick" and a lot of action films don't work well either. You need something you'll both enjoy. Romances and comedies tend to dominate, but a few more serious films work for this too. Here are some films that would be great date movies.

1. "Amelie" - This has to be the top pick, because it's beautiful, funny and romantic. Man or woman, Amelie will charm you, with her quirky personality and approach to doing good deeds for those around her, and then finally doing something good for herself as well. The film is a delight for the eyes as well, with a beautiful idealized Paris as a backdrop. Plus it's incredibly funny. This film is a likely pick for an Oscar nomination, but this is a French film, so you have to read subtitles.

2. "A Beautiful Mind" - This tale, based on a true story about a brilliant mathematician battling mental illness, is also a wonderful love story. Fantastic acting by Russell Crowe and a unique approach to the subject of mental illness make this a great film to watch and good topic for discussion, without being overly cerebral.

3. "Gosford Park" - Another comedy, like Amelie, this film is less romantic and a bit more complex, but has great possibilities as a conversation starter. Funny and entertaining, but with a deeper level for the more intellectual.

4. "Count of Monte Cristo" - A qualified pick, if you like costume dramas and classic stories. A lush film with a tale of lost love, betrayal and revenge with good swashbuckling action. The action and story are classic but the flavor of the film is a bit modern.

Other possibilities - these fall into two groups: films that are all round great but not classic date material and films that are typical date movie material but not as good as films.

"Kate and Leopold" - A pretty standard romantic fantasy that will appeal more to the women than the men, but with a very nice performance by Hugh Jackson as a 19th century man transported to modern New York. This was actually a better

as it weakens in the middle, but has a charming bit of offbeat romance and real chemistry between stars Ben Chaplin and Nicole Kidman. Less of a chick flick than "Kate and Leopold," but may be a bit too sexy for a first date.

"Royal Tenenbaums" - An oddball comedy that, like "Lord of the Rings," would also work as a date movie. Has a running theme of love beneath the comedy and a warm, satisfying, even romantic ending.

"Brotherhood of the Wolf" - This one is more of a guy movie, since it's an action film, but the 18th century setting; gorgeous costumes, thriller elements, and romantic subplot make it a possibility for a date movie for the right couple. It's in French with subtitles, but don't be too concerned, the emphasis is on the action more than the dialog.

"The Shipping News" - A better film than some critics are claiming. The film features Kevin Spacey in an unusual role as a very shy, ineffective man who opens up in a small Nova Scotia town. Elements of humor, a romance lost and one found, and a great character by Judi Dench make this a more enjoyable and thoughtful film than you expect.

Other possibilities and long shots:

For really serious film fans, the weighty and meaningful "Monster's Ball" is a fabulous film about forbidden love, prejudice and personal growth. Not for a first date, but a wonderful film for the serious-minded. "Dinner Rush" isn't the usual date movie material since romance isn't really a part of it. But it's a surefire winner for a good film, with a look inside a successful restaurant, a family drama with a Mafia flavor, and a bit of mystery. It was the audience favorite at the St. Louis International Film Festival two years ago and has finally returned to our area. For the more sentimental, you might try "I am Sam."

Amelie Man or woman, Amelie will charm you with her quirky personality.

A Beautiful Mind A unique approach to the subject of mental illness make this a great film.

Gosford Park Funny and entertaining, but with a deeper level for the more intellectual.

Count of Monte Cristo A lush film with a tale of lost love, betrayal and revenge.

Kate and Leopold A pretty standard romantic fantasy that will appeal more to the women than the men.

Lord of the Rings Just a great film, inspiring, accessible and moving - a bit of romance too.

Birthday Girl A charming bit of offbeat romance and real chemistry between stars.

Royal Tenenbaums

Brotherhood of the Wolf

The Shipping News

I am Sam

film before the studio pulled it and re-edited it just before release, but could do if you have to lean to the chick flick end.

"Lord of the Rings" - This wonderful epic fantasy adventure would work well as a date movie too. Just a great film, inspiring, accessible and moving - a bit of romance too.

"Birthday Girl" - Not a great film,

MOVIE REVIEW

'Mothman Prophecies' circles around the flame

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

"Like a moth to the flame" is a phrase that may spring to mind when see the way some of these characters are drawn back to this mystery time and again.

"Mothman Prophecies," is an eerie tale about a reporter who is mysteriously drawn to a small town experiencing a series of odd phenomena. In a story inspired by real events, this supernatural tale focuses on a small town in Ohio where in the 1970s, people experienced sightings of a reoccurring image of a large shadowy moth-like image, the "Mothman," along with other supernatural experiences, which may foretell the future. Reset into the present, the film certainly maintains a level of suspense and has some good twists and turns, but the plot is ultimately a mess. Still, if you just want to focus on thrills and the budding romance and less on the logic of the tale, you may be entertained.

