



Season-ending losses for R-Women and R-Men ▲ See page 5

## Students lend helping hand to West End Community Center

### Students take time out of weekend to paint and clean for charity project

BY JASON GRANGER AND MIKE SHERWIN

News Editor and Photo Director

Children of the West End Community Center received a helping hand from UM-St. Louis students Saturday as the Student Government Association (SGA) and Office of Student Life sponsored a day of charity work. The students were at the community center from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. offering their help.

Work centered around giving West End Community Center a fresh coat of paint for the gym bleachers and cleaning the facilities while allowing students a chance to help out a charitable cause.

"November is UMSL Service Month, and a lot of groups and organizations have been doing service projects," Jeff Greisemer, SGA comptroller and coordinator of service projects for Student Government Association, said. "The honors college did some bulb planting, and there have been toy and food drives on campus as well. We saw that and wanted to do a big event to bring everyone together to do a good thing for the community."

According to Greisemer, SGA found out about the community center through the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"We heard about the West End Community Center in the newspaper, so we called them up and asked if they needed a service project," Greisemer said. "We took a tour of their building, and it seemed like a good place to help out."

Around 15 people turned out to help the community center, including Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Curtis Coonrod. Coonrod helped the UM-St. Louis students paint the center and encouraged them to enjoy themselves at the same time.

"I'm glad I'm not getting paid for this," Coonrod joked with the students. "Because they would have fired me a long time ago."

Coonrod was encouraged by the turnout of UM-St. Louis students at the event. He said "It's great to see UMSL students come out and help the community."

Greisemer was encouraged by the turnout as well.

"We are very happy with the number of people that turned out," Greisemer said. "More is always better."

West End Community Center, which is located on Union Blvd., is a place students can go after school and on the weekends to avoid activities that might otherwise lead to dangerous situations.

see SERVICE, page 12

## INDEX

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

# Garages falling apart

BY JASON GRANGER  
News Editor

Repairs persist on parking garages D and N as structural problems continue to arise in the two structures. Both structures were meant to be temporary, lasting only long enough to accommodate students until the permanent structures were completed. Parking garage N was constructed in 1969 and parking garage D was constructed in 1972.

Both garages were meant to last for about five years but have gone on to last almost 30 years.

According to Frank Kochin, director of facilities and services, the deterioration of the garages is the reason behind construction on the new garage systems.

"It is my understanding that the garages were only temporary," Kochin said. "Everything only lasts so long, and that is why we are building the Phase 1 and 2 garages."

Kochin went on to say that, from an engineering standpoint, certain safety precautions are built into every structure to ensure safety, but "nothing lasts forever."

UM-St. Louis's new garages are going to be identical to the

Millennium Student Center parking garage.

Problems with garages D and N include deterioration of the support pillars and rusting of support joints, problems that are becoming highly visible. In Garage N, the support joints are heavily rusted and deteriorating, overhead support beams are rusted and holes have formed in the support columns. The support columns have also become rusted. The problems were deemed dangerous enough to warrant the closing of Garage D to make immediate repairs to bring the structure up to safety code regulations. Since the shutdown of Garage D, the school has implemented a regular inspection schedule with the next inspection due over the Thanksgiving holiday break, according to Kochin.

Caution tape surrounds areas that are in need of repairs, and orange construction barrels block the entrances to closed floors in garages N and D (Floors one and four of Garage D remain open.) According to Kochin, safety inspectors have identified areas in need of repair.

see GARAGES, page 11



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

RIGHT and ABOVE: Water drips from dilapidated I-beams on the ceiling of the 3rd floor of Garage D and forms standing pools of water. Garages D and N are both undergoing structural repairs.



## Vice chancellor's office renovated

# New 'improvements' over \$100,000

BY JASON GRANGER  
News Editor

Construction is currently underway in Woods Hall to improve the aesthetic value of Vice Chancellor Nasser Arshadi's office. However, there is some speculation as to how the school can afford such improvements in the midst of a major financial crisis.

Gov. Bob Holden has cut the Higher Education budget by more than \$280,000,000, and the campus is currently considering implementing a 10 percent student fee increase to offset the damage done by Holden's cuts. With more budget cuts predicted in the coming months, questions have been raised as to why the university is spending money on revamping vice chancellor Arshadi's office.

This brings more speculation to an office that has been criticized since its inception. After the position of Vice-Chancellor of Research was created, there were some concerns raised about the reasons Vice-Chancellor Arshadi was named to the post after previously holding the position of Dean of the Graduate Schools.

Construction in the office includes installing new hardwood floors and new tiles for the ceiling, as well as

tearing out the old walls, flooring and ceiling tiles. The hardwood floors, which are not seen in any other office in Woods Hall, are not solid wood, but a combination of wood and processed insulation.

According to Arshadi's assistant,

“With more budget cuts predicted in the coming months, questions have been raised as to why the university is spending money on revamping Vice-Chancellor Nasser Arshadi's office.”

Jackie Chambers, the money comes from a special account set up for Arshadi's office.

"A certain amount of the funding comes from administrative costs," Chambers said. "The person in charge of the department, which would be Vice Chancellor Arshadi in this case, has discretion over the way the money is spent. It is usually spent on

improvements to surroundings and supplies, as it was in this case."

After assessing what needed to be done in the office, Chambers agreed that the time is right for repairs.

"We had a puddle of water under one of our staff member's desk," Chambers said. "One of our staff members was also experiencing severe allergy problems as well."

According to Chambers, the cost of the renovations is going to exceed \$100,000, with expenses going towards installation of carpeting, hardwood floors and a new filing system. The filing system is going to be reminiscent of those now seen in physician's offices, so the department of Research can keep their records straight. According to Chambers, the department has been using a system of mismatched filing cabinets.

The new filing system, Chambers said, is "actually going to be similar to the filing system found in the library." "Our's0 isn't going to be electric, however. This way we can store our information in a small area."

Chambers went on to say that all the files will be kept in a locked room so people outside the office will not have access to the "sensitive materials" kept within.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

A carpenter works on the renovations in 341 Woods Hall last week. Hardwood floors, carpeting, new ceiling tiles, and a new filing system are being installed at a cost of over \$100,000.

see CONSTRUCTION, page 10



# Bulletin Board

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

**November**  
**Zeta Phi Beta**  
Zeta Phi Beta will be hosting the Boogie Nights Talent Showcase in the Pilot House on Dec. 13. Prizes will be awarded. For more information or to sign up, call 370-5233 or email questions to zeta\_rho@finer-woman.zzn.com

**Mon 11 - Fri 15**  
**Alpha Phi Omega**  
Hats Off to Cancer will be held this week. Look for a donation box in the MSC or drop new hats off at the APO office in the Student Activities Room. Hats for children ages 2-5 are needed the most, but all clean and new hats are accepted. The event is coordinated by Alpha Phi Omega. For more info., contact Ashley at akrnp3@studentmail.umsl.edu. Alpha Phi Omega will also be selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle all week. Winners will be selected by Dec. 5.

**Mon 11 (cont.)**  
**Monday Noon Series**  
Recycled Composition - A Sonata in Symphonic Clothing will be the topic of the Monday Noon Series. The event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, room 229.

**Tues 12 - Fri 15**  
**Rec Sports**  
Rec Sport's Basketball Free-throw Contest & Hot Shot Tourney will be taking place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 12 - 15, in the Mark Twain Gym. These fun basketball competitions are free, require very little time, and are open to students, faculty, and staff. T-shirts will be awarded to the winners. Drop by any of the four days and give it your best shot. No advance registration is necessary.

**Wed 13**  
**Campus Ministry**  
The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry will be having a free Bible Study from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The study is held every Wednesday. The ministry is located at 8000 Natural Bridge Road. Call 385-3000 for more information.

**Student Life**  
A College Bowl Tournament will be held at 6 p.m. in the Pilot House. College Bowl is a trivia competition held at schools all over the U.S. Winners will receive prizes and the chance to represent UMSL at the Regional College Bowl. Teams of 4-6 people or individuals can sign up. For more information or to sign up, go to the Student Life Office or email UPB at UMSL\_UPB@hotmail.com.

**Wed 13 (cont.)**  
**Campus Freethought**  
Free Movie Wednesday will be held at noon in room 316 of the MSC.

**Thur 14**  
**Student Life**  
The All Greek - All Student Party will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Pilot House. Join the UMSL Greeks for free food, giveaways, and music.

**UMSL Biology**  
The annual conservation forum, co-sponsored by the International Center for Tropical Ecology at UMSL will be held at the Living World in the St. Louis Zoo from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Programs include keynote speakers, breakout sessions and displays by over 20 conservation organizations. Admission is free. For more information, call Patrick Osborne at 516-5219.

**Fri 15**  
**Honors College**  
Get Felt, the 5th annual pool tournament of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association will begin at 7 p.m. in the Seton Residential Hall Lounge. Doors open at 6 p.m. The price is \$5. For more information, call 516-7733.

**Mon 18**  
**Monday Noon Series**  
This week, Don Phares, professor of economics and public policy, will present "Cuba's Future, Marx or Wal-Mart? - A Slide Talk." Phares has visited Cuba twice during the past three years. The event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, room 229.

**Put it on the Board!**  
Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for information.

**The Current**

**Stanford Griffith** • Editor-in-Chief  
**Anne Bauer** • Managing Editor  
**Darren Woods** • Ad Director  
**Mindaugas Adamonis** • Business Manager  
**Judi Linville** • Faculty Adviser

**Jason Granger** • News Editor/Prod. Associate  
**Mike Sherwin** • Photo Director  
**Catherine Marquis-Homeyer** • A&E Editor  
**Hank Burns** • Sports Editor/Prod. Associate  
**Elliott Reed** • Cartoonist  
**Sara Porter** • A&E Associate  
**Adam Bodendieck** • Copy Editor  
**Jamie Kerry** • Proofreader  
**James Laury** • Distrib. Manager  
**Shannon Hoppe** • Prod. Manager  
**Rudy Scroggins** • Cartoonist

**Staff Writers**  
Charlie Bright, Danielle Cabell, Shannon Cross, Kate Drolet, Michelle Elkins, Joan Henry, Micah Issitt, Melissa McCrary, Nichole Richardson, Becky Rosner, Will Melton, Kim Silver, Joe Curtis

**Staff Photographers**  
Emily Fishman, Kevin Ottley, Sara Quiroz, Steve Seebeck

**388 Millennium Student Center**  
8001 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

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

**campus**  
388 Millennium Student Center

**email**  
current@jinx.umsl.edu

**website**  
http://www.thecurrentonline.com

## The Campus Crimeline

**November 1**  
A student reported that his vehicle was stolen from Lot KK, across from the Nursing Administration Building.

**November 6**  
A burglary was discovered at a classroom located in the Le Gras Building. The overhead projector was stolen.

**November 7**  
A resident of the University Meadows reported that someone damaged both of her side view mirrors on her auto that was parked in front of building #8.

**November 7**  
The victim reported that her vehicle was damaged while parked in Lot X, located near the Residential Life area. The vehicle had its rear window and mirrors damaged.

**November 8**  
A burglary was discovered at the General Services Building wherein unknown person(s) broke windows to gain entry to offices located in the building and stole property belonging to the University.

**November 8**  
Construction personnel of the Performing Arts Building reported that both of their construction trailers, located in the rear of the GSB area, were burglarized overnight. Entry was gained by breaking out the trailer windows.

**November 8**  
University personnel reported that an unknown person stole a nameplate off a wall in the Social Sciences Building.

## Lose it? Find it.

### Lost and Found

218 Millennium Student Center  
314-516-5022

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UMSL. The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. The Current requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current, its staff members or the University. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current. First copy is free; all subsequent copies are 25 cents and are available at the offices of The Current.

**MCMA**

University of Missouri - St. Louis

## DR. KING ESSAY CONTEST

### Essay Requirements

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

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

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

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

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



## STUDENT TRAVEL

get hyped for  
spring break '03

Costa Rica.....	\$825
Cancun.....	\$629
Amsterdam..	\$667
Paris.....	\$702

Includes air & accommodations from St. Louis. Prices are per person. Some taxes & fees not included. Other departure cities and destinations available.

565 Melville (314) 721.7779

www.statravel.com **STA TRAVEL**

ONLINE >> ON THE PHONE >> ON CAMPUS >> ON THE STREET

## EGG DONORS NEEDED - \$3500 Stipend

You can make a difference and help a couple go from infertility to family. If you are 21-34 & have a good family health history, then you may qualify. All ethnicities needed.

Call (800) 780-7437, anonymous and confidential.

## Attention UMSL Students!

### The Traffic Stop

The One Stop For All Your Traffic Needs!



Tickets - DUI - DWI - Suspensions  
Just drop it off on your way to or from school!

**David M. Hocking, Attorney At Law**

8509 Natural Bridge (Just East of North Hanley)  
(314) 428-NOGO (314) 423-4LAW  
(314) 423-4515 Fax

Just Look For The Big Red Stop Sign!

\*Ask About Our Student Special with Valid I.D.



# Champion boxer creates art

BY MICHELLE ELKINS  
Staff Writer

Karoz Norman possesses two distinct forms of talent and artistry; his smooth illustrations on paper and his fluidity in the boxing ring make Norman a hot commodity. A St. Louis native, Norman's fancy footwork has made him a champion flyweight, while his artistic side is steadfastly developing, making him a promising illustrator.

Athleticism and art might seem like an unlikely mix, but Norman has found that they complement each other. Pursuing his bachelors in graphic arts at UM- St. Louis, Norman has been employed by Building Operations for the Millennium Student Center for two years now. A natural artist, Norman is a regular participant in the art shows produced yearly by the Associated Black Collegians and the Amhadi Muslim Student Association. "His work is always fantastic. He is one of my favorite students to have his work displayed," said Kareema Shaheed of the Amhadi Muslim Student Association.

Norman's artistic endeavors are often displayed at various graphic arts

student displays around campus. His elementary school teachers always complimented his artistic ability, which won him first prize in an art contest that spanned several school dis-

“  
‘His work is always fantastic. He is one of my favorite students to have his work displayed.’

— Kareema Shaheed  
Amhadi Muslim Student Association

tributes for two years in a row when he was a child. With this type of motivation and a love for comic books, he was inspired to go to college and study illustration.

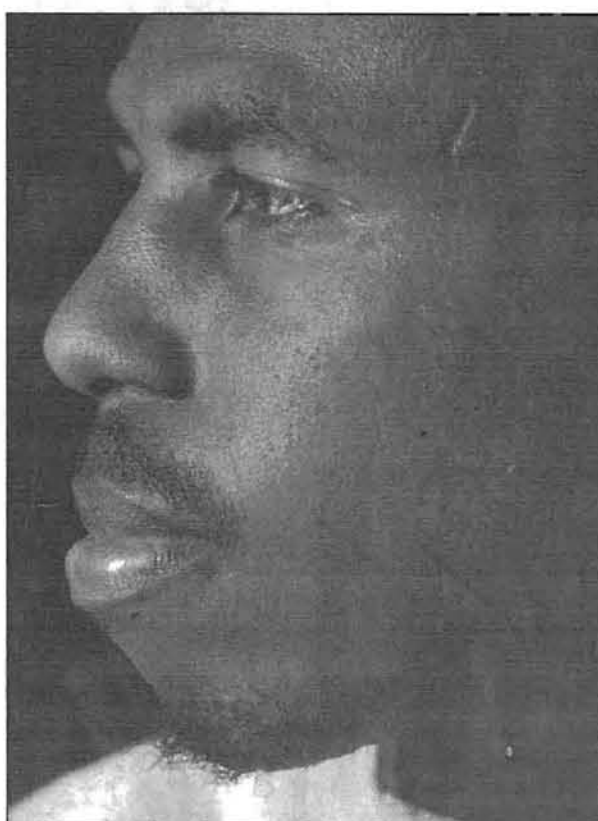
At 106 pounds, Norman currently ranks as the number five light fly-

weight in the country. The highlight of his boxing career was winning the gold medal at the 1992 Junior Olympics in Dublin, Ireland. He later moved to the Olympic Education Center in Marquette, Michigan, in 1995, and a year later he participated in the Muhammad Ali Cup and made it to the finals of the U.S. championships.

