

See page 8

GLVC tournament action.

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

Gallery 210 moves Contemporary space for contemporary works of art



Caption goes here

BY NICHOLE LECLAIR
Managing Editor

After 25 years in Lucas Hall, Gallery 210 is relocating to the blue metal building adjacent to the police station.

The new space will be larger and more accessible to both students and the community, according to Terry Suhre, gallery director and assistant professor of art and art history. The

new facility will allow two exhibits to run simultaneously and is located less than 40 yards from the MetroLink.

"The programs we have been presenting here have been extremely constrained by the space," said Suhre. "This move is going to give us better traffic, and the gallery can stay open all the time instead of closing a week to ten days between exhibits."

Most exhibits run for five to six weeks, and with only one room in which to display them, the gallery is

limited in the number of presentations they can offer each year. Also, weeks of presentation time are lost when the gallery closes to change displays. With the new arrangement, the gallery will be able to keep one exhibit open while another is put in place. "There will always be something for visitors," said Suhre.

The current exhibition schedule will not be affected by the move, which begins this month.

"We hope to be in place with the

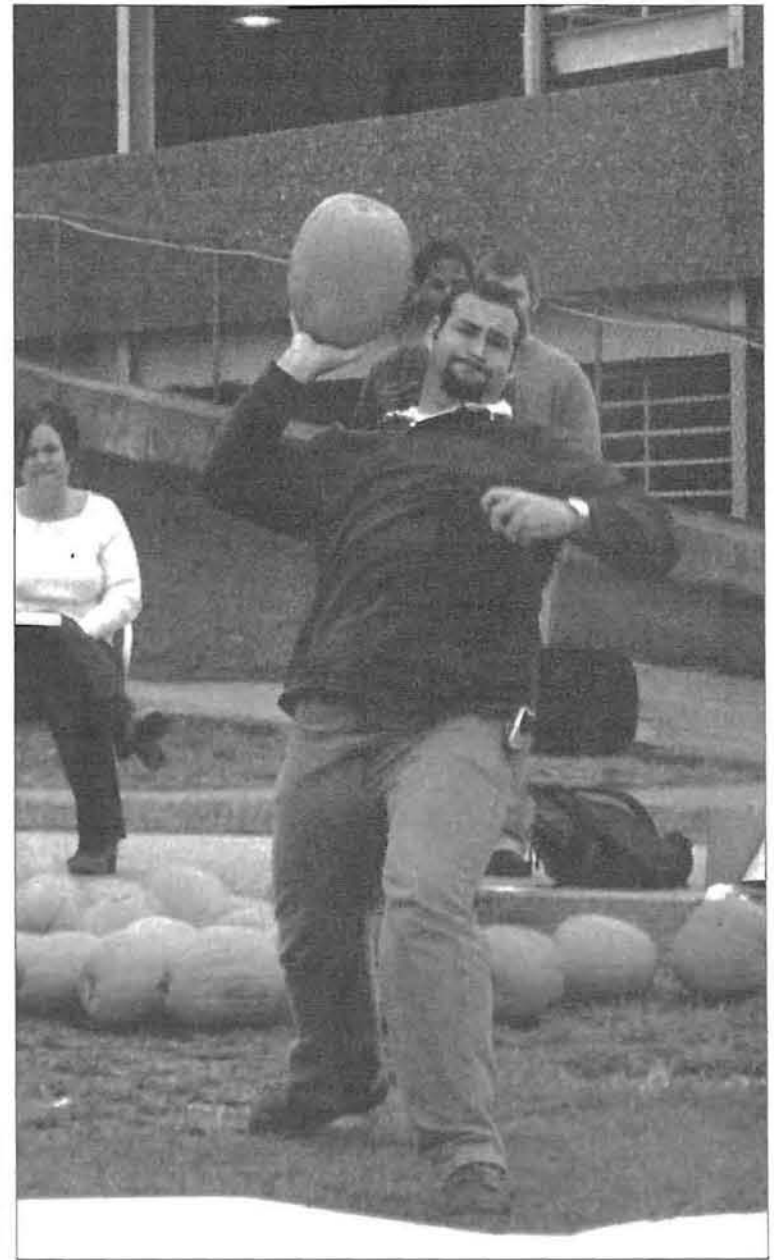
first exhibit opening on Jan. 22," said Suhre. "We will present those we have planned, but we have the opportunity to add events to the calendar." The first exhibit at the new location, and for the new year, Debra Drexler's "High Art and Low Life," is part of the original gallery schedule. However, Suhre said that he hopes to open a second exhibit, which is not on the schedule. Though not yet confirmed, the second offering may be an exhibit by Eric Shultis of small paintings and constructions.

In addition to the two exhibit areas, the new gallery space will incorporate a reception area for the public, which should add to the professional appeal of the campus-run gallery, according to Suhre. There will also be an auditorium nearby for University presentations. Though the auditorium will not be a part of the gallery, visitors may have the opportunity to attend other shows when they visit. This alternate attraction may serve to increase traffic and interest in the new location.

According to Suhre, there are two other significant improvements in the new location. Though they will not be readily apparent to the public, both will improve the efficiency and daily management of the gallery. One feature is secure storage space, allowing exhibits in transition to be kept safe and out of the public spaces. The other is an accessible loading dock.

see GALLERY, page 3

Smashing pumpkins



Jesse Gater/The Current

Adam Schwadron, Senior/Political Science, puts his muscle into his pumpkin throw last Wednesday at the University Program Board's Pumpkin Throwing contest.

A leader remembered

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

When St. Louis County Executive George "Buzz" Westfall died on Oct. 27, he was remembered as an involved leader in the region. During his tenure as St. Louis County Executive, he worked on various development projects. "He was very involved not just in the county, but in the region, so his death will have a huge impact," said Mac Scott, communications director for St. Louis County.

Westfall collaborated with UM-St. Louis on several development projects. One of the people he worked closely with was Betty Van Uum, assistant to the chancellor. "The fact that Buzz saw the interrelationship of

government between St. Louis County and one of the major institutions in St. Louis county [UM-St. Louis] and saw that we needed to work together and support each other for the good of the county citizens was a pretty far reaching thing for a county executive."

Some of the development projects presently under way that Westfall and UM-St. Louis were involved in are the MetroLink expansion at Hanley Road and a business, research and technology park along Highway 70.

Westfall had recommended Van Uum for chairwoman of the MetroLink expansion, which would build a new rail line at Hanley Road, adding a third MetroLink stop on the University's campus. In a statement issued by Metro, Larry Salci, Metro president and CEO, said, "[Westfall's]

support was a critical factor in moving MetroLink's Cross County Extension plans forward as he helped to build consensus for the project's route among the leaders of the various municipalities."

To commemorate his contributions to transportation, Metro plans to place a decal with Westfall's picture in Metro buses and trains for the next month. The decal would also carry the message: "Metro salutes St. Louis County Executive, George R. 'Buzz' Westfall for his vision, leadership and support of regional excellence in public transportation."

Another project underway is the business, research and technology park on the southern side of Highway 70.

see WESTFALL, page 3

Financial plans set for new year

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis recently submitted its budget for Fiscal Year 2005, which runs from July 2004-June 2005. While most of the proposed student fees remain the same, health services, athletic, student activity and infrastructure fees are projected to increase.

Health services is requesting a 45 percent increase, which would raise the student health fee from \$2 to \$2.90 per credit hour. Kathy Castulik, Health Educator III and medical assistant for the University Health Services, said that the raise is necessary to keep up with the

increased demand for health services. "The demand is growing, and we're just trying to keep up. More and more students and faculty and staff are using it," said Castulik.

The increase in student fees would also fund another nurse practitioner. "We only have one nurse practitioner, and she is booked from the minute she walks in until she leaves," said Castulik. Castulik also said that with the proposed increases, student fees at UM-St. Louis would still be lower than what other universities charge.

The infrastructure fee proposal would increase the per credit hour fee from \$2.00 to \$2.50, a 25 percent increase. This would cover the maintenance and required repairs for the infrastructure and the increased

use of the campus shuttles. This would also pay for students' Metro passes.

When the Bi-State Pass Program (now known as Metro) was first offered at UM-St. Louis in August 1993, it was discounted because of the partnership the University had with Bi-State to develop the new MetroLink and promote use. "Since that time, the MetroLink costs have significantly outpaced the increase in the fee charged to UMSL. Therefore, Bi-State and UMSL have agreed to a 'price phasing' contract, where UMSL will pay a higher rate for the next several years to bring the rate to market levels," said Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor for administrative services.

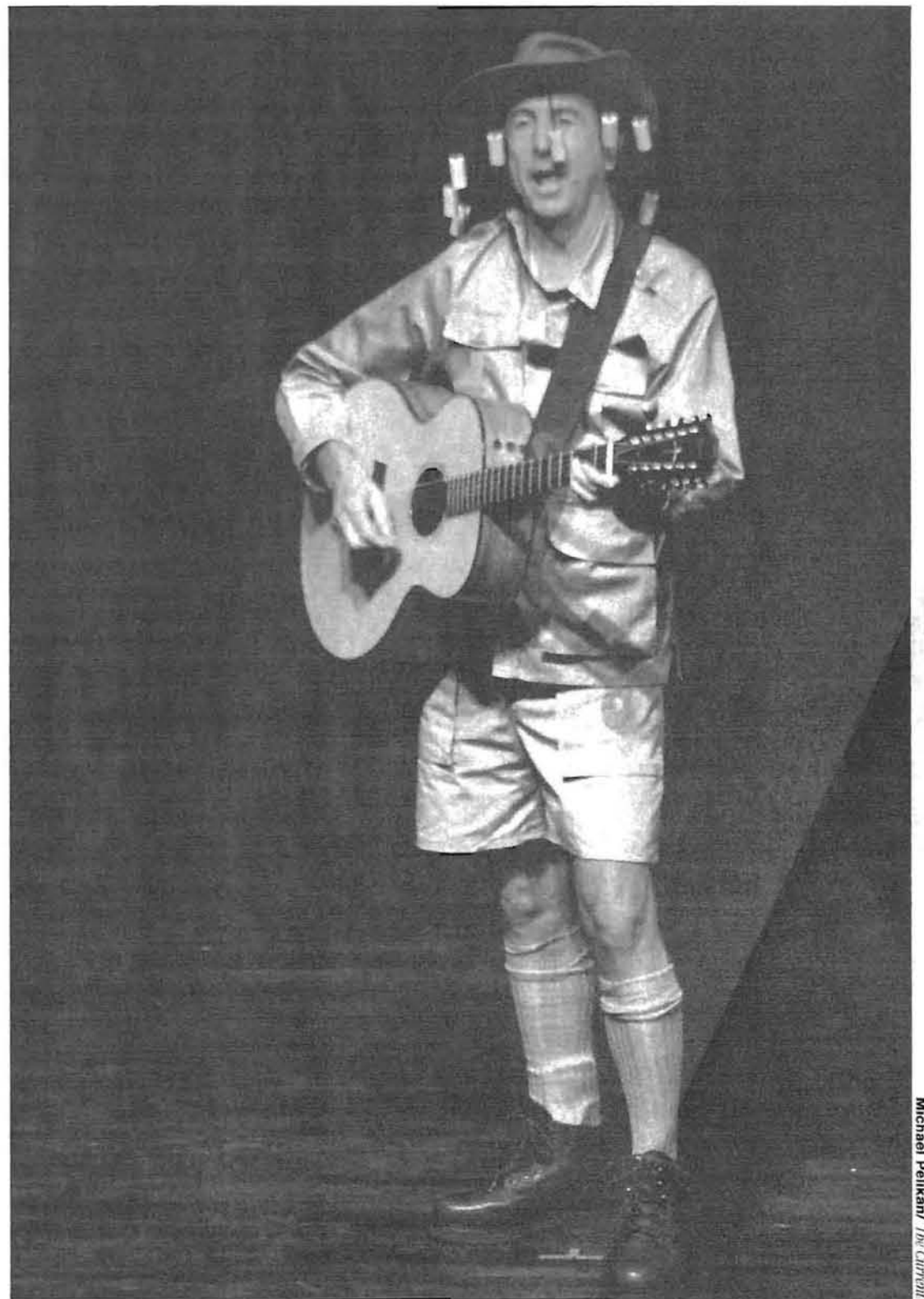
Other proposed increases are a 3.9 percent increase from \$9.00 to \$9.35 in the athletic fee and a 15.3 percent student fee increase, raising from \$3.00 to \$3.36.

Presently, students pay \$39.64 per credit hour in student fees; the proposed changes would raise it 5.6 percent to \$41.85 per credit hour.

"I know many students have voiced that they do not want to see the student fees increase but some of the groups that are looking for money do need it," said Kristy Runde, president of the SGA.

see BUDGET, page 3

And now for something completely different



Michael Pollman/The Current

"Immanuel Kant was a real pissant..." Eric Idle sings as he performs the "Bruces" sketch Friday at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

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Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations. University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least 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
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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Staff Writers
Paul Crutcher, Carrie Lewis, Gretchen Moore, Brian Ireland, Patricia Lee, Angela Ashley, Jud Dieffenbach, Monica Martin, Charlie Robinson

Staff Photographers
Kevin Ottley, Lishu Qu, Michael Pelikan, Jesse Gater, Robert Johnson

Advertising Rep
Shaun Kennedy

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

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

campus
388 Millennium Student Center
email
current@jinx.umsl.edu
website
<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

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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 Nov. 18 Public Policy Research
"The Price of Progress: The Page Avenue Extension," photographs by Michael Miles opens on Sept. 17. The opening reception will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Sept. 17 in the Public Policy Research Gallery, 362 SSB. This event is free.

Mon 10 Monday Noon Series
"Dugout Canoes on the Missouri River: In the Wake of Lewis and Clark" is the title of the Monday Noon Series. Jim Wilson, Des Lee professor of experiential and family education at UM-St. Louis, describes how dugout canoes are constructed by hollowing out giant logs with traditional tools. The program is from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in room 229 of the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The Monday Noon Series is sponsored by the Center for Humanities at UM-St. Louis.

