



See page 14  
**'The Comedy of Errors' doesn't err.**

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## UMSL grad students redesign Hannibal Museum

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

Graduate students in museum studies have been presented with an opportunity to redesign the Mark Twain museum in Hannibal, Mo. The project began last year and is progressing as scheduled.

A group of consultants from the University have been working on the project, including Jay Rounds, E. Desmond Lee professor of museum studies, Caitlin McQuade, adjunct instructor in museum studies, and graduate students Kristin Little and Megan Benn. An exhibit designer and the consultants have been working with the museum to create a new design. "We are looking for ways to improve existing exhibits in the museum and create new ones," McQuade said.

The museum in Hannibal is located next to Twain's house. It is the house that he returned to, in memory, to create some of his most prominent novels. Both McQuade and Rounds said that the offer was one that was impossible to turn down. Twain is a model for both of them. They have a shelf full of Twain books in the office so that they can do as much research as possible on the author.

Being able to bring the project to the University provides a real-world experience for the museum studies graduate students. This is a reason that UM-St. Louis was chosen to participate in the important task. The students work in the office and participate in presentations. "UMSL has a set of resources that are extremely useful in a project like this," McQuade said. "The most important resource that UMSL is offering right now is the graduate students who are working on the project."

Rounds said that he has been especially pleased with the students who have been working on the project. One reason that he decided to do the project was to give the students hands-on experience. They are an important part of the design ideas that are being projected into the museum.

The project began last year, when they began to work on the interpretative master plan. The plan was finished in the spring of this year, and then the museum decided that they did in fact want to go ahead with the design. At the end of May 2004, the first phase of the project will end. Eventually, the entire museum is to be redesigned by the group.

Graduate students are required to work around 20 hours a week on the project, and McQuade and Rounds are both full-time. Graduate students in a museum studies practicum class have also helped with the project. One of their assignments was to make a display for the museum, which was a window in the museum, advertising the changes coming in the future. The group tries to go to Hannibal at least once a month to oversee the progress of the redesign.

Part of the design for the museum is a storyline of Mark Twain. They are looking at references to Hannibal in some of his writings and ways to tie them in with the exhibit.

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## SGA approves new fee increases

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

At the Student Government Association meeting on Friday, Nov. 21, many proposals were discussed and passed by popular vote of the assembly. Increases in student fees are among the propositions that will go to the Board of Curators.

Some of the student fees for the 2004-05 year may go up by as much as 90 cents per credit hour. Currently, all students pay \$9 per credit hour for an athletic fee. These fees go toward all of the athletic teams, events and activities involved with the University. The proposed increase for the next school year is 35 cents.

Three people spoke at the meeting for the athletic department. A student athlete, Chris Pilz, the new basketball coach and Pat Dolan, director of the athletic department, represented the department to try to persuade the assembly to vote on the increase. "We are trying to create, for the students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, an arena for all of

us to be proud of our school, for us to develop school pride and for us to develop intricate relationships that we haven't had," Dolan said. "We are very passionate about what we do."

Dolan also said that UM-St. Louis is funded 10th out of 11 schools in the conference. She stated that UM-Rolla has more funding and that UM-St. Louis does not offer as many amenities to the student athletes. The student fee increase would still leave the University behind many others in the conference. The assembly passed the fee.

Student Life is asking for a 46-cent increase. Orinthia Montague, director of Student Life, spoke about the reason for the proposed fee increase. The University currently funds 82

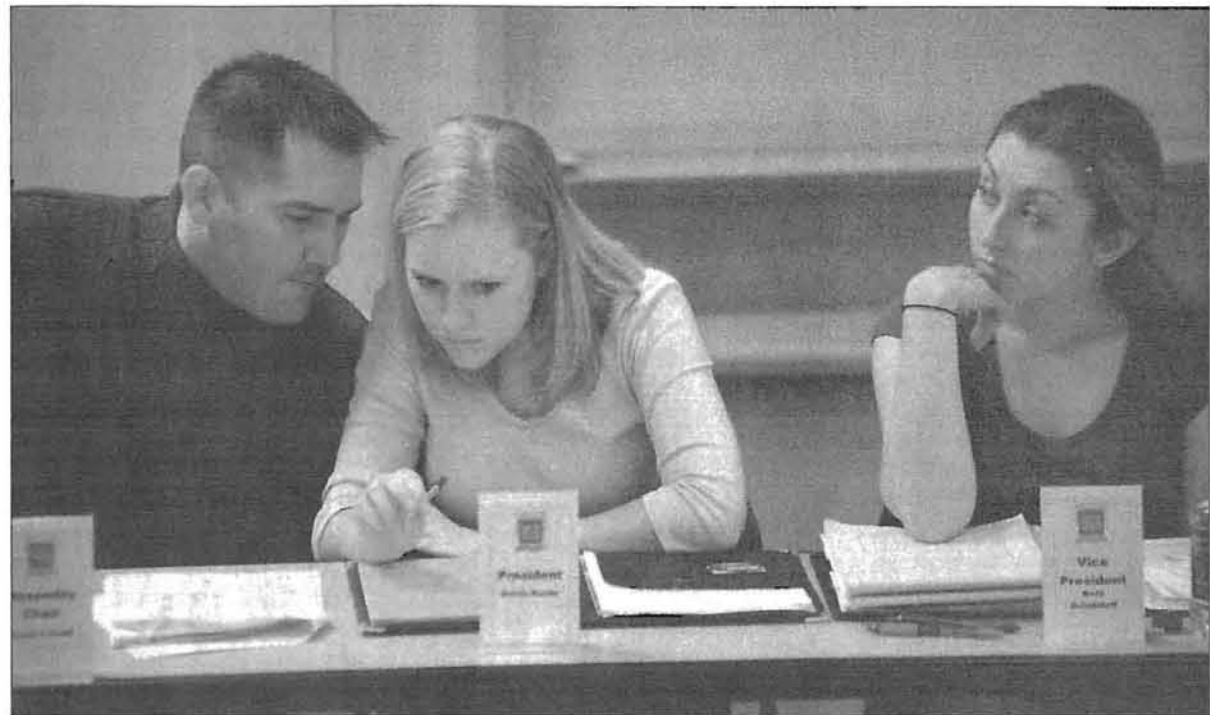
organizations. Some of the organizations make money in other ways, but others cannot fundraise. "The majority of that [increase] will go towards student organizations," Montague said.

Since the beginning of the semester, there have been five new organizations.

“  
The majority of that [increase] will go towards student organizations.”

— Orinthia Montague, director of Student Life

”



Mike Sherwin/The Current  
David Dodd, SGA chairperson, confers with Kristy Runde, SGA president, as vice president Beth Grindstaff looks on during the Student Government meeting Nov. 21.

Many more organizations continue to become active, as well as others asking for more funding every year. There are currently about 112 organizations on campus. Much more money is often requested than can be provided. The fee was passed by popular vote.

Health Services is also requesting a fee increase. The reason behind this is the demand for more staff in the department. A psychiatrist, two additional nurse practitioners and a receptionist in the Wellness Resource Center are among the requests. The

woman who spoke on behalf of Health Services said that students are constantly seeking health attention and the staff is not always there to support the demands.

see SGA, page 3

## Police cruiser crashes in Lot K



Mike Sherwin/The Current

UM-St. Louis police examine a wrecked police cruiser in Parking Lot K, west of the Performing Arts Center, on Monday evening. Around 6 p.m., UM-St. Louis police sergeant Thomas McEwen's vehicle crashed into a light pole in a single-car accident. According to Police Lieutenant Albert Wirt, McEwen had been responding to a call about a suspicious person in a vehicle outside of the General Services Building. While following the suspicious vehicle, his attention was diverted and the police vehicle struck the light pole. Sergeant McEwen was examined on the scene by an EMT crew, said Wirt, but McEwen's injuries were not serious.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche speaks at a press conference in the J.C. Penney Building on Nov. 18. Afterwards, LaRouche spoke at a public meeting hosted by three Missouri state representatives: Rep. Juanita Head Walton, Rep. Esther Haywood, and former Rep. Quincy Troop.

## The Pikes are back on campus, officially

After 8 years, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity regains official recognition

BY ANGELA ASHLEY  
Staff Writer

Christmas came in the middle of November for one student organization on campus. The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was granted recognition on campus after eight years.

Pi Kappa Alpha is a large fraternity, with over 210 international chapters. The Zeta Phi chapter of the fraternity began at UM-St. Louis in 1969 and to this date has more than 470 alumni members. The fraternity lost their recognition in 1995 due to claims of sexual assault that were later proven false. While they were still recognized nationally as a chapter, their ultimate goal was to be back on campus.

To be granted recognition, the fraternity had to submit an application to a Student Affairs Committee. Once approved by the committee, the decision was passed to on Curt Coonrod, vice chancellor of student affairs, and Chancellor Thomas George. All parties agreed, and a letter signed by Coonrod later arrived at the fraternity's house, congratulating them for their return to campus.

"We were so excited and pumped.

You could literally feel the energy coming from people. For Pikes, it was the greatest feeling imaginable," Mike Wenger, junior, marketing, president of Pi Kappa Alpha, said.

The fraternity members are not the only people excited about being back on campus. Members of Sigma Pi delivered a congratulatory note to Pi Kappa Alpha's house. Later on in the week, members of both fraternities celebrated with the Pikes at Golden Greeks, a local bar. The three fraternities have plans in the works to form an inter-fraternity council to work together to make the fraternities both individually and collectively stronger. "We are so excited to work with the other fraternities," Wenger said.

The brothers are also excited to participate in mixers and Greek week events with the three sororities. A member of Zeta Tau Alpha, Katie Gierse, junior, nursing, expressed her happiness about the fraternity's return. "It's great to see a group of guys that have the same heart and dedication as the rest of the Greek community to be able to help UM-St. Louis student life grow through the Greek system," Gierse said.

see GREEKS, page 3

## Presidential candidate LaRouche visits campus

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

Lyndon LaRouche, Democratic presidential candidate, addressed the University about his campaign on Tuesday, Nov. 18. His visit began with a press conference, followed by a community forum later that night.

LaRouche has been excluded from the presidential debates but is on the Missouri Democratic Primary ballot. Ranked number six in total money raised and number two in the total number of contributions in the Democratic race, LaRouche has not been a highly mentioned candidate. He spoke about the major crises facing the nation and how the other candidates are avoiding these issues.

Along with LaRouche were Rep. Juanita Head Walton, Rep. Esther Haywood, former Rep. Quincy Troop and a member of LaRouche's campaign, Stuart Rosenblatt. Each of

the Missouri representatives gave an introduction of the presidential candidate. The evening community forum brought in around 70 people, where LaRouche again spoke of the

“  
I represent the Roosevelt tradition, the others represent a world that is dying.”

— Lyndon LaRouche, presidential candidate

crises dealing with our nation as well as the other Democratic candidates.

Walton spoke ahead of LaRouche about her reasons for supporting his campaign. She recently heard

LaRouche speak, and he made a good impression on her with his visions. "After listening to what he had to say, I was very impressed and wanted him to come to St. Louis to speak and I also felt that his voice was not being heard in our community," Walton said.

When speaking to the crowd, LaRouche talked about the problems with the Democratic candidates, in particular. One of his main points was that the other candidates "are not in the real world." He said that they are all in a universe that existed many years ago, and that is why they are all failing. "The politicians today fail because they are discussing the issues of 1964 and 2002," LaRouche said. "Therefore, they're irrelevant to the reality of war and major economic depression among us right now."

see LAROCHE, page 14



# 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 one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)  
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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**Need to advertise an event?**  
Call The Current advertising department at 516-5316 for details.

**Thru March Woodcock Museum**  
"Image and Imagination: Art of the American West" virtual exhibit is open online at <http://woodcockmuseum.umsl.edu>. Featured is paintings and sculptures from the permanent collections of the Woodcock Museum and the Mercantile Library at UM-St. Louis.

**Thru Dec. 5 Alpha Xi Delta**  
The Alpha Xi Delta toy drive is until Dec. 5. Drop off a new toy in boxes located across UM-St. Louis's campus to do your part. Donations will be given to local children's agencies.

**Mon 1 Faculty panel**  
A panel of UMSL faculty members will discuss "Online Teaching Tips in Real-Time and Any Time" at noon in the Student Government Chamber at the Millennium Student Center. Fifty exemplary faculty users of MyGateway will be recognized for outstanding instructional use of the course management system. Faculty will demonstrate creative ways to integrate MyGateway into a number of curriculums. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to faculty, staff and graduate students. Call 4508 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/ctl> for more information.

**Mon 1 (cont.) AIDS lecture**  
Noted AIDS speaker to deliver lecture. Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, will talk about AIDS at 7 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center. The lecture is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Office of Student Life, University Program Board, Prizm, Barnes College Black Nurses Association and Associated Black Collegians. Call 5291 for more information.

**Tues 2 Choosing a major**  
Learn how to match your interests with academic majors and occupations using the Self Directed search. This workshop will help you identify interests, skills, work values and learn where to learn more about occupations. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pre-register to obtain materials. 126 MSC. 516-5711

**2 Bible study**  
Christ Christian Center is holding a Bible study at 7:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel (Inter. 70 & Lindbergh). (314) 739-8929.

**2 Crusade for Christ**  
A Bible study is from noon - 1:15 p.m. in room 314 of the MSC. Join Campus Crusade for Christ for fellowship and prayer.

**Tues 2 - Thur 4 Toy drive**  
Students with DisAbilities, S.H.O.T.S. and Student Court are holding a Toy Drive from December 2-4 in the Millennium Student Center. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child, and you will give a toy to a child.

**Wed 3 Tree lighting**  
Administrative Services is sponsoring the ninth annual UM-St. Louis tree lighting ceremony. Come by on Dec. 3 in the Alumni Circle. Listen to carolers, and hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies will be provided.

**3 Education reception**  
The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Governor's Council on Disability and Division of Student Affairs at UMSL will hold an awards ceremony and reception for Marilyn Ditto-Pernell from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. Ditto-Pernell is the director of Disability Access Services at UMSL, and at 2:15, she will receive the council's Educator of the Year Inclusion Award, which is presented annually to recognize an individual who has successfully included people with disabilities in education. Call 516-5371 for more information, and call 516-5228 (5212 TDD) for disability accommodations.

**Thur 4 Counseling Services**  
Worried about finals? Find out how to Conquer Finals in a free workshop from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This service is free. Registration is required. Call 516-5711.

**4 America overseas**  
Three panelists will discuss "European Views of American Foreign Policy" at 7 p.m. in the SGA Chambers in the MSC. They will focus on how individuals in England, Germany and France view America's foreign policy and how American politicians are portrayed to Europeans through the European news media. The event is sponsored by the Center for International Studies.

**4 Student concert**  
Student chamber musicians and the Arianna String Quartet will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the E. Desmond Lee Theater at the Blanche M. Touhill PAC. The event is free and open to the public. Call 516-5980 for more info.

**Fri 5 Honors College**  
A Pierre Laclède Honors College general information session is at 1 p.m. Refreshments and registration begins at 12:45 p.m. The session is an opportunity for students to learn about the program. The event will take place in the Honors College on South Campus in the Provincial House Complex. Students should RSVP at 516-6870 or [UMSLHONORS@UMSLEDU](mailto:UMSLHONORS@UMSLEDU).

**Fri 5 (cont.) Student lecture**  
Dennis Shi, a doctoral student in business administration at UMSL, will discuss "Using the Center for Research In Security Prices Database" at 11 a.m. in 401 SSB. The event is sponsored by the College of Business Administration. Call 516-6142 for more information.

**5 The Rhythm of Soul**  
"The Rhythm of Soul" is at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C of the MSC. The lecture is presented by Constantine Evangelides. The lecture is about poetry originating from Cyprus in the 20th century. It's sponsored by the Center for International Studies. For more information, call 516-6495.

**Tues 9 Guest lecture**  
Michael Cosmopoulos reconstructs stories of lost or illegally traded ancient treasures. This stories, from the Parthenon Marbles to the recent looting of the Baghdad museum, provide a fascinating insight into modern culture and our perceptions about our cultural heritage. The event is at 8 p.m. at the St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium.

**Winter semester Child maltreatment**  
PSY 398: Child Maltreatment is offered for next semester. The course will focus on identification, reporting, intervention, prevention of child sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. For info., contact the Children's Advocacy Services at 516-6798.

**Put it on the Board!** Call 516-5174 for details or email [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)



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# Scholarship available as incentive for teachers

BY PATRICIA LEE  
Staff Writer

Louis Public Schools, at the beginning of the academic year, they were still seeking more than 40 math and science teachers.

Despite moving people in the district from administrative to teaching positions, teaching positions were not filled. "There will always be a shortage, especially with math and science teachers, so the idea is to bring new people into the field," Rosanne Vrugtman, program director of the St. Louis Regional Partnership for Excellence in Urban Teacher Preparation and scholarship administrator, said.

Charles Schmitz, dean of the College of Education, attributes this shortage to several factors. On average, St. Louis Public School teachers earn \$41,261 annually.

"The preparation to be math and science teachers is very stringent, and

most that have degrees or the

Info-graphic by Shannon Hoppel/The Current



equivalent go into higher-paying jobs in the

private sector," Schmitz said. "It is especially hard to recruit younger folks interested in science and math because they can make much higher salaries working in non-school settings."

The Noyce Foundation funds the St. Louis National Science Foundation/Noyce Scholarship. Robert Noyce, the creator of the micro-processor, founded the Noyce Foundation. "Every time a computer is sold, money goes into the foundation; and the foundation monies are used for scholarships and other educational purposes," Vrugtman said.

The scholarship is administered by UM-St. Louis as a free service to students and St. Louis Public Schools. It is available at seven other colleges and universities besides UM-St. Louis: Fontbonne University, Harris-Stowe State College, Maryville University, SIU-

Edwardsville, Saint Louis University, Washington University and Webster University. However, of the seven applications received so far, all are from UM-St. Louis students. "We will give it to whatever students apply who are qualified; and if they all come from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, then that's what happens. We're hoping the other schools will provide us with applicants as well," Vrugtman said.

Vrugtman is hopeful that incentives will help to fill open positions. The scholarship is targeted for people with math and science degrees who want to switch over to teaching. Juniors and seniors can qualify as well. "We are hoping that it will fill at least 30 slots," Vrugtman said.

There are other incentives for teachers in addition to scholarships. Teacher education programs at several universities are experimenting with alternative programs that would shorten preparation time for people chang-

ing careers to teaching. However, the Noyce Scholarship is the only scholarship UM-St. Louis offers specifically for math and science teachers. "The College of Education does offer a few scholarships for education majors, but specifically there are not a lot of scholarships available specifically for teachers," Christine Rethlake, scholarship coordinator at the office of Financial Aid, said.

Schmitz said that incentives help, but more is needed to counteract the teacher shortage. "Rewards and incentives help. Respect and public acknowledgement for the good work most teachers do, and something other than negative reports in the newspapers and on television about the state of education in the USA would certainly help," Schmitz said.

For more information about the Noyce Scholarship, students can contact Rosanne Vrugtman at vrugtman@msx.umsl.edu or at 314-516-4349.

## Business student's research paper nets national award

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

Michael Behan, business graduate student, was presented with the Scholar's Award from the Association for Financial Professionals on Nov. 3. The award was presented on behalf of a research paper entered in the association's annual contest.

Every year, the association grants one award. No second or third place honors are recognized. Included with the award was \$5,000, a one-year AFP membership and a free trip to Orlando for the award presentation. Edward Lawrence, professor of banking and finance, accompanied Behan on the trip. Lawrence received a complete set of AFP publications for the business school's library.



Michael Behan

Lawrence entered Behan's research paper in the contest. Every student in his class is required to write a research paper for the semester, and, as result, Lawrence encourages his students to enter the paper in the competition. This year he entered seven papers total. "I tried to get all my students to submit papers [in the competition] knowing that if you submit 20, you have a better chance of winning," Lawrence said. "All of the universities who submit submit batches, and a faculty member must submit them."

At least 35 universities around the nation are able to submit papers in the competition. The review process of the papers by the award committee is completely blind. They do not know who wrote the papers or where they have come from. Papers are written about treasury or financial management. The papers must have been written between September 2002 and

May 2003. They also must be original and should not have been previously submitted to any other award program.

The winner is selected on the basis of the topic chosen and the way that they applied it in the paper. According to Lawrence, Behan went through three topics before settling on the topic at hand. He also submitted a full outline for each of the topics. "He didn't really care what it took to come up with a good paper, it's just going that extra 10 miles," Lawrence said. "I've been teaching for 21 years, and I have never seen that."

The name of the paper that Behan finally settled on is "A Primer Concerning Online Payment Services." The paper explored the individual and small business uses of online payment services. "I never received national recognition for any of my accomplishments," Behan said.

Behan has been enrolled in the graduate business program since 2001 and is scheduled to graduate this May. Outside of UM-St. Louis, Behan is the director of commodity sales and purchasing for a Mississippi-based lumber manufacturer. "I will use most of the money that I received to complete my education at UMStL," Behan said. "However, since I will be graduating in May, I plan to put the remainder of the money to work in the market, most likely in the form of a Roth IRA."

Behan is very proud of the award, as is his professor. The accomplishment is also good recognition for the University. "Mike was one of those people who I knew from the very beginning was going to go for it, and he put the most effort into it, from what I can see," Lawrence said.

Another UM-St. Louis student won this prize four years ago.

## UMSL Quartet teams with grade school to teach through music

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

Arianna String Quartet, UM-St. Louis's Quartet-in-Residence, is taking on an interdisciplinary education outreach program at Holy Trinity Catholic School in the Hyde Park neighborhood of St. Louis. The outreach program is being largely funded by a \$12,000 residency partnership grant from Chamber Music America, a national service organization founded in 1977.

The grant will provide more than 20 classroom visits and five free performances at Holy Trinity, which lies in an "at risk" neighborhood as identified by "Project Respond and Vision for Children" (2000). All students at Holy Trinity learn to play the violin as part of Education Through Music, a program designed to integrate music with traditional subjects such as mathematics and language. The students also study dance, visual arts and vocal music.

"I think it's terrific," said Arianna violinist John McGrosso. "This type of education gives students a creative outlet for their hopes and desires. It shows them that they can be successful in an artistic way."

