



'Rules of Attraction' review
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Former Budget Director predicts cuts

Moody believes further cuts are coming for higher education

BY NICOLE RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

James Moody, the former commissioner of administration and budget director for the State of Missouri, gave a budget forecast to the Board of Curators July 19 in Columbia, Missouri. Moody is widely acknowledged as one of the most prominent governmental consultants in Missouri. He believes that Missouri's budget shortfalls are the consequences of an "imbalance between revenue and expenses."

In a recent interview Moody said, the \$19 billion state cannot simply be rearranged to compensate for shortfalls and that most of Missouri's budget is restricted for specific things.

"Twenty-five percent has to go to Elementary and Secondary education," Moody said.

The rest of the restrictions come from what Moody refers to as the "four-headed monster": Medicaid, public debt, food and utilities for prisoners and school systems.

"These are areas treated as entitlements," Moody said.

He believes that many of the structural problems have so far been "masked" by using one-time funds that can not be sustained to cover ongoing operating requirements.

"That problem is coming home to roost," Moody said.

There had only been about \$179 million in fiscal growth in the last four years, which is virtually stagnant. The debate over whether the shortfalls are from too much spending or not enough revenue is misleading. Moody says that it's from both, and that Missouri will eventually have to address its budget structure.

"This whole thing is a long-term proposition," Moody said. "My view is the discussion we're having right now, you're going to be having two years from now."

In the past, the state's Hancock Amendment has limited revenue. The tax limit demands that revenues in excess of the growth rate of personal income be refunded to taxpayers. Starting in 2000, revenue dropped well below the Hancock limitation. Moody says currently Missouri is about one billion dollars under the limit.

According to Moody, the only possible good news involving state revenue would be a limited payment stream from the state tobacco settlement and the possibility of a \$.55 tobacco increase, which will be on the November ballot. He believes that a special tax intended for higher education would never pass.

"Voters don't think we are in trouble," Moody said.

A session for students discussing issues such as the \$.55 tobacco increase will be held on campus at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 16 in the SGA Chamber on the 3rd floor on the Millennium Student Center.

Student struck at entrance

BY JASON GRANGER
News Editor

UM-St. Louis student Jakob Parks was injured Tuesday after being struck by a car at the intersection of Arlmont and Natural Bridge, the main entrance to the campus. Parks was taken to St. Mary's Hospital where he was treated for severe facial lacerations, dental problems and possible internal bleeding.

Parks was crossing the street on his way to UM-St. Louis North Campus when the accident occurred.

"We've had accidents involving students at that intersection before," Sgt. Bruce Gardiner of the UM-St. Louis campus police department said. "But I can't recall any pedestrians ever getting struck by a vehicle, and I have been here for seven years."

Gardiner also said the accident was not a hit and run.

"The woman who hit Mr. Parks did not leave the scene," Gardiner said. "She wanted to make sure he was going to receive treatment."

Parks was taken to St. Mary's hospital where he was treated for his injuries. He was released Thursday after his doctors were sure there was no danger of internal bleeding.

"His mother said he has some facial

“
We've had accidents involving students at that intersection before... (but not) any pedestrians getting struck by a vehicle.
”

-Sgt. Bruce Gardiner

lacerations and dental problems, but aside from that, he should be all right," Gardiner said.

According to Bob Samples, Director of University Communications, Parks did not obey the traffic signals when he was crossing.

"We aren't quite sure whether that



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jakob Parks was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Natural Bridge Road and Arlmont Road Tuesday. The intersection is used by many of UM-St. Louis' students who live on campus and must cross the intersection in order to get to class. Natural Bridge and

Arlmont is the main entrance to the campus. In previous years, there has been talk of trying to make the intersection safer by adding either a tunnel or bridge to aid students in safely crossing the street.

means he was 'j-walking,'" Samples said. "He was released today (Thursday) from St. Mary's hospital after being treated for his injuries."

Samples went on to say that Parks may have ignored the crossing signals, but no one knows for sure.

Bel-Nor's police department was not called in to investigate or treat

Parks, according to Sgt. Gardiner. "The Missouri State Highway Patrol was called in to handle the situation," Gardiner said. "Ordinarily the municipality that the accident occurs in handles the situation. I don't know why the Missouri State Patrol was called in."

In the past, there have been

concerns raised about the safety of the intersection where Parks was hit.

"In the past, there has been talk of a tunnel versus a walkway," Gardiner said. "Part of UM-St. Louis' master plan is to make changes to East Entrance Drive to make it a safer crossing area for students."

Students use the intersection of

Arlmont Drive and Natural Bridge Road to cross from the Normandy, Belleve, Seton, Le Gras, Villa, Villa North and Provincial House student housing complexes.

Approximately 350 students reside in the campus residence halls, and they have to make use of the intersection daily.

Black leaders encourage minority voting activism

BY DANIELLE CABELL
Staff Writer

"If you don't vote, then you don't exist, and if you don't exist, then you're not going to get the services that you need," local attorney Jerry Christmas told an assembly of St. Louisians gathered October 8, in support of Election Protection—a national series of debates that stopped at UM-St. Louis Tuesday night. The town hall meeting brought together local and national activists and journalists for an evening of discussion on how to get more African-Americans involved in the political process.

Pastor B.T. Rice of the New Horizon Seventh Day Christian Church began the night by telling the audience that there was no meeting more important or significant than the one they were attending.

The event's moderator George Curry, editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), asked, "Why should black people vote?" Panelists agreed that the November 2000 presidential election, an election that had 68 percent of African-Americans feeling cheated, according to a 2001 Gallop poll, answered that question. Panelist then went on to express their personal beliefs on why African-Americans should be voting.

James Buford, CEO and President of Urban League Metropolitan St. Louis, who writes a column in The American once a month, read a passage from one of his articles on the importance of the black vote.

Buford said, "We, as African-Americans, cannot afford to allow our civil liberties, such as the right to vote, to be taken away or taken for granted. Our ancestors died for the right that half of us don't even exercise... having the freedom and liberty to vote is a precious and powerful thing. We assume we have the right to vote, but it's like a

muscle; if we don't use it, the muscle goes away and turns into flab. If we don't vote and exercise our right, we don't empower ourselves. It's not a guaranteed right as we are seeing right now. We must vote to empower ourselves as a people."

As the panelists followed up on Buford's sentiments, moderator Curry interjected with a comment on the number of empty seats at the meeting. He proceeded to tell the audience that it wasn't just about African-Americans being registered, it was about them showing up. Panelists then began offering ideas on how to get African-Americans to show up on the day of the elections: giving away items, having guest appearances at polls, putting polls in more locations, and extending voting days were ways suggested to get more African-Americans to show up at the polls. The suggestions were met by criticisms as panelists shot down each other's ideas.

Christmas rejected the idea of giving things away at the polls to lure people to vote. He said that voting is a duty, and Americans should just get up and do it.

"It's vital for black people to vote because these are games that can be won," said Alvin A. Reid, city editor of The American. "If black people would just bother to vote in the city of St. Louis most of all of the elected offices in the city of St. Louis would probably be held by black people because the city is 54 percent black. It's just a matter of showing up."

One voter and panelist, KFUN 99.5 mid-day radio personality Mo-Shay said she didn't take advantage of her voting rights until the birth of her daughter, so she can relate to voter apathy. Mo-Shay, 28, was asked what could have been done to get her to vote at an earlier age. She said that voting should have something shocking to obtain young adults interest.

“
George Curry interjected with a comment on the of empty seats at the meeting....It wasn't just about African-Americans registering, it was about showing up.
”

New professor brings fresh ideas

BY BECKY ROSNER
Staff Writer

Cecil Abrahams recently moved from his home in South Africa to reside in the United States. Abrahams worked at the University of Western Cape in South Africa from 1995 to



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Professor Cecil Abrahams transferred from South Africa.

2001 as rector and vice-chancellor. He was named Distinguished Professor of Higher Education and International Studies at the College of Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis for his outstanding teaching skills and international perspectives.

UM-St. Louis signed an agreement in 1985 with the University of Western Cape in South Africa to exchange professors and students. Professors usually spend about 8 months in the country. "In 17 years, the campuses have exchanged over 400 professors and a large number of

students," Abrahams said. "It is a very strong part of both of the universities."

Abrahams was born and raised under apartheid rule. The apartheid was a time in South Africa of major segregation. As a way to cement their control of the economic and social system, the National Party invented apartheid.

A Population Registration Act was passed in 1950 that classified all South Africans into three categories: colored of mixed descent, African and white. These racial issues were not dealt with lightly. "It was terrible," Abrahams said. "You were restricted from your personal aspirations."

In addition to teaching, Abrahams has also published literature. He is currently working on a book that looks at the condition of people leaving their homeland, the advantages and disadvantages and the whole perspective of exile. "The book will be both autobiographical and include reactions and developments to moving places," Abrahams said. "It's coming along slowly."

In 2001, Cecil moved to the United States. He began teaching at UM-St. Louis in September of 2001 and is affiliated with the College of Education. Abrahams said that he had an active relationship with Missouri while in South Africa, which helped in adapting to St. Louis.

Teaching courses on financial issues and changes in education, Abrahams is always looking to compare his experiences in the United States to those in South Africa. Abrahams said that he has enjoyed both of the countries, but they are very different. His experiences have helped students to learn more about different cultures.

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Bulletin Board

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

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October Zeta Phi Beta

Zeta Phi Beta is hosting the Boogie Nights Talent Showcase in the Pilot House on December 31. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, or to sign up call 370-5233 or email questions to zeta_rho@finerwomen.zzn.com

Mon 14 Monday Noon Series

Patterns of Communication-An Artist's Slide Talk will be given by Barry Blinderman, director of University Galleries at Illinois State University. The event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, room 229.

Wed 16 Center for Humanities

There will be a poetry and short story reading from 11 a.m. to noon in Benton Hall, room B116. Writer Gary Gildner will read and discuss his work. For more information contact Mary Troy at 516-6845.

Wed 16 Campus Ministry

The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry will be having a free Bible Study from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The study will be held every Wednesday for the rest of the semester. The ministry is located at 8000 Natural Bridge Road. Those attending, enter through the double glass doors on the Natural Bridge side of Normandy UMC. Call Roger Jespersion at 385-3000 for more information.

Wed 16 (cont.) Career Services

A resume writing workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to noon in room 327 MSC. This free, one-hour workshop focuses on the basics of resume writing. Advance registration is required. Call Career Services at 516-5111 or register in person at 327 MSC.

Thur 17 Student Life

Noted author and behavioral therapist Gary Laundre' brings authenticity to the often misunderstood phenomenon of hypnosis. The event will be held the Pilot House at 6:30 p.m.

17 UPB

There will be a College Bowl Informational Meeting at 3 p.m. in the University Program Board office at MSC 381. For mor information call UPB at 516-5531 or e-mail umsl_upb@hotmail.com.

Fri 18 Student Life

Experience St. Louis: Darkness and More will be held. A bus will leave the MSC at 7:30 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m. Get all three haunted attractions for only \$10. Limit 2 tickets per student. There is limited seating available on the shuttle, so sign up early.

Sat 19 Student Life

Babler State Park - Horseback Riding 101 will be held today. A refundable fee of \$10 will reserve bus seats and cover admission for horseback riding and lunch. Bus leaves MSC at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 1 p.m. Sign-up in the office of Student Life.

Mon 21 - Fri 25 Health Services

This week is National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. Information tables will be set up in the MSC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Peer educators and staff will provide educational and promotional items. For more information, contact Michelle Russell, coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Prevention, at 516-5414.

Mon 21 Monday Noon Series

Gerda W. Ray, professor of history at UM-St. Louis, will discuss whether and how the government's increased powers undermined civil liberties and the people's right to know even before Sept. 11. 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 Campus Crimeline

- October 4**
A student reported that her vehicle was stolen from Lot X on South campus.
- October 7**
An optometry student reported that he left her wallet on top of a washbasin in the women's restroom. Upon her return minutes later, the wallet was gone.
- October 9**
A student reported that she parked her vehicle at the old Normandy Hospital to participate in a residential life function. She had left her vehicle unlocked and upon returning to her vehicle, she discovered that an unknown person had stolen her purse and other items from the vehicle.
- October 10**
In the late evening hours, a suspect was arrested for trespassing in the Research Building after being warned numerous times in the past to refrain from entering the University property.

Corrections

In issue 1064 of *The Current*, in the story titled "Counseling Services offers depression screening." Psychology Services was noted as being a resource for students and those in the community. The story should have referred to Counseling Services as a resource for people in the community seeking counseling help, not Psychology Services.

In issue 1064 of *The Current*, the story entitled "Arianna Quartet previews autumn concert series" was written by Kim Silver. The byline for the story incorrectly had another staff writer's name on it.

In previous issues of *The Current*, Business Manager Mindaugas Adamonis's name was accidentally left out of the staff box.

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Wednesday, October 16

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Be on the look out for details about UMSL's Halloween Costume Contest!
 1st prize = \$50.00 Gift Card for Campus Dining



My big fat Greek festival

BY SARA PORTER
staff editor

Clinical psychologist, Aphrodite Matsakis said that her father had one important rule for her and her brother while they grew up in St. Louis.

"He had a no English rule," Matsakis said. "We were told not to speak any English."

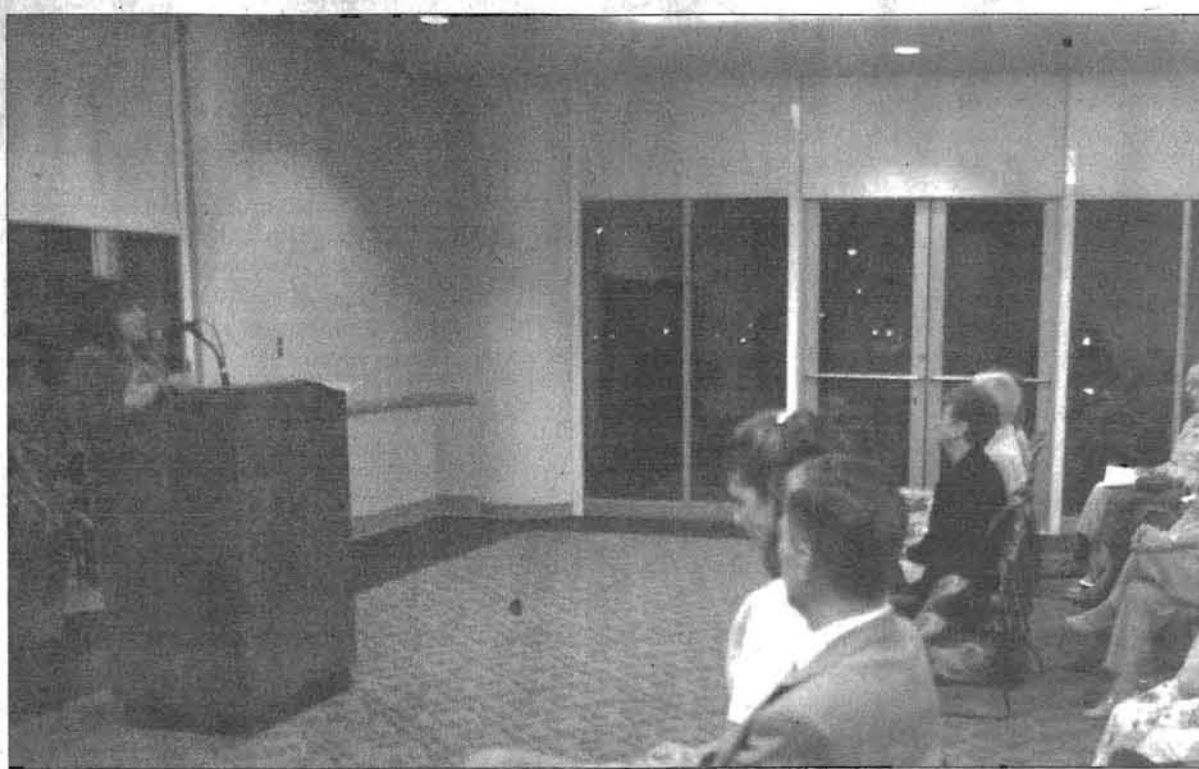
"When I grew older my brother and I had a hard time sticking to the no English rule," she said.

