

The Current celebrates its 1100th issue this week. Thanks to all who have helped The Current over the years.

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The Current

Your source for campus news and information



Guerrilla Theater takes the stage. See page 8

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Fraternity lends helping hand to local hospital

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Sept. 28, members of Pi Kappa Alpha, a social fraternity, held a tailgate party for bone marrow transplant patients at Barnes Jewish Community Hospital.

The event took place in the patient family room at the hospital, where parties are held periodically. Transplant patients usually stay in the hospital for 30 to 60 days. "So we try to do stuff for the patients once in a while," said Holly Comer, assistant nurse manager.

Todd Renner, junior, nursing, and former chairman of philanthropy for Pi Kappa Alpha, works on the bone marrow transplant floor of the hospital. He and the other staff at BJCH came up with the idea of a tailgate party, so he decided to ask his fraternity to help out with food and the big screen. "It gets kind of old [for the patients] being in the same room, not doing anything day in and day out," said Renner.

Pi Kappa Alpha donated food for a barbecue, as well as the use of their big-screen TV for watching the Rams game. They started cooking around 10:30 a.m. for a noon lunch, then stayed and watched the game with the

patients and their families. They did not leave until nearly 6:30 p.m.

"It took a lot of effort and a lot of time, and the boys did a great job. The patients loved it," said Comer. "We got a lot of compliments from the patients and their families."

"I think it was a learning lesson for my brothers," said Renner. "They know about my job, but they've never seen firsthand what some of these people go through."

"The patients loved it...We got a lot of compliments from the patients and their families."

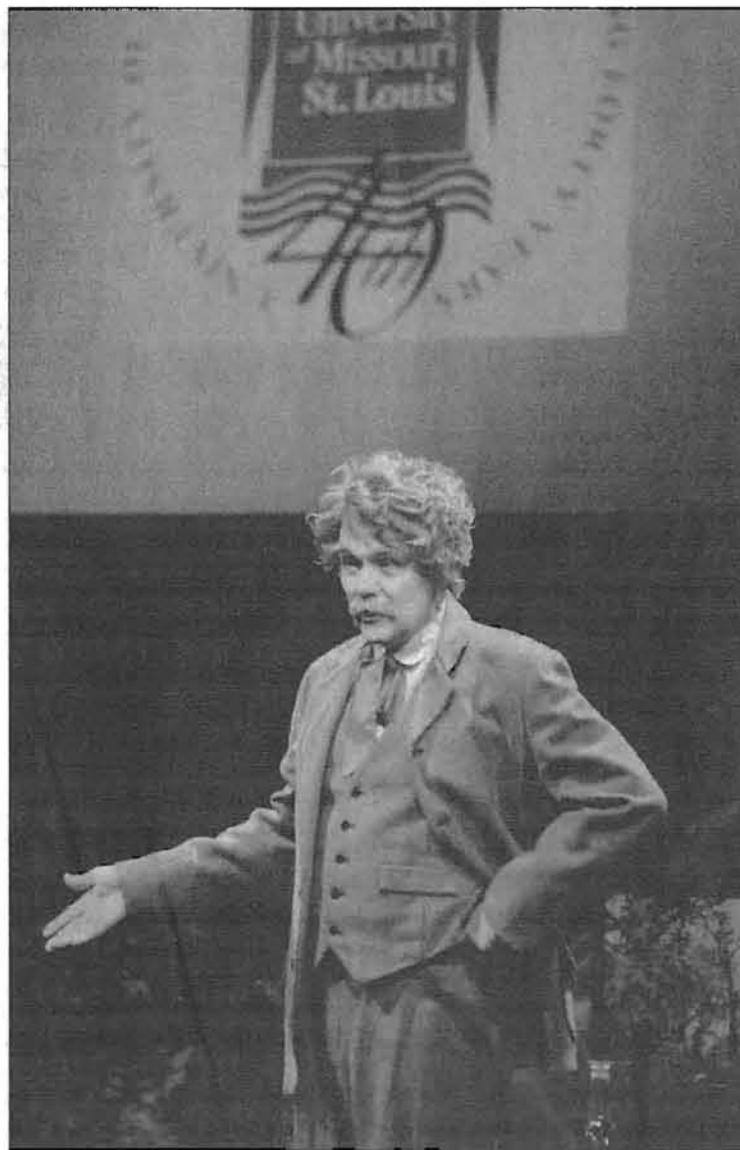
- Holly Comer, asst. nurse manager at BJC Hospital

Pi Kappa Alpha frequently participates in community activities. Recently, they worked with Habitat for Humanity to build a house. They also work with Fr. Bill Kemp, director of the Newman Center, on various

projects. The tailgate party was one of the largest events they have helped to sponsor.

Pi Kappa Alpha is no longer recognized on campus, but Renner hopes that their community-oriented activities will help dispel stereotypes about fraternities. "A lot of people have a stereotype about us and fraternities in general, that we're useless, that we do nothing but partying," he said. "That's so not the case and I'm trying to get people to realize that my brothers are totally not like the way the rest of the University sees them."

UMSL celebrates its 40th anniversary



Mike Sherwin/The Current

"Mark Twain" narrates "UMSL: The First 4 billion years," dramatizing the history of UM-St. Louis from pre-Columbian times to the present day. The play was part of "Serendipity Day," which featured a wide spectrum of interactive events, demonstrations, and discussions.

for ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF SERENDIPITY DAY, see page 3

Man-eaters among us?

Biologist discusses book on large predators at annual ICTE lecture at Botanical Garden

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Humankind is the dominate species on earth, yet a spate of recent events have reminded us that we are not above becoming prey for the largest of earth's creatures.

Author David Quammen knows something about such creatures. As the guest speaker of the annual Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture on Oct. 22, Quammen discussed large predators as the topic of his new book, "Monster of God: The Man-Eating Predator in the Jungles of History and the Mind." The thirteenth annual lecture was sponsored by UM-St. Louis' International Center for Tropical Ecology, an association of the university's Biology graduate program, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo. Each year, the lecture brings a noted scientist or science writer to the St. Louis area for an entertaining and informative presentation accessible to biologists and the general public.

The evening's program kicked off with a few words from Chancellor Thomas George. "The Jane and Whitney Harris lecture brings our educational program to the wider St. Louis audience," said George. "Also, it highlights our International Center for Tropical Ecology and our connection to the Garden," referring to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

After the chancellor's remarks, Peter Stevens of the ICTE introduced the guest speaker: "Most scientists, who think they are pushing the advance of science, have little impact on the public's view of science," said

Stevens. "Writers like David shape our general view of science."

The evening's presentation included the author reading excerpts from his book, as well as discussions of the book's topic. Quammen is an award-winning science and nature author. He was educated at Yale and Oxford, receiving a degree in English literature. His bestseller nonfiction book, "Song of the Dodo," has been described as both scholarly and readable. He has covered several topics in his work, including biodiversity, evolution and extinction. Besides writing a great deal of books, Quammen was also published in "Outside" magazine and received two National Magazine Awards for his science essays and columns.

"I will talk tonight about big predators, the 'Monsters of God,'" said Quammen in his opening remarks. Quammen explained that he had derived the phrase "Monsters of God" from the King James version of the Book of Job, where God says that man is third on the scale of creatures, with God himself as first, followed by the "monster of God" Leviathan. This Leviathan was not a whale, but a large, fire-breathing, predatory dragon-like creature. The story was intended as a reminder to be humble, the author said.

"It tells us where we stand on the food chain of power and glory," said Quammen. "We are not at the top but an intervening link in the food chain around the world."

Quammen said that the story "reminds us of a crucial thing—that we are a part of the natural world too, a step on the food chain."

see BIOLOGIST, page 3

Drunk driving's human cost



LEFT:

Catherine Perrine speaks in the Pilot House Wednesday night about her experience losing her youngest son, Redford, to a drunk driver on Jan. 14, 2000. She now volunteers with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and speaks to students and rehabilitation groups about the dangers of mixing alcohol and motor vehicles. Her appearance was sponsored by University Health Services as a part of National Alcohol Awareness Week.

MADD mother hopes students learn from story of son's tragic death

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

In the year 2000, 16,653 people lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes in the U.S., according to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Catherine Perrine's son, Redford, was one of those 16,653.

Perrine, a member of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), spoke to a group of students Wednesday in the Pilot House. She cautioned that drinking and driving could lead to disastrous results.

Perrine read a prepared statement recounting the loss of her son and her family's struggle to recompose itself in the face of tragedy.

"My story starts Jan. 14, in the year 2000, with a 4 a.m. wake-up call at the door from the police," began Perrine. "If the police come to the door, they are not telling you that someone is sick; they are telling you that someone has died."

Redford Michael Perrine, a recent graduate of UM-Columbia, was a passenger in a car driven by Matthew

C. McGilley, 23, of Leawood, Kan. McGilley and Redford Perrine were both killed when a car driven by Marla McCray sideswiped their vehicle in a Kansas City suburb at approximately 2 a.m. on Jan. 14, 2000.

"The two automobiles met at an intersection on a quiet street," said Perrine. "We're not talking an interstate, we're talking about a residential neighborhood street."

The Kansas City Police Department's reconstruction team and an independent team hired by the Perrines found that Matthew McGilley's car was traveling at 38 m.p.h. when it was struck on the driver's side by McCray's automobile. McCray's Mazda Miata was going above 80 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone with her headlights turned off, the reconstruction teams found.

McCray's blood alcohol level was determined by authorities to be .24, or three times the current legal limit.

Perrine said she argued with the officers who brought the news of her son's death, insisting that someone must have stolen her son's identification. "I called the emergency room and yes, it was true: My sweet, smiling, happy 22-year-old son was

really, truly dead."

Almost one year after the crash, McCray was sentenced to two consecutive 7-year terms for the involuntary manslaughter of Raymond Perrine and McGilley.

Although Perrine says she feels lucky that McCray was given the maximum sentence allowable by law, she is still frustrated about the possibility of parole for McCray.

"After only one year in jail, we had

to go to the first parole hearing," Perrine said. "Despite a 14-year sentence, this person who willingly got in a motor vehicle and sped without headlights, while drunk, was eligible for parole after one year. That's our criminal justice system. Luckily, we had enough people writing letters that parole was denied, but now every two years we have to go back for more parole hearings."

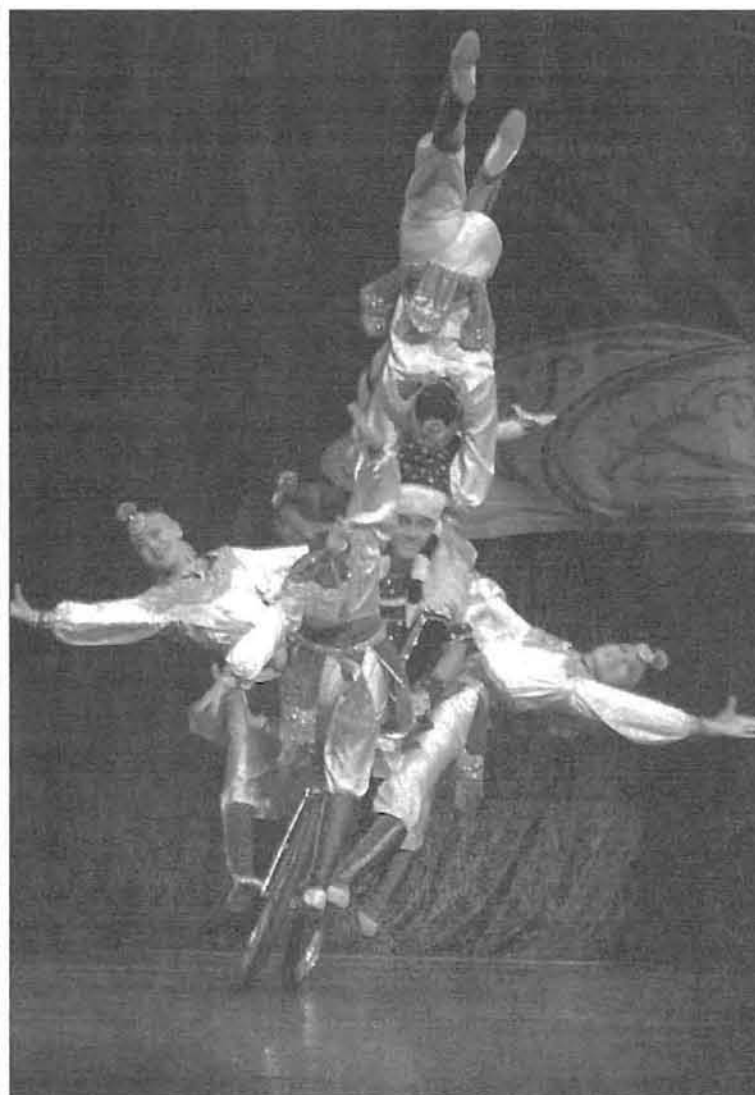
see DRUNK DRIVING, page 3



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Catherine Perrine set a photograph of her son Redford next to her on the Pilot House stage during her talk on Wednesday night. Redford was killed in a car crash in 2000 by a drunk driver.

Circus delights at PAC



Michael Pelikan/The Current

Claiming a unique use of the common bicycle, performers from the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats command the stage on Wednesday night. The event featured contortionists, jugglers, acrobats, dancers and even a yo-yo exhibition.

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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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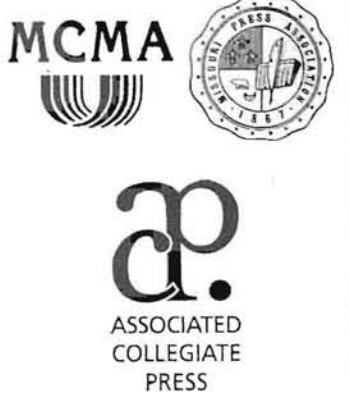
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Need to advertise an event?

Call The Current advertising department at 516-5316 for details.

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 27 Monday Noon Series

"Restoring the Missouri River" is the title of the Monday Noon Series. Jane Ledwin, fish and wildlife biologist, outlines her efforts as a federal projects biologist, working with states, other federal agencies, and private interests to restore some of the ecology of the Big Muddy. The program is from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in room 229 of the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

27 Center for International Studies

"China's Growing Economic Power and Its Currency" is presented by Gene Chang of the department of economics at the University of Toledo. The presentation is at 11 a.m. in room 342 of the Social Sciences and Business Building. The lecture is sponsored by the Center for International Studies.

Mon 27 (cont.) Center for International Studies

"Greek Foreign Policy: Post-Cold War and Post-September 11 Setting" features Theodore A. Coulombis. It is at 3 p.m. in room 331 of SSB. For more information, call 516-7299.

27 Chemistry and Biochemistry colloquia

The Chemistry and Biochemistry colloquia begins at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. The title of the lecture is "Glycosyl Iodides in Organic Synthesis." The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 516-7995. Coffee is served at 3:45 p.m.

27 Concert dance

The Department of Theatre, Dance, and Media Arts is sponsoring an evening of concert dance on February 20 and 21, 2004. Performances will be in the Lee Theatre of the Performing Arts Center. Open dance auditions are today at 7:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall of the PAC. Dancers interested may attend either audition. The concert will feature choreography from dance faculty Alicia Okouchi-Guy and selected guest choreographers from St. Louis. For more information, contact Alicia Okouchi-Guy at 516-4852 or alicia@umsl.edu.

Tues 28 Career Services

A resume writing skills workshop is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 278 MSC. Make a positive first impression with employers - polish your resume in this free workshop. Registration is required. Call 516-5111 for info.

28 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.

28 Intern. Business Club

With the increasing globalization of commerce, the utilization of a timely and accurate transportation and logistics services company has never been more important to the business community. Learn about these services and their importance. The IBC hosts UPS at 2 p.m. in Century Room B, located on the 3rd floor MSC. This is a free event open to all.

Wed 29 Counseling Services

Stop procrastinating! Workshop - If you are not happy with the grades you are getting, Counseling Services can help make changes. Learn to stop procrastinating and complete the work you need. The workshop is today from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call to register at 516-5711.