According to "Project Respond", 80 percent of students attending Holy Trinity live below the poverty line, and 60 percent of their parents did not graduate from high school.

"We help these students understand that education is the ticket to personal success," said McGrosso. "We show them an alternative to violence and abuse. I think it's important for kids to be shown options that maybe their parents couldn't show them."

The quartet spends a few weeks with each age group, teaching violin and promoting music in education.

"I can integrate math with music by linking fractions and rhythm. Learning to play an instrument also helps with coordination of physical abilities and imagination; it's physical and mental," said McGrosso.

Integrated music curriculum varies from traditional curriculum with a music program added.

"Many of the students will be able to go on and pursue a music career after school, if they choose," McGrosso said.

Sister Joyelle Proot, assistant principal of Holy Trinity Catholic School, said she stands behind her school's Education Through Music curriculum. "The program serves to increase academic success," she said. "The goal isn't to produce artists but to provide

students with opportunities they could never get anywhere else. The students and teachers are co-learners under the artists. Teachers return to the classroom, and they have the ability to integrate daily. Artists are required to keep a connection with the teachers and assist them with their lesson plans.

"Arianna Quartet's residency here is wonderful," Proot said. "They really demonstrate a relationship between the academic subjects and the music."

Arianna began their involvement with Holy Trinity when the school began looking for a violin teacher. "We all hold faculty positions here, but I

started thinking about ways that we could support their program," said McGrosso. The quartet applied for the Chamber Music America grant in 2002. According to Chamber Music America, the service organization seeks to provide communities with greater access to chamber music through concerts and other programs that engage audiences beyond the concert hall.

Chamber Music America program director Susan Dadian said she was thoroughly impressed with Arianna's

grant proposal. "They really gave a clear outline of what they wanted to achieve," she said. Dadian explained the different parameters for obtaining a grant. "We look for how well the proposal is written, the clarity of the goals, the plan for evaluation and the depth of community involvement. A panel evaluates the proposals and listens to a sample of the artists' work."

Chamber Music America considered 88 proposals and awarded 17 grants.

"Arianna more than surpassed the requirements," Dadian said. "We were impressed with their desire to make a long-term commitment to the community. They had clearly defined their goals."

While McGrosso admitted that the project can be time-consuming for the successful quartet, he said the experience is worth the effort. "We're motivated by the opportunity to expose kids to arts and to make a personal connection. The sustained contact gives students depth of application of music," he said.

The first of five concerts was held on Oct. 26 and featured a performance by Arianna and showcased the students' musical skills. McGrosso said, "The program expands their world. It's exciting to see their enthusiasm and energy."

The next concert will be held during the spring semester and is open to the public.

### SGA, from page 1

Michelle Schmidt, coordinator of alcohol and drug prevention, spoke about the reasons for the proposed increase. The proposal is 90 cents, and included with this is a 15-cent optometry fee increase. With the optometry increase, they hope to provide an additional service for students, a free eye exam and perhaps discount eyewear. The proposal was passed. The only funding that Health Services receives is from the student fee. "We're constantly booked, and we don't have enough people to see and meet the demand of the students," Schmidt said. "We don't charge you an office visit charge; we also offer you free over-the-counter meds when you come in."

The last proposed increase was for the infrastructure fee. A 25 percent increase was projected for next year. A lot of discussion went into this subject. Part of the reason for the increase is the bi-state program. This program allows for all students to have a free MetroLink pass for each semester. The fee of \$2 was added last year.

This proposal was not passed at the meeting. It has been tabled and passed to a committee that will discuss the issue further. Reinhart Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services, spoke to the group on the issue. "The primary component of that fee is the shuttle and the bi-state passes," Schuster said. "I see more and more students utilizing that pass every semester."

### MUSEUM, from page 1

The museum is composed of multiple buildings, and the group is currently working on one of the buildings that dates back to the early 1800s. Three of the buildings are being worked on, as of now. "One of the things that I commented was that there was not enough Mark Twain in the Mark Twain museum," Rounds said. "We are trying to bring the museum to life through the storytelling with the kind of humor that Mark Twain brought into his stories and why his stories remain so popular."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Pat Dolan, director of athletics, speaks to the Student Government Assembly Nov. 21 about a proposed thirty-five-cent-per-credit-hour increase in student activity fees for the athletic department. Dolan noted that of the twelve schools in its conference, UM-St. Louis is eleventh in funding for athletics. Afterward, the assembly voted in favor of the increase.

Another thing announced at the meeting was that Adam Schwadron, vice chair, will be leaving after this semester, due to his graduating in December. Elections will be held in January to fill the vacant seat. Schwadron said to contact him or David Dodd for information on what the position entails.

## \*\*\*WANTED\*\*\*

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### GREEKS, from page 1



Jesse Gater/The Current

The fraternity house of Pi Kappa Alpha is located on Natural Bridge Rd. The Pikes, as they are known around campus, have recently regained official recognition with UM-St. Louis.

Greek advisor, Allyson Wilson, is also sharing in the joy. "I really feel that they will be a wonderful source for both the students and Greek communities. The fact that they have been working so hard and spent eight years trying to come back shows that they have the fortitude and dedication to help achieve the goals of growth and strength for the Greek community," Wilson said.

Currently, 13 of 29 members are involved in on-campus activities such as Student Senate and Student

Government Association. They also work as a whole to perform community service for various philanthropies, including Life Skills foundation, BJC HealthCare and St. Ann's parish. "The Pikes are honored to be a recognized fraternity at UM-St. Louis. We feel we will be both beneficial for Greek and student life," Wenger said. "We would just like to thank Allyson, Orinthia, Curt Coonrod, Chancellor George and all others involved in making this possible."



# OPINION

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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## LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference.

We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers.

Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

# Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Staff Photographer

With what knowledge/ability do you wish to be endowed?

## OUR OPINION

# 'No soup for you' St. Louis area food pantries need your love

The holiday season is once again upon us. It is time for us to reflect upon all that we have accomplished this year, our joys and our regrets.

One thing that often gets overlooked at this time of year is the neighborhood food pantry. As usual, the food pantries are facing a crisis in their supplies. Shelves are running empty while the number of people in need is not changing. Unless something is done, these food pantries will have to start turning people away. Not good.

It is somewhat perplexing that this happens each and every year. Do we not see this coming? Do we go through food pantry amnesia? That does not seem very likely, so the only other option is that we choose to forget. After all, in this society, if we can convince ourselves that a problem is not real, then we can sleep easier at night.

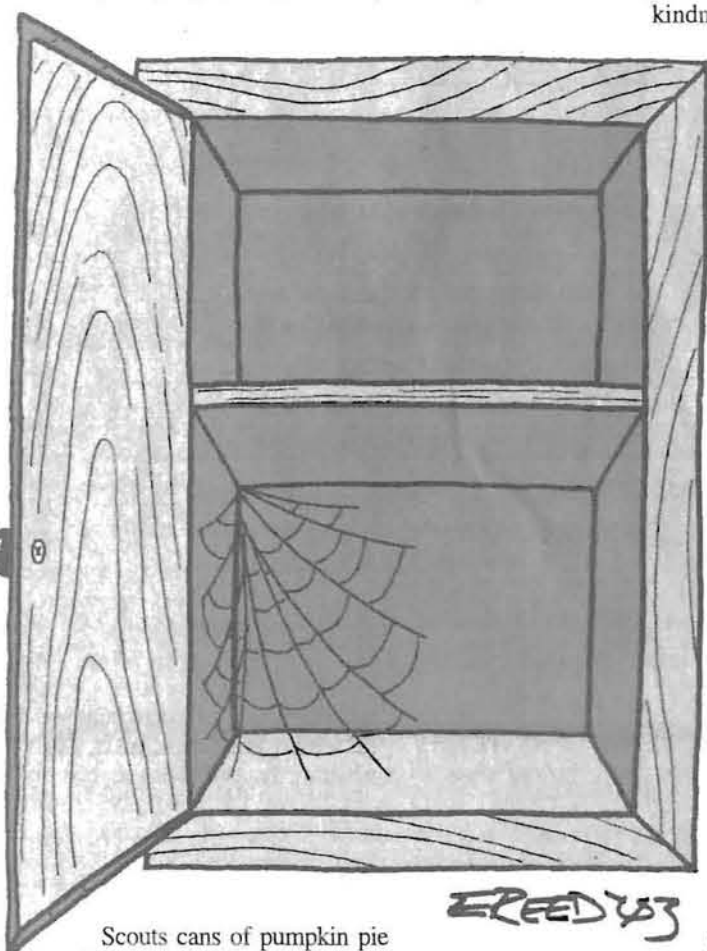
Then there are those who think they help by giving the Boy

take them down to a food pantry and donate them. You will not believe how incredible you will feel after you get back home.

•Make a run to the Aldi store nearest you. Believe it or not, but you can get canned goods for 10 cents there. Just think, if you spend \$20 on canned goods, you can donate 200 cans to your local food pantry. Once again, you will feel incredible after doing an act of kindness like this.

•Make a cash donation to the food pantry. If you just do not know what to buy, then just take \$20 or \$30 down the food pantry and make your donation that way. This way, they can go to the store and buy what they need. Your kindness will never be forgotten by the workers of the pantries.

What has to be remembered here, folks, is the people who work at these food pantries are doing so out of the kindness of their



Scouts cans of pumpkin pie filling and 10-year-old hominy. Sorry, but that just does not cut the cake. No, something else has to be done. There are so many options available to us that we never take that it is embarrassing that these food pantries are in the dire straits they are. So what options are available, you may be asking? Well, here is a list of some of those options.

•Next time you are at the grocery store, throw in a couple more cans of soup or cans of corn. Then, at the end of the month, gather them all up and

help them is to do our parts and donate some food.

In this joyous time of year, it is important that those of us who have do not forget the have nots. Our fellow human beings deserve a warm meal for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, or any other holiday you can think of at this festive time of year.

Do not overlook the less fortunate amongst us. Without our help, they will not make it through the cold winter months. You can call this a little "food for thought."

hearts. They are not getting paid anything to do this work. The least we can do to

### The issue

St. Louis area food pantries are desperately low. Without these wonderful people, many of St. Louis' needy will go hungry. So it's time for St. Louis to step up and get with the program.

### We suggest

Make any donation you possibly can. Any donation, big or small, will be an immense help to the philanthropists who work these food pantries. At this time of year especially, people need all the joy they can get.

### 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](http://www.thecurrentonline.com).

# Hockey season again

Okay, so I am going to write about sports again this week. I have not written about them in a while, but I feel it is time to. Why? Hockey season has started and I am loving every second.

The Blues are off to a hot start, currently in first place in the Central Division. I have high hopes for this team this year. The Blues are finally healthy and their top players are playing as they should. Pavol Demitra is on pace for over 90 points, Doug Weight is averaging more than a point a game, Keith Tkachuk is on pace for 50 goals and Chris Pronger is back to his usual dominant self. What is even more exciting than all that is the play of goalie Chris Osgood. With a goals against average under 2.00 and two shutouts already in the bag, Osgood is playing like a man with something to prove. Osgood brings a confident swagger to the Blues' goal crease that they have not had since Curtis Joseph's heyday.

But there is more to look forward to this year in the NHL than the play of the Blues. Let us look at them now.

•Brett Hull of the Detroit Redwings is well on his way to moving past Marcel Dionne on the all-time goal-scoring list. Dionne is third in league history, Hull is fourth. Hull possesses the best one-timer in league history and uses his intelligence to slip past defenders. The Blues should never have let him get away.

•The Atlanta Thrashers are trying to overcome the devastating loss of two players, one to severe injury and one killed, both in the same car accident. Winger Dan Snyder was killed when the Ferrari driven by Danny Heatley plowed into a gate in an Atlanta neighborhood. Heatley is still trying to recover from serious injuries to his jaw, knee and spleen. The Thrashers are playing the type of inspired hockey that the baseball Cardinals displayed when pitcher Darryl Kile died.

•Detroit Redwings captain Steve

Yzerman is back again for one more go-round. Yzerman is the longest serving captain in league history and has been with the Redwings for all 21 of his years in the NHL. Yzerman is back after major surgery and at this point, has 19 points in 22 games. At this rate, Yzerman will become only the seventh player to eclipse the 1,700-point mark in league history. Only Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Gordie Howe, Marcel Dionne, Ron Francis and Mario Lemieux have more points than Yzerman.



JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

•The Colorado Avalanche scored a free agent coup when they landed superstar wingers Paul Kariya and Teemu Selanne for the bargain price of \$8 million between the two of them. At this point, however, Selanne is not scoring very much and Kariya is injured. In fact, Steve

Konawalchuk, whom the Avalanche acquired via trade from the Washington Capitals, is playing better than both of them, and both Kariya and Selanne have about 300 more goals in their careers than Konawalchuk.

•Al MacInnis of the St. Louis Blues may be facing retirement after yet another round of eye surgeries. MacInnis, a surefire hall-of-famer when he retires, first injured his eye three years ago in a freak accident when a stick hit his eyeball. He has well over 1,200 points in his career, one of six defensemen in league history to eclipse the 1,000-point mark. His slapshot is widely considered to be the best in league history, having been clocked well over 100 miles per hour many times.

•Players to watch this season: Ilya Kovalchuk, Atlanta Thrashers; Joe Sakic, Colorado Avalanche; Pavol Demitra, St. Louis Blues; Sergei Federov, Anaheim Mighty Ducks; Todd Bertuzzi, Vancouver Canucks; Martin Brodeur, New Jersey Devils; Saku Koivu, Montreal Canadiens.

# Holiday thanks and giving

I am feeling a little ashamed today. In fact, this odious sentiment has been lurking at the periphery of my consciousness for about a week. I blame it on all that is right in my life.

Though I pass most Thanksgivings in the usual parade and football watching, turkey-gorging and family-frenzied American way (this most recent no exception), I do have one personal, albeit common, ritual as well. Each year, I make a thorough accounting of all that I am thankful for.

I realize that it would be more beneficial, and in the spirit of the holiday, to share this information, but I admit that I am a coward. I utterly dread inspiring the revival of the pre-dinner Thanksgiving declarations of "what we are all thankful for". Grown woman that I am, I still squirm during such conversations with my parents. Alone, I can readily recount a hundred things—add family and a bird carcass and I suddenly go blank and want to crawl under the table. So, if you do not mind, I will thank you to keep this conversation between us....

I do have an extensive list of blessings, however, and due to my family and experience, a pronounced recognition that I am luckier than most. Accordingly, I realize that I have a responsibility that I have been neglecting.

Though my family has a history of, and strong belief in, community ser-

vice, I have been conspicuously absent from any recent volunteer efforts. Hence, my post-holiday guilt.

Of course, I have a hectic schedule, and plenty of excuses, but so do most people. If the majority of volunteers based their level of involvement on those factors, well, it is a terrible thought. So, with the year waning, I found myself looking for a redeeming activity.

New to the area, I took the most expedient route—the Internet. I was instantly overwhelmed, of course. Between now and the end of this year alone,

there is an incredible need for volunteers for a variety of tasks and organizations—both secular and religious. I would like to encourage anyone feeling similarly deficient in community involvement to look into these. Though there are many options for finding a way to contribute, one of the best-organized lists that I found was through the United Way. You can access and download a list of their opportunities by going to: [www.stl.unitedway.org](http://www.stl.unitedway.org). After all, I know how busy you are.

What better time to make a commitment than when we are all most aware of what we are thankful for, and what better time to make a difference for those whose lists are not quite as extensive as our own.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and may you give and receive the most important gifts, those that cannot be wrapped.



NICHOLE LECLAIR  
Managing Editor

# What's your opinion?

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

- Food pantry donations
- Hockey season
- Holiday thanks and giving

You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)



Maartje van Lakerveld  
Freshman,  
Undeclared

I wish I knew how to play the guitar! I think it's a really cool instrument.



Carlo Munaois  
Freshman,  
Computer Science

I wish I had the ability to read women!



Kelly Brown  
Senior,  
Psychology

To drive! If I could instantly learn how to drive properly, that would be excellent.



Garren Denison  
Freshman,  
Anthropology

I wish I could work on cars. I really love cars but just don't know how to work on 'em.



# Does your head hurt?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Science Columnist

You do not have the same kind of pain receptors and pathway for the emotional hurts we all experience. Yet everyone knows from experience that the pain of emotions is every bit as painful. An emotional blow can feel very much like a blow to the stomach.

A recent study indicates that this may be more than a metaphor. The study confirms what we already knew, namely that rejection hurts. This kind of social pain is among the first every kid encounters, the first time you are left out or teased in grade school. The researchers' study indicates that the psychological pain is just as real as any other injury-inflicted pain.

A report in the journal "Science" last month covers the really painful aspects of rejection. Researchers at University of California at Los Angeles found that emotional hurts like rejection stimulate the same areas of the brain as a physical blow. The experiment measured blood flow to the brain with an MRI technique while the subjects played a computer game. In the experimental scenario, the subject was told to play a game with two other unseen people (actually the computer). But the computer's two opponents excluded the subject from active play, which was designed to create a feeling of rejection in the subject.

The researchers found that blood

flow was increased to an area of the brain that had previously been associated with physical pain, just as would be the case for physical pain. They also found that blood flow increased to a portion of the prefrontal cortex, an area of higher reasoning, which they interpreted as the subject's attempts to dampen down feelings of rejection.

The researchers speculated that the overlap in pain response might be linked to the adaptive nature of human interactions. Pain acts as a signal to the body of a problem. A similar reaction to social rejection also signals a problem, since being part of a group is associated with greater chance of survival.

The recognition of the similar neurological nature of emotional pain may lead to a greater understanding of the significance of this more intangible pain. It may also lead to greater insight into addictive behaviors, which are recognized as often being attempts to self-medicate. Seeing the brain connection between the two kinds of pain might lead to new approaches to handling emotional hurts. One of the areas that might be directly influenced by this finding is that of school approaches to bullying and other classroom social conflicts. Seeing this pain as just as real as physical blows might spur a stronger effort to intervene in emotional injury.

# The best album that you've never heard

## This week: Trans-Siberian Orchestra "Christmas Eve and Other Stories"

BY JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

This week, I am going to kind of switch things up. Ordinarily, I choose a CD and focus on a few songs to tell you all about. This week, I am going to look at CD of such scope and magnitude that I cannot single anything out,

angel to "Go down to the earth and bring back to me the one thing that best represents everything good that has been done in the name of this day."

The angel sets forth on his task, looking for something that represents the love and peace, the good will of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. He travels the earth looking for what will satisfy his quest. At one point, he holds

some compassion in the human race. So he takes on the form of a little boy and goes inside an old bar. Before the bartender can speak, he asks if the patrons knew there was a lost girl outside his window. The bartender looks outside and asks the boys, "Not that I care, but how do you know the girl is lost?" and the boy says, "If one could be home, they'd be already there." So the bartender goes back around the bar and empties the cash register and goes outside with the boy to talk to the girl. After a couple of minutes, he whistles for a cab and says "J.F.K. airport." Then the girl drives away in the cab on her way back home, due to the love and compassion in the bartender's heart.

It is here that the angel decides he has found what he wants to bring back to God. On his trip back to heaven, he overhears the father waiting for his daughter and here we are privileged beyond words to hear "This Christmas Day."

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is the most powerful piece of music I have ever heard. Blending heavy electric guitars and an orchestra, the words in this are as powerful as any written in history. This part of the story is related by

the father waiting to greet his daughter with "the ornament, the perfect tree and a string of lights" because "she's coming home this Christmas day."

The father's emotion is oh-so-apparent in this song. "So, tell me Christmas/Are we wise/To believe in things we never see/Are prayers just wishes in disguise/And are these wishes being granted me/For now I see/The answering/To every prayer I've prayed/She's coming home this Christmas Day."

Of all the albums I have covered this semester, I would say that this one is by far the "must have" of all of them. It encompasses all we hope is good about humanity and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Do yourselves a favor, make this be your own holiday treat, your life will be all the better for it.

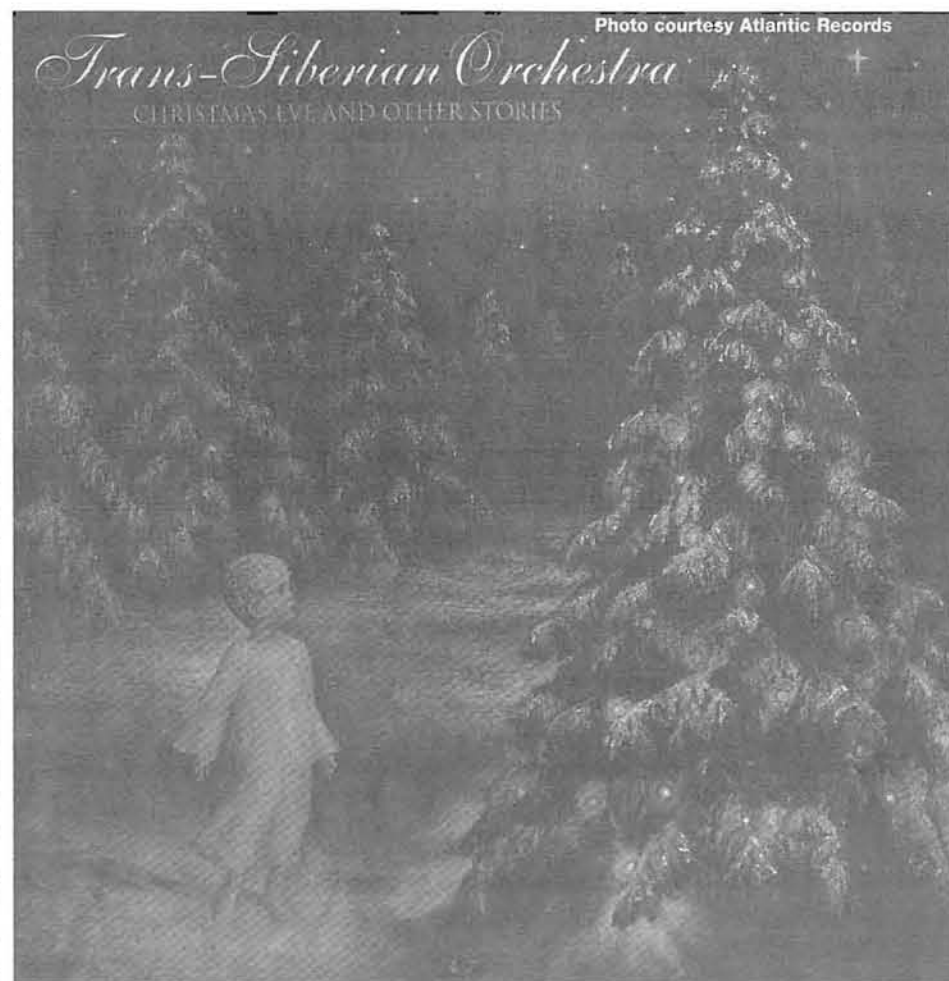


Photo courtesy Atlantic Records

but rather I will use songs as examples of the overall message of the album. That album is Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Christmas Eve and Other Stories."