Matsakis shared experiences from her childhood and how they affected her life and career in clinical psychology in a lecture and reading from her book "Growing up Greek in St. Louis" in the Millennium Center on September 14.

Matsakis originally began the book by gathering stories and anecdotes into a small book, which then grew to 400 pages.

"None of the editors wanted a story that long," Matsakis said. "Eventually, I found Arcadia Publishing and they enjoy books on personal histories, particularly on ethnic groups, so they got it." Matsakis was then told to trim the book from 400 to 128 pages and to add photos.

Matsakis wrote her book so that her children could learn about and explore their roots. "When our ancestors were younger they were



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Aphrodite Matsakis, author of "Growing Up Greek in St. Louis" speaks Saturday at the MSC Saturday evening. Her appearance was sponsored by the Center for International Studies. "The social workers told me that I should hide all Greek books and stuff under the bed, but I couldn't," Matsakis said. "I couldn't hide my grandmother under the bed."

told to act American, to be American," she said. "When they grew older their children and grandchildren tried to fit in and rejected a lot of their ethnicity."

"Now people are seen exploring their roots," Matsakis said. "People want to cling to something besides the television."

Matsakis also wrote the book to explore a more personal view of history, particularly from a woman's point of view. "You hear people say 'you have history, but where are the women?'" she said. "From personal history you learn about the way people lived and how they interacted."

Matsakis acquired a respect for community, because of the closeness of her neighborhood. "My parents knew of many single Greek men who could babysit for us," she said. "We knew somebody, who knew somebody."

"We knew there was a dark side of the neighborhood, like gossip," Matsakis said. "But even gossip shows you care. There was a lot of caring, when people looked out for one another."

Matsakis's parents raised her on Greek myths, a trait that she later used in her experiences with Vietnam veterans and survivors of other traumatic experiences, such as the Oklahoma City Bombing. "I had some Vietnam veterans who had trouble revealing their emotions, they were afraid to cry," she said. "I told them the story of Achilles and how he cried so much that the Greeks honored him."

"Achilles was the Rambo of his day and wasn't afraid to show emotions," Matsakis said.

When Matsakis first began to tell myths in her therapy, she was met

with derision. "In a speech six or seven years ago at a Vietnam veterans memorial I told the story of Aurora and the dew," she said. "The next speaker said 'Very nice. Now, hear a real speech.'"

"Now, mythology is used regularly in therapy," Matsakis said. "Books have even been written on the subject."

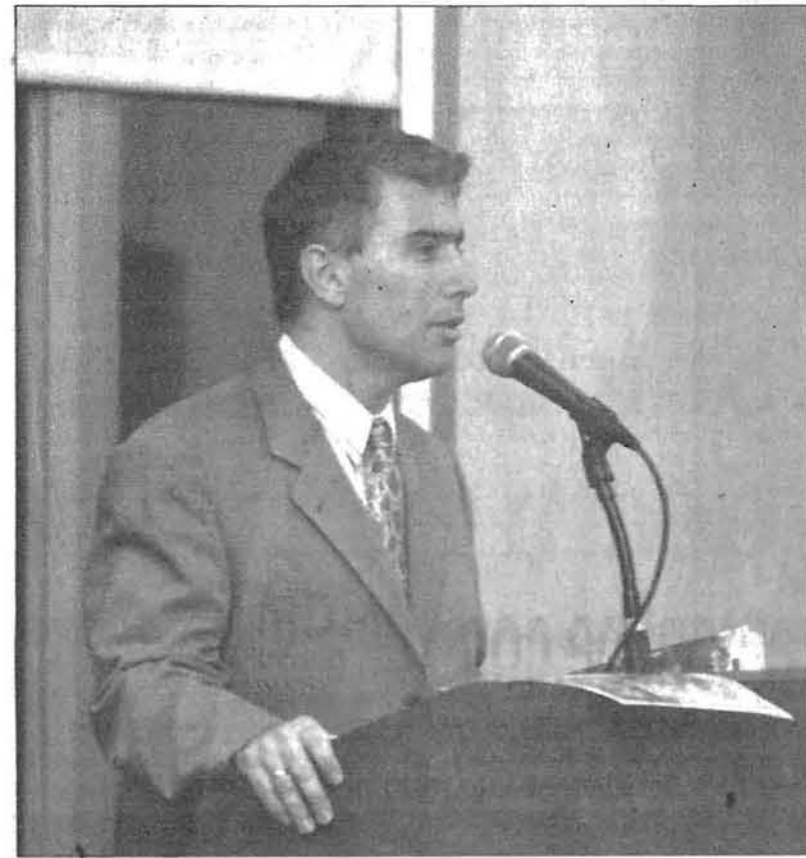
Matsakis said that she learned commitment from her family. "We learned commitment from family, from community, something higher than yourself," she said.

"We also learned not to complain," Matsakis said. "If we complained, we heard about the stories from our parents and grandparents about the hardships they endured."

"My grandma was a survivor of the Holocaust, and another was in the fascist occupation in Greece, and they were sad but did not complain," Matsakis said.

Matsakis's Greek heritage was so important to her that she said that she could not hide it even when she was told to. "When I was going through my divorce, there was a criticism at the courts and they didn't understand Greek Orthodox," she said. "So they thought it was some weird religion."

"The social workers told me that I should hide all Greek books and stuff under the bed, but I couldn't," Matsakis said. "I couldn't hide my grandmother under the bed."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, professor of anthropology, introduces author Aphrodite Matsakis Saturday evening at the Millennium Center. Cosmopoulos has been the Hellenic Government-Karakas Foundation Professor of Greek Studies and Professor of Archaeology at UM-St. Louis since August, 2001.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Matsakis speaks about adults finding and learning about their ancestry. "People want to cling to something besides the television," she says.

Manning the switchboard Operators lend an ear to students

BY MICAH ISSITT
staff writer

It's 8 a.m. and your car is broken down somewhere between O'Fallon and the University. Your first class starts in thirty minutes and it is test day. Your only hope is to get in touch with your professor and tell her that you are going to miss the test. A pleasant voice rings out over the other end of the cell phone, "Good morning, University of Missouri-Saint Louis."

When you call the University of Missouri-St. Louis, you may speak to one of the telephone operators. These are the voices that answer the phone when someone calls the University. They may represent to the public the first contact with the University and therefore that important first impression, in addition to assisting students.

Today, the voice on the other end of the line is Operator 1. Don't ask her to tell you her real name; she won't. In fact, she can't. None of the University's telephone operators will tell you their names, or where they are located in the University. If you ask, they will politely tell you, "I am Operator 1 (or another number), how can I help you?"

This covert code of operations with pseudonyms and some mysterious hidden office may seem like something out of "Mission Impossible," but Operator 1 assures me that the security measures are absolutely necessary. "We get all kinds of calls here, and some people are very disturbed for a number of reasons," she said. The anonymity helps the operators maintain a professional relationship with the callers and keeps them safe from people who feel like "killing the messenger," or in this case, the operator.

Operator 1 has a lovely speaking voice. She is comforting and friendly and gives an air of capability that makes you feel like you are in good hands. She wouldn't say exactly how long she has been working at UM-St. Louis but said it was "over five years."

Operator 1 has been a receptionist for many years and was actually hired by the University in part because of her ability to give good directions.

"We have people coming from all directions and from quite far away," she said. The operators have to be familiar with all sorts of directions both on and off the campus.

The receptionists' job is quite a bit more complicated than it might seem. The University receives, as Operator 1 says, "hundreds and hundreds and hundreds" of calls every day. Everyone who calls needs something. They need help, and they need information, and it is the receptionists' job to decide how to give it out.

"Each call is vitally important," Operator 1 asserts with obvious pride, "and the reasons can vary. We get all kinds of calls." The list of questions goes on forever, everything from "When is spring break?" to "When do I graduate?"

Sometimes the calls are not so easy to handle. People call about a distressful situation, a death in the family, or a divorce, or simply car trouble. At these times, the operators have to decipher the call and figure out how they can help. As Operator 1 says, "People can become very distraught, and you just have to listen very carefully. You are always looking for a word, a clue as to where to transfer them. You are always helping someone, no matter what, and you never know what kind of call you are going to receive," Operator 1 said.

Because the University has so many students with such individual needs, including evening students, commuters, foreign students and students with disabilities, knowing how to help can be difficult.

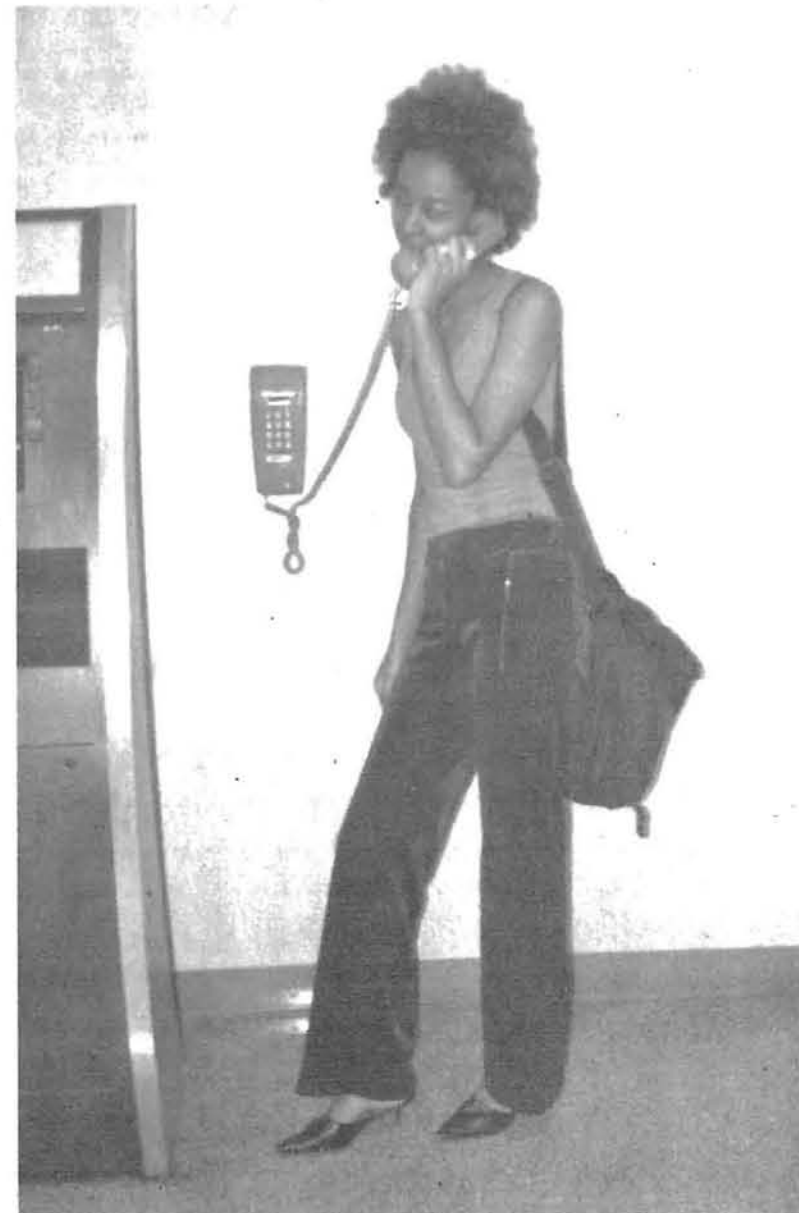
"It can be very challenging figuring out how to help everyone, but it is wonderful to work with all of these students knowing what they go through. I appreciate them. Every person is important," said Operator 1.

You may never see any of the University's Operators and you may never know their names, but at some point you will need their help and they will be there. Despite the fact that very few people would ever recognize her if they saw her, Operator 1 seems to feel quite at home here at the University.

"We have so many students from all over the world, it's almost like we have our own little continent," she said.

The UM-St. Louis "continent" may be made up of disparate people, each following a personal path, but we do have a unified voice. Sequestered and hidden somewhere within the labyrinth of buildings and bodies, two voices seem to answer from nowhere: "University of Missouri-St. Louis. How can I help you?"

*University of Missouri-St. Louis.
How can I help you?*



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Lydia Kitane, University of Missouri-St. Louis student, makes use of one of the telephones around campus. Students can dial a campus extension directly, or call the university operators for assistance from these telephones.

EDITOR

EDITOR

WE NEED ONE
Features Editor

phone: 516-4886
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Patriotism
rules for
Delta Chi's

BY KIMBERLY SILVER
staff writer

September 11, 2001, is a day that no American will ever forget. On this day the world watched as the nation braced itself against terrorist attacks.

The Delta Chi fraternity brothers will distribute red, white and blue ribbons to all student organizations that wish to participate in the fundraiser. The patriotic ribbons will be sold to students for 50 cents each by campus organizations.

The proceeds of the fundraiser will go directly to the 9/11 Foundation.

The foundation will use the money raised to support the spouses, children and family members left behind by the firefighters and emergency medical personnel who perished in the World Trade Center tragedy.

Delta Chi President Joel Field said, "We want to make people aware of terrorism and promote unity among UM-St. Louis students."

The fraternity is urging all student organizations on campus to participate in the campaign.

At the end of fall semester 2002 the brothers of Delta Chi will host a ceremony that will recognize every organization that participates in the campaign. The organization that raises the most money for Coins for the Country will receive an award.

