

See page 13

Get your words crossed.

Grant aimed at catching internet predators

BY M.K. STALLINGS
Staff Writer

The Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, located on the South Campus of UM-St. Louis, was recently granted \$12,160 to continue conducting workshops that protect children from Internet predators.

The Internet not only provides world citizens a faster means of communication, but according to CASGSL, it provides predators with another means of reaching children. By conducting workshops, the Safety Net program addresses the latest threats internet predators pose for children who are online.

"Hardly anyone does chat rooms anymore. They [instant message] instead," Susan Scribner, interim director of CASGSL, referring to popular instant messenger services offered by internet providers, said. "The Internet changes rapidly."

CASGSL, whose mission is to improve the community's response to child sexual abuse, developed the Safety Net program with Officer Joe Laramie, head of the St. Louis Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Safety Net workshops are co-presented with Jewish Family and Children Services to families and educators free of charge. The workshops are designed to inform parents of tips and software that would provide children with a safer online experience.

The Safety Net workshops vary in length, from 30 minutes to 90 minutes, depending on the needs of the agency hosting the workshop. However, most workshops are one hour in duration.

Churches, schools and other agencies throughout the St. Louis region are welcome to schedule a presentation.

"We have conducted Safety Net presentations at the St. Louis Public Schools, in private schools, schools in the county, and schools in St. Charles...where ever we can get people interested," Scribner said.

To gauge the effectiveness of the Safety Net program, CASGSL asks participants to complete a pre-test to assess what they already know, a post-test to assess what they have learned and a follow-up survey 30 days after the workshop.

"People said they have moved the computers...or installed safety software," Scribner said, discussing the successes of Safety Net.

Although the Safety Net program is in its fourth year of funding from the Children's Trust Fund, the grant awarded in August of this year only covers half of the program's operating budget.

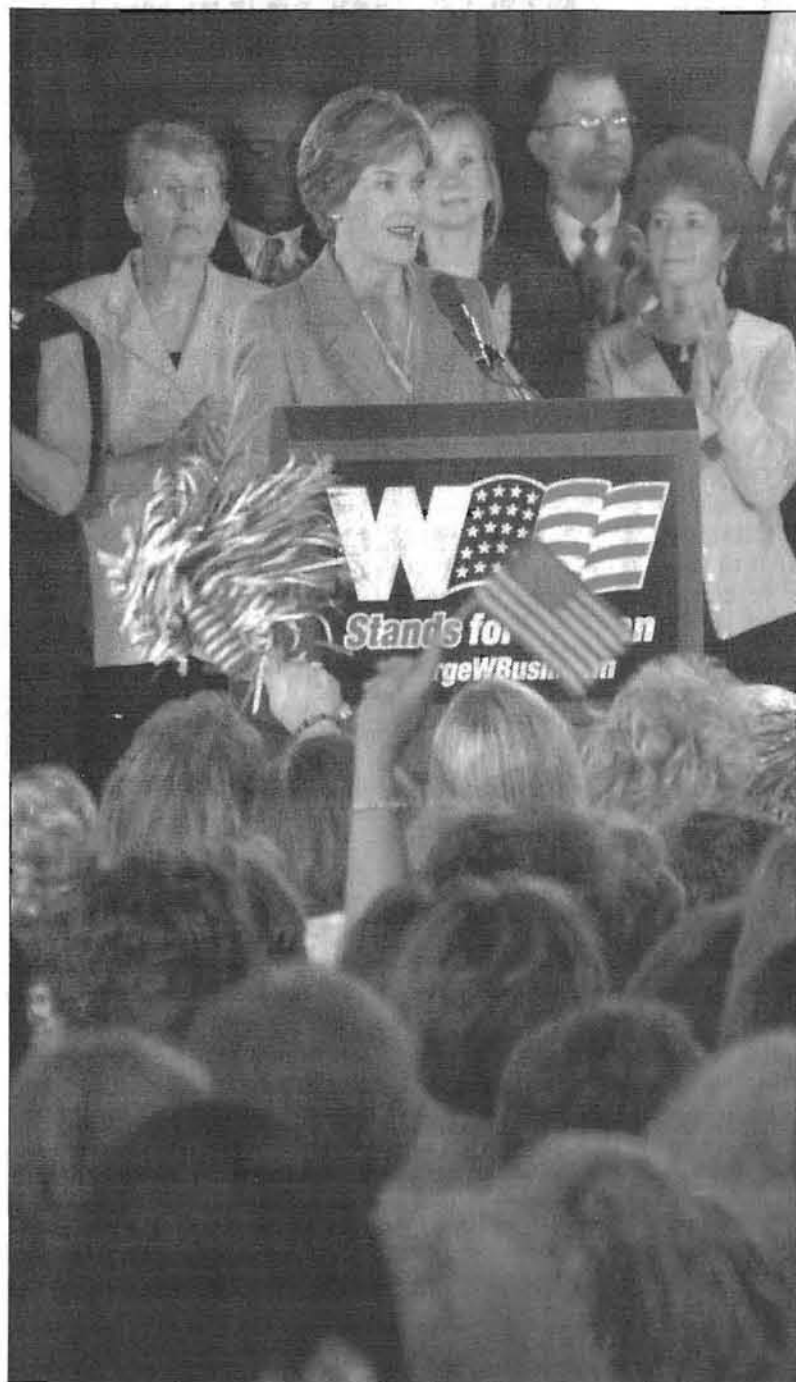
"It's a five year declining grant. We started at \$24,000 for the first two years. We received \$16,000 and \$12,000 this year," Scribner said.

Such funding challenges are common for CASGSL. According to Scribner, 15 percent of the total budget is funded by UM-St. Louis. The remaining 85 percent is raised through grant writing and private support.

see INTERNET, page 9

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Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Laura Bush discusses the role of women in America and globally at a support rally for her husband, President George W. Bush. The "W Stands for Women" rally was held at the Frontenac Hilton on Aug. 17.

First Lady speaks to St. Louis women

Laura Bush campaigns at 'W Stands for Women' rally in Frontenac

BY KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

"I learned at an early age that women can make an incredible difference in our world," First Lady Laura Bush told a crowd of supporters at the "W Stands for Women" program, hosted by the Republican National Committee. St. Louis women ranging from toddlers to seniors gathered at the Hilton Frontenac hotel on Tuesday, Aug. 17, to rally for the First Lady and the Bush campaign.

Several prominent Missouri politicians, including Missouri Secretary of State candidate and current Speaker of the Missouri House Catherine Hanaway, Brenda Talent, wife of Sen. Jim Talent and Lt. Gov. candidate Peter Kinder, came to support the Republican National Committee and the "W Stands for Women" campaign. The president's aunt and uncle, Bucky and Patty Bush, also attended.

"Women are the heart and soul of America," Lindsay Bush, cousin of the president and chairwoman of the Missouri Women for Bush coalition, said. She thanked an enthusiastic crowd for attending and introduced the event's emcee Ann Wagner, who currently serves as co-chairwoman of the Republican National Committee and the chairwoman of the Missouri Republican Party.

Wagner took the stage and discussed the role of women in politics. She said that a recent poll



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

A crowd applauds the appearance of First Lady Laura Bush at the "W Stands for Women" rally held at the Frontenac Hilton. "W Stands for Women" is a national grassroots campaign designed to gain women's support for President George W. Bush in the 2004 election.

showed that most of the undecided voters for the 2004 presidential election are women. She encouraged women to take an active role in the republican campaign, and to reach out and "grow the party."

"We need more women who understand that this is the most important election of our lives," Wagner said. "We know that 'W' stands for women. It's time for women to stand for 'W.'"

Wagner introduced the First Lady to the lively audience applauding and

waving miniature American flags, red, white and blue pom-poms as Laura Bush as she entered.

"All of us get to follow in the footsteps of our mothers and grandmothers who fought for their voices to be heard," Bush said. "Women across America are making important decisions about the future of our country. My husband knows how vitally important empowered women are to democracy."

see LAURA BUSH, page 3

Professor challenges new students to reach high, succeed

Martin Rochester lays out five main points for getting the most out of college

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

At the sixth annual new student convocation for the College of Arts and Sciences, Martin Rochester, professor of political science, challenged incoming freshman to "aspire to the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity."

Rochester, author of nationally recognized books such as "Class Warfare: Besieged Schools, Bewildered Parents, Betrayed Kids, and the Attack on Excellence," was invited by Mark Burkholder, dean of the college of arts and sciences, to deliver the address.

"I chose Professor Rochester because he is an outstanding teacher who is committed to providing a very challenging and high quality education to our students," Burkholder said. "I want incoming freshman to enroll and be successful in intellectually challenging courses that will stretch their minds and improve their skills."