Mon 10 (cont.) Chemistry and Biochemistry colloquia
"Epitaxial Electrodeposition of Metal Oxide Nanostructures" is the title of the colloquia today. The event is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 451 Benton Hall. The seminar is presented by Jay A. Switzer from UM-Rolla. For more info., call 516-5334.

10 Music department
Premiere Performances - Flavio Varani is from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall. The event is free and open to the public. For more info., call 516-5776 or 516-5980.

Tues 11 Career Services
An interviewing techniques workshop is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 278 MSC. Successful interviews take preparation and work. Polish interviewing skills in this free workshop. The workshop is open to students. Advanced registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll at 278 MSC.

11 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.

Tues 11 (cont.) Career Services
A resume writing skills workshop is from 11 a.m. to noon in room 278 of the MSC. The workshop is free and open to students. Make a position first impression with employers - polish your resume in this free workshop. Advanced registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

11 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.

Wed 12 Counseling Services
A little anxiety can help you study but too much can hinder your performance. Our Test Anxiety workshop can provide strategies for getting back on track and managing that anxiety. The workshop is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in 126 MSC. Call Counseling Services to register at 516-5711.

Put it on the Board!
Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsl.edu

Thur 13 International Business
The Saint Louis World Trade Club and the International Business Club is hosting a seminar from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Century Room C. The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 will have a significant impact on importers, consumers, transportation associations, state associations and embassies. Learn about this law and its impact. This event is free for IBC members. And is \$35 for nonmembers. Contact Scott at swbbw3@student-mail.umsl.edu for more information.

Thur 13 Diversity in America
"Diversity in America: Interactive Workshop" is from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Clark Hall 100. A panel of students discuss their experiences in the study abroad program. Feel free to bring a lunch. The workshop is presented by the Office of Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs and the Center for International Studies.

Mon 17 Chemistry and Biochemistry colloquia
"Sequence Selectivity and Degeneracy in a DNA Binding Enzyme" is the title of the colloquia today. The event is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 451 Benton Hall.

Mon 17 (cont.) Career Services
An interviewing techniques workshop is from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 278 MSC. Successful interviews take preparation and work. Polish interviewing skills in this free workshop. The workshop is open to students. Advanced registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll at 278 MSC.

17 Monday Noon Series
"Reconnecting St. Louisans to the River - An Illustrated Talk" is the title of the Monday Noon Series. Andrew Hurley, professor of History at UM-St. Louis, describes recent initiatives in public history that focus on St. Louisans' bond with the Mississippi River. Hurley is the author of *Common Fields: An Environmental History of St. Louis*. The program is from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in room 229 of the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The Monday Noon Series is sponsored by the Center for Humanities at UM-St. Louis.

Tues 18 Counseling Services
A Memory Enhancement workshop is from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in 126 MSC. The workshop is free and open to UMSL students only. For more info., call Counseling Services at 516-5711.

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department during the fall between October 25 and October 31. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police as a public service to promote awareness provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort.

November 4 - Stealing under \$500
In 204 Social Sciences Building, a computer hard drive was stolen from a computer.

November 4 - Drug Violation
University Meadows Apartments, a student was found to be in possession of marijuana.

November 4 - Stealing under \$500
In the Millennium Student Center Garage, a

student reported their parking permit stolen.

November 5 - Stealing over \$500
162 Nursing Administration Building, a digital camera with batteries and memory stick was stolen from an office.

November 5 - Stealing under \$500
A student reported stolen University keys.

November 5 - Property damage/Stealing over \$500
Parking lot M, a victim taking the CPS exam had her vehicle broken into and her purse with contents stolen.

November 5 - Stealing over \$500
Near Benton Hall, a black male subject approached the victim, then took her purse and ran away.

November 8 - Assault in the third degree
At 837 University Meadows Apartment, a party turned into a minor disturbance, an unknown person struck the victim in the face. The victim was not a student of UM-St. Louis and did not wish to prosecute.

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Contact Sarah at 516-5835 for more information.

Percussion Ensemble keeps the beat



Jesse Gater/The Current

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Percussion Ensemble under Director Matt Henry performed last Thursday night in the PAC's Lee Auditorium.

GALLERY, from page 1

Moving installations in and out of a gallery can wear on both artwork and employees, and Gallery 210's current location makes arranging exhibits particularly difficult. "At my age, that's not as fun as it used to be," said Suhre, adding that the move was long overdue.

Julie Berkbuegler, junior, graphic design, has worked at Gallery 210 for the last three years. She also believes that the move is a good idea. Although she has seen an increase in visitors since she came to work at the gallery, she thinks that the new location will be more popular, especially due to its accessibility and proximity to the MetroLink.

"Usually on Fridays, it's just dead," said Berkbuegler. "Saturdays, there might be one person. I think the move will bring more people. They usually have a hard time finding this space." Unfortunately for her, one fea-

ture that she enjoys will no longer be part of the gallery's operations. "I like the time between the shows, in the of time when we are setting up," she said. "There are a few of us who work here, and it's all girls, so we have a chance to chat." Still, she prefers the proposed Gallery setup to the current one.

Although Gallery 210 was named for its location, room 210 of Lucas Hall, the name will persist despite the move, no matter which room number is assigned. "We're keeping the name," said Suhre. "It's a brand name, and people who have visited Gallery 210 over the years have come to associate that name with contemporary art."

Gallery 210's current exhibit, "Minnie Evans: Dreams in Color," runs until Dec. 6 and will be the last show in Lucas Hall.

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BUDGET, from page 1

"I know there are people who do not use the services that they are paying for, but I think that some of that has to do with the fact that many people

don't know exactly what the groups offer."

SGA began reviewing some of the proposals on Oct. 10 and will further

review them on Nov. 21, where the increases can be approved, rejected or modified. The budget then moves on to a Faculty Senate committee before

going to the chancellor for approval. Finally, the Board of Curators decides whether to implement the changes in January 2004.

WESTFALL, from page 1

UM-St. Louis dedicated land along the highway for the park and Westfall agreed to realign the highway and build a road to access that area. "Buzz was very supportive and committed to building a new road so

our park could become a reality," said Van Uum.

Westfall recognized that the county was connected to the rest of the region and he changed the office of county executive. "When Buzz first

started acting in a regional manner, we weren't," Van Uum said. "His predecessor was not a regionalist, so that was a departure from the way the county had positioned itself in previous administrations."

Since Westfall's death, county councilman Charlie Dooley had been acting as county executive. On Nov. 4, he was selected to serve the remaining year of Westfall's term until next year's elections.



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OUR OPINION

Chartwells food service lacking in students' eyes

"What do you think of when you hear 'Chartwells'?" A surveyor recently asked this of customers in The Nosh. A chorus of "too expensive," "low quality" and "not enough selection" was heard from several tables.

Three years ago, Chartwells Dining Services offered a decent food service. UM-St. Louis students had several meal options that varied throughout the week. The service and quality of food have significantly declined each year, leaving those who eat on campus with a minimal selection.

Chartwells, which is only open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., continues to cut its availability, as well as its variety.

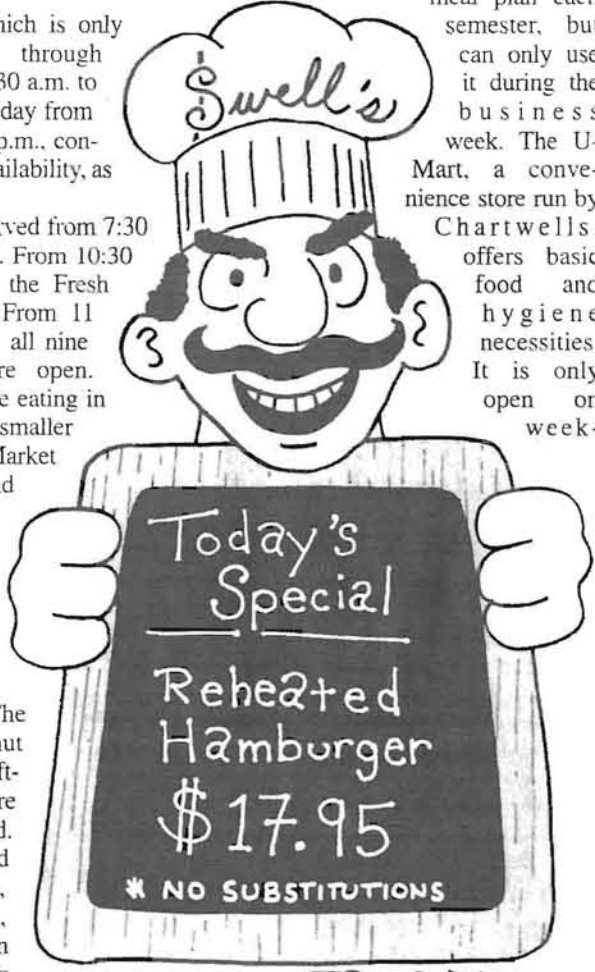
Breakfast is served from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. From 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., the Fresh Grille is closed. From 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., all nine food stations are open. After 2 p.m., those eating in The Nosh have a smaller selection. The Market Carvery, Panini and the salad station close, leaving a choice of fried food from the grill, cold sandwiches and the remainder of the day's soup. The salad bar is shut down, and the leftover vegetables are boxed up and sold. All of the boxed salads are uniform, containing lettuce, occasionally an assortment of vegetables and bacon bits. Vegetarians, vegans and students who avoid pork products and/or high-sodium foods are not taken into consideration.

The price of food has gone up as well. Students are not informed when these changes occur, and many do not realize how expensive their meal is until they are standing at the cashier. Though its price remains the same, pizza, which used to come in quarters, is now served in smaller slices.

Chartwells also maintains a smaller staff in the evening. Customers are often forced to wait in long lines at the counter and cashier. When staff members do not show up for work, the evening cashier ends up serving food in addition to performing regular duties, causing students to wait even longer. The current staff has received praise for being friendly and helpful, and it is unfair to criticize their efforts. People who are hungry and overcharged tend to blame the visible representatives. The problem lies in

the hours and prices.

Weekend food is a service that Chartwells does not offer. While UM-St. Louis is primarily a commuter institution, 334 students live in the residence halls, and several hundred more reside in the University Meadows apartments. Many of these students do not own vehicles and lack the finances to go out to eat on weekends. These students are left without food from 2 p.m. on Friday until 7:30 a.m. on Monday, a total of 65 hours and 30 minutes. Residents are required to purchase a \$650 meal plan each semester, but can only use it during the business week. The U-Mart, a convenience store run by Chartwells, offers basic food and hygiene necessities. It is only open on week-



Rarely is this food "service" convenient to students.

UM-St. Louis has a contract with Chartwells, and the dining service seems to treat that obligation as an excuse to raise prices and lower quality.

What happened to food service at UM-St. Louis? The University needs to examine its hiring options when the contract expires. Chartwells should also examine the quality of their business to students, faculty and staff if it would like to remain a significant contender for the next contract. While the staff works hard to assist students and answer complaints, the logistics make excellent service a nearly impossible task. The entire program needs to be reevaluated to take customer concerns into consideration. Stomachs do not just rumble from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on business days.

The issue
Chartwells service and selection have gone down in recent years. Many people are complaining about a lack of selection and that no food is served on the weekends.

We suggest
Chartwells is the only outlet for students to eat on campus other than vending machines.

They need to respond to the wishes of their customers.

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.

The boss is sick

Okay, I want to make one thing abundantly clear right now: I am one very sick puppy. I have bronchitis, and I feel like I have been run over by a fleet of dump trucks. I cannot stop coughing, and I have a nifty fever. Hooray! Don't you just love cold and flu season?

So ordinarily, I write about something that is bothering me, something that has been on my mind, but since my brain is currently fried, I cannot really think of anything at all to write about. So if this column turns out to be nonsensical ramblings, forgive me.

This all started to come on me Saturday night after my girlfriend left. I got that familiar little tingle in the back of my throat. Uh oh... Then I started to cough, a little bit at first, and I thought maybe I would just escape with a cold or, at most, a mild case of the flu. It was not to be. I woke up today (Sunday) coughing and coughing and coughing. And then some more coughing. Since then, it has been a somewhat consistent state for me. Now my ribs and sternum have started to hurt from the coughing... anyone want to trade bodies with me for a few days? No? Did not think so.

So why did I get sick? Well, Last Wednesday, some of the members of this staff (myself, Nichole LeClair, Mindaugas Adamonis, Anne Bauer, Stanford Griffith, Becky Roser, Kate

Drolet, Mike Sherwin, Casey Schacher, Amy Gonwa, Melissa McCrary and the adviser of this paper, Judi Linville) went to Dallas for a journalism conference. Did you know that November can be downright cold in Dallas? Neither did I. Live and learn. But you see, not only was it cold, but it was raining, and we did a lot of walking in that weather. So now here I am... I sound like a freaking T.B. ward. And I feel like Nagasaki. Wow, I just now realized the above words mean absolutely nothing.... I feel like I am writing my own Seinfeld episode. That is kinda cool.



JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Anyway, I would like to say that I am very proud of my staff for the way they behaved down in "Big D." They were like little angels down there... (Did I just say little angels? Forget that.) There were no incidents that could be blamed on us, and I think everyone had a good time. In the future issues of this newspaper, you will hopefully see some of the things we learned down in Texas put to use. New design concepts, better copy editing, different angles on stories and much more will be making appearances in the grand design of *The Current*.

Come to think of it, I should have written this whole column about that last paragraph. Oh well, I feel too cruddy to go back and rewrite this.

Uncensored Coverage

This week, part of *The Current's* staff, including myself, attended a national journalism conference in Dallas.

Beyond the obvious benefits of learning which of our editors wears pink fuzzy pig slippers, and the most expedient methods for mortifying our advisor in public, I think we were made aware of our enviable position as college journalists here at UM-St. Louis.

Of the most revealing things I learned was that our humble paper offers an unusual amount of freedom to our writers, as well as the rare opportunity to develop a diverse staff. Though I have always believed that these were two of our greatest assets, I know now that I took them for granted.