Questions about Coins for the Country can be directed to DeltaChiUMSL@yahoo.com.

STANFORD

OUR OPINION

Crossing the (Natural) Bridge

Recently, UM-St. Louis student Jakob Parks was struck by a car crossing at the intersection of Arlmont and Natural Bridge. While it is believed to be his fault for not obeying crossing signals, this does raise the question of safety. Why are the students subjected to the danger of crossing at this intersection in the first place?

There are multiple choices for UM-St. Louis and its administration to prevent this from occurring again. The first thing they need to concern themselves with is finding some way to ensure the safety of the students. Students who are coming to campus from the housing complexes and Honors College are forced to cross at the main entrance daily. If the campus would begin construction on a safe passage system, students would no longer face the danger of getting struck by cars.

A bridge would do well to reduce the danger that students face. If UM-St. Louis would ante up for a walkway for students, then the situation could rectify itself. A tunnel is another option that administrators could look into; although the idea of the bridge is probably the safer, and on the whole, more affordable solution. After all, excavating a tunnel is a costly procedure. On top of that, does the campus really want to give

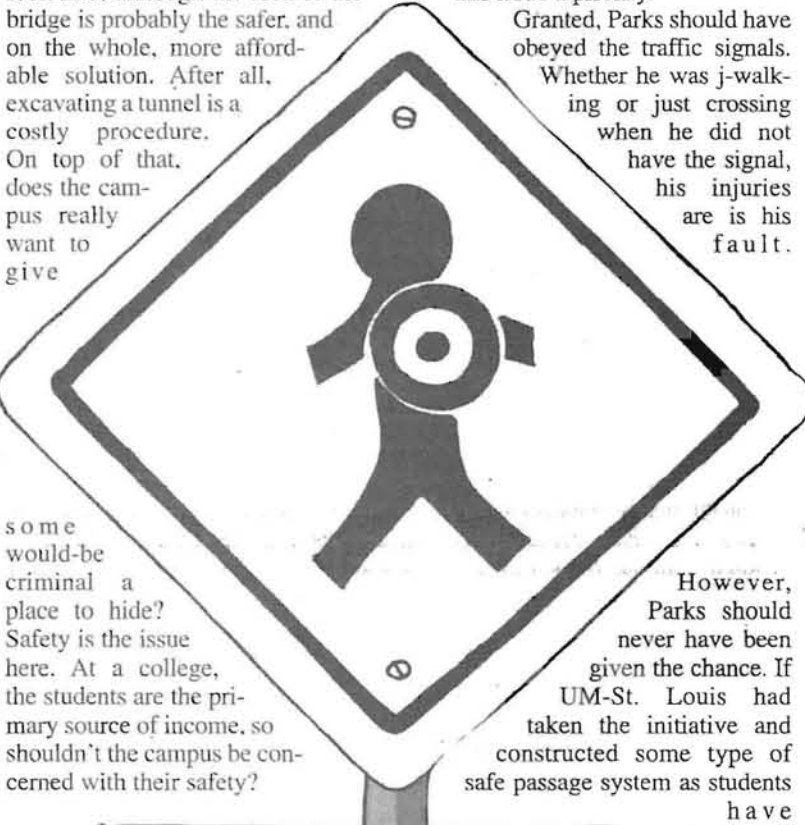
taken. Why not? Was the school waiting for someone to get hurt or possibly killed before they took action? This is a dangerous policy to engage in. A student had to be taken to the hospital because a car invaded his personal space and struck him at a high rate of speed, all because the school has not looked out for its students best interests.

If this issue has been raised in the past, why did the campus not take action? Was the campus pinching pennies? If that is the case, then some serious questions need to be asked of the upper echelon of UM-St. Louis. If the question was raised and ignored, then Parks' injuries are on their hands.

Now, students need to take action. They need to let campus administrators know that this situation is unacceptable. If they let the administration know that they will not allow another student to get hit by a car, then the campus will be forced to take action. Students can make their voices heard if they yell loud enough. Protesting is a good way to make an opinion heard; students need to make this issue a priority.

Granted, Parks should have obeyed the traffic signals. Whether he was j-walking or just crossing when he did not have the signal, his injuries are his fault.

some would-be criminal a place to hide? Safety is the issue here. At a college, the students are the primary source of income, so shouldn't the campus be concerned with their safety?



However, Parks should never have been given the chance. If UM-St. Louis had taken the initiative and constructed some type of safe passage system as students have been

What is really at issue here is why was Parks even allowed to get hit by a car? The campus should have foreseen this problem long ago. According to Sgt. Bruce Gardiner, the campus has discussed the idea of some type of protective walkway in the past, but no action was ever

requesting for several years, then Parks could have avoided his injuries. Now the school needs to ensure this never happens again by giving the students safe passage to and from South campus to North Campus.

What's your opinion?

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

- Serial Sniper
• Crossing Natural Bridge
• Uncomfortable classrooms

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It's getting hot in here

Of everything in the classroom that tempts me to pay attention to something (anything besides my professors), one distraction affects me most: temperature. If I'm not comfortable, I don't learn or pay attention. It's as simple as that.

Lately this has been an issue in all of my classes. Either everyone in my classes is having collective hot flashes, or the rooms have just been too warm lately. Since I don't think I'm going through female menopause, I'm going to go with the latter.

When it's as warm outside as it has been lately, why are the heaters pumping out a full blast? Shouldn't we be using the air conditioners or, at the very least, nothing? Why are we wasting University money, and therefore student money, on making professors and students uncomfortable? Personally, I can think of a number of better ways to "waste" money than that. If we are going to waste money, shouldn't it at least be on something enjoyable instead of simply baking us?

The reasons for the uncomfortable temperature are clear: The air conditioning has been turned off for the year, and the heaters have been cranked up. What is not so clear is why the changes have occurred during this transitional weather period. Exactly why are the climate controls

being adjusted during this time when I can't even guess what to wear to enjoy or fight against the prevailing weather?

Last year I posed these questions to the powers who control the weather inside UM-St. Louis' buildings. The response was that a date is arbitrarily set for the switch over; and once the heater is turned on, it cannot be turned off. While I can understand the arbitrary dates of certain things in life (tax day by the IRS and National Grapefruit Week by whoever sets those dates), when weather is involved, isn't it a better idea to just stick your hand out the window than to drop a stone on a calendar?

Professors don't want to teach and the students don't want to learn when the classroom is so hot. Actually, it's really not a case of "want" but a case of "can't." The human body just does not function well when it becomes overheated. We get drowsy and droopy. Our eyelids drop as we start to doze. As a result, everyone suffers. Somehow I don't think my parents want their money to go for my drifting off instead of my learning.

On the upside to this arbitrary climate change, everyone in my Spanish class can now say perfectly, "¡Tengo calor!"



STANFORD GRIFFITH Editor-in-Chief

The issue Students face the daily danger of crossing at the main entrance without any sort of safe walk way, leading to a potential for injury or worse.

We suggest UM-St. Louis administrators need to take action and avoid student injury.

One student, Jakob Parks, has already been injured by the dangerous intersection. A tunnel or bridge could go a long way in helping to stave off the potential for injury or death to the students.

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

Sniper deserves death penalty

Crimes committed with or without a motive are mind-boggling to the average citizens; cold-blooded murder with absolutely no reasoning is, however, horrifying. The recent sniper serial killer in Virginia, D.C. and Maryland has had me glued to the television news reports in the hopes of some more breaking news. Not breaking news that another innocent person's life was taken, but that they have found and caught this bastard. (Really, I couldn't think of a better word to express my feelings about this person.) From the looks of it, though, it may be a long and tedious search for this serial killer.

The other night I caught part of "Hannity & Colmes," a news show on the Fox News Channel, where a former D.C. Detective was being interviewed. The detective, Ted Williams, said that, simply put, something must have made this person mad. As an example, he said that this serial killer could have recently lost his job or had some other kind of traumatic experience. Lost his job! Is that what little it takes to send people on a killing spree nowadays?

Later on in the show, before ending a conversation with a congresswoman, Colmes asked if she believed in the death penalty, and whether or not she felt this criminal, when caught, should receive it. She agreed that he should, which I was not surprised by. What caught my attention was that the question was even asked. I don't see how anyone can disagree with this person being

sentenced to death. I would think that even those who have never supported the death penalty in the past would change their minds for this person.

I have always believed that people do not have the right to "play God" by taking someone else's life. But, in my mind, this rule only applies to the criminals. I believe that criminals should get what they deserve. When people take others' lives for no purpose, they deserve to die.

This lunatic is unlike any other serial killer known. This is not a traditional hate crime, where a certain group of people is being knocked off. Those that this person has chosen as targets are totally random. Detectives cannot find any relation between the victims; they have just been killed as entertainment for this sniper.

In the last few years it seems there has been more kidnappings, murders and crimes where the circumstances surrounding the situation are more sick and twisted than ever. Just recently, here across the street, a man shot his wife and had a friend shoot him twice, once in the arm and another time in the leg, in order to make it look like a robbery.

These people are making it difficult for other people to feel safe just leaving their home. No longer do you only have to be scared because you have made enemies; just a simple routine as filling up your car could cost you your life. We can't live in fear, or in a bubble, or our basement. In the end justice will be served. I hope this guy fries.



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

Under Current

by Mike Sherwin Photography Director

Should the U.S. invade Iraq?



Rosemary Smith Senior Psychology

No way. Oh, God no.



Matt Bachhuber Junior Psychology

Saddam has violated the truce of the Persian Gulf war. He hasn't left us with any other options.



Irma Jones Campus Receptionist

I am for attacking them - before they attack us.



John Hensley Junior Business

I was in the Persian Gulf 10 years ago, but now I'm indifferent. It's really about profits.

MOVIE REVIEW

Tragic and comic 'Moonlight Mile' lights up the screen

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER Staff Editor

Joe's problem is that he's a soft-hearted guy who wants to do what is expected of him.

In the potential Oscar contender "Moonlight Mile," Joe Nast's (Jake Gyllenhaal) fiancée, Diane, has been accidentally killed in a shooting. Joe wants to do everything he can to console her parents, Ben (Dustin Hoffman) and Jo Jo Floss (Susan Sarandon), who show their grief in a quirky, unique way. He is genuinely fond of them, and the fact that they have lost their only daughter instead of gaining a son-in-law tugs at his heart.

what others want him to be, the more the role doesn't fit.

Set in a small New England town in the early '70s, this poignant and funny tale is a bittersweet story of family relationships and transitions in life. The characters are the heart of story-engaging, unusual people who have the complicated inner workings of the real thing. These three people deal with their grief in unexpected ways, like people in real life sometimes do. Jo Jo is an outspoken writer who deals with her grief with her sarcastic wit. Diane's father, Ben, can't move on and wants Joe to continue with their original plan to have the new son-in-law join him in his commercial real estate business. Ben wants to deal with everything by just being practical, even when his practical concerns seem jarringly inappropriate. He carefully goes about the business of canceling all the wedding arrangements, even though everyone in their small town knows what has happened. And Joe deals with the loss by trying to be whatever her grieving parents want him to be, to do whatever makes things easier for them, while he wonders where he'll go from there. While the story is fictional, writer Brad Silberling drew on an early life

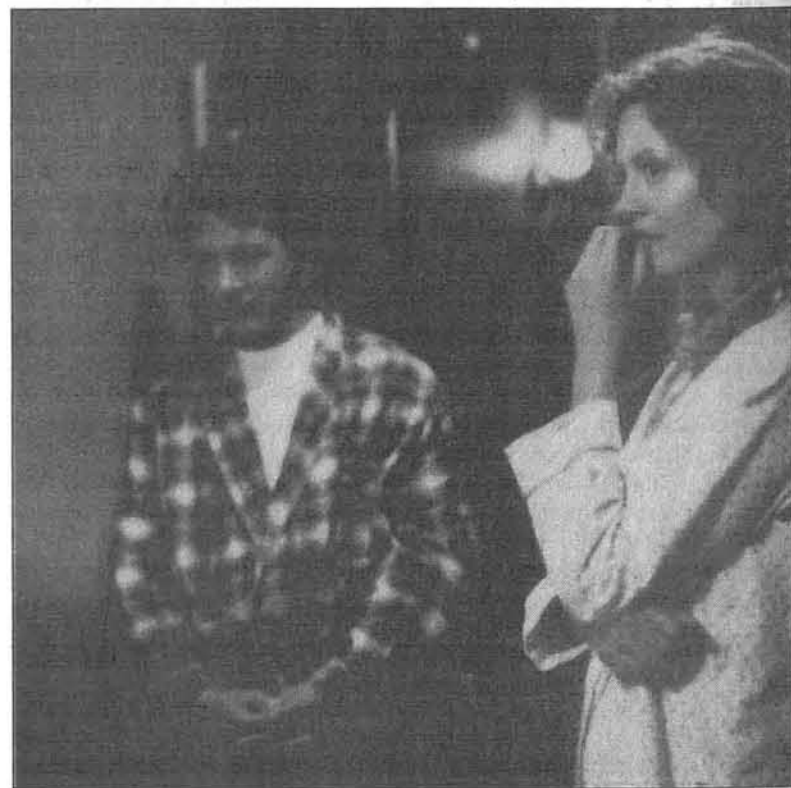
personal experience for the story, and the grounding in the real world shows in the believable nature of these people and their situation.

The setting and time of the story contribute to the theme of transitions. In 1973, the country is coasting, dozing, poised for change but unaware of the near future. The Vietnam War is coming to an end, and the list of those missing in action is a long and ever-present question mark. Small family businesses that line the main street will soon be swept away in the rising tide of retail chains in the '80s. A foreshadowing of the trend to shopping malls and abandoned town centers creeps into the story, as does the shadow of Vietnam when Joe meets a young woman whose boyfriend is among the missing. The sense of drifting and questions about which way to go is a lingering cloud, deepening the poignant tone of the film.

Susan Sarandon, Dustin Hoffman, and Jake Gyllenhaal - you could hardly ask for a more talented cast. Writer/director Brad Silberling has assembled all the right elements here. The original and realistic plot with its unusual and intriguing characters is brought to life by this great cast. Susan Sarandon is in fine form as the color-

ful, biting Jo Jo, who shows real affection for her near son-in-law, Joe. Dustin Hoffman, as the almost neurotic Ben, is marvelous, portraying a man driven by habits who wants to be the pillar of strength despite his underlying needs. These two produce the perfect picture of a battling but loving, long-married couple. Jake Gyllenhaal is likewise right on the mark as the conflicted, well-meaning, aimless Joe Nast, showing once again why he is a rising star. The intelligence of the story and its unflinching gaze are a refreshing experience. Ideal locations, sensitive photography, and excellent period music round out this excellent film.