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

The challenge consists of five main points. In point one, Rochester examined the levels of apathy and ignorance demonstrated by young people. He noted that while most students can easily identify the cast of "Friends," very few can name one

justice on the Supreme Court. Additionally, a recent National Geographic test showed that only 1 in 7 Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 could find Iraq on a world map, even though, as Rochester pointed out, many of those same people may find

themselves "fighting and dying there one day." However, he said the point is not intended to criticize, but entreat students to "become more informed about and more engaged in your political system and your world."

Point two suggested that an education is not simply about amassing facts. Rather, it is about "developing a sophisticated understanding of how the world works," Rochester said. Rarely is the world solved in terms of black and white; instead we find ourselves in a complicated place struggling to cope with various and sometimes conflicting ideas.

Beware of anyone who offers simple solutions, he warned, and further said that students should "be sophisticated in studying and analyzing various phenomena inside and outside the classroom. Avoid pat answers as well as polemics and diatribes. Always try to shed light, not heat."

The next point encouraged students to experience a wide range of ideas and topics before coming to a conclusion. Students should not shy away from reading multiple sources from multiple viewpoints.

see CONVOCATION, page 3

KWMU airs discussion on prevention of global warming

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Aug. 17, KWMU aired "Climate of Uncertainty," a program from American Radio Works examining global warming. Produced by Daniel Grossman and John Rudolph, "Climate of Uncertainty" suggested that global climate changes could be severe enough to drastically alter the weather, but could be prevented.

An estimated 38,000 listeners tuned in to KWMU for the program. During the hour-long presentation, Grossman and Rudolph said that scientists have valid reasons for believing that the earth is getting warmer. Although the temperature has barely changed over the last century, increasing by approximately one degree Fahrenheit, scientists claim that this shift a bigger deal than most people think.

"Over the years, evidence has accumulated that this warming is

having an impact," Grossman said. "For instance, winter temperatures on the Antarctic Peninsula have climbed an alarming 10 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 50 years. One researcher says this warming will cause Adelie Penguins to disappear from that part of the southern continent within a decade."

Scientists have generally come to the consensus that this warming is caused by carbon dioxide emissions, which have increased 30 percent over the last 150 years. In "Climate of Uncertainty," Rudolph argued that those emissions were preventable.

"If we want to eventually halt human activities that cause harmful changes to the world's climate, we can do it," he said. "Much of the technology exists, and new methods are being developed. What's harder is deciding if the risk is worth the effort and the cost."

Rudolph said that the United States does not have a national policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

reducing even a small percentage of carbon dioxide emissions can make a difference.

"It's estimated that about 15 percent of U.S. carbon emissions could be captured and stored over the next few decades. That would be significant, since the U.S. produces one quarter of the world's greenhouse gasses," Rudolph said.

The program brought up several ways to reduce emissions: efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon capture and storage. Wind supplies as much as 20 percent of Denmark's energy. In contrast, wind power produces less than one percent of the United States' electricity.

Another way to reduce carbon dioxide in the air is to return emissions to the ground. At the Weyburn oil field in Saskatchewan, Canada, carbon dioxide that rises out of the wells is collected and returned to the ground so that it cannot escape back into the atmosphere.

see GLOBAL WARMING, page 12

'Welcome Week' starts the semester off right...



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Shawn Morgan, a Chicago-based comedian who has appeared on BET's "Comic View" program, heats up the crowd at the Comedy Showcase held Thursday night in the Pilot House. The event was part of Welcome Week festivities. For more photographs of Welcome Week events, see page 14.

Bulletin Board

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

Mon. Aug. 23
Snow Cones

Campus Administrators and the staff of Student Life will host this event from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Millennium Student Center bridge. Visitors can mingle and meet new people while enjoying free snow cones.

Tues. Aug. 24
Rec Sports Day

Rec Sports Day will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Millennium Student Center patio. There will be a Free-Throw Basketball Contest and a Hold-in-One Golf Contest. Participants will be eligible for prizes.

Tues. Aug. 24
Volleyball Tryouts

Open tryout Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Mark Twain. Volleyball team is under new coaching staff, and looking for players with experience. Contact: 5643.

Wed. Aug. 25
Karaoke

The University Program Board and the Office of Student Life will host a karaoke event in the Pilot House from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided.

Wed. Aug. 25
Basic Interviewing Workshop

Students are encouraged to attend a basic interview workshop from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. held in 278 MSC. The event is for job seekers who do not possess extensive interviewing experience or want a "refresher" on general interviewing skills. Topics covered include interview formats and questions, employer research, appropriate interview attire, and post-interview follow up. Advanced registration required; contact Career Services at 516-5111 or career_services@umsl.edu for more information.

Wed. Aug. 25
Advance Interviewing Workshop

Students are encouraged to attend the advanced interviewing workshop from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. held in 278 MSC. The event is for those who need to examine key interviewing techniques in greater detail. Topics covered include behavioral interviewing, "trick" questions, case interviews, and salary negotiation. Role-playing exercises will be conducted to enhance participants' familiarity with the interview process. Advanced registration required; contact Career Services at 516-5111 or career_services@umsl.edu for more information.

Thur. Aug. 26
Study Abroad Information Session

Ever thought about studying abroad? The first step is to attend an information session. You'll learn about St. Louis study abroad programs, credit and grades, financial aid and scholarships, library resources, advising, and the application process. The event will be held in 331 SSB from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For Info: Traci Faschingbauer at 516-6497.

Fri. Aug. 27
Winning Research Award

Faculty, ORA staff, and librarians will offer resources and information to prepare research proposals, obtain IRB and IACUC approval, and secure internal and external funding. Register to attend on line. The event will be held at 315 Thomas Jefferson Library from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For Info: Margaret Cohen at 516.5308

Fri. Aug. 27
MyGateway 6, part 1

This workshop is a hands-on overview of the updated course management system that powers MyGateway. MyGateway 6.1 provides instructors with a variety of new features

and enhancements to allow more flexibility in course content delivery and management. Experienced users of MyGateway will benefit from this overview, as will those new to MyGateway. The event will be held in 005 CCB for UM-St. Louis only, from 10 a.m. to 11:15 p.m. For Info: Rocky

Mon. Aug. 30
Resume Mania Week

From noon to midnight, located in 278 MSC, student can get their resume in shape now for Career Days being held on Tuesday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 15, 2004. A professionally written resume will help you make a great first impression. If they have never had their resume professionally critiqued, or they are not happy with their current resume, this one-time, on-line service is just for you! Starting Monday, August 30, 2004 until Friday, September 3, 2004, Career Services invites you to submit your resume on-line at resumemania@umsl.edu so that one of our Career Specialists can

Word of the Week
Lummax

See page 13 for details.

Through Aug. 24
The Art of Bronze

The Mercantile Library, on level one of the Thomas Jefferson Library, is displaying an exhibition of bronze sculpture organized by the Woodcock Museum. The exhibition includes works depicting the American West by Charles M. Russell and Frederic Remington, realistic figures by Thomas Hart Benton and Ed Dwight, and abstract figural works by contemporary artist Larry Young. An ongoing slide show in the gallery illustrates the process of lost-wax casting.

Put it on the board!
Have an upcoming event?
Call 516-5174 for info!

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

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Corrections

In the Aug. 16 issue of *The Current*, the staff editorial stated that the Missouri legislature voted to ban homosexual marriages. In fact, the citizens of Missouri voted, not the legislators.