First of all, I have to say that this is probably the most moving piece of music I have ever heard. I have not cried in about 10 or 15 years, but at times, I almost felt I could cry.

You are going to need to get a better background on this story of redemption and homecoming. What this album is is a rock opera, in the fine tradition of The Who's "Tommy" and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar." Like both those rock operas, this album tells a story. It is the story of a young angel who is summoned by God. God then tells the

in his hands the song of a peasant in Sarajevo. (It is here where "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24" plays...very moving song.) But the angel decides that this is not what he is looking for...it just did not feel right. It was not the answer to his quest. So he flew on, where he happens upon a prayer of a man who has not seen nor heard from his daughter in a long time, and wishes she was home for Christmas. The angel follows the prayer to the man's daughter who is standing under a street light in New York City, wishing upon a neon sign that she could get home.

At this point in the CD, "Old City Bar" plays, and this is one of the most moving tracks I have ever heard. An acoustic ballad-like tune, this song relates the part of the story where the angel goes looking for some goodness,

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## ASUM member clarifies quote

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri was honored to host State Representative Matt Muckler at a recent Lunch with a Legislator program.

A story that reported on the event contained some information that was either interpreted incorrectly or taken out of context. ASUM is proud to have hosted Representative Muckler, and is even more proud to work with him every day in the Missouri

Capitol.

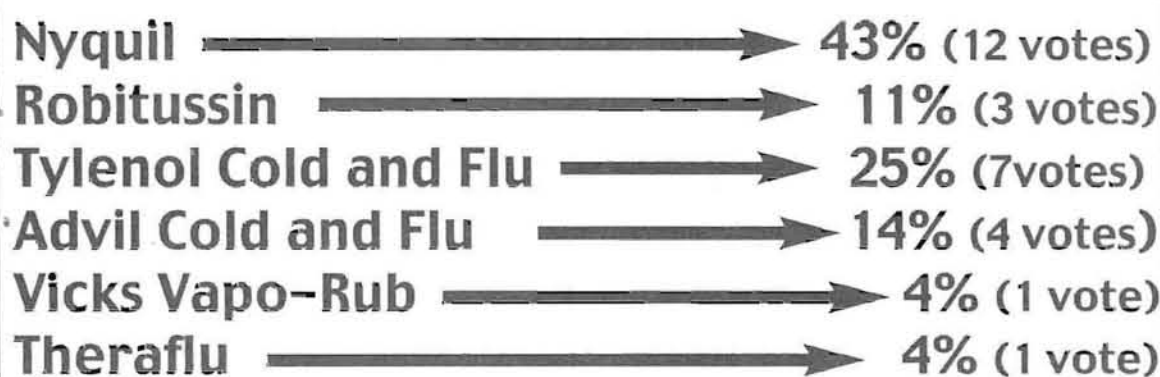
Though last session was his first in Jefferson City, Representative Muckler quickly proved himself to be a tireless advocate for higher education and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He supported UMSL in the appropriations process, and worked with students one-on-one on issues to make our lives better. It has truly been a privilege to work with Representative Muckler.

Had Representative Muckler really "cared less about UMSL and the students," as was reported in The Current, he would have never come to our lunch in the first place. We consider Representative Muckler a friend, and hope to continue working with him in the coming years.

Sincerely,  
Laura Marsh  
ASUM member

## What do the readers think: Results from the weekly web poll:

What is your medicine of choice for cold and flu season?



Results via [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

\*[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) does not limit votes per person and the poll is not a scientific sampling.

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# Rising tuition

# Budget cuts

# Campus crime

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor.

Send it to [current@jinx.usml.edu](mailto:current@jinx.usml.edu)



# FEATURES

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**KATE DROLET**

Features Editor

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## Holidays are prime time for service

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Features Associate

As the holidays approach, students are looking forward to the end of the semester and a holiday filled with relaxation and fun. For some people, this time of year is not always filled with merriness. Many non-profit organizations and charity groups gather community donations to put some cheer into the season for those in need.

Throughout this winter season, many grocery stores, churches, companies, radio and television stations in St. Louis are volunteering their time by holding toy drives, food collections and money donations.

Local news station KSDK, Channel 5 has supported a few organizations such as United Way, Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army's Tree of Lights.

The Tree of Lights campaign has been in existence for the last 56 years, and has reached out to thousands of families in need.

see SERVICE, page 7

# 'Banquet' opens eyes to global hunger

BY GARY SOHN  
Staff Writer

As a part of the annual Hunger Awareness Week, UM-St. Louis, with the help of Oxfam, held a hunger banquet. The event revealed the unfair distribution of food around the globe. The banquet began at noon on Nov. 20, in Century Room A and B of the Millennium Student Center. Mo Dunn, treasurer of the Catholic Newman Center, was the key speaker.

Dunn opened the event by saying that the purpose of the hunger banquet was to educate students about world hunger as well as what can be done to help those who are affected by the problem.

"We are here today because 1.2 billion people, about one-fifth of the population, live in poverty," Dunn said. "Eight hundred and forty million of these people suffer from chronic hunger...every 2.9 seconds, a child dies from hunger and other preventable causes. That's 30,000 children a day."

Despite the large number of starving people around the globe, hunger is not due to lack of food, according to Dunn. "You may think hunger is about too many people and too little food. Not true...it is about power. The roots of hunger lie in inequalities in access to education and resources."

Baskets with color-coded stickers were passed out to each of the 40 people who attended. Every sticker was one of three colors that represented a class in society. The white sticker represented the high-income class, or 15 percent of the world's population, orange stickers represented the middle-income class, or 30 percent of the world's population, and the green sticker represented the low-income class, or 55 percent of the world's population.

Dunn went on to explain the three different income classes. The high-income group has a per capita income of \$9,266 or more. They consume 70 percent of all the grain grown in the world, have access to the best health care, their children are destined to go to school, and they have access to credit. The middle-income group earns between \$756 and \$9,265 a year. They live on the edge where, if there is a drought or serious illness, they risk being thrown into poverty. The low-income group earns less than \$755 a year, which amounts to about two dollars a day. Most of these people come from poor countries, such as Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Haiti or Cambodia.

Each class was separated and given different treatment. The high-income class group was seated and served at a table set with candles, silverware and wine glasses. They were given a nutritious meal that included a salad, mixed vegetables, potatoes, chicken, beef or salmon, and dessert. The middle-income class served themselves beans and rice at a buffet table. The low-income group were told to sit on the floor and were given plain rice on cardboard plates with no utensils. They were also given watered down iced tea, which simulated dirty water. Those who filled their plastic cups with too much "water" were told they were

"being greedy" and received a half portion of rice. Biography cards were scattered in each of the three groups' areas, and participants were encouraged to read them while eating. A participant with a green sticker, a low-income group, read examples of real people who currently live in poverty. One card in the lower-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jenny Gordon, senior, art history, is served a small helping of rice by Deni Kiehl, coordinator of student activities, during the Oxfam international hunger banquet held Nov. 20 in the Century Rooms of the MSC. The hunger banquet divided participants at random into three groups representing disparate strata of socio-economic status.

income group gave an example of a Vietnamese woman who struggles to feed and educate her children because she makes less than two hundred dollars a year and needs her children to help out at home instead of going to school.

Participants were also asked to view a slide show of various people who were helped by Oxfam. Following the slide show, Dunn asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence to reflect on their experience. She asked participants to share their experience on how they felt being in their income level.

Participants were also asked to view a slide show of various people who

see HUNGER BANQUET, page 7

## - HOMECOMING - HOOPLA

With a day of games, a bonfire, and a basketball game, UMSL began the three-month kickoff to Homecoming

ABOVE:  
Adam Schwadron, senior, political science, enjoys a light moment with Laura Marsh at a bonfire pep rally behind the Mark Twain Building on Monday night.

RIGHT:  
The Rivermen's Tim Blankenship, senior guard, drives downfield past a fallen Lindenwood player during Nov. 24's game. The game was part of the three-month kickoff for Homecoming. The Rivermen won the match 72-70.



BY ANGELA ASHLEY  
Staff Writer

Though the UM-St. Louis Homecoming celebration is still months away, students have begun to show school spirit now. On Monday, Nov. 24, the Three Month Kickoff event geared students up to support basketball season and look forward to Homecoming.

"The actual date of homecoming is Feb. 27, and it will be held at the Westport Sheridan," said Martha DeBuhr, junior, marketing, and co-chair of the Homecoming committee.

To encourage students to increase their school spirit, the committee hosted the three-month kickoff, first of several events that will precede Homecoming. The Homecoming theme is "Back To the Future" in honor of the school's 40th anniversary, and each month a different decade will be celebrated. November was the 1960s, and The Nosh was decorated with happy face balloons, polka-dotted posters, four different

kinds of buttons lying on the tables and a television showing era shows such as "The Munsters" and "I Dream of Jeannie."

"December will be the 1970s, and we will be hosting an event before finals, with the help of Horizons peer educators," said DeBuhr. "January will be the 1980s; February will be the '90s, and the actual dance will bring us back to the present day."

The three month kickoff began at 11 a.m., with games outside the Millennium Student Center. Activities included tug-of-war, wheelbarrow and three-legged races, with prizes such as T-shirts and gift certificates to Gold's Gym and The Tan Company awarded to winners.

At noon, members of the committee and participating students moved into the Pilot House for quick games of Frisbee, washers and hoola-hooping. At 12:30 p.m., the UM-St. Louis cheerleading squad put on a performance, and at 1 p.m. the jazz choir performed several songs.

Later on in the day, there was a bonfire behind the Mark Twain Building. Attending students were treated to free hot chocolate and

grilled hot dogs. Red and gold beads were also passed out to increase school spirit. At 7:45 p.m., the students moved inside for the men's basketball game, which was televised as well as broadcast on the radio. The cheerleaders performed again, along with the Flames dance team. Members of the cheerleading squad and the Homecoming Committee threw T-shirts and key rings to the crowd. At 9:45 p.m., Golden Greeks, a local bar that supports UM-St. Louis, hosted a dart-throwing contest.

For Homecoming Committee co-chair Emily Fishman, junior, communications, there are good and bad aspects of being in charge of Homecoming events. "The hardest task is coming up with events that will include all the students. The best part is that you get to plan an event for everyone on campus, and they will all see your work," she said.

DeBuhr said that the committee was happy with the size of the crowds for the three-month kickoff events, and that they look forward to seeing more students show school spirit for upcoming activities.

# Access to success with support services

BY GARY SOHN  
Staff Writer

Student Support Services helps close to 800 disabled students

Getting through college and obtaining a degree can be quite a challenge for most students, especially those with a disability. UM-St. Louis offers assistance to some 800 students on campus who are disabled by offering a variety of help through Disability Access Services.

Student Support Services, a subset of Disability Access Services, is a service that "provides access to success," says Scott Armstead, a coordinator for Student Support Services.

Disability Access Services provides students who have disabilities with accommodations such as modified furniture, more time for tests and altered formats for texts, such as tape, brail and CD or e-text. Even though students with disabilities have these provisions, access to them is limited. "Disability Access Services provide what is required by law, says Armstead, "but Student Support Services offers support to 125 students beyond the law."

These 125 people, who must be reg-

istered with Disability Access Services, are given support through communication with counselors, regular meetings, help with their school schedules and tutor assistance.

"Disability Access Services give accommodations to those who need it," says Armstead. "The whole idea is to level the playing field, not to give an advantage to anyone, like someone who has delayed processing skills and needs more time to take a test. It gives equal access to those who need it."

In order to be registered as one of the 125 people who receive this service, a person must first be registered with Student Disability Access. He or she must also be admitted to the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours during the fall and winter semesters. To utilize this service, students also must be pursuing their first bachelor's degree. Student Support Services only helps those pursuing a bachelor's degree, not graduate students. At the time of application to the program, students who have college credit must have a mini-

mum GPA of 1.70 (up to 55 credits) or 1.85 (56 credits and beyond), according to Student Support Services criteria.

After a student qualifies for help by Student Support Services, he or she gains access to its resources. Rachel Sommerer, assistant director of Student Support Services, says that all services are up to the user.

"We ask how we can benefit you, how can we help you. What they utilize is up to their choice," said Sommerer. "We have workshops to help them, a computer lab located at 144 MSC, tutors that offer help in a variety of subjects, and we offer advice. I'm acting as a mentor for these students who come in for help."

Even though the grant that makes Student Support Services possible can only provide for one hundred and twenty-five students, the program still has problems getting that many to sign up. "The grant was originally written for one hundred and fifty students, but we couldn't get that many," said Armstead. "They were not coming or responding,

We then, after the first year, dropped the number down to a hundred and twenty-five so that we could reach our mission. If we don't reach our number, we could lose our grant."

"I have been here since fall of '97 and we never had a wait list," says Sommerer.

Students who participate in Student Support Services maintain confidentiality. Students who register with Disability Access Services must identify themselves to instructors, however, in order to receive services. To anyone worrying about privacy, "Student Support Services doesn't have to tell anyone that you are in this program. Friends don't have to know. Even students with other disabilities don't have to know," said Sommerer.

Student Career Services is always looking for tutors. Some areas that they look for are in upper-level accounting, math (calculus and above), statistics and economics (macro or micro). In order to be a tutor, a student must be at least a junior with sixty credits or more,

maintain a 3.0 GPA or above and a 3.0 GPA in the area that they are tutoring in. The benefits, says Sommerer, include making \$10 per hour, gaining a friendship, having a good job experience and building a resumé.

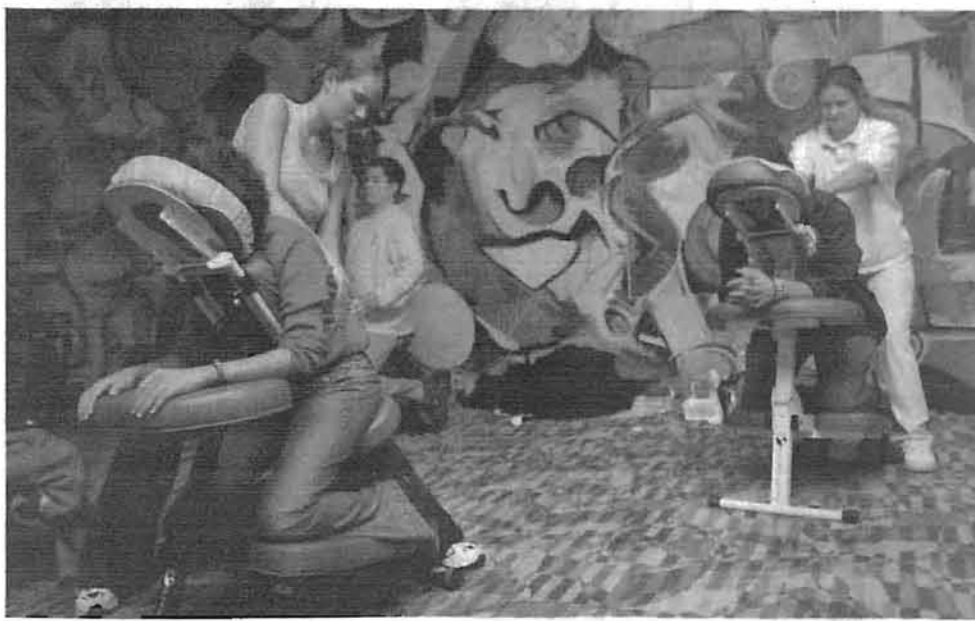
"I have acted as a reference for some tutors. I was their only resource as a boss, a working reference," she said.

Sommerer also says that the hours are flexible and schedules are set by student tutors. Those who apply may not be contacted right away, though Sommerer says not to worry.

"I get an application; I keep it on file and use it if a request comes up for a certain subject. I hold on to an application for at least one semester," she explained.

Not everyone in this program is successful. Some of the students in this program drop out either because they felt it was not for them or because they did not receive enough financial aid. Student Support Services encourages anyone with a disability to contact them at room 144 in the MSC.





**Heather Bliss (at left), a masseuse from Missouri College, gives Shanna Carpenter a massage during Spa Day in the Pilot House on Nov. 17.**

# Spa Day brings gives much-needed late-semester break

BY CARRIE LEWIS  
Staff Writer

In the midst of hectic plans for the holidays and preparation for finals, UM-St. Louis students enjoyed a well-deserved break inside the Pilot House at the University Program Board's Spa Day. Men and women were treated to a bit of pampering in between classes on Monday, Nov. 17.

"I came in because I was stressed and needed a break," Crystal McZeal, junior, business, explained.

Six massage therapists from A Back Rub Company and Missouri College gave free chair massages on the stage of the Pilot House. The lights of the stage were dimmed so that students could enjoy the fifteen minutes of relaxation.

Two nail technicians from Make Me Pretty Salon in Peoria, Ill. also gave manicures.

Visitors were welcomed with gift bags filled with bath salts, bath fizzies, pumice scrubs and other accessories. Although spaces for the manicures filled up fast, massages were available throughout the event.

While they waited for their names to be called, visitors read informational pamphlets provided by Counseling Services about stress. These included tips for dealing with holiday stress and a stress-anger recipe. Another handout entitled, "Things We Can Learn From a

Dog," suggested that, "When loved ones come home, always run to greet them," and "be loyal."

UM-St. Louis's Health Services also had a table set up where visitors could get a free blood pressure reading. A representative from Health Services also answered any health-related questions.

Next to the stage, a Mary Kay representative offered a demonstration, and had discounted products on display. The demonstration allowed students to sample a five-minute, four-step system that exfoliated and moisturized skin.

"My hands feel really soft,"

McZeal said, upon completing the process.

Sarah Clark, who works as a graduate assistant with Student Life, has been a part of Spa Day for the past few semesters. "We usually do this around finals time because it's a good stress reliever," Clark said.

Although Spa Day only lasted a couple of hours, students took full advantage of a quick stress reliever during their busy schedules.

For more information on how to beat stress, visit the Counseling Services office at 126 MSC or call 516-5711.



**Nichole Fincham, of Make Me Pretty Salon in Peoria, works on the nails of Dave Ponciroli, junior, anthropology, during Spa Day on Nov. 17 in the Pilot House.**

## HUNGER BANQUET, from page 6

Sara Littrell, who ate in the low-income group, said that she attended the banquet because she wanted to be more educated on this issue. "This is not something that I expected when first told about it. Eating on the floor. I didn't realize that the portions of food were so small. I didn't eat anything for lunch; there is no way that this amount of food could be filling to anyone."

"This Hunger Banquet is a metaphor for how food and other resources are unequally distributed in the world," said Dunn. "The one thing that I would like you to remember is this: Everyone on earth has the same basic needs. It is only our circumstances, where we live and the culture we are born into, that differ. Each person's place is randomly determined."

Dunn concluded the banquet by reminding participants that "there are a few who get a lot, and that most get very little." But, she said, there are ways to battle against global hunger and poverty. Some of the ways include holding a hunger banquet, helping fundraising for agencies who help in improving poor people's lives, buying from socially responsible companies who use the Fair Trade label on their products and joining Oxfam's e-community to receive invitations to take action on critical global



**Students representing the lowest economic group (and the largest) were given seats on the floor and a meager meal of rice and water during the Hunger Banquet Nov. 20, which was held by the Catholic Newman Center and Interfaith Campus Ministries.**

issues. This can be done at [www.oxfaminternational.org](http://www.oxfaminternational.org).

Oxfam is a confederation of 12 organizations that educate people about world hunger in more than a hundred countries. The hunger banquet is just one part of the organization's 30 years of raising awareness and pouring millions of dollars into supporting anti-poverty. Oxfam supports 50 projects in 30 countries. One of the organization's missions includes educating the American public about hunger and poverty through

events such as the Hunger Banquet.

The Oxfam Banquet was co-sponsored by several organizations on campus, including Interfaith Campus Ministries, the Catholic Newman Center, the Office of Student Life, University Program Board, Student Government Association, Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, Amnesty International, Pre-Med Society, Alpha Phi Omega, Golden Key International Honour Society, Student Social Work Association and College Republicans.

## SERVICE, from page 6

There are two ways for people to donate to the Salvation Army. A person can mail a donation to The Salvation Army, 1130 Hampton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139 or can give an online donation at [www.stl-salvationarmy.org](http://www.stl-salvationarmy.org).

No matter the amount that a person donates, every effort counts. The money received goes toward providing shelter for the homeless, food certificates, utilities and toys for children.

Many students cannot afford to donate money, but volunteering their own time can make just as big of an impact.

"People can participate in community service with the Salvation Army by becoming a bell ringer at local stores or by helping children with toy town," Salvation Army Volunteer Coordinator Jan Perry said.

The Salvation Army is also coordinating another upcoming event on December 6, called the Cans Film Festival at Wehrenberg Theaters. Those who bring three canned-good items to a Matinee movie receive free admission.

Another winter event is sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, and is known as Toys for Tots.

This event's purpose is to collect unwrapped toys to help less fortunate children enjoy the holidays more. Large toy boxes have been placed at over 20 locations around St. Louis. The toy drives will take place from Nov. 17 until Dec. 22. Some of the places where toys can be dropped off include Custom Cellular, Fed Ex, State Farm Insurance, Edward Jones, Texas Roadhouse, Anheuser Busch, Westfield Shoppingtown Northwest and Westfield Shoppingtown Mid Rivers.

Local area businesses are not the only groups participating in charities. Some UM-St. Louis organizations are giving back to the community as well.