It's pretty rare to find a film that combines these elements so well. What a welcome break this is from formulaic films and cutout characters. This story may be smaller and less electrifying than last year's "In the Bedroom," to which some may compare it, but the interpersonal landscape is just as real and just as moving. The lighter flavor, comic elements, and the gentler story of change after tragedy make this film more everyday and more accessible. The time period parallels add a depth that makes this a truly enjoyable and satisfying film.



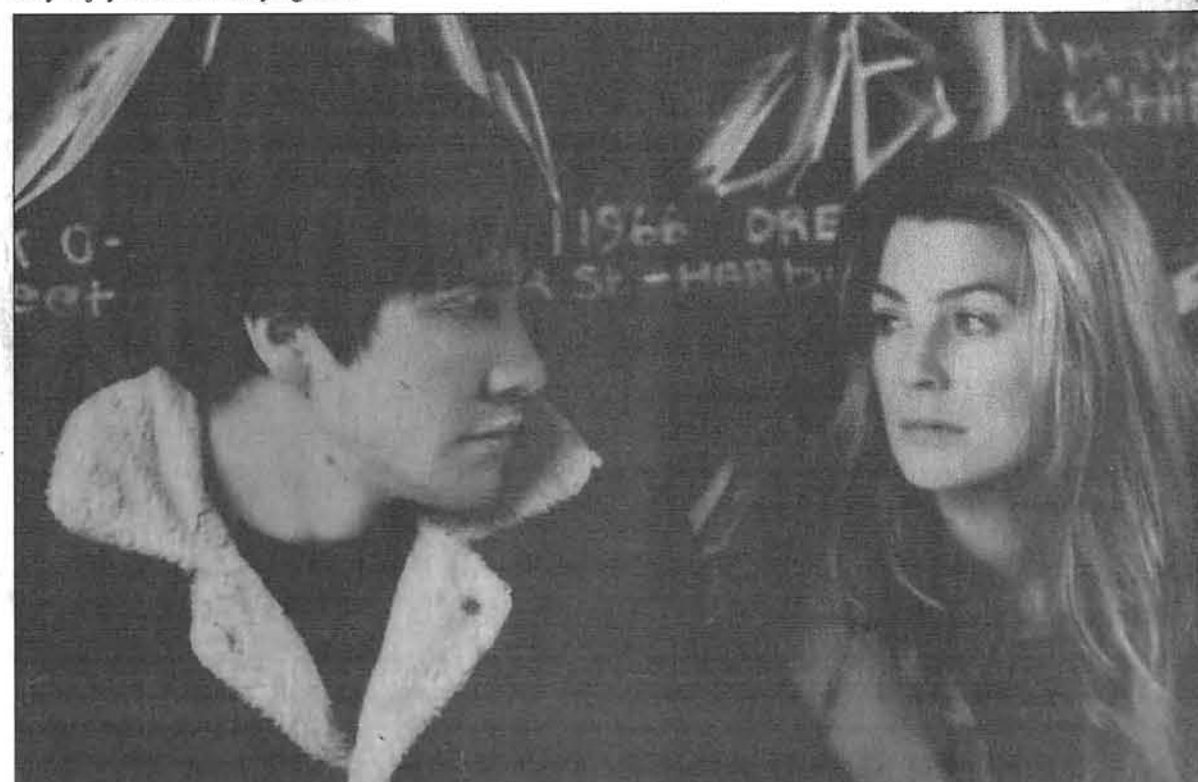
Mike Sherwin The Current

Ben (Hoffman, left) and Jo Jo (Sarandon, right) mourn their loss in unusual ways. "Moonlight Mile" is distributed by Buena Vista Pictures.



Mike Sherwin The Current

Joe Nast's (Jake Gyllenhaal, left) plans for marriage and the plans of his would-be in-laws, Ben (Dustin Hoffman, center) and Jo Jo (Susan Sarandon, right) are changed forever due to an unexpected loss in Touchstone Pictures' "Moonlight Mile," from writer/director Brad Silberling.



Mike Sherwin The Current

Joe (Gyllenhaal, left) is thrown into confusion when he falls for a new woman, Bertie (Ellen Pompeo, right).

RULES, from page 6

Without giving away the story, the daisy chain of misguided obsessions, misunderstandings, and obstacles runs through the cast of Jessica Biel, Kip Pardue, Thomas Ian Nicolas, Kate Bosworth and others with all the power of a Shakespearean-inspired teen flick.

Not only do we get all the conventions of college movies but also plenty of the trappings of an art film gone bad. We also get hilarious violations of the rules of college movies, along with spectacular camera work and some amazing editing and filmmaking technique. Portions of the film that just run backwards for long sequences are funny if you've seen this kind of effect overdone in serious art films. Biting the film school hand that fed him, writer/director Avary mercilessly parodies filmmaker wannabees discussing art and philosophy while silent films play unwatched in the background.

Romantic ideas of love and meaningful looks are likewise exploded, as person after person reads significance into another's chance actions or responses or jumps to conclusions. Whole relationships develop in the characters' heads.

On the other hand, the film is also a fine piece of filmmaking with real artistic merit. An example of breathtaking technique is the extended sequence in which we follow Sossamon and Van Der Beek in split screen until they eventually come face to face and the line finally melts.

This stunning work sits side by side with hilariously corny shots in the snow and maddening bits that seem straight out of an Andy Warhol movie. The more you know about films, the more fun it is to watch.

It also helps to know a bit about the novel that the film is based on, although it is not necessary to have read the book. Brett Easton Ellis's commercially drenched social

commentary novels were alternately hailed as high art or pure trash in the '80s, the literary equivalent of art that consists of apparent piles of trash or bodily fluids. Don't misunderstand, art should make society uncomfortable and obviously this is not mainstream, populist work that appeals to everyone. "Rules of Attraction," like the previous, "American Psycho," is as good a film adaptation as could be done of this book, retaining its intangible qualities of "is it junk or art?" while being stylish enough that it can't be dismissed.

Just like the book it derives from, the film is not an easy piece. It almost requires some knowledge of filmmaking and art films as well as the genre it apes. Without this background, the viewer may be at a loss throughout much of the film. To paraphrase the filmmaker, it is as different from the average college film as "Animal House" is from "The Graduate." If you come at this film with enough background, it is a delight and quite funny, with some breathtaking film technique.

“The more you know about films, the more fun it is to watch.”

Movie poster for 'ABANDON' featuring Katie Holmes and Benjamin Bratt. Text includes: 'WATCH WHO YOU LEAVE BEHIND.', 'KATIE HOLMES BENJAMIN BRATT', 'ABANDON', 'PARAMOUNT PICTURES and SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT Present A LYNDA OBST Production "ABANDON"', 'KATIE HOLMES BENJAMIN BRATT CHARLIE HUNNAM ZOEY DESCHANEL GABRIELLE UNION and FRED WARD', 'Music by CLINT MANSELL', 'Produced by LYNDA OBST EDWARD ZWICK', 'ROGER GINNBAUM GARY BARBER', 'Suggested by the Book "Adam's Fall" by SEAN DESMOND', 'Written and Directed by STEPHEN GAGHAN', 'SCORE AVAILABLE ON CD AND DVD AUDIO FROM SILVERLINE RECORDS', 'RATED PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED', 'AbandonMovie.com', 'IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE OCTOBER 18'

Movie poster for 'PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE' featuring Adam Sandler and Emily Watson. Text includes: '"Punch-Drunk Love" is sweet and strange with an ending whose heart-melting sincerity had several tough critics (including this one) in tears.', 'A B-80 THE NEW YORK TIMES', 'REVOLUTION STUDIOS COLUMBIA PICTURES & Current', 'invite you and a guest to a special screening. Stop by The Current offices at 388 Millennium Student Center to pick up a complimentary screening pass for two to see', 'PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE', '7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 23rd', 'Tivoli Theatre 6350 Delmar St. Louis, Mo 63130', 'No purchase necessary while supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are ineligible. This movie is rated R for strong language including a scene of sexual dialogue.', 'OPENS IN THEATERS ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH!

CONCERT REVIEW

Beatle Paul comes to St. Louis McCartney rocks the Savvis

BY JASON GRANGER
Staff Editor

Music these days has taken on a kind of apathy that some feel in the trend of popular music. Bubblegum pop dominates the airwaves, and rock and roll gets overlooked. However, there are still some hold-outs from the old days. Musical pioneers who still enthrall and enrapture fans. October 10, St. Louis saw rock's biggest star come to the Savvis Center. Sir Paul McCartney came to St. Louis with one agenda: to rock and roll, and rock and roll he did.

Few artists can go to a backlog of songs quite like McCartney. His own solo efforts would be enough to more than fill a concert, but when a singer can also call on the catalogues of both Wings, and most impressively, the Beatles, then they can be assured that the fans will not go home disappointed. Add in the fact that Paul McCartney is probably the greatest living bassist with a kick ass backup band, there are definitely the makings of a great night.

McCartney hit the stage with a happy-go-lucky rendition of the Beatles' hit "Hello, Goodbye," then followed that up with "All My Loving," an early Beatles hit made popular by their turn on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

McCartney tore through renditions of classics like "Jet" and "Let Me Roll It," proving that the 60-year-old can still rock and roll with the best of them. It was obvious, however, that he took the most pleasure in performing his biggest hits. "Hey Jude," "Let it Be," "Live and Let Die" and "Loving Flame" were all show stoppers, and could have all been under consideration for song-of-the-night, if it were not for the fact that "Maybe I'm Amazed" was so amazing. His passion for the song still remains strong, and it showed.

About midway through the con-

cert, McCartney's backup band left the stage, giving him some time alone with the crowd. McCartney then masterfully played through great acoustic numbers like "Blackbird," "We Can Work It Out," and "The Fool On the Hill." The highlights of this set, however, came at the end of his acoustic montage. After announcing to the crowd that it was "his good friend John's birthday," at which point, the crowd sang "Happy

and was glad you came along, if you were here today." If that emotional ride was not enough, he then followed that with a tribute to the late George Harrison who died of cancer less than a year ago, strumming a ukulele to Harrison's classic love song, "Something." McCartney and Harrison had recently reconciled their differences that kept them apart for nearly 30 years after the Beatles' breakup. McCartney called Harrison his little brother at the time of his

pyrotechnics, fireworks and flashing lights.

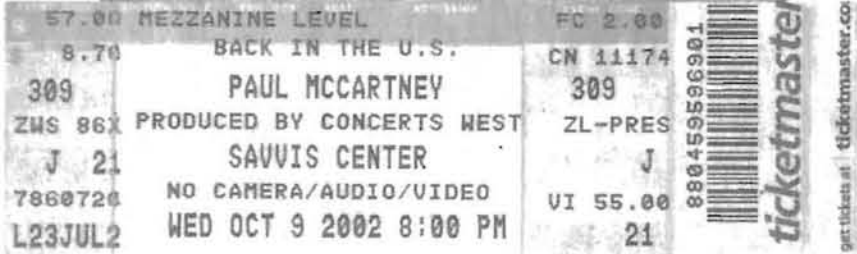
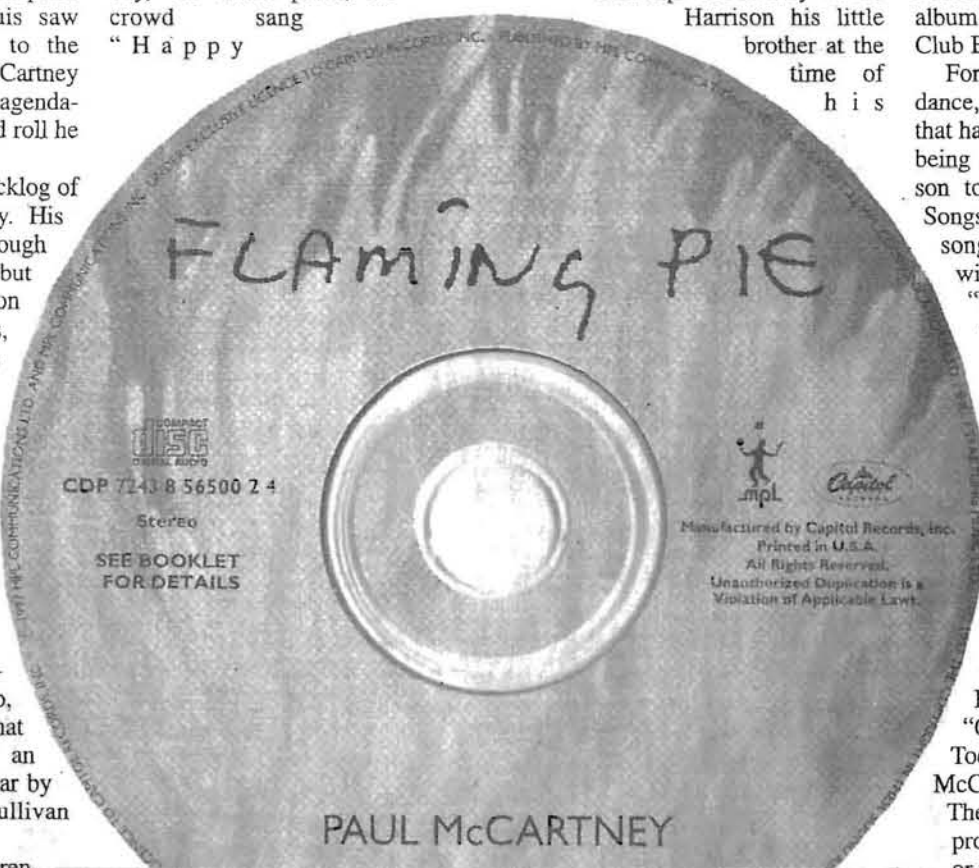
If anyone doubts whether or not the old timer still has what it takes, this concert should more than allay those doubts. His voice was strong, his bass playing great and his energy level was like that of a 25-year-old. He even gave the crowd a treat, performing a song that has never been played live by a Beatle: "She's Leaving Home" from their landmark album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

Fortunately for the crowd in attendance, he stayed away from songs that have earned him a reputation for being somewhat trivial, in comparison to John Lennon in particular. Songs such as "Silly Love Songs" (a song McCartney has stated he wishes he never created) and "Uncle Albert/Admiral Halsey" were fortunately missing from his set. In their place were three new songs from his new album, "Driving Rain." He added "Lonely Road," "Loving Flame" and the title track from the new album to his set, along with "Freedom," his response to the attacks on September 11.

McCartney also included some other songs that have never been played live by a Beatle. "Mother Nature's Son," "Getting Better," and "Here Today" were all new songs for McCartney's performances.