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



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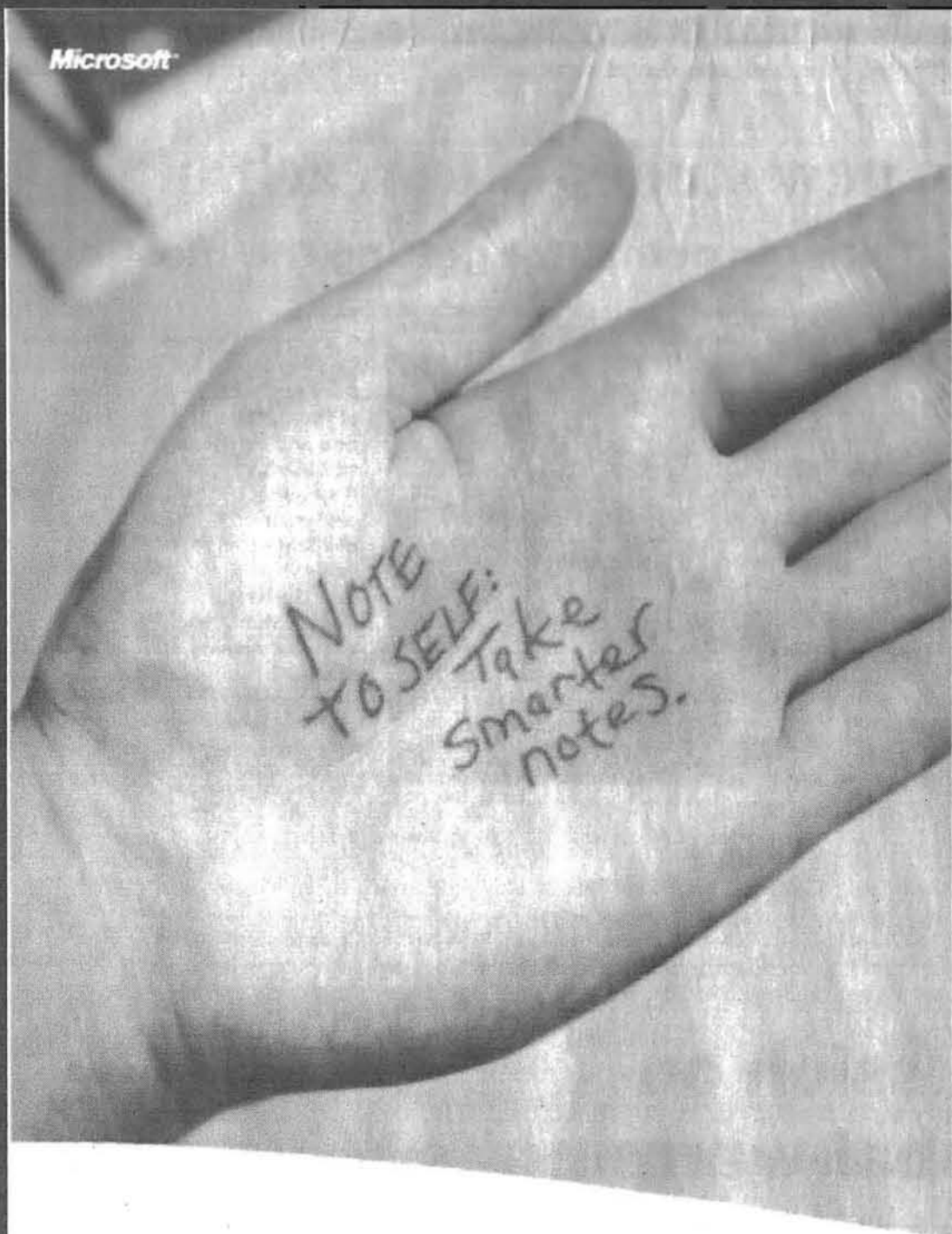
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Crossword Answer Key for page 13

1	S	M	I	T	E	6	C	A	B	9	K	U	D	12	O	13
14	T	E	T	R	A	15	I	R	A	16	I	N	U	R	E	
17	A	N	E	A	R	18	T	I	C	19	T	R	E	A	T	
20	R	U	M	P	S	21	T	E	A	K	22	B	O	L	L	S
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26	F	A	T	H	O	M	30	S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S	
34	U	B	O	A	T	35	F	L	I	E	S	38	S	H	O	T
37	M	A	R	T	38	V	I	A	N	D	39	S	P	O	T	
40	E	F	T	41	G	E	S	T	S	42	M	E	I	J	I	
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48	U	V	U	L	A	51	N	A	I	L	F	I	L	E	S	
57	C	O	S	E	T	58	I	N	K	59	I	D	E	A	L	
60	L	I	E	G	E	61	F	O	E	62	L	E	A	S	E	
63	A	D	D	E	D	64	E	N	D	65	E	A	R	E	D	

Monday Noon Series announces Fall schedule

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

Director of The Center for the Humanities said.

Associate Director of the Center, Karen Lucas, has been coordinating the series for 12 years and is, "dedicated to the Series offering students, the campus community as a whole, and the wider public an opportunity to sample a variety of cultural and news-worthy topics in a casual, friendly setting."

"The presentations are pitched at a level accessible to a general audience, not requiring in-depth background in the topic," Lucas said. "In planning the programs, I try to cover a wide range of humanities, arts and current events issues with slide shows by artists, readings by fiction writers, performances by musical groups, and talks by historians, political analysts and environmentalists."

Scheduled first is a presentation on, "The Role of University Arts Faculty Exhibitions," to be held at Gallery 210. The event parallels the Fine Arts

Faculty Exhibition Show opening Sept. 9 at the Gallery.

Terry Suhre, Director of Gallery 210, said that, "part of the reason that we feature the faculty work is to introduce to our students the research, or the artwork of the fine arts faculty, [and] introduce the current work of our faculty to the art community in general."

The panel discussion will examine the importance and value of teaching students by example as well as raising the profile of the faculty in an outreach capacity.

"The role of the Gallery is essentially to serve the University's teaching and research mission," Suhre said. "It does that by making exhibitions which use real objects available to the faculty, staff and our community for study and pleasure."

Coming in November will be a talk by Terry Jones, Professor of Political Science, on the coming election. Lucas said,

"In an election year like this, we expect a lot of students and others to be particularly eager to attend Professor Terry Jones's talk about what Election 2004 will mean for St. Louis and the nation."

Every event is interactive and will offer ample opportunity for audience members to react and ask presenters questions. In the past, events have provided students with the chance to experience these various aspects of culture in new ways.

"It has been very gratifying to hear a student say after a poetry reading, that was the first time I've ever gotten to sit near and hear a published poet read as though just to me," Lucas said. "Or, I had never met a real artist before—being able to not only see the work on exhibit, but also to hear the artist talk about techniques and how to start an artistic career was great." Lucas noted that after getting a taste for these events students are more likely to return for others.

Monday Noon Series Fall Schedule

12:15 p.m. Sept. 13 - Gallery 210
Terry Suhre, director of Gallery 210 at UMSL, and Dan Younger, chairman of the Department of Art and Art History at UMSL
"The Role of University Arts Faculty Exhibitions"

12:15 p.m. Sept. 20 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. John Hylton, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at UMSL
"The Music of the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition"

12:15 p.m. Sept. 27 - Gallery 210
Charles Gick, installation artist:
"Flowers from the Mouth -- An Artist's Talk"

12:15 p.m. Oct. 4 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Lonnie G. Bunch, filmmaker and president of the Chicago Historical Society:
"Recent Interpretations of African-American Culture in U.S. Museums"

12:15 p.m. Oct. 11 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Howard Schwartz, professor of English at UMSL and renowned teller of Jewish tales
"Is There a Jewish Mythology? -- A Discussion and Book Signing"

12:15 p.m. Oct. 18 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Agnes Wilcox, artistic director of Prison Performing Arts, and Danny Kohl, board vice president for Prison Performing Arts:
"Prison Performing Arts Changes Lives -- Including Ours"

12:15 p.m. Oct. 25 - Gallery 210
Jill Viney, noted New York sculptor:
"Hubblevision -- An Artist's Slide Talk"

12:15 p.m. Nov. 1 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Terry Jones: "Election 2004"

12:15 p.m. Nov. 8 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Richard M. Rubin:
"Photography and Emotion"

12:15 p.m. Nov. 15 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Kevin J. Fernlund:
"Lyndon B. Johnson and the Transformation of Cowboys into Cold Warriors"

12:15 p.m. Nov. 22 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Poet Bob Dyer: "A River Runs Outside My Door"

12:15 p.m. Nov. 29 - 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Ted Heisel: "Who Owns the Earth? Natural Resources and Public Rights"

News Briefs



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Emily Swan looks out from a boarded-up second floor window at Whalen's Restaurant and Irish Pub, located at 383 St. Ann's Road. A fire on Saturday afternoon damaged the restaurant, familiar to many UM-St. Louis students, faculty and alumni. Swan said the fire was caused by roofers, who accidentally ignited the tar they were applying to the roof. Although the fire caused no structural damage, the second floor of the restaurant suffered extensive damage. Swan said that Whalen's, which was built in 1940, "has become a historical landmark in this neighborhood." Although she does not have an estimate of how long repairs will keep Whalen's closed, Swan said the pub "will open just as soon as we can."

Nearby pub is damaged by fire

Local favorite, Whalen's Bar & Restaurant, located at 383 Saint Ann's Lane, near Florissant Rd. and Natural Bridge Rd., suffered damage from a fire Saturday afternoon, which was apparently set off by workers repairing the roof. According to employee Emily Swan, the fire caused no structural damage. The fire mainly damaged the second floor of the restaurant.

Schwartz Observatory holds first open house for fall semester

Saturday night, the Department of Physics and Astronomy, along with the Missouri Space Grant Consortium sponsored an open house at the Richard D. Schwartz Observatory, located on the UM-St. Louis South Campus. Stargazers were treated to views of Uranus, Hercules Cluster, Albireo, and Ring Nebula. Staffers were on hand to field questions from visitors. The next open house is slated for Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. and visitors will be able to view the Andromeda Galaxy.