In my own unscientific poll, I asked as many student journalists as possible about how their papers were run. The majority told me that they were often censored by advisors or administrators, sometimes to the point of adopting an official clause that content would be reviewed prior to printing. Also, many schools required that staff writers be admitted to their journalism program or that writers make submissions to the newspaper via class assignments. Again, instructors would have veto power over published articles.

Though these practices may initially improve the quality of writing, such a degree of censorship and exclusion ultimately narrows the scope of a student newspaper. Those instructors charged with reviewing articles may be blamed for content that sheds unfavorable light on campus issues or faculty. This may keep them from running pieces that the campus community might feel are important. Here at *The Current*, our advisor works to ensure that we are accurate and fair. However, we have autonomy in what we print, and take full responsibility for our content.

I also feel that the practice of limiting staff to journalism students is

unfortunate. Because UM-St. Louis does not have a journalism program, *The Current* staff is made up of students pursuing a variety of majors. Rather than detracting from the quality of reporting, I feel this adds a greater scope of experience. Though we surely spend more time training our staff to follow correct style and procedures, we are able to hire from a wide pool of applicants. To name only a few, we currently employ art history, mass communication, anthropology, philosophy, business and education majors. Often, we encourage staff members to try out positions other than those they were hired for.

Occasionally, our photographers write articles, our writers work on layout and design and our cartoonists write music reviews. This flexibility and experimentation allows us to function as a true learning environment.

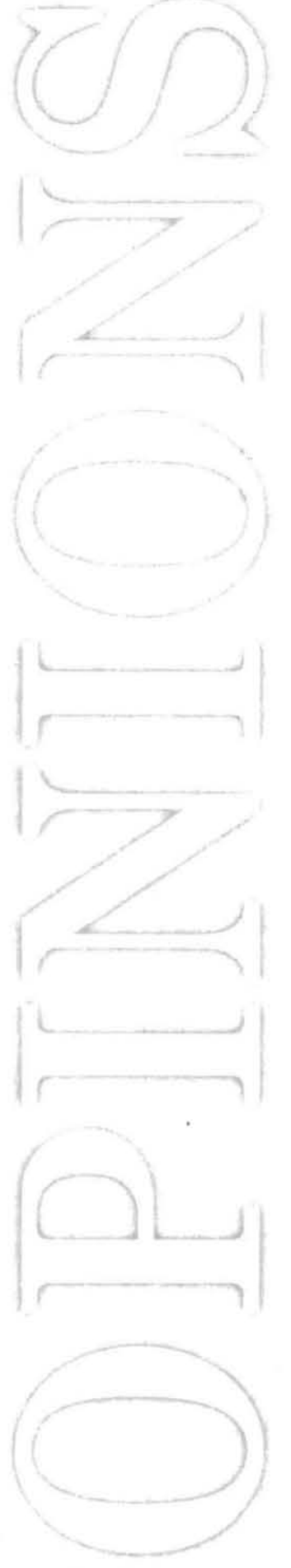
I have often heard complaints that *The Current* is a homogeneous group, made up of like-minded people with similar backgrounds and interests. On one hand, it always makes me laugh. On

the other, I feel it is unfortunate and I want to bring those people to our office and introduce each of our wonderfully distinct staff members. Though we are not nearly as diverse as we would like (we can only hire people who apply, after all), we are hippies, anarchists, democrats and republicans; we call America, China, Africa, Lithuania, and other countries our home; we count pagan, Jewish, Christian, and other religions among our belief systems and we are of a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

I believe that the freedom we enjoy here at *The Current* helps us to serve you, our readers, better. Without the constraints imposed on many other papers, we are willing and able to make changes in our policies and coverage. We hope you will take advantage of that, whether through suggestions or by joining our staff. You are always welcome.



NICHOLE LECLAIR
Managing Editor



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LETTERS

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

FAX
(314) 516-6811

E-MAIL
current@jinx.ums.edu

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.

What's your opinion?

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

- Chartwells selection
- Cold and flu blues

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



Tom Sherman
Junior,
Communications

English people from the Church of England.



Genelle Jones
Sophomore,
Mass Communications

They were Europeans escaping the injustice of the King.



Noah Botkin
Junior,
Finance

They were farmers looking for religious freedom.



Tim Doering
Junior,
Communications

They were people being religiously persecuted in England so they came looking for a fresh start.

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

What were pilgrims before they immigrated over here?

Vivid reminder

Germs becoming resistant



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

The unexpected death of "Buzz" Westfall last month underscores something science has seen coming—the spread of antibiotic-resistant germs.

Westfall succumbed to an infection of staphylococcus aureus, a bacterium commonly called "staph" and usually tied to food-borne illness. Westfall's infection apparently could not be controlled by antibiotics. Whether this was a resistant strain or just an infection treated too late, it still indicates changes in what were once routinely treated infections.

For several generations, people in this county have grown up with the thought that infection is a treatable thing, not something life-threatening. But if you go back to your grandparents' generation and earlier, you will find that the death of an apparently healthy middle-aged man like Westfall from infection was not rare. Death from infection was once a common thing.

Antibiotics changed that picture, but after years of comfort about treatable infection, we discovered that evolution was at work. We were selecting for antibiotic-resistant germ. Despite warnings about overuse or misuse of antibiotics, resistant strains of staphylococcus aureus were increasingly found in hospitals. Since hospitals are the site of the most antibiotic use and of most germs being treated, it is no surprise that they would harbor the most resis-

tant germs. As one antibiotic after another became ineffective against resistant microbes, we finally came down to a last-defense antibiotic with few, if any, new options on the horizon.

When a strain of staphylococcus aureus resistant to vancomycin, one of the last-resort antibiotics, was discovered in a hospital, it was clear that the supergerm had arrived. Recently, reports of occurrences outside of hospitals have cropped up.

It is unknown how Westfall contracted his case of infection, but healthcare workers and cortisone shots have been linked to staph infections before. The disturbing thing about staph is how common it is. Usually, it is benign, as it lives on your skin or in your nose. However, this round, yellow Gram-positive bacterium is also the germ responsible for food poisoning, as well as infections, once it finds its way into the body through a cut or wound.

Back in the pre-WWII days, the tool against infection was cleanliness. While medicine did have sulfa drugs shortly before antibiotics, for most of history, avoiding infection was the best way to survive it. Wounds were as deadly due to infection as they were to the injury itself. Discoveries about infection and microbes in the 1800s gave rise to the hygiene movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The emphasis on hand washing, sterilization of surfaces and tools, and antiseptics (used on people) and disinfectants (used on objects and surfaces) generally did much to cut down the toll of microbes.

That is why your granny seemed so fixated on washing hands and scrubbing everything. The funny thing is that, as antibiotics made everyone feel safer about infection, the emphasis on cleanliness dropped. A number of recent studies have shown lax hand washing and sterilization among healthcare professionals, even doctors, who have become as relaxed about this as anyone in this generation so far removed from memories of deadly infection. This could become a serious health matter because while there will be more resistant microbes, it is not clear how

we will cope with this problem.

Unlike AIDS and heart research, the government does not generally fund research into new antibiotics or into new ways to stop infection. The assumption is that drug companies will develop these new drugs because it would be profitable for them to do so. This approach worked well up to 20 years ago, when business models started to change, demanding a quicker return on investments and more certain profitability. The search for new antibiotics is more difficult and costly now and the basic research to find a new approach, like any basic research, is open-ended and has no definite time frame or guarantee of success. So drug companies are foregoing this research in favor of the sure-thing profitability of developing variations of other existing drugs. This ensures their profits, which is what all businesses are about, but leaves the general health at risk. Either an incentive needs to be added or the government needs to step in, but this problem needs to be addressed with the same commitment as diabetes, heart disease and other health risks.

While we all might encourage this research and pressure local government to ensure cleanliness in health care workers and hospitals, you can also take your own precautions. This does not mean running around spraying things with Lysol or carrying hand sanitizer everywhere, but using old-fashioned granny sense about exposure to microbes. Frequent hand washing, washing cuts immediately, careful food preparation, being aware of the chance of transferring germs to or from yourself when you touch your nose or mouth can cut down on your exposure to microbes. Plain old soap and water are still surprisingly effective, even against resistant germs, as are many of the old steps.

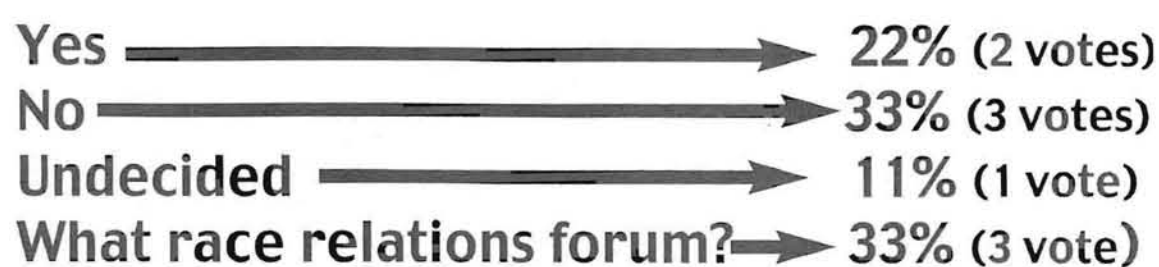
There is no guarantee that we will be able to replace the antibiotics of old, but not doing the research makes no practical sense. Among the ideas that have been suggested is engineering milder strains to out-compete the dangerous strains. To do nothing leaves us all at risk of returning to the dangers of another century.

Dear readers, due to an unfortunate upper respiratory infection, "The Blue Album that You've never heard" column will not be shown this week. Please accept my deepest apologies and also the apologies of my immune system promise the column will make a return next week. Look for either Billy Joel or Barry McGuire. It is very exciting, no?

Signed,
Jason Granger, editor-in-chief

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

Are you going to attend the race relations forum Nov. 11th?



Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

*www.thecurrentonline.com does not limit votes per person and the poll is not a scientific sampling.

Look for *The Current's* annual Holiday special section in early December!

Do you have something on your mind? Is something bothering you? Does something irritate you?

Then write a letter to the editor of The Current. Send it to current@jinx.umsl.edu, or you can drop it by the office at 388 MSC. Letters 300 words and under are preferred.

www.thecurrentonline.com

*The Current and Student Government Association cordially invite you to attend:
"Issues of the Color Line"*

This open forum will be moderated by Dr. Sheila Clarke-Ekong. Come to Century Room C of the MSC Nov. 11th at 1 p.m.

Just another student on campus

Andrea Blixer expresses view on trans-gender issues

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

Students may have noticed Andrea Blixer on campus. This junior attends UM-St. Louis and is seeking a bachelor's degree in business administration. One feature of Blixer makes her a diverse component of the University. Blixer is trans-gendered.

Contrary to the notion that she is a transvestite, Blixer explained that she was trans-gendered, someone born with a male body and a female mind.

According to Blixer, transvestites only dress in opposite-sex clothing part-time, whereas those who are trans-gendered practice the lifestyle all the time.

"A trans-gender person is a person who feels like a woman, in inside and mind, and has a need for medical service such as hormones," she said. "The reason why I became a trans-gender was because I have a female mind inside a male's body."

Because Blixer's overall appearance is noticeably different than that of most students, she said that a majority of students take an anti-social approach to her.

"A few have harassed me while walking through the halls on campus. They will say goofy, silly things and laugh at me. They say things like 'queer' and 'faggot,'" she said.

Blixer said that she endures harassment in her daily life. Many of the incidents occur on city buses and trains. She said that those taunting her are generally young men who harass

or look differently at her.

Despite the social discrimination that Blixer faces, UM-St. Louis faculty treats her like any other student. Nancy Boekhnker is Blixer's College of Business Administration advisor.

"She's a dedicated student in spite of all the harassments. She's very determined to get the degree. I've seen her frustrated but she doesn't let that stop her. I really enjoy working

“
All forms of discrimination are a result of ignorance due to the lack of education and social understanding within our communities.
”

— Andrea Blixer, junior, business administration

with her. I have nothing but admiration for Andrea," Boekhnker said.

And Blixer does continue to seek her degree. She chose to attend UM-St. Louis because of the affordability compared to Washington University and Saint Louis University.

"I always had an entrepreneurship ability and desires, and I want to self-make my own success and hopefully be self-employed," Blixer said. "A lot of the business professors are excellent, sharing their success with younger people," she said.

Blixer is currently working toward

a business degree. She hopes to work in a financial service position for a commercial bank, an investment firm or an accounting company where she could do bookkeeping. She said she wants the opportunity for success that other students have.

"Many others who stay hidden because of fear of coming out," Blixer said. "They stay in their homes and don't come out, which results in them not reaching their full career and personal potential."

Blixer is more than just trans-gendered. She is thirty-one years old, a member of the Accounting Club and deals with many of the same issues that other students face.

Campus restrooms have posed as a problem for Blixer.

"When men see me in the restroom, they get freaked out and leave. They either come back in and say, 'Lady you're in the wrong restroom,' or they use the women's restroom by mistake." Blixer believes that the University should designate a unisex or private bathroom for people in her situation. By law, she is currently required to use the men's room.

For now, Blixer encourages students to consider their judgments.

"All people should respect and appreciate one another for what life is—wonderful," she said. "If a girl is ugly, you would never say that in public. Or say out loud that a guy is gay, pointing a finger. All forms of discriminations are a result of ignorance due to the lack of education and social understanding within our communities."



Jason Granger/ The Current
Andrea Blixer, junior, business administration, talks with a reporter on the MSC bridge Friday.

Looping the Loop - Hawk-style



Skateboarding legend Tony Hawk circles the full-pipe during the Tony Hawk Boom-Boom Huck Jam held Wednesday night at Savvis Center. The University Program Board offered discounted tickets to students.

Midsemester slump got you down? Here're a few tips

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

"I feel unmotivated and fatigued," said Jay Kanterman, junior, accounting.

Kanterman's sentiments are echoed all over UM-St. Louis campus as students finish midterm exams and begin preparing for final exams.