The "Back in the U.S." tour has proven to be a successful endeavor for McCartney, selling out arenas and concert venues worldwide. In San Jose, California, he sold out his show in less than 15 minutes. In Chicago, Illinois, it took less than 18 for the tickets to go. It goes to show that the public's infatuation with the Beatles and what they represent has not ended.

On the whole, McCartney proved that he could still jam with the best of the rock scene. 40 years after the Beatles first gained popularity, McCartney proved that age means nothing when you can still rock and roll.



Keaton-Arbuckle comedies will have live music

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

The Golden Age of Comedy was during the silent era of film. While the lack of sound placed some limits on dramatic films, it placed no such limits on comedy, and the world saw an explosion of comic talent on the silver screen.

The best way to experience these comic gems is as they were meant to be seen, with live accompaniment. Several musicians are now offering this great entertainment experience, some with improvised scores or modern scores, and some with carefully laid out recreations of period music: ragtime, early jazz and early blues. The Alloy Orchestra, a favorite of film critic Roger Ebert, is a three-man band that writes original silent movie scores that they perform on an assembly of unusual objects. On Oct. 19, the Alloy Orchestra presents their musical interpretations of the physical and visual comedy of Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle and a young Buster Keaton. At 8:00 p.m. in Webster University's Moore Auditorium, they will provide musical accompaniment for three short silent comedies, "The Bell Boy," "The Garage," and "Back Stage."

During the silent era, there were no barriers to hold back great comedians as they invented an art form.

All the conventions of film grammar were invented during this time. Arbuckle, who starred in and directed the three films in this program, was one of the most popular comedians of his time, second only to Charlie Chaplin, until a scandal destroyed his career in the 1920s.

Most of the great screen comedians of this time got their start with the Keystone Studio, but the one exception was Buster Keaton, who started his film career working for Arbuckle. Arbuckle collaborated closely with the talented, vaudeville-trained Keaton, who quickly became Arbuckle's writer, co-star, and sometimes stuntman. He also taught the young Keaton the ropes of directing and filmmaking, which Arbuckle had learned from director W.D. Griffith. The three short films, "The Bell Boy," "The Garage," and "Back Stage," are among the fifteen they created together from 1917 to 1920, before Keaton started his solo career. Keaton went on to create some of the most breathtaking film masterpieces of physical comedy ever made.

This live performance is an excellent introduction to the world of silent comedy for the novice and a great, rare treat for those who are already fans. Admission is \$6 for the general public, \$5 for students and seniors (you don't have to be a Webster student for the discount) and the performance is presented by the Webster Film Series.

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R-women claw past Cougars

UMSL defeated SIUE, 30-28, 30-25 and 30-24 in a carefully-planned attack

**UM-St. Louis
Riverwomen
Volleyball**

BY JOE CURTIS
Staff Writer

First place SIU Edwardsville marched into the Mark Twain Building on Oct. 9 to face the struggling UM-St. Louis Riverwomen in a crucial conference match-up. Coming out fired up, the UM-St. Louis women's volleyball team defeated the front-runner in four games.

"We were really jacked up for game one, and we weren't performing basic skills," said Coach Denise Silvester on suffering a 30-16 loss in game one. "We just needed to calm down and get back to our game plan," she said.

Taking their coach's advice, the Riverwomen came out in the next three games and executed a carefully planned attack against the Cougars, winning 30-28, 30-25 and 30-24.

"For this game we changed our defensive strategy. We worked a lot on where to hit our balls and where to pick theirs up. We had a game plan for SIUE, and we came out and performed what we had practiced," sophomore setter Ashley Richmond said.

Due to injuries suffered by players this season, Silvester was forced to find a new formula for her team to be successful.

"The difference between this game and the past few was this was the first time we used our new lineup against a strong team," Silvester said.

Putting players in different roles was necessary for the coach, and she is proud of the way her players have responded through some adversity.

"Kat Freeman had a nice match at a new position. I know it is a struggle to be moved around to different positions, but she did a nice job tonight."

Silvester said

The front row of the Riverwomen, consisting of Liz Blair, Kathryn Freeman and Melissa Frost, combined on 40 of the team's total 51 kills, dominating at the net. Blair led the way with 16 kills and also played good defense, digging 11 balls.

Richmond said, "Edwardsville had a big front row, and our front row had no problem putting the ball down on them. This game showed us that we can all step up and is a huge confi-

dence booster."

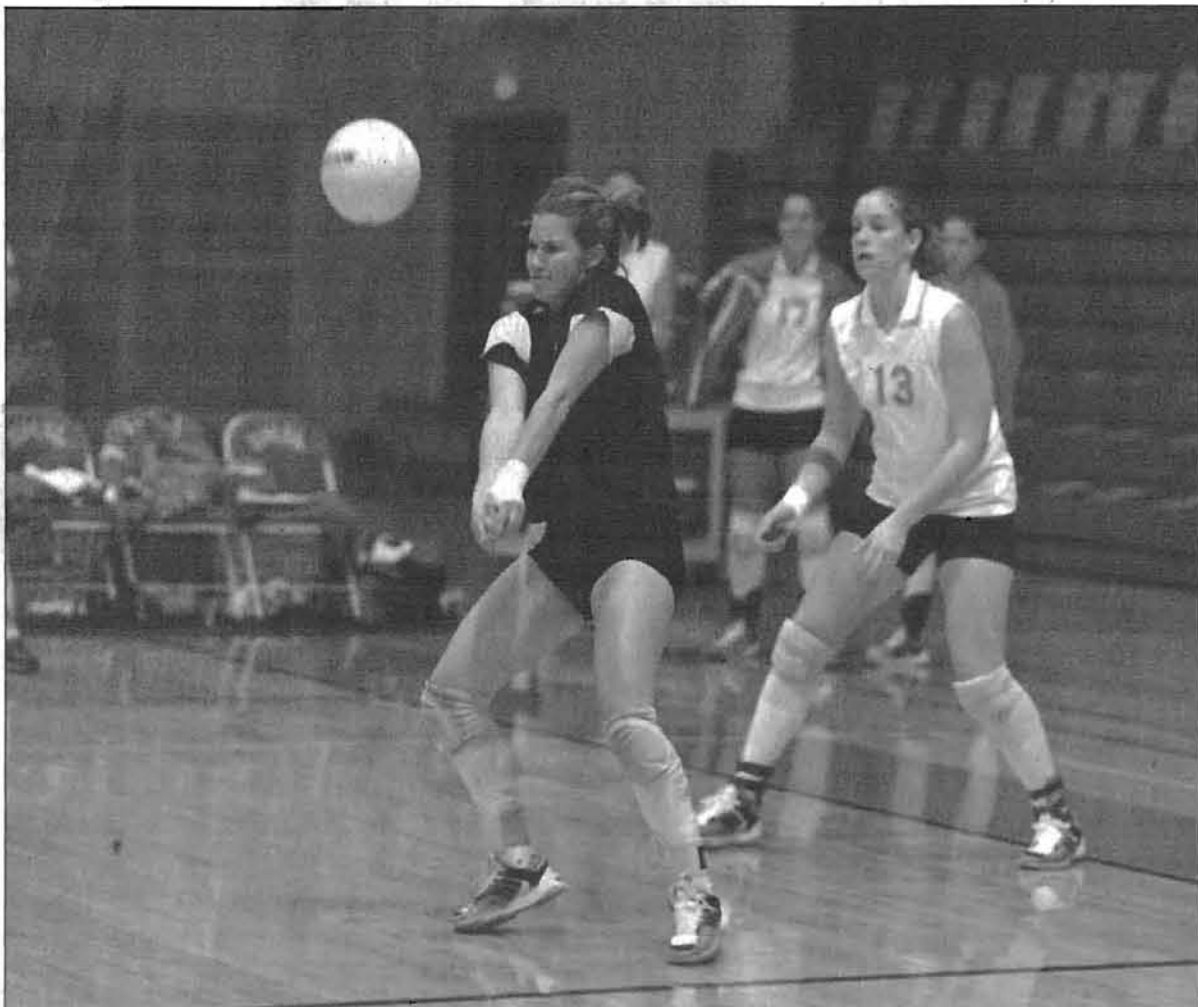
Silvester agreed with Richmond, saying the win against the Cougars was influential to the team's confidence.

"The main key to our success is believing we can do it. That's a big part of our game right now. We have the talent, but we just have to believe in our abilities," Silvester said.

After claiming victory against the first-place Cougars, the team raised its overall record to 11-7 and its record in

the Great Lakes Valley Conference to 2-3. The Riverwomen's next match will be Oct. 18, on the road, against the Greyhounds of Indianapolis. This break will allow the team to heal and get some rest for the remaining schedule, which ends with nine important conference matches.

"The conference is wide open and every match is a battle. Both divisions are showing parity, proving it just comes down to execution and confidence," Silvester said.



Riverwomen Volleyball player Daria Sak prepares to receive the ball during Wednesday's game. The team went on to win a 3-1 victory over SIU Edwardsville.



Player Stacy Pearl leaps to knock the ball over the net Wednesday. The R-women play on Friday, Oct. 18 at Indianapolis.

SZCESNIAK, from page 5

Following in his favorite golfer's footsteps, Szczesniak hopes to continue his golf career beyond college. Majoring in mass communications, he said, "I'm not positive what I'm going to be doing exactly after college,

but I'm sure golf will be in it. Hopefully playing or becoming a club pro, sales in golf or being in the golf media."

When the spring roles around and it's time to step out onto the course, the confident

senior knows what his job on the team will be. "As a senior it is my role to help carry the team. My score is important every time, and I need to play well week in and week out," he said

Consistent play for a golfer leads to excellence and that is what it takes to achieve the ultimate goal in college sports: the National Championship. For the boy who received a junior set of clubs for his seventh birthday,

blowing out the candles and having his wish of a National Championship come true would be the icing on the cake.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

Recognized Student Organizations Applying for Student Activity Fees for 2003-2004 Must Attend a

STUDENT ACTIVITY BUDGET COMMITTEE BUDGET PREPARATION WORKSHOP

To request funds from the Student Activity Budget/Service Fees Committee for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, your organization must have a representative attend one of the following budget preparation training sessions:

Monday, October 21	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 22	9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 23	5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 24	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Friday, October 25	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Representatives **MUST** sign up in order to attend. Sign up sheets are located in the Student Activities Office, 366 Millennium Student Center.

Deadline to sign up is Friday, October 18, 2002.

CALL THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT 516-5291.

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Science?

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Sessions, beginning promptly at 2:00 p.m., will discuss the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Traditional and Accelerated tracks, RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing FLEX Program, including the new on-line track, Master of Science in Nursing Program, Bachelor of Health Science Clinical Laboratory Science and Cytotechnology tracks. Meet with Faculty, Students, and Advisors.

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Nursing Administration Building on South Campus

For more information call 516-7081.

BarnesCollege
of Nursing and Health Studies
at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vote Smart targets young adults

BY KATE DROLET
Staff Writer

In the last election, only 30 percent of 18 to 25 year olds voted. To many the ballot is insignificant. This phenomenon is what some call political apathy. To Project Vote Smart, it is an obstacle to be conquered. Vote Smart believes that this 18 to 25 year old age bracket does not feel confident in casting a ballot based on the information they know and regards the information available through campaigns to be "unreliable and irrelevant." This organization, whose founders include such notables as Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, seeks to inform the voting public and end the poor turnouts on Election Days.

Project Vote Smart is a nonpartisan organization that works to "have at least one remaining source to which [citizens] can turn to...for untainted information about those seeking power to make the rules we

must all live our lives by." This organization does not accept donations from corporations, unions or any special interest groups. Vote Smart obtained funding through a large grant for the Pew Charitable Trusts.

One program hosted by Vote Smart is the Young Voter's Program.

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

- www.votesmart.org

Through this program, voters can find unbiased information on a candidate. This free service provides

reliable political information and resources such as representative's email addresses, election survey results and the results of the National Political Awareness Test (NPAT). The NPAT is "an unbiased candidate questionnaire that tests candidates' willingness to provide information to the public."

The Youth Voter Program website offers a variety of informational services, including a basic overview of the U.S. Government, discussion forums and press releases. Individuals also have the opportunity to register to vote.

To promote the Youth Voter Program, Vote Smart is working along with 100 national youth oriented organizations including Youth Vote Coalition, Rock the Vote, YMCA, Campus Compact, World Wrestling Entertainment, NAACP, MTV and hundreds of state and local organizations.

For more information about Project Vote Smart or the Young Voters Program, visit www.votesmart.org or www.youngvoters.org.

CATHOLICISM 101

Wednesday, Oct. 16

7:30-9 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center

(located across the street from the West Drive entrance into North Campus)

All are welcome for this overview of the Catholic faith led by Fr. Bill Kempf. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the faith whether you are Catholic, interested in becoming Catholic or if you simply want to learn more. This will be the first meeting for those interested in taking a part in our RCIA program (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS). Please call 385-3455 or e-mail us at cncumsl@aol.com for more information.

Catholic Newman Center - UMSL

8200 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

314-FUL-FILL • www.umsll.edu/~newman

Do you want to be a part of planning the Homecoming Dance?

An information meeting will be held on Friday, Oct. 18 starting at 1 a.m. on the third floor of the MSC.

Committee selections will be made, brainstorming for theme ideas, and any new ideas you have to bring.

If you can't make this meeting, and still want to be a part of Homecoming, let us know. Any questions contact Julie at (314) 960-1374 or julie_a_Clifford@hotmail.com.