Poetry slam sends 10 winners to UMB Bank Pavillion

On Saturday night Aug. 21, radio station 105.7 The Point hosted a poetry slam in the UM-St. Louis Pilot House. The event drew an enthusiastic crowd. Performers from all over the St. Louis area showed up to flex their vocal skills. Each of the 30 poets had no more than 3 minutes to perform an original piece judged by 5 randomly selected members of the audience. Andrea Richardson, freshman, English, took part in the event. The field was whittled down to 10 finalists who will move on to perform at UM-St. Louis artist's deck at the UMB Bank Pavilion this coming Wednesday at the Project Revolution tour featuring Linkin Park and Snoop Dogg. Among the 10 was UM-St. Louis student Patrick Johnson and local poet Ch-azz. The overall winner was local favorite Zaire Imani, "Mama Blue."

School of Social Welfare established

Over the summer the UM-St. Louis Department of Social Work became the School of Social Welfare. Lois Pierce, professor of social work, will serve as director for the now independent academic unit inside the College of Arts and Science. More than 325 students are enrolled in the school and they hope to attract more with the change.

Teaching with Technology schedule is released; first event Sept. 14.

The Center for Teaching and Learning, along with Information Technology Services, has announced the fall schedule for the teaching with technology noontime series. Up first, "From Disabling to Enabling Classrooms: Removing Barriers to Learning for Students with Disabilities," will discuss strategies for teaching a variety of learning differences and discuss ways of making education more convenient and accessible. The free event takes place on Sept. 14. For more information visit www.umsu.edu/ctl.

LAURA BUSH, from page 1

Monica Durrwachter, junior, political science, serves a volunteer for the Bush campaign and is the youngest Missouri delegate that will attend the Republican National Convention in New York this fall.

"I was team captain for the event, and that enabled me to meet the First Lady," Durrwachter said. "My job was to recruit nine other young ladies to attend the rally that were either college students or young career women."

Bush pointed out that more women are part of the White House administration in senior positions than ever before.

"Condoleeza Rice advises the president on foreign policy and Margaret Spellings is in charge of domestic policy," she said. "That means in the White House, women are in charge of everything abroad and everything at home."

The First Lady discussed the current state of women in Afghanistan, saying that during the Taliban regime, women were "virtual prisoners to their homes, unable to leave without a male escort. They couldn't go to a doctor if they were sick. They faced having their fingernails pulled out if they

wore nail polish." Bush said that Afghan women are now running their own businesses, learning to read and write and have registered to vote in the upcoming election in their country. Afghan women are also representing their country in the Olympics this year.

"In Iraq, women are taking courses in human rights, literacy and computer training. More women are receiving health care, including maternal and child health," she said. "And women's self-help and vocational centers are springing up across Iraq from Karbala to Kirkuk."

Bush also advocated her husband's tax relief plan.

"Families with children, married couples and single mothers are saving more of their own money," she said. "More than 80 million women will save an average of nearly \$1,900 each in taxes this year."

"President Bush also knows that reliable health care is vital to every family's economic security," Bush said.

She outlined the president's health care goals and noted that he worked with Congress to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare to make

medication more affordable for senior citizens. She also said that President Bush expanded community health care center systems to enable more people to access health care, regardless of the cost to patients.

"Another issue that's close to the President's heart and mine is education," Bush said.

She discussed the No Child Left Behind Act, passed in 2002, which seeks to place more accountability on schools, encourage proven education methods, to give schools and communities more flexibility with federal funds allocated for education, and provide parents with more options when dealing with children education.

The First Lady finished with words of encouragement.

"We still face many challenges, of course. We know that the work of building democracy isn't easy, but it is always right," she said. "We are living in historic times. These are also very hopeful times for our country. We're moving America forward, and we have great confidence in our ability to overcome challenges."

Bush exited to the enthusiastic support of the audience chanting "Four more years!"

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Pier 1 imports

CONVOCATION, from page 1

Always seek diversity and if a student finds a particular class or professor is being biased they should always feel free to politely ask why diverse opinions are not being encouraged.

"None of us are 100% objective, but it is our obligation to try to be," Rochester said.

Point four challenges students to challenge themselves. Each student should always strive to do their best work. Granted, UM-St. Louis students often lead very busy lives, and he understands that, but what is invested into an education will ultimately be what a student takes from their time here.

"Hard work and solid performance

will be rewarded accordingly," Rochester said, "with glowing letters of recommendation from faculty, with admission to the best law schools, medical schools, and graduate schools in the nation."

Finally, point five reminds students to have fun. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that needs to be enjoyed. Students need to wane from the dullness of passively going through their courses and take a proactive approach to foster a stimulating educational environment. Rochester notes that the faculty here is world-class, so "take advantage of the wonderful resources UMSL has to offer."

Chancellor Thomas George said that Rochester's speech was "outstanding." "I think it was a great challenge for students," said George. "I think the notion of trying to be more savvy with what's going on around us...doesn't just apply to students—it applies to faculty, it applies to people like myself."

There is a tendency for people to ignore what is taking place in the legislative arena. However, those decisions "that are made in Washington D.C., the decisions made in Jefferson City, affect us directly," George said. "It's very important that we become cognizant of what's going on around us."

OPINION

OUR OPINION

Parking: cheaper than leaving the car at home

Students at UM-St. Louis would give anything not to spend \$18 a credit hour to park on campus. Even though new garages were built, they really are not very conveniently located, and finding a spot is still a pain. Students can avoid parking on campus by signing up to take courses online through the My Gateway website, but this might not be as good of an idea as it seems. It can be done, but at an even higher price.

Each semester more and more online courses are being added to the course schedules. Online courses may seem like the way to go, but this solution has its drawbacks too. If students think this is a way to avoid paying costly parking fees, then they should think again.

For each online course a student registers for, he or she must pay an additional \$25 per credit hour technology support fee, that is, on top of the rising cost of tuition and the traditional fees. This technology support fee was created due to more students taking the courses and limited resources to accommodate them. The courses are taught through the My Gateway website, which is already established. Every course, on and off campus, gets a site on My Gateway, and most professors of on-campus courses do not even utilize that resource.

Online classes give students the freedom to attend class at home, in pajamas, at 8 a.m. or even at Midnight. For some this luxury may be priceless. Not having to deal with traffic, parking and walking around campus, especially at night would seem to be an advantage. However, with every little luxury, there is a price.

A 15-hour course load would cost a student \$270 in parking fees, and taking 15 hours worth of online classes would cost the student an additional \$375. Currently there are many different options for online courses, and eventually a student can earn a B.A. in Communication entirely online. That seems to defeat the purpose of the word communication in general. These courses allow students to communicate online through discussion boards and chat rooms, however interpersonal communication, between students face to face is not emphasized.

Some online courses have meetings once every few weeks and a student would, therefore still have to pay to park on campus for those few days.

If a student does not have a computer at home, he or she may still take the course, utilizing the campus computer labs, which still means that one would have to park on campus, and unless it is a weekend, a parking pass is still required.

Others may argue that the \$25 fee is worth not having to deal with parking, but what about all the other drawbacks to the classes. Students do not get to interact with one another and this might be detrimental to learning the topic of the class and hindering social skills. Some students may like not having to face a teacher or classmates everyday, but attending an actual class would benefit their hesitations. A shy person might like to take an online course because they do not feel comfortable speaking in a group discussion, and most professors grade heavily on participation in group discussion, but the real world requires one to speak up and the only way to get over a fear is to face it.

Online courses may be beneficial to working students, those with families and those who live far from campus. However, the students have leisure to complete the course at their own pace, with deadlines only at the end of the semester. Students have to be self-disciplined enough to set their own deadlines and not wait until last minute.

Communication is suggested between the class member through discussion boards and chat rooms, but what is the chance that student would be online at the same time? Not very likely, however students have taken these courses successfully in the past. A student just has to have the right skills, procrastination not being one of them, to succeed in an online course.

The decision to take an online course is up to the student; however, those who tend to procrastinate would have a hard time come end of semester. Most students do not do well with open-ended deadlines. The traditional class format and guidance from an instructor offers more motivation to those procrastinating students.

No student can be told if this option is right for him or her, but if a student is self-disciplined enough to get the work done and willing to pay a fee higher than that of parking, it might be a good option.



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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

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 Casey Ulrich
Photography Director

What is the worst thing about the first day of school?

What's your opinion?

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

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

- Online pitfalls
- Back up your ballot
- Interview killers

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com



Paul Berry
Sophomore
Marketing

Parking.



Gaelle Amiland
Senior
Business

It starts too soon.



Jim Reid
Junior
Finance

Spending \$500 on books.



Marina Montell
Senior
English

Getting back on a schedule.

Back up your ballot

John Kerry is a baby-killing scumbag, George Bush is an oil-hungry tyrant and Ralph Nader is a tree-hugging fruitcake. Election year is upon us once again, and political insults fly through the air on a regular basis now.

Eeny-meeny-miny-mo is not a smart way to pick the president, because an uneducated vote is just as bad as not voting. Citizens of dictatorships wish for the rights we possess; yet so many Americans care more about Hollywood than the state of our country. Soldiers do not go to war so we can throw away our voice. Here are a few ways to decide whose chad you will punch in November.