"After midterms, I just don't see the point in trying to study if I'm not going to make an A," said Kanterman.

Midterms serve as a pivotal point on the semester seesaw. Successful midterm exams may push students into feeling more confident than they should; unsuccessful midterms may cause students to see their overall academic goals as unachievable.

Nov. 17 is the last day to drop with a withdraw grade, and the pressure is mounting for some.

Students weigh the factors of grade point average, financial aid eligibility and anticipated graduation date. Final exam week is only five weeks away, but midterms have left some students feeling unmotivated to attend class, com-

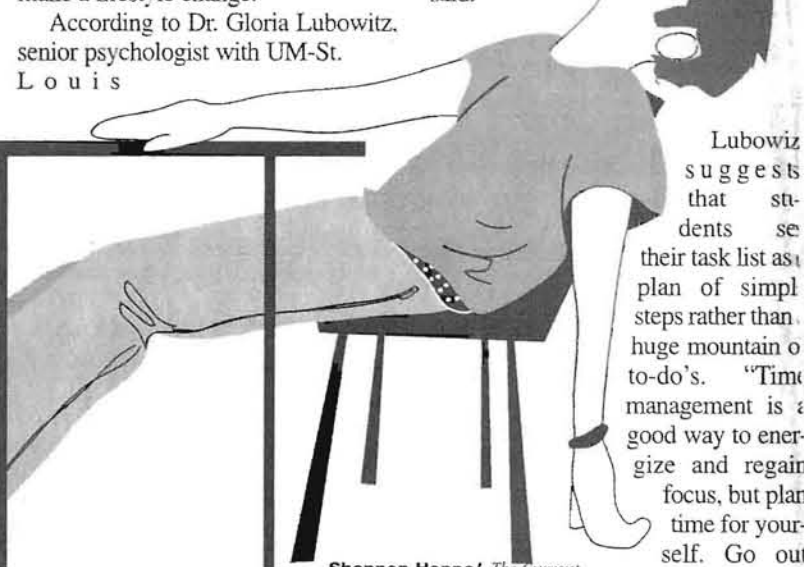
plete assignments or prepare for tests. "I'm tired. I've never had this much homework in college before. That's what drives me nuts," said Ross Koenig, junior, economics.

Faculty and staff are worn down as well. To combat this general feeling of an overwhelmed campus, Counseling Services is inviting students to visit the office and work out a plan. Combating stress can be a daunting task, especially when students may not have time to make a lifestyle change.

According to Dr. Gloria Lubowitz, senior psychologist with UM-St. Louis

habits and eating habits," said Lubowitz. "Students start 'catastrophizing.' They see one failure and allow it to dominate their life."

Lubowitz offers tips to students who may find themselves in a midsemester slump. "There are a few simple steps you can follow to ensure you'll make it through sane. Take a break, make a plan and follow through," she said.



Counseling Services, the key to stress relief is to see the big picture and to understand that goals are achieved through small steps.

"Symptoms of stress can be identified through major changes in sleep

Lubowitz suggests that students see their task list as a plan of simple steps rather than a huge mountain of to-do's. "Time management is a good way to energize and regain focus, but plan time for yourself. Go out with your friends,

watch a movie, read a book, exercise or whatever you like to do," she said.

For more tips on dealing with academic stress, visit Counseling Services at 126 Millennium Student Center or visit www.umsl.edu/services/counselor.

EDITOR

KATE DROLET
Features Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

Lending a hand thru community service

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

Between the constant mental acrobatics of balancing school, work and social involvement, students may not realize the importance of adding volunteer work to the mix. Community service can significantly enrich a community. Here are a few suggestions on how to fit volunteering into a busy schedule.

United Way-St. Louis Cares is a volunteer organization that coordinates community service activities. To join, individuals must go through a short training session. The session informs potential members about the organization, its activities, goals and involvement in the St. Louis area.

Laurie Bainter, sophomore, business, got involved with the program through the Pierre Laclède Honors College Cities and Good Lives class.

Students search for the perfect study spot

BY STEVE SMITH
Staff Writer

What do a 10-page paper due in less than 24 hours, a midterm starting in 2 hours and a well-packed snowball punching into a person's inner ear at 35 miles per hour have in common? All are abrupt and painful awakenings, and they all have a tendency to trigger a student's fight-or-flight mechanism. Despite coffee, smoking and bathroom breaks, flight is not a real option, and the fight response usually wins out.

So where do students gear up for battle? Batman had the bat cave and Elvis had Graceland, but where do students go to align their shakras, cultivate their chi and steel themselves for academic battle?

The answer for UM-St. Louis students is the Millennium Student Center. When asked, many students agreed that certain criteria are necessary for an effective study spot. Requirements for an academic haven include a comfortable place to sit down and spread out the implements of academia. Access to coffee, pizza and other creature comforts provided by The Nosh makes the MSC an ideal place to study.

Mindful of their breathing and drawing strength from the hanging sculpture resembling tumbling multi-

colored corn chips, students slumped in the vinyl MSC chairs agreed; the MSC is the next best thing to home.

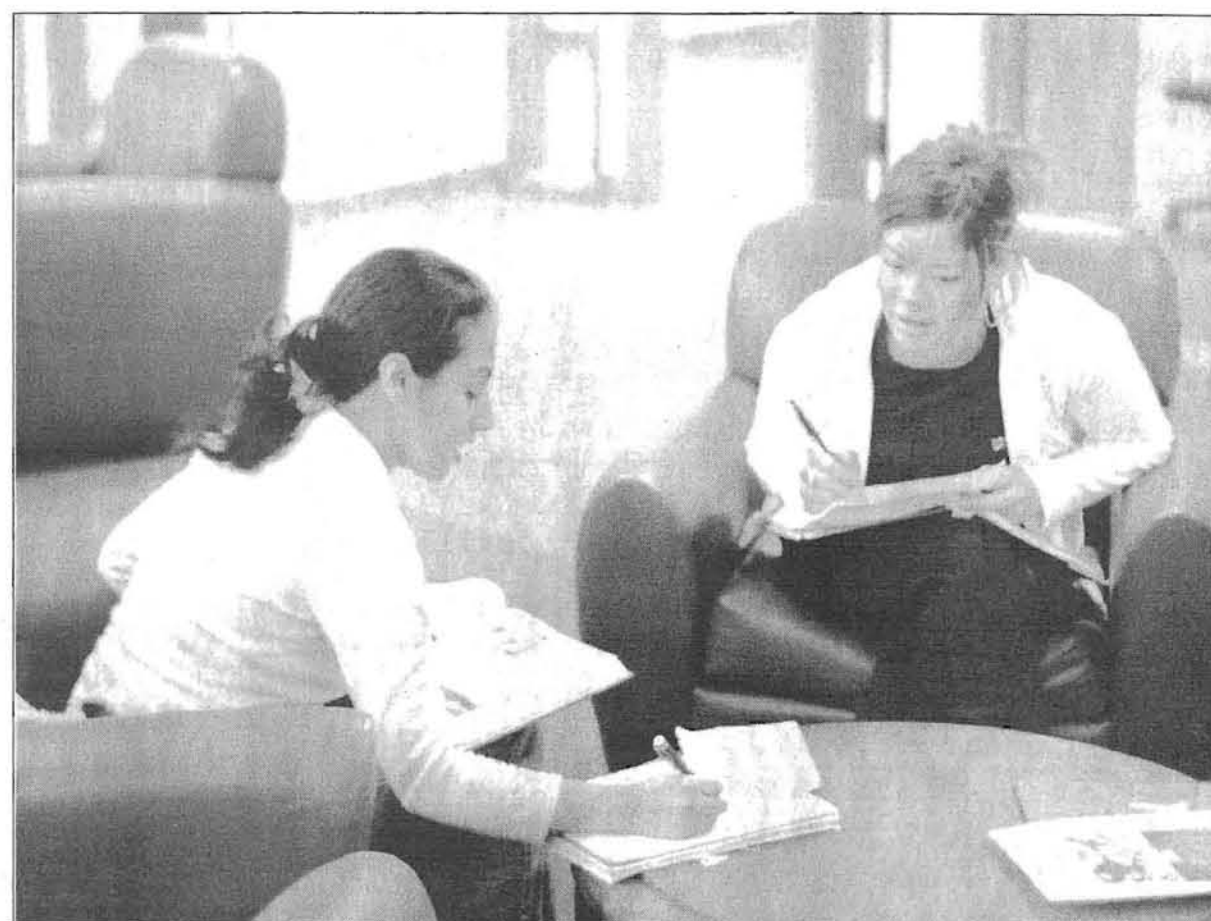
Nicki Neckermann, freshman, elementary education, said that when she was not in her room, the "quiet and comfortable" chairs on the second floor of the rotunda were her haunt of choice for the feeding of the intellect.

Also located on the second floor of the MSC is the fireside lounge. Most of those who chose this quiet space said that they preferred to study alone.

While the entire MSC proves very hospitable, The Nosh attracts students planning to study and socialize. With an informal atmosphere and plenty of available snacks, study groups and social groups alike strop their intellectual razors on the first floor of the MSC.

A few alternative study spots include the outside area between SSB and Clark Hall and secluded grassy knolls by Bugg Lake. The Thomas Jefferson Library is a traditional study spot for students seeking silence.

Students wander to all corners of the campus to find their respective dens of solitude. As the end of the semester approaches, they will spend hours in these havens to don their armor and push on through another paper, another test and another semester.



Amanda Schniedermeier/ The Current
Students work in the Millennium Student Center. With cozy chairs, quiet study lounges and caffeine-fueled drinks close at hand, the MSC tops many students' lists as a favorite study spot.

German art takes over SLAM

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The Saint Louis Art Museum has a potato house. German artist Sigmar Polke titled his 1967 sculpture "Potato House," because at each cross of common lattice, a potato is attached. He used the symmetry of the lattice work and potatoes to symbolize the rigid structure of normalcy which prevailed in Germany after World War II.

This sculpture and more than 40 other pieces of 20th-century German art are on display at the Saint Louis Art Museum's "German Art Now" exhibition. The exhibition, which includes a complimentary audio explanation of several pieces, provides insight into the significant impact of German artists on the art world.

"These artists began to play an important role in German art in the 1960s, addressing Germany's recent past and its artistic present," said exhibition curator Cornelia Homburg. "They have drawn international attention and created a new image of German art that has had far-reaching effects with significant implications for contemporary art around the world. The time is right to begin to evaluate their international impact."

Several of the pieces feature a war theme, demonstrating how World War I and II affected the artistic scene in Germany. Georg Baselitz's "Picture for the Fathers" features horrifying

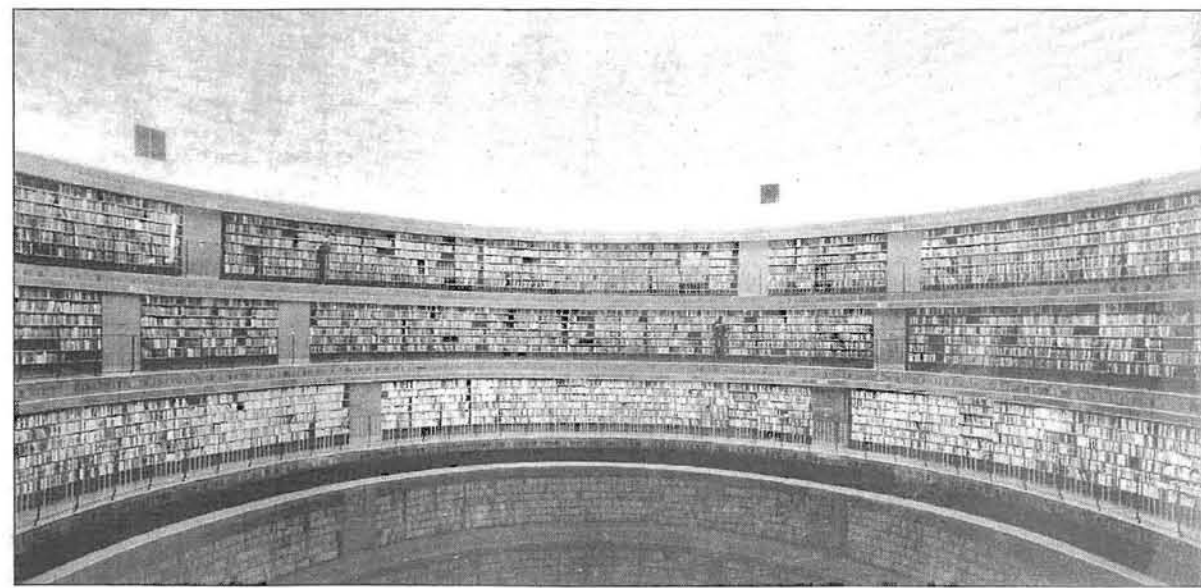


Photo courtesy Saint Louis Art Museum

Andreas Gursky's photograph, "Library," is included in the "German Art Now" exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum.

imagery of bloody and decaying flesh. Baselitz meant to imply that the previous generation was to blame for Germany's violent role in World War II.

"Baselitz saw the results of the war and what the Nazi regime had done and what the people in Germany had done, and this picture really deals with that experience," said Homburg.

The theme of violence continues from canvas to canvas in the exhibition, using both abstraction and literal representation. Anselm Kiefer's "Burning Rods" refers to the catastrophic accident at the nuclear power

plant in Chernobyl. The center of the painting features 14 lead rods. The rest of the painting is a blurred mess of oil, acrylic, emulsion and shellac on canvas with broken ceramic, iron and copper wire. The piece imbues a sense of profound loss and tragedy.

Violence is not the only theme present. Several pieces poke fun at American pop art, while other pieces simply reflect the artists' struggle with success.

Brent Benjamin, director of the Saint Louis Art Museum, said he is excited about the new exhibit.

"In the 1960s, a group of artists

emerged on the art scene in Germany. They were aware of American trends but developed their own language of content and form," said Benjamin.

"German Art Now" is more than paintings, sculptures and photographs. The exhibit features German films, such as "Wings of Desire," every Friday night at 7 p.m. The museum also hosts gallery talks and lectures discussing the insightful exhibition.