Wed 29 (cont.) Concert dance

An evening of concert dance is on February 20 & 21, 2004. Performances will be in the Lee Theatre of the Performing Arts center. Open dance auditions are today at 7:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall of the PAC. For more information, contact Alicia Okouchi-Guy at 516-4852 or alicia@umsl.edu.

Thur 30 Counseling Services

Do you know what "achluophobia" is the fear of? Come find out and earn a chance to win tickets to a movie, by stopping by Counseling Services Halloween Table in the Nosh.

30 Pre-Vet Club

An Open Mic Night/Costume party is 6 p.m. to midnight in the Pilot House in the MSC. Amateur and are welcome to come, though need to make reservations in advance. To make reservations, email adfig8@studentmail.umsl.edu.

Fri 31 Pre-Optometry Club

The Pre-Optometry Club is having a meeting from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in room 434 Marillac Hall on South Campus. For more information, contact Barb Brown at 516-6030.

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department during the fall between October 18 and October 24. 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.

October 18 - Burglary/stealing over \$500
At 7820 South Florissant Rd., an apartment door

was kicked in and a television was stolen.

October 20 - Stealing under \$500
In 213 Marillac Hall, a laptop computer was stolen from an office.

October 20 - Stealing
In room 107 of the Performing Arts Center, a sound mixer board was stolen from the dance rehearsal studio.

October 20 - Stealing

In parking lot T, an exterior door lock to a vehicle was damaged and a jacket was stolen from inside of the parked vehicle.

October 21 - Stealing under \$500
In 109 Millennium Student Center, a purse was stolen from a backpack while left unattended.

October 22 - Stealing under \$500
In the Pilot House of the MSC, a woman's wallet was stolen from a book bag while left unattended at one of the tables.

October 23 - Burglary/stealing over \$500
At 7820 South Florissant Rd., unknown person(s) entered an apartment through a window and stole a computer from inside.

October 24
In the University Meadows parking lot, an unknown person dented the trunk of a vehicle.

October 24 - Stolen auto
In the Music Building parking lot S, a vehicle was stolen from the parking lot; the keys were

left unattended inside the Music Building.

October 24 - Burglary 2nd degree/stealing over \$500
In room 342 of the Performing Arts Center, a computer system was stolen from the box office.

October 24 - Domestic disturbance
At 114 University Meadows, there was a boyfriend/girlfriend verbal dispute. No prosecution was desired.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE & Computer Shop

Student Appreciation Day Thursday, October 30th 2003 8:00 - 7:30

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*** HUGE SALE ***

*** And Much Much More ***

*** Trick Or Treaters Welcome ***

Costume Contest on Thursday in the Pilot House at 12:00pm.

This is a vital aspect of the news business.

Got a hot news tip? Give us a call at the office.
314.516.5174. Ask for Becky Rosner, news editor.
•You can also e-mail us at current@jinx.umsl.edu

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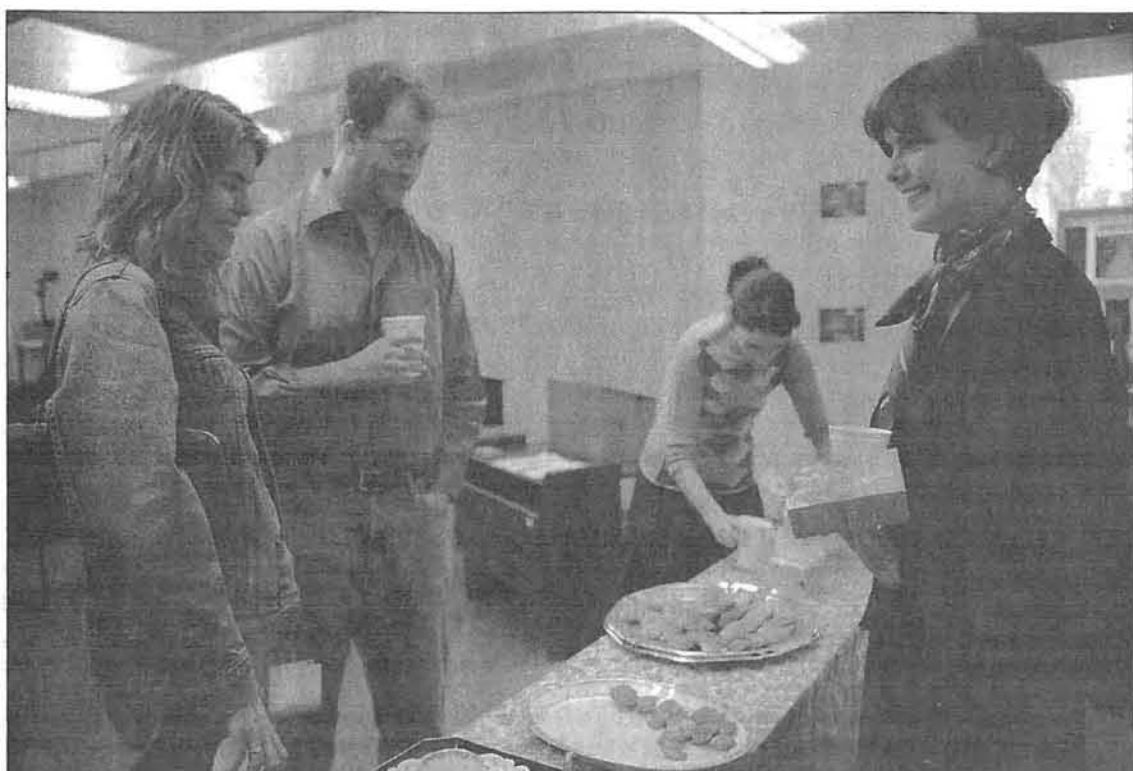
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Bad weather hampers, but doesn't spoil Serendipity Day

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE SHERWIN



Audience member Bob Reid dances before a young audience at the behest of storyteller Papa Wright in the third-floor lobby of Lucas Hall.



ABOVE: Beth Landers (at right), lecturer, French, greets visitors to the French department's Serendipity Day production "The Proust Project," in Clark Hall on Saturday. Francophiles listened to a bilingual reading of Marcel Proust's masterwork "A La Recherche Du Temps Perdu." Landers offered guests small madeleine cakes (which are featured in the Proust novel).



ABOVE: Elizabeth Eckelkamp (at left), lecturer, Japanese, demonstrates origami techniques to Catherine Daniels, Elizabeth Lee, and Beth Grindstaff. Eckelkamp was also promoting a study tour in Japan, which she will lead in May 2004. Students who are interested may call 516-6517 for more information.

LEFT: Serendipity Day did not live up to its name, due to the drenching downpours throughout the day on Saturday. Here, a couple strolls through the campus on a walkway beside Thomas Jefferson Memorial Library.

BIOLOGIST, from page 1

Stories across cultures refer to the archetypal-hero-versus-monster myth, citing such works as "Beowulf" and "Ginghams."

Quammen also cited ancient Egyptian texts that would extol a king's greatness by listing how many lions he killed.

Religions vary in how they view these large predators. For the westerner, Biblical references put man as the ruler over animals, while eastern and other cultures more often see them as something with which we must share the world.

As for the term "man-eater," the author acknowledged that the term was perhaps provocative.

"I could have more correctly said 'intermittently anthrophageous opportunists,'" he said, "but no publisher would put that in the subtitle." In the book, he refers to them as the "alpha predators."

In his studies, the author chose to define man-eaters in a particular way. "I was interested in a category of animals that are solitary and in which an individual animal could kill a human." This definition excluded pack animals like wolves or piranhas, which would never bring down a person by attacking as a single individual. The group includes lions, tigers, leopards, brown bears (including grizzlies), polar bears, Nile crocodiles, jaguars, cougars, great white sharks, Ganges sharks, Komodo dragons, reticulated pythons and a few more. The author noted that none of these animals generally consider man as their main prey, but that they become "man-eaters" through opportunity or survival pressures.

Quammen's book focused on four areas in which mankind lives in close proximity to the predators, where it is close enough to become the occasional victim. His inspiration for the book came when he was working on

the island of Komodo while researching his bestselling book, "The Song of the Dodo." A woman told him about how her mother had survived an attack by a Komodo dragon. "It gave me the idea of being prey," he said. "It reminds us of the importance of humility to see oneself as prey."

One of the areas Quammen chose to focus on for his book was Gir, an area of west India, which is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion. The forested area is inhabited by the Maldharis, a people who live by

the Siberian tigers and the Udeghes; the Manchurian hunters and trappers of the Russian Far East who co-exist with them; the Australian aboriginals who co-exist with the salt-water crocodile in northern Australia and the brown bears of the Romania mountains, who co-exist with the Romanian sheep herders of the area.

The Romanian Carpathian Mountain forest preserves is home to 5,000 bears, while Yellowstone National Park, at about the same size, has only 500. Quammen said that most Americans think of Romania as a post-Soviet industrialized place, while in fact it contains large forests that serve as nature preserves. These areas actually serve as game preserves, fueled by hunters' fees rather than wildlife refuges. The bears are fed at troughs and the hunters pay to shoot them at their feeding areas and take home the pelts. When Quammen asked who would pay to shoot bears at feeding troughs, he was told "the hunters come from four countries: Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Texas."

With the possible exception of the Nile crocodile, none of these predators routinely put people on their menu. Still, the people who live in close proximity to the predators pay a higher price for the big species' survival than the rest of the world.

"Generally it is the poor and rural people who share the space and pay the cost to live with these creatures," said Quammen. He also noted that these large creatures in particular are pressed because they require large territories in which to live, and, without enough space, they are threatened with extinction.

"My book is a meditation," he said, "on whether that is unavoidable; and if it is unavoidable, what will be lost."

“ I was interested in a category of animals that are solitary and in which an individual animal could kill a human. ”

- Biologist David Quammen

choice as traditional cattle herders, "much as the Amish live in a traditional way here," Quammen said.

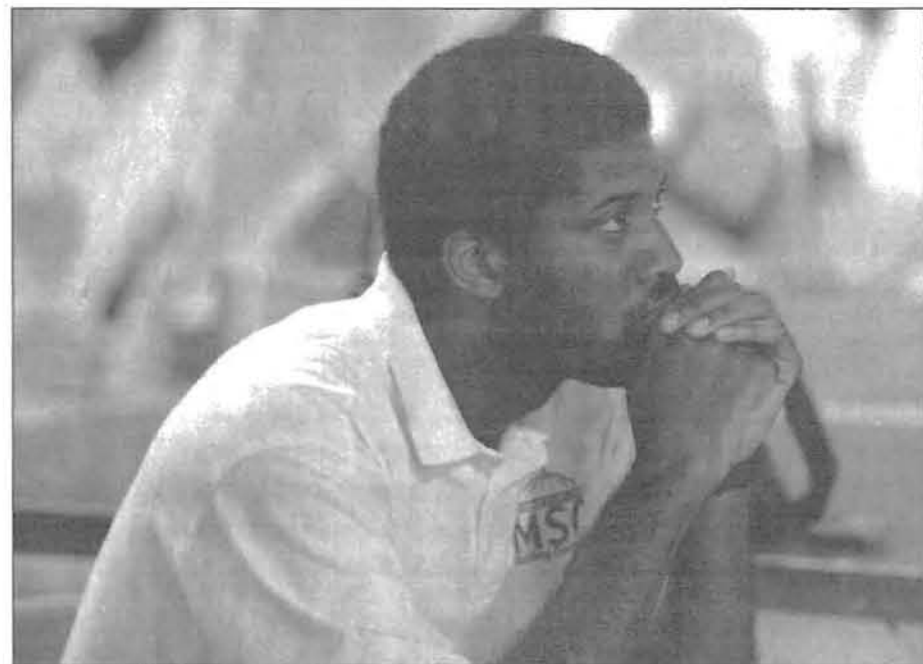
Because the Maldharis live in the forest without weapons more threatening than an axe, they are sometimes the victims of lions. Quammen emphasized that the lions that killed people were the sick or hungry individuals who came to prey on the livestock and that humans were killed when they got in the way.

The other predator-people pairings that Quammen looked at includ-

DRUNK DRIVING, from page 1

RIGHT:

Willie Smith listens to Catherine Perrine speak Wednesday night in the Pilot House. Perrine, a speaker with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, told the audience about her experience losing her son to a drunk driver in 2000. Her appearance, during National Alcohol Awareness week, was sponsored by University Health Services.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Since her son's death, Catherine Perrine volunteers as a member of MADD. She speaks to groups of students and at rehabilitation programs for drivers caught driving under the influence. However, Perrine dismisses the idea that volunteering brings closure to her family's loss.

Perrine says that three years after her son's death, her family is still learning to cope. "We're still in shock. We miss our son.... For me, I served as a nurse in Vietnam during the war, I know about death. But now, mostly I just cry. I cry when I hear an ambulance go by: I cry when I see my son's picture. I can't even look at all the videos of him we have. I cry because I can't remember his sweet smile or his beautiful blue eyes."

So, why does Perrine want to tell the story of her son? She says that more than anything, she wants to prevent other families from having to deal with tragedies such as hers. "I do

not do this for me. I do this for other mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends or children. I don't want any of you to be like my son who lost his life to a drunk driver. In other words, I don't want any of you to be like me."

Perrine says she understands that students will drink alcohol, noting that her son loved to party—and that he drank, too. "Some people say, 'Don't drink,'" says Perrine. "I don't care about drinking. Just don't drink and drive. Don't let your friends drive drunk. If you're going to drink or get drunk, have somebody who is sober with you."

Perrine ended her talk with practical advice for those who wish to drink: "Call a friend or a family member if you're drinking or if you're unsure about the sobriety of the driver you're with. I'm sure that your family or your friends would rather lose two hours of sleep to give you a ride

rather than bury you."

Amanda Jenkins, sophomore, anthropology, attended the lecture and said that although she is already careful not to drink and drive, listening to Perrine had given her a greater understanding of the human, emotional costs of drinking and driving.

"You always hear about these kinds of cases," said Jenkins, "but it's different to listen to someone who has had to deal with that kind of tragedy. I definitely have a greater understanding of the position that mothers, and family in general, are put in when someone is killed."

Approximately 20 students attended the lecture. Michelle Russell, alcohol and drug prevention coordinator for University Health Services, said she was pleased despite the small turnout. "I would have been happy if only one student showed up. This was one story that needed to be heard."

Grocery strike continues



Striking workers and family members make a presence at the Schnucks grocery store on Florissant Rd. just north of UM-St. Louis last Saturday morning.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

BY C.J. ROBINSON
Staff Writer

In August, negotiations began between the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 (UFCW) and Schnucks, Shop 'n Save and Dierberg's supermarket chains. Members of Local 655 voted against accepting the companies' new contracts.

According to the UFCW website, in September Local 655 filed a lawsuit with the National Labor Relations Board because temporary employees were receiving higher hourly wages than permanent employees.

Protesters picked up their picket signs, propped up their picket lines and went on strike Oct 7. Originally, Shop 'n Save was the only store targeted for strike, but later that day Dierbergs and Schnucks employees were locked out by their labor union. "Everything in St. Louis is going haywire," said Lillian Hill, junior, MIS.

"We are locked out," said Karl Steenberg, UM-St. Louis alumni, picket captain and produce department

worker at a South City Schnucks. Though attempts were made to interview other strikers at the South City Shop 'n Save, they said that they were not supposed to speak with the press. "I think some workers are afraid of the repercussions once they go back to work," said Steenberg.

Although employees are on strike and locked out, they will soon receive \$100 a week from the day the strike and lockout began, said Jim Dougherty, director of collective bargaining. He said that the public has shown strong support for the workers, but that he did not know when the strike would be over.

Though similar strikes are occurring in California, politicians are taking a hands-off approach. According to David Robertson, professor of political science, politicians stay away from strikes because they consider them private matters.

However, Congressman Richard Gerhard (D) of Missouri, a possible presidential candidate, may be drawn into this disagreement. According to Robinson, Gerhard is touting a health care plan and can use the strike in his

favor. The UFCW endorsed him for president, and the union has 14,000 members in Iowa.