Reporter John Klein (Richard Gere) has had a brush with tragedy in the death of his wife from a brain tumor. Just before she dies, she talks about seeing a shadowy figure on the night of a car accident they had just before her diagnosis. After she's gone, John finds drawings of a dark, winged figure among her papers. While still struggling with her death, a late night drive takes him far from his destination and he finds himself on a country road with a stalled car. When he knocks on the door of a nearby house, the resident confronts him with a gun and a charge that he's knocked on his door for the last three nights. A visit by the local policewoman, Connie Parker, (Laura Linney) doesn't resolve the mystery but Officer Parker reveals that lots of otherwise reasonable people have been having unusual experiences. The reporter stays in town to pursue the possible story, talking to the cop and the locals about



Washington Post reporter (Richard Gere) John Klein and Sgt. Connie Parker (Laura Linney) explore the reports of unexplained phenomena in the town of Point Pleasant.

'The movie has all the marks of a thriller but unlike the usual thriller, it leaves plenty unresolved by the end.'

the strange events in town. Oddly, whenever he tries to leave, something draws him back.

There is a great deal of moody visual effects and suspenseful moments in "The Mothman Prophecies." Clues lead down wrong paths, and then new events cause their meanings to be re-interrupted. The film looks really good, with strong use of shadows, lots of black and desaturated color. However, all this hinting around never really leads anywhere, leaving raised questions unresolved by the film's end. The characters are appealing or moving but the lack of substance seemed to undercut

some of the their dilemmas. There is no doubt that Laura Linney has presence, and she and Gere even have a bit of chemistry between them. Their performances lend a kind of gravity to the story that it may have lacked with less skilled actors. The events are atmospheric and effectively suspenseful but everything is kept vague, as if the filmmakers wanted to keep every possibility open. The movie has all the marks of a thriller but unlike the usual thriller, it leaves plenty unresolved by the end. The movie resolves some of the mystery, but not the central question raised by the events. It offers some possibilities but not

enough meat to really push a conclusion.

If you are a big fan of the supernatural, you may enjoy this film but don't expect them to go too deep. It does offer scares, nice thriller moments and good effects, with emotionally strong performances by Richard Gere and Laura Linney, which may be good enough for some viewers. You can just enjoy the ride, because it surely has its roller coaster moments and tension. However, if you like to solve those puzzles and make all the pieces fit, you may find this film less satisfying, as if all the pieces aren't there.

TRADEMARK, from page 1

eluded to what Samples considered "extraordinary compensation."

"This was the time of the 30th anniversary of the Alumni Association, the perfect time to have an event of this sort," Samples said. "I was already starting to see it as a Riverman Creator Gets Recognition on 30th Anniversary." However, in the way that Mr. Burns structured his memos to me, I felt that he was making a veiled threat toward the University."

An exact lift from Burns' memo to Samples states, "There are other options I may choose to exercise should UM-St. Louis continue stonewalling on this issue. These options will not be pleasant and may present UM-St. Louis in a very unfavorable light."

In an interview with Burns, it is not clear what he wants. Tuition relief, a plaque, commissions from bookstore, a rewrite of "The Emerging University" (the definitive history book of UM-St. Louis, written by Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill) sales and even an honorary doctorate were mentioned, but Burns did not have a finite response. Also, many alumni have also stated that they were upset, even offended, at Burns demands.

"I'm not kidding about an honorary doctorate," Burns said. "They give those [things] out like confetti at graduation for professors that pass through here after giving two-week seminars. I've given this school more than just two weeks; I've given them 32 years of tradition. I don't see anything that's outrageous about that."

Samples has referred the matter to Nancie Hawke, the UM-System legal counsel. Hawke did not wish to comment on the situation.

Burns, who claims that he did not receive the letter from Samples, contacted Hawke. The letter was sent to the wrong California post office box, 77083 instead of 70083. Samples does mention that, even if Burns did not get the letter, he spoke with Burns as well as e-mailed him Hawke's information.

"Burns knew that he needed to talk to someone else about this matter," Samples said. "Once somebody mentions an attorney, then I refer them to our attorneys."

Burns has yet to contact Hawke, and even sent Samples another e-mail in 1999. Samples response was the same.

"I don't think that, at least up until 1996, that this was a malicious attempt on the University's part," Burns said.

"I think that is just plain bureaucratic ineptitude. Then they got into the sandbagging and stonewalling, and that's what [upset me]. They can't even get my address right."

Burns has filed an Intent To Use with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The trademark application, filed on May 6, 2001, serial number 78062214, was filed as a word trademark. If accepted, it would give Burns rights to the name "The Rivermen" to be used predominately for clothing. He has filed for the wordmark "The Rivermen," but has not filed for any sort of logo or drawing.

"The Current" contacted Jeff Costellia, a patent and trademark attorney in McLean, Virginia, to help analyze the situation. Costellia is not affiliated with either Burns or the University.

"In the U.S., trademark rights are established based on use," Costellia said. "Since he has filed [the application] as an intent to use, he is not claiming any prior use. If he could get [the application] to registration, he would have a constructive use date of May 6, 2001, which is much later than the University's use. His rights begin on May 6, 2001."

"When you file for a trademark application, it goes to the trademark office and they review it," Costellia said. "Basically, they do a search to decide if there are other registrations [in that name]. They also look at it for formality reasons."