Admission to the museum is free, but access to "German Art Now" costs students \$8. The exhibition will run until Jan. 11, 2004. For more information, visit www.slam.org.



Photo courtesy Saint Louis Art Museum

Gerhard Richter's painting, "Betty," is one piece featured in the "German Art Now" exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum. The exhibit showcases 20th-century German art and includes a complimentary audio explanation of several pieces. The exhibit will continue until Jan. 11.

VOLUNTEERING, from page 6

"I've been a member with United Way-St. Louis Cares for the past year. I think it's an excellent volunteer choice, particularly for college students with busy schedules because it offers short term opportunities instead of long term commitments."

Members receive a monthly newsletter from the organization, which lists volunteer opportunities in various locations.

"If you see something you want to do, you just sign up for it," said Bainter.

Student organizations also present numerous community service possibilities. Many organizations sponsor and attend events that benefit the University and the surrounding area. Just getting involved can open doors to volunteering.

UM-St. Louis is situated around

several trauma centers, day-care facilities and public schools. Spending an hour each week at one of these places will benefit the organization as well as the volunteer.

"Students get so wrapped up in their own lives, and they forget that others need help," said Lizzy Abraham, junior, psychology and communications.

November is UM-St. Louis Service Month.

Throughout the next few weeks, groups such as the Catholic Newman

Center will sponsor activities and community service projects for students, faculty and staff to participate in. Some of these events include a Hunger Banquet, where the unfair division of wealth in the world is examined, and a Habitat for Humanity day, where volunteers will build a house for a family in need.

“
Students get so wrapped up in their own lives, and they forget that others need help...
”

- Lizzy Abraham, junior, psychology and communication

The week of Nov. 3 through Nov. 6 will focus on "Caring for Kids." On Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m., vol-

unteers will work with Faith House, an organization that facilitates an after-school program for underprivileged children.

The week of Nov. 7 will have a "Building a Community" theme. The Habitat for Humanity project will take place on Friday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Students can feed the hungry from Nov. 17 through Nov. 21 with Operation Food Search, a food pantry. Volunteers will box donated items for the organization. The Catholic Newman Center will host the Hunger Banquet on Thursday, Nov. 20 from noon until 1 p.m.

For more information regarding the UM-St. Louis Month of Service, contact Joe Flees at 516-4535 or visit the Student Life office.

Alpha Xi Delta Toy Drive

Monday Nov. 17th -
Friday Dec. 5th

Boxes will be located throughout campus.

2004 January Commencement

at the BLANCHE M. TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

10 A.M. - Evening College (BGS only)

- Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- UM-Rolla Engineering Education Center
- Gerontology Masters Program
- Masters in Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

2 P.M. - College of Education

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration

Commencement Candidates
Attend the Grad Fair
Dec. 2, 3, & 4, 2003
11 a.m.-7 p.m.
University Bookstore (MSC)
(purchase cap and gown and order announcements, etc.)

Web site: www.ums.l.edu/commencement

Smallpox Vaccine Study

You're needed for a study involving research smallpox vaccines.

Background & rationale:

Smallpox is a serious, contagious, and sometimes fatal infectious disease. There is no specific treatment for smallpox disease and the only prevention is vaccination. Saint Louis University researchers need your help to enhance the production of the current smallpox vaccine.

To qualify:

You **MUST** be 18-29 years of age and **NEVER** received a smallpox vaccine.

Key points:

- YOU'LL receive a research smallpox vaccine
- YOU'LL be paid for time/travel: \$50/visit (12 visits in 45 days: 4 approximately 1 hour and 8 approximately 30 min.)

For more information,
please contact the
Vaccine Center:

314-977-6333

or

866-410-6333 (toll free)

vaccine@slu.edu or <http://medschool.slu.edu/vaccine/>



SPORTS

Riverwomen face undefeated Northern Kentucky

• Norse haven't lost a game since Oct. 1999

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen went up against St. Joseph's College for the first game of the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament. After a hard battle, the Riverwomen pulled out a 2-1 victory to advance to the GLVC semifinals.

The first half was back and forth a lot with the clashing of two strong offenses and defenses. Then the Pumas busted through the Riverwomen defense as Olivia Klosterman blasted a ball into the corner to put St. Joseph up 12 minutes in.

"We just couldn't get it together. We were struggling to find a rhythm," said Coach Beth Goetz. "The goal by St. Joe's was really good. We just hung in and kept fighting. But we couldn't quite get on top."

The second half started much as the first. UM-St. Louis then changed the pace of the game and took control. Junior forward Sonya Hauan evened the score when she blasted the ball into the back of the open net having beaten the St. Joseph's sophomore goalie.

"The goalie kept calling for the ball the entire game, and I just took it away from her and shot a wide open goal," Hauan said. "The second half was a lot better than the first. It was kind of disappointing because it was our last home game, and we didn't play very well. We were lucky to pull out a win."

Hauan didn't wait long to edge out another goal to put the Riverwomen up 2-1. Two minutes later she received a pass from senior midfielder Melissa Papa to score.

"I received the ball from Brandy [Lucero] and sent a through ball to Sonya who finished it," Papa said. "It was totally amazing, especially since it is my senior year. The second half we just came out with intensity and high pressure, which made it a success."

The Riverwomen held on to the lead and claimed victory once again over the Pumas to advance them to semi-finals. They will now travel to Northern Kentucky to face the Norse.

Northern Kentucky has not lost a game since Oct. 9, 1999, when SIU-E posted a 3-1 win over NKU. The Norse are seeking their sixth straight GLVC Tournament championship. NKU has never lost (14-0 all-time) in the GLVC Tournament.

"We are not intimidated. It's going



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen midfielder Sonya Hauan intercepts a pass to St. Joseph's defender Nicole Nowaczyk during the second half of play on Nov. 2. Hauan scored both goals in the Riverwomen's 2-1 victory, which advanced the team in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament. The Riverwomen then faced the Northern Kentucky University Norse on Nov. 7 and suffered a 3-1 loss to the undefeated NKU, which ends Riverwomen post-season play.

to be a really tough match against a quality team. But on any day a team is beatable so we're going to bring our best game," Goetz said.

"It is going to be an intense game with probably one goal. But we feel that we did well against the nationally ranked Lindenwood; and as long as we possess well, we will be good," Papa said.

"We have played them once already so we're not nervous. This is the year to beat them. I'm excited!" Hauan said.

NKU is now 50-0-5 against GLVC teams during the past four years. NKU is currently ranked No. 3 in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region poll. The top four teams in the regional poll will advance to the NCAA Division II Tournament in November.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

LEFT:

Forward Brandy Lucero moves the ball forward during the Riverwomen's game Nov. 2 against the St. Joseph's Pumas at the Don Dallas Memorial field. Although the Riverwomen were down 0-1 at the half, they came back with two goals to defeat the Pumas.

YOUR OPINION

What would it take for you to come to a UM-St. Louis game?

by Kevin Ottley/The Current



"Free beer."

-Jason Sneed, senior, computer science



"A hot basketball team."

Amy Schoenherr, sophomore, communication

GRETCHEN MOORE

Interim Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

Questions or Comments?

Send me an e-mail:

current@jinx.umsl.edu

WEB

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

UPCOMING

Women's Volleyball

Nov. 13-15

• GLVC tournament to be held at GLVC #1 seed time TBA

Ice Hockey

Nov. 14

• vs. Bradley at Peoria 9:15 p.m.

Nov. 15

• vs. Bradley at Peoria 8 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Nov. 15

• at UM-Rolla 7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Nov. 15

• at Lincoln 3 p.m.

Volleyball splits matches during weekend series

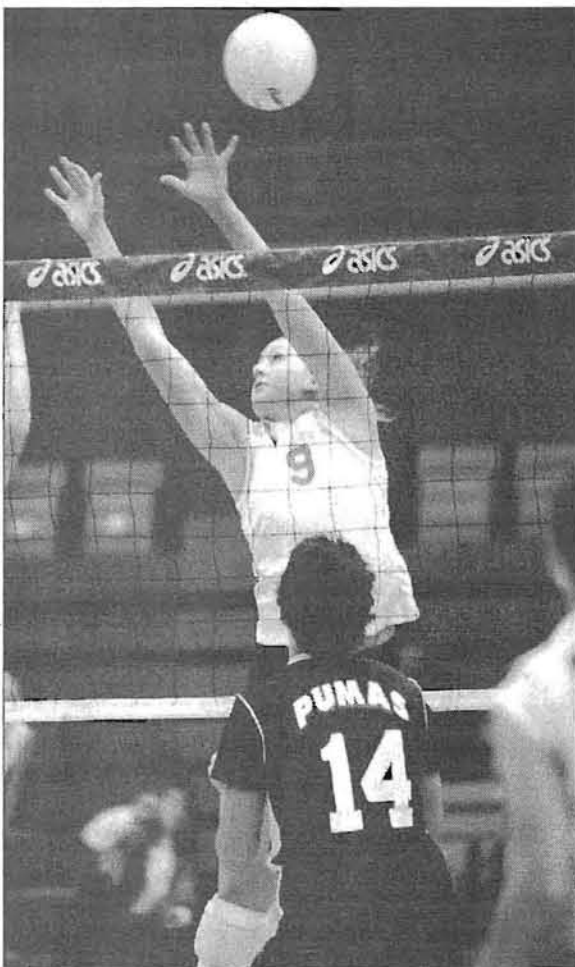
BY JUD DEIFENBACK
Staff Writer

Last weekend, the UM-St. Louis volleyball team split their matches on the road against Kentucky Wesleyan and Southern Indiana.

On Friday, Oct. 31, the Riverwomen beat the Panthers of Kentucky Wesleyan 3-0 for the second time this season, winning 30-16, 30-27 and 30-16. UM-St. Louis dominated the match by recording 49 kills and holding Kentucky Wesleyan to just 19 kills. By winning the match and with Saint Joseph losing later that night, the Riverwomen were able to secure a birth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Riverwomen followed up their win by succumbing to the Screaming Eagles of Southern Indiana 3-0, losing in games of 30-26, 30-25 and 30-21. The big difference in the match was the mistakes by the Riverwomen. UM-St. Louis had 24 hitting errors in the three games while Southern Indiana only had 16 errors. Even with all the errors, Head Coach Denise Silvester felt her team missed an opportunity to win the match. In particular, Silvester was very impressed with the way her team served the ball. "We played very aggressively against Southern Indiana. We were in a position to win all three games. We passed serve very well," she said.

UM-St. Louis's overall record this year is 8-12, and they are 5-7 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Their regular season finales were played on the road at Wisconsin-Parkside on Friday, Nov. 7, and at Lewis on Saturday, Nov. 8.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

LEFT:

Middle hitter Nikki Pagels leaps for a block during the game Oct. 24 against St. Joseph's. The Riverwomen currently have an 8-14 record for the season. They are now gearing up for the GLVC tournament, which begins next weekend, facing top seed and host Northern Kentucky on Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to being focused on the matches this weekend, an added bonus of the road trip is the opportunity for several of the players to see their families. "Our players from the Chicago area are looking forward to playing near home in front of their friends and family," assistant coach Erik Kaseorg said.

In previewing the Lewis and Wisconsin-Parkside matches, Silvester knows that both teams will be tough to beat. "Lewis and Parkside are very strong offensively, so we will need to serve aggressively and do a

great job blocking at the net," she said.

In practices the past week, the Riverwomen have been focusing on their serves in order to succeed offensively. "We have been working on giving our team more opportunities to terminate the ball offensively. We have continued to work on our ball control and staying aggressive through the matches," she said.

This weekend's results should give good insight into how the Riverwomen will fare in the upcoming conference tournament.

Lewis hands shutout loss to Rivermen

3-0 defeat to Flyers ends men's soccer season

BY JUD DEIFENBACK
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Nov. 2, the UM-St. Louis men's soccer team ended their season on a disappointing note by losing to Lewis University 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

The Rivermen, a sixth seed, faced the strong third-seeded Lewis, a team that had beaten UM-St. Louis in four straight games. Lewis continued that streak on Sunday and moved on to the semifinals of the conference tournament.

The Rivermen played well in the first half, holding the Flyers scoreless. But in the second half, Lewis scored two goals and then added a third as the Rivermen attempted to be more aggressive on the offensive side of the field, leaving them vulnerable defensively.

Coach Dan King had many thoughts on the Lewis game and the season as well. "In the Lewis game, it was the same theme that recurred throughout the year. We didn't generate enough scoring chances to win," he said.

Although disappointed with the results, Coach King was very proud of the resilience that this young team showed throughout the season. "I thought we stayed focused and got better every day in practice. The play-

ers always looked positive, especially getting to the tournament," he said.

Most importantly, King felt his team's heart and spirit were remarkable throughout the season. "We never gave up all season: The attitude and character of this team really showed all year," he said.

King is not alone in feeling proud of his players' efforts on the field. Many fans also felt that the team never gave up. Alina Carron, a senior, followed the Rivermen throughout the season. "I watched the team all year. It was really fun to be at the games during the season and see them get better. I'm pretty excited about next year," she said.

Looking forward to next season, King wants to continue to emphasize improving on the offensive side of the field. In addition, King feels that the team should only get better as his squad matures and becomes more experienced. "This is a young team, dominated by sophomores. This was a growing year for us. What we need to do for next season is to find an offense and put the ball in the net," he said.

The Rivermen will have plenty of competition next season as the GLVC continues to be a tough conference from top to bottom. The top teams this year, SIU-Edwardsville, Southern Indiana and Lewis, all look to be strong again next year.