The three supermarket chains made the following offer, which was voted down 4,252 to 1,610, according to UFCW website.

There would be a 25-cent per hour raise, reserved for clerks who earn more than \$9 an hour. There would not be increases for clerks making less. Baggers would receive a five-cent raise. New employees would not receive raises during their first year of employment. Instead, they would earn a one-time, 20-cent bonus per hour worked last year, or the previous year. Outside vendors would be contracted for various jobs, health insurance rates would be raised and there would be cuts in both health and retirement benefits.

Though the strike is an off-campus situation, it continues to affect UM-St. Louis students who work and shop at these supermarkets. Whether due to income, inconvenience or ethical considerations, most students have had to take a personal interest in this ongoing issue.

Cust. Service/Retail Sales

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OPINION

OUR OPINION

Board of Curators: It's about time you added sexual orientation

Four words for the Board of Curators: It is about time. What is it about time for? Including sexual orientation in the anti-bias policy. Kudos to them for taking this step in the right direction; it was the right thing to do. Now the question has to be asked: "What took so long?"

This was not the first time this subject has been brought up. In the last 10 years, it has been proposed at least twice, going down to defeat every time. It is somewhat staggering to think about, and somewhat nauseating that the Board of Curators would bow to the pressure of outside influence.

The problem they could no longer ignore was the double standard the anti-bias policy presented. By not passing the measure in previous years, they were publicly saying that the University of Missouri, a state organization, disapproved of the homosexual lifestyle and the best way to punish homosexuals was to not include them in the anti-discrimination clause.

The University System had already decided gender and race discrimination was unacceptable, but homosexuality is a more taboo subject. It is socially acceptable to say the University cannot discriminate against a black man or working woman; after all, this is not the 1940s. But there is still so much fear, so much discrimination against the gay and lesbian population, that it took them this long to pass this much-needed addendum to the anti-bias policy.

Of course, this now raises the question of how many excellent, hyper-qualified candidates were either deterred from applying or simply bypassed because they were homosexual. Did the Board of Curators actually

think there were no qualified gay and lesbian candidates? That is an insulting position to take. Hindsight being 20/20 as it is, we can now all look back and smack our collective foreheads and consider who is not contributing their talents to the University of Missouri.... When one thinks about the difference those people could have made, well, it is somewhat discouraging to think that they are now working for some other college.

However, let us not dwell on the negative here. This is a great milestone for the University of Missouri and has taught valuable lessons as a whole. Not only has this policy now been implemented, it has helped teach that bias (prejudice?) of any kind is unacceptable, especially in a college environment. Colleges and universities are supposed to be areas of unfettered academic challenges and learning. If prejudice is practiced, then it ceases to be an institution of learning. Bias is illogical; therefore the learning curve dips dramatically. Now the University of Missouri can focus on getting back to what really matters, having the best-qualified person fill the position, no matter the position.

So what lesson can be gleaned from this situation? Simply put, when a situation like this arises, rectify it as soon as possible. That way, the students, faculty and staff are not made to suffer the errors of fools or foolish decisions.

Granted, people are entitled to their own opinions about what is morally right or morally

wrong, but it is not okay for a university to make a sweeping moral judgment, so this policy was the right way to go. Now, the University of Missouri can truly be looked upon as a forward-thinking school, not one that is still hung up on phony taboos and social biases.



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LETTERS

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

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

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

Under Current

by Mike Sherwin
Photography Director

Should professors leave personal politics out of the classroom?

What's your opinion?

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

- Sexual orientation bias
- Parking problems
- Halloween

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Keith Brown
Senior
Criminology

"We frequently talk about political issues in criminology. But, I can't think of any professor who has harped on their personal political beliefs."



Letitia Pippens
Senior
Finance

"When professors give out their personal political opinion it is confusing for students. We have to think, 'Is this going to be on the exam?'"



JoAnne Tinsley
Sophomore
Music

"Any way that professors can stimulate class discussion and make us question our own beliefs is good - and it usually only strengthens our own beliefs."



John Reap
Senior
English

"I sometimes prefer they bring their politics to the classroom. That way, you can get a sense of their real passion for what they have to say and go beyond simply learning facts."

Where has all the parking gone?

Okay, so I have avoided talking about parking this year, mainly because I think it has been overdone, but I can hold my tongue no longer. No, the silence must be broken, for I have grown tired of losing parking over and over again.

This is a topic that never seems to go away on this campus. Just when you think it may have gone away, it rears its ugly head once again to torture the sanity of the fair students of this University. What has gotten me upset this time? The fact that students (who pay for parking by the by) are losing their parking spots to performances at The Blanche and they are not being replaced anywhere. I want someone to explain to me how this is fair, how this makes sense to knowingly take away student parking.

This is not to take away from The Blanche. I think it is a pretty cool place, and John Kennedy, director of The Blanche, is a great guy; but why, during normal school hours, do students have to arrive only to find their parking spaces roped off so some snooty people can have valet parking? I do not get valet parking during the day, why do they?

This is yet another example of students being forced to sacrifice against their wills so the University can look good. Of course, we have all seen parts of the Millennium Student Center parking lot coned off before, but that is at most 50 to 60 spaces. With the PAC, this is more like 200 or 250 spaces, spaces that are supposed to be "reserved" for students. I put

reserved in quotes because faculty and staff can park in student parking and not get ticketed, but if students park in faculty and staff parking, they get a \$50 ticket. Ah, balance at its best.

Unfortunately for University officials, they seem to be a little out of touch with reality. When they do things like this, trivial as it may seem to them (as they have their own nifty parking spots), it just lends more credence to the opinion many on this campus have come to hold: students are second-class citizens at this school. Granted, it has gotten a little better in the time I have been here, but it is still a long way from great.

What the administration seems to forget is that universities and colleges are supposed to be here for the students, so they can get their educations. How are we supposed to do that when we cannot even find a place to park so we can get to our classes? It is a quandary indeed. Of course the answer is quite simple: stop making us sacrifice every time. Perhaps patrons of The Blanche should be granted parking in the administration's parking spaces. If that happened, maybe they would understand how incredibly frustrating it is to have to search for so long to find somewhere to park. Maybe they would understand the anger students have when they arrive on campus just to see their parking turned over to some interlopers on campus. Then maybe they would change policy to better the experience of students at this school.



JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

It's a family holiday

I often get a questioning look when I say that Halloween is my favorite holiday. This is especially so when I espouse my belief that it is a family holiday on a par with Christmas.

As Christmas holds a strong religious significance for many (though not all), I can understand some distaste at my preference. However, I am not ranking importance of holidays, just their personal interest to me, as well as their family appeal. If you will, I would like to explain my choice of what seems an overtly gruesome and gluttonous celebration.

First, think of the wonderful community feeling that accompanies Halloween. Children are considered highly in most preparations for the holiday, and gatherings are popular. Parents often spend

time with their kids preparing costumes and treats, engaging each other's imaginations and attending activities. These activities often foster a generous spirit through sharing goodies and volunteering. Even people without children get involved. And because, for most, this is a secular holiday, few feel excluded from the revelry.

There is also something poignant in a holiday that reminds us of our mortality. This is a holiday of young and old, feasting and playing and sharing, and to me, it echoes the cycles of life. There is recognition of youth and age and the fleeting nature of each, as well as the importance of celebration and coming together in the face of dark realities. Seasons of life and landscape change, yet we laugh and enjoy each other.

As for the scary aspect of the holiday, I do think there is something cleansing in indulging our creepier sides, in a safe manner, and laughing at our fears. However, I am not a huge fan of gore. I do not feel that it is necessary to mortify everyone you encounter in order to fully enjoy this holiday. Nor do

I feel that this is the point. You are free to your own interpretations, of course, but please consider the tastefulness of your decisions in light of who you will be coming in contact with. There is also no reason to indulge prejudices through costume or decorating choices. Halloween is not an excuse to lose all tact and consideration. As this is a primarily secular holiday, it does call on us to use our humanistic ethics, if not our religious ones.

For this reason, I am occasionally appalled at the choices some people make. Overtly sexual and gruesome outfits should really be reserved for adult events. Racist or demeaning outfits do not have a place anywhere. The opportunity to play a role does not make mocking others acceptable.

In speaking of prejudices, there is also the unfortunate tendency of relating Halloween to Satanic practices, or to the occult. Before denigrating the holiday on these grounds, I would ask you to look a little further into the origins of the day. Many pagans do celebrate Halloween as Samhain (meaning end of summer), but it is merely a day to think about, or honor, those who have died, as well as being a celebration of the new year (a convenient date if you consider life by seasons of harvest, and the closing of summer). Try to keep in mind that Satan is a Christian construct, and pagans are not Christians. Also, the guiding tenet of witches, or Wiccans, is 'An it harm none, do what thou wilt', hardly lends itself to evil practices.

I hope you will enjoy this holiday, whether you will be partaking for yourself, or children in your life. Opportunities to take ourselves less seriously, or gather with friends, are too rare. Treat yourself, and others, to some fun and games. Another long winter awaits, and we all deserve it. Happy Halloween, or Samhain, to you all.



NICHOLE LECLAIR
Managing Editor

Microscopic stalkers

Are there little prions in your soup?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

There are a few diseases that sound so scary you don't want to think about them. While messy diseases such as Ebola and flesh-eating bacteria might inspire horror movies and news reports, another modern health plague is scary, not because of how contagious or how common it is, but because of its unusual cause.

"Mad cow" or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and the human equivalent, variant Creutzfeldt Jakob (vCJD) disease, are not caused by viruses or bacteria like other diseases, but by rogue proteins known as prions. Prions do not obey the usual laws of infection because they are not infecting organisms like microbes. They have no DNA, they have no RNA; they are just misfolded pieces of protein. It took science a while to realize that simple pieces of protein could have these effects.

Prions settle in the brain and misfold other proteins they encounter, which then form twisted clumps. The results are, of course, devastating — the proteins affect the nervous system, causing it to develop large holes as neurological function fails. Instead of contracting this disease by the usual routes of infection, the prions

are acquired by eating the nervous system tissue of affected animals, primarily beef. Since both BSE and vCJD are diseases that take a long time to develop, it is not obvious which animals are infected and the victim may not develop symptoms for years. There is no test for prions in symptom-free animals. The disease has only been confirmed when symptoms develop, so prions can get into the food source long before they are detected.

The outbreak of "mad cow" in Britain was the first event to bring prions to our attention. It generated a scramble to undo the livestock feeding habits that led to it. Science was already aware of the rare Creutzfeldt Jakob (CJD) disease, the human equivalent of "mad cow." This disease was an uncommon but fatal syndrome that sometimes occurred among peoples who practiced cannibalism. The livestock feeding practice in Britain that contributed to "mad cow" was the use of sheep meat and bone meal, contaminated by Scrapie (a disease related to BSE) in cattle feed. Compounding this problem was the practice of feeding bovine meat and bone meal (which may have been infected via the sheep meal) to young calves. It was quickly determined that consuming the neural material of affected animals was the source of the disease.

As scary as it is, vCJD is rare. However, one of the difficulties with this unusual disease is the lack of tests or treatment. Luckily, recent studies point to hope for both.

A study published in "Nature", in October this year, points to the role of our own RNA in the action of prions. RNA is the single-stranded genetic material that acts as the working copy of DNA. RNA provides the transcript for the translation of the DNA message into protein and RNAs also have functional roles within the cell. One of the roles has to do with guiding the folding of proteins. With proteins, the

function is in the shape, so how proteins are folded is crucial to their ability to function properly or at all.

According to the study, in the test tube, rat RNAs aided prions in the misfolding of normal proteins. Previous studies had indicated that the prions had paired with normal proteins and then converted them to their tangled shape. The new discovery has yet to be shown in living organisms, but if true, it has enormous significance. Discovering how prions work can lead to tests to detect the disease before symptoms appear, which would mean better screening for affected animals and early diagnoses in people. More than that, knowing prions' pathway could lead to treatments that would interfere with the RNA's role in this action. By determining which of the RNAs in the brain assist in creating more prions, that RNA can be targeted by drugs that block the effect.

The study points to a way to detect the presence of the prions early, so treatments can be started to stop or slow the disease. A sample suspected of containing the prions can be mixed with normal proteins and RNA and then assayed for prions. While the test needs to be refined before it can be used, the concept is promising. Other studies point to possible treatment of vCJD with antibodies. In an April 2003 study, mice were injected with antibodies designed to attach to prions. The results were that the disease was slowed in animals already showing symptoms of the disease.

Although at present there is no treatment and no cure for vCJD, these results hold promise for a change in that dim situation. Many researchers in Europe fear that the rate of infection with vCJD-causing prions has been severely underestimated due to the lack of testing and long, symptom-free period before the disease is noticed. The race is on for a treatment before the full effect of this spread of prions can be seen.

The best album that you've never heard

This week: Cream's "Disraeli Gears"

BY JASON GRANGER

Editor-in-Chief

There is some confusion as to why Cream is called Cream. Well, I would like to take this time to put that confusion to rest. Cream is called Cream because its three members, Jack Bruce, Ginger Baker and Eric Clapton were considered the cream of the crop in England at that time. Hence the name Cream.

Clapton (guitar), Baker (drums) and Bruce (bass) were considered the best at their respective instruments and they came together to form a highly influential band. They also released the classic album "Disraeli Gears." That is the album we will look at this week.

Released in 1968 on Polydor Records, this is a legendary album that few people know the album, other than rock and roll purists. That is a shame, because on the whole it is a landmark in Cream's brief but amazing catalog. Unfortunately, Cream has very much become a greatest hits band, which is unfortunate, because "Disraeli Gears" is a great psychedelic landmark that can be listened to beginning to end. Cream was heavily influenced by

American Blues musicians like Muddy Waters, B.B. King and Lead Belly. It is reflected in the opening track, "Strange Brew." This psychedelic-Blues romp was penned by Clapton. It is about a dangerous woman who can "kill what's inside of you." Or so it would seem. This is a

have to look at the lyrics to see how a song that is seemingly just about the Greek legend Ulysses. But as with most everything in the 1960s, there is more to this song than meets the eye. Take, for instance, the line about the siren's sweet song. "...How his naked ears were tortured by the sirens sweetly singing/For the sparkling waves are calling you to kiss their white laced lips." And it goes on to say "And when your fingers find her/She drowns you in her body." A metaphor for the glory propaganda of the Vietnam War era, it talks of the seduction of heroism in a war, and the ultimate death that awaits those drawn in by the siren's sweet song. This song gave a glimpse into what would become "White Room" or the "Rooms of Fire" album.

The most popular and famous track on this album is the legendary "Sunshine Of Your Love." This song really needs no introduction and I cannot really do it justice by trying to do so. So I will just say that this song is one of my all time favorite songs. "Sunshine" is a chance for the members of Cream to really let everything they have hang out. Clapton gets to wail on guitar, Bruce's bass work is flat out incredible and Baker's stuttering drum work is truly innovative. I have yet to meet anyone who does not like this song, and probably never will.



cleverly veiled drug reference to acid. Much in the same way Jimi Hendrix tied in "Purple Haze" with a woman, Clapton does the same. Ironically, perhaps the biggest debate in rock and roll history is who was a better guitarist, Hendrix or Clapton, and they usually battle it out for the top spot of many a countdown. For my money, it is Clapton.

Next up on our list is the euphemism-filled anti-war track "Tales Of Brave Ulysses." You really

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ethnic organizations should exist

Dear editor,
As president of Barnes College Black Student Nurses Association, the article [Segregation making a comeback] offends me. To state that ethnic-specific groups should not exist is inappropriate. The African American and Latino based organizations were targeted in the article as if other ethnic specific organizations do not exist.

Why are ethnic-specific organizations formed? The organizations that are dominated by the majority group do not focus on issues that concern minorities. If the majority group will not speak for the minorities, then who will? Our organization was founded to address the health issues that affect the African American community. We do not have the same goals as Student Nurses Association. Also, we do not display discrimination towards any potential members. We consistently advertise the fact that we are open to everyone, regardless of ethnicity, age or socioeconomic status.