A non-final action was recorded by the USPTO in August 2001, and was sent to Burns. The USPTO is currently refusing registration for an unknown reason - records weren't available in time for this printing - and Burns has six months to respond to the action.

"The trademark office is only going to look at who's been using 'The Rivermen' first. In fact, his application seems to recognize that, as he filed an intent to use [it]," Costellia said. "The fact that he came up with it years ago does not count, it's arguably considered abandoned. The only way that he could claim it was if it was some sort of famous mark."

How to get a date for Valentine's Day

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT
Senior Writer

After centuries of debate in philosophical circles, men are still debating the eternal question: Will she go out with me? The answer is "yes," unless she's married, your kindergarten teacher or a nun. Even then there's still a chance.

There are reasons why beautiful and intelligent women will date common Neanderthal guys like us. The greatest of these is something you can use to your advantage with virtually every girl you ask out-she's as terrified as you are of being alone.

You know that secret little fear you have deep down that tells you how stupid and unattractive you are? Women have that, but it's magnified a thousand times by the ads in magazines and on television. Every girl knows she's not as gorgeous as Jennifer Love Hewitt and that you secretly desire the perfect women you've seen on television. Men have much more down-to-earth role models (think Homer Simpson).

Of course, it's never a good idea to take advantage of a woman's insecurities; but if you want to ask a girl on a date, the odds are that she wants to be asked. Here are some ground rules you should be aware of before you try it.

Rule No. 1: Have confidence, you loser! A man who can smile and look a girl in the eyes is more attractive than the guy who can't stop staring at his shoes.

Rule No. 2: Don't lead in with "I've been meaning to ask you this forever." It makes you look weak. After all, why didn't you just ask in the first place?

Rule No. 3: Don't just ask in the first place. If you don't know her, see if you can learn something about her

first. I'm not saying you should stalk her, but learn the basics. Is she married, a vastly different religion than you are, or otherwise unavailable? If so, find another girl and try again.

Rule No. 4: Get a haircut. Don't think that frizzy hairdo you've been developing/ignoring for the last two years is attractive. Take a look at a

Rule No. 5: Don't stare at her breasts. We both know you're doing it, now stop. She has eyes, and she'll like you more if you appreciate her first.

recent Keanu Reeves movie to see what women like. Even better, ask the girl what she likes and do it. Women like a guy who can take a hint. The same goes for shaving.

Rule No. 5: Don't stare at her breasts. We both know you're doing it, now stop. She has eyes, and she'll like you more if you appreciate her first.

Rule No. 6: Find out what she likes. If she's into figure skating, talk to her about it. She likes Weird Al Yankovic? Listen to some of his music. If you can't stand it, just don't bring it up. Do not attack what she

likes, no matter how stupid it is. As soon as she gets defensive, you lose.

Rule No. 7: When you do ask her out, make it something irresistible. A girl can go to the movies any time, but how often can she get front row seats to U2? Ask her to do something she really wants to do. Even if she doesn't like you, she'll bear your company long enough for you to convince her how great you are.

Rule No. 8: Focus on your good points, but don't lie. If you're Dave Matthews, hum when she's around, but don't put a fake Harvard diploma on your wall. Eventually she's going to either like you or not like you. It's better to start off honest, that way you save yourself grief later.

Rule No. 9: Be prepared. When you do manage to finagle a date, have something to talk about. Sound interesting. Do not bring up your last girlfriend. Don't get upset when she brings up her last boyfriend. If you're a spectacular brother, writer, singer or whatever, let her know. Don't brag. You're walking a fine line, be careful without appearing cautious.

Rule No. 10: Be strong, because she's not going to like you at first. Women have an intensive distrust of men, in large part because they think we just want to get down their pants. It may be true, but for God's sake, don't let her know that. Maybe she's physically attracted to you; maybe she's not. In the long run, that's going to be less important than whether she really likes who you are.

Even though you're still pitifully under prepared, you've got a shot. Take it. Realize that if you don't ask her out, you'll probably never date her. Rejection isn't so bad; it builds character. Every rule here I learned by doing wrong first. Hopefully your experiences will prove to be less difficult. Probably not, but good luck anyway.



MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

Insect news of the weird

species, even laying its eggs on the back of its host.

The diversity of ant behavior is exemplified by the bizarre "bamboo-nesting ant," *Catantopus muticus*. This strange denizen of the Malaysian rain-forest nests inside the hollow cavities of giant bamboo stalks. During the rainy season, torrential downpours pose problems for these ants, threatening to fill their nests with water.

Workers in these colonies use their flattened heads collectively to block the entrances to their nests, attempting to keep the water out, but this does not always work. If water continues to intrude into the nest, workers drink as much of the water as they can and then hurriedly rush out of the nest and urinate excess water onto the surrounding leaves. This mechanism of "communal peeing" has only been observed in the bamboo-nesting ant.

Recent research on another group of insects, the Earwigs or Dermaptera, has revealed something truly peculiar. Earwigs are small soil

dweller quite common in North America. They can be recognized by the presence of claw-like appendages on the rear portion of their abdomens, but their most unique characteristic is in their sexual machinery.