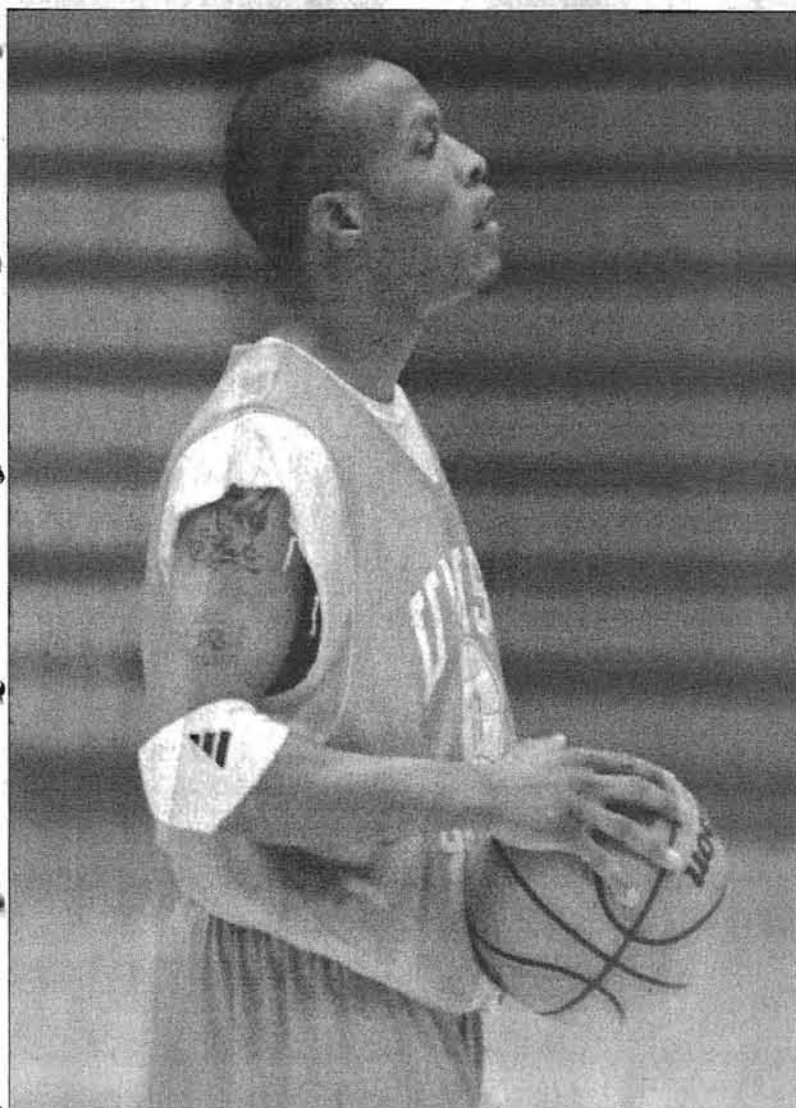
The Rivermen finished the season 6-13-1 overall and 4-5-1 in conference play.

“This is a young team, dominated by sophomores. This was a growing year for us. What we need to do for next season is to find an offense and put the ball in the net.”

- Dan King, Rivermen head coach

Bittersweet last season for Rivermen's Ronnie Banks

Star basketball player dedicates season to uncle who died of AIDS



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ronnie Banks, a point guard for Rivermen basketball, led the team in points last season. As a senior, the 2003 season will be Banks' last, and he is dedicating it to his uncle who recently passed away.

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

"Ronnie Banks, please stand up," coach Chris Pilz said when announcing his 2003 team at the Tip-Off Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 5. "Now Ronnie has really stepped up to be the leader of this team. He is a strong presence on and off the court. He's going to bring a lot to the team this year."

Banks, the lone returning senior to the UM-St. Louis basketball team, has had many struggles in life to get past in order to be where he is today. Banks' mother had him when she was only 14 years old and then became addicted to drugs. His father was shot when he was young, and he had to move from household to household.

He was taken under the wings of his grandparents and Uncle John from Alabama. As he grew up, he found himself faced with decisions he had to deal with alone because he did not have his parents in his life for over 20 years.

"I had three choices growing up. I could either go to jail, get killed or do what I had to do to get where I wanted to be," Banks said.

Banks went back to visit his family in Alabama over spring break when his uncle revealed a secret that would take his life only three months later. His uncle had developed AIDS when he was 18; and while the disease was breaking down his immune system, he had developed cancer as well. He was in and out of the hospital for many months.

"I will never forget the phone call I got on June 20, 2003. It was really hard. It really hit home when that hap-

pened to my uncle," Banks said. "I was surprised because I've been through a lot, but I just couldn't understand it when it happened to him."

After he died, Banks came to a lot of decisions in his life. He felt that he could do whatever he wanted to do in life, and the passing of his uncle was just another thing that he had to deal with. "He loved me, and he told me he did. He knew I could make it, and he believed in me. My uncle and my granddad are my backbone."

Growing up, his grandfather always told him to pick his friends wisely so he would not end up with the wrong crowd. "They did a good job to keep me in the right frame of mind."

Banks had a 3.0 last year and has stepped up as a leader for the 2003 team. "We need cohesiveness. We have to be together with everyone and let teammates know that we stand behind them. As a team we need to play hard, run hard and love each other. My main objective is to talk to each of my teammates and ask them about their grades, classes and just how they are doing."

Banks also had to deal with his fourth coach of his college career and found a lot of strength in Pilz. "All the dreams I had of being a success he is bringing back. I wish he could have been my coach for four years. He's really helping me love the game again and letting me be a man and a success," Banks said.

Banks wants to dedicate his 2003 season to his uncle and reflects back on what he used to tell him. "If you try your best and give it all you are then you are a success whether you win or lose."

Coach's Corner: Q & A with women's soccer coach Beth Goetz

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

Q: Who are your star offensive players?

A: Sonya Hauan is leading our team in goals and really creates a lot of opportunities and finishes. Katie Huelsing creates a lot of opportunities of our team and leads with the most assists. Our team really makes a lot of attacking choices, and then we throw in Mary-Kate McDermott, and there is a lot of offense.

Question: Coach Goetz, how has this season differed from your past seven?

Answer: This is the most talented group that we have had. And it's always great to work with a higher level of kids.

Q: What is your team's strongest aspect?

A: Well, I think that we have two. First, being our team cohesion. That's something that you can't coach. They are really there for each other on and off of the field. Second, is our ability to score goals. This was prevalent in our game against St. Joe's; it was a not-so-great game, but we still had the ability to come out on top to score two goals and win.

Q: What is your team's weakest aspect?

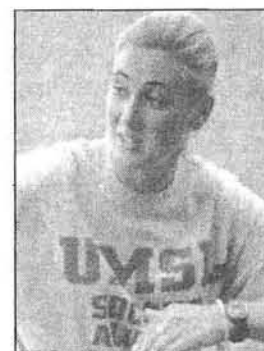
A: Inconsistency. That often happens with a young group. We have some strong days and some not so confident days. We need to learn to be winners.

Q: Finishing second in 2002, what are you doing different to try to be first this year?

A: I think you come out different every year, but what we have been doing the past two years has been working for us. We start to set higher goals, and expectations rise as well.

Q: Your next match against Northern Kentucky, a team that hasn't been beaten in 55 matches since Oct. 9, 1999, is going to be difficult. What are you thinking about the game?

A: It is always exciting to play a team that everybody wants to beat. They walk around with a target on their back because everyone wants to have that win. It's really exciting to play them, and we're going to do our best.



Beth Goetz, coach of Riverwomen soccer

Q: What about defensive stars?

A: Our sweeper has done a really good job this year and our defense always wins the header balls, which makes a difference.

Q: What is it like having your sister Katie on the team?

A: Katie is a good asset to the team and brings a lot of leadership. On a personal note, it's really great to get to spend so much time with her and I'm glad the team gets to be with her so much too.

Q: What is the most important aspect of a good coach?

A: Especially coaching a women's sport, you have to relate to the players as a team and individually. You must know the game and motivate players individually as well as building relationships.

Q: You are losing two seniors this year; what are your feelings about next year's team?

A: It's nice to have a strong team and then not have to rebuild the next year. It will be exciting to continue to build and have the talent to do good things with.

Q: What is your best memory from this year?

A: The Lindenwood game didn't have much to do with the outcome of our season and our record, but I think that the team played well as a whole. They are a top-five ranked team with a lot of competition from that school. We really won that game as a group.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Sonya Hauan

- Forward for R-women soccer
- Junior
- leads UMSL in scoring this season with 35 points



Campbell McLaurin

- Goalkeeper for R-men soccer
- Senior
- from Jackson, Mississippi

HUNGER AWARENESS WEEK

November 17th - 21st

• **Informational Table**

Monday – Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00pm, on the bridge of the MSC

• **Operation Food Search**

Monday, November 17th, 12:00 noon – 5:00pm (for directions, please visit the Office of Student Life, MSC 375)

• **Gandhi Night**

Monday, November 17th, at 6:00pm in the Provincial House

• **Hidden in America**

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18th and 19th, at 11:00am and again at 12:30pm in the Pilot House

• **Soup Line**

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18th and 19th, from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the NOSH

• **Hunger Banquet**

Thursday, November 20th, at 12:00 noon in Century Rooms A & B (please SIGN UP at the informational table on the bridge)

• **Donation jars at cash registers**

Monday through Friday, all day, in the Millennium Student Center

All money raised throughout the week (from the Soup Line and the donation jars) will go to local, national, and international hunger relief organizations.

Co-sponsored by Interfaith Campus Ministries, Catholic Newman Center, the Office of Student Life, University Program Board, Student Government Association, PLHCSA, Amnesty International, and Pre-Med Society

BOOK REVIEW

Reconnecting with God

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

Ever felt uneasy about traveling a certain route to school or work, only to discover later that by avoiding that route you also avoided a massive auto

accident? Ever been stumped by a problem in a relationship and had a movie come on HBO where Jack Black seemed to live out your problem and solve it? Perhaps you were sitting around trying to choose between two great universities or two equally great jobs when some guy wearing a bright sweatshirt with "Penn State" or "CitiBank" sprawling across the front bumps into you in the checkout lane at the grocery? Or, maybe, an angel visited you recently? Some unknown benefactor paid your Verizon bill? Your cherished aunt Sue was miraculously cured of cancer?

Albert Clayton Gauden asks us to look deeper at these sorts of situations in "Signs and Wonders," a logical picture for forward-thinking Christians, spiritualists and particularly receptive and open-minded laypersons. Through biblical times, Gauden explains, humankind communicated with God. Because they were conscious of God's quiet messages, they slowed their lives and listened. They looked to common coincidence and the like as potentially more. Then, certain people created organized religions, which separated God from man—religion placed an intermediary between the former conversationalists. From the advent of religion, people started drifting further from God, for they began forgetting how to hear the "Language of God." So the stage as it exists now looks something like this: People are living out pain and misery (the basic human conditions) in frankly hedonistic societies, unable to reconnect with the God that loves them and wants them to succeed and transcend continual suffering.

see **SIGNS**, page 11

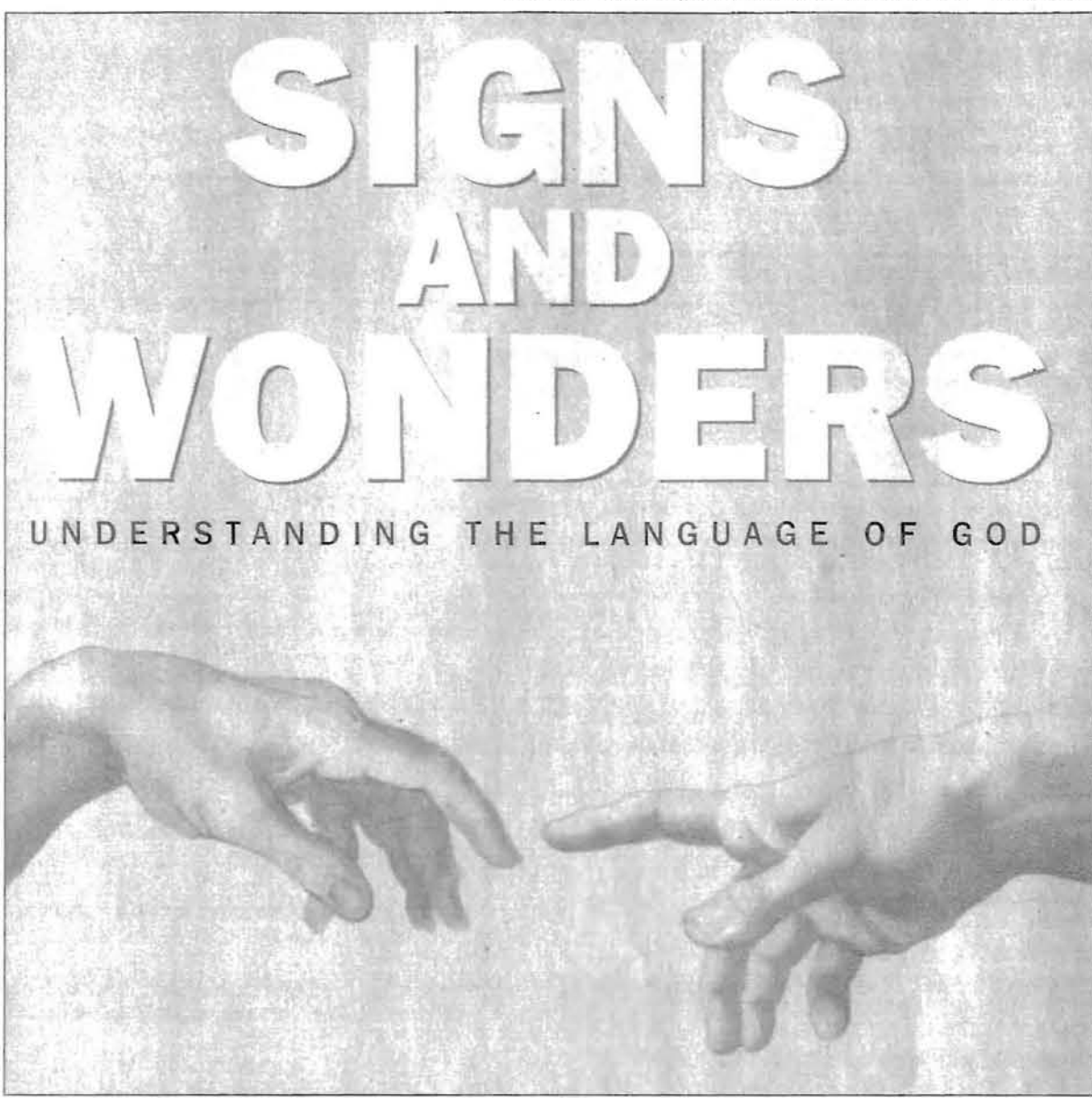


Photo courtesy Bridgeman Art Library

EDITOR

CASEY SCHACHER

A&E Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

A&E
Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

CD REVIEW

Hometown melancholia

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

When the hustle and bustle of city life starts getting you down, turn to your neighborhood Bottoms Up Blues Gang for melodic relief. The three soulful St. Louis natives have reached deep into their city's musical history to form their dynamic boogie-woogie blues sound. Their newest album, "South Broadway Blues," is a collection of melancholy rhythms that any music fan will enjoy.