USOCEC boxing coach Al Mitchell, who led the 1996 Olympic team, said “[Norman] is a good athlete and a good person and is concerned about his studies.”

Thomas Cappuccio, a NMU art and design professor, describes him as incredibly focused, disciplined and competitive – all qualities Norman transfers from the sport to the studio. “Whether I’m boxing or drawing, I need to have a game plan,” Norman said. “Before I go into the ring, I visualize what I want to do. It’s the same when I’m looking at a blank piece of paper. I visualize what I want to create before I pick up the pencil and start to draw.”

Norman is very serious about his career as an illustrator. “It’s something I always wanted to do. I want boxing, too, but this would give me something to fall back on if I injure myself. Plus,



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

LEFT: Karoz Norman is a true renaissance man. Norman is a nationally-ranked light flyweight boxer, a talented artist, and a student.

us little guys don’t make much money like the heavyweights,” Norman said.

“My first goal is to graduate and get a job.”

# Author reads from ‘White Tattoo’ book

BY SARA PORTER  
Senior Writer

When author William J. Cobb sent his story “The Wish” to The New Yorker and it got accepted, he wasn’t thrilled, as most writers would be; he

was apprehensive.

“I didn’t have the time to warn my friends,” Cobb said. “It came out around the holidays and when they read it they were like ‘Uh, okay.’”

That’s because “The Wish,” like many of Cobb’s other stories, deals with the darker side of life and con-

sists of characters that are, for the most part, based on people Cobb knows.

“ [The story] is mostly true,” Cobb said. “There are some similarities.”

Cobb read “The Wish” in a public book reading at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6, in Gallery 210 as part of the Short Story and Poetry Lecture Series sponsored by the English Department.

“The Wish” was part of Cobb’s collection of short stories “White Tattoo,” which was published earlier this year. It tells the story of a young woman, Lope, and her romantic relationship with an older man named, Weaver. Their story is paralleled by the romantic story of Lope’s mother, Kay, and her boyfriend, Leo, a former mountain climber who, because of an accident, doesn’t have enough oxygen in his brain. This disorder causes him to fall asleep at odd times.

“I chose this story because I liked it and because it fit the timeframe to tell it,” Cobb said. “Most of my other stories are longer.”

Mary Troy, director of the MFA program, was full of praise for Cobb, particularly his attention to violence. “These short stories could be considered horror,” Troy said. “Violence is totally random; people get killed without benefit of a plot. They are in places that are difficult for them to

comprehend . . . . But his stories can end happily,” Troy said. “There are surprising characters that can gain an element of truth.”

After he received his masters at the University of Texas, Cobb began his career writing for a stock market magazine, a job that he said he hated. “I didn’t know anything about busi-

“  
Like many authors, Cobb says that he gets his inspiration from events and people in his life, particularly when he set about writing “The Wish.”

ness,” he said. “Check out most magazines, chances are the writers don’t know anything about business either. Most of the time, they get hired because they can write a sentence as I did.”

Cobb then began to get his stories published in various magazines and literary journals. His short story

“Dark Matter” was published in the UM-St. Louis literary journal “Natural Bridge” in March and was well-received by many readers. “I am glad for the attention I received [for ‘Dark Matter’],” Cobb said. “It’s one of my favorites.”

Like many authors, Cobb says that he gets his inspiration from events and people in his life, particularly when he set about writing “The Wish.” “The financial world always interested me, even though I wasn’t good at it,” Cobb said. “That’s why I made Weaver a businessman.”

He also got his inspiration from Leo’s passion for mountain climbing and Lope’s crossword puzzle hobby from people he knew. “I had a friend who was into mountain climbing, and she gave me all the information I needed,” Cobb said. “One night she invited me over for dinner to meet her daughter who it turned out liked crossword puzzles.”

To avoid the difficulties that he has had with his friends, Cobb advises authors to do what they can to avoid basing characters too closely on real people. “Change the character’s location, hair color, anything,” Cobb said. “But keep who they are.”

Cobb said that one of the best things about writing is seeing the reader’s reaction. “I try to surprise the reader,” Cobb said. “It’s fun to be outrageous now and again.”



Sara Quiroz/ The Current

William Cobb, winner of the Sandstone Prize in fiction, read from his new collection, White Tattoo at Gallery 210 on Wednesday evening. The Center for the Humanities, the MFA Program, and the Regional Arts Commission sponsored the event.

# Palaima speaks on Ancient Greece’s wars

BY SARA PORTER  
Senior Writer

Thomas Palaima, professor of classics and director of the program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory at the University of Austin-Texas, will give a speech on Monday, Nov. 11, at 12 p.m. in the Millennium Center Century Room C on war and violence in Ancient Greece and how it pertains to modern times.

“[Palaima] is one of the world’s experts of war and violence in Ancient Greece,” said Michael Cosmopolous, professor in Greek studies and organizer for the Greek lecture series. “Recently he worked on a study of war and violence through the ages and how it affected our lives . . . . One of the major issues of humanity is violence,” Cosmopolous said.

Cosmopolous is a Bronze Age archaeologist and a colleague of Palaima, who is a lecturer in The Bronze Age.

Palaima worked with psychologist John Shay, who wrote the book “Achilles in Vietnam,” which dealt with the psychology of the Vietnam veterans. Palaima compared the psychology to the soldiers in the Trojan War. “Palaima found that the psychology of the soldiers in Vietnam and Troy did not change much in 3,000 years,” Cosmopolous said.

Cosmopolous feels that it is important to study the various elements of Greek culture for our humanity. “It is important to understand the points of view of the ancient Greeks and elements of Greek society and how humanity was, and still is, affected by them,” Cosmopolous said. “Greek violence is not all that far removed from us,”

Cosmopolous said. “It is impossible to fully understand how violence affects us and how to deal with it without looking back and seeing how others lived with it through the years.”

Palaima’s lecture is the second offering this year in the Greek Studies Lecture Series. The first was a lecture on “Mystery Cults in Ancient Greece” given by Cosmopolous himself. The lecture series began last year and is one of many offerings that the Endowed Professorship in Greek Studies is using to promote Greek culture on the UM-St. Louis campus. They have also worked closely with the Center for International Studies in inviting other speakers, such as Aphrodite Matsakis, author of the book “Growing Up Greek in St. Louis” and musicians such as Mitsi Miniolis and the Balalaika Musicians last year.

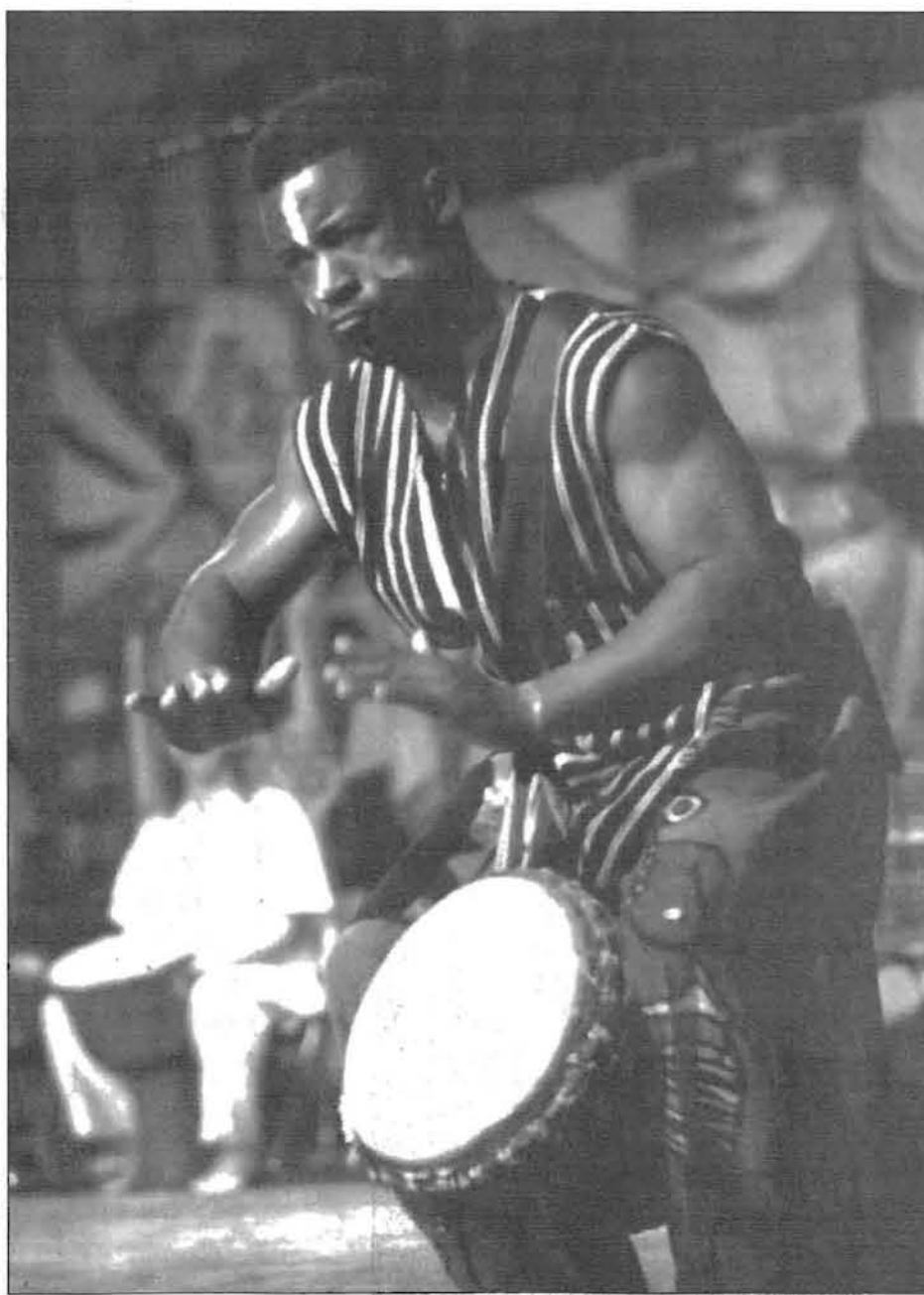
Cosmopolous says that these events are highly attended, but that more could be done.

“We have a lot of people from the community coming, but we would like to see more students,” he said.

Another event that the Greek Professorship is planning is an archaeological dig in Pylos, Greece, in the summer. “It was one of the first known federal states,” Cosmopolous said. “The dig will explain the creation of federalism.” Pylos, which existed between 1600 and 100 BC, is one of many sites that the team will be touring. “It will be partly a dig and partly a lecture, so it is accredited,” Cosmopolous said. “After the dig we will have lectures on the cultures and take a tour to some of the other sites.”

For more information on the dig, contact www.iklaima.org.

# Afrika Night spans oceanic divide, captivates Pilot House audience



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Guests to last Saturday’s “Afrika Night” were treated to a five hour celebration of African culture. A large buffet of traditional foods was prepared, and there were performances of dance and music by performers from Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Kenya.

# Series takes a political turn

BY KIM SILVER  
Staff Writer

Terrence Jones, professor of Political Science, gave a lecture on Monday, Nov. 4, regarding the possible outcomes of the recent election. Jones was the featured speaker at the Monday Noon Series hosted by the UM- St. Louis Humanities Department last week. In addition, Jones’s lecture emphasized the importance of Missouri’s U.S Senate race and discussed polls conducted by researchers.

“I will bet every last dollar on the outcome of the house seats tomorrow,” Jones said Monday afternoon. According to the political science professor, Republican Jim Talent had a slight advantage in the race because he would not be running against Bob Holden.

Jones analyzed polls conducted by the American Viewpoint, Zogby International and the Kansas City Star. Polls are imperative because they track the public opinion of U.S. citizens before, during and following elections. The independent companies work with psychologists, political scientists, economists and mathematicians in attempts to accurately research and depict public opinion. These polls had a general consensus, which indicated that Talent had a slight advance over the incumbent candidate, Democrat Jean Carnahan.

EMERSON

# EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Features Editor

phone: 516-4886  
fax: 516-6811



# OPINIONS

## EDITORIAL BOARD

STANFORD GRIFFITH

ANNE BAUER

HANK BURNS

JASON GRANGER

CATHERINE

MARQUIS-HOMEYER

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

## LETTERS

### MAIL

The Current  
388 Millennium Student Center  
8001 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63121

### FAX

(314) 516-6811

### 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 must include their student ID number. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s).

# Under Current

by Mike Sherwin  
Photography Director

Where do you see yourself in five years?

## OUR OPINION

# Flooring students Who is paying for the wood?

It seems as though everything UM-St. Louis focuses on this year has to do with the budget. Financial concerns have administrators considering a 10 percent fee increase and have prompted talk of a multi-million dollar deficit by the year 2007.

With all this talk of budget concerns, it would seem likely that the school would be concerned about saving as much money as possible. After all, at one point during the summer, the school went so far as to put a freeze on purchasing office supplies. These are truly dire straits for the school. But if the situation is so critical, why then has Vice-Chancellor of Research Nasser Arshadi seen fit to have hardwood floors installed in his office? Hardwood floors are expensive to install, some woods running as high as \$50,000 for a standard office-sized floor.

Students are bearing the brunt of Gov. Holden's slash and burn policy. Fee increases and surcharges are threatening to price out many students from the UM System. Now, students are dealt an insult from the school as money is unnecessarily spent on aesthetic improvements. This is not to say that the school does not need to look good; however, do thousands upon thousands of dollars need to be poured into hardwood floors? Is carpeting not good enough for Vice-Chancellor Arshadi? Student tuition has been raised to make up for budget shortfalls, not to pay for new hardwood floors in offices. In a time of financial crisis, students are being misled about what their money is purchasing. The average UM-St. Louis student would probably not be too happy to hear that, instead of their money going to save programs, jobs and classes, it is going towards a shiny new floor for one of the administrators.

According to Jackie Chambers, Arshadi's assistant, the money for the improvements came from a special account set up to reimburse Arshadi and his office for research projects. While

that seems like a legitimate response to questioning, it also seems suspect. Arshadi spurned numerous attempts to set the record straight. The Current tried for a week to get in contact with Arshadi, only to be rerouted to his assistant so she could say the same thing time and again. Chambers went on to say: "The money did not come from our standard operating budget." So where did the funds come from? No one is telling, yet.

This is no way to portray innocence, or at least ignorance to the problem. All this does is add fire to the rumors that University money is getting used to put the floor in.