Yes, it would be wonderful if segregation did not exist. In a pluralistic society, every culture can maintain their distinctiveness while peacefully living together as a whole. However, we do not live in a pluralistic society. The harsh discrimination against minorities has lingered for centuries. As long as minorities are being rejected because of their uniqueness, segregation will remain in the U.S. It is time for the nation to reject the socially constructed concept of racism, not just UM-St. Louis.

Sincerely,
Taniika Joi Prowell
Nursing student

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Counter point misses mark with sarcasm and rudeness

First of all, the counterpoint started off sounding rude and sarcastic. I wish someone would have explained why it was the labor union who locked out the employees, not the actual employers. It seems like a good point, but I don't understand why. Yeah, jobs are so abundant. I'm sure all those people either locked out or striking will be able to find these wonderful, high-paying jobs available in our glorious, capitalist, free state, no problem. Plus, who wants perseverance, justice, and courage? It's money that's most important right? Forget that striking stuff, that's too hard. I'll just go find a new job.

Why are these people getting away with ripping everyone off? I need some answers here. Oh, the poor little customers who have to go elsewhere. Um, no. Those customers choose to do so and when the grocery stores wise up, we will return to our beloved stores. (And maybe go back to those neat independent grocers every now and then!) As for the second to last paragraph, I'm pretty sure if there is less selection at the picketed grocery stores, it would be affecting the quantity of the food not the quality. (assuming I read the article correctly.) I'm not sure if the striking opposition side was presented by someone

that genuinely believes it or not. If they do, then they need to sit down and seriously think about this issue some more. If it was written by someone who wrote what they think someone against the strike would write, then that is not a fair judgment. People for the strike wouldn't know what someone against it truly felt if that were true. But maybe those against it really don't have a good case. Finally, I have a utilitarian solution. Why don't we all rally against those damn insurance bastards and get a fair deal? It's all their fault the way I see it.

Sincerely,
Heather Tedder
Undergrad

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Was Board of Curators vote necessary?

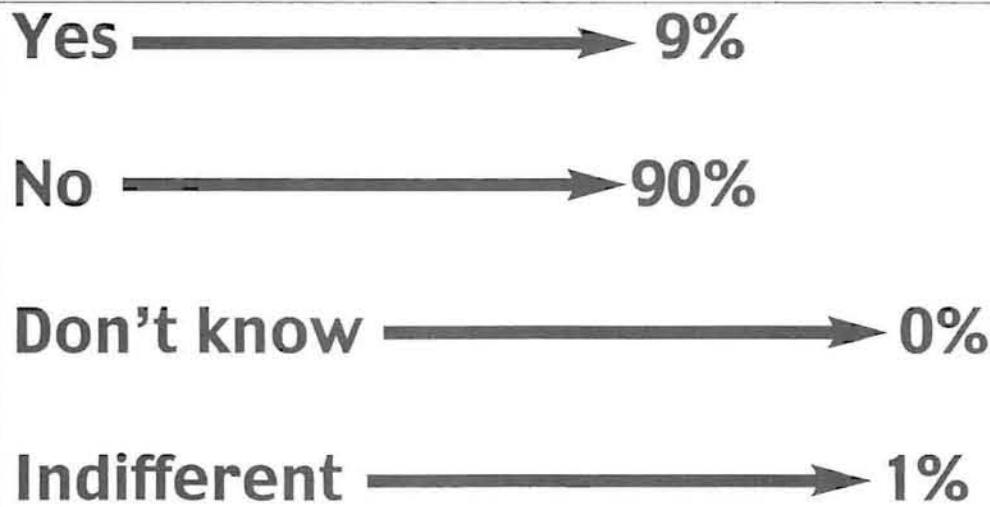
Dear editor,
After reading in Oct. 20, 2003 issue of The Current that the UM Board of Curators voted unanimously to include sexual orientation in the anti-bias policy, I am a bit confused and

concerned. Somehow, I missed the announcement that this particular issue was scheduled to be voted one by the Board. Also, I am uncertain as to why the Board, and others, felt this move necessary. How will this new

policy change affect faculty, staff and students?
J. Stephens
Senior
Computer science

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

Do you support the new sexual orientation clause in the anti-bias policy?



Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

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

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BE SURE TO SEE THE HALLOWEEN PULLOUT!

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SEATTLE
 EDITOR
 KATE DROLET
 Features Editor
 phone: 516-4886
 fax: 516-6811

ROTC
 creates
 leaders

Dragons dazzle at the PAC

BY MELISSA McCrARY
Features Associate

The Chinese Golden Acrobats performed at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Once the lights dimmed and the excited audience took their seats, a woman set the atmosphere for the evening by contorting her body and balancing a total of eight trays with glasses of water on her feet, hands, head and back.

The five-act performance included juggling umbrellas, twirling plates, flying spheres, bicycle stunts, tumbling, a human jump rope and climbing stunts.

For the past 27 centuries, the Chinese Acrobats have toured all over the world, amazing crowds with their unique brand of talent.

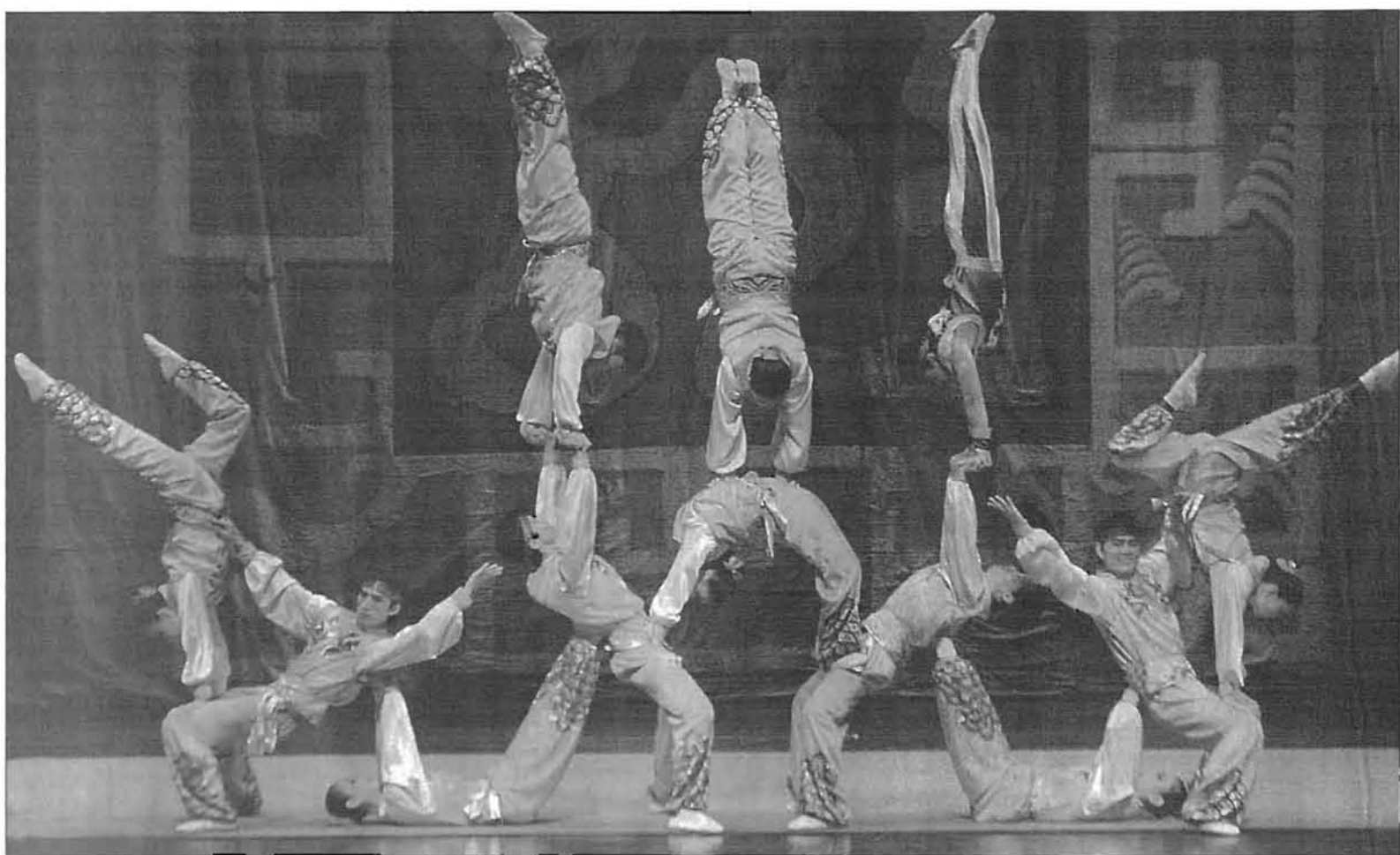
"The Golden Dragons have performed in numerous cities like Memphis, Dallas, Charlottesville, Virginia Beach and Six Flags in San Antonio," said Company Manager Eric Huang.

It takes these individuals many years of vital training and dedication to learn flexibility techniques. The performers begin practicing this craft at very young ages and continue training up to five hours per day, six days a week.

"The youngest one in our group is 18, and the oldest is 32," said Huang.

The acrobats focus on and understand the necessity of inner strength and physical fitness.

After a brief intermission, the company showed off more daring tricks, while the announcer reminded the audience not to try the stunts at home.



Michael Pelikan/The Current

The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats "construct" a human "Great Wall" on Wednesday evening at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The appearance was sponsored by the Office of Student Life.

One of most dangerous of the stunts was the Tower of Chairs. For this stunt, a man stacked chairs over ten feet high, balanced them on wine bottles and then climbed to the top to do a handstand.

The acrobat took his time amusing the audience with a few gymnastic moves on top of the chairs. Everyone

seemed nervous as the tower began to wobble and the man acted like he was going to fall. Laughter filled the auditorium once the audience realized that the "joke" was part of the routine.

"I really enjoyed the bicycle performance with everyone piling up on the bike," said Frederick Eecher III, senior, management information sys-

tems. "I was wondering how many people they could possibly fit on one bicycle."

Each acrobat wore different brightly colored costumes to go along with the next act. Besides the talent and vivid outfits, Chinese instrumental and orchestra music were played in the background.

After an hour of acrobatic moves and amusement, the Dragons concluded the show with a group tumbling act and made their final bows to the crowd. For more information about upcoming shows at the PAC, call 516-4949 or visit the official website at www.touhill.org.

Knowledge battles AIDS in a fight to the death

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

Tom Hanks gave AIDS a face in the movie "Philadelphia." We watched, we cried, and we even learned a little bit. Since the movie's debut in 1993, we all educated ourselves on the dangers of the disease, right? We took the message to heart and eliminated our high risk behaviors, didn't we?

Apparently the movie, touching as it was, did not affect reality as much as it did the popcorn sales.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, between 850,000 and 950,000 United States citizens are living with HIV, and one-quarter of them are unaware of their infection. Roughly 40,000 people are infected with HIV every year in the United States.

Of those who contract the disease, 70 percent are men and 30 percent are women. Half of these individuals are under 25 years old. Of the newly infected men, 50 percent are black, 30 percent are white, 20 percent are Hispanic, and a small percent affects those of other ethnic groups. The newly infected women are approximately 64 percent black, 18 percent white and 18 percent Hispanic.

Between 1985 and 2001, the number of adult and young adult AIDS cases in women increased from 7 percent to 25 percent. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for black men ages 25 to 44.

For older UM-St. Louis students, AIDS has not always been a problem. They can remember a time when this fatal disease was not a common worry. However, for younger students, HIV and AIDS have plagued society for as far back as their memory goes.

October is AIDS Awareness Month, and the University Health Services has provided useful information to increase student knowledge and understanding about this rapidly spreading disease.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, is what the majority of infected individuals live with. Advanced Immunodeficiency Syndrome, commonly referred to as AIDS, is the final result of HIV.

HIV is transmitted through sexual contact with infected persons, as well as through sharing needles and blood transfusions. The virus can not be contracted through sharing utensils, bedding, towels, telephones or toilet seats. Though kissing, mosquito bites, sweat, tears and urine seem to be possible transmitters, scientific research has found no evidence that these fluids or activities can lead to HIV infection. The virus does not discriminate, meaning all people of all races, religion and

sexual orientation can be affected.

HIV is most often contracted through high-risk behavior. This behavior includes unprotected sexual activity, including oral sex, sharing needles for drugs and body piercing with unsterile equipment. HIV can be passed from mother to child through

pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding.

According to HIV.com, research has also shown that "persons already infected with sexually transmitted diseases are more susceptible to acquiring HIV during sex with an infected partner." Because most sexually transmitted diseases affect reproductive organs, these areas contain high amounts of CD4+T cells, also called T4 cells, which are the body's main infection fighters. When an individual is infected with HIV, the virus is carried through the body via the T4 cells.

Areas containing high amounts of the T4 cells, such as in the case of an STD, are at a higher risk for contracting HIV.

HIV affects the body by destroying T4 cells, thus weakening the immune system. Those with HIV who catch an illness as common as the flu face death due to their inability to fight the virus.

ple blotches inside of the mouth, or on the nose or eyelids.

The only way to determine an HIV presence is through testing. All of the symptoms associated with the disease can be attributed to other illnesses, so testing is essential.

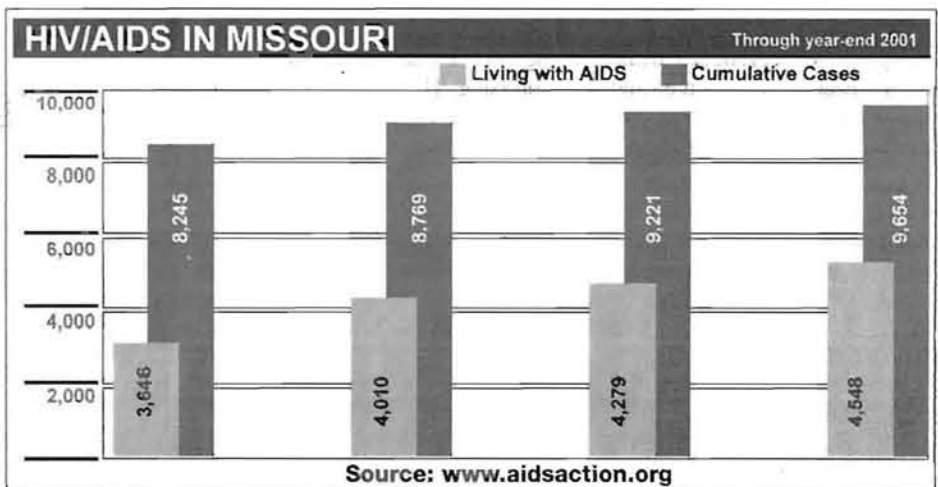
HIV progresses in four stages. The first stage is known as the window period, lasting anywhere from seven days to six months. During this time, HIV antibodies are not detectable in the bloodstream. If an individual is tested during the window period, the result is likely to come back negative. Antibodies usually develop within six months of contracting the disease.

During the second stage, seroconversion, the body fights the virus. Flu-like symptoms and swollen lymph nodes are often present during the second stage. A person is highly contagious during seroconversion.

Once in the third stage, people are generally symptom-free. This period can last from 6 months to 10 years. The virus continues to weaken the immune system during stage three.

In the fourth and final stage of HIV, symptoms usually return because of the substantial destruction of T4 cells.

Once a person develops AIDS, his or her immune system is extremely weak. Those with AIDS often die of complications related to common ailments and communicable diseases.



Info-graphic by Shannon Hoppel/The Current

Think Pink takes on breast cancer

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

Ribbons adorned campus, loud music blared from The Nosh, and students proudly wore pink ribbons during Zeta Tau Alpha's Think Pink week.

UM-St. Louis celebrated survivors and remembered those who did not during Breast Cancer Awareness month. Zeta Tau Alpha supports the cause through their philanthropy, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Starting on Monday, the sorority handed out pink ribbons and accepted charity donations in The Nosh. The pink ribbons were attached to cards with breast cancer information. Outside, pink ribbons were tied around several trees, and facts about breast cancer were written in chalk on the cement.

One woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every two minutes. Last year, 4,000 women in Missouri alone were diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2002, 1,300 men in the United States were also diagnosed with breast cancer.

Zeta Tau Alpha members continued to pass out ribbons and take donations on Tuesday and Wednesday. On

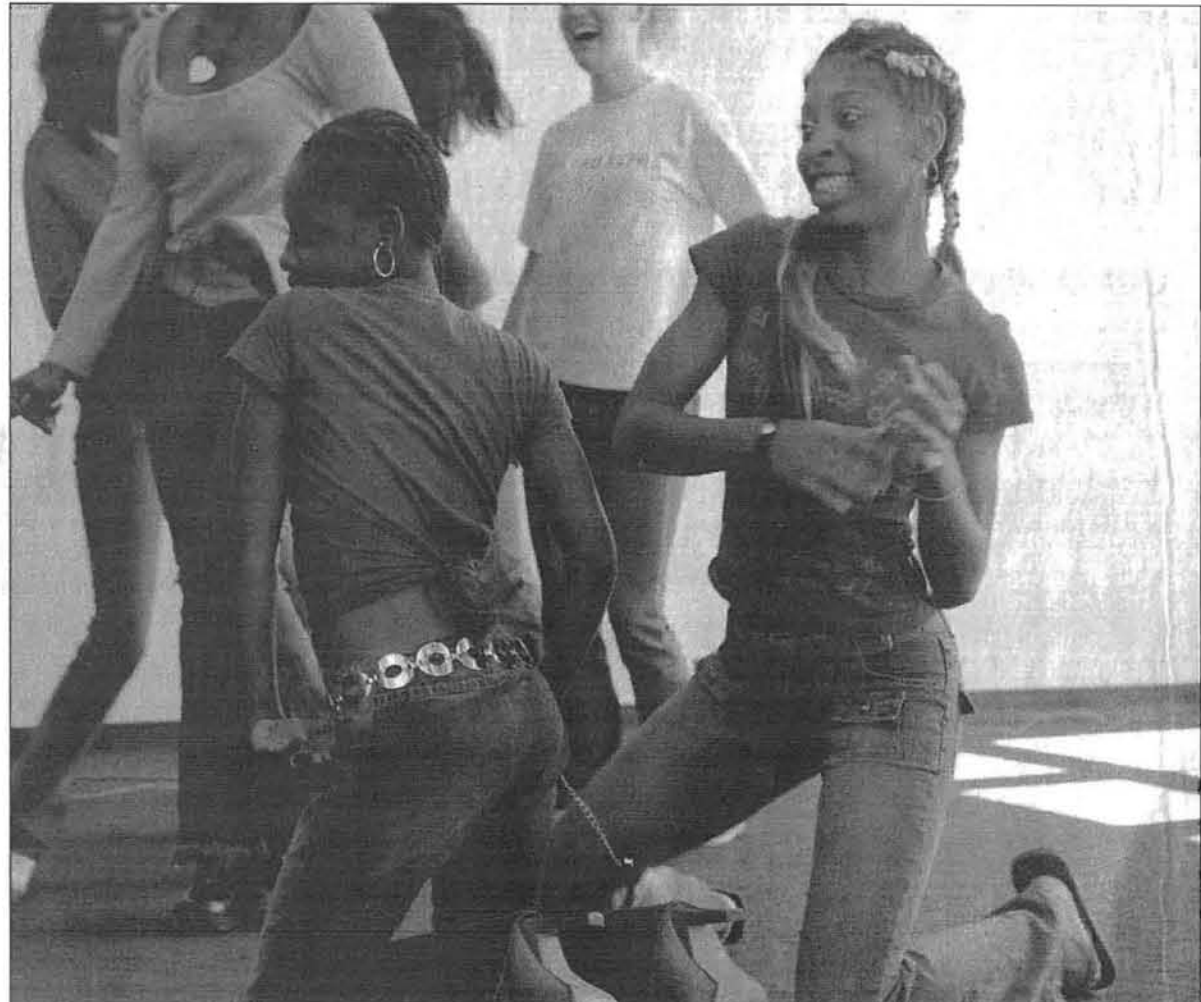
Thursday, the women hosted their third annual Think Pink Lip Sync. Contestants were charged an entry fee, which also went toward the Susan G. Komen foundation. First place winners received \$75 in gift certificates to the Galleria Mall, two gift certificates to the Smoothie King, a silver watch, a set of dishes and a free month's membership to Gold's Gym.

"The acts were all very creative and fun to watch. Even the contestants that entered at the last minute pulled through," said Taz Hossain, sophomore, psychology, service chairwoman for Zeta Tau Alpha.

Four groups entered into the competition. The team made up of members of the cheerleading squad and the Flames dance team won the competition with their rendition of Beyonce Knowles' "Crazy in Love."

Competition judges included Joe Flees, Todd Taylor, Shae Williams and Allyson Wilson. After the scores were tallied, the judges performed their own lip sync to the Jackson Five classic, "I Want You Back."

Hossain believes that the Lip Sync was a success. "We're really excited about it," she said. "Even though some people couldn't stay,



Amanda Schneidermeyer/The Current

Dancers perform to "Crazy in Love" by Beyonce Knowles during Zeta Tau Alpha's "Think Pink Lip Sync" contest that raised money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Showdown: Men and Women Face Off



Mike Sherman/The Current

Todd Taylor, admissions counselor for the Honors College, mediates between the genders during "The Showdown," held in the MSC on Wednesday night.

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

Two rows of chairs faced each other from across Century Room C. Students attending "The Showdown," a relationship discussion forum, separated into male and female groups in their respective rows.

The event, sponsored by the Barnes Black Student Nursing Association, Helping Hand Organization and the St. Louis chapter of the NAACP, began at 7 p.m. on Oct. 21.

Tanika Prowell, junior, nursing, and Davida Skannal, junior, criminology, both members of the Helping Hand Organization, opened the evening by asking members of the three sponsoring organizations to stand and introduce themselves.

After introductions, the participants wrote down questions for the opposite sex on note cards. Prowell and Skannal read the questions and opened the floor for discussion.

The first question, "How come men expect women to be perfect, but women get the bottom of the barrel with guys?" got a loud response from the men.

Jason Piggee, student and member of NAACP-St. Louis, summed up the overall male reaction by saying, "We all strive for perfection. It's your problem if you settle for a guy with no job and five kids."

Todd Taylor, admissions officer for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, and Tracy Carpenter, Multicultural Relations associate, facilitated the discussion. Taylor brought insight to the debate and supported the men.

"I don't think men expect women

to be perfect. Society expects women to be perfect."

The next question focused on women's inclination to be selectively independent. One of the main male complaints was that females want men to make "old fashioned" gestures such as opening doors and paying for dinner. The men felt like there was a double standard surrounding that issue and commented that when it comes to women making such moves, the women proclaim that they are "independent." One woman commented, "Those aren't women. Those are girls."

The next issue dealt with men professing their love, and then cheating on girlfriends. One person defined love as "respect, honor and giving your all to the other person." Another individual said that love is a sacrifice.

The conversation expanded to the dangers of sexual promiscuity, specifically concerning AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, such as the human papilloma virus, which causes a number of conditions and serious afflictions. Taylor related biology and history to the male inclination to cheat, saying that the male species was designed to reproduce, while females are made to bear children and nurture a family. The excuse of "animal instinct" did not excuse unfaithful behavior, and the group agreed that it is up to the new generation to set standards for male and female roles in society.

The group also discussed the importance of looks and personality. A female said that she wanted a man who held his head high and improved himself for his own reasons.

One question dealt with the common characteristic present in men that

keeps them from sharing their emotions. Society's definition of a "real man" was considered, as well as the ingrained belief that showing emotion gives another person control.

The phrase "Men can't whine" illustrated the difference between men and women's emotional outlets.

Commitment also came up in question form. Women wanted to know why men were "afraid of marriage and commitment."

"You have to realize what you're giving up," said Aldosia Bridgman, junior, marketing. "If that person isn't willing to give up the same amount, it's not worth it."

The men agreed that males are not necessarily afraid of commitment, but that some just are not ready for marriage.

Another major question that the women asked was, "What keeps men faithful?"

One person replied, "A backbone. If I have a pearl at home, I won't look for rocks in the street."

Other debated topics included how to handle girlfriends who are jealous of female friends, spirituality and dating, the emotional strings that go along with sexual behavior and wanton dressing. The solution to many of the problems was to simply discuss boundaries. Everyone agreed that couples should understand certain boundaries when it comes to relations with the opposite sex, and that these guidelines are not inherently understood.

"When you leave here tonight, I hope you realize what you're looking for in a relationship now," said Taylor. "Hopefully you can talk in the relationship instead of just playing the game."

read facts about breast cancer.

"I was really proud to be a part of such an awesome event that raises money for such a good cause," said Katie Gierse, junior, nursing, a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. "All the sisters and participants

seemed to have a blast, and we can't wait until next year."

All donations and proceeds of the week's events went to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation of St. Louis. If you would like to learn more, stop by the web site.

THINK PINK, from page 6

I think it's great that we got their attention. I also think we did really well in getting our point across about breast cancer awareness, and that's the most important thing."

Between acts, Hossain and Zeta Tau Alpha member Martha DeBuhr

Seatless Unicycle Rides well

BY ANGELA ASHLEY
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 23, over 75 students and faculty gathered in the Benton Hall theatre with one common goal: to laugh. The audience came to the event to view a special performance by the group Guerilla Theatre.

The title of the show, "The Art of Riding a Seatless Unicycle, Part II," piqued the interest of the theatre-goers without giving them any idea what kind of show they would witness.

The night began with a multimedia presentation that introduced the performing group, briefly highlighting each individual to the theme song of the movie "Snatch."

Guerilla Theatre is comprised solely of UM-St. Louis students including Brijul Bhakta, Kate Drolet, Nicole Cusimano, Levi Locke, Gary Sohn, Lottie Bergstrom, Melissa Weldele, Sara Miming and Laurie Bainter. Having done UM-St. Louis theatre with each other before, these individuals recently decided to form a sketch comedy group.

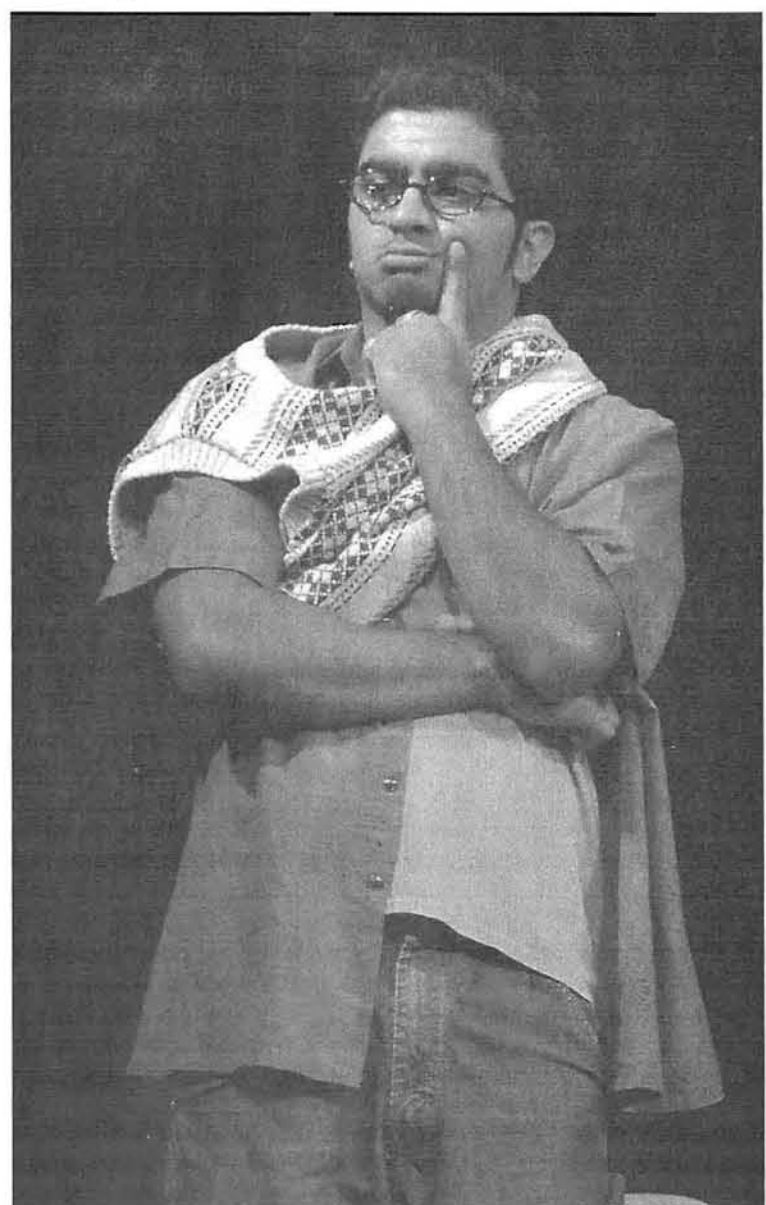
Sketch comedy is a concept made famous by shows such as "Saturday Night Live."

"I think a lot of their ideas were better than SNL," said Laura Hepburn, sophomore, mass communications. She came to the event to show support for fellow students. "They were very funny and definitely creative. You can tell a lot of hard work went into their performances."

Two of the skits dealt with characters named Dodgeball Man and Dr. Shithéad (pronounced Shih-thay-ad).

"Those two were definitely my favorite. They were so funny," said Maartje Van Lakerveld, freshman, undecided.

Dodgeball Man was a skit about Superman's untalented younger brother who finds power in the game of dodgeball. Dr. Shithéad is therapist



Mike Sherman/The Current

Brijul Bhakta performs with the Guerilla Theater group as "Dr. Shithéad" (pronounced Shih-they-ad, obviously) during a night of sketch comedy in the Benton Hall theater on Thursday.

with a bad Austrian accent who uses highly unorthodox methods to treat his patients.

Other topics addressed were terrorist profiling, filmmaking, battles with cell phones and teacher-student relations. The group also took popular

songs, such as Jennifer Lopez and Ja Rule's song "I'm Real" and turned them into mini-dramas, reciting only the song lyrics.

see UNICYCLE, page 12

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SPORTS

Midfielder Jason Barclay battles Northern Kentucky's Nathan Rudolph during play Oct. 3 at Don Dallas Memorial Field next to the Mark Twain Athletic Building.



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Mid-fielder Scott Wittenborn jumps high to meet a header during the Oct. 3 game versus the Northern Kentucky Greyhounds.

Rivermen are put to test in three losses

Men's soccer faced Quincy, Gannon and Truman State

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The Rivermen soccer team has had a busy week, facing up against Quincy, Gannon and third-ranked Truman State. Each game was a close loss; however, the Rivermen stand at .500 with a record of 4-4-1.

The Hawks of Quincy University faced the Rivermen on Oct. 15. The Hawks took control early and capitalized on their shots at 4:25 with a goal by Josh Worth off of a penalty kick. Quincy out shot UM-St. Louis 10-0 in the first half. At the break the Hawks led 1-0.

"We played well; we just couldn't score and got off to a slow start," junior midfielder Dave Seckman said.

The second half resembled the first with the Hawks outshooting the Rivermen 7-3. Quincy found the back of the net once again at 53:01. Ryan VanDillen scored for the Hawks to improve their lead to 2-0. The Rivermen couldn't avoid the shutout and lost to the Hawks.

"We started off slow and didn't bring it the whole game," junior defender Mark Meyer said.

Two days later the Rivermen played a non-conference game against Gannon University. UM-St. Louis went for their last home game of the regular season.

The Rivermen came out strong and got an early shot on goal. Gannon soon took control, as they scored eight minutes into the game. Parbai Bowen scored for the Knights. Before the end of the first period Gannon put a security point on the board by Morgan Knipe. At the half, Gannon led 2-0.

"We played better in this game; we just couldn't win," Seckman said.