1. **Decide how you feel about major issues.** Abortion, health care, the war on terror, the death penalty and the environment are just a few of the topics that politics have a strong hand in. Think about each issue, as well as others that may affect you personally, and research each candidate's stance on them.

2. **Look to more than one source for information.** Different media outlets are often biased, so make sure to read the newspaper (*The Current* will continue to cover political events), watch the news, attend political events and surf the internet for reliable coverage (while Jimmy-Bob's Bust on Bush website might be entertaining, it probably lacks educational material information).

3. **Discuss the issues.** Your peers are a valuable resource. Use them to discuss relevant subjects and learn

how political decisions have affected people your age. Make sure to listen actively. Talking is good; listening is better. You can learn a lot more that way.

Senseless screaming will not increase knowledge, so choose opponents carefully. Some people just want to parade their opinion around and refuse to listen and hold intelligent conversations. Avoid these people, unless you're in the mood for a verbal spar.

4. **Vote.** None of the hard work matters if you sleep through Election Day. Encourage (pester, nag, force) your friends to be politically active. Polls show that only 30% of 18 to 25-year-olds voted in the last election. If we fail to vote, politicians will fail to support our needs. If you give up your ballot, you give up your right to complain about political decisions.

I spent a good part of last summer with my family, which included my liberal grandmother and conservative father, who engaged in intense political discussions/shouting matches every single day. While the constant diatribe got old quickly, I came to understand that politics are important because they affect everyone.

The November president election will affect the world, America, Missouri, UM-St. Louis and you. With only three months until the polls open, now is the time to get educated so when the time comes, you can back up your ballot.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

The Issue
Online classes
deprive students of
interactive
communication. A
new \$25 per-credit-
hour fee has fur-
ther reduced the
appeal of web-
based courses.

We suggest
Students should talk
to advisors before
enrolling in online
courses. Advisors
need to make sure
students are aware
of the possible
pitfalls of an online
education.

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

Interview killers

Throughout the short term that I have held this job I have encountered many different types of people. Becoming more cultured is a positive effect that I have already taken from my experiences. I have also realized that you will come in contact with those people who just stick in your mind after an interview.

During a job interview there are a few things that I do not recommend doing. I have caught onto quite a few things that turn me away from an applicant, so I thought that I would share these "not to do's" with you. No matter what kind of job the interview is for, always take it serious and remain attentive and punctual. You should want the position you are applying for and show the interviewer the same courtesy.

First off, do not criticize or point out wrongdoings of the institution that you are applying for. Chances are, this is the last thing that anyone wants to hear when interviewing an applicant. I am not asking you to consistently shout out praises, but good remarks are always better comments than bad ones.

Second off, there is no reason to mention your pets or those of any friends or family members. Stay within the topics that are being discussed. Remain conscientious of the conversation and interested in the issues that you are being asked about. Talking about your personal life is unnecessary and in most cases, off topic. Your personal life should not come up in the interview.

Remember, the interview is about you. The interviewer is trying to get to know you, so be yourself, however, linger within a professional level.

Come to the interview prepared with a resume and cover letter. Almost all jobs require that you have these available during or before the meeting. Without this information, the employer has no way of knowing your experience.

Let the employer do the majority of the questioning. Keep in mind, they are trying to get a feel for you and what you are all about. Ask appropriate questions, once again always keeping things on a business level. In the majority of cases, the most suitable time for asking questions is at the end of the interview.

Another good idea is to be familiar with the institution that you are applying to. We like it when it is obvious that you have done research or follow what is happening in the company. This makes you look knowledgeable and ambitious about obtaining employment with the institution.

Keep in mind that although you may think you know more than the person interviewing you, nine times out of 10, you do not. The interviewer is holding the position for a reason. The worst way to come across in an interview is as a know it all. This attitude is a huge turn-off and can almost guarantee failure to obtain employment. You may end up sounding shortcoming and descending to the employer.

Just remember that interviewing is like an art, the more you practice and the better you prepare, the more successful you will become in your endeavors. Job interviews provide a chance for you to show off your talents and professionalism. Take them as a learning experience, and keep in mind that every company is different and looking for different types of people and qualifications.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

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A new semester brings new courses to UMSL

Ancient Greek, topics classes are new options

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

UM-St. Louis is offering many new courses this fall semester.

Whether you are majoring in business, communication, anthropology, English, theater, etc., there are a variety of new diverse classes available.

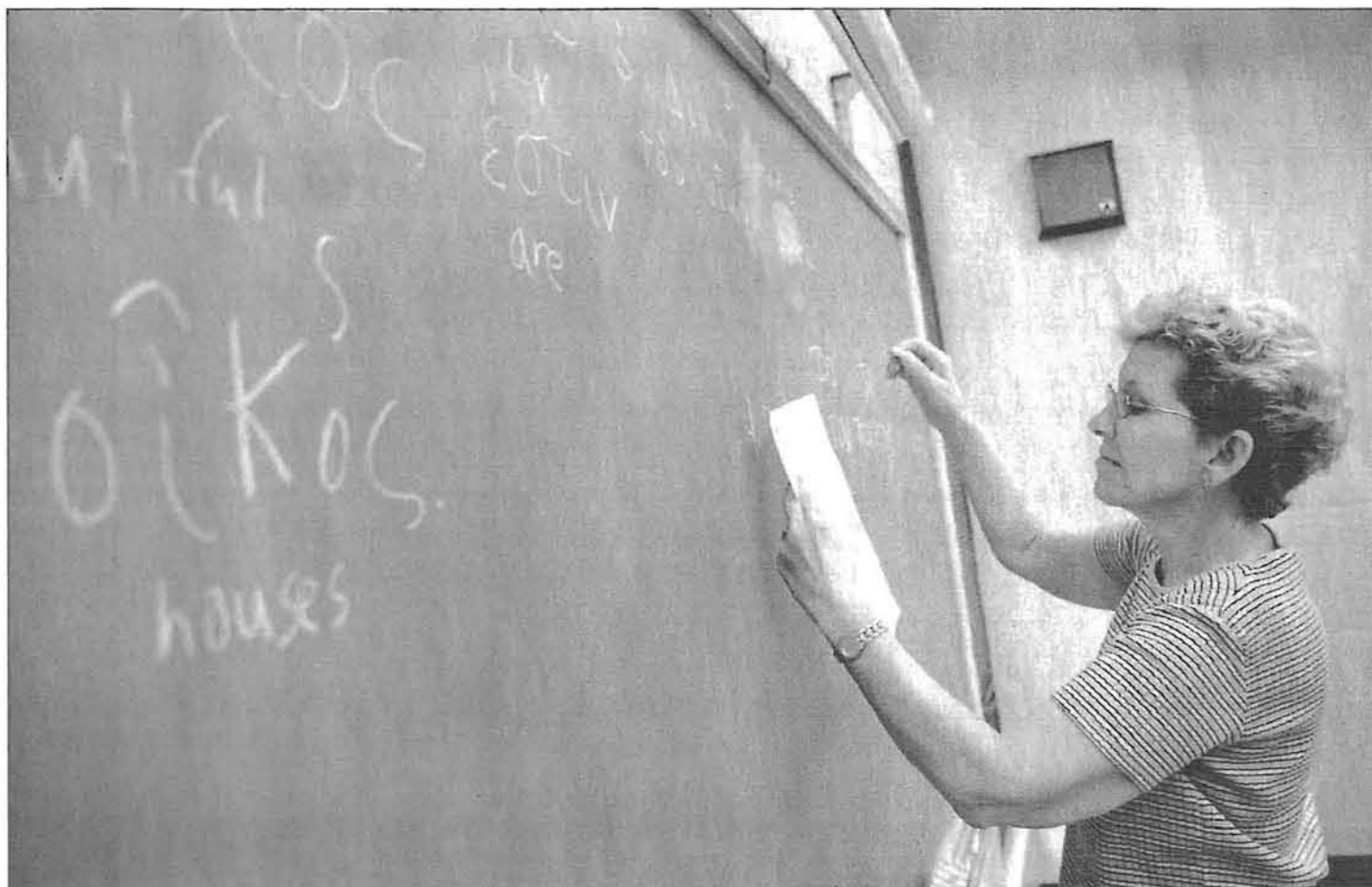
Anthropology has two new special topics courses for upper level students. Special Topics in Non Western Culture: Symbols in American Indian Culture will discuss and explore prehistoric and historic Indian cultures of the eastern United States. Special Topics in Anthropology: Monsters and Women Dramatis Personae in Greek Tragedy will study the roles and characteristics of many ancient Greek women figures.

Senior Academic Advisor for the University Advising Center Lorraine Simeone said how most new classes each semester are the special topics courses.

"The subject matter and the title for special topics courses can change each semester," Simeone said.