At first, this may not seem like such a big deal. After all, a floor is a floor. It's walked on and no one notices. But this is not your run-of-the-mill thin carpeting or slate gray tile that is seen throughout the school. This stuff is way more expensive to purchase and way more expensive to install.

Now it is too late to stop this construction from being completed. The wood has already been laid. However, the administration of this school owes it to its students to be forthcoming about where their money is going. The administration also needs to stop frivolous spending in light of such financial strife.

This is no way to reward loyal students who suffered through an "education surcharge" and rumors of crises abounding. The administration needs to consider students before taking it upon themselves to spend student money.

Maybe an external audit is needed to show the administrators how they could afford to cut such frivolous spending like dumping thousands of dollars into installing the expensive floor for the office of a newly created position. If enough students and/or faculty and/or staff called for such an in-depth look at where University funds are actually going, UM-St. Louis should (notice we didn't say "would") comply to those requests. After all, universities are here for the students, not for floor installers.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Make a decision before it's too late.

I was relieved to see the Opinions page of the Oct. 21, 2002, issue. For those who have not read it... YOU NEED TO! I have been debating whether to write a letter voicing my concerns about the budget and its effects on upperclassman. I'm so grateful you have addressed this issue, and I want to add my thoughts.

In the last two months, I have become frustrated, and as a transfer and upperclassman, it's disheartening being an UMSL student. Rest assured, I'm not the only one who feels this way. At the beginning of the semester,

I had to sit with my advisor to figure out what classes would most likely be offered and how many of the much-needed classes would not be offered. I left with much dissatisfaction. In general, at almost any school, the degree programs to be hit hard are the arts, including foreign languages. This is because of the rationale that the arts are not as important as business or the sciences. As a result, many departments are left with next to nothing in options to provide degrees, and some programs have even been dropped.

In my case there are three options (which makes me luckier than some). The first option is to transfer. This is not feasible because, as all upper-

classman know, a certain number of credit hours in your major have to be taken in residence at the university. So, to transfer when you have five upper-level courses to take is not smart because you would basically be starting over in your major at the new university.

The second option is study abroad. This would be a wonderful option if I didn't have to work to pay for school. However, I'm fortunate to even have this option because it's not available to fulfill upper-level courses for some majors.

see LETTER, page 10

# What's your opinion?

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

- Financial Independence
- Arshadi's new hardwood floor
- Parents controlling their children

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](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

# What's with these kids parents today?

Maybe I'm just getting old, but I've noticed a disturbing trend lately that my generation did not see: Far too many of today's parents of young children are completely oblivious to what their children are doing in public. I have dined in several restaurants lately where parents of smaller children allowed their offspring to run and hop around the building, to play with the salad bar, to climb on the tables, to disturb other paying customers, to toss silverware on the floor, to scream at the top of their lungs and to do several other things my parents never would have tolerated from me at my age.

Why am I so outraged at this? Well, there are couple reasons.

First, parents are supposed to teach their children the difference between right and wrong. Part of that is instructing them on what is proper in social situations. I don't think anyone of any intelligence would disagree that the above actions are certainly outside of appropriate behavior in a restaurant—even a fast-food joint. Besides, why should my peaceful dinner be ruined just because parents are lazy?

Second, I'm sure these will be the same parents who claim at the top of their lungs that "My little Johnny could never do that!" when they are called into a parent-teacher conference for little Johnny's poor behavior in class. No mystery where that behavior started!

I know I'm young and have no children, but I've consulted with my parents and other parents about this. I have also spoken with my peers. These parents say that they never would have tolerated such chaos and rudeness from their children. My peers say that their parents would have taken them

out of the restaurant immediately. Children who cannot behave do not belong in certain situations, such as restaurants nicer than McDonalds, weddings, funerals and other social functions beyond 5-year-olds' birthday parties. Why so many parents fail to consider this I fail to understand. If a child is going to cry or scream, shouldn't it not be allowed to disturb everyone else in the entire building? Who wants his/her wedding to be filled with the sounds of a child's scream? No one I know.

I have considered two possibilities for the reasons why many parents do allow their children to do anything they want. 1.) If parents let the children run around and make messes outside of the home, the children will sleep well when

they get home because they will be too tired to create such disturbances in the privacy of the home. 2.) Some parents are just stupid or rude or both. It takes very little time for a parent to realize what their children are doing and correct them. But far too many fail to do so.

A final answer, although unpopular, is that some people just shouldn't be allowed to have children. If adults cannot be trusted to follow through with their legal and moral obligations to the children in their care, maybe they shouldn't be allowed to have them.

I'm not saying that the old adage "Children should be seen and not heard" applies to all occasions, but when my time, peace of mind and hard-earned money are involved, perhaps a reprimand to the parents is in order. After all, pretty is as pretty does in parents and children.



STANFORD GRIFFITH  
Editor-in-Chief

# Students earn degrees in different ways

I have always envied college students who make their own ends meet while going to school. Sometimes I sit at home (yes, with my parents) and wonder what it would be like if I had my own place while in college. I would embrace the independence and freedom of doing whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. It would be exciting to have my privacy. It would feel good to pay my own bills and be "responsible." Then, I always come to my senses. For the time being, while I am in school, I have a great thing going at home.

I envy these financially independent scholars because there is a lot to be said for paying your way through school. No, I haven't experienced it, but I know it has to be tough work. At the moment, all I have to do is my best in my classes and my job at the paper. I know I will always have a roof over my head. It's comforting not having to worry about money, but I'm afraid I haven't been realistic, and I have been told this time and time again.

A good friend of mine is paying his way through Webster University. He has had no student loans, no help from his parents and little help from his relatives. Somehow he makes every tuition payment. He works on campus and at Walgreens on the weekends. I have the utmost respect for him. He is learning inside and outside the classroom and, just from knowing him, I have learned a lot as well. He is a superb example of "reality" some would say, and I would agree. He is

earning his degree in more ways than one.

So, because I am not paying for my tuition, when I graduate will I have fully earned my degree? The answer to this question will be different for every person based on his or her perspective. In everyday conversation between other college students, somewhere or other, the topic of money comes up. It only makes sense. I don't believe money is the most important thing in the world, nor is it even in my top five priorities in life.

I cringe when conversations about tuition come up. I've bluntly been asked several times if I pay my tuition or if my parents do. Then, I often have to put up my guard and defend myself as if I am less of a person. I'm not sure how many times a person has said to me "in the real world..." and then

gone on to lecture me on how I have no idea what I am in for. Are they actually telling me that if their parents offered to pay their tuition they would not accept it? Maybe some would. For some reason I am less of a well-rounded person in these people's eyes. Why don't they be honest? Instead of telling me that I have a lot to learn, why don't they tell me that they have a chip on their shoulder and for some reason resent me? One thing that hopefully these people will realize while they are in the "real world" is that we have all been dealt a different hand. If they don't know the hand I have been dealt, then they should not lecture me. My friend doesn't.



ANNE BAUER  
Managing Editor



Inshira Al-Bawazeer  
Graduate Student  
Marketing

Hopefully married and successful.



Mike Wotka  
Graduate Student  
Business

I'll be 29, so I don't even want to think about that.



Ibtehal Al-Bawazeer  
Junior  
Finance

I hope by then I'll be done with my MBA and working.



Balaji Regoti  
Graduate Student  
Computer Science

My goal is to be a project manager in a big company in Silicon Valley.



# Late goal ends UM-SL's season

## UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Soccer

UM-St. Louis saw its tournament run come to an end as the team fell 1-0 to top-ranked Northern Kentucky on Nov. 10, in the championship game of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

In the first half, UM-St. Louis had two shots on goal while Northern Kentucky had six, but neither team could find the net. Late in the second half, NKU got on board as Stephanie Sandfoss scored off a corner kick in minute number 88 of the game to hand UM-St. Louis the loss. Riverwomen goalkeeper Rebecca Senn had four saves on the day to help keep the Riverwomen in the game.

UM-St. Louis finished the season with a 14-7-1 overall record and finished second in the GLVC in both the regular season standings and the GLVC Tournament.

As the season came to an end, the Great Lakes Valley Conference announced the GLVC Women's Soccer All-Conference team at the league awards banquet on Nov. 8. UM-St. Louis had four players receive recognition this season.

Seniors Lindsey Siemens and Rebecca Senn were both named to the GLVC First Team All-Conference for the second straight season, and they were joined on the

first team by sophomore Sonya Huan. Senior Lindsay Jones was named second team all-conference for the third straight year.

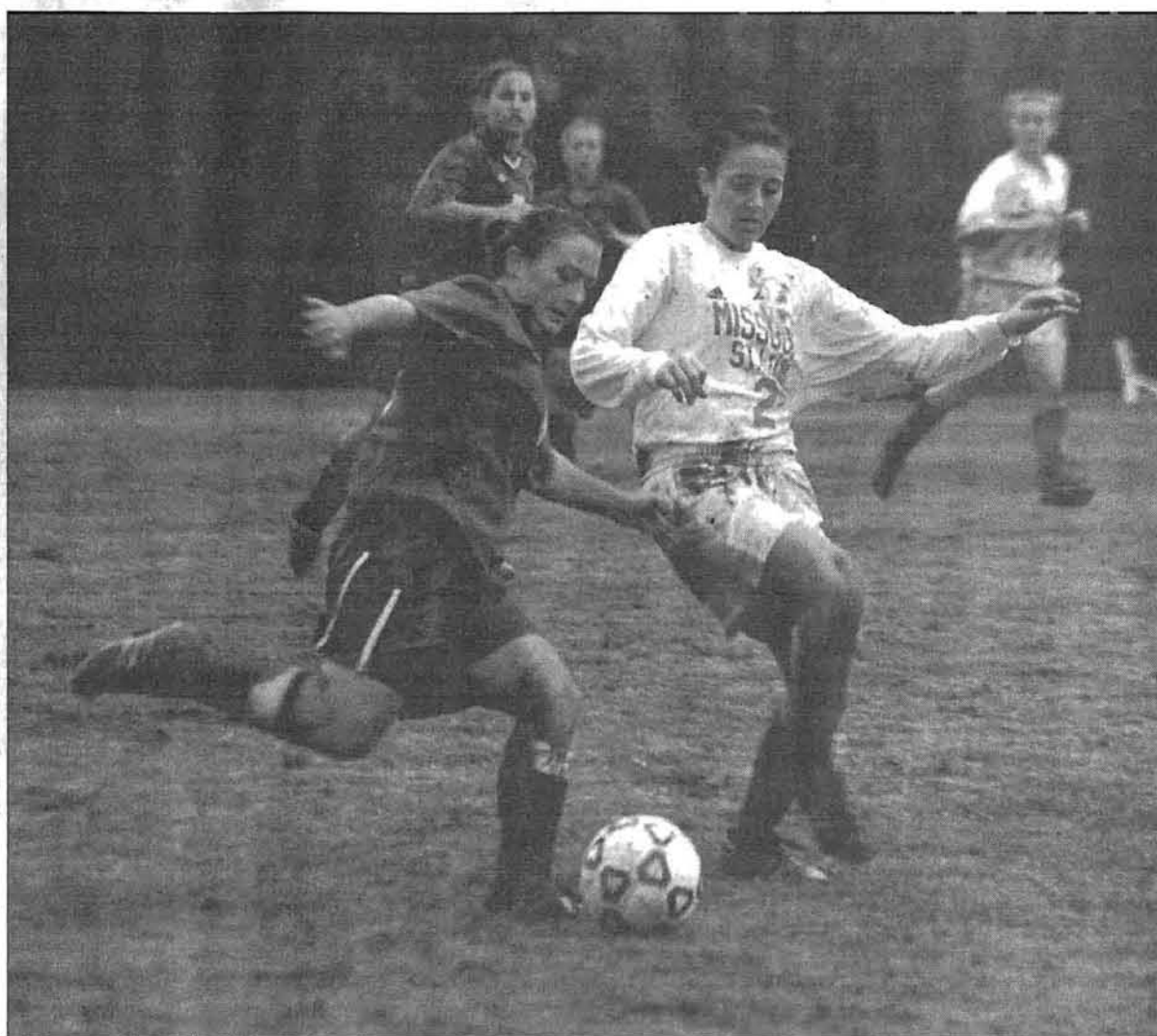
Senn is the starting goalkeeper for the Riverwomen this season, starting in all 19 games. She recorded five shutouts this season and gave up just 19 goals for a goal-against average of 0.96. Senn also has recorded 99 saves this season.

Siemens was also a first-team selection after leading UM-St. Louis in scoring this season. Siemens started in 18 games this season at the forward position and has a team-best 10 goals on the year and a team-best 24 points. She has recorded four assists and four game winning goals on the year.

Huan is a first-time selection to the all-conference team. Huan, a forward, was second on the team with nine goals and had a team-high five assists on the season. She scored 23 points and had three game-winning goals on the year.

Jones was named a GLVC second-team selection for the third consecutive year. Jones missed some games early in the season due to a knee injury, but rebounded during conference play to help lead UM-St. Louis to a second place finish. She recorded the game-winning goal last weekend in a 2-0 win over Saint Joseph's in the first round of the GLVC Tournament.

For more results on the GLVC tournament, visit [www.glvcsports.com](http://www.glvcsports.com).



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Riverwomen midfielder Katie Huelsing prepares to block her opponent, from St. Joseph's, during the game Sunday, Nov. 3. The Riverwomen won the game 2-0.

# R-men suffer season-ending loss to Wisconsin-Parkside

## UM-St. Louis Rivermen Soccer

Suffering a 5-0 upset defeat to number seven-ranked Wisconsin - Parkside in the first round, the UM-St. Louis men's soccer team was eliminated from the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament on Nov. 6.

Wisconsin - Parkside's Mark Swierzy scored first for the Rangers with 15 minutes on the clock in the first half on an assist from J. Neil Couch and Greg Walasek. Couch then added to the lead in the second half, scoring with 32:26 on the clock. The Rivermen tried to capitalize with several shots on

goal the second half, but were unsuccessful. The Rangers went on to score three more goals in the last fifteen minutes to make the final score 5-0.