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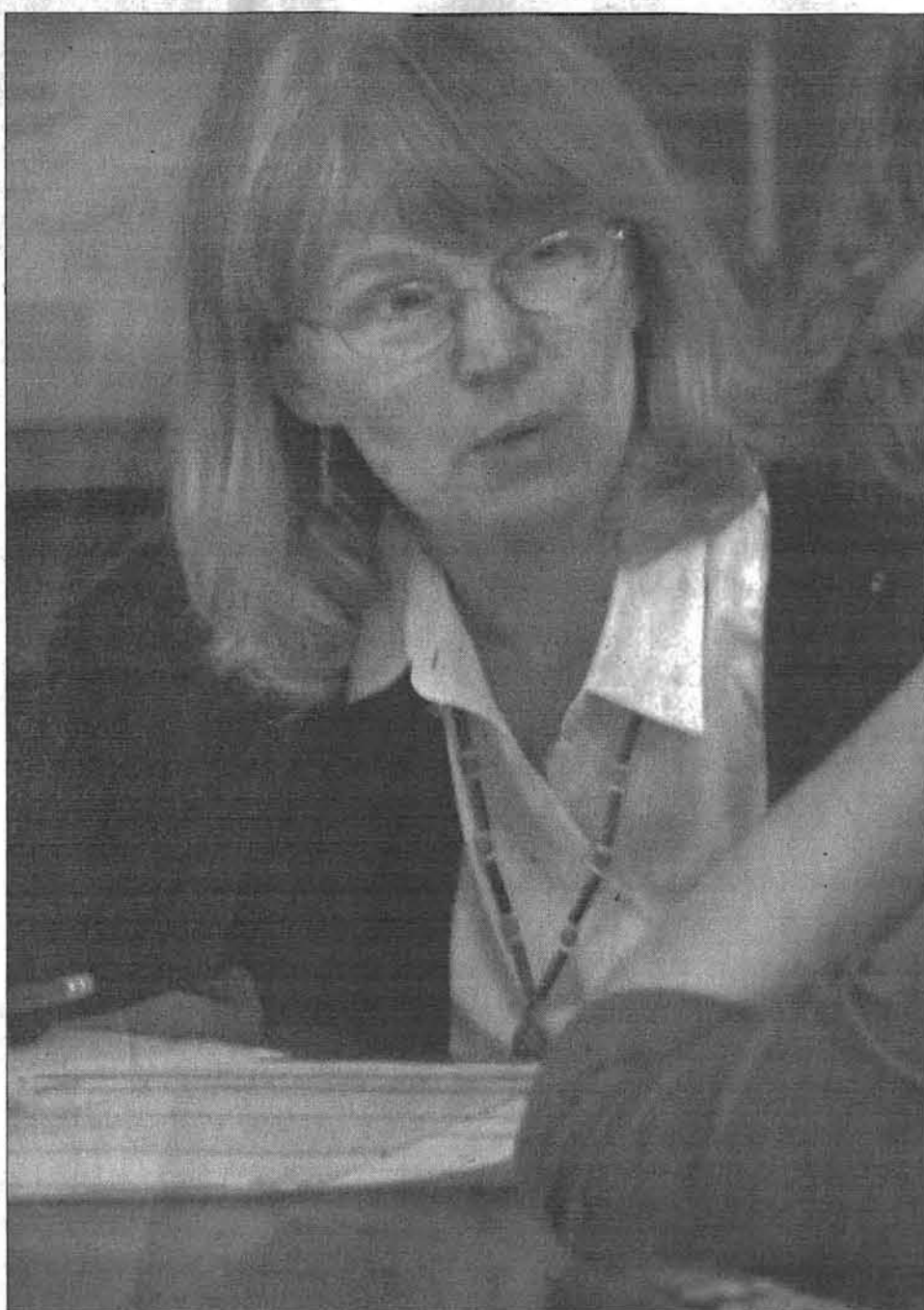
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Sharon Biegen, director of Counseling Services, screens a student for depression at Marillac Hall. National Depression Screening Day was Thursday, Oct. 10. UM-St. Louis Counseling Services had several locations on campus where students could be screened.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Counseling Services offers screening for depression

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

"Several years ago a physician out of the National Institution of Mental Health started doing depression screening," Psychologist Gloria Lubowitz said, who works for Counseling Services. Last Thursday, Oct. 10, Counseling Services sponsored National Depression Screening Day on the UM-St. Louis campus. It offered students, faculty and staff the opportunity to be screened for depression free of charge. Counseling Services was available at a variety of locations on campus throughout the day.

The screening consisted of a brief questionnaire of around 30 questions that took about 10 minutes to complete. Afterwards, a counselor would look over the test and sit down with the person to discuss the results. If the test indicated that there might be a problem, the counselor would suggest a further evaluation by a mental health professional. Students can schedule an appointment at Counseling Services, and the first consultation session is always free. If the client and the counselor agree that counseling would benefit the student, the cost afterwards is \$10 a session.

Experts believe it is not a good idea for someone to leave depression untreated. The longer it goes untreated, the worse it may become. "Worst case

scenario is that suicide becomes an option," Lubowitz said. "Somebody who is depressed has the attitude, basically, that everything is hopeless, nothing can change; a student feels helpless and doesn't know where to turn."

Lubowitz believes that normal coping

— “ —
It is not just the blues. It's not just having a bad day. It's an illness.

— Gloria Lubowitz
Counseling Services

— ” —
ing skills do not work.

"It is not just the blues. It's not just having a bad day. It's an illness," Lubowitz said.

Clinical Depression afflicts 17 million adults in America. It is not the same as the disappointments and difficulties that people face in everyday life. Clinical depression is characterized by feelings of extreme despair or sadness that last for at least two weeks.

According to the American Psychological Association, "People who are depressed may become overwhelmed and exhausted and stop participating in certain everyday activities altogether. They may withdraw from family and friends."

Other symptoms include: change in eating habits, significant weight loss or gain, feelings of guilt or worthlessness, feeling hopeless about the future, difficulty concentrating, the thought of going crazy and decreased energy.

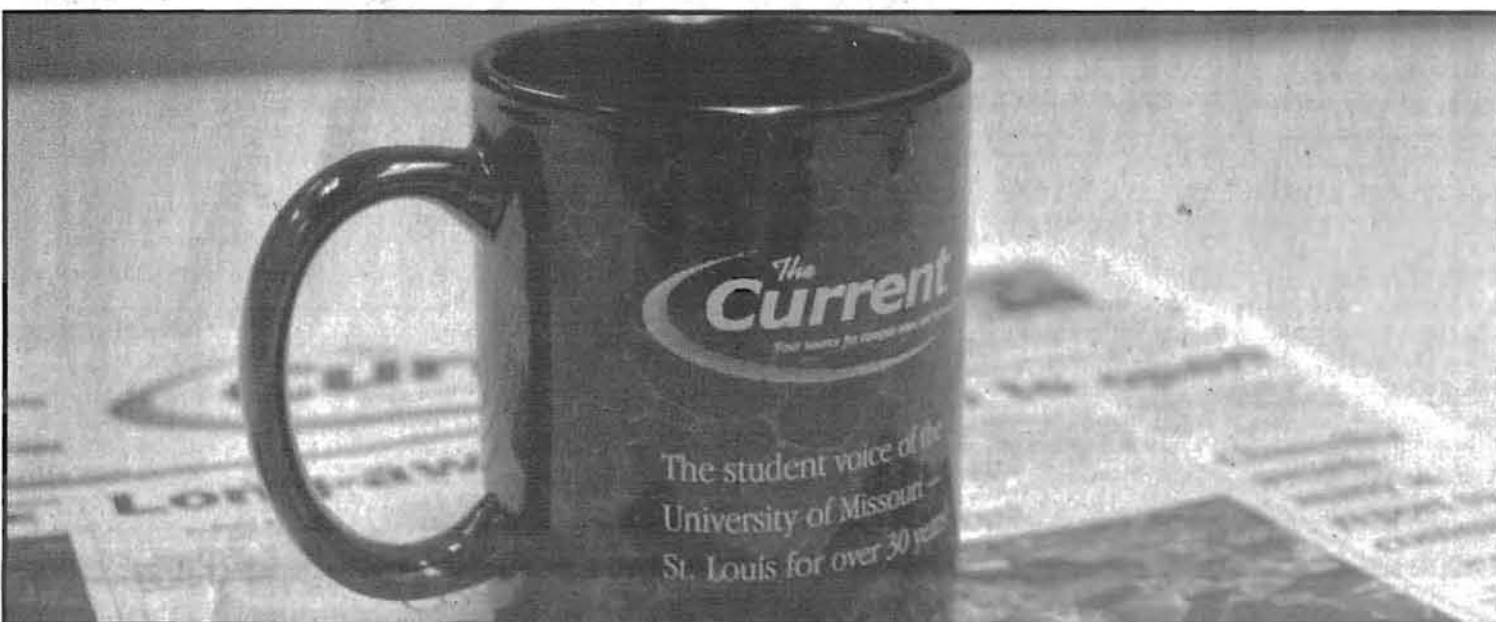
Depression may be brought on by a major life change, such as the death of a loved one. It may be biological and be caused by chemical imbalances in the brain. The use of drugs and/or alcohol may lead to or worsen depression. It may also occur for no apparent reason.

However, for those people who are experiencing depression symptoms treatment is available.

"Lots of times people don't realize that they have an illness that's treatable," Lubowitz said.

The common methods of treatment are counseling and medication. People can be prescribed medicine for depression by a physician or psychiatrist. They can also undergo counseling that involves sessions of talking with a counselor, social worker or psychologist. Talk Therapy is offered at counseling services. If a counselor finds that medication might be useful, he or she can refer the student to a doctor.

If a student is worried that they might be suffering from depression, he or she can go to Counseling Services online at www.umsl.edu/services/counselor and take the screening test on the website. The screening is anonymous.



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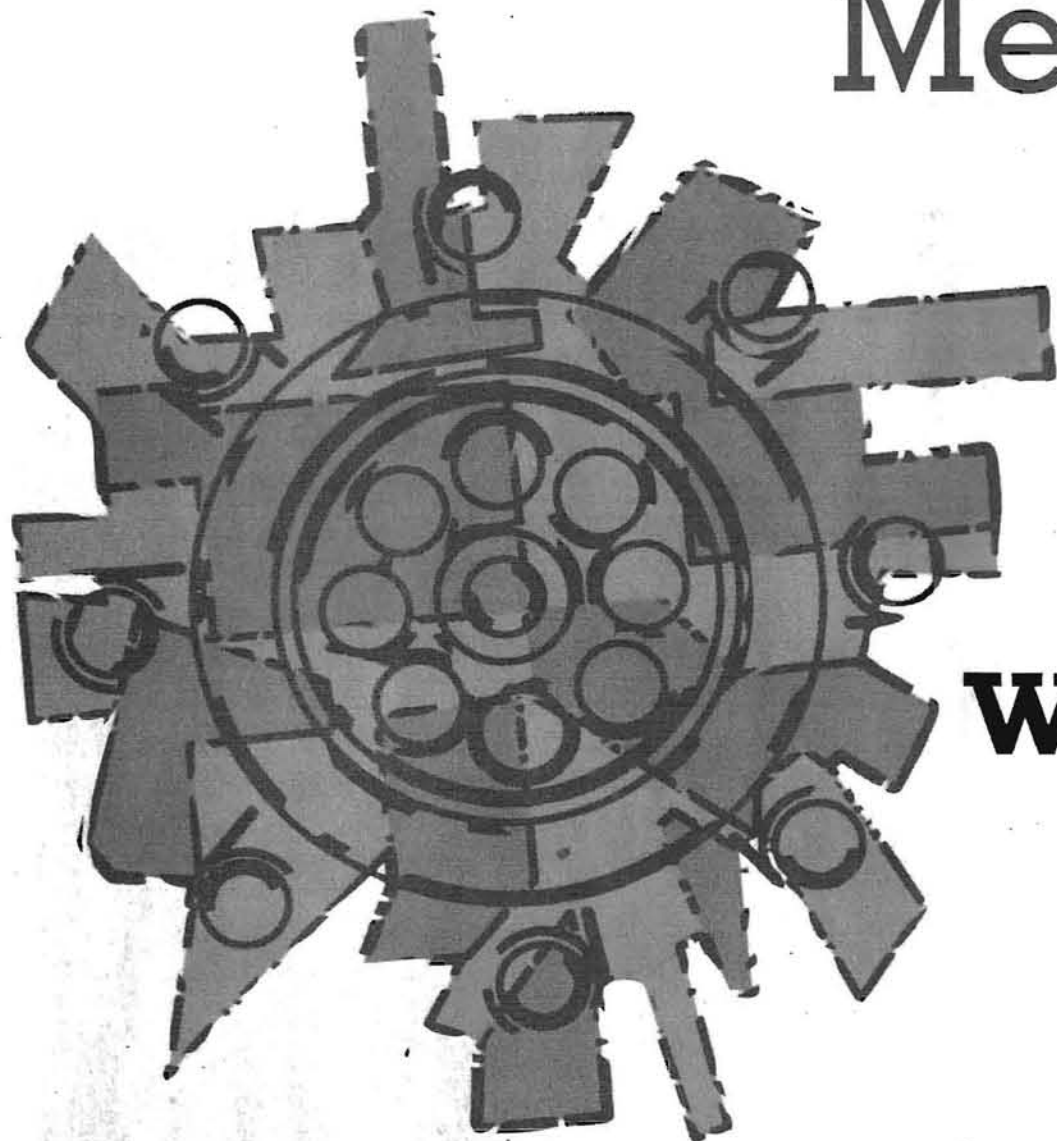
Meeting Featuring

- **BLANCHE M. TOUHILL**, Chancellor
- **JIM KRUGER**, Vice-Chancellor of Managerial & Technological Services
- **THE BUDGET**

Wednesday, October 16

1 p.m.

**SGA Chambers
3rd Floor MSC**



Rivermen tie Hawks, 0-0 Criminal Evolution

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Soccer

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

Rivermen Goalkeeper Brad Bensen reached the 29 save mark as the UM-St. Louis men's soccer team and the Quincy University squad played to a tie on Oct. 11 in Quincy. The Rivermen are now 5-4-1 on the season and 4-1-1 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

Quincy and the Rivermen were each allowed five shots on goal. The Rivermen took 11 total shots, while Quincy took 12 shots. Bensen, who is also credited with a shutout, notched five more saves to reach a season milestone in the seasonal saves category.

Satisfied with his team's performance, Bensen said that the Rivermen played as a united group.

"We had a team effort on defense today," Bensen said. "We gave up a lot of chances, but luckily they didn't score on them. We just worked well as a unit. Nobody tried to do too much themselves. It was a team effort today. It's tough we came out with a tie, but it's better than a loss."

Sharing Bensen's sentiment, Defender Pat Shelton said that the Rivermen defensive effort was sparkling.

"We wanted to win, but we're happy

with a tie," Shelton said. "We played well defensively. We've been struggling defensively, but Goose [Gustavo Sita] in the back, Kyende [Bormentar], Jake [Hopson], [Tim] Mosby, everybody stepped up today. So, we're happy with the defensive performance."