"South Broadway Blues" bursts with diverse rhythm and old-fashioned emotion. Vocalist Kari Liston introduces the album with her empowering vocals and the track, "Train I Ride." Liston possesses a rough but angelic voice fueled with energy that captivates any listener. Backing up her vocal power are two equally talented musicians, which makes for one remarkable trio.

With Jeremy Segel-Moss on guitar, each track is infused with a captivating

chord variation. Segel-Moss' finger-picking playing style gives the Bottoms Up Blues Gang their sound of grassroots authenticity. Adam Andrews chimes background harmonica music. The harmonica interludes throughout "South Broadway Blues" are well-constructed and original. Who needs a drummer, when you can make the blues simple?

Aside from the three original members, a number of fellow musicians join the Bottoms Up Blues Gang in their album. "Don't Want No Man" shakes to the beats of Matt Murdick on the keys. Murdick can also be heard on several other tracks with his saloon-style piano stylings.

"Who Do You Love" would not be complete without the vocal chords of the Round-Ups' front lady, Irene Allen. This electrified blues ballad turns into a dual-female outlaw exhibition with the two powerful voices of Allen and Liston. The Bottom Ups Blues Gang's incorporation of local artists puts a nostalgic twist to their disc and makes them as St. Louis as toasted ravioli.



Led by vocalist Kari Liston, the Bottoms Up Blues Gang show the crowd at Lemmon's what the blues is all about during their Saturday night show to benefit *The Confluence*, a St. Louis independent newspaper.

Lyrical, the Bottoms Up Blues Gang writes in a casual fashion about love, change and chance. Everyday lyrics fill "South Broadway Blues" with simple contemplation. "I was thinkin' about you and I started to cry/Cause I let life just pass me by,"

from the track "I Don't Need You," exemplifies the melancholy song writing style of Kari Liston. Much diversification is implemented throughout the words of the album and most of the inevitable human emotions are touched upon.

CONCERT REVIEW

Round-Ups broaden smiles

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

With nine people gathered on the undersized Lemmon's stage, anything is possible. When the Round-Ups plugged in and their honky-tonk rock filtered through the sound system, they proved just that. The eccentric group played a fiercely outlandish nine-song set that caused smiles to broaden and feet to dance.

The crowd gathered shoulder-to-shoulder to hear outlaw ballads in two-part harmony, belted out by lead vocalists Tom Herd and Irene Allen. The two compliment each other's talents and share a viciously entertaining humor in between songs while, in the outskirts, old-country orchestra sounds out.

Incorporating the banjo, guitars, harmonica and drums, the Round-Ups manage to keep a high-energy beat throughout the set. Imaginative lyrics and vibrant rhythmic variation come together to form a genre-defying, back-porch bluegrass sound that the Round-Ups call their own.

By the third song, "Mustache," Irene Allen already proved to have the hard-winded vocal chords of a modern day Patsy Cline. Allen controlled the room with her seriated vocal patterns and engaging stage presence.



The Round Ups perform at Lemmon's on Saturday in a concert to benefit *The Confluence*, an independent news journal.

Erupting from the St. Louis blues scene, Allen added a soulful substance to the Round-Ups' sound.

"Half of the band grew up together, playing on a porch," guitarist Tom Coriell explained to me. Over the years, they have shifted and shaped into the nine individuals who can today call themselves the Round-Ups. The group has grown and persisted in a city where there are "no decent honky-tonk bands," as vocalist Tom Herd put it, to redefine the genre. Herd

further explained, "I don't expect the main stream to see the bottom of the river."

With that Nashville rebel spirit, Herd and Allen write words for the group. The lyrics of the Round-Ups are humorous yet somewhat dark, soothing and dryly daunting. Irene Allen described fellow lyricist Tom Herd as the "best songwriter I know," and the rest of the band nodded in agreement.

With musical influences ranging

from Hank Williams to The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Round-Ups will entertain your musical taste buds. Each musician in the group is inherently talented, and together they are a finely tuned, well-working unit. Improvisational elements of blues, country, jazz, rock and bluegrass all resonate in the sound of the Round-Ups. You are sure to enjoy the comedic stylings of a Round-Ups show. So, grab an ice-cold Stag and head to your nearest Round-Up show.

SLIFF offers rare look at indie, int'l films

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

The St. Louis film aficionados' fall high point is nearly here. The 12th annual St. Louis International Film Festival starts Nov. 13.

Every year, more people discover the St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) because every year they bring an exciting assortment of quality films rarely seen otherwise. Short films, documentaries, classics, international films from around the world and the works of promising young directors fill the program, along with parties, seminars, directors and stars. A gala party opens the festival and an awards ceremony caps this whirlwind of activity. SLIFF takes place from Thursday, Nov. 13, to Sunday, Nov. 24, with films shown at the Tivoli and Hi Pointe theaters, Webster University and the Mad Art Gallery. Once you attend the ten-day festival with its dazzling assortment of cinematic gems, you always come back.

The festival brings an array of films also making rounds at other film festivals, giving a taste of Cannes and Sundance and a sneak preview of indie films. The St. Louis International Film Festival is sponsored by the year-round, not-for-profit organization Cinema St. Louis. Cinema St. Louis also hosts a mini-festival showcase of St. Louis filmmakers during the summer, a big Oscars party and other film-related events in the area.

Every film fan wants to know which films have "buzz," the advance word of mouth that circulates about the most attention-grabbing films. Among this year's big buzz indie films are four that will play during the last half of the festival. "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress," tells of literature and love against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution. "Girl with a Pearl Earring" is a story that was inspired by Vermeer's famous painting of an unknown girl. "The Embalmer" provides a disturbing, modern retelling of an ancient Roman tale about a triangle between a dwarf taxidermist, a handsome young man and a woman. "In America" stands as director Jim Sheridan's sweet, partially autobiographical tale of an Irish family's arrival in America.

The festival has a 10-day run, however, so I'll concentrate on films in the first few days and then pick up the theme again with more recommended films for next week. Many of the biggest buzz narrative films are in the second half of the festival, while the biggest buzz documentaries are in the first half. Actually, you can go to any SLIFF film and be assured of seeing something unique and high quality. The festival organizers attend film festivals around the world, and the films they chose for SLIFF include many of the award winners. Checking the descriptions of the films online at HYPERLINK "http://www.cinemastlouis.org" or

www.cinemastlouis.org can give you an idea about which selections would most appeal to you. Since this is an international film festival, the majority of films are not in English but rather have subtitles. The films come from over thirty different countries. However, the documentaries are in English, as are many of the short films and all of the nominees for the New Filmmakers award. Many of the films play twice, so you have some flexibility in planning which films to see. I recommend seeing several to take in the festival flavor of the event.

Among award winners and films with buzz on the festival circuit are the opening-night films. "Triplets of Belleville," a French hit, is winning audience-choice awards at festivals around the world. The animated film has been described as indescribably creative and sardonically funny. Tickets to see this gem are available only as part of the Opening Night Gala, which includes a cocktail reception at the Chase Starlight Room after the screening at the Hi-Pointe. Tickets are \$75 and \$100 and can be purchased only through the Cinema St. Louis office, so most of us will have to wait and see if this one returns to local screens.

see **SLIFF**, page 11

Looney Tunes: Back in Action- The combination of animation and live action stirs up fun in this Warner Brothers film about the Looney Tunes gang's search for the mystifying blue diamond. Opens Nov. 14th.

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World- Navy captain Lucky Jack Aubrey (Russell Crow) must steer crew and failing ship through a dangerous chase to capture the enemy. Based on a narrative outline of the tenth book in the "Aubrey/Maturin" series by Patrick O'Brian. Opens Nov. 14th.

Tupac: Resurrection- Bizarre-sounding movie about a woman who becomes obsessed with cutting and eating her own flesh. Eww. Ongoing...

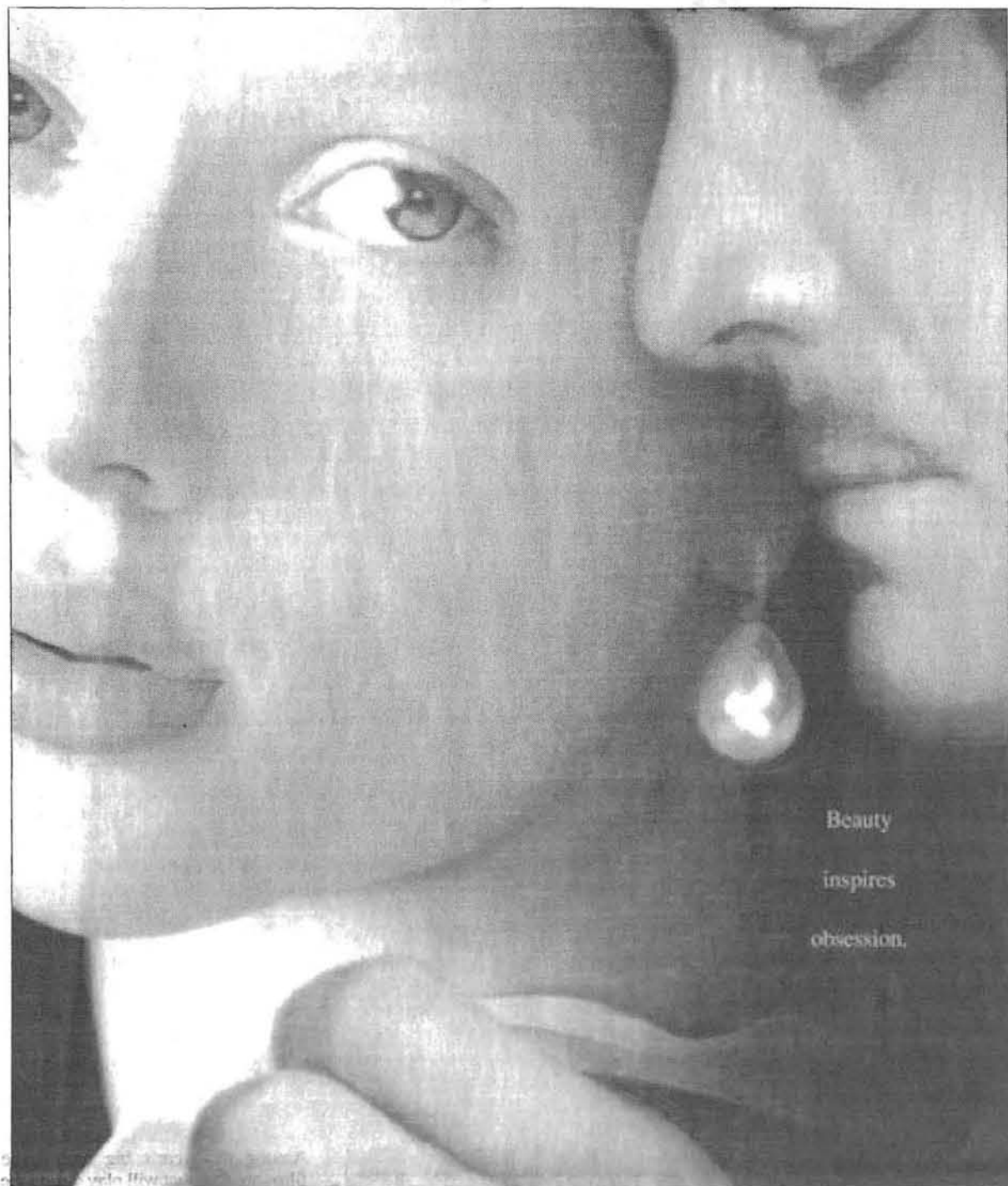
The Matrix Revolutions- A small group of humans freed from enslavement fight to save their people from evil machines in a battle that stretches over the scorched surface of the planet and into the center of Machine City.

SLIFF, from page 10

Besides the opening night film, other highlights of the first half of the festival are the silent classic "Sunrise," the nearly-wordless Hungarian film "Hukkle," the Irish drama-thriller "Boxed," the Israeli charmer "James' Journey to Jerusalem," the lyrical Russian "The Suit," the controversial "Oasis" and the Peruvian comedy "Captain Pantoja and the Special Services." Among the documentaries you might want to catch in the first portion of the fest are "Bonhoeffer," "To Be and To Have" and "Sisters in Cinema." All these films have buzz on the indie film and festival circuit and have awards and/or great audience

response. The festival has classic films as well as new ones. This year's classic highlights are F.W. Murnau's "Sunrise" and Roman Polanski's "The Tragedy of MacBeth." The latter will be shown in the second half of the festival but you will be able to catch the one-time showing of "Sunrise" the first weekend. "Sunrise," one of the great films of the silent era and one of the first Oscar winners, was directed by F. W. Murnau, who also directed the first vampire film "Nosferatu." "Sunrise" is a film famous for a unique visual beauty best seen on a big screen. This is a rare opportunity to see the film as it was intended to be seen. The film will

be shown Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Tivoli, with live musical accompaniment by renowned organist and St. Louis legend Stan Kahn. Among new narrative films with buzz is "Captain Pantoja and the Special Services." This comedy is from a story by Mario Vargas Llosa about a serious, efficient military officer assigned to the unwanted task of organizing a team of sex workers for soldiers at remote posts. Another high-profile film, "Oasis," is a Chinese film about an unlikely love affair between a mentally handicapped ex-con and a woman with cerebral palsy that has stirred considerable controversy about



ABOVE: GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING, directed by Peter Weber.