Male earwigs are unusual in that they have two penises, one that faces forward and another oriented in the

opposite direction. Observations of earwig "sex" reveal that the males commonly use only the forward penis for insemination.

The presence of this second penis was a mystery to entomologists until recent research revealed that males sometimes damage their forward penis and can then switch to using the "back-

ward" penis for mating. Males are sometimes found in the wild with damaged sex organs, suggesting that this type of injury may happen fairly frequently under natural conditions.

When researchers studied the behavior of handicapped males, they found that these males performed just as well with their backward organs as other males with undamaged sex organs.

Among the insects, no group is more multifaceted than the coleoptera or beetles. There are more species of beetles known than any other insect species.

Speaking about the amazing variety of beetles, Charles Darwin himself is quoted as saying that if there were a heavenly creator of all life on earth, "he must have had an inordinate fondness for beetles."

South America is home to a fascinating species called the "harlequin beetle." This large beetle can grow to almost four inches and lives on trees in the jungles of

Central and South America.

One of the most interesting details of the harlequin's natural history is the activity of the many parasites that use the harlequin as their own ecosystem. The harlequin is home to a species of mite that feeds on waste found on the beetle's carapace. In addition to the mites, there is a small arachnid called a pseudoscorpion that hunts and feeds on the mites.

Riding on the back of a single beetle is a microcosmic version of a scene from the Serengeti, with mites, like tiny zebra, grazing on particles of dead material, and pseudoscorpions hunting them like miniature lions.

Nature is full of weird stories, and some of the strangest occur just out of sight, hidden in nature's cracks and crevices. It is no wonder why so many scientists choose to spend their careers studying insects. Only in the world of nature's minutia will we find such oddities as ants that pee to keep from drowning, insects that carry a spare set of sex organs and a mini-ecosystem on the back of a beetle.

This week, nature fans, we will explore the fascinating saga that unfolds beneath our feet, under fallen leaves, in the cracks in the sidewalk and hidden in the recesses of dead trees: the true and uncanny tales of insects that make up the minutia of nature.

Ants are a remarkably diverse family of insects, with over 10,000 species currently identified. Ants display such an array of behaviors and forms that it is hard to believe they are all part of a single family.

There are ants that utilize aphids as livestock, milking them for food like dairy cows. There is also a species that lives only on the back of another ant

'Observations of earwig 'sex' reveal that the males commonly use only the forward penis for insemination.'

UMSL students ready to go?

BY CATHY LIRETTE
Special to the Current

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, our nation's security became top priority. Thousands of men and women soon found themselves being shipped overseas to fight in the war against terrorism. UMSL was also affected by this recent tragedy in that some of its students were asked to postpone their educational goals to serve their country.

Four months later, terrorist threats remain high and continue to ultimately affect the status of current UMSL students who are still in the armed forces. According to Diana Johnson, veteran affairs certifying official at UMSL, there are

approximately 250 students presently enrolled at UMSL who are associated with the military whether it be active duty or reserve and guard.

With the "call of duty" lingering at their doorsteps, several students may be a little apprehensive about their impending futures. However, David S. Dodd, a Marine infantry platoon sergeant with the KIL0 company out at Lambert, is very optimistic about his chances of being called up.

According to Dodd, there are currently two Marine companies that are serving-on from California and one from New England. This equals approximately 10 percent of the Marine reserves. And although these Marine companies only serve 6 months at a time and switch often, he

believes his chances of being sent over are low.

"As situations stand, my chances are very slim; but if we go into Iraq or start another company, my chances are much greater," Dodd said. "But either way I'm not worried about it."

However, Ken Dobbe, a sergeant with the Army National Guard out of East St. Louis, is a little more concerned.

Dobbe, who currently lives in UMSL housing, is worried about school policies pertaining not only to enrollment, but also to residency. He mentioned that he had an apartment full of stuff and it would be hard to get someone to take care of it, let alone handle his mail and pay his bills.

Currently however, Dobbe's chances of going over are also non-existent. Yet he does state that his job in the reserves takes precedence over school. If he has to go, then that is what he was trained for.

Yet in either case, these students and others like them do not have to worry. According to Dodd, who has done some research in this area, there are laws that ensure that students will not lose any money.

"By law, if I have to leave during mid-semester, I can either pick up my classes were I left off or I can start over again," Dodd said.

So with the nation's security in the balance, the many men and women of our county continue to be on stand-by ready to change their lives in a second.

OPINION, from page 4

demands? All he would have to do it point to the plaque, and the case is in the bag.

Although it really wouldn't matter, because in the United States, trademarks are established based on prior use, not 'who came up with the idea first.' Burns knows this, and that is probably why he hasn't taken his trademark case any further. He applied for the trademark in May, and has yet to respond to the appeal. You can read the rest of the details on the front page, this is and editorial.