The Office of Student Life is sponsoring a holiday basket collection for the Women's Safe House. The Women's Safe House is a shelter for abused and abandoned women and children in the Greater St. Louis area. Donations will be collected until the first week of December.

"Some of the items needed are personal care items, clothing, shoes, books, can goods, photo albums, coloring books, diapers and other things that could help make their lives easier," said

Allyson Wilson, coordinator for student services.

Departments and other services around campus are also holding donation drives.

"Each year Health Services supports Student Life's holiday fest basket event," University Health Services office supervisor Deborah Carey said.

"We usually fill a laundry basket or a trash can with things that are really needed, including a gift certificate for a grocery store, so that they can buy a holiday meal."

The Giving Tree located in The Nosh of the Millennium Student Center is also a drive being held by Student Life. This is the nineteenth year that the Giving Tree has taken place in conjunction with the Holiday Fest. This Christmas tree gives students, faculty and staff a chance to donate a gift to the needy.

With the cold winter months on their way, there are many ways that people can give and try to make another person's holiday more meaningful. Helping can be as simple as sparing some time or energy for a volunteer worker, collecting toys or ringing a bell in front of a grocery store.

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# SPORTS

**GRETCHEN MOORE**

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

Questions  
or  
Comments?

Send me an e-mail:  
current@jinx.umsl.edu

*Even Stevens*

## Men's basketball battles to 2-2 record

BY GRETCHEN MOORE  
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team stands with a 2-2 record after a week filled with tough games. They faced St. Louis Christian College for their home opener. The Rivermen then squared up with St. Mary's of Texas and Lindenwood.

St. Louis Christian College struggled throughout the game with the loss of some strong players due to injuries. The Rivermen took advantage of their loss by taking an early lead, scoring the first 12 points of the game in the opening two and a half minutes.

UM-St. Louis increased the lead to 27 points with six minutes remaining in the half and then closed the half with a 17-3 run and led 59-23 at the break. The second half was more of the same, in smaller doses, as the Rivermen outscored SLCC 49-12 in the second half, shooting 75 percent in the second half.

In the process, UM-St. Louis set two school records in the game. The Rivermen shot 68.9 percent (42-for-61) from the field and hit 14-of-24 (.583) from three-point range. They also set a record for largest margin of victory with a 73-point win.

The Rivermen dished out 32 total assists in the game, which tied for the second highest total in a game in school history, and also had 22 total steals, just one shy of the school record for most in a game. The 108 points was the 57th time in school history that the team reached the 100-point mark, and the first time since the 1997-98 season.

Coach Pilz reflected on his team's opening performance. "It was a good win for us. It was a relaxed game that we played with a lot of confidence. Unfortunately they had a few players injured, but sometimes you just need a win like that to boost moral."

UM-St. Louis was led by Ronnie Banks and Kevin Nordmann with 19 points each. Jonathan Griffin added 17 points, six rebounds and a team-high eight assists on the night.

"The game was OK. We'll take a win any day. But we still needed to work on some things to improve for our next game," senior guard Banks

said. St. Mary's brought a large crowd all the way from San Antonio to cheer on the Rattlers. However, the St. Mary's fans got nervous as UM-St. Louis jumped out to the quick lead to open the game, scoring the first eight points. Six of those eight points came on back-to-back three-pointers by Ronnie Banks and Kevin Nordmann.

St. Mary's then fought their way back with a 7-1 run and eventually tied the game at 19-19 with seven minutes remaining. The Rivermen turned up the defense, allowing just one more field goal by the Rattlers in the rest of the half and went into the locker room, leading 28-25 at half-time after a buzzer beating lay-up by Ike Attah.

The opening of the second half was all Rattlers, as St. Mary's took control of the game with a 28-4 run to open the second half. UM-St. Louis scored just two field goals in the opening nine minutes and buried themselves in a hole, but the team refused to give up and made a run later in the half.

Trailing 63-44, UM-St. Louis went on a 7-0 run to cut the lead down to just 12 points with five minutes remaining. However, the deficit was too much to overcome for the Rivermen, as St. Mary's went on for the 79-62 victory.

Leading scorer Jonathan Griffin said, "They were great competition. But in the second half, we had an eight minute lapse where we just couldn't score." Griffin tied his career best with 20 points in the game and also pulled down seven rebounds.

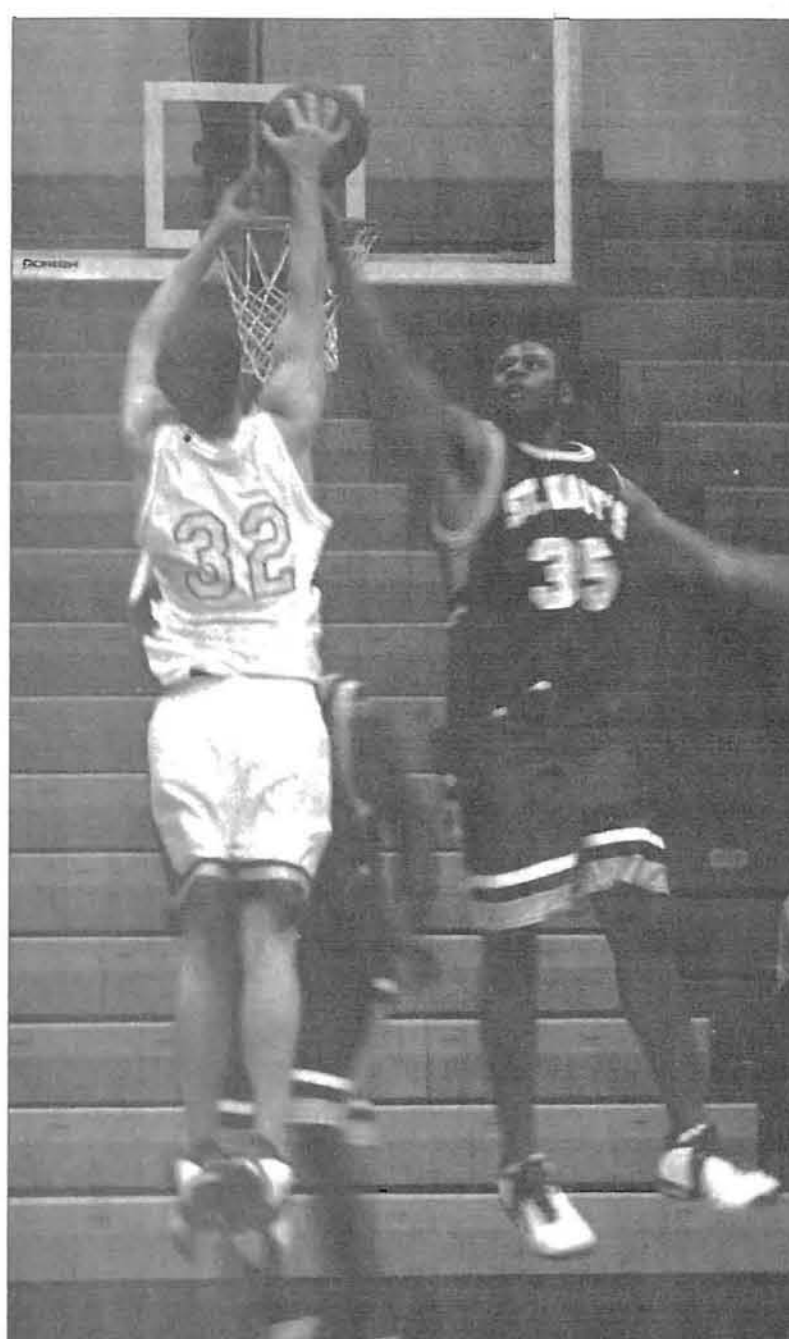
Nordmann added 12 points, and Banks had 11 points for the Rivermen. St. Mary's was led by Pedro Brito with 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Billy White had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

"They were a great opponent. They went to the NCAA tournament last year and came with seven returning players. We played really well the first half, but couldn't make our free throws, which really doomed us," Pilz reflected on his team's performance.

The Rivermen wanted another win when they faced up against



UMSL basketball coach  
Chris Pilz



Jesse Gater/The Current

Kevin Nordmann, senior, forward, goes up for a dunk in the Saturday, Nov. 22 defeat to St. Mary's.

Lindenwood University to keep their record strong. Pilz and his fellow coaches kicked off the night by attending a bonfire prior to the game behind the Mark Twain Building hosted by the Homecoming Committee, igniting the Rivermen to pull out the win that they needed.

UM-St. Louis jumped out to the quick lead in the first half before the Lions came roaring back to take the lead. The Rivermen led 9-2 in the first five minutes of the half before Lindenwood rode the hot shooting of Justin Shrake to gain the lead.

With the score tied 16-16, Lindenwood went on a 10-2 run, with all 10 points coming from Shrake. The lead extended to as many as 11 points with three minutes left in the

half before the Rivermen closed the game to eight, 37-29, at halftime.

The Rivermen lost their games against UM-Rolla and St. Mary's due to lack of performance in the second half, so they wanted to come out strong and take over the lead. The Rivermen scored the first seven points of the half and cut it to a one-point lead at 37-36.

UM-St. Louis stayed close and eventually tied the game at 44-44 on a three pointer from Nordmann with 13:40 remaining. On the next possession, the Rivermen got a steal and a fast break lay-up from Banks for UM-St. Louis's first lead since early in the first half.

see RIVERMEN, page 9

## Athletes pulling double duty for UMSL

BY GRETCHEN MOORE  
Sports Editor

Ashley Richmond and Scott Wittenborn just finished their fall seasons on the volleyball team and men's soccer team. However, while the rest of their teammates go into their off-season and cut down to less practices per week, these two are doubling up trying to balance two sports at once while also keeping up with their schoolwork.

Ashley Richmond, a junior guard from Cincinnati, played both volleyball and basketball in high school as well as track. However, she pursued collegiate-level volleyball "because my dad didn't know much about the volleyball so he couldn't yell at me as much."

Richmond just finished a struggling season with the Riverwomen volleyball team and found the intensity of practice to slow down toward the end of the season because they were focusing on individual team strategies. "It is hard because basketball requires so much conditioning and practice. The sports are kind of the same because in volleyball I had a special skill I would work on like setting and in basketball shooting is a big part of my game."

Scott Wittenborn, a sophomore guard from Cape Girardeau, Mo., played basketball, soccer and base-



Ashley Richmond

## Rough start

# Riverwomen basketball face an uphill battle in standings

BY JUD DIEFFENBACH  
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team has had a tough start so far this year. In the season opener, the Riverwomen fell on the road to Lincoln 63-44. After falling behind in the first half 32-17, UM-St. Louis had a hard time keeping up with Lincoln. The main difference in the game was the shooting percentages of the two teams. The Riverwomen shot 23.3 percent while Lincoln was able to shoot 50 percent from the floor.

A few days later, the Riverwomen continued their rough start when they faced Central Missouri State on Friday, Nov. 21. UM-St. Louis lost 64-37 after playing CMSU close in the first half. CMSU pulled away in the game by taking control of the game in early moments of the second half.

The next night, Saturday Nov. 22, the Riverwomen faced a tough opponent in the nationally ranked Panthers of Drury. The ninth-ranked Panthers dominated from start to finish by jumping out to a 30-point lead at halftime. Drury ended up winning the game 100-45 by shooting 58.5 percent from the field and held UM-St. Louis to just 34.5 percent shooting.

Head Coach Lee Buchanan, in his first year with the Riverwomen, had a lot to say about the team this year and the prospects for a winning season. Buchanan feels his young team will be constantly growing this year. "Our team is very inexperienced. We only have nine players, and they are all new to our basketball program. None of our nine players has ever played at the NCAA Division II level. I think

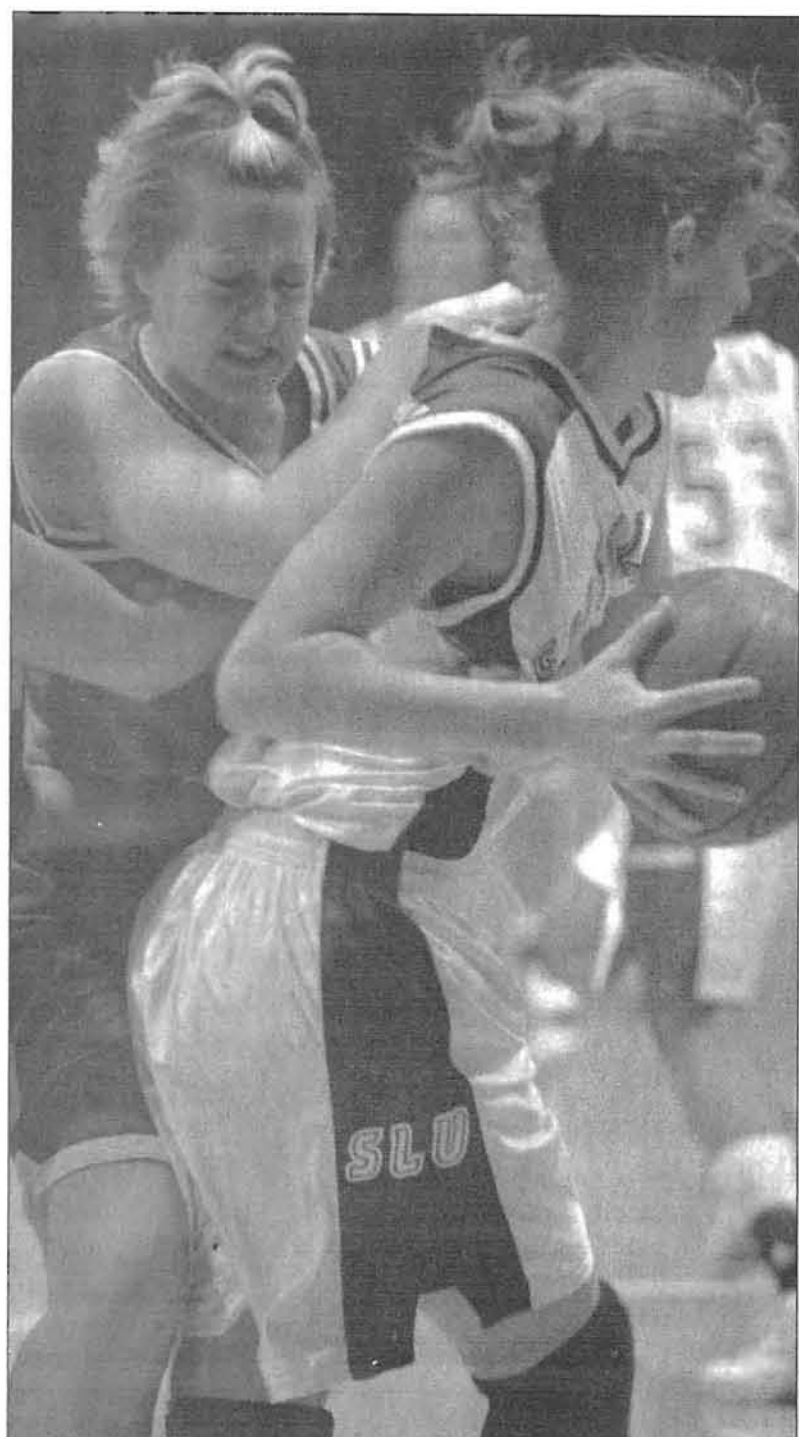
this season will be tough as far as wins and losses. Our goals are trying to improve each day and to learn from each game," he said.

No matter the results, Buchanan is proud of the way his team has played so far this season. "Our effort is getting better every time we play, and we are learning the new system a little better each day. We are still trying to learn the quickness of the game at the DII level and how physical teams play. Each player has shown a positive attitude and has worked hard at learning everything I am trying to teach," he said.

Most importantly, Buchanan believes the Riverwomen can be competitive this year and hopes that fans will support the team through the tough times as well as the good times. "I think, if we continue to work hard and improve, we will have a chance to be competitive in the league. However, if we are measured on our wins alone we may not receive a good grade. I hope our fans will be patient and try to understand that the girls are working hard and they want to win as bad as the fans do," he said.

The next game for the Riverwomen is Nov. 29 at Northern Kentucky.

**Megan Alberts, forward for the Riverwomen, commits a foul while trying to block SLU's Tyler McIlwraith during an exhibition game at the Bauman-Eberhardt Center on SLU's campus. The Riverwomen, who suffered from 21 turnovers during the game, lost 85-57.**



Mike Sherwin/The Current

ball in high school. Wittenborn has high hopes for his team this year as well as his personal performance on and off the court. "As a teammate, I want the guys to get to know me so I can show them what I can do. As a team, we want to get a conference title and move on to regionals. A long-term personal goal I have is to be named academic all-conference all four years."

Wittenborn rounded out his season with the Rivermen soccer team as a forward scoring three goals with one assist. Transitioning from soccer to basketball proved to be a challenge, conditioning-wise for Scott. "I



Scott Wittenborn

thought I would be in great shape since I just got done with soccer, but basketball conditioning is totally different. Soccer has a lot of long runs where basketball is sprints and jumps. Both teams have a really high work ethic and a strong will to win."

Both Ashley and Scott had an easy transition with the help from their new teammates. Scott went from having 24 teammates to 12 when moving into basketball. "Both teams are really close and get along well. It's hard to find a team where everyone gets along. It is very important. All the basketball guys were really welcoming and accepted me."

The amount of teammates Ashley had for volleyball and now for basketball are about the same.

see TWO TEAMS, page 9

## YOUR OPINION

Is watching football a part of your Thanksgiving holiday?

by Kevin Ottley/The Current



Adie Bennet  
Sophomore, English

"We eat dinner early so the Bennet men have a chance to retire to the living room, unbutton their pants and fall asleep until football starts. The women clean up and pack the to-go boxes. It's so unfair!"



Nathan Pruett  
Junior, MIS

"Yeah it is. We watch football after dinner and then talk. There was no talking during football. We would normally watch the Cowboys 'cus my Uncle loves the cowboys. Besides turkey, football is another reason for the family to get together."



**RIVERMEN, from page 8**

The game went back and forth over the last 13 minutes, as it would be tied seven more times and had 10 lead changes over that stretch. Lindenwood led by as many as three points on two occasions, the last a 64-61 lead with just under five minutes left. The big offensive spark for the Rivermen came from Jared Pratt, who scored 10 straight points for the Rivermen over a three-minute span.

Two free throws by Pratt cut the Lions' lead to one, and a lay-up by Pratt on the next possession gave the lead back to UM-St. Louis at 65-64. After a Nordmann free throw tied the game at 70-70 with one minute remaining, it set the stage for last-second heroics.

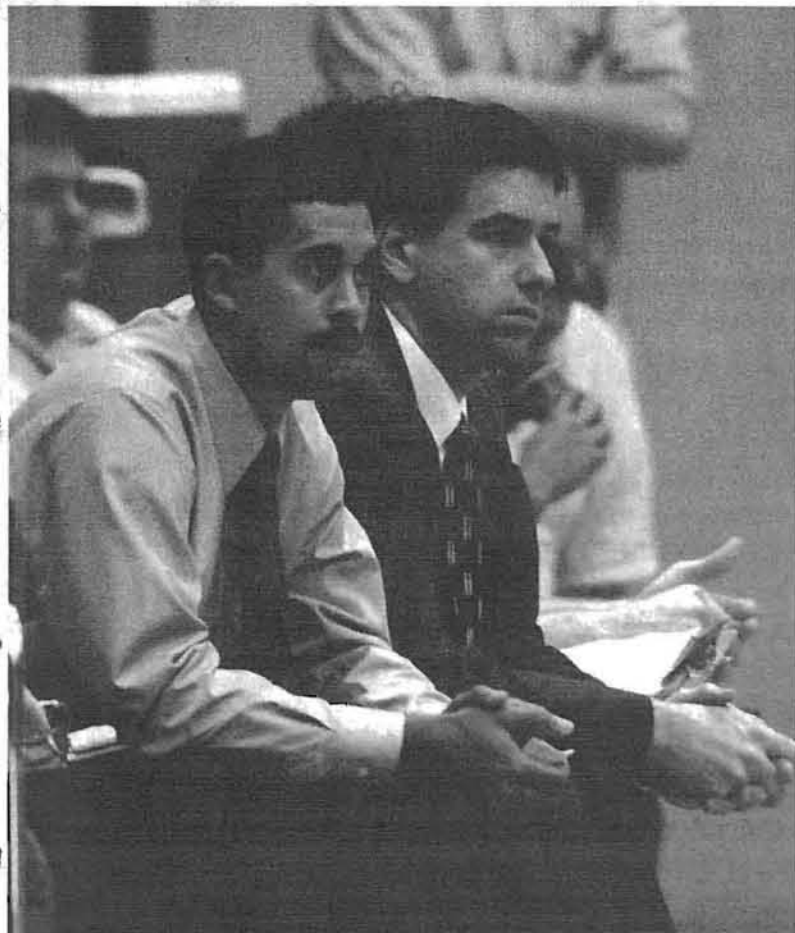
Lindenwood had their chance, missing a lay-up and a pair of free throws, and gave UM-St. Louis the chance to win. Jonathan Griffin ended up with the ball for the Rivermen at the top of the key in the closing seconds and drove down the right side of the lane, hitting a pull up jumper with 1.2 seconds remaining for the 72-70 win.

"They had the opportunity to beat us on our home court. We had been

working on our late game in practice and took what we had worked to them in the game. Fortunately, Jonathan [Griffin] made the shot. We felt the crowd really helped us to victory. They certainly meant eight to 10 points for us," Pilz said. "We want to thank all of the students who came out to support us and want everyone to come out Thursday, Dec. 4, for the Southern Indiana game. They are ranked second in the nation, and we need a great atmosphere to make them as uncomfortable as possible."

The Rivermen were led by Pratt with 16 points on 5-of-7 shooting from the field and a perfect 6-of-6 from the line. Nordmann added 15 points, and Griffin had 14 points, including the game winner and eight rebounds. Lindenwood was led by Justin Shrake with a game-high 30 points, 23 of those coming in the first half.

UM-St. Louis is now 2-2 on the season and will begin the conference portion of their schedule on the road. The Rivermen will play at Northern Kentucky on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 3:15 p.m., and then play at Bellarmine on Monday, Dec. 1 at 7:45 p.m.