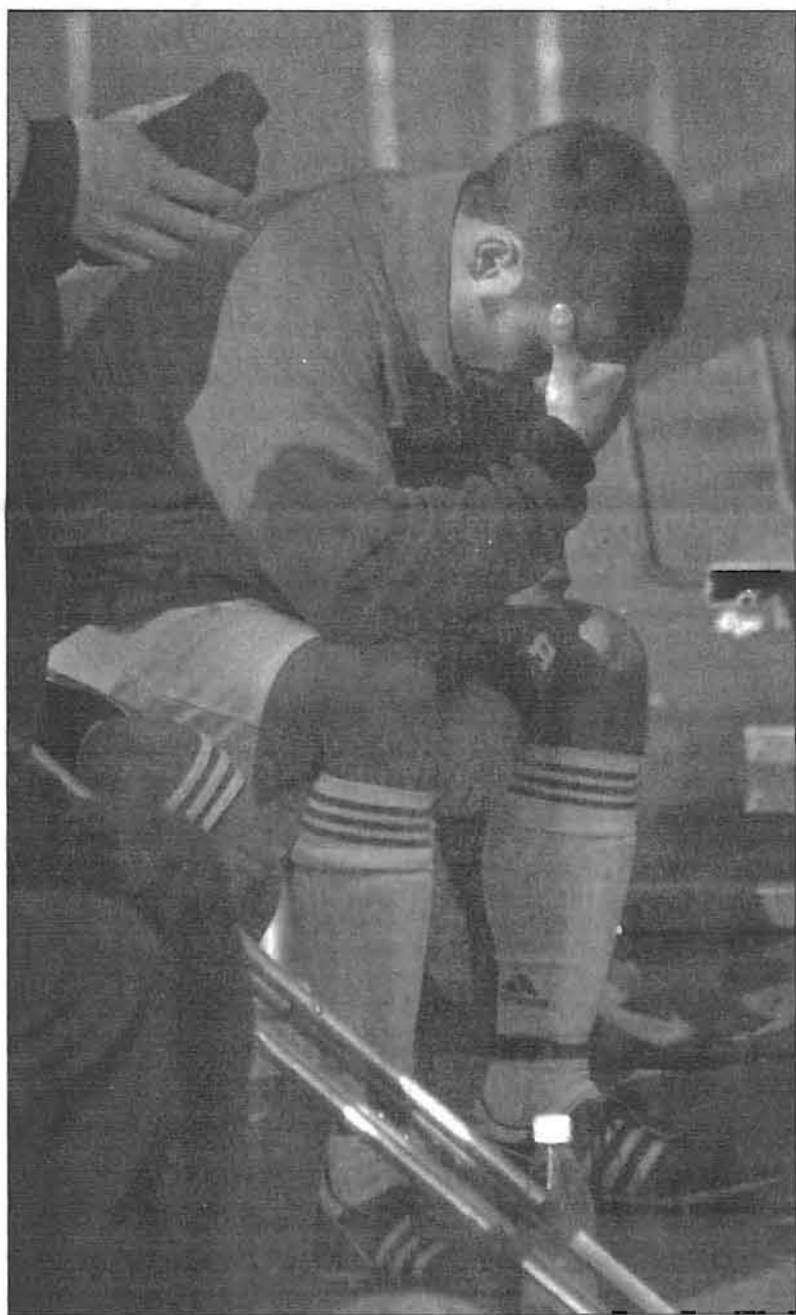
UM-St. Louis ends the season 9-7-1 overall and 7-3-1 in the GLVC.

Head Coach Dan King was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year at the conference awards banquet on Nov. 8, as voted on by all conference coaches.

King is in his second season at UM-St. Louis and has led the team to a second-place finish in the GLVC this year. That is the highest GLVC finish for UM-St. Louis since the squad joined the conference seven years ago. This year's team finished with a 7-2-1 record in regular-season conference play after finishing with just one conference win

and a tenth-place finish last year. King, who played at Indiana University for head coach Jerry Yeagley from 1981-84, becomes the second UM-St. Louis coach to earn Coach of Year honors in the GLVC.

In addition to King, the Rivermen had two players receive conference recognition. Senior Jeff Stegman was named first-team all-conference after leading the Rivermen in scoring this year. Stegman recorded a team-best 10 goals on the year and added four assists for 24 points, also a team-best. Senior Pat Shelton was named to the all-conference second team as a defender. He was a mainstay for most of the season for the Rivermen defense, helping hold opponents to 1.60 goals per game.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

LEFT: Rivermen Defender Tim Mosby hangs his head during Wednesday's game at St. Louis Soccer Park. ABOVE: Teammates watch on as UM-St. Louis forward David Walters weaves his way downfield.

# PREVIEW: Riverwomen begin to heat up the gym again

## UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Basketball

BY JOE CURTIS  
Staff Writer

Cold weather, leaves falling off the trees, and winter clothes can mean only one thing - college basketball season is about to begin. Although the weather outside may be brisk, inside the Mark Twain Building things are heating up for the UM-St. Louis Women's Basketball team's upcoming season.

Head Coach Shelley Ethridge leads her 2002-03 squad into a new season with high expectations due to a wealth of experience from four original returning seniors and some newcomers that can make an immediate impact.

"We should have a great nucleus because of all the seniors - they bring a lot of knowledge to the floor," Ethridge said.

One of those returning seniors that Ethridge is depending on for a solid performance is guard/forward Christy Lane. Lane led last year's team in total scoring with 342 points and in average with 13.2 points per game. Her defense also proved to be exceptional as well, grabbing 152 total rebounds and 32 steals.

"I expect [Christy] to have a big year for us. She can shoot the three, go inside and she has worked tremendously hard over the summer. Christy is a very versatile player, and she has high expectations for herself, so I think she will have a great season," Ethridge said.

Another senior who is being counted on is center Jessica Woods, who led the team in rebounding with 202 total rebounds and averaged 8.8 points per game last year. Senior guard Sophia Ruffin is also being counted on to continue her consistent play, coming off a year where she led her team in assists with 72 and also averaged 11.3 points per game.

Although there are plenty of seniors to fill the floor, Ethridge feels

that the starting lineup could consist of any player from her roster.

"I have a good problem because everyone on this team is competitive," Ethridge said. "We have a lot of depth, and we need every single last person to step up and fill a role, so everyone is going to get their chance."

One of those players is sophomore guard Ebonie Halliburton, who excelled as a freshman for the Riverwomen by dishing out 68 assists and putting up 8.8 points per game. Newcomers to this year's team who can make an immediate impact include two more seniors in forward/center Samantha Cartwright, who transferred from Texas A&M, and transfer Allendria Rudd, a forward.

"All the newcomers have surprised me, and they can all make an immediate impact; the only thing that concerns me is their lack of experience in this conference. I think after they get a few minutes in here and there, I expect them to be contenders for a starting spot by mid-season,"

Ethridge said.

Looking back on last year's team, which finished 9-17 overall and 6-14 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, Ethridge feels that the year was valuable for the squad despite its record.

"It was big to get a year of experience underneath our belts, and the girls understand more about the conference and what it takes to win. I don't think we got anything negative from last year; it was a learning experience for all of us," Ethridge said.

Ethridge said that a strong defense is the main goal for the squad.

"Defense and rebounding will keep you in ball games even if you are not shooting the ball well," Ethridge said. "We are really stressing that point this year."

Ethridge felt that, last season, she got caught up in the need to score points instead of focusing on defense, which she feels could have made an impact on their overall season.

"We had seven overtime games last year, and we couldn't get stops in the final 10 seconds of the game,"

Ethridge said.

Focusing on this year's team, Ethridge feels that it has the knowledge and leadership to compete in a tough GLVC.

"We have to control the game from the tip to the end. It's going to be tough the first few games, but this conference is so close in talent. It just comes down to who comes out on a certain night; that determines who is going to win. I love the competitiveness of this conference, and it makes it wonderful to coach," Ethridge said.

The team will be competing in two preseason games versus St. Louis University and Washington University to prepare them for the regular season in the upcoming weeks. The regular season for the Riverwomen basketball team begins Nov. 22, where the ladies will travel to Michigan for the Saginaw Valley State Basketball Tournament. The tournament will prepare the ladies for their first conference game, which is against Bellarmine, the third-ranked team in the GLVC, on Nov. 30.

# SPORTS

## EDITOR

**HANK BURNS**  
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## COMING UP

### Basketball Nov. 22-23

• Women - at the Saginaw Valley State Tournament in University Center, Mich.

23

• Men - 3:15 p.m. vs. Rockhurst

25

• Men - 7 p.m. at Harris Stowe

27

• Women - 5:30 p.m. vs. Illinois-Springfield

• Men - 7:45 p.m. vs. Illinois-Springfield

## RESULTS

### Volleyball Nov. 8

• 3-0 W at Kentucky Wesleyan

9

• 3-1 L at SIUE

Back in the line-up for next issue...



THE ABCs OF SPORTS  
**HANK BURNS**

## WEB

Check out the R-men and R-women sports at [www.umsl-sports.com](http://www.umsl-sports.com)



# A&E

**EDITOR**  
**CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**  
*A&E Editor*

phone: 516-4886  
 fax: 516-6811

## A&E Calendar

### Movies

Film openings are subject to change

Nov. 15

**Half Past Dead** - action thriller with Steven Seagal, Morris Chestnut.  
**Bloody Sunday** - documentary-like film about the Northern Ireland massacre that touched off years of Irish unrest.  
**All or Nothing** - renown indie filmmaker Mike Nichols' latest film about the emotional dynamics of a lower-income London family.

**Specials:**  
**The St. Louis International Film Festival** - the eleventh annual film fest starts this night and runs through Nov. 14, at the Tivoli and Hi-Pointe theatres and Webster University.

Nov. 22

**Far From Heaven** - an amazingly accurate recreation of the overblown Technicolor dramas of the 1950s, but dealing with forbidden issues that never appeared in '50s films (except for rare movies like "Imitation of Life").  
**The Emperor's Club** - drama about an inspiring teacher, with Kevin Kline.  
**Die Another Day** - James Bond flick with Halle Berry and Pierce Brosnan.  
**Friday After Next** - the 'Friday' series does a holiday revolve, with Ice Cube.  
**Her** - director Pedro Almodovar (All About My Mother) has potential art house hit in film about two men whose girlfriends are in masochism.  
**Quiet American** - adaptation of the Graham Greene novel with Oscar possibilities, with Michael Caine, Brendan Fraser, directed by Philip Loyce.  
**Personal Velocity** - a dance-winning drama about the separate stories of three women, with Parker Posey, Kyra Sedgwick.

Nov. 24

**Safety Last** - the famous, silent Harold Lloyd classic film, with that shot of him angling off the hands of a clock, with live accompaniment and a short feature, at Webster University's Moore Auditorium at 7 p.m., one night only.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Autofocus' zooms in on life of Crane

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
*A&E Editor*

Along highway 44, southwest of St. Louis, is a billboard that reads "Pornography Destroys." For 1960s TV star Bob Crane, this was literally true. "Autofocus" is director Paul Schrader's film about the true story of the decline and murder of actor Bob Crane. Crane had been a DJ and drummer before becoming the star of the 1960s hit comedy "Hogan's Heroes." Following his meeting with a photographer working in the field of early video, he begins a spiral down into a world of amateur pornography and sexual obsession. Although he had a few movie roles, he never again achieved the success of his TV series. His growing obsession seeped into every part of his life. The film ends with Crane's murder. "Autofocus" offers a compelling and gripping story of obsession and a man who destroys himself without ever realizing what is happening to him. Although the film is about porn, the powerful cautionary lesson could be extended to any addiction.

Crane's fall begins with his chance meeting of John Carpenter, a photographer and salesman for Sony. Crane becomes hooked on the new technology, and Carpenter draws Crane into

his rounds of strip clubs in search of girls. Carpenter discovers right away that there are distinct advantages to having the handsome, likeable, famous Crane along on his evening hunts. The two develop a symbiotic, and ultimately parasitic, relationship revolving around making amateur porn videos. The videos are shot by Carpenter and feature Crane with countless women. Crane enjoyed editing together this amateur footage with TV shows, and both of them enjoyed watching the product. Ultimately, both Crane's personal life and professional life suffered from his growing obsession, although he never showed much insight on his problem, always seeing himself as the ultimate nice guy. Although Crane's murder was never solved, circumstances pointed to Carpenter's involvement.

This film has an engrossing yet repellent story, but the well-told plot isn't the only merit of the film; the cast is superb. Greg Kinnear gives an outstanding performance as Crane, to whom he bears a striking resemblance. This role is sure to bring Kinnear some well-deserved attention from other directors and from audiences. Casting Willem Dafoe as the less attractive, crafty and dependent Carpenter was an inspired stroke; he delivers the complex, layered performance the part requires.



Greg Kinnear plays Bob Crane and Maria Bello plays Patricia Crane in "Autofocus," about the true story of the decline and murder of actor Bob Crane.

Frank Marshall/Sony Pictures Classics

Supporting the excellent acting, the visual elements of the film provide another layer of storytelling that integrates well with the plot. As the film opens, all the visuals are bright and colorful. The scenes are brightly lit. The clothes are brightly colored, and everything looks as cheerful and sharply focused as Crane's life. Step by step, the appearance of the shots change until, by the film's end, all the

colors on screen are desaturated and monochrome. Lighting is dim, colors are washed out and everything is less sharp and clear, mirroring perfectly Crane's unfocused life.

The sets and costumes contribute to a feel of realism for the film. Carefully recreating the shifting fashions of the periods from the early '60s through the '70s and choosing costumes that the basically conservative

Crane would have worn adds to the power of the unfolding plot.

Because of the unpleasant subject matter, this film won't be for everyone. Still, it is a stylishly artistic film about a man's self-destruction. The film is certain to gain much attention as an art house film, and maybe some Oscar nominations for acting. It will also give renewed fame to the largely forgotten Bob Crane.

## More than movies

### some special events at SLIFF

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
*A&E Editor*

The SLIFF isn't just screenings of movies; it's all things movie. The festival includes parties, discussions and forums, as well as tributes and award presentations honoring stars, directors, or a type of film. Many of the films are introduced by people associated with the film - directors, producers, or stars. Every year, a few big names show up with a new film or for a retrospective.

The festival kicks off on Thursday, Nov. 14, with a gala dinner party and awards ceremony at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza. Former St. Louisans director George Hickenlooper, actress Marsha Mason, and SAG Emerging Actor Award winner Erin Daniels will be honored in the event, which is hosted by Ray Hartmann, founder of the Riverfront Times. Also planned are a pre-dinner cocktail party, video tributes to the honorees, and auction and raffle of signed and numbered limited edition festival posters from graphic designer Art Chantry. The gala includes cocktails with complimentary Finlandia martinis, dinner with wine, a cash bar and all the hoopla. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m.; dinner is at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$100 each. For \$150, you get preferred seating and membership in Cinema St. Louis, the organization that presents the film festival.

Among the stars scheduled to appear are Kevin Klein, Marsha

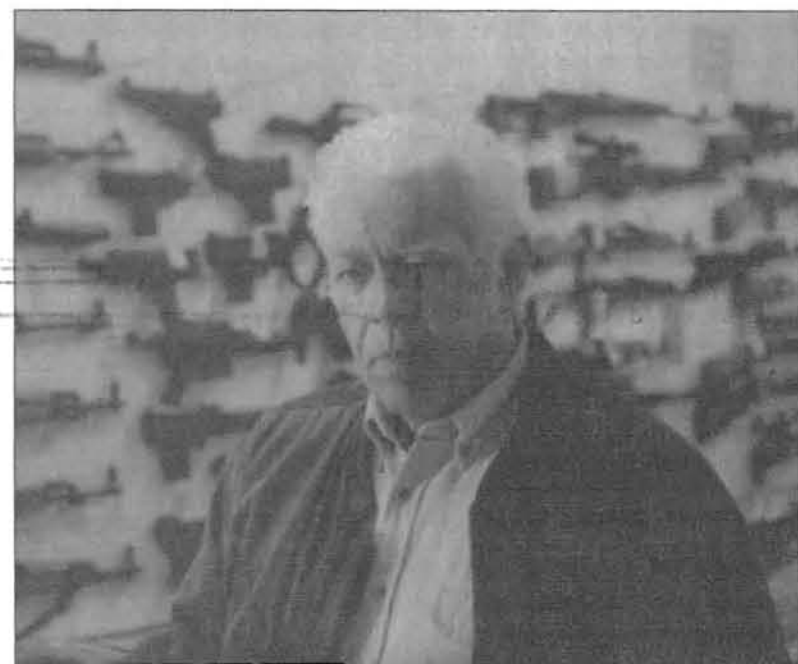


Photo courtesy of SLIFF

**James Coburn (above) has been scheduled to appear at the Hi-Pointe Theater on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 4 p.m. for a discussion with director George Hickenlooper and a showing of his new film "American Gun."**

Mason, and James Coburn. Klein, a native of Webster Groves who will be in town to discuss his career and introduce his new film, "The Emperor's Club" on Tuesday, November 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hi-Pointe Theater. The evening will include film clips of screen career highlights and a screening of "The Emperor's Club." Klein will also be presented with a Lifetime

Achievement Award by the festival. Tickets for this special event are \$20.