We think that UMSL should be morally obligated to honor Burns for his contribution to over 36 years of tradition and history. Granted, the average UMSL student probably doesn't care about "The Rivermen"

or anything that it may stand for, and that's fine. But some of us do, and we simply cannot accept that this man has not been honored for his contribution. Sure, Burns is a very gruff, very angry man who wants certain extraordinarily demands that are, quite frankly, ridiculous and absurd. However, he deserves his due, and that due is the honor of being the first Riverman. Touhill needs to honor Burns with a plaque honoring his contribution to the University of Missouri - St. Louis and "The Rivermen" or stop using the name. Legally, UMSL is in the right. Morally, UMSL is in the very deep black. And only UMSL holds the cure for this plaque that has haunted Burns since 1966, no matter how self-inflicted it may be.

VALENTINE, from page 3

friends and buy gifts for their boyfriends."

According to StValentines.net, Scotland celebrates Valentine's Day by having a festival for single men and women. Each of them will write their name on a piece of paper then placed into two hats: one for women and one for men. Then they draw a piece of paper out of the hats. The man is supposed to stick with the Valentine who has chosen him.

Colin White, from Scotland, admitted that he has never gone to such a festival.

"I think the culture has changed, or maybe they have it in the other part of Scotland," White said "I myself will just go to the party for Valentine's and everybody will send cards."

Talking about cards, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards sent each year making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year after Christmas card.

Asian people such as Indonesians and Malaysians also send Valentine's cards. But other Asian countries have different ways to celebrate Valentine's Day. Vietnamese do not have Valentine's Day; Indians call Valentine's Day 'Rose Day'; Chinese have their own Valentine's Day. In Japan, it is only

the women who buy gifts for the men. However, Japanese women will get their gifts on March 14 (Japan's White Day).

"Usually the couples will go out to the restaurants in the evening because they have the special set up table with roses in the middle. But it only happens in the big cities," said Jigisha Shah, student from India.

Suzanna Io, a Chinese student, explained that they have different Valentine's Day dates depending on the Chinese calendar. Feb. 14 is only for dating people. They do not send cards, but mostly give flowers or candies.

This year UMSL-St. Louis' International Student Organization does not have any events planned for Valentine's due to the limited budget. The closest event for Valentine's probably is the Homecoming Dance on Friday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. It is a "dressed to the nine" party on the 10th floor of Windows Off Washington, overlooking downtown St. Louis.

"I don't think we have anything special for Valentine's Day. We are just going to sell some homecoming tickets at a lower price for the international students," said Zackry Hamid, the President of the International Students Organization.

PIPER, from page 1

Olson says that the geese are also at risk when people feed them.

"Members in the flock can be undernourished because of their numbers and their physical activity. People give them popcorn and potato chips. The junk food is poor nourishment," Olson said.

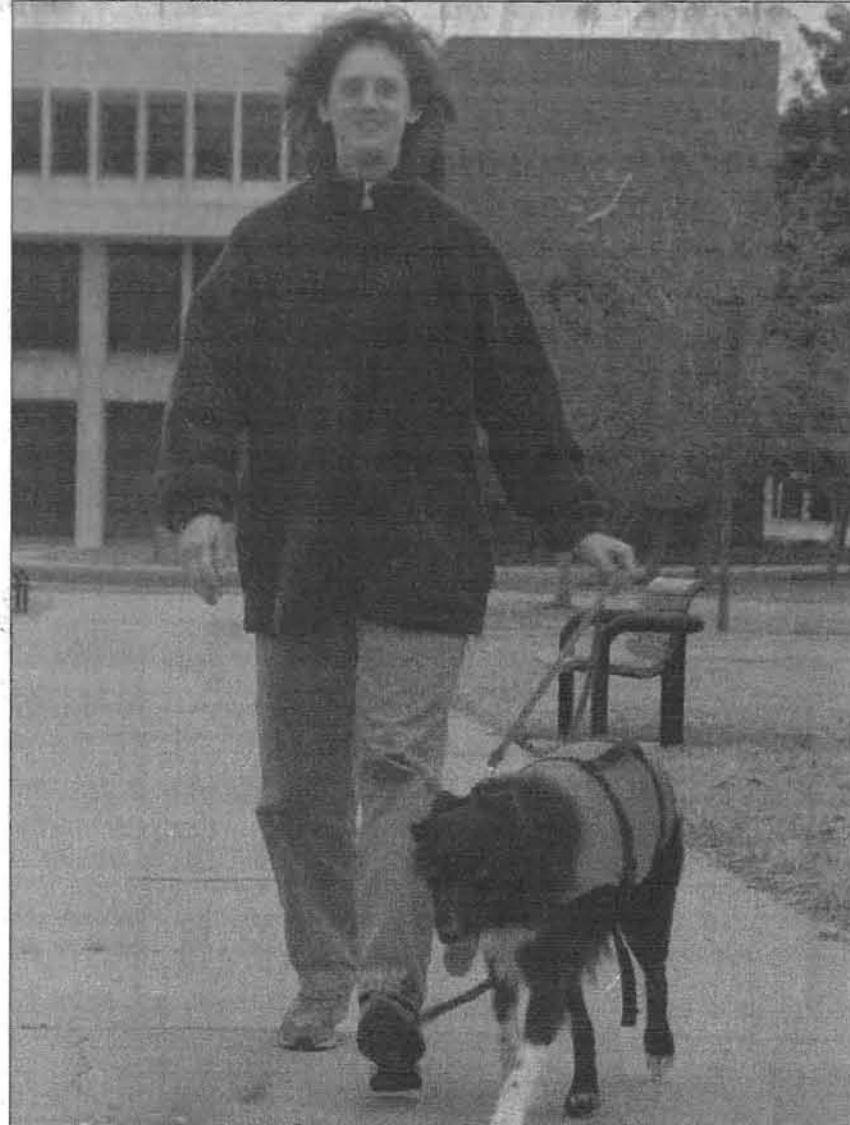
The geese are also under a strain from what is known as the "round-up." The round up is Olson's motive for starting her business and working eighty hours a week.