Jesse Gater/The Current

Head Coach Chris Pilz and Asst. Deryn Cater look on as the Riverman fall to St. Mary's on Saturday, November 22.

**TWO TEAMS, from page 8**

"The girls made it a really easy transition. They included me in everything and were very understanding. They all live four to a [University] Meadows apartment so I was really the oddball. But they help me whenever I need it."

Going back to back fall and winter sports can be straining on school work, but both Ashley and Scott have good time management skills, which keep them on track.

"I didn't have a very tough schedule this semester; winter semester is going to be rough. I have class and basketball practice plus trying to make it to two hours a week of volleyball. I don't want to fall behind on my volleyball skills and still want to be there for both teams," Richmond said.

Wittenborn said, "It takes a lot of planning and looking ahead to see when papers are due. I study on the bus a lot and take advantage of the time that I have to get things done."

Ashley aspires to be a sports broadcaster while Scott hopes to be a high school teacher. Both are taking advantage of their collegiate level of athletics to further their experience at UM-St. Louis and hope to be an addition to their teams in the upcoming season.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Softball coach Nicky Durnin, with her 2003 team during a game last April.

## Q & A with UMSL softball coach Nicky Durnin

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY

Staff Writer

Q: How long have you been coaching at UM-St. Louis?

A: This is my second year.

Q: How did your team do last year?

A: When I arrived last year, I arrived late. We didn't have a fall season, and we only had nine girls and later one walk on. Even with this we never got blown out, and we had 15 wins. A lot of those games went into extra innings, and I think it says a lot about our girls.

Q: How have you done so far this year?

A: During the fall we went 6-2. Our girls gave 110 percent, and we could have gone 7-1. One of those losses was to Carbondale, a D1 school. My girls did everything right, but those girls hit the heck out of the ball. We are feeling a lot more comfortable this year, even though we are a young team.

Q: What are your expectations for this year?

A: Our two main goals are to go the GLVC conference tournament and win more games than last year. I would like for us to compete more, since our schedule is a lot tougher than last year.

Q: What is your biggest strength?

A: Defense. I am a defensively-minded coach. That's how I teach in the classroom and how I coach. If we score one run in a game, we should win that game. I hammer defense during practice. Our defense will hold us in games; it doesn't matter if it goes eight or nine innings. Our new girls will feel more confident defensively as the season goes on.

Q: What is your greatest obstacle?

A: Staying healthy. It was our obstacle last year and will be this year. It's no secret that a team full of healthy girls is going places. If three or four girls are injured, it's not possible for them to give 110 percent. And when I say healthy, I'm not talking about pulled or strained muscles, I'm talking about broken bones. Last year we had a broken fibula and broken fingers.

Q: Who are some of your key returning players from last year?

A: Savannah Adams for one; she was our shortstop last year but will be playing second base this year. She has exceptional range and is comfortable on the plate. Kimmy Kulaitis, our third basemen, was All-Conference last year and led our team in home runs; she is our power hitter. We will rely on her a lot offensively and especially in pres-

sure situations she will produce RBI's for us. Kristen Economon will be our left fielder. She's our only left-handed hitter, and last year she was our lead off hitter. This year she will be another power hitter. Maria Gaertner was a walk on last year and is our utility player. She can play first base, outfield, or even behind the plate. She leads by communicating a lot with the team. The last one is Casey Moran, our pitcher. She threw our games that went into extra innings. She doesn't have blazing speed, which makes her very deceiving, because she can throw a fast ball, but then take 20 m.p.h. off of the next pitch. She will be our star on the mound.

Q: Who are your biggest rivals?

A: All of them. Any of the teams in conference can potentially knock you off.

Q: What would you like from the UM-St. Louis fans this year?

A: To come watch us! We have an exceptional facility even though it's not right on campus. It's by the Fine Arts Building, but if you pay attention on campus you'll know when we play. The girls play better with people watching from behind, it gives them someone to play for. I think it should start with the sports teams supporting each other. Without people supporting you, you have to do it alone, and that's harder.

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# University of Missouri - St. Louis Annual Dr. King Essay Contest

Theme: "Dr. Martin Luther King, the soul of a courageous man...."

## REQUIREMENTS

- Essays must reflect upon the theme "Soul of a Courageous Man" and the values of Dr. King
- Essays are limited to 500 original words and must be double spaced typed
- Essays must be original work, neat, and grammatically correct
- Previous 1st place winners are not eligible to participate
- Participants must be enrolled UMSL students for the Fall 03 and Spring 04 semesters

Individual cash awards will be given to top winners

Submissions must be received in the  
Office of Student Life (366 Millennium Student Center) by  
Friday, December 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Winners will be presented with their award on  
Monday, January 19, 2004  
at the annual MLK Holiday Observance

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



## BOOK REVIEW

## Green's remedy for rainy days

BY PAUL CRUTCHER  
Staff Writer

Let me be honest straightaway. "Straight Talking" is, hands-down, the best book I have read in recent memory. Remember, too, that I average a book every week-and-a-half or so. The books I read do cover a diverse range. Nevertheless, my compliment stands genuinely and behind some authority.

Jane Green, author of "Straight Talking," writes entrancing fiction about all-too-real relationships.

Her books take readers into the interwoven lives of friends. These friendships make solid foundations for the action of the prose that surrounds the friends' individual lives, which is typically all about chasing romance. Part of why she wins you over, then, is her subject. After all, we might not be interested in or able to follow the military and political jargon in a Clancy novel, but we should surely be interested in and empathetic with friendships and trying to decipher the cryptic code that rules relationship-maintaining.

"Talking" follows Tasha, the narrator and protagonist, and her trio of girlfriends through the sort of plot-line described above. The women all begin the story attached in some form to various men, and through the course of the novel, they manage to lose some of them, run through a ton of them and all together shift their relative positions.

"Talking" deals heavily in what a group of close girlfriends do when they are not going about their professional lives. Tasha and her troupe gush over bridal magazines, share weekly coffee at their favorite shop,

Bestselling author of JEMIMA J and BOOKENDS

## Straight Talking



Jane Green

console each other when another man-pig has dumped on one of their own, rag on flirtatious coworkers to each other and the like. Green adds a

dose of sometimes-graphic and potentially-vulgar sex and sex-talk, but it should not be anything that you, being honest, have not heard or discussed before. But, again, the plot is Tasha-driven; and while her friends are integral to the story, they are fixtures to the primary focus: Tasha's attempts to define what is essential to maintaining a meaningful relationship.

The two great big questions that consume her quest are these: "Can you have a wondrous relationship without passion?" and "What, exactly, is passion?"

Readers should enjoy following Tasha through her personal struggle. As a narrator, she is funny, honest and makes certain to check in on you, the reader. It is at once a personal narrative and at the same time a piece of prose fiction. Her direct communication with you helps draw you into the intimacies of her life.

I also must admit that during a glaring part of "Talking," I was furious at Tasha and, consequently, Green. I found myself in one of those moments where you have taken a real ownership in the well-being of the characters, you care, and you cannot help but get upset when the author takes your character in a direction that you do not want him or her going. Green rectified that problem though, and the mistake on Tasha's part only served to make the conclusion more realistic.

If there are nagging complaints, they stem from "Talking" being set in London. Green is English, and she incorporates a myriad of English peculiarities into the lives of

her Londoners that readers from smack-dab in the middle of the US might not understand. For instance, every single notable character has at least one nickname, which can get confusing, even if you are only working with a set of eight people. Then, the couples, like all couples, give each other various pet names, which thickens the issue. Of course, "Talking" comes in British English, which really is not a fault, but you may need to brush up on words like "flummoxed," "snog," "queue," "keen," "flat-mate," "tart," "sod," "fancy" and "thick." Tasha and her chums all run about London too; so, geographical references that demand some prior knowledge for significance (such as, Which are the slummy sections of London?) might be lost on you if you do not have a friend or "Lonely Planet" nearby. Finally, food items, which are prevalent in "Talking," will undoubtedly be foreign to anyone who is not particularly hip in that department. If you think of barbecue as being a food group, the only reference that will strike some familiarity is Chinese take-out.

Overall, these complaints do not distract from what is working well in "Talking." The 310 pages breezed by for me, and if you are interested in this sort of novel, they will almost surely for you as well. Green produced something largely entertaining in "Talking," in the dynamic between the four girlfriends and in Tasha. The novel sits readily available at your local bookstore for \$11.95. Pick it up, and you will likely be lending it to friends after smiling, laughing and generally enjoying reading through it.

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Aye Maties

## 'Master and Commander' sails into action

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
Film Critic

Director Peter Weir's new film, "Master and Commander: Far Side of the World," swaggers onto the screen with all the gung-ho, seafaring action you could want. With fine attention to historical detail and the grand sweep of an epic on the high seas, it is a magnificent-looking, entertaining tale of conflict in the time of the Napoleonic Wars. While manly action will surely appeal to many, fascination with high seas heroics and historic details may not extend to everyone.

Set in 1803 during the Napoleonic Wars, the British ship "Surprise" receives orders to stop the "Acheron," a new, advanced-design French warship on its way to extend the war into the Pacific. The "Surprise" encounters the much larger "Acheron" near the tip of South America and is nearly sunk in the encounter. Rather than return to port for repairs, Captain "Lucky Jack" Aubrey (Russell Crowe) rallies his loyal crew to embark on a grand chase to pursue the "Acheron," despite the advice of his ship's doctor and friend, Dr. Maturin (Paul Bettany, who costarred with Crowe in "A Beautiful Mind" as his imaginary friend).

If there are "chick flicks," then there must be "guy flicks." This film definitely belongs in the latter category. In fact, it may be the ultimate of the type—battles, guns, grog, manly honor and valor, blood and guts and all in the man's world of the 1800s British Navy. Based on the tenth novel in Patrick O'Brien's twenty-book seafaring historical series, the production pays careful attention to detail in the

re-creation of shipboard life and in the realistic battle scenes. There were high expectations for this film, as director Peter Weir is noted for high quality films such as "Picnic at Hanging Rock," "Dead Poets Society" and "Witness," showing a skill with both serious films and entertainment and action films.

The action is breathtakingly real in the style of "Saving Private Ryan," as timbers splinter, cannons roll back and forth into their berths and choking gun smoke fills the air. The painstaking care given to the accurate re-creation of details of life aboard a British ship inspires awe from the incomprehensible accents of the motley crew (which includes a scar-faced Billy Boyd from "Lord of the Rings"), the cramped and dirty conditions of the ship and the gory, hacksaw surgery after battle. The film has epic scope, photography and splendid effects. The story keeps us entertained for the entire length of the film.

Russell Crowe hasn't looked so commanding since "Gladiator," and it is hard to imagine another actor better able to carry off ruffled pirate shirts with more manly swagger and grace. Gung-ho heroics without second thoughts or hesitations are central to Crowe's Captain Aubrey, a likable, born leader. When Midshipman Blakeney (Max Pirikis), a young boy, seems destined to lose his arm, the captain inspires him by giving him a book about Lord Nelson, praising the British sea hero.

While Crowe does a great job as the heroic and charming captain, there is something missing in this tale. Aubrey has many admirable characteristics, but unlike other epic heroes, he lacks any human flaw or weakness that

would make him more rounded. Reportedly, as I have not read the O'Brien books myself, Aubrey's character is essentially the same as in the books, but his lack of human flaws and moral doubts is offset by the more complex character of Dr. Maturin. In the novels, it appears that the doctor is the voice of abstract thoughts and moral shadings. Here, the character is hardly present, so underdeveloped beyond a more human sensibility and an interest in natural science, that even without knowledge of the books you will feel that there should be more.

As the "Surprise" pursues the "Acheron," in a quest somewhat reminiscent of "Moby Dick," the focus falls on life at sea and the men of the ship. While the film pays meticulous attention to detail in recreating both the ship and the sailors' lives, the development of depth in the characters is lacking. The film does develop aspects of life aboard the boat, with a tale about a young midshipman who loses an arm, about sailors' superstitions, harshness of shipboard discipline and the fate of a troubled midshipman who has lost the respect of the sailors he commands. The doctor gets some character development as a Renaissance man who is also a naturalist, eager to explore the intriguingly diverse Galapagos Islands. The action and details of shipboard life seem geared to appeal to the masculine taste, but so does the sparse dialog and refusal to dwell on any nuance of action or shading of character.

That is not to say Paul Bettany does a poor job; far from it. Both he and Crowe are fine, and their acting meshes well on screen. In the film, we see a friendship between Aubrey and the doctor take shape as they play violin

Photo courtesy 20th Century Fox  
Russell Crowe as Captain "Lucky Jack" Aubrey.

and cello duets and discuss both immediate concerns and the larger issues of the day. Apparently, the exchange between these two men drives the intellectual appeal of O'Brien's tales. In the film, the acting of both

Crowe and Paul Bettany give the friendship believability, but the nature of their discussions is much less significant.

see COMMANDER, page 12

## Mokabe's offers up a vegetarian brunch

BY MONICA MARTEN  
Staff Writer

Mokabe's Coffeehouse on Arsenal, a small, eclectic cafe, served all walks of life. Water bowls on the outside patio hinted a warm welcome to pet owners while the promise of a vegetarian buffet beckoned those looking for a meatless treat. Despite a good view of Tower Grove Park from the outdoor seating, my friend Melissa and I sat inside instead of outside due to the chilly weather.

Mokabe's is small and cozy, with fewer than ten tables in the dining room. We chose a spot right in the middle. Several paintings that were for sale covered the right wall. Gay pride posters and political paraphernalia also adorned the walls. Local papers sat in a rack in the front window, and fliers and ads covered a post support next to our



Mokabes offers vegetarians an alternative to traditional brunch.

table. The only lighting came from front-facing window. The buffet was rather small.

Melissa helped herself first and loaded up on veggie quiche, hashbrown potatoes, half a Belgian waffle and two croissants. I had two Belgian waffles with maple syrup and some hashbrown potatoes. The potatoes were warm, but the waffles were a little hard and a bit cold. Melissa liked her quiche and croissants, however. We both passed over juice and coffee in favor of water.

Because Melissa and I had never been to this coffeehouse before, we were not sure if we were supposed to serve ourselves or not. After sitting for five minutes, a girl from the bar came over and told us to help ourselves to the buffet. When we left after breakfast, the cashier did not make eye contact or ask how we liked our food. The only other employee we saw was a busboy, who did not seem too interested in his surroundings. Obviously, none of them were too personable.

Mokabe's was created by three women—Becky, Kathleen and Mo (real name Maureen), and Mo still owns it.

The coffeehouse is a central celebration point for the Gay Pride parade, a yearly celebration aimed at awareness and promotion of gay and lesbian rights. The event is held across the street in Tower Grove Park during the early summer, making Mokabe's the place to see and be seen during this celebration.

Mokabe's offers this buffet of various meatless food items every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The price is \$10 per person. Although Mokabe's was not our cup of tea, it may be just what you are looking for, if you prefer not to be bothered too much during your meal. In a hurry? Mokabe's offers carry-out, but no delivery. Visit them at 3606 Arsenal Street barely off South Grand or call them at (314) 865-2009.

A&amp;E

## EDITOR

CASEY SCHACHER

A&amp;E Editor

phone: 516-5174

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A&E  
Calendar

## Movies

Film openings are subject to change.

Week of  
Dec. 1

**Honey-** Tough inner-city beauty achieves her dream of becoming a successful choreographer only to realize that success means compromising her values. Instead of succumbing to immorality, she opens a dance studio for children in the inner-city. Opens Dec. 5th.

**The Last Samurai-** Tom Cruise plays Captain Woodrow Algren, a Civil War veteran sent to Japan to train the emperor's soldiers in their fight to slay all Samurai warriors, in this film set in the late 1800s. When Algren is captured by Samurai and subsequently taught the honor of their code, he must decide which side he aligns himself with. Opens Dec. 5th.

**Pride and Prejudice-** An independent film about the troubles of dating during college. Based on the Jane Austen novel, this film centers on a young, hard-working college girl who has no time for dating but lives with three other girls determined to meet the men of their dreams. Opens Dec. 5th.



EVENT REVIEW

# Single in St. Louis

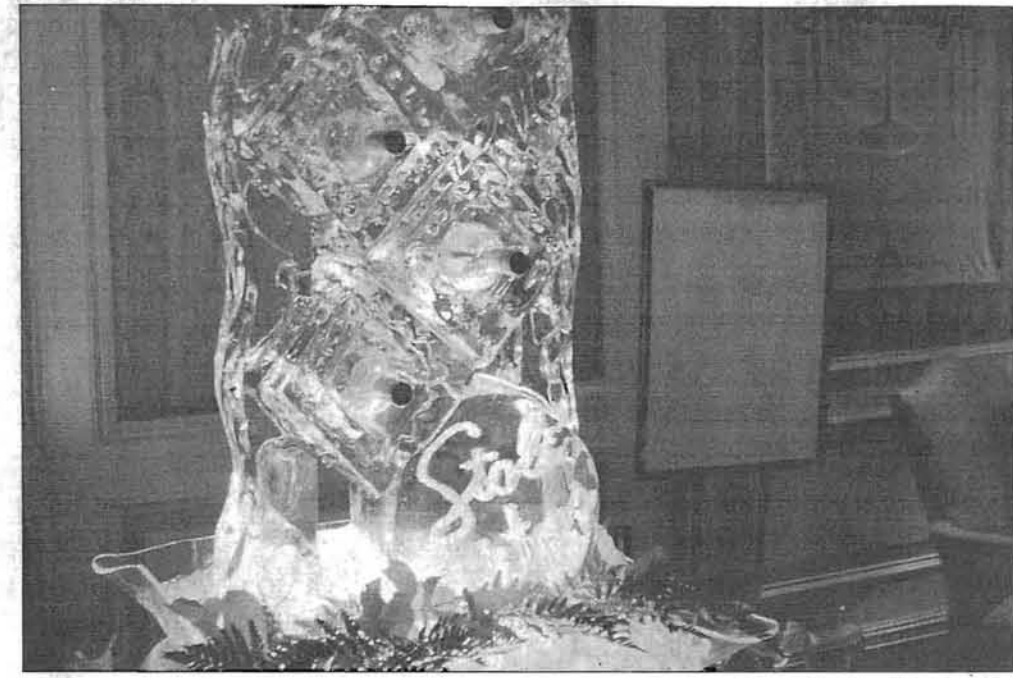
BY CASEY SCHACHER  
A & E Editor

"I had no idea that there are so many singles in St. Louis," said Mary, who works in insurance. Sitting on the outskirts of the party, leaning seductively on one hand while sipping casually from a martini in the other, she rolled her eyes and said, "but there aren't enough men here." Leaning forward, she adjusted her sparkling jewelry,

cologne wafted through the air. Hundreds of men and women stood, crammed into a giant ballroom, swapping flirtatious smiles and business cards. The chatter of mingling guests nearly drowned out the outdated rhythms of a band that nobody was paying attention to anyway. These people were professionals, proud, elegant and sophisticated. Thumbing a faux ruby, I lifted my chin and did my best to look like one of the crowd.

the outskirts of the party, casually staring at each other in mock disinterest. Suddenly, I longed for a scene straight out of the movie "Dirty Dancing": women kicking off stilettos, men loosening neck ties and rolling up sleeves, all dancing wildly to the music of a new generation. Singles night at the Ritz was a far cry from the rowdy nightclub scene, however. Still, how could hundreds upon hundreds of adults gather and only a couple of people dance?

Perhaps it was the success of the event that marred the evening. Singles night has attracted 400-500 in past years. This year an amazing 1500 people showed up for the event, according to Mrs. Grant. So many, in fact, that tickets stopped being sold and impossibly long lines shot from behind understaffed bars while tables at which to rest were scarce. So many singles...



Casey Schacher/The Current

The Ritz-Carlton in Clayton hosted "Single in St. Louis," an event where singles in St. Louis could congregate, and meet, and, perchance, get a phone number.

never once taking her eyes away from their persistent scan of the room. Her disclosure was whispered as not to betray the cloak of confidence she had about her. This was a woman on the prowl.

I was out of my league and I knew it. The glamorous idea of singles night at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton had seduced me into an evening dress and my best costume jewelry. The event, hosted by St. Louis Magazine, benefited Hunger Outreach, so my attendance was also civic duty, I rationalized. Parking at the bottom of the parking garage, I rode an elevator up to the lobby in nervous anticipation. Was I overdressed? Truth is that I had no idea what to expect. Champagne and caviar? Or perhaps techno and leather? While I doubted the latter, I was simply unprepared for the truth.

Diamonds sparkled and expensive

Deciding that this was a spectacle best experienced at a distance, I headed for a far wall by the door. Standing near my spot was a man half hidden in shadow, looking comfortably separated from the crowd. "I'm married," he said after I introduced myself. "I probably shouldn't be here." Sure enough, a beautiful woman swooped in next to him and put a possessive arm around his waist. He smiled with pride and introduced his wife.

Elaine Grant, wife of mystery man, also happened to be editor for St. Louis Magazine, the publication hosting the event. "St. Louis sometimes isn't the best place to meet people," she admitted while looking sympathetically around the room. "Singles here tend to stick to their own." Spotting the insurance lady across the room, I believed I knew what she was talking about. Everybody, I had noticed, seemed on

ing found my niche in that crowded room of people not entirely unlike myself, if truth be told. Walking to my car on the below-the-salt parking level, I mused about a couple I had seen while riding the elevator to the event earlier in the evening. The elevator was crowded. A slender woman in a brown business suit had said, "This should be interesting." Laughing nervously, a man smiled at her with sparkling eyes, a smile that she returned most willingly. Unfortunately, the two parted ways and disappeared in the party without another word between them. I wondered if they bumped into each other again that night. Hoping so, I returned home to my dog and the TV, all the while thinking, "why are so many single in St. Louis?" For information about other events hosted by St. Louis Magazine, visit them at [www.stlouismagazine.com](http://www.stlouismagazine.com).

CD REVIEW

# Second album a success

BY AMY GONWA  
Music Critic

Holding onto the same sound that made the Strokes rise to fame, they have released a second album, "Room on Fire." The disc contains everything you would expect from the Strokes and much more. The Strokes' compressed, heavy rock n' roll style prevails again in "Room on Fire."