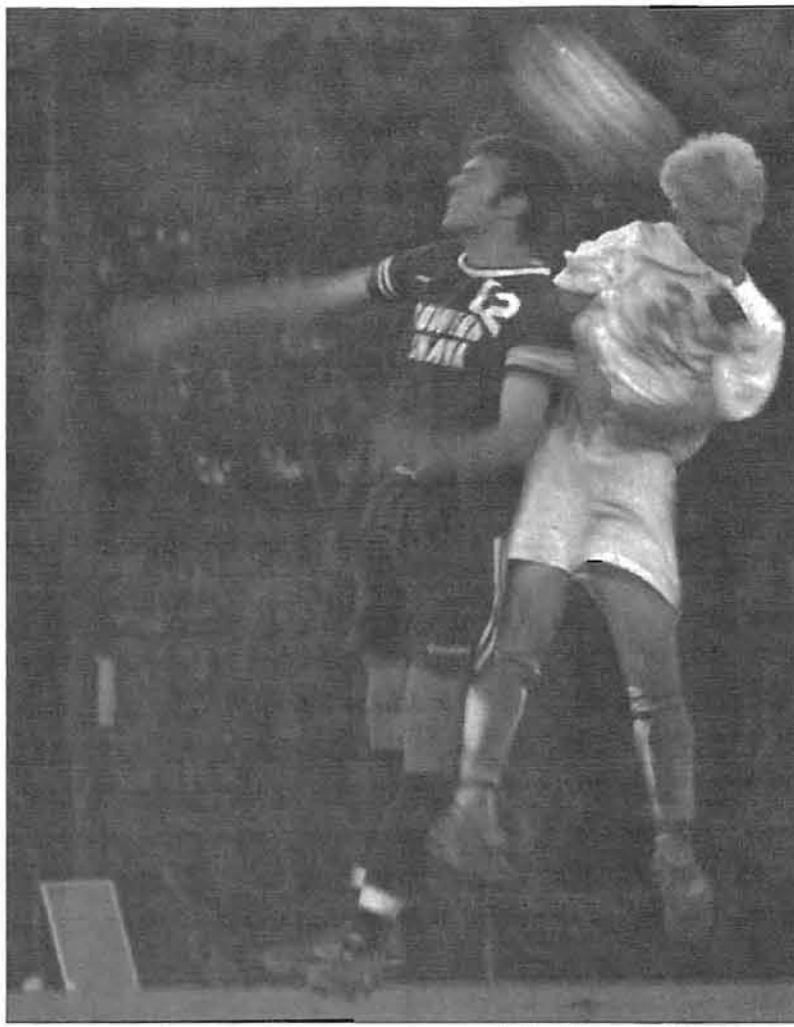
Rivermen Head Coach Dan King said that, although his team had great scoring opportunities that did not come to fruition, the team did exhibit a fine work ethic.

"This team that I have is hardworking," King said. "I think we came up here to win and we had very good chances to win. We had most of the play, I think, in both overtimes. We had outstanding chances. We just didn't finish off our shots."

King said that a scoreless game is not uncommon when conference rivals meet in the thick of a season.

"The higher level you play, in the standings, when you're vying for a conference championship like we are, the games get tighter and tighter," King said. "You're going to see 2-1 games, nothing-nothing games, closer to the NCAA [tournament]."

The Rivermen suffered a minor setback on Oct. 8 as they took a 3-1 loss to Rockhurst. Senior Forward Jeff Stegman, who was named this week's GLVC Player of the Week, scored his ninth goal in that game. Stegman, who has played in and started all nine games for UM-St. Louis this season, has 3 assists, 21 points and a .450 shots percentage.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Riverman Jim Reiter collides mid-air with an opponent. The Rivermen tied Quincy 0-0 in double OT Friday evening.

Criminal Evolution



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Science Columnist

One of the most hotly debated topics in scientific research is the application of evolutionary principles to human behavior. Sometimes labeled as "human sociobiology" or "evolutionary psychology," this research attempts to determine the evolutionary development and consequences of human behavior.

Before we can say that a behavior has "evolved," we must determine whether the behavior meets certain important criteria. The behavior must 1) be influenced by genes and 2) have an effect on the reproductive success of individuals who perform it.

It has been argued that every human behavior from physical attraction to clothing design has been heavily influenced by evolution. This would mean that we have genes that influence all of these varied behaviors. Recently a number of scientists have turned their attention to what might be called the "dark side" of human behavior. These researchers are trying to determine how behaviors like child abuse, adultery, murder and rape have been influenced by evolution.

Randy Thornhill from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and Craig Palmer from the University of Colorado have been researching the evolutionary origins of rape for over forty years, culminating in the publication of a book entitled "A Natural History of Rape" in late 2000.

Thornhill and Palmer have reviewed patterns of sexual coercion in many different animals, explored anthropological patterns of rape and current statistics on rape treatment, and have determined that rape is an evolved sexual strategy in human males. They contend that, during the course of evolution, organisms that committed rape enjoyed a significant gain in reproductive success, causing the trait to be passed on.

The researchers cite principles from many disciplines to support their case. They contend that most rape victims are of childbearing age, suggesting that rape is, at least subconsciously, motivated by the desire to reproduce. They cite the fact that rape occurs in a variety of animal species, leading to the belief that rape is a successful strategy in a variety of mating systems.

Most surprisingly, Thornhill and Palmer suggest that rape victims suffer less emotional distress when the rape is more violent, and that married women and women of childbearing age suffer more emotional distress than children or women that are post-menopausal. This evidence, they contend, shows that the emotional distress caused by rape is primarily due to the perceived threat of impregnation in the eyes of the female's mate. They add to this the fact that in many cultures rape is treated as a crime against the victim's husband.

Despite Thornhill and Palmer's thorough argument, their exposition contains omissions that have attract-

ed harsh criticism from fellow evolutionary biologists.

Zulema Tang-Martinez of UM-St. Louis has been one of the most outspoken critics of Thornhill and Palmer's research. Tang-Martinez calls attention to the fact that no study to date has demonstrated a genetic basis for rape in humans or in any other species that Thornhill and Palmer use as an example. In addition, Tang-Martinez cites research indicating that, as a strategy, rape or "forced copulation," as it is sometimes called, provides a very low level of reproductive success, and that there is little empirical data to support the reproductive motivation for rape.

It has been argued that every human behavior from physical attraction to clothing design has been heavily influenced by evolution.

Mindy Mechanic, who works with rape victims at the UM-St. Louis Rape Crisis Center, helped Tang-Martinez prepare a rebuttal to Thornhill and Palmer, which was published in the May/June 2000 issue of "The Sciences." Mechanic takes issue with Palmer and Thornhill's claims about "emotional distress" as they relate to reproductive age. Mechanic's work with victims of rape suggests that victims of violent rape do tend to suffer equal or greater levels of emotional distress. In addition, Mechanic has been unable to find any evidence that pre-reproductive age victims or post-menopausal victims suffer less emotional turmoil from rape.

Mechanic and Tang-Martinez also question Thornhill and Palmer's use of statistics. Thornhill and Palmer indicate that rapes of young girls are unimportant to analyze, apparently because they are rare, but even the statistics that Thornhill and Palmer themselves cite hold that approximately 1/3 of rape victims are under the age of 11.

Mechanic and Tang-Martinez also criticize the authors' inability to satisfactorily explain instances of rape in which the offender uses contraception, or anal or oral penetration, which seem unlikely to be motivated by the desire to reproduce.

After an investigation of Tang-Martinez and Mechanic's criticisms, the reader may be left wondering what, if anything, Thornhill and Palmer's research suggests.

This scientific investigation of rape attempts to analyze with precision an issue that is deeply entwined with the emotional turmoil that surrounds it. Whatever the potential truth behind this evolutionary hypothesis, it seems impossible, at this point, to separate the genetic influence or the reproductive benefit from the damaging psychological and emotional trauma that rapists inflict on their victims. In the future, additional research may surface that supports the idea of rape as an evolved strategy. But for now, research may not be substantial enough to warrant a reclassification of rape from a crime of subjugation and violence to a relic of a once-beneficial evolutionary strategy that is simply out of place in modern life.

New softball coach pleased with UMSL

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

At the age of 25, a person might be in the process of finishing out his or her higher education experience with a master's degree. New UM-St. Louis softball Head Coach Nicole Durmin, 25, is an example of that. Durmin, who also coaches at Incarnate Word, is working on a master's of arts degree in teaching at Lindenwood University. She previously attended University of Wisconsin - Parkside as an English major.

With all that is on her plate as a coach and a student, Durmin said that she can handle the responsibilities given to her.

"I'm running around, but you're doing something that you love to do and you make sacrifices," Durmin said. "This job's a dream for me, especially at 25, so it's a great opportunity for me. I'm not going to take it for granted, and

[I'll] give everything I've got, give 110 percent."

Durmin is putting the same effort into producing a winning team at UM-St. Louis that she put in as a softball standout for the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers in the late 1990s. Her experience with the Rangers included her 1999 season in which she hit .349 and was named first-team all-conference. In 1997, Durmin and the Rangers played in the national championship game and were defeated 2-1 by California University.

"That's one of my goals," Durmin said. "That's what we're working towards every year, to get that caliber of ball."

Durmin said that the Riverwomen have the dedication necessary to become a successful team.

"They have so much desire and it's so hard to find girls that have that desire to want to win, to want to play, to work hard," Durmin said. "These girls have

that and that's the first part of the battle. Once you have the desire, then everything else is just going to come naturally. Once you all can get in sync with each other and work as a team, then everything else is just going to fall into place. Then you're going to end up in that championship game thinking, 'Oh my God, how did we get here?'"

In order to make it to the championship game, the Riverwomen have to build a strong foundation. Durmin said that, once the season begins, her goal is simple: beat the teams to beat.

"Immediately, my goals are to beat the top teams, like Northern Kentucky, SIUE, Lewis and come out a little bit stronger in our conference than we have been in the past," Durmin said. "And have fun out there and win."

Pleased with her current lot in life, Durmin said that she made the right decisions early on.

"To be honest, I'm really just

amazed that this position opened up," Durmin said. "I live ten minutes away. I'm a local girl. I live here. I'm not moving. I don't plan on moving. My family's here, and I'm really big on family. I went away to college. I had my four years, and in those four years you find out what's important to you, and you make decisions on that. I can't say that I knew what I wanted to do after four years, but I knew I wanted to come home."

Durmin said that everything has definitely worked out for the better.

"I fell into the Incarnate position," Durmin said. "I've been there for four years, and I head coached my last two, and I'm just kind of taking one day at a time. This job opened up, and I thought, you know, I'm just going to go for it. I really don't have anything to lose, so thank God. They said 'Hey, we're going to give you a shot,' and here I am."

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Explore your town

BY MICHELLE ELKINS
Staff Writer

Feeling bored? No one says it better than Cedric the Entertainer when he says, "check out your own backyard." With the help of Student Activities and the University Program Board, Experience St. Louis was born. A wide variety of cultural, athletic, social and recreational events make up its list of traditional St. Louis activities.

Created for UM-St. Louis students to experience activities outside of campus, Experience St. Louis is packed with great fun at an affordable price. Activities and events range from an evening at the Fabulous Fox to a trip to the eclectic U City Loop. Over the holidays, hayrides, apple picking and the Nutcracker Suite provide an opportunity to participate in traditional activities.

This year, the agenda started out with a visit to the Delmar Loop on September 20. Students rode the free shuttle from campus to the Loop in University City, an area filled with restaurants, shops and nightspots,

along with the magnificent Tivoli Theater. After an evening of fun, students returned by shuttle to the campus. The next activity scheduled was a St. Louis favorite, a day of apple picking at Eckert's Farm on Saturday, October 12. With a cost of \$.59 per pound of apples picked being the only expense, students could not afford to miss the chance to get some farm fresh, sweet ripe apples to kick off the fall season.

The next event on the schedule is Horseback Riding 101 at Babler Park. This would be a great way to see fall foliage in a beautiful park. The horseback riding experience, tailored to beginners, starts Saturday, October 19, when the bus leaves campus at 8:30 a.m. The \$10 fee includes the bus ride, price of horseback riding and lunch. The bus returns to campus at 1:00 PM. Students can sign up at the Student Life office. However, it is too late to sign up for Experience St. Louis' following activity, a trip on October 25 to the Fox Theater to see "West Side Story," as the event is already sold out. Watch for this one next year; the university always sponsors a fall trip to

the Fox. But be warned, tickets normally sell out shortly after the University Programming Board announces the event.

On Saturday, October 26, students can really get into the spirit of the season and spend an evening at *Scream World*. For only \$10, students get transportation by bus and admission, a good deal since having to pay the regular \$32.50 is a scary thought. Sign up early for this one; Halloween is big around these parts. The October activities wrap up with the Great Skates Roller Disco on Wednesday, October 30, with a shuttle departing campus at 8:45 p.m. The \$5 fee covers transportation and skates, but students have to bring their own disco attire (you know - gold chains, white bellbottom suits, tight shiny shirts with pointy collars).

There is more coming up in November. Call the Student Life office at 516-5291 for more information on any of these activities and keep checking with *The Current* about upcoming excursions. All work and no play makes Jack (or Jackie) a dull, bored student.

Monday Noon Series enriches UMSL community

BY KIMBERLY SILVER
Staff Writer

The Monday Noon Series is a 10-year-old program at UM-St. Louis that continues to bring culture, education and the community together. Every Monday, a different speaker or group appears at the series, delivering informative lectures, music, poetry and more. There is no cost to attend. Students, staff and members of the general public get together every week to enjoy the series. The Monday Noon Series takes place on Mondays from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

The program is in full swing this semester under the direction of Coordinator Karen Lucas and Diane Toulantos, director of the Center for Humanities.

"One of our goals is to get people in the St. Louis area together to see all that UM-St. Louis has to offer," said coordinator Karen Lucas. "It's not just an important campus activity...it's essential for the growth of the community at large."

"What's great about the series is you can stay as long as you like," Toulantos said. Students are urged to stop in, grab some refreshments and check out the program between classes. The program can serve as a fun way to spend a lunch hour. In addition, students are presented with the opportunity to meet different people. The audience usually hangs around for a few minutes afterwards to chat about the lecture or performance.

"We hope that students will become more aware of different forms of entertainment," Toulantos said.

Toulantos encourages students to try new things, like attending poetry readings, jazz concerts and book clubs, as alternative ways to occupy free time.

This semester the series began September 5th with "The Distant Relatives of Johnny Naugahyde." The speaker, Mark Spencer, creatively gave a visual narrative of an imaginary family from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

Since then, speakers and perform-

ers have included UM-St. Louis History professor Louis Geretesis, The Fred Thompkins Poetry and Music Ensemble and the Arianna String Quartet.

On the horizon, "Patterns of Communication: An Artist's Slide Talk," will be held on October 14. Barry Blinderman, director of University Galleries, Illinois State University will discuss Susan Giles 'sand Jeff Barry's artwork, displayed in Gallery 210.

On October 21, Gerda W. Ray, professor of history at UM-St. Louis will discuss the impact of September 11, on the governmental powers in a series called "Secrecy and Democracy." Ray will explain how the government undermined citizens' right to know what is happening in their country even before September 11. She will cover recent history and

Compositions: A Sonata in Symphonic Clothing?" James Richards, professor of music, presents orchestrations of Mussorgsky's "Pictures," Handel's "Messiah" and Anton Webern's orchestral setting to illustrate his idea of "recycled compositions."

International relations and art finish out the semester's offerings. On November 18, "Cuba's Future, Marx or Wal-Mart?" - A Slide Talk" will be presented by Don Phares, a professor of economics and public policy. Phares has visited Cuba twice in the last three years and will discuss the possible social and economic future of Cuba and the United States' relationship with the island nation.