"The current round-up techniques are appalling," Olson said. "These are wonderful creatures that mate for life, but during round ups, parents and goslings are often separated."

The goslings are taken to wild areas without parental protection. Many die from predators. The adults are trucked north to Minnesota to a poultry processing plant.

Olson prefers to manage the Canada Goose problem by training them to avoid people areas with a skilled dog that won't attack them. She also favors adding eggs to help solve the population problem. To add an egg is to render it unviable by spraying or piercing the egg while still a yolk.

She would like to see more public education on why people should not to feed them. She also feels it is a humane way to decrease their numbers.



Dorene Olson, who owns WyndSong Border Collies and Canada Goose Management, is attempting to solve the problems caused when geese and people share the same area. She will use her trained Border Collie to "persuade" the geese not to inhabit certain areas of the campus.

COMMENTARY, from page 4

That place meant a lot to me. So did my music. I sing all the time—often too loud, and usually not very well. I lost my complete collection of Petra CDs, over 25 of them. It took me years to assemble those albums.

And it only took an instant to lose those precious things.

But they were just things. Things! I was too wrapped up in it all. I've been sucked into our culture of materialism like everyone else. I'm clingy. I hold onto stuff for sentimental value.

I'm always rationalizing why to keep things around. The Old House, for instance, is a colorful piece of UMSL history. No other building on campus can compete with it. The tales are almost legendary now: the arsonist who set the Old House on fire, the time someone was thrown through a wall upstairs, the bawdy "news desk incident." This campus is

disgustingly short of history and continuity. The Old House was one of the few places that contributed some.

But this demolition will pave the way for something new, for "progress." Administration officials say for now the properties they own along Natural Bridge will be converted to green space. But there are many potential future uses. An Alumni Relations annex or a new connection between North and South Campus are a few ideas being considered.

So, I'm trying to let go. With the house gone and my music missing, I feel strangely free. Will it last? I hope so.

But the pile of memento bricks I stowed away in my car is trying to convince me otherwise.

Josh Renaud
Editor-in-Chief
The Current 2000-2001



The Old House, office of The Current for many years, was demolished last week. The house was home to over a decade of Currenters, many of whom who have moved on to bigger things. She will be missed.

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Personals

Beth F.

Call me sometime, or you can find me at Schnucks.

Tom

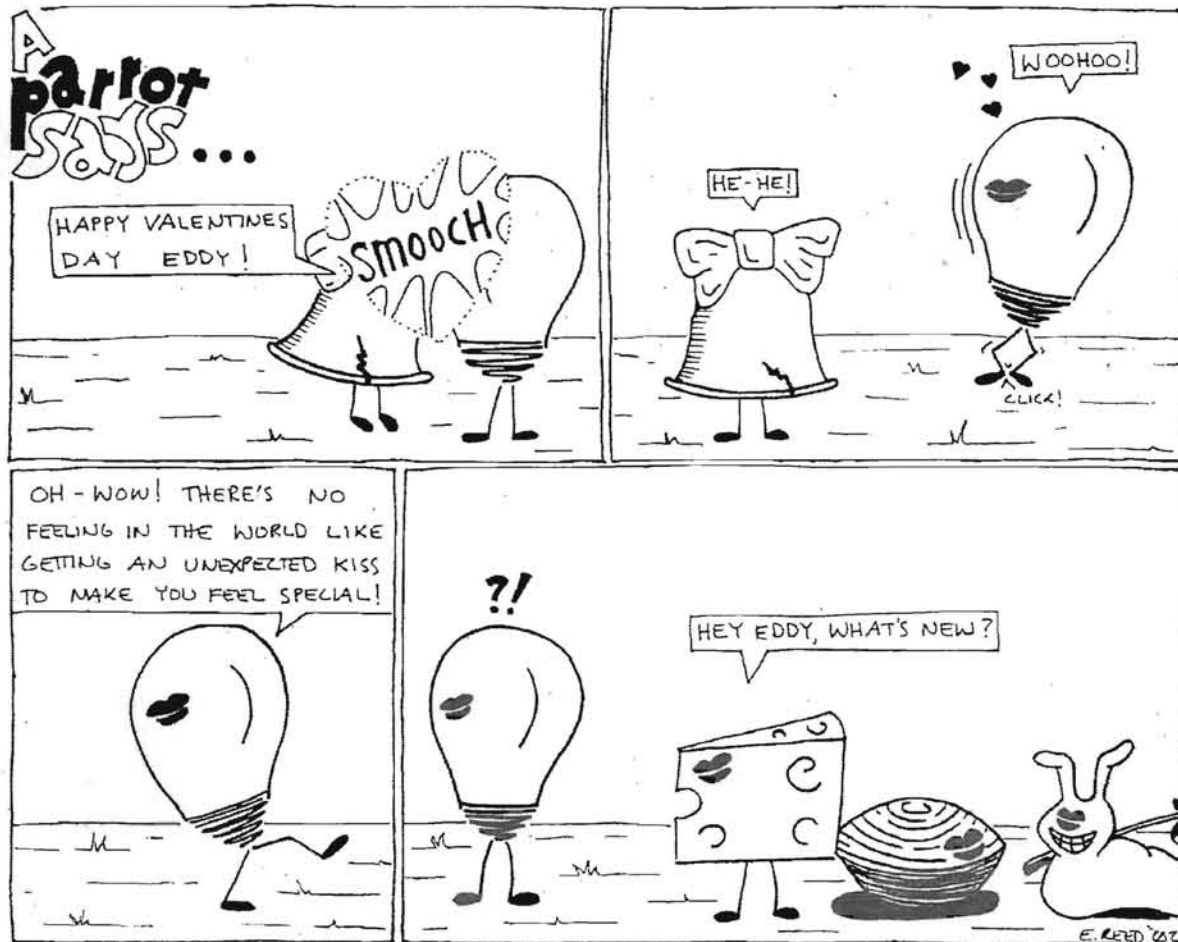
Hope cupid gets his way with you.