While trying to hold off the Knights' attacks, the Rivermen tried to rally. Late in the half, Jeff Menke scored off an assist from Adam Birmslager to avoid the shutout.

"We dominated the second half but had a few lucky breaks in the first," Meyer said.

Coming off two consecutive losses, the Rivermen now faced Truman State, which is ranked third in the nation. Neither team could score in the first half despite many tries by the Bulldogs. Truman State attempted an overwhelming 21 shots on goal without capitalizing on any.

Senior goalkeeper Campbell McLaurin saved eight goals to keep the Rivermen tied 0-0 at halftime. For the game, Truman outshot UM-St. Louis 34-6, but the Rivermen were kept in the game by McLaurin who recorded 14 saves on the night.

The only goal of the game came early in the second half when Truman State got a penalty kick goal from Martin Clayes for a 1-0 win.

"It was a really tough game. We had some chances to score but played the best game of the year against Truman," Seckman said.

"We played a heck of a game against a really good team," Meyer said.

UM-St. Louis fell to 6-11-1 on the season with the loss and lost by one goal to a nationally ranked team for the second consecutive game. The Rivermen will wrap up the regular season this weekend when the team travels to play at Southern Indiana on Saturday.

STEVE HARRELL

Sports Editor

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Questions or Comments?

Send me an e-mail:

invincible_44@hotmail.com

WEB

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

R-women Goalkeeper Carmody given GLVC award

Courtesy Sports Information Office

UMSL freshman goalkeeper Courtney Carmody (Wildwood, Mo./Lafayette) was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week today by the conference office. Carmody is the first UMSL student-athlete this school year to earn player of the week honors.

This past week, Carmody helped UMSL notch two wins with shutout victories over William Woods in overtime and a big conference win over Quincy. Against William Woods, Carmody had six saves in the 1-0 overtime win. She then recorded six more saves in a 3-0 victory over Quincy. The win over Quincy secured UMSL a spot in the upcoming GLVC Tournament and gave the Riverwomen a chance to host a first round tournament game depending on the outcome of this weekend's matches.

On the season, Carmody has started in all 17 games for UMSL on the season, playing in 1,555 minutes. She has recorded 75 saves on the year, with a goals against average of less than a goal per game at 0.98. In addition, Carmody has recorded nine shutouts on the season, including each of the last four games. Her nine shutouts rank fourth on the school's all-time single season list with at least one more game remaining.

Riverwomen soccer shuts down Quincy Lady Hawks 3-0

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team shut out the Lady Hawks of Quincy to pull out an important win, sending them to 5-3-1 in the conference. The Riverwomen kicked off the game with a goal in the first two minutes.

Junior forward Sonya Hauan scored her 12th goal of the season at 1:29 off an assist by Katie Huelsing. Huelsing passed from the middle to the left side to Hauan, giving her 12 assists on the season.

"We played with good intensity the first half. Quincy is a really good team so we had to come out strong," coach Beth Goetz said.

The Riverwomen held off the Lady Hawks for the rest of the period and led into the half at 1-0. The second half was dominated early by the Riverwomen who scored two more goals within a minute of each other.

Sophomore defender Laura Fredrickson got a pass from Hauan from across the box and found the back of the net to improve the lead to 2-0. That was Fredrickson's first goal of the season.

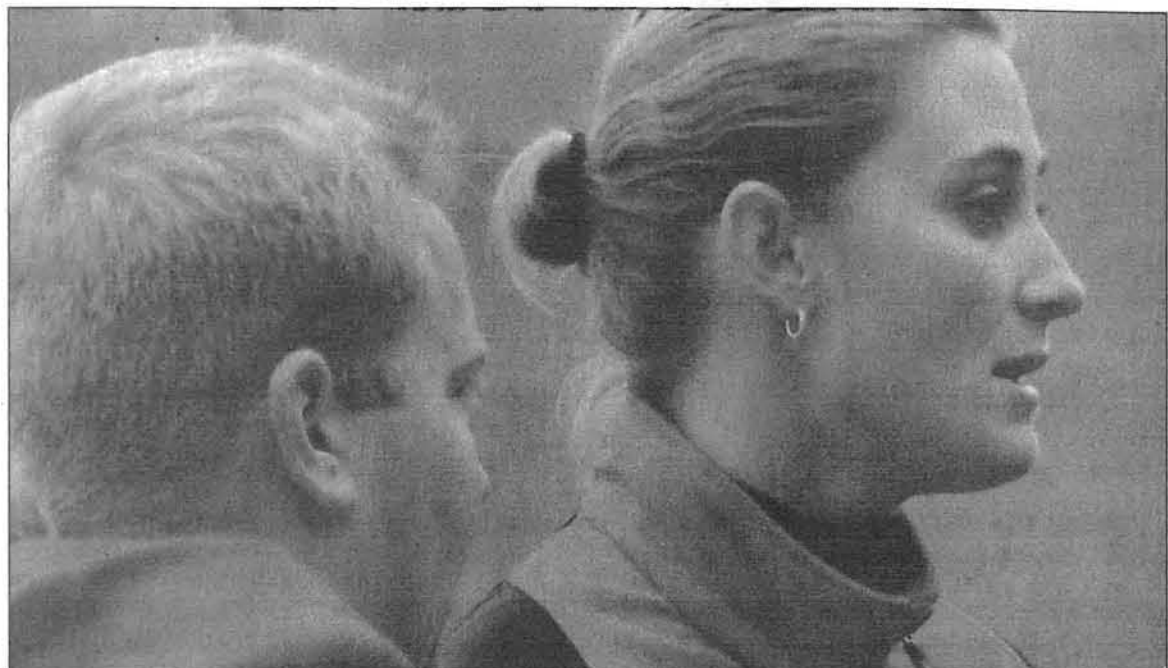
At 52:20, junior forward Mary Kate McDermott scored once again for UM-St. Louis. Hauan recorded the assist for a total of seven for the season and McDermott totaled six goals for the Riverwomen.

"They were all over us after those two goals. Courtney [Carmody] had a lot of good saves to protect the shutout," Coach Goetz said.

The scored stayed locked at 3-0 until the final buzzer to record the win for the Riverwomen.

Courtney Carmody, the Riverwomen goalie, was named the GLVC player of the week by the conference office for the week of Oct. 21.

see SOCCER, page 9



Riverwomen soccer coach Beth Goetz has led her team to a 12-5-1 finish for the season, and 6-3-1 in the GLVC. The Riverwomen will host a GLVC first round tournament on Nov. 2.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

SOCCER, from page 8

Carmody's assistance in the win against Quincy helped to secure the Riverwomen a chance to host a first round tournament game depending on the outcome of this weekend's matches.

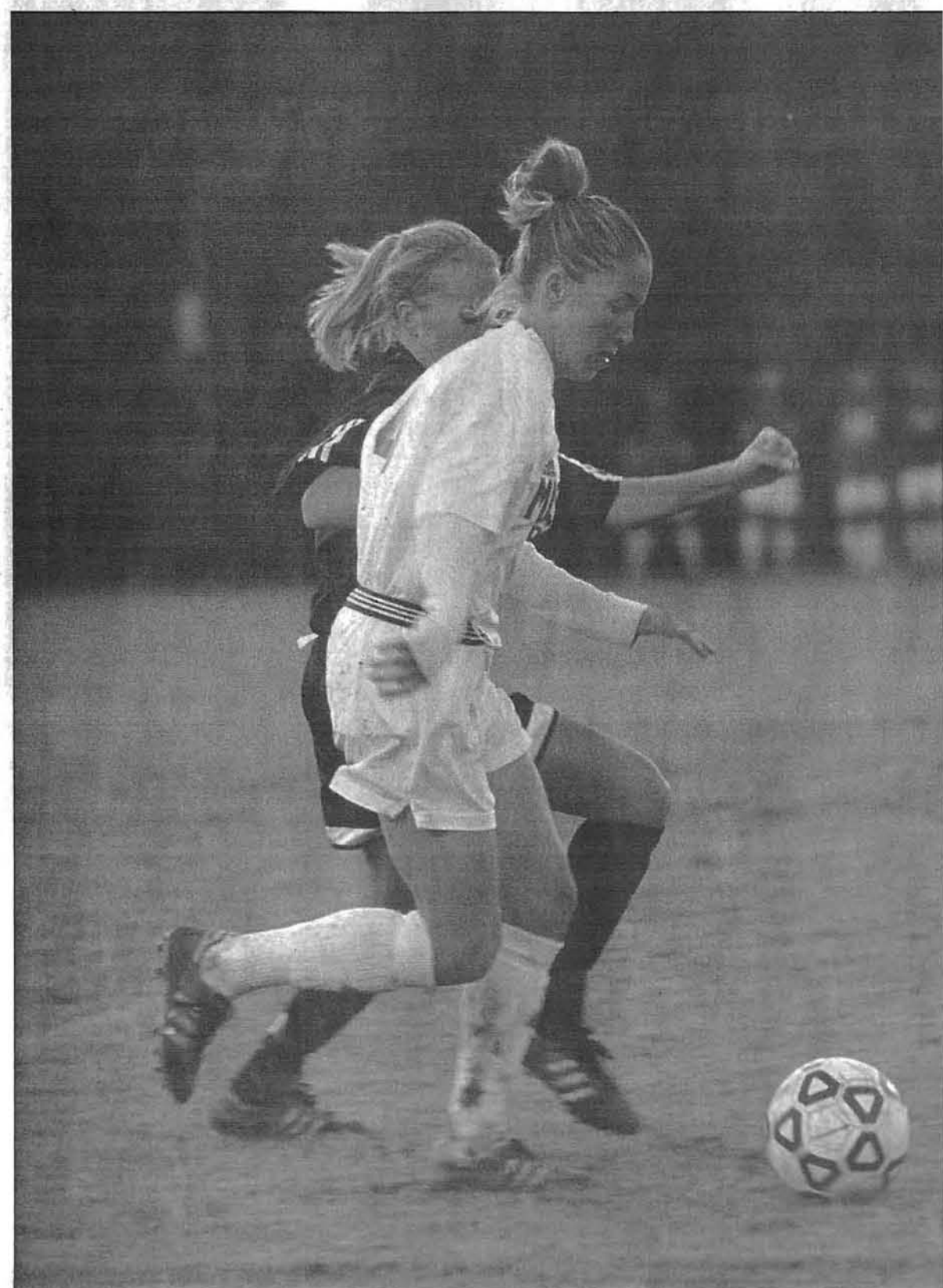
Carmody has 75 saves on the year and has recorded nine shutouts including the last four games. Her nine shutouts rank fourth on the school's all-time single season list with at least one

more game remaining. Those nine shutouts also put her in sixth on the Um-St. Louis career shutouts list as well.

The Riverwomen will hit the road for their final game against Southern Indiana on Oct. 25. In order to secure hosting a first round tournament game, the Riverwomen must defeat Southern Indiana. However, the fight won't be

easy with the Lady Eagles, currently 3-6, fighting hard-to-avoid exclusion from the tournament if they lose the game.

"We're kind of worried about it because we want the home court advantage. They have a new coach which usually motivates a team; and if they lose this, their season is over. They're not going to go down without



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Riverwomen midfielder Sonya Hauan competes for the ball with a Quincy Lady Hawks player during the game Friday, Oct. 17 at Don Dallas field.

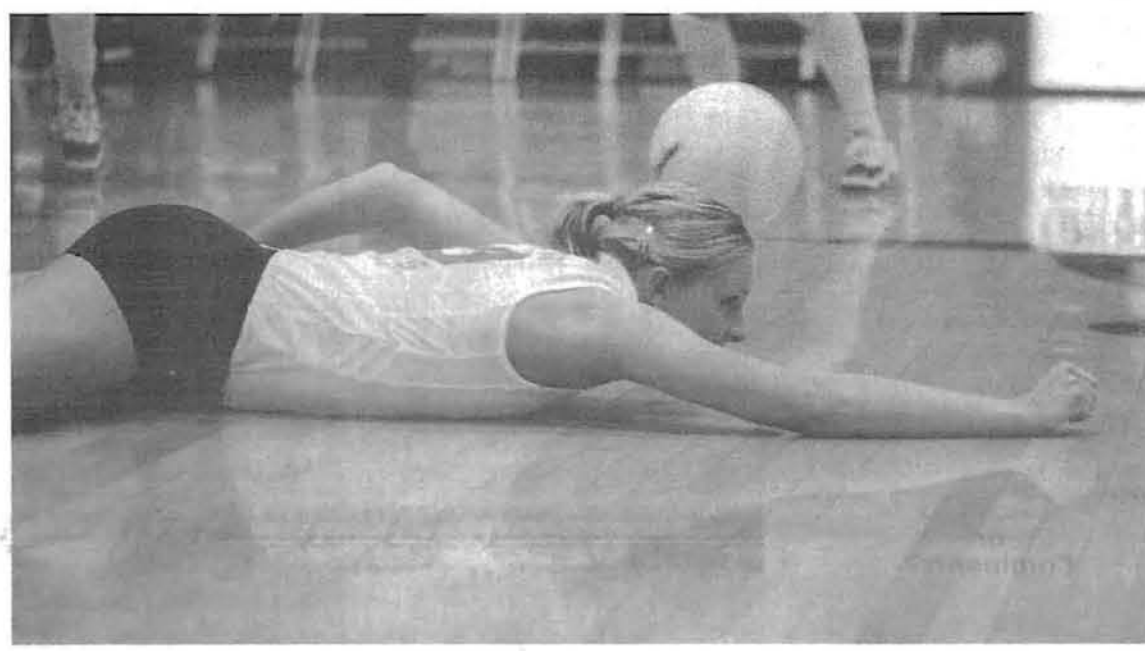
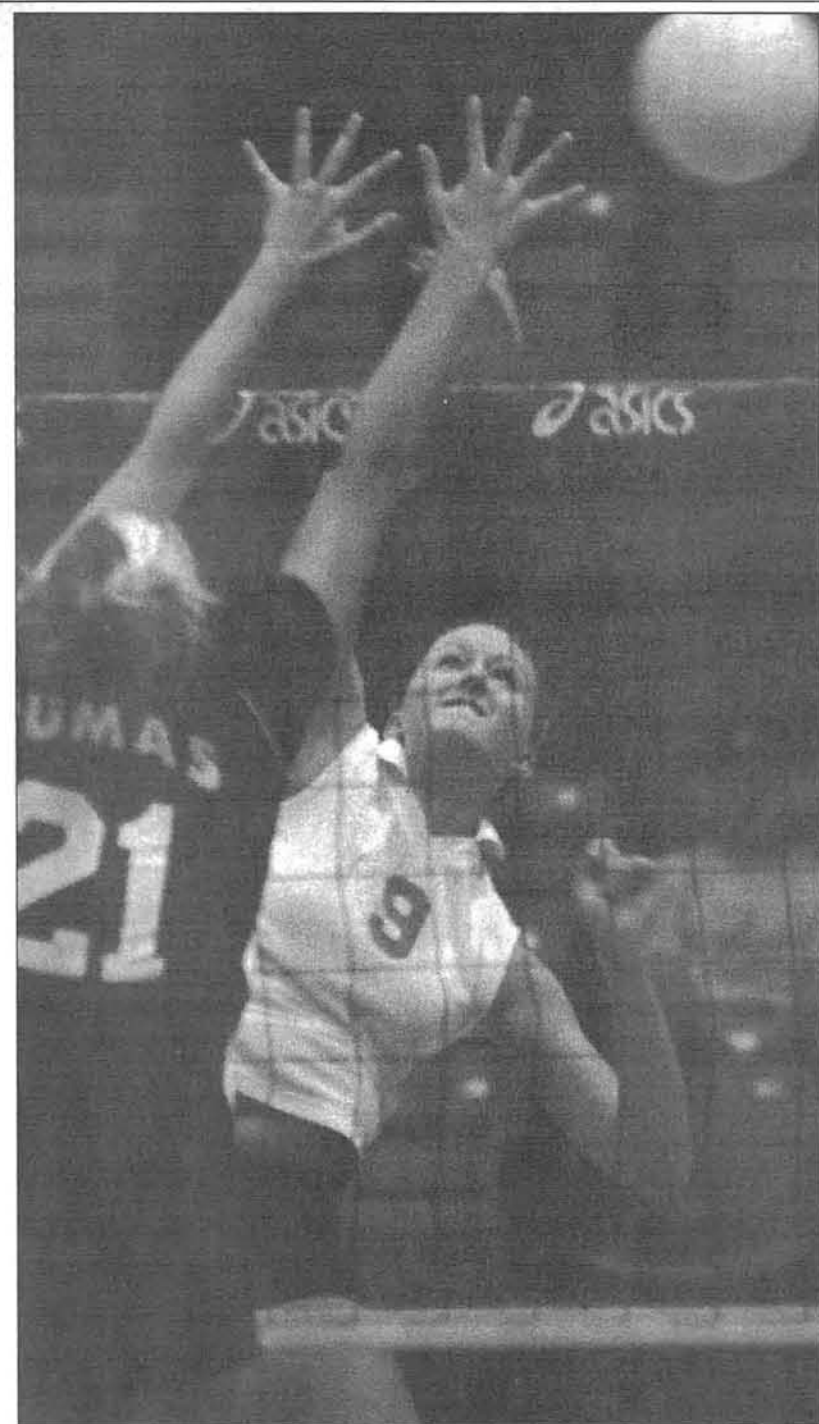
Spiking the night away

RIGHT:

Riverwomen middle hitter Nikki Pagels spikes against the St. Joseph's Pumas' Breanne Evans during play Friday night. The Riverwomen were victorious, winning 3-1.