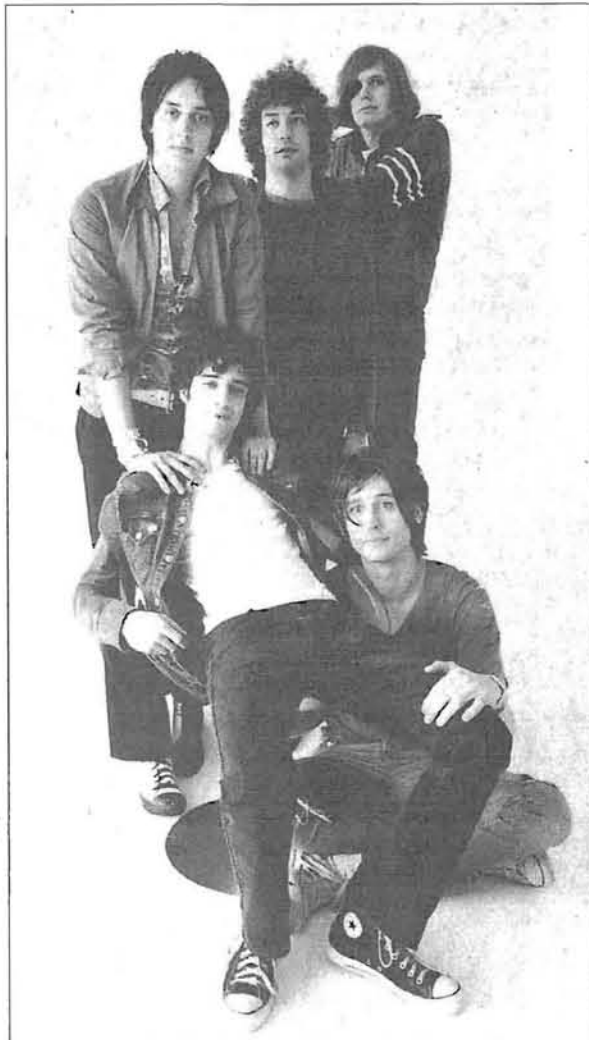
With insistent songs opening the album, "What Ever Happened" and "Reptilla" coupled with louder, more passionate tracks. In "Between Love and Hate" and "Under Control," the Strokes reveal their colorful tendencies. You are never sure what kind of song you will get next, both musically and lyrically in "Room on Fire." Lighthearted tunes offset the Strokes' determinism, as with "Automatic Stop," and force you further toward the edge of your seat.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact musical inspirations and motivations of the Strokes' new album, as it is diverse in sound. There are some garage band tendencies as with the track "12:51." The echoes of Sonic Youths' emotional rock along with '80s synthesis fill the rest of the album.

"Is This It," the Strokes' debut release, sold an impressive two million copies worldwide. Since then, the five men that make up the Strokes have been eagerly persisting with their music. They are a band composed of intelligent music-makers with a dedication to perfection.

In their evolution from the time of their first release, the Strokes remain, for the most part, the same. Instead of drastically altering their message and sound for their second release, as many artists do, the Strokes stood behind their original ideas. All of these elements combine to form the energetic and much anticipated release of "Room on Fire."

"Room on Fire" is a finely tuned exposition of modern day rock n' roll. The experimental nature of their sound has brought about a new standard in today's music scene. With dynamic composition and varying rhythm patterns, the album is sure to be another success for the Strokes.



The Strokes have been labeled the new torch carriers of rock and roll.



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### State legislator, UMSL alumnus Zweifel comes back for 'lunch'

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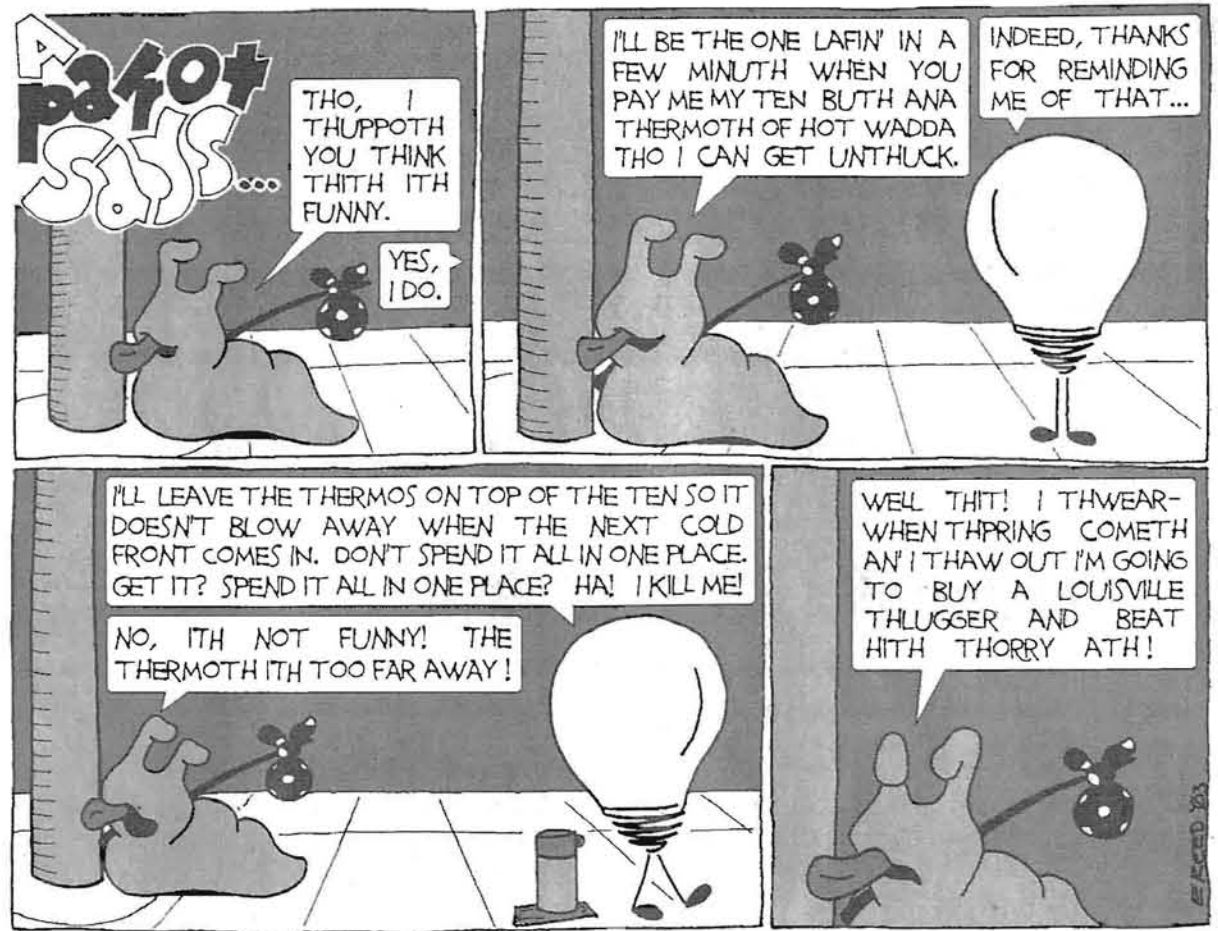
Clint Zweifel, Missouri representative for the 78th district, listens to a question from the audience during "Lunch with a Legislator," on Nov. 20. The event was held by ASUM.

RIGHT:

Zweifel, who graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1996 with a B.A. in political science, and later received his MBA in 2001, spoke on "Before and After: My Experiences at UM-St. Louis."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

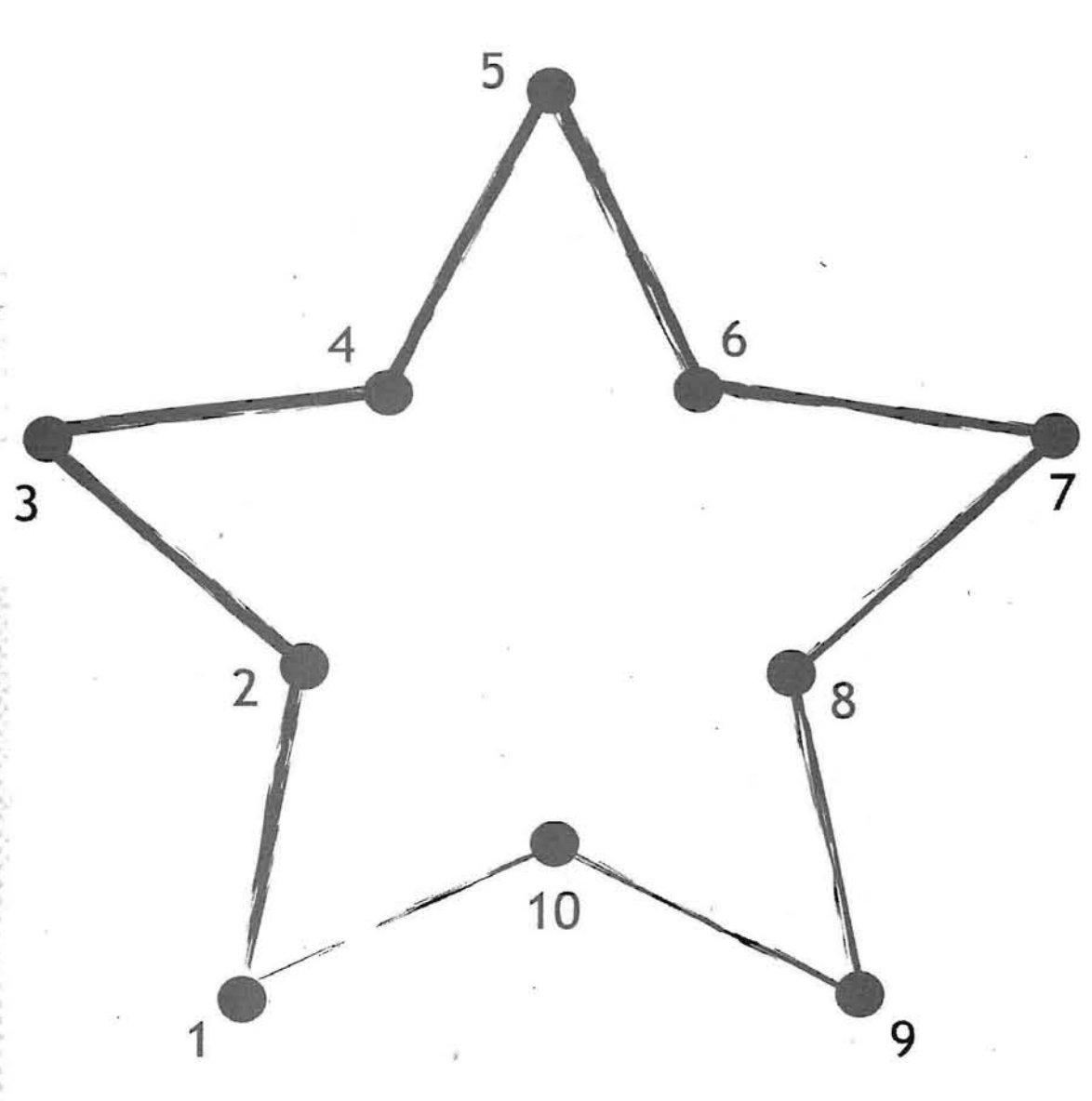


### COMMANDER, from page 10

All the acting is high quality, just as the visual quality and entertaining storytelling is first rate. But the filmmaker's decision to limit the scope of the characters keeps the film from being a true epic in the manner of "Moby Dick" or "Lawrence of Arabia." In "Lawrence of Arabia," Lawrence himself has a dark side; in "Moby Dick," there is power of a human failing: obsession. Both of these films come to mind while watching "Master and Commander"; but while this film has the epic sweep and the historic scope, it lacks the human and the profound, which an epic cries out for. While I am a fan of history and love this kind of attention

to detail and realism, just the detail without the character depth and philosophical underpinnings is not enough. I suspect women might be more likely to notice this gap, another reason this is a guy flick. Except for a shot of a native girl, there are no women in the film and no love interest for Crowe. Certainly you have Russell Crowe looking really good, but the fact is that the character remains brave and bold but two-dimensional. He has no softer side, no self-doubts and no secret weakness to make him more, well, human. The best epic and heroic films also have another deeper layer. The lack

of shading in characters, not just the grunted, backslapping camaraderie, will likely leave at least some viewers, especially women, unmoved and uncaring about the men in this tale of the high seas. Persistently a guy flick all the way, the film will be fine for many in the audience but will be put out of the must-see category. What it boils down to in this film is that this highly entertaining action film, despite its high polish and historical accuracy, fails to become a real classic epic. If action, history and a good sea yarn are enough for you, this film will delight. For those who want a bit more depth, the lack of the human in the epic will sink the tale.



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102,500 miles, 4-speed automatic transmission, black color. Very good condition. Price \$4200. Call (314) 629-5438.

### 1995 Ford Explorer

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## For sale

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Bundy II alto saxophone for sale. Call Erica at (314) 516-7791.

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Bunk bed. Full size futon on bottom, twin bed on top. \$250. Mattress included. Dresser \$25. Call (314) 869-4072.

### 13" color TV

White Westinghouse, 3 months old, \$60 call (314) 771-1953.

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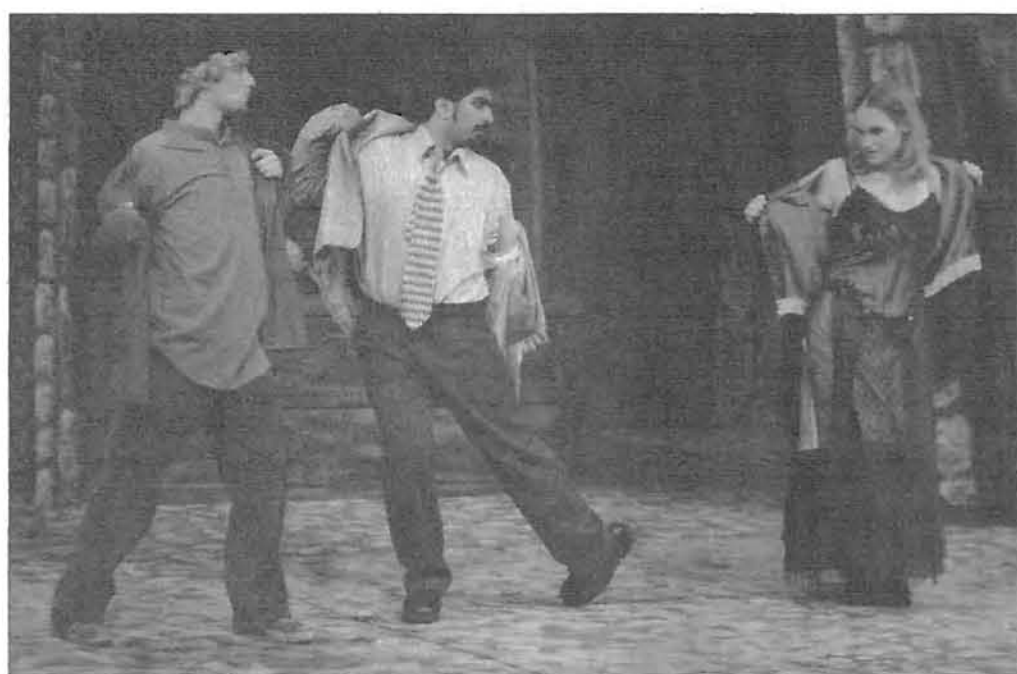
Would you like to quit smoking? If so, contact Michelle Schmidt at the Wellness Resource Center for more information on free services offered. [Russellms@umsl.edu](mailto:Russellms@umsl.edu), 516-5380.

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Mike Sherwin/The Current

Student actors pose for promotional photographs of "The Comedy of Errors" on Nov. 21. The play ran at the PAC from Nov. 20-22. The production was the first for UM-SL's new Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Arts.

# Shakespeare at the PAC

BY ANGELA ASHLEY  
Staff Writer

Students don't disappoint with "The Comedy of Errors"

Mistaken identities, mass confusion, a simple set, a vaulted stage and a script written in antiquated English came together on Thursday, Nov. 20, to form "Comedy of Errors." This Shakespearean piece drew a large crowd to the premiere performance of UM-St. Louis' Theatre and Dance department in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The play centers around two twin brothers and their servants, also twins. The core characters were separated at young ages and end up living in different towns. One of the twins and his servant travel to the town where the other brother and servant reside. The four characters run into each other, always confusing one twin for another, and an entire series of mistaken identities and mishaps ensue as the Bard of Avon takes the show on a wild

ride. "The play was amazing. It was definitely funny, and the students did a great job bringing the humor of Shakespeare to a modern audience," said Mindy McNabb, senior, business management.

Brijul Bhakta, junior, business and theatre, played Antipholus of Syracuse, one of the show's four main characters. "It was one of the most fun shows I've ever done, and I'm very proud of it," he said.

As far as the cast is concerned, Bhakta believes that everyone enjoyed putting the show together. "You know, there were turbulent times, but we all pulled together to put out a good product," he said. Bhakta used the comedy of the Simpsons and the Marx Brothers as inspiration for his role.

"We had a great time," said Nicole

Cusimano, junior, biology. Cusimano played the role of the jailor in the play. "The audience seemed to be having a great time because we heard a lot of laughs. So, we're glad that it was fun for all involved."

Eric Love directed the play, which was his first time doing so at UM-St. Louis.

"It was a great experience also for us to work with our director," Cusimano said. "He really let us feel out our own parts and bring our own elements to our roles."

"I really enjoyed the play, and I am definitely looking forward to the next chance to come and support student theatre," said audience member Carrie Coleman, senior, music education.

For information about upcoming performances at the PAC, visit [www.touhill.org](http://www.touhill.org).

## LaRouche, from page 1

According to LaRouche, behind the danger of war are even more fundamental issues: the danger of economic collapse, or even poverty. He also said that we have lost most of our economy and that 80 percent of the population in the United States is looking at much worse conditions.

Speaking about the war, the candidate said that it is spreading and unnecessary. He is completely against it and conversed some about his views of Roosevelt and his traditions. "All of the other candidates are denying reality and the issues that are at hand right now. I represent the Roosevelt tradition, the others represent a world that is dying," LaRouche said.

When speaking of the economy, LaRouche said that part of the problem with it is Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart only buys products produced outside of the U.S. in cheap labor markets. As a result, local businesses in the U.S.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Bob Mick, of St. Louis, takes a photo of himself with Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche Nov. 18 after a press conference.

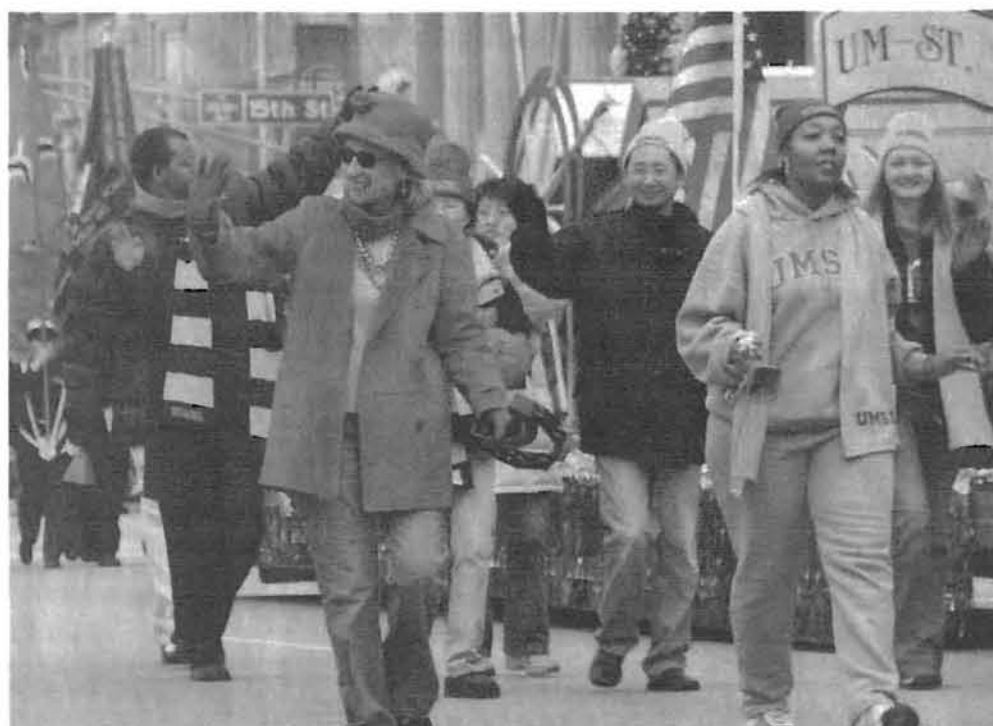
are being forced to shut down, and people are being laid off. LaRouche said that the reason that people buy from Wal-Mart is because of cheap prices. We need to raise the standard of living and prevent this from happening any further, he also stated. All of this is part of a youth move-

ment that the Democrat has been working on. He is trying to provide leadership and a way to get the nation out of the crisis that it is currently in.

A question-and-answer session was held after the presidential candidate spoke. A small reception was held after the event.

## UMSL makes a splash at parade

Gloria Schultz, director of business and management services, waves at the crowd as the UM-St. Louis float travels the Thanksgiving parade route downtown. Schultz and Ron Edwards organize the UM-St. Louis float at several parades each year.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

# CASH

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Friday	Dec 12	7:30 - 5
Saturday	Dec 13	10 - 2
Monday	Dec 15	7:30 - 7:30
Tuesday	Dec 16	7:30 - 7:30
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Thursday	Dec 18	7:30 - 7:30
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# The Current

Happy Holidays



Christmas trees a go-go

See page 2B

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## Season's Greetings

### Santa Claus: He was more real than many of you may think

BY JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

What do you think of when you hear the name Santa Claus? Do you think of a jolly fat man in a red suit with black boots? Do you think of Dancer and Rudolph and Donner? Well, you may be surprised at the very humble beginnings of the myth of Santa Claus.

Conditioned as we have been that there is no Santa Claus, at one point there actually was a man who was very much like the Santa we have today. Born in 245 A.D., Santa was originally named Nicholas, which means "hero of the people."