Actress Marsha Mason is scheduled to appear at the festival on Friday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Hi-Pointe Theater to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. Screenwriter/critic Dennis Brown will interview Mason about her career.

see **FILM FESTIVAL**, page 7

## GAME REVIEW

# Smell of demons in the morning

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT  
*Senior Writer*

Playing "Neverwinter Nights" is like watching the "Naked News." The thrill wears off pretty quickly, and in the end you go back to CNN and thank God that Larry King keeps his pants on.

NWN is to Dungeons and Dragons what Pong was to tabletop tennis. In its latest incarnation, NWN is both a long, dull single-player campaign and the dagger-sharp Aurora toolset for the creation of user-made adventures. Like all two-in-one items, it performs each to a limited extent but fails appallingly (like that kid in kindergarten who ate all the glue) in at least one of its aspects. Take, for example, the oft-maligned spork. The spork, like NWN, tries frantically and schizophrenically to be two different utensils at once. While the spork can spear the occasional baby carrot or hold 1.2 microliters of thick paste, it is ultimately less satisfying than either the noble fork or even the less-faithful spoon, which has been known to run away with the home-wrecking dish.

I ran NWN with over 500 megs of RAM and a P4, but it still felt painfully slow. The game speed is actually unrelated to the graphics settings; even with ugly, unshaded polygons, the game ran a bit on the boring side.

For people looking through the shelves at Babbage's for a good single-player D&D game, try the "Baldur's Gate" series or the "Icewind Dale" games. Both are based on D&D rules

(though "Baldur's Gate" uses an out-dated edition), and both have spectacular artist-rendered graphics that blow the pants off the polygons of NWN. The creation of dungeons is an art, as any traditional Dungeon Master can (and will, at length) tell you. The Aurora toolset is the best creation device yet for making one's own adventures, and thousands of people have gone online with their dungeons (not to mention their dragons).

Like all Internet content, half is twisted sexual fantasy, a quarter is a parody of sexual fantasy, and the rest is just filler with an occasional gratuitous bit of sexual fantasy thrown in, just to keep viewers tuned in.

It says a great deal about the developers of this game (at Atari and Bioware) that the first building outside the starting area is a brothel. Let me quickly state something for the record: Cool. But on the other hand, whatever happened to self-censorship? I don't want to see my eight-year-old sister's eyes light up when she gets the note from Oleff the cleric saying that she is disease free and may now make use of the brothel's "services." This is just bad form. Naughty Bioware, naughty.

The purpose of your NWN quest is to find an "Intellect Devourer" (and a few other rampaging monsters), but ultimately, I felt as though I'd already found one at the store for about forty bucks and that it was sucking my brain dry as it went.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# A slice of cheesy Las Vegas

BY MICAH L. ISSITT  
*Senior Writer*

The Cheesecake Factory, the newest restaurant to open at the Saint Louis Galleria, doesn't look like a factory at all. From the street, the Cheesecake Factory looks more like a Las Vegas hotel.

From the outside, the restaurant seems to be two stories high. The large, stark red sign can be seen from a block away. As you approach the restaurant, you notice the interesting Moorish-like architecture with embossed decoration. Above the doorway, a set of lights twinkle like stars. From the street, it looks quite impressive, drawing you in with its showy feel.

Once inside the large glass doors, you realize that the street side has been constructed with an illusory facade. The restaurant is only one floor high and much smaller than it appears from the outside. Nevertheless, the inside is no less impressively decorated, with in lavishly carved embellishments and colorful murals. The decoration makes you feel like you are about to enjoy a Broadway show rather than a hamburger.

The new Saint Louis location has

been swamped with customers since it opened a month ago. At peak dinner and lunch hours, the lines stretch out into the mall.

In addition to the unique look and feel of the place, the Cheesecake Factory also boasts one of the largest and most diverse menus available to Saint Louis diners. The menu is 14 pages long, featuring long lists of appetizers, pizzas, pastas, sandwiches and drinks, in addition to over 30 varieties of cheesecake.

The impressively long menu offers some unique and quite tasty choices. The portions are large, and it is unlikely that anyone will leave hungry after a meal. However, the Cheesecake Factory's prices are not cheap. Charging \$4.00 for a soft drink is not exactly reasonable, even if it comes in a large glass with free refills.

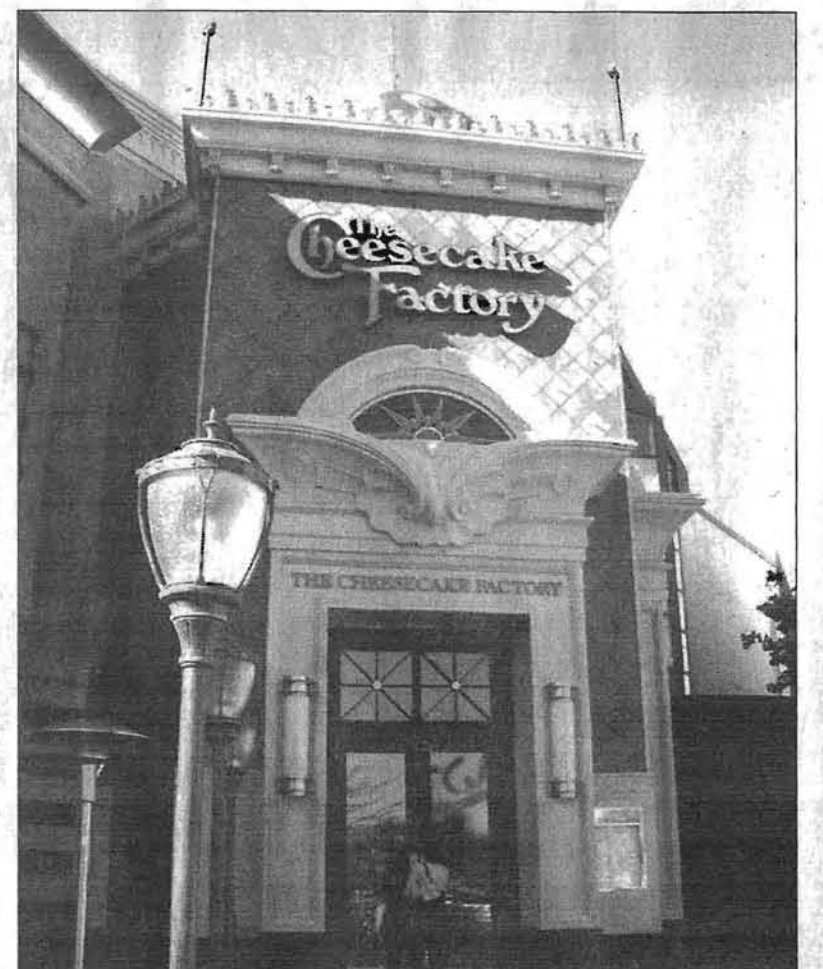
I have visited the Cheesecake Factory twice, once for an early lunch and once for a late dinner. My guest and I enjoyed the "Morning Quesadilla," a huge Mexican meal that was chock full of tasty ingredients. We were less impressed by their sandwich, salad and soup combo. Although the portions were large, the sandwich was bland and the soup and salad were unexciting at best. We were

even less impressed by the raspberry chocolate cheesecake, which was dry and boring. Our slice was topped with whipped cream that had been topped by fresher whipped cream.

For our dinner visit, we tried a "New Mexico Chicken Pizza." This southwestern dish was delightful, with fresh ingredients accented by a spicy salsa-like sauce. We also had the "Crispy Crab Wontons." This was also a good choice, with a tangy sauce and what tasted like real crab contained within a crispy shell.

By far the best thing we ordered was the "strawberry-infused martini." This delicious concoction is nothing less than addictive. My guest and I each downed three, and we talked about them for the next twenty-four hours.

All in all, the Cheesecake Factory is an interesting addition to the Saint Louis dining scene. It would be nearly impossible to exhaust the tempting choices on the menu, and the food is good enough to bring you back even if the prices are a bit higher than other restaurants offering the same quality fare. This ritzy restaurant is more than just show; they are capable of backing it up with a meal that makes the grade.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The Cheesecake Factory is the newest restaurant to open at the Saint Louis Galleria.



# Local connections flood SLIFF 2002

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor



Photo courtesy of SLIGFF

Former St. Louisan and Actress Marsha Mason (at left) will be attending the festival. Mason's 1981 film, "Only When I Laugh," will be screened during the festival.

It may be called the St. Louis International Film Festival but this year, local connections are everywhere at SLIFF.

Cinema St. Louis, the parent organization of the SLIFF, has done a lot to highlight local films this year. This summer, they took over the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase from the now-gone St. Louis Film Office. The St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase is a mini-fest of mostly short films made by local independent filmmakers.

SLIFF presents many of these short films again, grouped by categories. The St. Louis Filmmakers' Showcase Samplers come in four flavors: comedy, drama, documentary, and a unique grouping called the Dead Zone. Comedy screens at 11 a.m. on Nov. 16, at the Tivoli Theater and the same day, SLFS Sampler: Drama screens at 1 p.m. at Webster University. On Sunday Nov. 17, at 11 a.m. on the Tivoli screens, SLFS Sampler: Dead Zone presents some of the more edgy films. The series wraps up on Saturday, Nov. 23, with SLFS Sampler: Documentary at Webster University at 9 p.m. This will give everyone a taste of, and perhaps a taste for, local filmmaking.

Besides the work of local filmmakers, there are other films with St. Louis connections. One of the most anticipated documentaries in the festival program is "American Tower: The Continental Building." This documentary follows the history of the landmark skyscraper, and the decade-long quest to restore it. Now reopened, this is one of historic preservation's success stories. The film's director and redeveloper will be on hand at the screening. The film will be shown on Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Tivoli Theater, a particularly fitting setting since the Tivoli is a restored 1920s theater.

Hometowners who have gone on to big-time cinema success will also be in attendance. Actor Kevin Klein and director George Hickenlooper will be on hand to discuss their new films,

"The Emperor's Club" and "Man from Elysian Fields," which are showing at the festival. Klein will receive a lifetime Achievement Award, as will another former St. Louisan attending the festival, actress Marsha Mason. Mason's 1981 film, "Only When I Laugh," will be screened during the festival.

— " —

**The St. Louis Filmmakers' Showcase Samplers come in four flavors: comedy, drama, documentary, and a unique grouping called the Dead Zone.**

— " —

Two more people with local roots who have gone on to making movies on the bigger stage also return to St. Louis for the festival. Writer/director/producer Bob Gale introduces his new film "Interstate 60" on Nov. 16, at

1 p.m. at the Hi-Pointe Theater. It's a wild and comic trip for a young man looking for direction in his life. Actress Jessica Campbell co-stars in the tale of life in suburbia "Safety of Objects" and will be on hand to introduce the film at the Tivoli theater on Friday, Nov. 15, at 9:15 p.m.

Another offering with a local connection is "Another Christmas." This feature-length project is a Dogme 95-inspired work-in-progress by local writer and filmmaker Brian Hohlfeld. With an all-local cast, the film takes a sometimes funny, sometimes moving, emotional look at a family's Christmas gathering. Along with the film's screening, Hohlfeld, local director Bill Boll, and Chris Gore of Film Threat magazine will present a Digital Filmmaking Seminar. Both the seminar and the screening take place on Nov. 17, at 1 p.m. at Webster University.

While the majority of features in this year's festival, like past years, are foreign language films, it is nice to see a spotlight on St. Louis filmmakers and people with roots in the area. As the reputation of SLIFF grows, and it is growing internationally, the local attention can only bring good things to the locals lugging around those cameras.

## FILM FESTIVAL, from page 6

The evening also includes film clips spanning her screen career and a showing of her 1981 film, "Only When I Laugh." Tickets for this program are \$20.

James Coburn has been scheduled to appear on Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Hi-Pointe Theater at 4 p.m. for a discussion with director George Hickenlooper about the actor's film career and their collaboration. Although some last-minute concerns about his availability have arisen, Coburn has been tapped to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award, and the audience will see clips from his past films, as well as a showing of his new film, "American Gun." At 8 p.m., George Hickenlooper's new film, "Man From Elysian Fields," in which Coburn co-stars with Mick Jagger and Andy Garcia, will be shown. Tickets for the afternoon program of discussion and the showing of "American Gun" are \$20. Tickets for only the 8 p.m. screening of "Man from Elysian Fields" are \$8, and tickets for the program and both films are \$25, in advance only.

If all that isn't tempting enough, there is more. Many of the films at the festival are organized in "sidebars," films related by topic, country of origin, or ethnic roots. This year, the sidebars

include the Interfaith Sidebar, the African-American Sidebar, the American Independent Sidebar, the International Sidebar, the Documentary Sidebar, the Lesbian and Gay Sidebar, the Cinema St. Louis Sidebar, the Short Film Sidebar, and the New Filmmakers Forum Sidebar. Many of the sidebars are perennials, many have associated awards, and a few have associated events.