BELOW:

Setter Ashley Richmond dives, but can't quite come up with the ball during Friday night's game against the St. Joseph's Pumas. Richmond had 22 assists in the game.



Sharpen the skates Ice hockey starts up the season

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The Rivermen ice hockey team has started its season. The team practices every Wednesday night at the St. Peter's Rec Plex and has games Friday and Saturday nights. The men of the hockey team compete against such other teams like SIU-E, SLU, University of Wisconsin, Bradley, Southwest Missouri State, University of Illinois and UM-Columbia.

The team kicked their season off in

the East Alton Tourney against SIU-E, Lindenwood and SLU. The Rivermen placed third in the tournament.

Captain and treasurer Mike Winkler hopes the team will do well this year. "We want to make it to the league tournament. We placed second last year and want to do even better this year."

The Rivermen faced Kentucky Oct. 2 and 3 on the road and won both games. They then went up against University of Milwaukee, Oct. 17 and 18, only to lose those two games.

"The Kentucky game was an awe-

some trip with a lot of fans," captain and president Craig Hoosman said.

The Rivermen's big conference rivals for the season include SLU, SMS and Northern Illinois. Hoosman revealed that the team had a rough start with the losses in the tournament and against Milwaukee but said everything will start to click like it does every year.

Under new coaches Neil Dietenbrock and Pete Jackson, the Rivermen hope to overcome the loss of over half of their team. Eleven players and previous coaches went to

Lindenwood University two years ago when Lindenwood gave a \$100,000 budget to the newly recognized ice hockey team.

This loss left the Rivermen searching for an entire team to keep their team alive. They finished second in the MACHA conference last year, which was the best finish ever in UM-St. Louis history. The Rivermen would like the support of the UM-St. Louis students and invite them to their games which are held Friday and Saturday nights.

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A&E Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of
Oct. 27

Alien: The Director's Cut- A restoration of the 1979 sci-fi horror film that stars Sigourney Weaver.

The Human Stain- Starring Anthony Hopkins, Nicole Kidman and Ed Harris. A college professor's affair sparks controversy in this adaptation of the Philip Roth novel.

Die Mommie Die- Conspiracy and romance abound in this film, set in 1967, about aging singer Angel Arden (Charles Busch), who finds herself caught in the middle of the scandals of a chaotic household.

Girlhood- Documentary about the effects of broken homes, drugs, rape and murder in the lives of Baltimore teens.

Ongoing...

Scary Movie 3- Last weekend's box office champ grossed almost \$50 million. Starring Charlie Sheen, Peter Boyle, Anna Harris, Pamela Anderson, Jenny McCarthy, Leslie Nielsen and George Carlin.

FILM REVIEW

'Sylvia' has all Plath's tragedy, not enough poetry

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

Sylvia Plath, a quintessential tragic female confessional poet, became an icon for feminists. Her death by suicide occurred almost at the same time as the release of her acclaimed book of poems, "Ariel." Countless people, particularly young women, were introduced to and moved by the powerful, dark worldview presented in her novel, "The Bell Jar." Yet what led directly to her suicide and to the nature of her relationship with her husband, British poet Ted Hughes, remained a mystery for years.

"Sylvia," a new biographical film starring Gwyneth Paltrow, aims to tell the story of Plath's life and of her relationship with Hughes. Shortly before his death, Hughes broke his long silence about Plath with the publication of a collection of letters. These letters were the inspiration for the film.

"Sylvia" is a darkly lush film, set mostly in 1950s Britain, which weaves the tale of a love affair between two gifted but fiery poets. They meet at Cambridge, when Plath marches into a literary society meeting to confront Ted Hughes (Daniel Craig) about a bad review he had given her poem. Sparks flew between the two, generating a kiss, a bite and the taking of a single earring as a souvenir. The tempestuous meeting sets the tone for their up and down relationship.

This highly polished, period piece/art film is gorgeous to look at. It is not an art film in the low-budget, indie film sense, but in the sense of what studios in the classic Hollywood era called "prestige films." The pho-

tography and sets are flawless, and every visual element has the look of invested effort and expense. Ultimately, the visual elements of the film do not draw attention to themselves but only serve to create the perfect setting for the jewel of the actor's performances.

Paltrow stars in a role most actresses would die for, and she picks up the opportunity and runs with it. Indeed, Paltrow's performance may win Oscar consideration. As the iconic Plath, she gets to portray a conflicted but beloved soul, a multi-layered artist who has already won hearts with her savage, dark poems but whose personal unhappiness finally overwhelms her. The whole film has a half-lit sort of beauty, with all the photographic elements needed to evoke the time and the emotion.

In a film about Sylvia Plath, happiness cannot be expected. The film covers Plath's struggle for recognition, her early experiences with depression and her unresolved feelings about her father's sudden death that occurred when she was a child. Given less attention by the film are Plath's rages against the sexual double standards of the '50s and the roles to which women were confined. As the film progresses it becomes unrelentingly sad, especially at the inevitable end. Unfortunately, "Sylvia" gives us too little of the subject's work, with only a few snippets of her poetry. Therefore it misses the chance to give a lift to the audience's spirits by letting us experience the artistry that made her loss so tragic. What little poetry we hear is glorious and does make some of the gloom more bearable.

Despite the sadness, "Sylvia" can rightfully be called a good, serious film and a needed slice of intelligent fare to counter the usual juvenile, low-



Photo courtesy Focus Features

brow movies that fill most theaters. The actors' performances, especially Paltrow's, are marvelous and this aspect, along with the visual beauty of the film, are the greatest strengths.

The film's shortcomings are the

usual ones of biopics: not enough of the work that made the artist great and a viewpoint that is skewed to favor the artist rather than the barefaced truth. This last aspect matters less, as these kinds of biographical films are more

often aimed at fans than as slices of history. To its credit, "Sylvia" strives to be accurate and perhaps that makes it all the more sad to watch. What other kind of movie would you expect about Sylvia Plath?

MOVIE REVIEW

'Mystic River' blends mystery, tragedy in tale of three lives

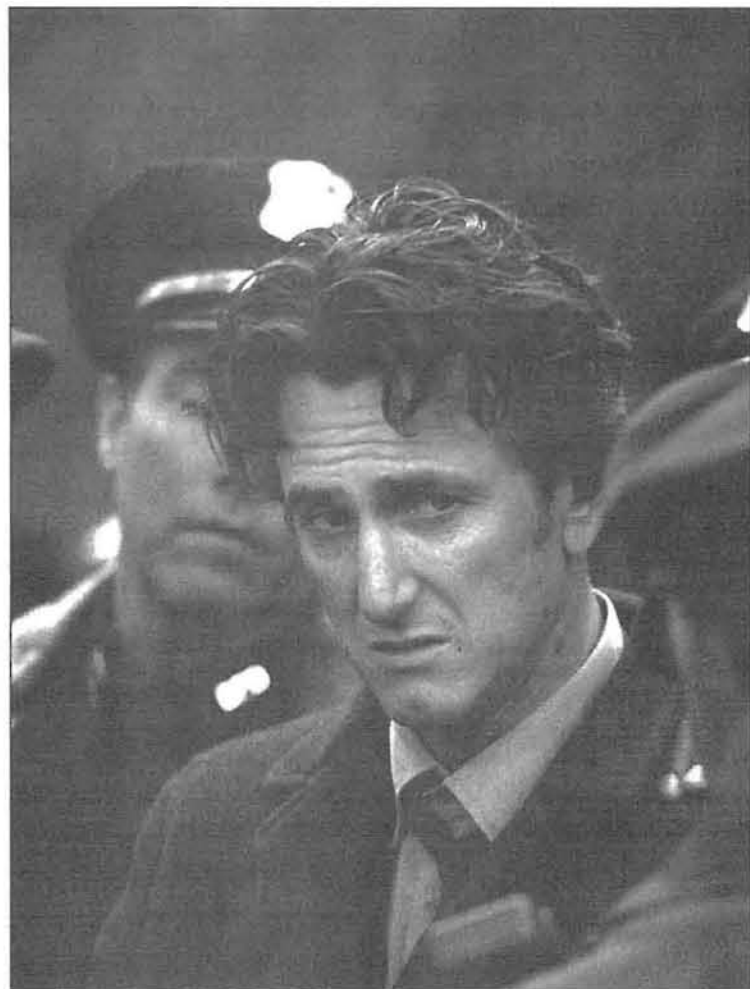


Photo courtesy Warner Bros.

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

"Mystic River" is director Clint Eastwood's murder-mystery-as-character-study film about three boys from a working-class neighborhood whose lives are forever changed by a childhood tragedy that echoes into adulthood. With astounding acting, the film reaches for Shakespearean proportions and nearly makes it. It may be Eastwood's best film of recent years, maybe since "Unforgiven," although it doesn't quite reach the level of that masterpiece.

Jimmy (Sean Penn), Sean (Kevin Bacon) and Dave (Tim Robbins) are the three men who are forever linked by a childhood tragedy. As children in a blue-collar section of Boston near the Mystic River, their uneventful days are altered when the three boys are caught writing their names in fresh sidewalk cement by two men in a passing car. The men claim to be cops and demand that the boys get in the car so they can take them home to talk to their parents about their mis-

deeds. The boys are uneasy but Dave, who lives one block away, reluctantly climbs into the car with the two strangers. Dave eventually escapes but his experience scars him for life and leaves a permanent mark on them all.

The three childhood friends are brought together years later by the murder of Jimmy's 19-year-old daughter Katie (Emmy Rossum). Sean, now a cop, investigates the mystery along with his partner Whitey (Laurence Fishburne). Jimmy, an ex-con who still lives in the old neighborhood, owns a market and has made a life for himself. Dave, a retiring and marginally employed man who never really recovered from his childhood abuse, also still lives in the old neighborhood. As Sean tries to solve the case one step ahead of the vengeful Jimmy, all the men have to come to grips with their shared history and the paths their lives have taken.

The murder mystery provides a backdrop for the real story, which is about the characters and their conflicted relationships. Director Eastwood takes a straightforward approach to his storytelling and lets the fine cast take center stage. The

acting proves to be the real reason to see this film, as Penn, Robbins and Bacon all sink their teeth into meaty roles, characters that are complex and multidimensional the way they are in good theater more often than in film. You can easily see Shakespeare in the grand tragedy of their working-class lives. Of course, Eastwood assembled a great cast that also includes Laura Linney as Jimmy's Lady MacBeth wife and Marcia Gay Harden as Dave's disloyal one.

All the performances by this stellar cast are first rate. Bacon does a wonderful job as Sean, whose job brings him back to a world he thought he had escaped and forces him to deal with unresolved fears. The references to Shakespeare that one is likely to see in reviews of this film stem in large part from Penn's portrayal of Jimmy. Penn nails cold the range of emotions Jimmy experiences, giving an astounding performance. His scene with Robbins, when he breaks down and cries out his grief over his lost daughter, is classic. On the surface, Robbins' Dave is a gentle soul who seems to dote on his son but also has a nervousness about him that raises questions in everyone's mind. Seemingly trusting and dim, he tells conflicting stories to various people, and then becomes surprisingly streetwise and cagey when talking to the police. That Dave's life has been overshadowed by his childhood abuse never leaves anyone's mind. The character of Dave was originally meant to be a small man, but Robbins' posture and carriage express the emotional fragility of the character, so that the fact that he is the tallest of the three main actors becomes irrelevant. Likewise, Marcia Gay Harden as Dave's suspicious wife Celeste turns in a great performance unlike anything she has done before. Laura Linney is great as always as Jimmy's wife Annabeth, who keeps her head and keeps her husband focused on what he must do for his family, in a role of self-preservation and ambition inspired by Lady MacBeth.

The mystery almost holds up until the end of the film, where the logic and psychology of it start to falter a bit. The film doesn't quite reach the heights that Eastwood achieved with "Unforgiven," for the story is not quite as strong or as well realized. However, the film, well worth seeing for the splendid performances, will likely lead to some Oscar nominations.

CD REVIEW

Apart from the group, attempting separation



Boyd Tinsley of the Dave Mathews Band

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

After collaborating with the Dave Mathews Band for over a decade, violinist Boyd Tinsley has set off on his own. "True Reflections" is the product of Tinsley's lifetime of creating music. In his debut solo album, Tinsley showcases his other musical talents, separate from the Dave Mathews Band man whom you all know so well.

Surprisingly enough, Tinsley performs very little violin work in the album; the string section is fairly nonexistent. This certainly works to Tinsley's disadvantage. His voice is not strong and does not even compare to his string instrument skills. The background vocalist on a few tracks, Lisa Germano and Dave Mathews outdo Tinsley and distract the listener from the lyrics.

The words that Tinsley writes are well-constructed ideas put forth in a simplistic manner. As a lyricist, Tinsley marginally passes. Most of the eleven tracks on "True Reflections" are about love. Tinsley talks of yearning, searching and falling into something that he does not completely understand. Who really does?

"True Reflections" carries a variety of musical influences from innumerable genres of sound. The first track, "It's Alright," has a pop-like repetitive beat and chorus, while tracks like "Listen" and "Long Time Wait" echo blues and bluegrass tones. Then "Cause It's Time" shocks with a classical reggae flair.

Throughout "True Reflections," sounds of the Dave Mathews band can be heard, which is inevitable. The Dave Mathews band is not Tinsley's only accomplishment in the world of music. Tinsley co-founded the Charlottesville-Albermarle Youth Orchestra as a teen. As a college student at the University of Virginia, Tinsley was already headlining shows with his inherent talent on his violin. It was at college where the young Dave Mathews met Tinsley, and they have been working together ever since.

Tinsley continues pursuing his career as a vital part of the Dave Mathews band and currently balances his national solo tour with the band's demands on his time. Band members commonly separate to find their musical selves so Tinsley is certainly not alone here. Unfortunately for him, Tinsley's talents are more productive and better defined as a part of the Dave Mathews Band.

Tinsley's vocal projection and songwriting are okay but certainly nothing great. He is comparable to Lenny Kravitz, as they both write those songs that repeat one idea over and over, leaving you to wonder why you are not a famous songwriter. Still, Tinsley has obvious respect for the classical lyricists. He does a powerful rendition of Neil Young's "Cinnamon Girl." "True Reflections" is an okay collection of songs. Boyd Tinsley, a wildly talented violinist, does not equally shine as a solo vocalist. For a debut album, "True Reflections" is not too bad, though a dazzling solo career as a lead man is probably not in Boyd Tinsley's future.