Nicholas had humble beginnings, but his parents had high aspirations for him. Even at a young age, Nicholas was a kind and gentle boy. He shared his food with those who had none and helped those in need in his village.

As a young man, Nicholas entered the

legend was born. Nicholas wore a red robe and a red hat as well as black shoes. Thus, the jolly man in a red suit was born, but there is more to this story than just red cloth.

In one village in

have to send his daughters away from him and it was tearing him apart. When Nicholas heard the news, he was determined to help in some way. So one night, he climbed on the family's roof and dropped three bags of gold down the chimney. The legend says that the girls had each been drying a sock by the fireplace and the gold fell into each sock, hence the tradition of hanging stocking by the fireplace. The next morning, the girls woke up to find the gold, and ran to their father proclaiming a miracle. Word around the countryside spread about Nicholas' generosity and kindness, and soon, many people began to set out socks by their fireplaces hoping for some sort of goodies. Nicholas was not done there either. As the legend goes, Nicholas would, in early December, go around one day on horseback and throw sacks of gold into the windows of people in poor parts of town.

For his good deeds, Nicholas was named a saint by the Catholic church and December 6 was named St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas is known now as the patron saint of children.

France, young Nicholas overheard a sad tale of a man who had three daughters he could not afford to feed. This man was afraid that he would

see SANTA, page 3B

### Christmas music takes over St. Louis airwaves

BY JUD DIEFFENBACH  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is upon us and just around this time of the year, Christmas decorations start to sprout up; lights and trees begin to show up everywhere, and

One of the primary St. Louis stations competing for the Christmas music audience is 104.1 FM, The Mall, an alternative rock station that generally plays music from the 1980s and 1990s. The other station is 102.5 FM, KEZK, a soft rock station

and on their websites. Both websites offer holiday CDs and other Christmas merchandise. The Mall describes itself as "Your Home For The Holidays" and "St. Louis's First Christmas Music Station." KEZK describes itself as "St. Louis's Original Christmas Music Station." It seems to make more sense to have a soft rock station doing all Christmas music rather than an alternative rock station. But maybe that's just me.

It may sound like I don't like Christmas or I'm some kind of a "Scrooge." Not true at all. I love Christmas. I love this time of the year. The holiday season reminds me of friends, family, football and food. Not a bad combination, I'd say. I just feel like we shouldn't overlook holidays like Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving, feel free to go all out.

It's interesting how different people react to having this Christmas consumerism forced upon them. Alina Carron, senior, is the kind of person that starts getting the Christmas decorations out after Halloween.

everybody's favorite. Christmas music, starts ringing in shopping malls and on radio stations across the country.

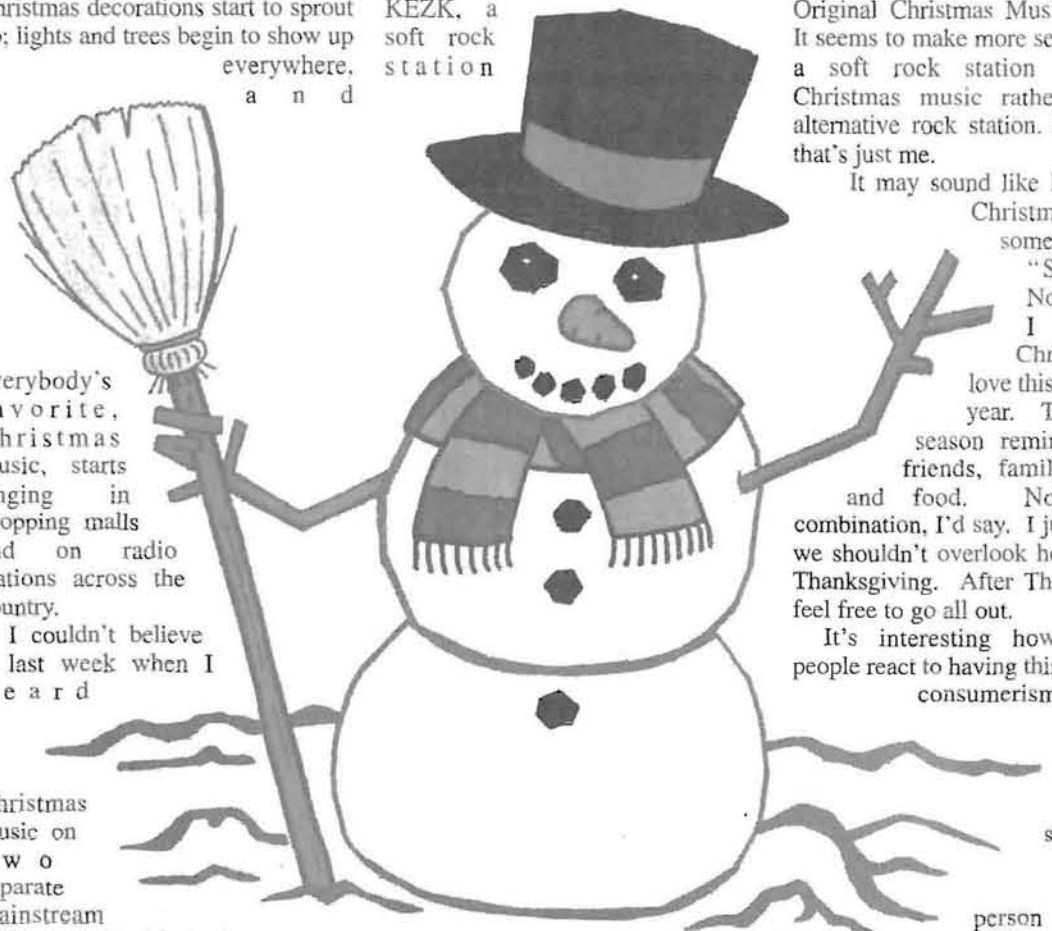
I couldn't believe it last week when I heard

Christmas music on two separate mainstream stations. And not just a few songs here and there. The Christmas music is constant and unending. I mean, it's a week BEFORE Thanksgiving and here we are, having Christmas music forced upon us 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

that plays tunes from 1960s all the way to the 1990s.

Both stations make a big deal of their Christmas music selections by promoting it in newspapers, radio

see RADIO STATIONS, page 4B



priesthood and quickly was named a bishop. He was so young, many in the village and the Church called him "Boy Bishop." When he was named a bishop, another part of the Santa Claus



# Tree hunting

## St. Louis offers up a plethora of options for those looking for the perfect tree

Photos by Michael Pelikan and Mike Sherwin

BY JASON GRANGER  
Editor-in-Chief

For many families, one of the most fun parts of the holiday season is going to pick out the family Christmas tree. Size, smell and tree type all play a factor in the choosing of a Christmas tree. The St. Louis area has a number of different tree lots and vendors to choose from.

"We receive our trees typically the week before Thanksgiving," Tim Smith, assistant manager of Frank's Nursery and Crafts in Kirkwood, said. "We have Fraser Firs, Douglas Firs and Scotch Pines."

Smith said Frank's has been selling Christmas trees for at least 20 years, if not longer. He said the store originated as a grocery store but evolved into the store it is now. The Kirkwood Frank's is located a half mile north of interstate-44 on Lindbergh Blvd.

Smith said Frank's does not just carry Christmas trees, but many other festive items as well.

"We sell live and artificial trees, but that's not all," Smith said. "We also have live and artificial wreaths, live and artificial roping as well as ornaments, tree top-pings and poinsettias."

Smith said perhaps the most unique Christmas item they carry is a potted Christmas tree that patrons can plant in their yards and watch grow. That way, according to Smith, families can grow their own Christmas trees for a few years down the road. Smith said prices range from \$19.99 for their assorted trees to \$79.99 for their Cathedral trees, which are nine feet tall "and heavy."

Smith also said Frank's usually sells about 600 trees per store, and there are four in the St. Louis area, over 150 nationwide.

Another popular Christmas tree location is Thies Farm and Greenhouses, Inc. According to a spokeswoman for the company, they have been selling Christmas trees for almost 20 years. She said the company uses tree sales to supplement income during the winter months. She also said that there is another payoff for selling Christmas trees.

"We've had a lot of kids we have watched grow up," the spokeswoman said. "We have a lot of families that come in every year to get their trees from us."

She also said Thies has a varied stock of trees. They carry Balsam, Fraser, Douglas Firs as well as Con Connor, Scotch Pine and White Pine trees.

Thies Farm and Greenhouses, Inc. is located at Interstate 70 and North Hanley. For more information on the tree lot, call (314) 428-9878.

Perhaps the most popular place in St. Louis to get a Christmas tree is Ted Drewes. Made famous for its frozen custard, Ted Drewes Sr. and Ted Drewes Jr. decided in 1952 to supplement income with Christmas tree sales.

Travis Dillon, general manager of Ted Drewes, said there are many attractive qualities of shopping at Ted Drewes for a Christmas tree.

"The custard stand stays open during the winter months," Dillon said. "That way, [customers] can eat custard, have a hot fudge sundae or drink hot chocolate while they pick out their trees."

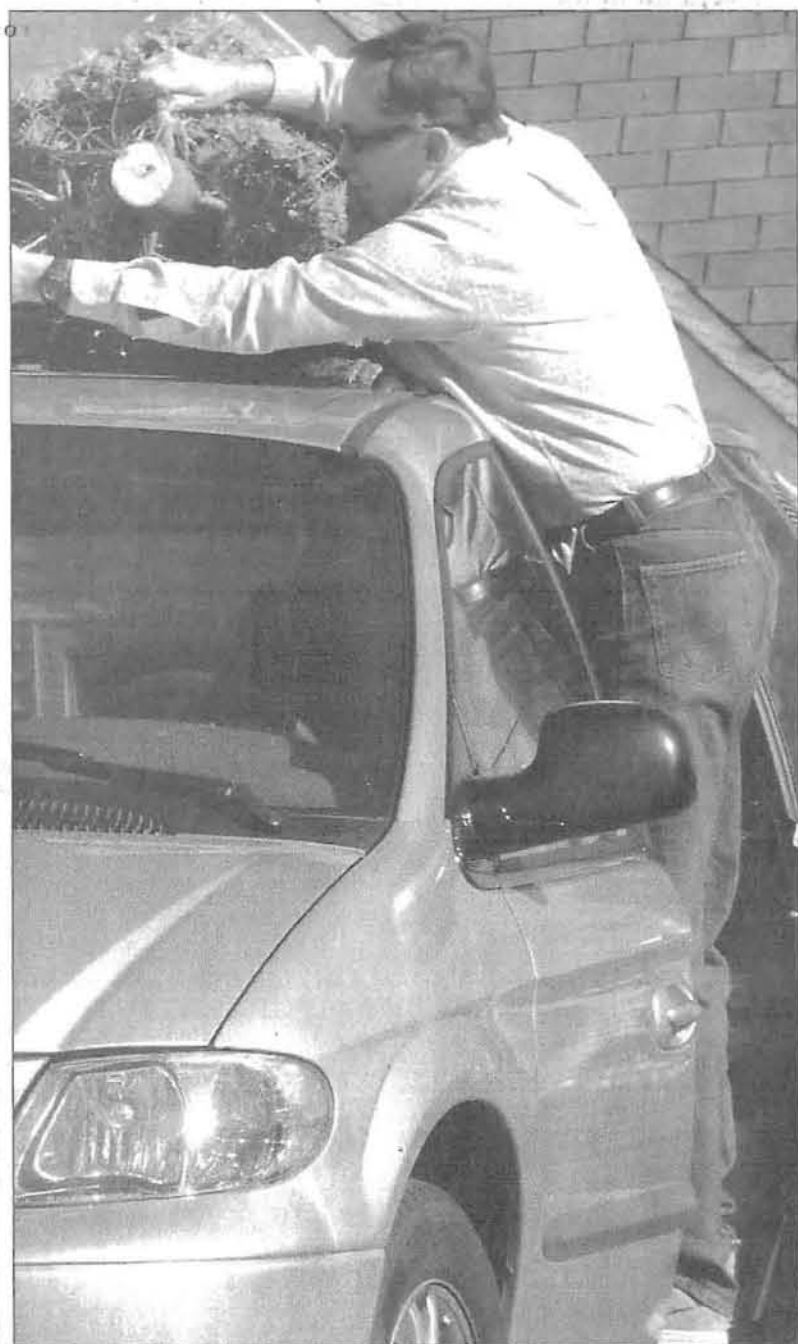
Dillon said Ted Drewes' Christmas tree lot sells between 6,000 and 7,000 trees per year. They carry Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, Scotch and White Pine trees. Prices are \$10 and up. Both Ted Drewes locations will be carrying trees this year. The main branch is at 6726 Chippewa, the other location is at 4224 South Grand. For more information, call (314) 481-2652.



Christmas trees come in all shapes and sizes. Here, a customer of Ted Drewes' Christmas tree lot is dwarfed by the pines that will eventually go home with a happy family. Ted Drewes is located at 6726 Chippewa and 4225 South Grand.



Thies Farm & Greenhouses, located at 4215 N. Hanley, offers different varieties and sizes of Christmas trees.



LEFT: A customer finishes tying his just-purchased Christmas tree to the roof of his minivan in the parking lot of Ted Drewes.



Andrew Ghiassi, a worker with Ted Drewes, trims a Christmas tree trunk for a customer on Sunday morning. Ghiassi says that even more than a month before Christmas day, the lot often is filled with customers.



This evergreen at Ted Drewes Tree Lot on Chippewa comes with a hefty price tag of \$50.



# Movies for the true Hollywood Christmas afficiando

BY BECKY ROSNER  
News Editor

1. A Christmas Story
2. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
3. It's a Wonderful Life
4. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
5. The Grinch
6. Scrooged
7. Miracle on 34th Street
8. Charlie Brown Christmas
9. Prancer
10. The Santa Clause

2. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation: Chevy Chase is at his greatest in this hilarious Christmas must-see. The Griswold family can never seem to have a normal vacation and Christmas is no different. A task such as putting up the Christmas lights becomes a huge ordeal. In this installment, cousin Eddie attempts to steal the show from Clark.

3. It's a Wonderful Life: This classic features Jimmy Stewart, George, as a kind man who has kept his town running for years. When George tries to jump off of a bridge, a guardian angel named Clarence shows him what life would have been like in the town if he were never born. He learns to love life more than ever.

4. Rudolph the Red-Nosed

Christmas night.

5. The Grinch: Jim Carrey stars in the remake of this Dr. Seuss classic. A mean green Grinch thinks that he must stop Christmas from coming. He plans to rob Whoville of everything that Christmas brings. The grinch uses his small dog as a reindeer to pull his sleigh down to Whoville. He eventually realizes that all of these things do not matter to the Whos, after seeing them singing on Christmas morning. Of course, the original is a classic not to be missed either.

6. Scrooged: A spin on the classic, A Christmas Carol, Bill Murray is comical. He plays a cold television executive who needs to learn the true meaning of Christmas. Along the way he meets with ghosts of Christmas,

for Christmas and Kringle as well.

8. Charlie Brown Christmas: This cartoon classic is fun for all ages. Charlie Brown searches for the true meaning of Christmas, while figuring things out along the way. Charlie directs a holiday pageant and finds a lonesome empty Christmas tree to use. All of the Peanuts characters are in this movie to support Charlie's excursions and finding of true Christmas spirit.

9. Prancer: A young girl finds a stranded reindeer that fell from a Christmas display in town. She brings him back to her barn and feeds him cookies until he can return to Santa Claus. Meanwhile, she tries to hide the deer from her poor family.

10. The Santa Clause: While Tim Allen is keeping his son for the holi-

1. A Christmas Story: This 1940s classic highlights young Ralphie and the gift that he desperately wants for



Christmas, a Red Ryder BB Gun. The father gathers a love for a leg lamp that he wins in a contest, and his brother has a strange fetish with eating. Ralphie strives so hard to get his present that he even writes a school paper on the subject. Along the way to the holiday, a schoolmate sticks his tongue to a light pole, and Ralphie overcomes the school bullies.

Reindeer: This classic cartoon movie shows Rudolph trying to grow up. When attempting to fly, the other reindeer make fun of him because of his gleaming red nose. He decides to run away with a little boy elf who wants to be a dentist and ends up running into the Abominable Snowman. Rudolph finally returns and saves the day by leading Santa's sleigh on a blustery

who show him why we have Christmas. He ends up coming back to reality with a whole heartfull of holiday spirit and giving.

7. Miracle on 34th Street: A holiday must-see for all of those people who love classics. A little girl does not believe in Santa Clause, and it is up to Kris Kringle to show her that he does exist. She ends up developing a love

day, he manages to accidentally kill Santa Clause. His son convinces him to put on the red suit, and it takes over from there. Allen is suddenly a true believer after he visits the North Pole and begins to gain weight. The second saga recently came onto video, so you can also check out the next step in Allen's travels, when he is forced to find a Mrs. Clause.

## SANTA, from page 1B

The legend of St. Nicholas metamorphosed into the Santa Claus we know today. Known throughout the world, St. Nicholas goes by many different names like Santa Claus, Pere Noel, Sinterklass and Sint Nikolass. So, at one point in history, there

was a Santa Claus. While he was not a fat man with 9 flying reindeer, he certainly was jolly and he certainly was giving. So, adults out there, it is okay to say you believe in Santa Claus; he was real after all (in a manner of speaking).

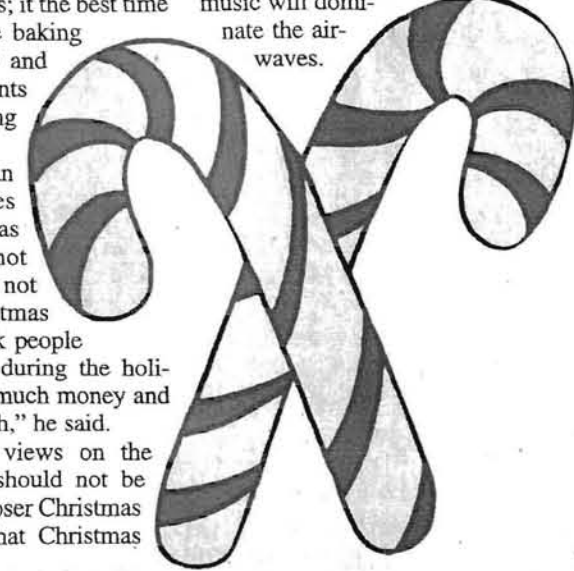
## RADIO STATIONS, from page 1B

"I love Christmas; it the best time of the year. I love baking food for my family and friends. The presents and lights. Everything really," she said.

Brad Webb, an area Scrooge, does not like Christmas very much and, not surprisingly, does not care for Christmas music. "I just think people go way overboard during the holidays, spending too much money and consuming too much," he said.

Whatever your views on the holidays are, you should not be surprised that the closer Christmas comes, the more that Christmas

music will dominate the airwaves.



TO: WHOSE  
Happy Holidays!  
FROM:

Jason Granger- Editor in Chief  
Nichole LePlair- Managing Editor  
Mindaugas Adamonis- Business Manager  
Anne Bauer- Ad Director  
Judi Linnille- Adviser  
Becky Rosner- News Editor  
Kate Drolet- Features Editor  
Casey Schacher- A. & E. Editor  
Gretchen Moore- Sports Editor  
Shannon Hoppe- Production Manager  
Mike Sherwin- Photography Director  
Stanford Griffith- Copy Editor

And the rest of the staff of The Current!

# Wanted: cheap gifts Options abound for the shopper with a small budget

BY CARRIE LEWIS  
Staff Writer

Shopping for the holiday can be stressful, and shopping on a budget just adds to the pressure. Great gifts are available, and even better, affordable. This gift-giving guide is designed to help penny-pinching holiday shoppers find the perfect present for their loved ones.

To find a gift for \$10 and under:  
For her: Women love creative gifts. Fill a holiday bag with an issue of "Cosmopolitan", her favorite candy and a homemade card. For the not-so-creative shopper, Abercrombie and Fitch has festive women's underwear that say things like "gifted" on the back for \$9.50. Melissa Wiese, sophomore, business, says, "I love the spa stuff they have at Target. My favorite is Nichols Eucalyptus Bubble Bath, and it's only about \$4."

For him: Make a mix CD with his favorite songs. Or, if there is no CD burner in sight, make a manly gift bag. Try putting a copy of "Sports Illustrated" in a seasonal bag along with a pair of warm socks and a mini bottle of high-quality hair gel.

For him or her:

Make a personalized picture frame by decorating an old CD case and gluing a favorite photo inside. A more practical gift is a journal. Borders has a colorful selection of them for as low as \$4.

Gift ideas for \$25 and under:  
For her: \$20 can buy a tiny box of Godiva chocolates that any lady

trinkets that would work well such as L'Octaine Hand Cream for \$8, Rosebud Salve for \$5 and a travel brush for \$8.

For him: Old Navy has a selection of fleece for under \$20. The store also carries knitted winter caps and scarves for \$7 and under. REI.com has a large selection of winter weather athletic gear for under \$25. For an indoor type of guy, Brookstone offers a convenient pop-up clock for only \$15.

For him or her: Buy a gift certificate from a movie theater that covers the cost of two movie tickets, popcorn and soda.

Shopping with a budget of \$50 and under:

For her: Sephora and most fine department stores carry Dolce and Gabbana Light Blue perfume. An 8 oz. bottle costs \$40. The Body Shop has another gift box. For \$50, she can enjoy an at-home massage package. If the woman being shopped for prefers professionals to relax her, a gift certificate to a spa may be a n



appropriate gift. Solace Spa in Clayton is a full-service salon that offers a variety of services, including a half-hour massage for \$45 and a spa pedicure for \$40.

For him: Men also want to smell good. For that, Sephora has a light cologne called Clean For Him. A small bottle costs \$28. Some guys like high-tech gadgets. Radio Shack has a four-in-one, touch screen, remote control for \$40. Another innovative gift is a journal. Borders has a colorful selection of them for as low as \$4.

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would enjoy receiving. The Body Shop has a pre-made gift box called "Give Stress a Rest." This \$25 package is great for students who are preparing to start a new semester. For \$25, a holiday shopper also has the option of putting together a slightly more elaborate gift bag. Sephora at West County Mall has a lot of small

FOR: CHEAP!

appropriate gift. Solace Spa in Clayton is a full-service salon that offers a variety of services, including a half-hour massage for \$45 and a spa pedicure for \$40.