English 1130 Topics in Literature: The Literature of Baseball, English 4910 Studies in African-American Literature: Criticism and the Diaspora and English 4930 Studies in Women and Literature are some new courses for the English Department.

The Literature of Baseball will study short fiction, a novel, a play, selected poems, essays and specific baseball titles like "The Natural" by



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jill Nolan writes out a sentence in Ancient Greek, and its corresponding translation in English. Nolan is auditing the new Ancient Greek course taught by senior lecturer Margaret Phillips. The course is already filled to capacity, but Phillips welcomes any additional students interested in learning Ancient Greek. The last day to enroll in a course is Tuesday, Aug. 24.

Bernard Malamud.

Spanish 3260: Spanish for Business will emphasize concepts of Spanish business and study international business trade.

There are also many new theatre classes like Theatre 1060: Theatre Workshop, Theatre 1105: Dance Repertory, Theatre 1850: Intro to Non-Western Theatre, Theatre 1900: Intro to Theatre Technology, Theatre 2280: Lighting and Sound Technology, Theatre 2810: "History of the Theatre

and Theatre 3009: Dance Choreography for the Stage, Television and Video.

This is the first time that UM-St. Louis has offered a three-semester sequence of Ancient Greek. Although Ancient Greek 1001 has been posted in the course bulletin for years, this is the first time in over a decade that students can take each class consecutively.

Senior Lecturer for Foreign Language and Literature Margaret

Phillips describes the general purpose of this course and its course description.

"There are many facets to this class. We will study the language, culture and focus on some history," Phillips said. "Students are beginning to learn the Greek alphabet, starting to read the language and learning how accents influence the meaning of the language."

Phillips has taught Latin for 12 years and has instructed UM-St. Louis

criminology courses part-time, but this is her first time instructing Ancient Greek.

Ancient Greek 1001 will be available during the fall semester, for five credit hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 11 a.m. until 12:25.

A second semester will be offered in the spring, for five credit hours and the third semester will be available in fall 2005 for three credit hours.

see NEW COURSES, page 12

Students have mixed reactions to first day of school

BY ERICKA HARRIS
Staff Writer

That time of year has come again. The time when hundreds of dollars are spent on books that may never be opened, time to sit in class and listen to lectures that may or may not be of any interest, and time to start last minute cramming for all those end-of-semester exams.

Some have spent the past three months working, sleeping or maybe even taking summer classes. Now that school is again in session, many students need to prepare themselves for upcoming assignments.

The first day of the fall semester was Aug. 16, 2004 and the Millennium Student Center was speckled with students, all with a mission of their own.

All the comfortable chairs were occupied by students either looking over schedules, planners or just relaxing before a class. Many talked with one another about what they had done

on their summer vacation.

When asked about his reaction to the first day of school, Macieo Justice, junior, political science and a transfer student from Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina said, "I'm excited a little bit, but this school is different because I came from an HBCU (Historically Black College/University)."

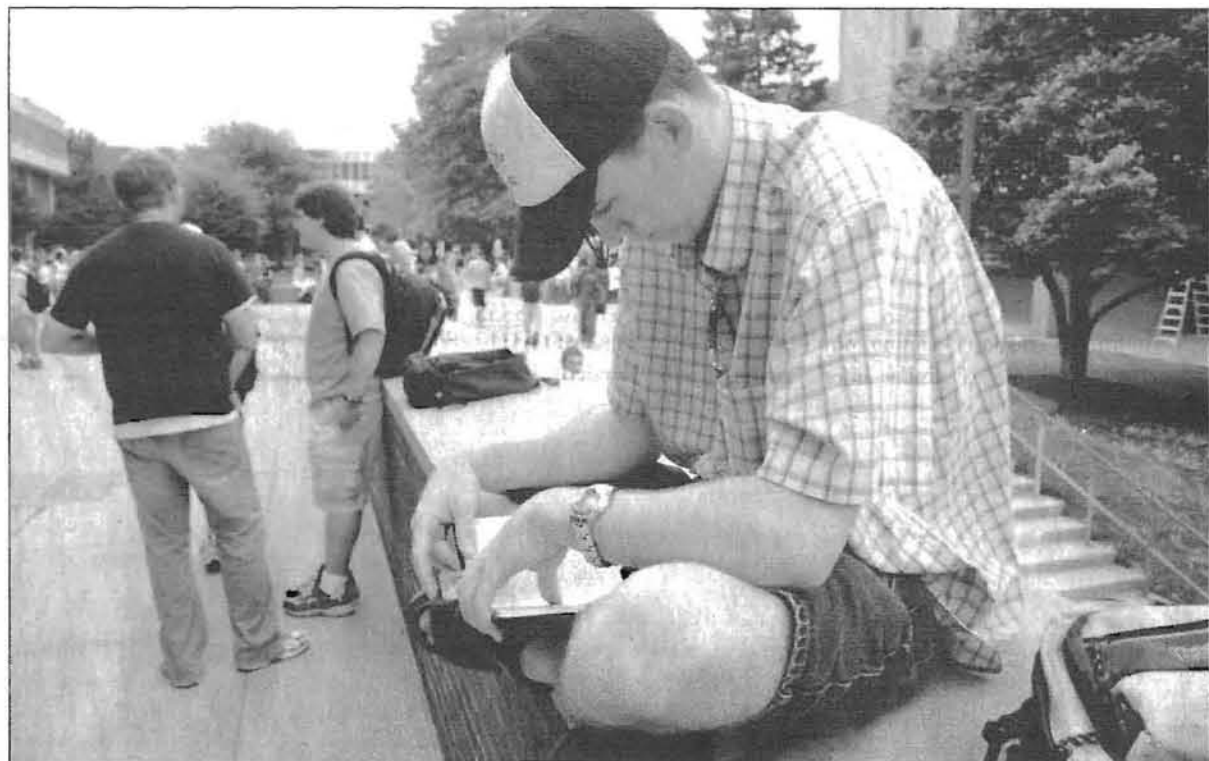
Even the bookstore seemed to draw a lot of traffic on the first day of classes, with students shopping last minute for textbooks and course materials.

"Today has been busy. Very busy," University Bookstore employee Will Malone said.

Carl Williams, academic advisor in the Student Advising Center, shared his feelings about the first day of classes. Williams said that this is the busiest time of year for the Student Advising Center.

"I love the energy. I love seeing new faces and returning students," Williams said.

"Lots of students come in for schedules and directions, it's busy."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Garth Myers, junior, business, reads a book outside Lucas Hall while waiting for his 11 a.m. class on Thursday. Myers, who is beginning his first semester at UM-St. Louis after transferring from Mineral Area College, in Park Hills, Mo., said his first impression of the university was mainly based on its size. "It's huge," he said. "It must be three times the size [of Mineral Area College]."

Outside in the quadrangle, students scattered about and reunited with friends from previous semesters. Some students looked lost and frustrated as they asked directions and stared at their schedules and the buildings around them.

Stephanie Allen, junior, business transfer student from Meramec Community College compared her

previous college to UM-St. Louis

"I really don't have a reaction, the atmosphere here is basically the same as at Meramec," Allen said.

Throughout the day, it seemed as though the computing labs were also a number one campus destination.

The first day of classes can be a little scary, especially to new students. There was much to learn such as the

building locations, finding a parking space, understanding professors' syllabuses and figuring out how to log on to "My Gateway."

"Everything is online and I hate it," Rita Myers, junior, English said.

Although the first day, might have seemed challenging to some, it was only the beginning for what is in store for this semester.

Texas Hold 'Em: an old game with new popularity

BY ASHLEY RICHMOND
Staff Writer

Although there have been World Series of Poker Tournaments since 1970, there is a new sudden popularity to this old "sport."

The game was played winner take all in its first year. Prize money became available and in 1971, the winner took home only \$30,000. This prize has risen considerably to \$5 million today.

Not only are the winners taking home the bank, but also runners-up take home hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Television viewers are drawn to watching the people in this championship take home this kind of money.