Photo courtesy RCA Records

BOOK REVIEW

Humor Sheds Light on Dark, True-life Tale

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

There are hundreds of thousands of books to browse at your local bookstore. Knowing that massive section called "Literature" is, well, massive, you might focus only on the new releases propped up at the front display table, reveling in their time in the spotlight. None of us has time to scrutinize each of those new releases. What draws you to a certain book then? In my experience, there are two primary elements that answer that

brilliantly, boldly and simply what a great thing it was. I picked it up, opened randomly to a page, read, laughed, flipped to another random page, read, laughed and repeated. Ultimately, I bought the lofty promise made by Dave Eggers, the author. My copy from that Tokyo bookstore remains pristine despite being paperback, read through thrice and transported four times in the proverbial moving van.

Eggers keeps his promise. His autobiographical novel opens in a somber and outdated living room, a

actors. The dialogue between Dave and his sister Beth when the mother's nosebleed will not stop manages to be deadly serious and genuinely funny at the same time. When Dave must take Toph, his younger brother, to Open House at Toph's new school, their collective incompetence and immaturity pulls at the rest of us who didn't have these problems. Yet they escape with grins and "dork" comments and their lives shine brightly.

Dave and Toph set off on an orphaned journey around California following the death of their parents,

Heartbreaking? Certainly. Staggering? Yes, I'd say so. And if genius is capturing the universal in a fresh and memorable way, call it that too.
Anthony Quinn, *Sunday Times*

A
HEARTBREAKING
WORK
of
STAGGERING
GENIUS

Is this how all orphans would speak — "I am at once pitiful and monstrous. I know" — if they had Dave Eggers' prodigious linguistic gifts? For he does write wonderfully, and this is an extremely impressive debut. John Banville, *Irish Times*

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

DAVE EGGERS

Photo courtesy Vintage Books

question: the cover and the title. There are, of course, those books that list the author's name bigger than the novel's title and that people buy simply because so-and-so wrote them. That lonely book by that unknown author, however, relies on its cover art and title to grab you and me away from the myriad of other choices.

Move away from the new release table to where you are forced to read only bindings (titles), and you should be immediately struck by how important the title becomes. Two years ago, I stood in a suburban Tokyo bookstore noticing just that. I stopped at the title "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius." I thought the title wholly presumptuous. After being raised to question everything, most would scoff at anything that stated so

seedy freak show of sorts, where he runs through the daily routine of caring for his sofa-confined, nose-bleeding and cancer-mangled mother. As we hear about the plight of mother and children, we are hit with fragments of flashback from not-too-long-ago when the father crumpled and died while going out for the morning paper. When we come back from one such flashback, we are in the hospital with his mother, who succumbs to death the morning of her birthday.

By the end of page forty-two, the true depth of the novel's poignant "heartbreaking work" begins to show. Eggers' novel is also filled with "staggering genius," because in light of the hell around them, the real-life characters do not turn into dramatists or

an occurrence that drives the body of the novel. It's all heartbreaking, and it's all genius. That said, do not, whatever you do, forget to read the introduction and the credits page, which will give an idea of what to look forward to. What is so great about this book is that though the content and subject are serious, Eggers writes as if he does not take them so seriously. We think that could not possibly be true, that he must surely care about his own life; after all, he wrote an autobiography. Some of us live throwing Frisbees farther than ever before.

If you think that life is circumstantial and all about finding someone special to share it with, pick up "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius" and meet one of love's foremost advocates.

CONCERT REVIEW

Amplified Tyranny: an evening with KMFDM

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

Since 1984, KMFDM has been making electronically infused rebellious music in a process that vocalist Sascha Konietzko calls their, "constant evolution." The group began in Paris, combining Konietzko and several painters and sculptors from Germany. Since then, KMFDM has been a "revolving member cast," according to Konietzko. The seven-piece industrial rock setup seems to be a productively energetic unit. KMFDM's enthusiasm and engaging stage performance has

with the crowd. They were okay in an eerily frightening way.

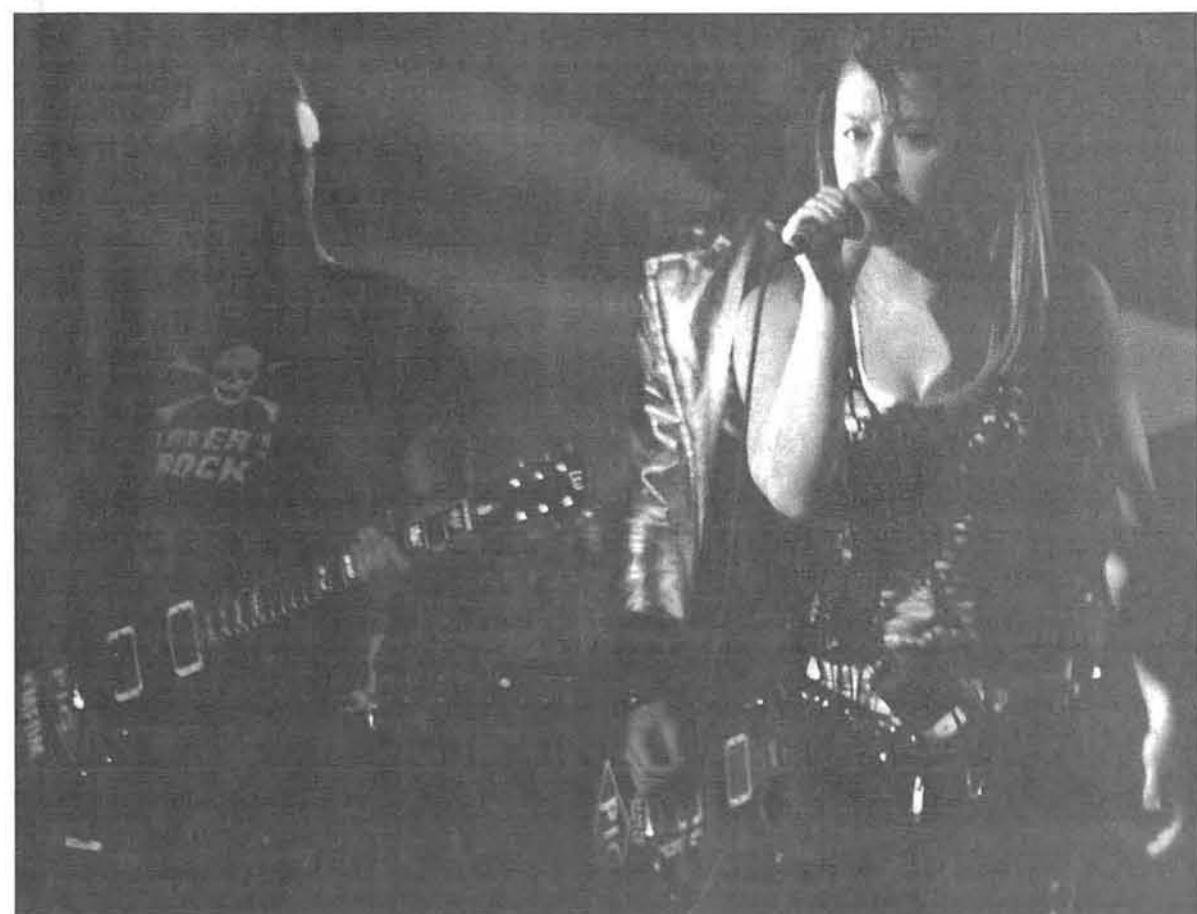
When the back-porch bluegrass interlude from the first track of KMFDM's new album began, the crowd was more than ready. After mere seconds of this calming serenity, pulsating noise sprang onto the stage, and the show began. As Konietzko chanted "I declare war on the world," the rest of the group ripped through the sound barrier of the small St. Louis nightclub. KMFDM's first song put the echo into silence and set the stage for one powerful set of industrial music.

KMFDM's set was full of inventive rhythmic discourse and outrageous tone. Colorful lights shone

sometimes harder to understand than the other vocalist, but his intimidating stature kept anyone from complaining.

KMFDM is much more definitive live than in recordings. Their theatrical mechanized performance best portrays their lyrical messages and standpoints. Drummer Andy Selway, along with two guitarists and one bassist, work well to create an entertaining rhythm to fit with KMFDM's lyrics. The whole group truly grabs and pulls the roots of all of your attention.

KMFDM's music is a bending, stretching and ripping of raw human emotion based upon an electronica core. Their strong following is evidence that they break through the plight of many young people's oppres-



Jesse Gater / The Current

earned no less than a cult following here in the States; many of whom were in attendance on the evening of Oct. 22, at Mississippi Nights.

Kein Mehrheit Fuh Die Mitleid is translated from German to English as "no pity for the majority." Their namesake has spawned some heavily defiant songs and albums that have been KMFDM's tools for spreading their words. With their current U.S. tour, KMFDM is promoting their newest CD release, "WWIII." St. Louis was their sixth performance in 36 shows on a 40-day intensive musical tour.

Bile, a three-piece demonic rock group, opened the show with one loud, thrashy set. Grotesque and overcomplicated, the group did not fare well

through the group's Mohawks and leather, making the scene quite aesthetically exciting. Each member had a mesmerizing appearance on stage, backed by pristine talent.

Female vocalist Lucia Cifarelli alternated between lead and background vocals throughout the set. When Cifarelli made her noise, she demanded attention, with a strong-willed presence comparable to that of No Doubt's Gwen Stefani. Fellow attention grabber and vocalist Raymond Watts also delivered a unique musical curve ball. Long-legged Watts casually strolled onto the stage dressed in a long platinum trench coat and a straw cowboy hat. Watts, who sang in a low taunting tone, was

sion. Although their words may prove controversial, KMFDM does not fear rejection from the mainstream. When I asked Konietzko if he was concerned about receiving criticism for his politically-infused messages, he smiled and remarked, "Frankly, I don't give a shit." So, the group continues with the same drive that forced its initial beginning.

KMFDM's visit to St. Louis proved to be an exhibit of enthusiastic rebellion. Their industrial syncopation and high regard for rock and classical elements made for one creepy symphony. KMFDM's shattering, electronically-infused eighties sound is sure to keep them going strong for more years to come.

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Michael Pelikan/The Current

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas K. Wilson, professor of military science, talks with a reporter in his office on Wednesday afternoon.

ROTC, from page 6

Those are some specific goals that the program sets out to achieve.

"We're the best leadership course in America," said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas K. Wilson, professor of military science. "Our goals include teaching things such as time management and leadership skills, including everything from counseling to how to conduct effective meetings."

Wilson currently works at the Gateway Battalion of the Army ROTC program, which serves 12 area schools including UM-St. Louis, Washington University and St. Louis University. Classes for the ROTC students are mostly held at Washington University. The program requires that students take one class, usually two to three credit hours per semester, partic-

ipate in physical training three times a week and attend a military science lab, which is where the tactical skills are learned. A National Advanced Leadership Camp also runs for 32 days in the summertime.

Students can join the program at any time between their freshman year and their junior year. The Army requires at least a 2.5 grade point average to be admitted and a 2.0 GPA to stay enrolled. If a student receives a military scholarship, they are obligated to serve in the military for four years after they graduate. Those who do not receive scholarships are required to serve three years.

A wide range of positions are available for service, including active Army, the Army Reserves and the

Missouri National Guard. Students who complete the ROTC program have higher rank over those who join the Army right out of high school. Students can choose from numerous career options upon entering the military.

"The Army is unique in that upon the student's graduation, they would be an officer, a Second Lieutenant, which in the corporate world is the equivalent of a junior executive," said Wilson.

For more information on getting involved in the program, students can visit www.armyrotc.com or call the Gateway Battalion of the Army ROTC at (314) 935-5537.

For more info about the Army: www.goarmy.com

UNICYCLE, from page 7

"I'm Real" revolved around a "Romeo and J-Lo" situation, and Snoop Dogg's "Gin and Juice" featured three guys trying to figure out what to do on a Friday night.

When asked how Guerilla Theatre felt about their performance, group member Lottie Bergstrom said, "It really went well. That was actually the best that we've ever performed the

show."

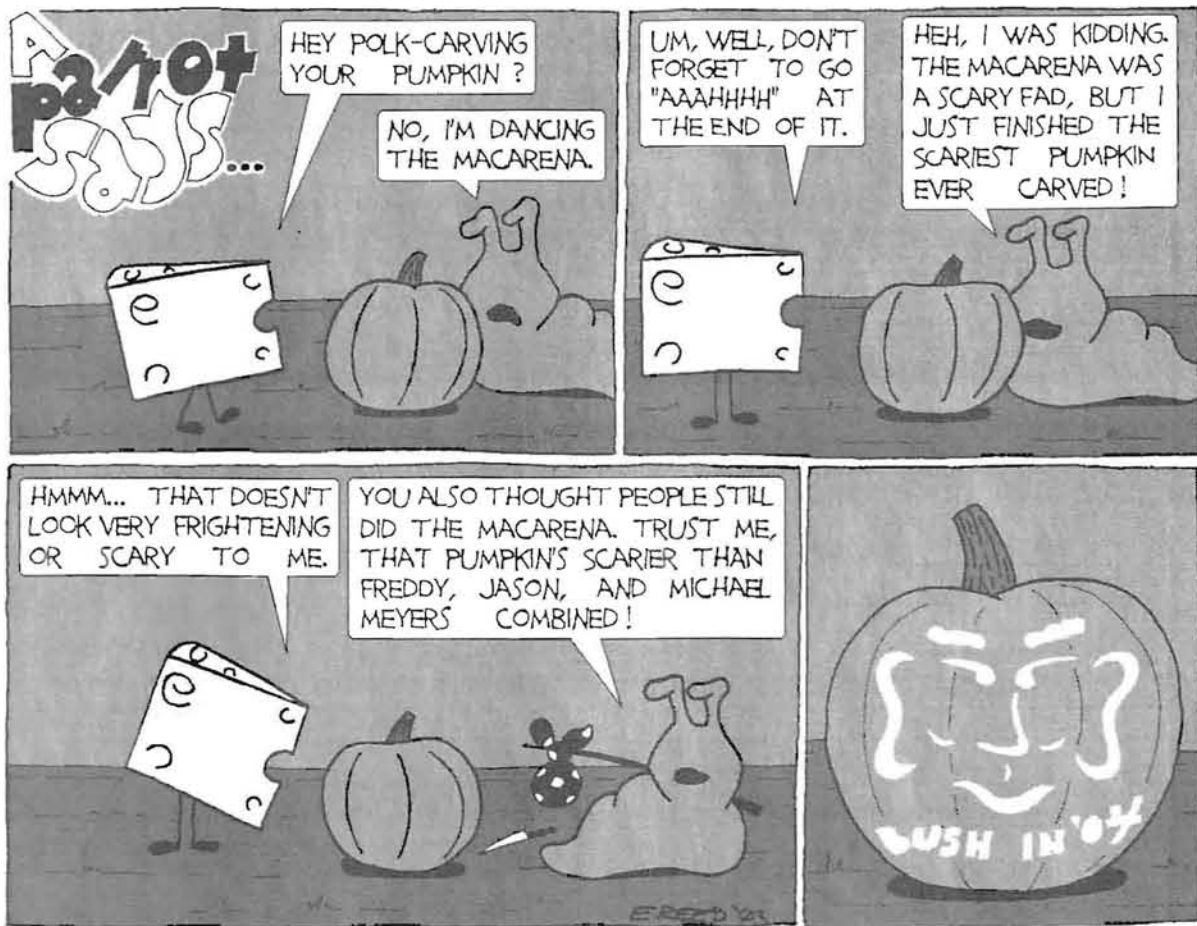
Several of the group members were involved in a different show last spring and will soon be working on new material for next semester's performance.

"Right now, what we'd really like to do is find a way to take our show and travel to other colleges like Mizzou and Southwest. We also

would like to perform other places around St. Louis," said Bergstrom.

Another one of Guerilla Theatre's goals is to introduce more sketch comedy to St. Louis.

Students who would like to see shows similar to "The Art of Riding a Seatless Unicycle, Part II" can visit venues such as the City Improv Comedy Club in Union Station.



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