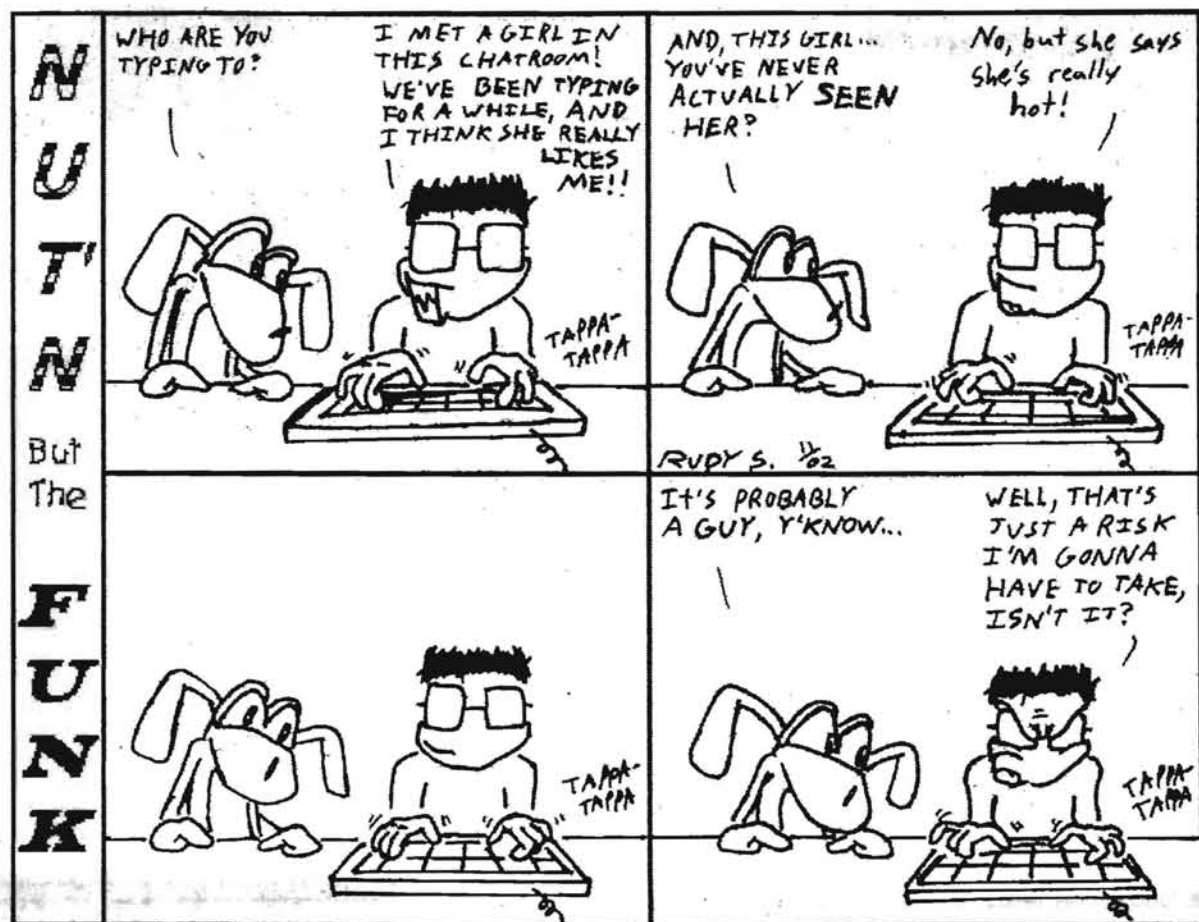
The Interfaith Sidebar is accompanied by the Interfaith Film Conference: Reading Films, Talking Faith. This three-day event takes place at University United Methodist Church from Friday, Nov. 15, to Sunday, Nov. 17. The conference includes discussions of Interfaith Sidebar films, and discussions about cinema and faith by film scholars, filmmakers and religious leaders of various faiths. It also includes a screening of last year's Interfaith Award winner, "Song of Tibet." The entire conference costs \$60.

The second weekend of the festival brings the New Filmmakers Forum competition. A group of films by new filmmakers contenders for the Emerging Filmmaker Award and a cash prize will be presented, along with discussions about independent filmmaking and talks by the filmmakers them-

selves. The filmmakers generally introduce their films and take questions after the screenings. The films are presented from Nov. 21-23. Nov. 23, is a day of discussions and a chance to meet the filmmakers. Coffee with the Filmmakers starts at 11 a.m., followed by the panel discussions Shorts Filmmaking Seminar, State of American Filmmaking Seminar, and Film Criticism Seminar. All the day's discussions are free and open to the public.

The festival finally closes on Sunday with the "Harold Lloyd Tribute," featuring Lloyd's silent comedy feature film "Safety Last" and his short comedy "An Eastern Westerner," at Webster University at 7 p.m. The screening has live musical accompaniment, easily the best way to see a silent film. The closing night awards ceremony, when all the festival's awards winners are announced, will take place at 9:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza. This event is free and open to the public.

With all these events to choose from and fellow film fans everywhere around you, the festival is much more than just seeing some special films you may not ordinarily find on local screens.



SCREEN GEMS & Current

invite you and a guest to a special screening. Stop by The Current offices at 388 Millennium Student Center to pick up a complimentary screening pass for two to see

## HALF PAST DEAD

7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

AMC Esquire  
6706 Clayton Rd  
St. Louis, Mo 63117

No purchase necessary while supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are ineligible. Rated PG-13 for pervasive action violence, language and some sexual content.

# GET 8 FELT

The 5th Annual Pool Tournament of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association

Friday, November 15  
Seton Residential Hall Lounge

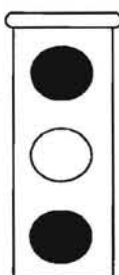
Be there for the games...  
Be there for the food...  
Be there for the shirt...  
Be there for the fun...  
**JUST BE THERE!!**

Free T-shirt \$5 Free Food  
Gets You In  
Three Skill Levels  
Five Games  
**Over \$300 in Prizes**

Doors: 6:00 p.m.  
Tournament: 7:00 p.m.  
**NO TOURNAMENT ENTRIES AFTER 7:30 p.m.**

## Got a ticket?

First Defense  
TRAFFIC LAW  
314 849-ATTY



www.firstdefensetrafficlaw.com

131 Concord Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri 63128



# THE VILLAGE IDIOTS



Jason Granger



Adam Bodendieck

We've got mail! Welcome to what's rapidly becoming our personal favorite part of the column - the opening hate mail segment. This week, gentle readers, as a bonus you get two, count 'em, two, hate mails for the price of one. You can't beat that with a stick! And so, without further ado...

Uh. Okay please explain to me why this column in The Current was created. Really. Why send questions to you two if all you're going to give is the "socially acceptable" answer. For God's sake, if you going to have a forum, at least answer with what you WANT to say, not what you think the public wants to hear. S---t, send me a few questions, and I'll be glad to answer them in a way that a crazy college guy would. Besides, I'm sure all the mail you get saying "You can't say that in the newspaper, it will make (insert name of organization or person here) want to be snipers and do drugs and whaaa whaaa, I'm a feminist who wants the world to be equal except when it comes to paying and mowing the lawn and etc...etc... blah blah." The only props I'm gonna give you is the answer you gave the "sexually troubled" girl in the recent paper. I would have been MUCH more blunt, but hey, whatever floats your boat. Either get some balls and say what needs to be said, or stop that column altogether.

-Your favorite a\$\$hole student

Dear A\$\$hole,

There seems to be a misconception here. Our primary goal is to amuse, not to offend. If someone happens to get offended along the way, fine. No problem. We won't go out of our way NOT

to offend someone, but again, our main purpose is merely to amuse. Sorry if that offends anyone (or doesn't for that matter).

Also, keep in mind that our hands are tied in some situations. For example, we doubt that our astute editor-in-chief is going to let a few select words slip through the above letter; and as long as he's signing our paychecks, we're going to humor him. He can get, um, well... grouchy.

-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Editors,

The second installment of "The Village Idiots" managed to be even worse than the last. Last week's column featured advising a woman who "can't say no to sex" to come to a hotel where the authors implied they would get her drunk and then have sex with her. I don't believe a college newspaper is the proper forum for condoning date rape. This column really isn't funny - it's disgusting.

O.K., I think the above two letters have established that we're not going to be able to please all of the people all of the time - Whew, that's a weight off our shoulders!

But seriously - We condone date rape?? We actually deliberated over whether or not we even wanted to dignify this ridiculous accusation with a response. Were our comments misogynistic? Sure. Inappropriate? Perhaps. But did we condone date rape? No way in Hell. (What do we look like? An unrecognized fraternity?) And as for the school paper not being the "proper forum for condoning date rape," what exactly is the PROPER forum for con-

doning date rape? Just curious.

We'd like to take this opportunity to point everyone to the end of the column, where we state in no uncertain terms that this humble little endeavor of ours and all that it entails is a JOKE. Please, for the love of God, if you're going to take anything we say seriously, stop reading right now! We don't need this kind of static in our lives.

-Love Adam and Jason

Dear Village Idiots,

I find myself in a rhubarb-of-a-pickle-of-a-jam. I want to openly come out of the closet but don't know how. Since you two are clearly homosexual (as evidenced by the "Love, Jason and Adam" at the closing of every reply), I figured you could help me out. My other problem is that I'm afraid my right-wing conservative brother will hate me when he finds out I'm gay. Please help.

Gentle reader-

First and foremost, we're not gay. We're just secure enough in our masculinity to openly use the word "love." (We're also secure enough in our masculinity to dance around in pink tutus, but that's neither here nor there.)

But fear not, we can still be of service. However, before we get to solving your little problem, we have a few questions of our own: Where is the secret magical closet we keep hearing about? How come we never hear about anyone going in the closet? Does going in or coming out of the closet make one gay? Most importantly, what the hell's going on inside that closet?? Is it some kind of party? If so, why do people ever want to come out? The closet sounds kind of fun to us...

## RENOVATIONS, from page 1

Chambers went on the say that all the files will be kept in a locked room

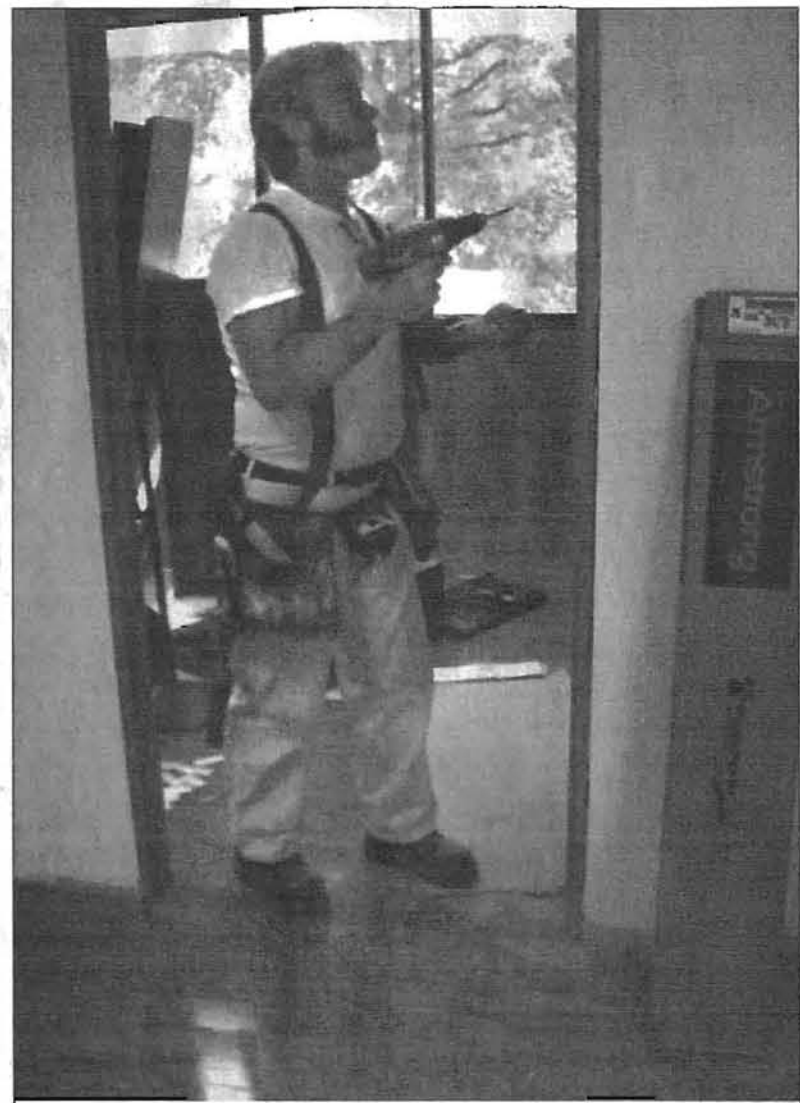
More suspicion has been cast over the legitimacy of this project . . . . The Current tried for a week to contact Vice-Chancellor Arshadi, but he refused to comment.

so that people outside the office will not have access to the "sensitive materials" kept within the room.

More suspicion has been cast over the legitimacy of this project, howev-

er. The Current tried for a week to contact Vice-Chancellor Arshadi, but he refused to comment on the situation. According to Chambers, Arshadi was going to be out of town until Tuesday; however, according to his secretary, Arshadi would be available for comment Friday. No contact was ever received by The Current from Arshadi.

According to Gloria Leonard, director of business services, university construction handled the installation of the ceiling tiles and filing cabinet installation while DuPont flooring handled the carpeting and hardwood floor installation. The cost for the carpeting and hardwood flooring alone was more than \$18,000. Most of the money that was put into this project was spent on general construction costs, according to Chambers. This includes purchasing of supplies and labor costs.



Ed George installs a door frame as part of the renovations of 341 Woods Hall last week.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

## 2002 UMSL College Bowl Championship

Wednesday, November 13  
The Pilot House  
6 p.m.

Sign up 4 to 6 person teams or as individuals!

Will University Program Board successfully defend its 2001 College Bowl title?

or

Will the mental Tsunami that is The Current succeed in destroying all challengers in their path?

or

Will Honors reclaim its long lost glory they once enjoyed as UMSL champions (back in the 90s, that is)?

For more information or to sign up, contact UPB at 516-5531, or stop by Student Life (MSC 366).

got brains



## 3 ASUM Board of Director Seats Are Open.

Run for election at the next SGA meeting.

November 15, 2002

1 p.m. • SGA Chambers

3rd floor Millennium Student Center

Call 516-5835 for more information.



**GARAGES, from page 1**

Garage N was deemed so dangerous, that it was shut down immediately, and repairs are still continuing.

"There are routine inspections of both garages now," Kochin said. "That is why we have been doing repairs."

Since the closure of Garage D, students have been forced to find other parking around campus, including the Continuing Educating lot, which is off limits for students without a proper parking permit, leading some students to receive parking tickets from the University.

“  
In the last election, only 30% of 18- to 25- year-olds voted. To many, the ballot is insignificant.

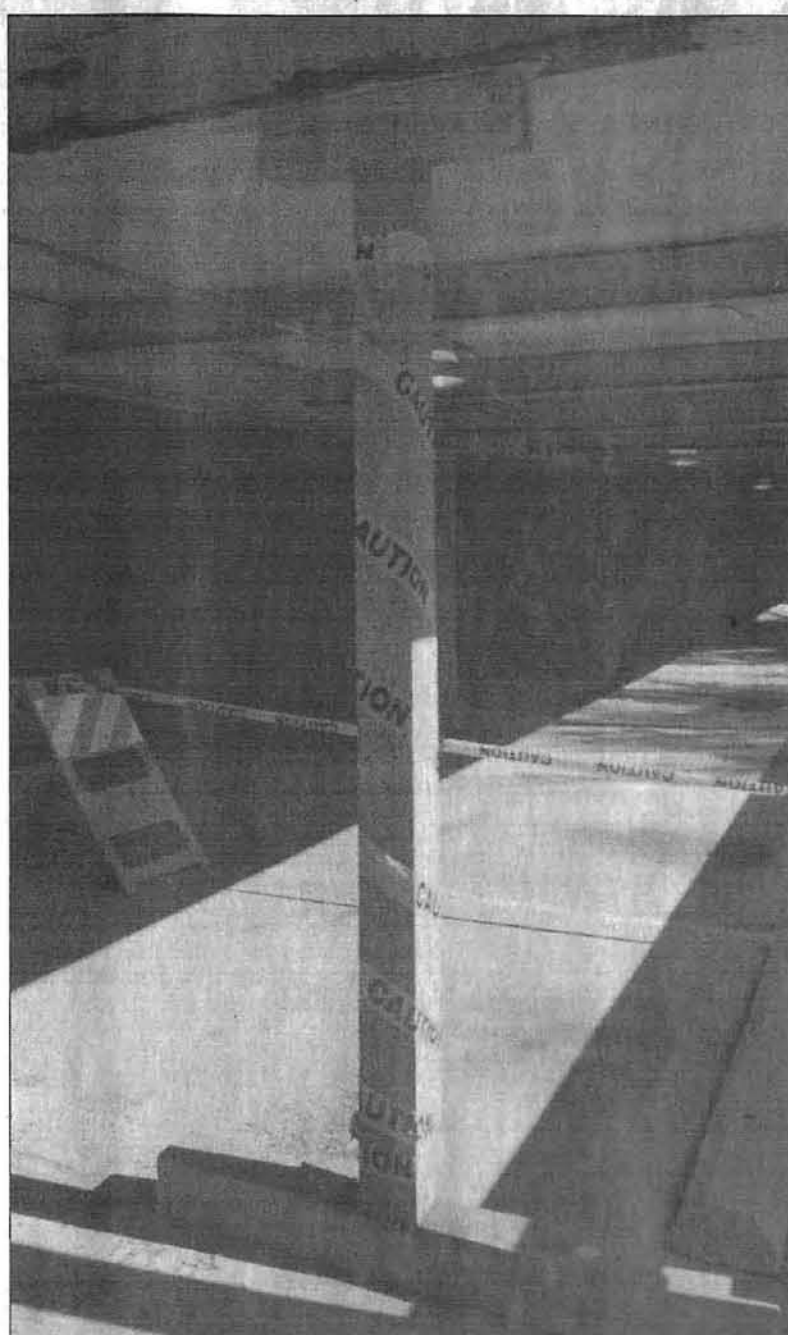
— www.votesmart.org

University officials are taking a "maintain" approach, meaning they want to keep the garages viable until the new ones are useable. This means money will need to be allocated to keep the old garages concurrent with safety codes and laws. According to Kochin, safety is the first priority for the school. "We are doing whatever we can to bring these structures up to appropriate safety levels," Kochin said.