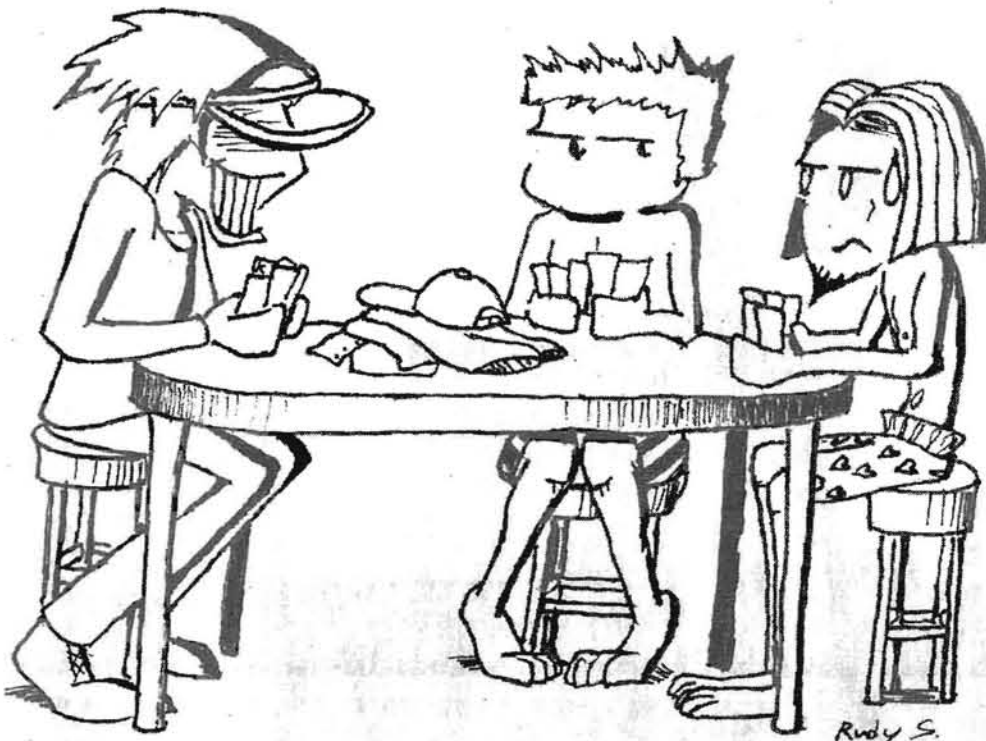
"It's interesting because there is so much money getting won or lost in a single hand," said Josh Morgan, senior, business.

The money changing hands also intrigue Colby Hughes, senior, physical education.

"I like to see people getting bluffed out of their money," Hughes said.

Hughes also said that there is a lot more to this game than just having the best hand. By watching the risky play of professionals, you can pick up tips.

Another Texas Hold 'Em watcher, Matt Bequette, senior, business, said



Rudy S.

"It's a mental game more than a luck of the draw, and these professionals will win hands without having the cards to back it up."

Bequette got into poker because his dad regularly hosted poker games at their house.

"I love poker. If I had the money to throw down, I'd play," said

Bequette, but he did cite the luck of one player who did not have to put down a lot of money to win the big bucks.

An inspiration to all aspiring poker players (particularly those that do not have a lot of money to put up for the buy-ins), is Chris Moneymaker. With a name like that,

becoming a professional poker player must have been his destiny.

Moneymaker got his start with an online poker site called Pokerstars. While one can play with faux money or real money at this site, they also provide free or minimal buy-ins that some players can get started with and potentially make it to the top.

In Moneymaker's case, he put in \$40 and went on to win \$2,500,000 in the 2003 Championship Event.

While the Internet might seem like a good place to start, Bequette said, "You can't read people, so it makes it more of a luck thing."

Poker tournaments are not only invading ESPN and online websites, but also Bravo, who is televising Celebrity Poker Tournaments.

Bequette said that these shows are getting his girlfriend to watch poker, too.

"Now she is learning more and gaining an interest in the World Series of Poker," Bequette said.

Hughes also finds the celebrity matches fun to watch.

"It's cool because you get to see people that were in movies or on TV shows, and you get to see them be themselves," Hughes said.

However, Morgan feels that that the celebrities do not know what they are doing and therefore, are not worth watching.

Morgan believes that watching these games has an advantage which is to be able to see men his age make it to the final table of the World Series of Poker.

"They are young and seem to be more aggressive," said Morgan, "and I can't believe guys my age are winning that much money playing poker."

FEATURES

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Students tune in for favorite Olympic sports

BY CARRIE LEWIS

Staff Writer

Every four years, the summer Olympics seem to gain more and more popularity. Despite the rush to begin school, most UM-St. Louis students are still finding time to tune in and watch their favorite summer sports.

According to the official website of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, the first Olympics are believed to have been held in 776 B.C.

Emperor Theodosius, who claimed the events were "too pagan," abolished the games in 393 A.D. It was not until 1896 that the Olympics were re-established and Greece held the first modern games.

One hundred and eight years later, in 2004, the Olympics once again returned to Athens.

This summer, swimming appears to be one of the favorite events. Jacob Clapp, senior, chemistry, said that he has been watching a little bit of the Olympics this year, especially the swimming competitions.

Chris McCrary, Mizzou journalism student, actually had the opportunity to try out for the men's swimming team in 2000 and 2004.

OLYMPICS, page 7

Community Service Division helps those in need

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

The Division of Community Service Program at UM-St. Louis gives students a chance to participate in numerous service projects throughout the community, enhance academic learning and work with nonprofit organizations to help those in need.

Some of the on-campus organizations and groups which partake in community service events are the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi, the Catholic Newman Center, Delta Zeta, Alpha Xi Delta, Golden Key National Honor Society, the Panhellenic Association, Sigma Tau Gamma, Sigma Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, Zeta Tau Alpha and the Office of Student Life.

All of these groups have held service projects such as blood drives, car washes, park clean-ups, food drives, home repairs and other community tasks.

Jenny Heinz, senior, graphic design described who can get involved and the benefits of working with community service projects.

"Everyone from the UM-St. Louis community is invited to participate in the service projects sponsored by the Office of Student Life," Heinz said. "This includes current students, alumni, prospective students, families, parents, staff and faculty."

Heinz went on to say that she recommends students getting involved in community service because you really get a sense of joy and gratitude when you are helping people who do not have what you have.

"The people you serve are so grateful for your help and support. Community service also helps bring groups together regardless of race, color or gender. The common goal is what is important," Heinz said.

Building a resume, finding professional careers with similar interests, making new friends and developing a better community by assisting others are just a few other great

reasons for people to get involved.

During the fall semester, UM-St. Louis dedicates a month to service, and in the spring semester, the Office of Student Life holds a service day called the "Big Event."

Past service projects have worked with Beyond Housing, the Faith House, Operation Food Search, the St. Charles Humane Society, the Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis and St. Vincent County Park.

Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) remodels older homes for low-income families and assists people with affordable housing plans. Over 1500 homeowners have received financial assistance for repairs on their homes through

the support of NHS.

The Faith House cares for children who have been exposed to drugs prenatally or whose parents are substance abusers. Over 100 employees, including registered nurses, assistants, volunteers and social workers look after the care of children under the age of eight.

The Faith House currently has 54 beds that house children before they are adopted, sent to foster care or sent to live with other relatives.

"UMSL students have helped to tutor children, facilitate play activities, help with landscaping, participate in arts and crafts and hosts children theme parties at the Faith House," Volunteer Coordinator Jerri Sue Kibby-Williams said.

The Faith House also collects donations and household items for their organization. The Faith House's Wish List includes wash clothes, bath towels, diapers, toothpaste, humidifiers, crib sheets, televisions, bed pillows, liquid baby Tylenol, liquid washing detergent, baby bouncers, clothing, Kleenex, video games and diaper bags. Donations should be sent to Faith House, 5355 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63112. For a list of all needed items, visit www.faithvillage.org.

see COMMUNITY SERVICE, page 12

“Community service...helps bring groups together, regardless of race, color or gender. The common goal is what is important.”

- Jenny Heinz, senior, graphic design



Photos by: Mike Sherwin/ The Current



ABOVE:

Students take part in a Habitat for Humanity home construction project last September in Wellston near the corner of St. Louis and Cherry Avenues. Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity, and University Meadows organized the service trip, in which around 35-40 students took part.

LEFT:

Clayton Zoellner, junior, education, and other volunteers help to lay a rock lining along a drainage ditch in St. Vincent's Park. The volunteers were taking part in "The Big Event" sponsored by the Office of Student Life. The annual event is one of many community service projects held by University student groups and departments.

OLYMPICS, from page 6

McCrary, who has been swimming since he was five, headed to Indianapolis in July 2000 for the trials. He competed in the 100- and 200-meter fly and said that the experience was, "very exciting." This past July in Long Beach, Calif., McCrary was not only involved in the 100- and 200-meter fly races but also participated in the 50- and 100-meter free-style competitions.

"It was amazing to not only compete with the best swimmers in the country but the best swimmers in the world," McCrary said.

McCrary is currently on the Mizzou swimming team and hopes to help coach next year. He also plans to try out for the Olympics again in 2008.

He said that "the average age for a swimmer is 24-26 years old. I wouldn't quit when I'm not even in my prime yet."

Another sport that tends to attract many viewers is gymnastics, especially women's gymnastics.

Lauren Nassif, senior, communication, was involved in gymnastics when she was younger and is still a fan of the sport.