Beauty
inspires
obsession.

SIGNS, from page 10

Gaulden's goal then is to reacquaint us with God's language so that we may all live better, happier, more fulfilling lives. There are 25 forms included in this language, including everything from "angel murmurs" to "daydreams" to "epiphanies" to "intuition" to "visions" to "wonders." Using his glossary for each of these unique forms, he encourages readers to begin journaling daily activities and looking for potential God-speak. Gaulden packs his 28 chapters and 214 pages with plenty of I-know-that-guy-type examples. If you do not find a recognizable persona in "Signs," you really need to get out more.

Many of the chapters open with numerous vignettes to help illustrate Gaulden's points in the coming discourse. His examples make the pages go by more easily, make the concepts easier to grasp and make the whole concept seem less intimidating or fanciful.

If the idea of reconnecting with God in this way gets you excited,

Gaulden offers you two choices. First, "Signs" operates as a good guide and should be available at any local bookstore for \$24. Second, if you are more excited or if you do not like books, Gaulden runs a place in

Arizona, called the "Sedona Intensive," where you can go and get the sort of direct counseling that you prefer, which he plugs in "Signs."

Cusumano's Pizza

Sunday - Thursday 10pm 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

SGA Meeting

Nov. 21st 1 p.m. in the SGA Chambers

There will be nominations and elections for 2 ASUM board members



Contact Sarah at 516-5835 for more information.



Photo courtesy www.rottentomatoes.com

TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE, a new film by Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc.

its subject and the violence of some of the scenes. "Boxed" is an Irish tale of a man caught in a moral crossfire when IRA guerrillas kidnap a young priest and force him to give last rites to a man nearly beaten to death. If the price of the opening night gala seems a bit steep, there are other events you might want to catch that are more affordable. On Friday, Nov. 14, Johnnie To, director of more than 30 films and one of Hong Kong's most important directors, will be the featured guest at a panel discussion. This free event takes place at 3 p.m. in Washington University's Brown Hall in room 100. The discussion follows the showing of To's film "PTU" at 9:30 p.m. at the Hi-Pointe. Saturday, Nov. 15, offers the Interfaith Award Lecture by film scholar and Washington University professor Gerald Early at 10 a.m. at the Tivoli. Tickets for this event are \$8. Another special event is the North American premier of "Eroica!" a documentary about the musicians of the Eroica Trio and composer Kevin Kaska as they prepare for the November 2001 world premier of the composition that the St. Louis Symphony commissioned from Kaska for the trio. This film debuts Sunday, Nov. 16 at 5 p.m. at the Tivoli, with producer Mary Strauss in attendance. Another film with local interest is the thriller "Amphetamine," an all-St. Louis shot film with local cast and crew, to be shown Friday, Nov. 14, at 11:30 p.m. at the Tivoli, with director Chris Grega attending.

While some of the festival's narra-

tive and documentary films will return for a longer run, other films can only be seen at the festival. Short films are the wonderful little cinema bites you usually only see at the festival. The festival, an official venue for Academy Award Shorts, will likely be the only chance to see the short films that will be nominated for Oscars. Although Cinema St. Louis also hosts a mini-festival of short Oscar winners, you won't see the variety that you can at the big fall festival. Short films usually play with every feature film, chosen to complement the feature, but the festival also has seven programs of short films grouped in categories by similar topics. The first half of the festival has the first three of these programs, "Dysfunctional Relationships," "Historical Times and Places" and "Reality Gone Wrong." The festival is also one of the few outlets for local filmmakers and the great majority of these locally produced films are shorts. Cinema St. Louis hosted a mini-festival of local short films last summer and is bringing back four programs of local films from its St. Louis Filmmakers' showcase. Like the other short films, these are grouped in programs by subject: comedy, drama and two sets of documentaries. The first half of the festival brings the comedy and drama programs. Check the website for the times and theaters.

Documentaries are among the most popular of the festival's offerings and are becoming more popular nationwide. Among this year's notable docu-

mentaries playing in the first half of the festival is "Bonhoeffer," about the German theologian killed by the Nazi for plotting to kill Hitler. Already a hit on the indie film circuit, "Bonhoeffer" will be shown Saturday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. at the Tivoli and again on Sunday Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tivoli. "To Be and To Have," a touching, but not heavy-handed, documentary about a dedicated teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, has become the highest-grossing documentary ever in its native France. The documentary "Sisters in Cinema" looks at women working in films, still a male-dominated world despite the presence of women since the beginning of the art form. In the second half of the festival, you should watch for "The Agronomist," Jonathan Demme's film about Haitian radio personality Jean Dominique.

There are so many good films to choose from at the festival that it is sometimes hard to choose or even to make recommendations. These are only a few of the highlights but reading the descriptions in the program will be the best way to decide which films sound best to you. The programs are available at the Tivoli, Hi-Pointe and around town at several locations. If you think you are a film fan and have not yet checked out the festival, you should give it a try. You will see the unexpected, the beautiful, the original and the meaningful side of world cinema.

www.cinemastlouis.org
http://www.cinemastlouis.org/
http://www.cinemastlouis.org/

Arendt's advice to college students: You are not special

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

When my editor and I opened the envelope containing "The College Grad's Guide to Purgatory," we could not help but gasp a bit. The cover, in black and orange, is colored in the black and orange of Halloween, and refers to that spiritual limbo somewhere between heaven and hell.

Turn it over, and you meet Arendt, the author, smiling in spite of her subject matter and fiery cover. Add in the book's length—73 pages—and I snatched it up for review. I mean, something had to be going for this book.

Purgatory, in Arendt's definition, is what awaits current or soon-to-be graduates: something analogous to that spiritual place of judgment. She does a good job of painting the market for those out there who do not pay any attention to the news. The economy is in a slump, businesses are crashing, people who have work experience are unemployed, and ambitious college grads are flooding the already saturated market.

Arendt also describes well the typical college student/graduate. Her portrayal follows many others: accurately painting us as highly individualistic, even egocentric, expecting the world to fall at our feet upon graduation.

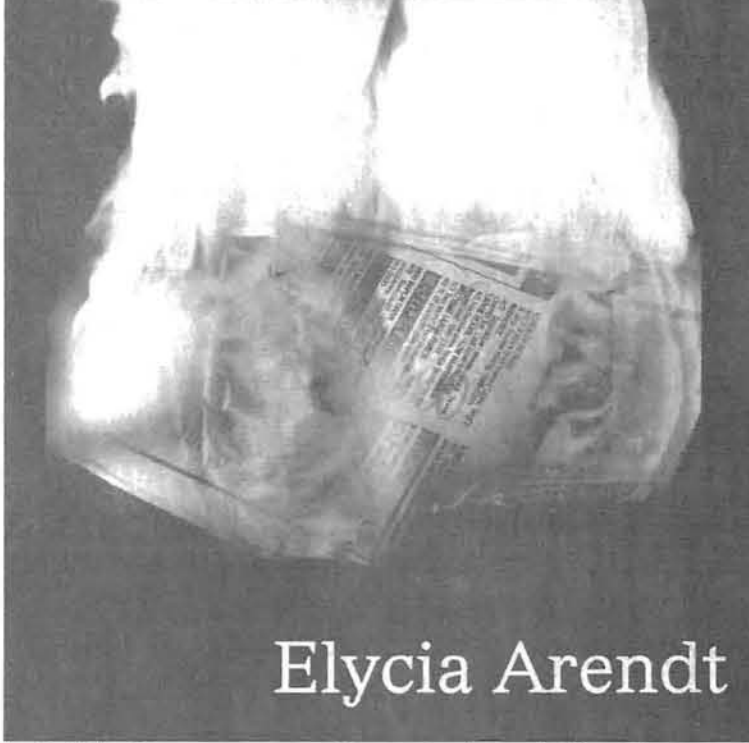
And it is perfectly natural to take offense to that assessment. After all, it's in our nature. Arendt is only three years removed from college life, and she spent a year of that time looking for a decent job; a year, that is, in purgatory. It is not quite hell, but it can become hell if you do not find your way to heaven, landing a job.

That is about all the introduction you need to this "Grad's Guide." Arendt has been where you are, has graduated, fought her way around in purgatory, made it out with lessons, and thinks that she has learned some things that might help your adventure in purgatory run more smoothly.

To accomplish her lesson, she breaks her text up into four basic areas: college, entering the job market, interviewing and trying to find a job, and how to handle that job when you get it.

In her first area, Arendt does her best to burst your inflated and unreal-

THE COLLEGE GRAD'S GUIDE TO PURGATORY



istic bubble. You are not special, unique, talented or perfect, she says. But understand also that so is everyone else. Someone will always have a one-up on you.

That potential employer does not care that you were in that sorority. Your major is almost always irrelevant. Blabbing to others about your exotic study abroad experience only fosters contempt.

Basically, she is screaming that you are disillusioned, ignorant, and misinformed.

Entering the job market area follows the same strategy. Moving into the interviewing (etc.) area, Arendt rifles through the various forms of application, what to do in your cover letter, the different types of potential interviews, and whatnot.

The final area, about what happens when you land that job, offers advice and explanations of office politics, parties, gender dynamics, meetings,

and an interesting list of characters-in-the-office.

Overall, Arendt's prose is grim. She smacks you in the face with reality and does nothing to soften the impact. However, that is not necessarily a bad thing.

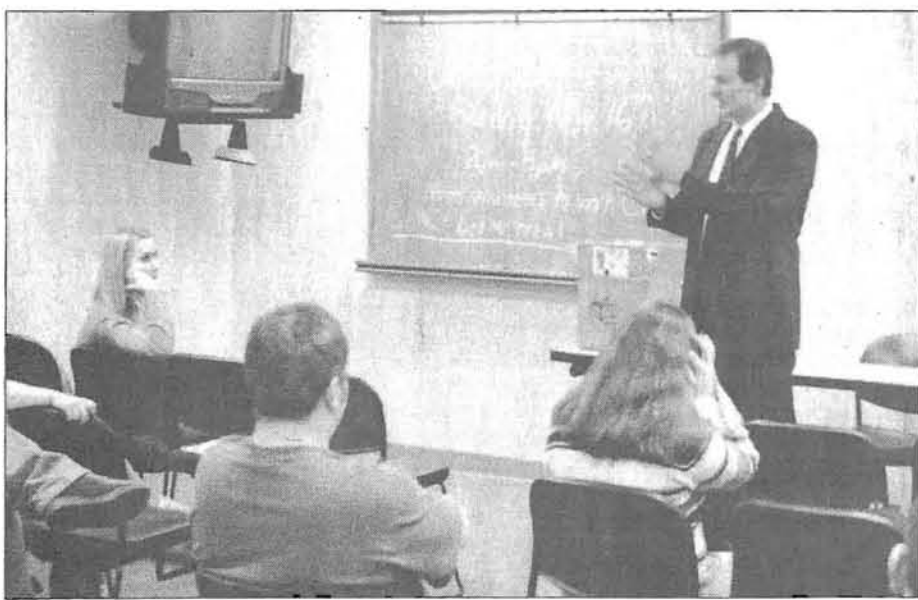
Anyone who has been out of college for six months without any good luck in finding a job should readily advocate such a dose of the real world before exiting the relatively lazy college experience.

Purgatory seems fitting. But when you read "Grad's Guide," you may find yourself questioning Arendt's authority. She does rely heavily on her and her friend's experience, dismissing other similar guides for graduates as unrealistic and more optimistic propaganda.

Arendt's guide is not subtle, but for 75 simple pages and \$11.95, it may be just the sort of wake-up call you need before sweating yourself in purgatory.

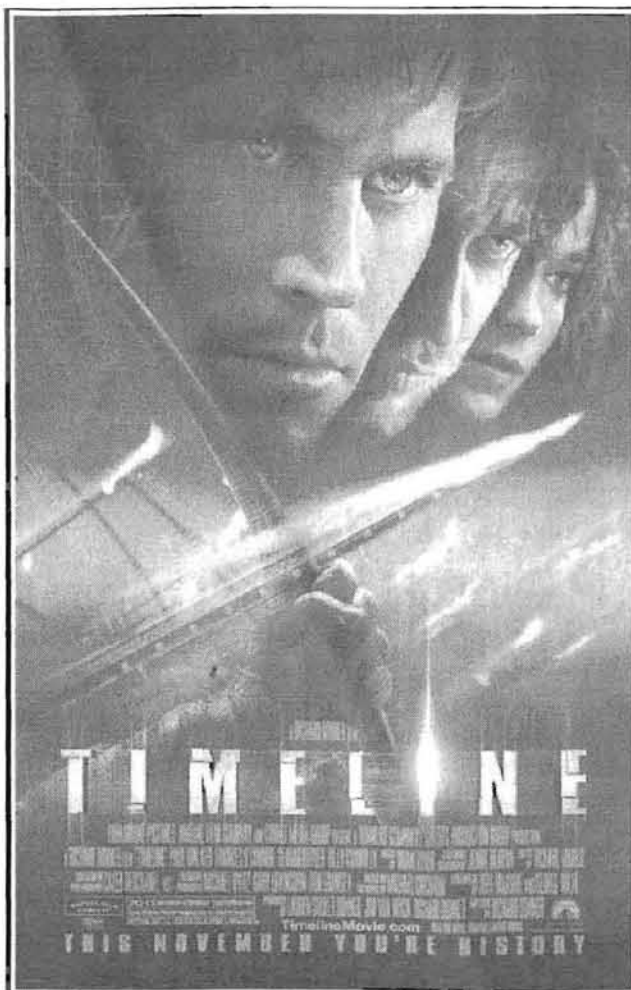


Congressional Candidate visits, speaks with College Republicans



Bill Federer, Republican candidate for Missouri District 3, speaks to the College Republicans last Wednesday in the MSC.

Jesse Galtner/The Current



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