On November 25, the series concludes for the semester with "Putting Mosaics Back Together: Undoing Nineteenth Century Restorations of

“
It's not just an important campus activity...it's essential for the growth of the community at large.
”

- Karen Lucas

events, including the weakening of the Freedom of Information Act.

On October 28, the topic will be "Women Artists of St. Louis: Past and Present," presented by Karen McCoskey Goering, a representative from the Missouri Historical Society, Joan Hall, a contemporary woman artist, and Nancy Kranzberg, a collector and patron of the arts.

The series returns to politics with "Election 2002" on November 4, when E. Terrance Jones, professor of political science at UM-St. Louis discusses how the election outcomes might affect St. Louis and gives an analysis of the campaigns.

On November 11, the series returns to music with "Recycled

"The Last Judgment" at Torcello." Archaeologist and art historian Irina Andreescu-Treadgold discusses her research of the changes made to "The Last Judgement" during early restoration attempts.

UM-St. Louis isn't alone in sponsoring the Monday Noon Series. Financial assistance for the cultural series has also been provided by the Arts & Education Council, the Regional Arts Commission of Saint Louis and the Missouri Arts Council. For further information about the series, contact the Center for Humanities by email at cenhumn@umsl.edu or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> online.

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Roller Disco Costume Party

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There is a nation full of ghosts in 'Haunted Places'

BY JOAN HENRY
Senior Writer

The University of Missouri-Kansas City is supposedly haunted. The footsteps and presence of a woman who died in the arms of the stage manager of the Playhouse in

1957 has been felt on the stage for many years. At least, that's the story in "Haunted Places: The National Directory."

St. Louis has its own section of six haunted spots, including the Lemp Mansion and V.I.P. Graphics in the Central West End, but "Haunted

Places" doesn't list this campus as having any paranormal visitors. Bridgeton, though, has the Payne-Gentry House, which is home to as many as twenty three spirits, while Florissant's McCluer North Senior High School has reports of ghosts dressed in early 19th century clothing.

"Haunted Places" is a directory of "ghostly abodes, sacred sites, UFO landings, and other supernatural locations" of the entire United States, broken down by state and then by city. Each site has its own story of the spirit or spirits, monsters or UFOs who reside there, and some have pictures. The book also provides directions to and contact information for public places for those willing to risk a ghostly encounter.

The ghost stories themselves can be tame, such as the ghost of Rose Mataz, an immoral, flamboyant young woman who haunts her old cell at the Old Vidalia Jail in Vidalia, Mississippi. She was sentenced to the jail for attempted robbery in 1879 and is sometimes seen in a red gown standing in a corner, humming and cleaning her fingernails.

Some stories are more disturbing. The Tiedemann Castle in Cleveland, Ohio has doors that explode off their hinges, chandeliers that spin, foggy mirrors and lights that go on and off for no reason. Those in residence can hear crying babies or trampling sounds and see clouds drift down hallways. Sometimes, a woman in black can be seen staring out of a tiny window in the tower. Many visitors have refused to enter the house again.

Hollywood and New York City have several celebrity ghosts including Sam Warner, a somber Ozzie Nelson, John Lennon and Rudolph Valentino, whose ghost got into bed with an actress in the Valentino Place. The actress fainted when she saw him and woke to find the bed sheets strewn around the room.

Washington DC has its share of presidential ghosts. At St. John's Church, six "great Washingtonians" appear at midnight in the Pew of Presidents whenever a great American leader dies. Ghosts at the White House include Abigail Adams,

Abraham Lincoln, his son Willie Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Dolley Madison and a British soldier who, it is believed, was involved in setting fire to the White House in 1814.

"Haunted Places" also lists haunted highways. Motorists driving down Highway 11 in Decatur, Alabama might see the ghost of a young man flagging down a ride. In Greensboro, North Carolina, Lydia, a ghost in a white evening gown, flags down drivers for a ride to High Point on the Highway 70 underpass. She disappears close to her destination. Highway 666 in Shiprock, New Mexico, is known as the "Highway to Hell." A ghost car and a mad trucker run vehicles off the road. Packs of demon dogs shred tires with their teeth and attack those who pull off the road. A frail girl in white sometimes appears. Large numbers of dead bodies are dumped on this highway, and it has a very high accident rate.

Devil's Promenade in Joplin, Missouri, is one corner in the Spooksville Triangle. The road is haunted by a ball of orange light that has entered cars and buses but avoids those chasing it. The cause of the light has not been identified. The other two corners of the triangle are Miami, Oklahoma and Columbus, Kansas, who have their own lights.

More ghost stories and pictures can be found at www.prairieghosts.com. Prairieghosts.com includes ghost and light pictures, as well as the stories behind the pictures. The website also includes instructions on how to tell if a ghost photo is real, fake or just an obstruction of light. It also offers information for those interested in ghost hunting, such as why digital cameras are less useful than 35mm cameras. To get to the ghost stories, surfers must scroll past long lists of books about ghosts and other related subjects, including "Haunted Places."

Some of the stories in "Haunted Places" are at prairieghosts.com, but the website is slightly harder to navigate than the book and focuses mainly on Missouri and Illinois instead of the entire United States.

PROVINCIAL, from page 3

What is now UM-St. Louis' Music Building used to be a living room area for the sisters. Group meetings, celebrations, and funeral wakes were held there.

Another lesser known part of the Provincial House is the underground tunnel system. A boiler house used to heat both the Provincial House and St. Vincent's Sanitarium. The connecting pipes ran through these tunnels. The tunnels ran from St. Vincent's to what we know today as the Marillac Optometry Center. Part of the system was filled with concrete, so presently the underground tunnels only run from Seton Hall to the Optometry Clinic.

Provincial House also holds a chapel. The chapel used to be elaborately decorated, but in 1969 it was remodeled for a simpler look. The chapel was used for mass in earlier days, but now it is only used for weddings and concerts.

From its early roots with the Sisters of Charity to its present day residential use, Provincial House holds quite a bit of history. Countless numbers of people lived, worked, and served the community there, and over 200 sisters died in the Provincial House.

As Sister Genevieve points out, "You're well looked over here."

MINORITY VOTING, from page 1

She used the government's Truth.com campaign—an anti-tobacco campaign targeted at youth that exposes true statistics of death rates and bodily harms of smoking—as an example of something that grabs people and makes them think. "There should be something like that for voting. We've got to find a way to make this interesting, add some shock value to make people wake up, then throw the message in there," Mo-Shay said.

Curry threw out statistics about U.S. laws that bar convicted felons from voting, which amounts to 1.4 million black males. "There are former felons who have served all of their time that are still not allowed to vote in many states,"

Curry said, before giving the meeting to the floor for audience comments and questions. Records show that 13 percent of African-American men are barred from voting; and in the South, 30 percent cannot vote, according to ACLU statistics. "That is one of the leading problems facing black voters in many states an ACLU representative in the audience addressed the issue of the disenfranchisement laws. He gave information on the "Getting The Vote Back" program, a new campaign launched a month ago designed to identify and get the information to those 700,000 former felons in the state of Missouri who have the right to vote by

law. Missouri is one of the states that has a law allowing former felons to get their voting rights back once they've served their time.

Panelist Rufus Tate, an attorney for the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners, and Christmas urged audience members to be mindful of new laws being enacted before going to the upcoming Nov. 5 elections. One new law requires that voters bring an ID to the polls. "I guarantee you a lot of people are not going to have the proper ID when they get to the polls," said Christmas.

"The new trick is provisional voting. They're going to start pushing it real hard in late October. It is for people who show up at the polling place, and their names not on the roster, and they call down to the

Board of Elections wherever you live and they say 'We don't have you on the rolls' and then they'll offer you this provisional ballot. The trick is the provisional ballot is only for statewide federal issues. So this election you're not affecting who the mayor [will be] or anything that has to do with St. Louis you will not get a chance to vote for." Tate urges everyone to contact the city's Board of Elections. "Do not rely on provisional voting, because you'll miss the whole point," he said.

Buford urged everyone to bring someone along with them to the polls. "Take a friend; if everyone took one, we'd double our vote," he said.

Records show that 13 percent of African-American men are barred from voting; and in the south, 30 percent cannot vote.



Mike Sherwin and Shannon Hoppe The Current

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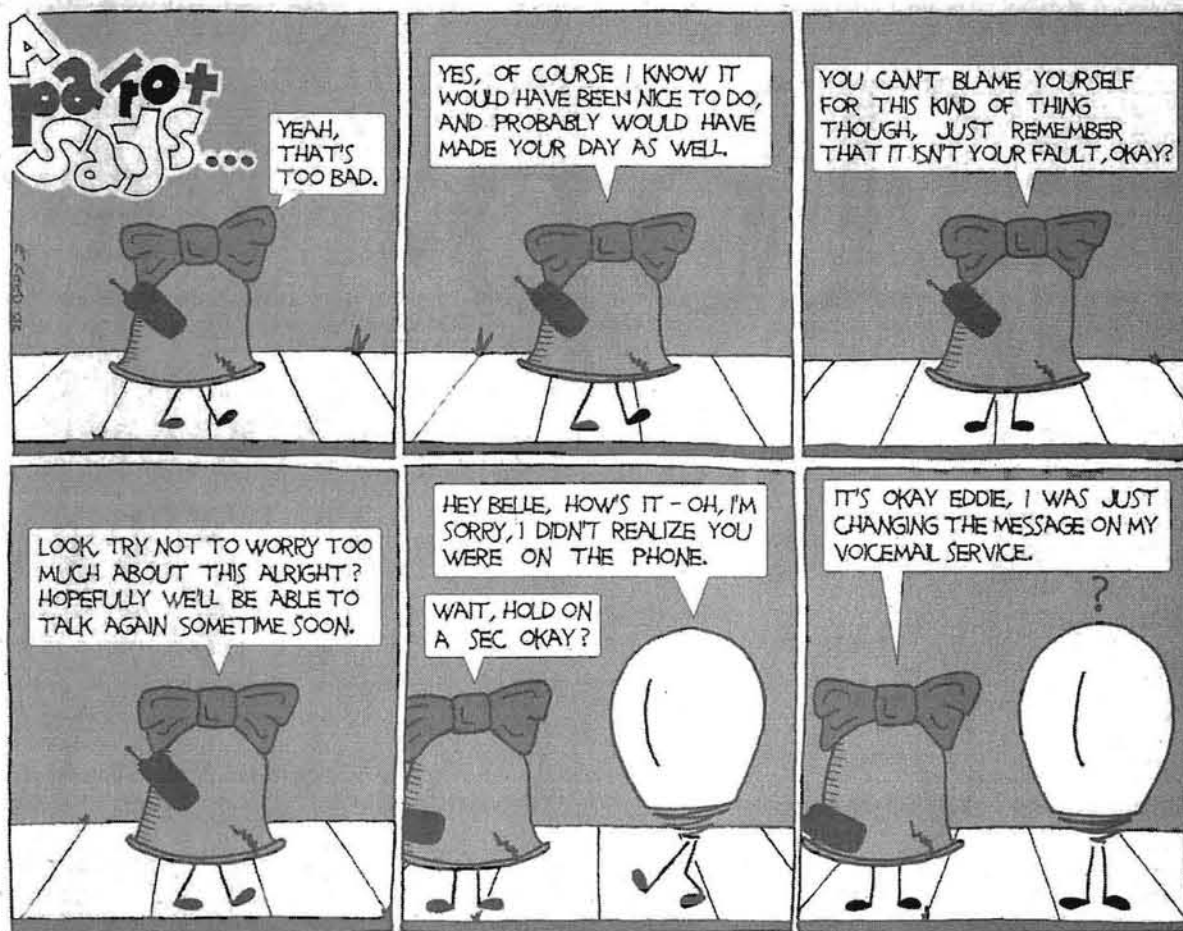
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National Day Against Police Brutality
The Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression is sponsoring a March & Rally at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22 at Tucker Blvd. & Park. March will proceed from 12th Street to Police Headquarters, City Hall and end at the Convention Center. Speakers will include family members of victims of police terror, community leaders and others. For more information, call

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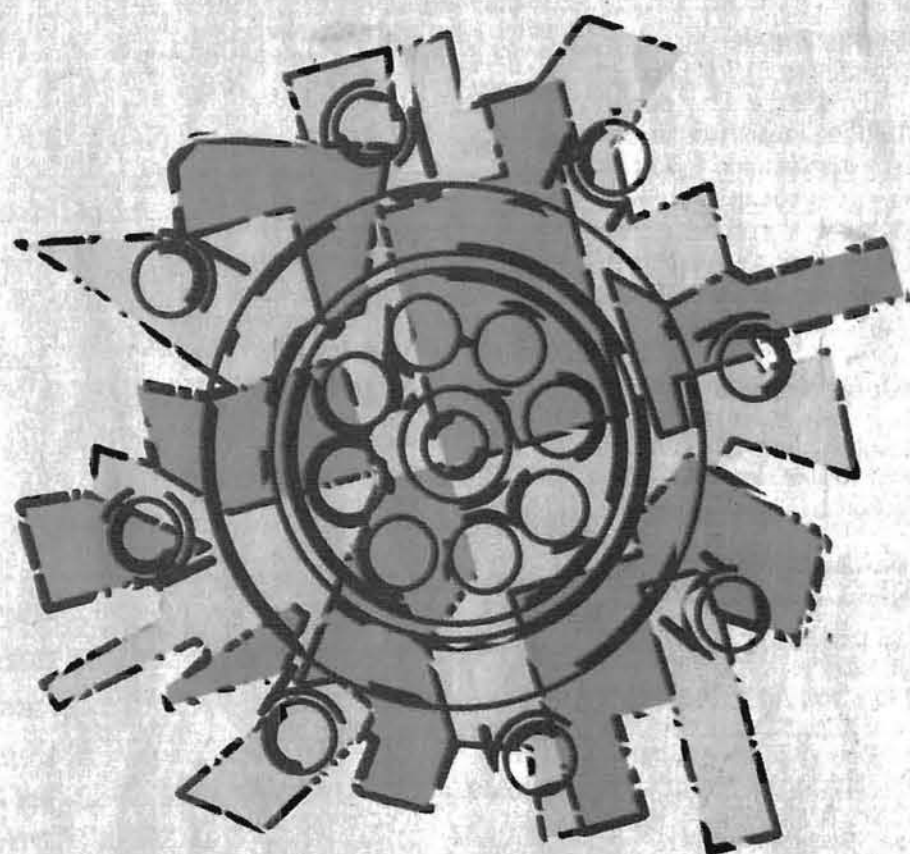
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- Control of the Missouri General Assembly
- “Home Rule” for the City of St. Louis
- Control of the U.S. Senate
- Education
- The war against Iraq
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