Until that time comes, Garages N and D will continue to receive regular maintenance. The problems that arise will be revealed upon inspection.

Whether or not Garage D will open any time soon is unknown at this time, according to Kochin. The structural problems that persist in Garage D are serious enough that no plans to open the garage are in the works currently.

Without the parking garages, parking would become a problem on a campus that has already heard complaints about parking lot layout and lack of parking in general.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

A temporary wood post supports the ceiling in Garage D. Levels 2 and 3 of the garage have been closed to student parking.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Originally built as a 5-year, temporary parking structure, Garage D is still in use 30 years after its construction.

**Chancellor receives kudos**



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

In Sept. an open house was held in honor of Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill Wednesday. Touhill announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31. Friends, faculty, staff and students gathered to pay tribute to Touhill. Touhill greeted well-wishers at the door where they could sign a guest book and make their way to the free buffet and bar.



**Outtakes**  
Buy a Chef Salad  
Get a free 16 oz Drink  
@ the Nosh  
Expires 11/11/02

**Aroma's**  
Free cookie  
with Large Specialty  
Coffee purchase  
Expires 11/11/02

**"Coffee with Curt"**  
*(a forum for students)*

Questions, concerns, opinions?

Come and share them with the  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
"Curt Coonrod"

Thursday, November 21st  
2:00 p.m.  
315 Millennium Student Center

Call Student Life @ 5291 to register

**HUNGER AWARENESS WEEK 2002**  
NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>-22<sup>ND</sup>

VISIT THE INFORMATION TABLES  
ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE  
MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER  
FROM 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. EACH DAY OF THE WEEK

SOUP LINE AT THE NOSH  
MONDAY THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AND TUESDAY THE 19<sup>TH</sup> 11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

FREE MOVIE—HIDDEN IN AMERICA  
(A film that portrays a U.S. family battling against poverty and hunger)  
MONDAY THE 18<sup>TH</sup> 11 - 12:30 P.M. AND 12:30 - 2 P.M. IN THE PILOT HOUSE  
And again at 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M. IN THE VILLA COMMUNITY ROOM  
TUESDAY THE 19<sup>TH</sup> 11 - 12:30 P.M. AND 12:30 - 2 P.M. IN THE PILOT HOUSE

HUNGER BANQUET 12:00-1:00 P.M.  
IN CENTURY ROOMS A AND B on WEDNESDAY THE 20<sup>TH</sup>  
AN EXPERIENCE OF OUR WORLD'S DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND  
HUNGER INCLUDING FREE FOOD

DONATE MONEY FOR FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY  
COLLECTION CANS AT MOST CASH REGISTERS IN THE MSC  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT  
AMANDA HARROD OR KEVIN BORN AT 385-3455 OR CNCUMSL@AOL.COM



NOON SERIES, from page 3

Jones referred to political science regression models that predicted that democrats needed a net gain of seven seats to resume control of the House. This would be a modest democratic gain. Jones expressed the importance of using various techniques to predict and understand the outcome of elections because last year, the models were wrong.

Faculty attendance outweighed students four to one. The remainder of the audience was composed of members of the St. Louis community.

"Many young adults do not see the connection between voting and benefits as a U.S. citizen . . . They don't identify with political parties, so often they don't care," Jones said.

During the lecture, Jones used very technical language that may have been difficult for non-political science students to follow.

"I did not have a strong understanding of all the political jargon he used," Shawn Harrison, a senior at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, said.

The professor, however, welcomed questions and discussion following the lecture that cleared up complicated concepts.

"I think his lecture will encourage others to vote in future elections," senior Lester Li said.

"Only faculty seemed to be here; I would have liked to see more students here," John Antognoli said.

According to Jones, 3.8 million people are registered to vote, but only 1.2 million showed up at the polls in the state of Missouri. A large percentage of those that do not vote are between the ages of 18 and 25. It is important that young adults, especially college students, become more active by taking the initiative to cast their ballots.

Dr. Jones' predictions were very accurate. Two days later, Nov. 7, at 1:30 a.m., the democratic incumbent, Senator Jean Carnahan, lost to the republican challenger, Jim Talent. When the State of Missouri certifies the election returns, Talent will officially become sworn in as one of the U.S. Senators.

LETTER, from page 4

The third option is the Inter-University Exchange program. This allows UMSL students to take courses that are not offered at UMSL at another university in our exchange, like Washington University or St. Louis University. However, there are stipulations to participating in this program, and those stipulations can hinder more than help.

than student education. But, honestly, the only person I can blame is myself. I'm the one who transferred to UMSL. I'm the one who was drawn in without fully researching the school.

Take my advice, freshmen and sophomores: 1.) Make a decision about your major early. 2.) Candidly speak with an advisor on how budget cuts are, or will affect UPPER-LEVEL course offerings in that major. 3.) Transfer to a school that can offer a stronger degree program if there are any doubts about obtaining your degree without problems.

Jennifer Jepsen  
UM-St. Louis student

# Rethinking the birds, bees and sheep

One of the hottest science stories this week was the discovery that "gay" sheep have different brain structures than "straight" sheep, leading some scientists to believe that research may

with certain biological characteristics. Today it is generally agreed among scientists that homosexual behavior has an innate biological component.

examining homosexual behavior in monkeys called Japanese macaques. Vasey found that, while most female macaques mate with males during the mating season, some females engage in homosexual pair bonding during the

earlier studies on humans.

The USDA study has found that homosexual rams have different brain structures than heterosexual ones. The difference was found in an area of the brain called the preoptic portion of the hypothalamus. Rams that display homosexual behavior have significantly smaller preoptic regions than those found in heterosexual rams. In addition, brain cells in the preoptic region of homosexual rams produced lesser amounts of an enzyme called aromatase. These findings mirror similar findings from experiments performed on humans a few years ago. Roselli admits that the correlations are interesting, but cautions the public not to make any conclusive decisions about the role of homosexuality in humans.



BY MICAH L. ISSITT  
Science Columnist

soon uncover clues to the biological nature of homosexuality.

The idea that homosexuality may have a significantly biological or genetic component is not new to science. Observations of homosexuality in genetic lineages have long lingered on the fringes of pseudoscience, leading scientists and laypeople alike to speculate about the existence of "gay genes" or about people being "born gay."

In recent years, researchers have observed homosexual behavior in many previously unstudied species, and many of these studies are finding that alternative sexual behavior, in many species, is positively correlated

with certain biological characteristics. Today it is generally agreed among scientists that homosexual behavior has an innate biological component. Many studies are finding that exposure to hormones exerts a strong effect on modes of sexual behavior. In the December 1997 "Hormones and Behavior," researcher Viveka Mansukhani, from Cornell University, published a fascinating article on homosexuality in small birds called zebra finches. Mansukhani and colleagues found that exposure to the female and male hormones, estradiol and testosterone, determines whether zebra finches attempted to court and mate with the same sex or with the opposite sex. Mansukhani and her colleagues were able to manipulate sexual preferences "as defined by the birds' behavior in the study" in their study animals by altering exposure to hormones early in development.

Other studies have focused less on the mechanisms that influence sexual orientation and more on the evolutionary consequences of these preferences. Darwin's theory of evolution, by natural selection, holds that the sexual preferences of animals have evolved to maximize individual reproductive success. This has led researchers to develop complicated schemes to explain how homosexual behavior helps to maximize reproductive output. Some researchers, however, believe that homosexuality is more about maximizing pleasure than optimizing reproductive success.

Primatologist Paul L. Vasey, from the University of Montreal, has been

“  
Today it is generally agreed among scientists that homosexual behavior has an innate biological component.  
”

rest of the year. These macaques do not appear to be choosing same sex mates that would serve to optimally maximize their reproductive potential. Vasey cannot find any evidence for the formation of these consortships other than mutual sexual attraction. Vasey says his research shows that some animals may be trying to maximize their pleasure rather than their reproductive output.

Charles Roselli and his colleagues from the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been investigating homosexual behavior in rams. The results of their extended study have caused quite a buzz among the scientific community, largely because findings from neurological studies of rams correlate closely with the findings of

Roselli and colleagues, in the same spirit as the Vasey studies, do not believe that homosexual behavior in rams is a way of maximizing reproduction. The researchers also think that "gay" rams engage in sexual relations simply because of mutual sexual attraction.

Homosexual behaviors in monkeys, birds, and rams are certainly interesting natural phenomena. These findings may give us pause to wonder about what controls our own sexual orientation. In the years to come, it is likely that scientists will continue to uncover new surprises in the relationship between sexual orientation and biology. But what is still uncertain is whether, with midterm elections just ending, congress will be open to a referendum approving of gay marriage...for sheep.

## Are you a female age 21-29?

NWOD is seeking a specific egg donor for a married couple we are working with.

Donor must have dark brown to black hair, brown or blue eyes, 5'1" to 5'9" and must have a good family health history.

If you would like to help and earn \$4000, log onto our website at 222.nwod.org or call 208-634-9774 for more information.

- FREE TEST, with immediate results, detects pregnancy 10 days after it begins.
  - PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING & ASSISTANCE.
- All services are free and confidential.

**Pregnant?**

**You Are Not Alone.**

- Brentwood ... (314) 962-5300
- St. Charles..... (636)724-1200
- Ballwin.....(636) 227-2266
- South City .... (314)962-3653
- Bridgeton .....(636) 227-8775
- Midtown ..... (636)946-4900



All Toll Free Numbers (After Hours: 1-800-550-4900)

[www.birthrightstlouis.org](http://www.birthrightstlouis.org)

## Independent Study Works

Learn how it can work for you!

I took two courses from CDIS in lieu of summer school so I could attend wrestling camps. I did the reading when I wanted to, turned in the assignments when I was ready, and took as much time as I needed preparing for a test. It was great!

- Justin Spates  
Student Athlete

- More than 110 courses
- Enroll anytime

Check with your adviser for any course completion deadlines and to see if the course you want to take meets your degree requirements.

<http://cdis.missouri.edu/go/cf2.asp>

University of Missouri  
Center for Distance & Independent Study  
1-800-609-3727 (toll-free)



## when you can gear up for signing up, that's mLife.



Buy a phone and a qualified AT&T Wireless Calling Plan for \$39.99/month or more and get 1000 Anytime Minutes\* for up to two years and your choice of free gear. Choose from fresh styles to the latest tech equipment, including: Tony Hawk's Pro Skater™ 4 games, Levi's™ jeans, \$50 Sephora gift cards, Loews movie passes, Sony CD Walkman players, and more. Check out your options at [attwireless.com/gear](http://attwireless.com/gear).

\*Domestic long distance included and no roaming charges on the AT&T Wireless GSM™/GPRS network.

visit [attwireless.com/gear](http://attwireless.com/gear)

welcome to mlife



### Important Information

©2002 AT&T Wireless. All Rights Reserved. Requires purchase of a new phone and new activation on a qualified plan after August 1, 2002, credit approval, a \$36 Activation fee, one or two-year agreement, a GSM™/GPRS phone and up to a \$175 cancellation fee. Not available for purchase or use in all areas. Voice usage is rounded up to the next full minute. You will automatically receive limited access to data service at per kilobyte pricing. You will be charged for all data usage sent through our network. Unused monthly minute allowances lost. 1000 Anytime Minutes available from your Home Coverage Area for the initial contract term of one or two years only. At end of initial contract term, service will continue but you will only receive 500 Anytime Minutes. Participants must be between the ages of 18-24 years old and have a valid e-mail address and Internet access. Participants must register for the program within two months of activation. Program available only to customers who activate service at [attwireless.com](http://attwireless.com) or at participating AT&T Wireless Stores or Authorized Dealers in select cities. Offer available for a limited time. \*Participants must remain on service for at least 30 days after activation in order to receive choice of gear. Complete Guidelines and description of gear offered in program available at [attwireless.com/gear](http://attwireless.com/gear). Participants are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, rate plan and promotional materials.





**UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff:  
Classifieds are FREE!!**

**CLASSIFIED  
RATES**



**(314)  
516-5316**

*Otherwise, classified advertising is \$10 for 40 words or fewer in straight text format. Bold and CAPS letters are free. All classifieds must be prepaid by check, money order or credit card. Deadline is 3 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication.*

<http://thecurrentonline.com> [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)

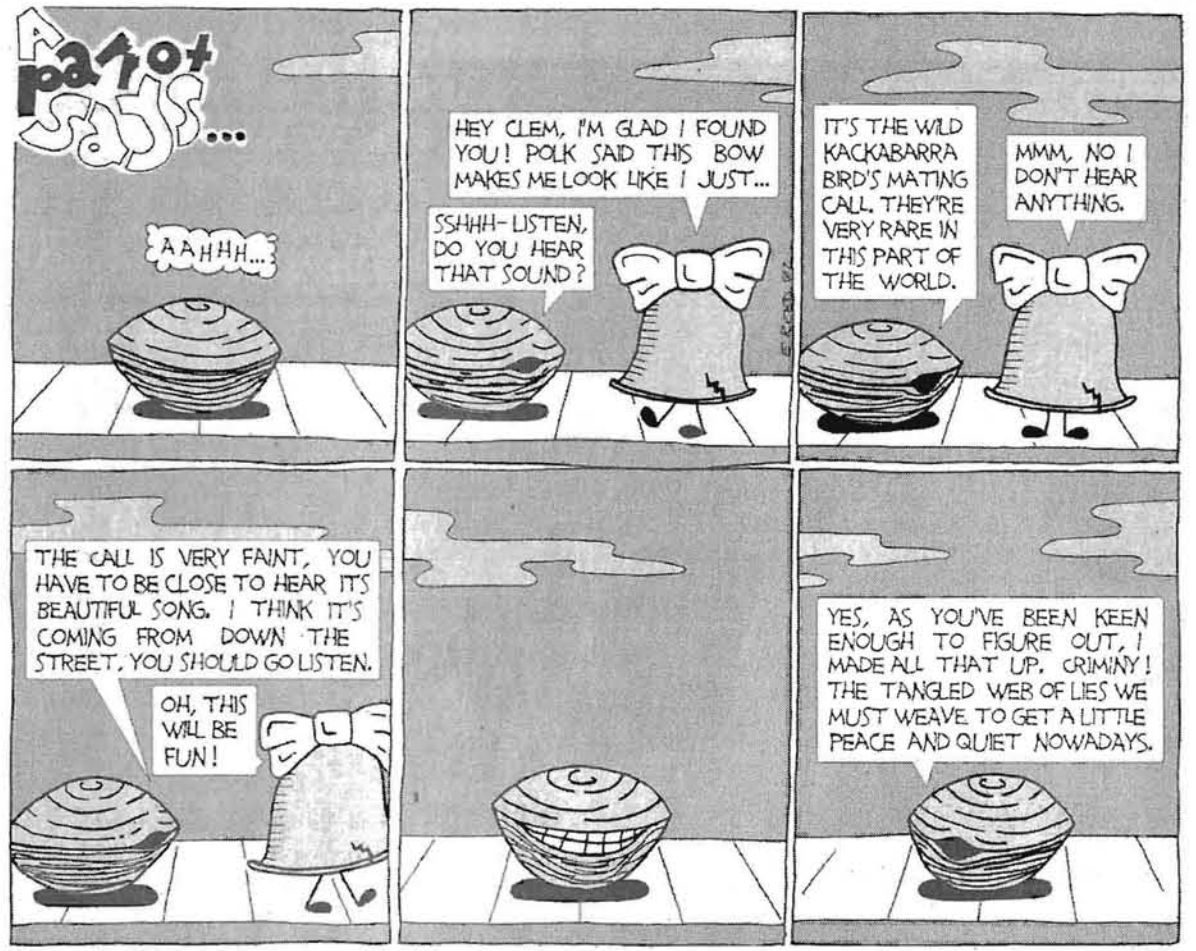
**Help Wanted**

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

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

**Bartender  
Trainees  
Needed**

**\$250 a day potential  
Local Positions  
1-800-293-3985 ext. 144**



**Housing**

**Roommate Wanted**  
Non-smoking, female wanted to share three-bedroom house in Old Town Ferguson. Safe neighborhood only three miles from UMSL campus. Please call Paula at (314) 503-2212.

**Roommate wanted for nice house** in St. Ann (close to campus). You get two rooms w/private bath. Washer/dryer in basement. Utilities incl. \$400/ month. Call Scott at 314-733-0948.

**Roommate Wanted**  
Mature Christian male seeking a mature female or male to share a spacious home located in a private area in North County. Call Andre' at 314-691-0110 for details.

**3BD House for rent**  
7419 Wallingford at Oakmont and Glenn Echo C.C. One block or so from Normandy Post Office and library. Half-mile walk to UM-St. Louis South Metro Link station. \$575 a month, plus utilities and deposit. Call (314) 381-9938.

**For sale**

**2000 Hyundai Elantra, 4-door**, charcoal grey, automatic, PL, PS, anti-lock brakes, great air conditioning, moon roof, 39,XXX miles, looks and runs great! Only \$7,995. Reply to casml@earthlink.net.

**96 Navy blue camaro, V6 3.8** liter, automatic, rear wheel drive, air conditioning, power steering, power windows, power door locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM stereo, compact disc system, CD changer/stacker, dual front airbags, ABS (4-wheel), inside black leather, power seat, t-bar roof. Inside & outside excellent condition, four new tires, excellent mechanical and clean engine. \$8,900. Call 603-1545.

**For sale**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**1995 Ford Ranger XLT** Long bed, 4.0L V6, automatic, 2WD, 109K, A/C, tilt, cruise, 4-wheel ABS, teal green, excellent condition. \$4199. Call 314-402-5565 or email allen@currans.com.

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

**JOIN THE TEAM**

The Current is looking for ad reps with a strong knowledge of marketing. Design skills are also valuable. Pay based on commission.

Not into advertising? The Current is also hiring writers, photographers and designers.

Those interested should submit a résumé and cover letter to 388 MSC or call 516-5183. An equal opportunity employer.

**\*\*\*ACT NOW!**

Guarantee the best **spring break prices!** South Padre, Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Acapulco, Florida & Mardi Gras. TRAVEL FREE, Reps Needed, EARN\$\$\$.  
**Group Discounts for 6+.**  
1-888-THINK SUN  
(1-888-844-6578 dept 2626)/  
[www.springbreakdiscounts.com](http://www.springbreakdiscounts.com)

**MAKE \$320 PER WEEK!**

**Sunchase Ski & Beach Breaks**  
Sales Rep. positions available now. Largest commissions. Travel Free!  
1-800-SUNCHASE  
[www.sunchase.com](http://www.sunchase.com)

**WINTER & SPRING BREAK**

Panama City Beach • South Padre Island • Vail  
Steamboat • Daytona Beach • Breckenridge  
Cover Charges Welcome Party  
Meals **FREE** VIP Parties  
Happy Hours **FREE** from only \$8  
1.800.SUNCHASE  
[www.sunchase.com](http://www.sunchase.com)

**Misc.**

**3rd Annual Thai Night 2002**  
Varieties of Thai Cuisine and cultural dance. Saturday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Pilot House. Limited tickets at \$7 each available at International Office, 304 SSB. More information at <http://www.umsl.edu/~thailand>.

**Have Fun! Make Money!**  
Around your schedule. P/T, F/T  
Own your own dot com! Start your own business in the growing communications industry  
[www.excelonmars.com/skdreams](http://www.excelonmars.com/skdreams)  
CONTACT US TODAY FOR AN INTERVIEW! 3314-579-4992

**Christmas Carol at the Fox Theater**



Friday, December 6th @ 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets are \$5 each - limit 2 with a valid student ID  
Available in Student Life - 306 MSC

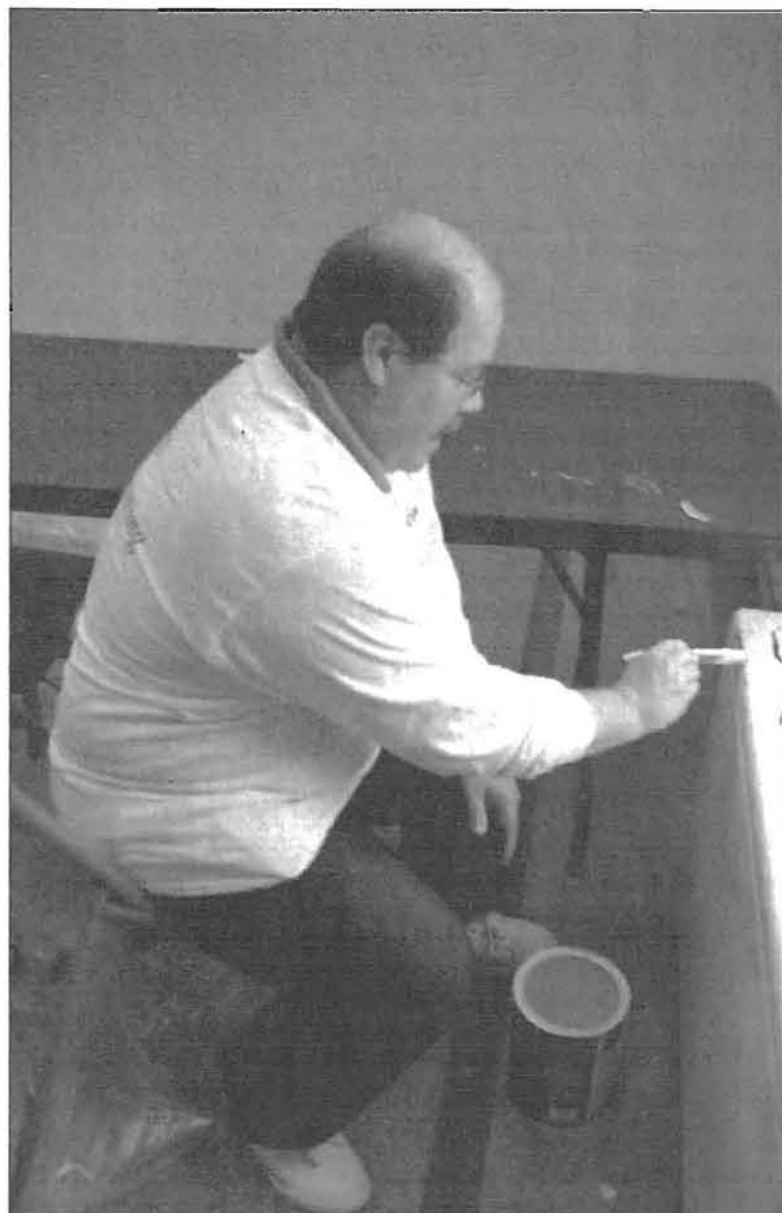


**WHAT DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE IN COMMON?**

The Second City  
COMEDY TOUR  
NOVEMBER 23, 2002  
7:00PM JCPENNEY BUILDING



SERVICE, from page 1



SGA has said that this is going to be an ongoing collaboration with the West End Community Center. They have chosen to "adopt" the community center as a year-long project.

"I am really glad that the kids from the community center could come and help out too," Greisemer said. "They can take ownership of their building through their work."

UM-St. Louis has been trying to encourage different organizations to join in the service projects. Other activities for Service Month include coaching children's sports teams, tutoring at math and reading workshops and Alpha Phi Omega's hat drive, which runs November 11-15. Alpha Phi Omega is encouraging students to bring in new hats to the sorority's office or to the Student Activities room.

**LEFT: Curt Coonrod, vice chancellor of student affairs, helps paint at the West End Community Center Saturday morning. After letting several drips escape, Coonrod quipped, "I'm glad I'm not getting paid for this, because they would have fired me a long time ago."**

**BELOW: Jen Lucchesi, senior, Spanish, helps out at the SGA-organized service project. Volunteers met Saturday at the West End Community Center**

Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current



## Students break bread together at weekly 'Subs and Soul Food'

BY KATE DROLET  
Staff Writer

On a frigid November afternoon, five UM-St. Louis students gather in the green-walled common room of Normandy United Methodist Church. They sit around a small table as Miriam Beck reads a vivid account from "Bad Girls in the Bible." I am informed that today they are reading about an older man who watches a younger girl swimming nude in her pond. After the account is finished, the group discusses the issues presented in the story.

Subs and Soul Food is sponsored by the Wesley Foundation, a campus-based organization that seeks to facilitate understanding in the Christian faith. Led by Reverend Roger Jespersen and peer minister Miriam Bick, Subs is an opportunity for stu-

dents to get together, enjoy lunch and discuss their faith.

"Anyone is invited to join us," Jespersen said. "We discuss religious issues, but the students who come don't have to be Methodist or even Christian."

The group, which usually consists of seven to twelve students, meets each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to around noon.

"Many of the students have class at noon or 12:15, but I stick around until 1:00 if anybody wants to stay," Jespersen said.

Lunchmeat and sandwich fixings are available, along with a variety of munchies.

"We have a lot of junk food," Jespersen laughed. Along with sandwiches, an abundance of chips, cookies, fruits and vegetables are provided. Sodas and juice are also offered.

During the meeting, students eat,

participate in some sort of devotional and ask for prayers for people who need them. The meeting is also an opportunity to remind students about campus events, such as the upcoming Service Day.

Subs and Soul Food began five years ago. The designated meeting time is decided each semester to fit with the schedules of students.

"The purpose of Subs and Soul Food is to provide an outreach for students. This is somewhere we can go between classes. It's a chance for students to chat with other Christians," Bick said. "This is such a friendly group; we would love for people to join us. It's really a great place to relax, and you don't have to worry about buying lunch!"

For further information about Subs and Soul Food, contact Jespersen by phone at 583-3000 or Bick by email at liquidlov4@aol.com

-Got something on your mind?  
-Need to get something off your chest?  
-Is there something that flat out bugs you?

Let us know about it.  
Write a letter to the editor.  
current@jinx.umsl.edu

For more info on these events, contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291 (MSC 366) or the University Program Board at 516-5531 (MSC 381)



# Student Life

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

# November

**Subs and Soul Food**  
Normandy United Methodist Church,  
across Natural Bridge from UMSL  
Every Wed. from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please contact Miriam Bick, peer minister, at Liquidlov4@aol.com or Rev. Roger Jespersen at 583-3000. Join us for food, conversation, and prayer.

**College Bowl Tournament**  
Wednesday, November 13  
The Pilot House  
6 p.m.

Got Brains? College Bowl is a trivia competition held at schools all over the U.S. Our winners will receive fabulous prizes and the chance to represent UMSL at the Regional College Bowl. Teams can include 4-6 people; individuals can sign up as well. Get more info or sign up in the Student Life Office or e-mail UPB at UMSL\_UPB@hotmail.com.

**All Greek- All Student Party**  
The Pilot House  
Thursday, November 14  
7-11 p.m.

Join all the UMSL Greeks for free food, giveaways, and music all night long!

**Speaker: Dr. Adell Patton Jr.**  
Thursday, November 14  
100 Clark Hall  
12:30 - 2 p.m.

Adell Patton Jr., history, will talk on "De-Tarzanizing Africa" at a brown bag lunch and interactive workshop from 12:30 to 2 pm. For more info., call Multicultural Relations at 516-6807.

**Student Government Association Meeting**  
Friday, November 15  
SGA Chambers  
1 p.m.

Open to all UMSL students.  
Have a voice in your student government!

**5th Annual Get Felt Pool Tournament**  
Friday, November 15  
Seton Residential Hall Lounge  
Doors open at 6 p.m.; play begins at 7 p.m.

3 skill levels, 5 games. \$5 gets you in. Food, games, t-shirts and fun galore!  
For more info., call PLHCSA at 516-7733.

**Garage Sale and Breakfast**  
Saturday, November 23  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The Meadows Apartments

The International Business Club will have clothing and more for sale, as well as donuts, coffee and other goodies. For more info., contact Amy at amypuchta@hotmail.com

**Speaker: James Zhuo**  
Tuesday, November 19  
2:00 pm  
Tower 1312

The International Business Club invites the UMSL community to hear James Zhuo, a student and policymaker, speak about business in China. For more info contact Amy at amypuchta@hotmail.com

**Wacky Warriors Paintball**  
Saturday, November 23

Bus leaves Alumni circle at 8:30 a.m., and will return around 3 p.m.  
\*35 seats available on shuttle - first come, first serve!  
\$10 fee includes 6-8 games and 1250 rounds of ammo.  
Sign up in MSC 366.  
Come one, come all! Military types are not the only ones who will enjoy this fast-paced game.

**Second City**  
Saturday, November 23  
J.C. Penney Auditorium  
7 p.m.

The world-renowned comedy troupe, which has fostered numerous comedy legends, including Saturday Night Live alumni Gilda Radner, Chevy Chase and Dan Akroyd, is coming to UMSL! You don't want to miss this show!