Dave

Ditto. Oh, wait, who needs cupid when you have jute?

Happy Birthday Joe!

Ya, I know I am a little late.



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Dr. Lani Guinier said people should look at the root problems of minorities during a lecture Feb. 5 at the Millennium Student Center.



Guinier speaks about inequalities

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

Dr. Lani Guinier said people should look at the root problems of minorities during a lecture Feb. 5 at the Millennium Student Center.

Guinier gave her speech in support of her latest book she co-authored with Gerald Torres called "The Miners Canary: Enlisting Race, Resisting Power, Transforming Democracy."

Guinier provided a preview of the book by telling a story about coal miners and a canary.

"The miners used to take a canary into the mines to alert them when the atmosphere was too toxic for the miners," Guinier said.

"The argument in the book that Gerald Torres and I are making is that (this is) basically the experience of people of color, and you can also translate this to the experience of women or the experience of those who have lived harsh lives or have

been excluded, is as the experience of the canary."

Guinier and Torres hope to get people to stop focusing on the cause of the problems, but instead direct their energies to finding the source of the problems.

"We tend to pathologize the canary as if the problems we are seeing, in the

context of people of color, is a problem of those people," Guinier said.

One subject she discussed in great detail was educational inequality. She cited then Governor of Texas George W. Bush's Ten Percent Plan. Texas state universities used to consist of predominately students from urban accelerated schools. Bush's Ten

'Guinier and Torres hope to get people to stop focusing on the cause of the problems, but instead direct their energies into finding the source of the problems.'

Percent Plan now grants students who graduate in the top ten percent of their high school class the opportunity to attend one of those state universities. This plan adds more diversity and chances to make a difference in the in the community as a whole, Guinier noted.

In 1998, Guinier became the first black woman tenured professor at Harvard Law School. However, this was not the first time she has received public attention. In 1993, Dr. Guinier was nominated by President Clinton as the first black woman to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Shortly after that nomination, her name was withdrawn without a confirmation hearing.

When asked about her name being withdrawn from nomination, Guinier said she was told her nomination had become "too controversial and they were basically worried that if they proceeded with the confirmation hearing that there would be 'death by a thousand cuts.'"

OUT! of the closet

BY STANFORD GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

After a semester of hiatus, OUT! has stepped back out of the closet. The organization is reforming and reshaping in an effort to include everyone on campus who wishes to join.

"Although OUT! was initially chartered as a gay, lesbian and bisexual student group, one of its strongest alliances has historically been with the straight community on campus. Group members have frequently identified themselves as other than [gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered] and have expressed an interest in working towards a better campus for everyone," said Michael Rankins, president of OUT!

"A particular sexual orientation is not requisite to unity through diversity. The core of OUT!'s mission is not about special rights, but about human rights," Rankins said.

Thirty people attended the group's open house on Jan. 30. Ideas spawned from the informal meeting included possibly changing the name, rewriting the mission statement, functions open to the entire campus and outings for the group.

"It's become clear that a lot of educating remains to be done. Providing accurate information about large segments of the population which remain as marginalized and stereotyped groups is one important piece of the work which lies ahead for this group," said Rankins, a doctoral counseling student. "Even if one person is oppressed through ignorance, every person suffers in one way or another."