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**Cusumano's Pizza**  
Sunday - Thursday 10 pm til Midnight  
**2 for 1 Rail Drinks**  
Wednesday & Thursday 10pm til Midnight  
**\$1.00 pitcher refills** (natural lite beer)  
Must be 21 to enter - must have Missouri ID  
7147 Manchester Rd in Maplewood  
entertainment every night 4 pool tables  
and game room  
**OPEN 10pm** 645-5599 close at **3am** every night



# No more chocolate! Keeping off those holiday pounds

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

When writing a holiday wish list, some students include warm clothes, money for books and possibly a few new video games to add to their thriving collection. After the holidays, students may be surprised to find that they got something they did not ask for: a little extra holiday weight.

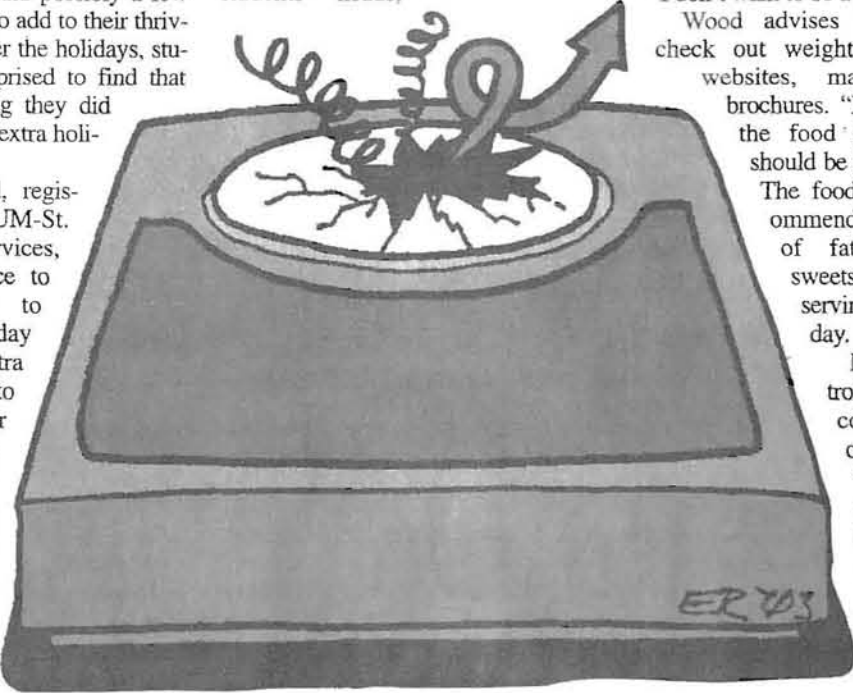
Amanda Wood, registered nurse at UM-St. Louis Health Services, offers some advice to students trying to escape the holiday break free of extra pounds. "The key to weight control over the holidays is portion control. You can indulge in lots of your favorite foods if you just get smaller portions," said Wood.

Wood also suggested stopping when you feel full. This is a difficult task for students who holiday hop from office parties to family gatherings. Students may feel pressured to partake even if they just finished a meal somewhere else.

Lindsay Blum, freshman, biology, says she understands the pressure. "I feel obligated to eat at my boyfriend's house," she said. "I don't want his parents to think I'm rude, so we usually go there first. I don't feel so bad not eating at my parents' house." Blum said that she is not worried about

putting on extra weight. "I have a pretty decent metabolism, and I'll just work it off later," she said. "My family loves deserts like cheesecake and cobbler. Yum, yum!"

Instead of sugarplums dancing in students' heads,



great guest as well.

Bonnie Landwehr, sophomore, early childhood education, plans on eating at about 15 different gatherings over the holiday break. "It's always turkey everywhere," Landwehr said. "I don't want to be a butterball too."

Wood advises that students check out weight management websites, magazines and brochures. "If you stick to the food pyramid, you should be fine," she said. The food pyramid recommends limited use of fats, oils and sweets, and only 2-3 servings of meat per day.

No weight control plan would be complete without exercise. "Instead of taking a turkey-induced nap, go for a brisk walk," said Wood. "Take the younger relationship

Wood suggested thinking about vegetables. "Start with your vegetables and lots of water. It will help you feel full faster. Choosing water instead of soda is also a good way to shake a few extra calories from the meal," Wood said.

"You just have to decide what is most important," said Wood, who suggests that students consider bringing their own dishes to family gatherings. Not only will students know that they have something they can eat without feeling guilty, but they will look like a

atives outside for a snow fight. Exercise is a healthy alternative to the new video games that keep students in front of the television for hours."

If students feel like they need professional help with holiday food persuasion or with any other weight-related issues, UM-St. Louis Health Services provides a weight-control program. For \$5 per one-hour session, students can receive clinical help with assessing their weight and forming a plan that will help them fight back holiday temptations.

## Auld lang syne

# Ringling in the new year St. Louis style

BY KATE DROLET  
Features Editor

Próspero año Nuevo. Bonne année. L'anno nuovo felice. Happy New Year. On Dec. 31, people around the globe celebrate the beginning of a New Year. Some travel to Times Square in New York City to watch the famous ball drop, while others choose to stay at home or go out with friends. Here are a few ideas for welcoming 2004 with a bang.

1) Grab a few friends and find a club to dance the night, and year, away at. Women can use this plan as an excuse to buy a New Year's outfit. Find something daring that you would never wear otherwise, and do not worry about those few extra pounds. Diets start after the holiday.

2) If dancing is more of a punishment than a good time, plan a pub crawl. Bars usually have drink specials on this busy night, so do not stay at any one place for too long. Remember, the point is not to get completely inebriated and pass out before midnight. Avoid a New Year's day hangover by walking to each establishment, and bring a bottle of water to drink while in transit.

3) For a less expensive evening, plan a game night. Hold a Monopoly marathon, play poker for pennies, or learn a new game, such as bunko or canasta.

4) Rent movies and eat all the food that will be off-limits once that diet resolution starts. Have a fright

night with the "Exorcist", "Nightmare on Elm Street", the original "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and other thrillers. Watch Indiana Jones, "Star Wars" or "Rocky" for a trilogy night. Rent bad science fiction movies and laugh as Godzilla terrorizes a city. Turn off the sound and make up the script. Invite the girls over for chick flicks. Rent sappy romantic comedies or a season of "Sex in the City."

5) Go midnight bowling. Some alleys hold all-night parties, complete with black lights and music.

6) Play all night at St. Louis' City Museum. This old warehouse-turned-playhouse is full of adult-sized equipment for hiding, crawling and exploring. For more information, visit [www.citymuseum.org](http://www.citymuseum.org) <<http://www.citymuseum.org>>.

8) Plan a themed party at home. Progressive parties work well with large groups, and they take the pressure off of one person hosting. Play cards and eat appetizers at one house, do dinner and a movie at another, and enjoy dessert and countdown with Dick Clark's TV special somewhere else. Host a hat party, where all in attendance are required to wear some sort of head gear, or a charity event with a canned food fee at the door. Go elegant with a wine and cheese party. Splurge on exotic cheese and grab a box of cheap wine.

9) Bundle up and go to the St. Louis Celebrate 2004 event in Forest Park. Among the various venues is a giant Ferris wheel that debuts on New Year's Eve. Other attractions include fireworks and activities by the Jewel Box, the Missouri History Museum, the Muni, the St. Louis Art Museum, Science Center and Zoo, the Steinberg skating rink and the Grand Center. LUMA, a cast "costumed in light," will also put on a live show.

The event will mark the beginning of several 2004 events in the city, including the U.S. Olympic Women's Marathon trials, the U.S. Olympic Diving trials and the Olympic centennial celebration. A new Monumental Feature at the Arch will create seating for riverfront shows, such as River Splash. River Splash will take place during the summer of 2004, and will feature fireworks, lasers and multimedia projected onto a water screen over the Mississippi river. For more information, visit [www.celebrate2004.org](http://www.celebrate2004.org) <<http://www.celebrate2004.org>>.

10) Visit the Zoo. From 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., visitors can enjoy holiday light displays, magicians, dancers, jugglers, singers, artists, musicians, face painters and storytellers. The new Penguin and Puffin Coast exhibit will also be open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Whether New Year's Eve means a wild night out or a party at home, stay safe and make sure to welcome 2004 in good spirits.

While New Year's eve is supposed to be a night filled with excitement, hearing "Auld Lang Syne" tends to bring out that feeling of nostalgia. Celebrate years past by digging out the old pictures and scrapbooks. Laugh at those '80s hairdos and party pictures from last New Year's Eve.

# Christmas merriment in song form

BY ANGELA ASHLEY  
Staff Writer

Some songs have the ability to make memories spring to mind. The holiday season in particular has many songs that bring back fond memories of holidays past. Whether an image of decorating a Christmas tree, lighting candles or helping the needy comes forth, these holiday songs bring out the essence of the holidays.

10) "Chanukah Song" by Adam Sandler. The song definitely brought attention to the Jewish religion by way of lots of humor.

9) "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" by Bruce Springsteen. A great rock version that reminds all that Santa Claus knows who has been naughty or nice.

8) "Run, Rudolph, Run" by Bryan Adams. Another rock song that glorifies the holiday rush.

7) "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" by 'N Sync. A great upbeat pop song that captures the joy of being out of school and spending time with loved ones.

6) "All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey. This is a romantic holiday song that is sure to warm the heart.

5) "O Holy Night" by Josh Groban. A powerful classic sung by a man with an incredibly powerful voice.

4) "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole. A song that reminds people to send holiday wishes to "kids from one to 92."

3) "White Christmas" by Otis Redding. Somehow, it just does not seem like Christmas without some snow.

2) "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)" by Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

This is a classical song that sounds like Mannheim Steamroller combined with a rock band. Trans-Siberian Orchestra will be in St. Louis Dec. 19 at the Savvis Center, for those who would like to hear this song live.

And the number one holiday song...

1) "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" by John Lennon. This song reminds everyone that the past year is finished, and to reflect on it, but also that a new year is starting, thus a chance for a clean slate.

Some honorable mentions for the list are Paul McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime," "Feliz Navidad" by Jose Feliciano, "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas" by Burl Ives and anything from Harry Connick Jr.'s "When My Heart Finds Christmas" album.

Any of these songs are sure to have holiday spirit running strong.



Above, Santa proves he can rock with the best of them (if the best of them are elves). We can only assume that Mr. Claus must be rocking out to the dulcet tones of AC/DC or Metallica. Santa is actually quite the metal-head. ROCK ON ST. NICK!

The Current wishes you and yours a very happy holiday. May each and every one of you get what your heart secretly desires.... A light finals schedule with no big term papers!

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# Happy Hanukkah... or is it Chanuka?

BY GARY SOHN  
Staff Writer

For some, December is about Christmas, lights, presents, Santa, eggnog, dressing the tree and watching "It's a Wonderful Life." For others, December brings Hanukkah, also called Chanuka, a Jewish tradition that lasts for eight days. For those who are not familiar with this holiday, here is a guide to understanding and appreciating another meaning of winter tradition.

The Hebrew word Hanukkah

other eight, and is usually set slightly apart on the menorah to distinguish it.

The Menorah lighting order follows strict tradition as well. On day one, the candle on the far right side is lit. On the second, two new candles are added to the menorah, starting from right to left. These candles are lit from left to right. On the third day, three candles are added and placed in the menorah from right to left. They are lit from left to right. On the fourth day, four candles are added, being placed in the menorah

from

not permitted. After lighting the candles, one is supposed to take time to contemplate and realize his or her connection to the collective Jewish family. The menorah is lit once the sun has set and stays lit for at least half an hour after sunset.

The dreidel, a game often associated with Hanukkah, has historical significance. Throughout history, Jewish people have often been imprisoned for studying the Torah. The only way that Jews could discuss the Torah in prison was under the guise of a dreidel game. So spinning a dreidel during Hanukkah has become a symbol of Jewish strength in continuing to study the Torah against unbearable odds.

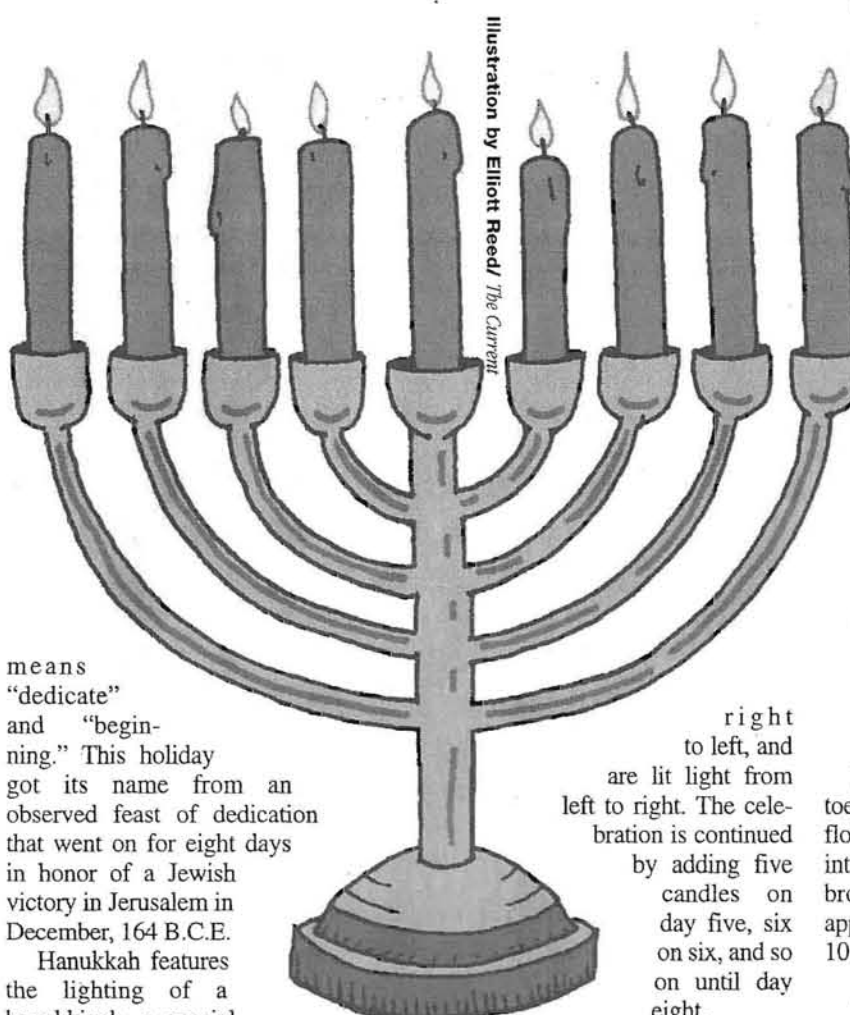
A dreidel has four sides, each with the first letter of a Hebrew word: nun (miracle), gimel (great), hey (was), shin (there). Together all these words spell out, "A great miracle happened there."

Preparing latkes is also a common Hanukkah tradition. Latkes are a popular food, fried in oil. This traces back to the miracle of the oil, when oil burned for eight days during the Jewish Victory, December 164 B.C.E.

Potato Latkes  
2 medium potatoes  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4 cup flour  
vegetable oil.

Peel and coarsely grate the potatoes. Mix with the beaten egg and flour. Drop teaspoon size pancakes into hot vegetable oil until they are brown on both sides. Serve with applesauce. This recipe makes about 10 to 12 small latkes.

This year, Hanukkah begins on a Monday evening, Dec. 22, and continues through Wednesday, Dec. 31. The traditional greeting Jews extend to one another during this holiday is "hag orim same'ah," or "Happy Feast of Lights! Happy Hanukkah!"



means "dedicate" and "beginning." This holiday got its name from an observed feast of dedication that went on for eight days in honor of a Jewish victory in Jerusalem in December, 164 B.C.E. Hanukkah features the lighting of a hanukkiyah, a special Hanukkah menorah with eight branches and a ninth holder for the Shamash, or helper candle. Shamash, used to light the other candles, is not counted along with the

piece is not supposed to be used for any other purpose except contemplation and closeness to God. Reading by the light or using it to light the room is

right to left, and are lit light from left to right. The celebration is continued by adding five candles on day five, six on six, and so on until day eight. When the menorah is lit, the

## What do you believe?

# Exposing Christmas myths

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Staff Writer

In getting ready for the holiday season, we have all noticed the Christmas hoopla and tradition. Perhaps we have participated in this tradition our entire lives, but have we ever stopped to ask ourselves where these traditions come from? Probably not.

To define all of our Christmas traditions is much more than this article is capable of. However, we can look at some of our myths. To begin with, let's start with the popular Christian myths.

Perhaps the most prevalent Christmas-related Christian myth is that Jesus was born on Dec. 25. This is the reason we celebrate Christmas after all, right? Partly. We do celebrate Christmas as a commemoration of Christ's birth, but not because He was born that particular day. Dec. 25 was suggested as the day to celebrate Christ's birth by Church Fathers in the fourth century. The purpose? To eclipse the Dec. 25 festivities of a rival pagan religion. It became permanent in 337 with the Roman emperor Constantine. Biblical scholars tell us that Jesus was probably born in what we now know as October due to a calendar-ordering system change.

For those of us who set up Nativity scenes, we have inevitably fallen victim to Christmas Myth Number Two. The three wise men who came to visit Jesus with gold, frankincense and myrrh in the manger were real, but the magis' details got a little confused. The truth is that it never says how many wise men there were; the number is assumed from the number of gifts they brought. The wise men were probably gentile astrologers from Persia or southern Arabia, both east of Palestine. And Matthew Chapter 2 tells us they

coal, but parents don't know more than St. Nick," said Monica Thigpen, biology graduate student. Since parents don't know this, let's find out. We all know that it's based loosely on St. Nicholas, who was a Dutch saint. What we may not know is that the modern image of Santa Claus had its origins partially in satire. In 1809, Washington Irving published "A History of New York," which made fun of New York's Dutch past, "Sinterklaas" included. From there

William Galley wrote a poem in 1821 about "Santeclaus" who dressed in fur and rode a single reindeer wagon. Finally in 1822, Clement Clarke Moore wrote "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" more commonly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas..."

Oh, and the traditional orange in the stocking? That is based on an old myth that if children were good, St. Nicholas would visit them and put a lump of coal in their stocking hanging on the hearth to dry.

Myth Number Four comes from the popular song "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." Just who was Rudolph, and where does this come from? Rudolph is actually an invention of Montgomery Ward department stores. In 1939, the chain decided they did not want to buy anyone else's coloring books but would instead make their own. So they made Rudolph, a story somewhat based on "The Ugly Duckling."

Myth Number Three is the very typical Santa Claus myth. "Parents tell their children to be good or Santa will bring them a lump of



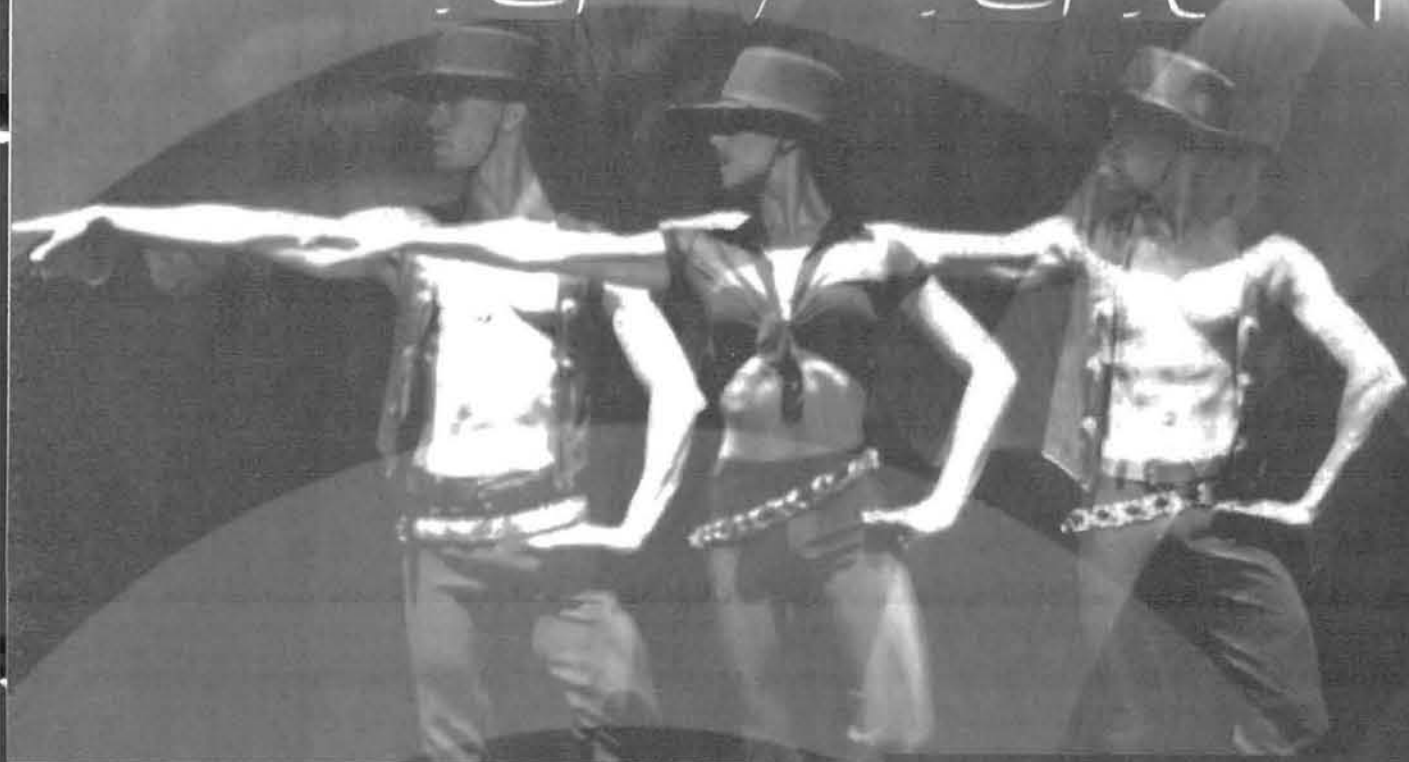
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