In order to be more inclusive, OUT! is considering changing its name. The newest name submitted is "GLOW" which stands for "gay, les-

bian or whatever." The hope is that changing such a name will allow anyone to feel welcome, not just to those who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual and "out of the closet."

"While OUT! serves as a social and support network, the true foundation of helping all people to free themselves from oppression comes not from a particular partisan stance, but from building an environment based on the appreciation of human differences," Rankins said.

Commenting on the mission statement of OUT!, Rankins said, "The experience of college students who are other than straight is often marked by a sense of isolation, and a feeling of being misunderstood. Many such students have often remarked that they simply feel 'invisible' on campus. Others have said that to be visible is to be vulnerable. The

mission statement of UM-St. Louis is to create a positive learning environment. This group seeks to ensure that such an environment is available for all students."

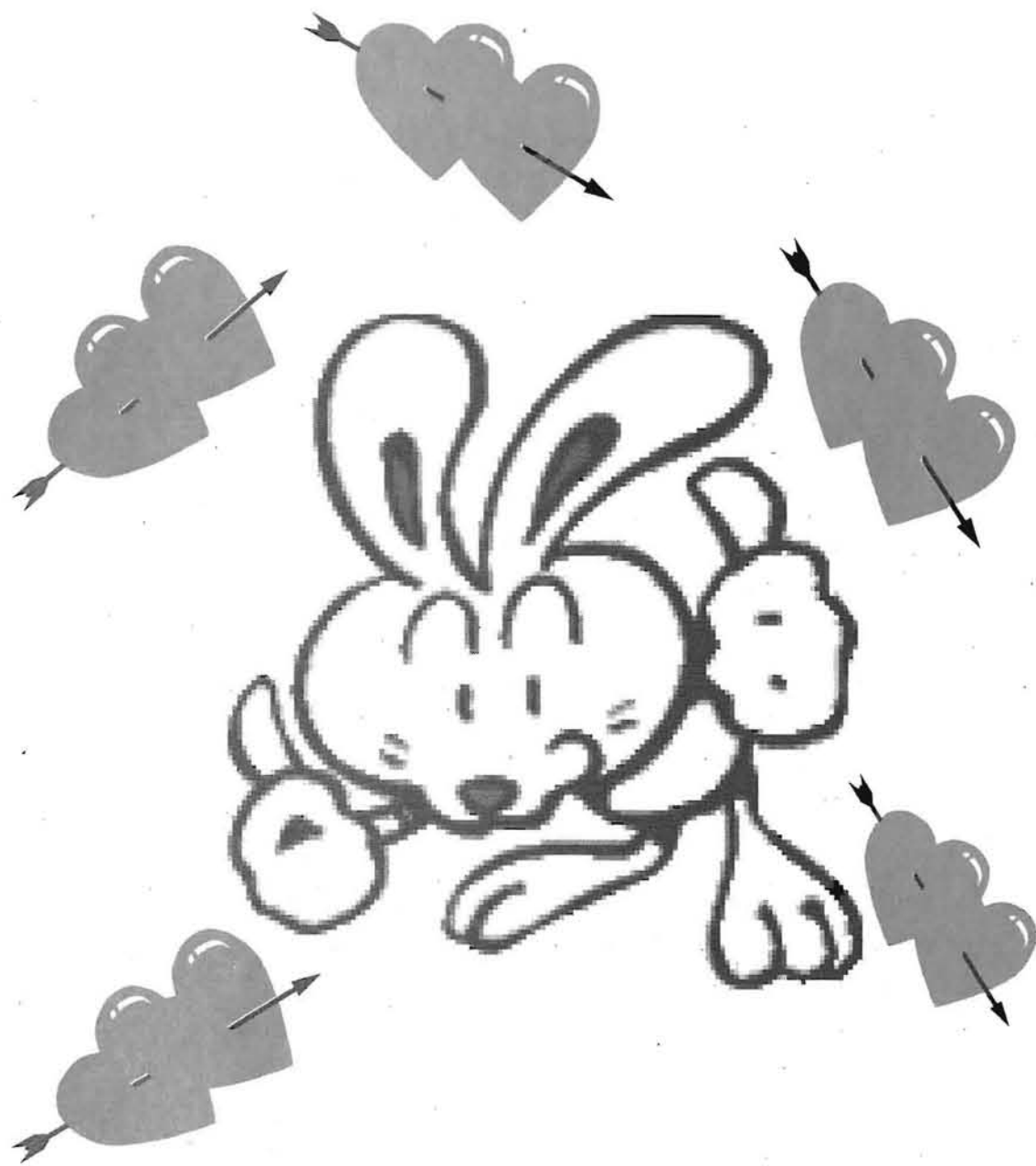
OUT! maintains a resource room complete with a library of literature relevant to the issues of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. This resource room is open to all students and is located in the Student Organization Suite, room 384.

Meetings for OUT! will be held every first and third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Since an exact room has not been decided upon yet, a sign with the upcoming meeting rooms will be posted on the door of Room 384 in the MSC. For more information, call 516-5013.

"The core of OUT!'s mission is not about special rights, but about human rights."

-Michael Rankins,
President of OUT!

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