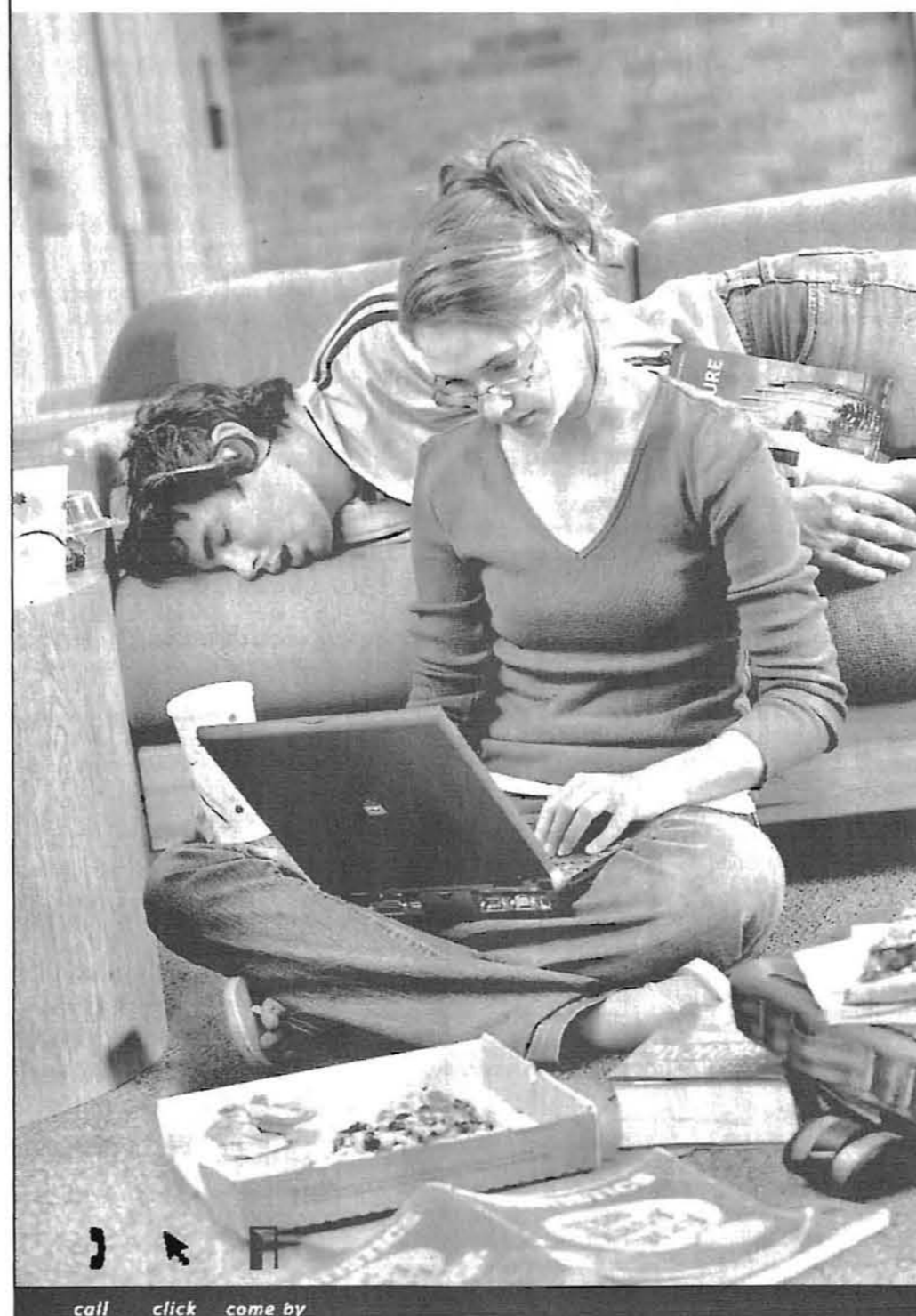
"I think gymnastics is really interesting to watch. The level of competition has gone up in the last four years, and the elements performed have gotten much more difficult," Nassif said.

No matter how many sports are showcased in the summer Olympics, track and field continues to be seen as the marquee of the games. It was the core event in the ancient Greek Olympics and still is today. The events have evolved since the beginning of the Olympic Games and currently include different varieties of running, jumping and throwing.

Although the games are broadcast nearly 24 hours a day, some UM-St. Louis students such as Gabe Brennan, sophomore, business administration are still unable to find time to catch up on the medal races. He said that he is too busy with his two kids, work and getting back into college to take a break in front of the TV.

For those who cannot catch up on how Team USA is faring, results and news are available on the Internet at www.Olympics.com. Also, as McCrary urges, "enjoy the Olympics!"

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SPORTS

Fall athletes train for strong season

Teams practice hard to begin with momentum

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The fall sports season is getting ready to kick off, and each of the fall sports teams have been training hard to start the season on the path to victory. The men's and women's soccer teams, along with the women's volleyball team, have been training two to three times per day since August 10, and will need to have some strong performances if they want to start the season on a winning note.

The Rivermen soccer team opens up their season on a long awaited road trip to California. They will open the season against the Gators of San Francisco State University. The Gators finished last season well below expectations as they ended at 4-14-2 for the season. The Rivermen have something to prove this season after last season's dismal performances on the field. Last season saw the Rivermen finish six in the GLVC conference with an overall record of

6-13-1. After the opening match versus the Gators, life will not get any easier for the Rivermen who will then travel to play Sonoma State University, who won the national championship only two seasons ago. After that, they come home to play the powerhouse St. Louis University Bilikins.

Head Coach Dan King commented on the season.

"The first week is going to be difficult for us. We will find out what kind of team we are very quickly. These teams will give us a good evaluation of where we are right now going into conference," King said.

The Riverwomen soccer team will begin their season playing three of the first five games against a nationally ranked opponent. The Riverwomen have high expectations for this season as they already look to be early favorites to grab the conference title at the end of the season. The women start the season against regional strength UM-Rolla, who the Riverwomen beat 3-1 last season. They will then see nationally ranked Minnesota State-Mankato followed by two more nationally ranked teams in Ashland University and Grand Valley State University. The Riverwomen will need to start strong to give them momentum and to pre-

pare for the tough conference season ahead

The Riverwomen Volleyball team kicks off its season at the annual tournament in Quincy. Last season kept the team on their heels, as they had to fight back from a tough start in the first few matches. This season is already looking positive for the Riverwomen as first year head Coach Josh Lauer brings in a new attitude to the courts along with six new players who hope to bring a needed boost to the team. After the Quincy tournament the Riverwomen return home host a three-match home stand, which starts against Arkansas Tech, a team that beat the Riverwomen 3-1 only two seasons ago. Look for the team to come out strong and to surprise a few teams to start the season.

Riverwomen Tennis has been working hard to try to add to last seasons seventh place finish in the conference. Last season saw the team battle through each match and earn some hard fought victories and this year looks to be much of the same. First year head Coach Jason Hanes looks to lead the team into what could be a much-improved season that could bring in a higher finish in the conference than the team has seen in the past few seasons.



File photo: Mike Sherwin/The Current

Defender Jason Barclay races a Northern Kentucky University opponent for possession of the ball during a game in October of last year.

All eyes on the game...



File photo: Mike Sherwin/The Current

UM-St. Louis midfielder Mandy Meendering gets ready to take the ball past an opponent. The women's soccer team finished the 2003 fall season with a record of 13-6-1. The Riverwomen's first non-exhibition game this season will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 27 against UM-Rolla.

Athletic critics cause unwanted pressure

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Can the fan of any sport really be its best critic? It is easy for someone to say that you could have done better or that you should have done this or that when they were not the one participating. The modern day fan has somehow become notorious for formulating highly unjustified opinions about athletic teams and the effort of their players. The use of foul language and the occasional boo can be heard at almost any venue these days. Now it seems that the common fan or critic of the game is never truly happy with anything but perfection.

In college athletics, many of the views and accusations that are handed out by the fans seem to intensify as people begin to touch on the topic of athletics and academics. Today NCAA student athletes face pressure from not only themselves to perform at a high level, but also they see and feel the pressure from fans, coaches, teachers and even fellow students. The student athlete has been given the chance to perform at a higher level not only in their selected sport, but also in the classroom. It is the athlete's own decision to participate in athletics and when you take that into consideration some of the pressure and expectations given to them seem to become more justifiable to most people.

The fact that the athlete is a student as well brings in added pressure from family and teachers to perform in the classroom just as any other student normally would. How do you perform normally when teachers sometimes

see you as anything but a normal student? Balancing books and sports can sometimes be tedious and exhausting for the student athlete.

Did you know that NCAA official rules state that athletes can practice for four hours per day, for up to six days a week? This may not seem like a lot of work, but when you add four hours a day, for six days, it comes out to roughly 24 hours of practice time. Add that on top of class everyday and two more hours of studying a night and it may become easier to see how an athlete's ability to perform at their highest level every second of the day might be impaired.

Fans and critics of any college sport often lack this type of knowledge about the daily routine of a student athlete, but it is this kind of naivety and lack of knowledge that adds unwarrantable pressure onto the student athletes. Academics and athletics have become tremendously competitive and it can be natural for any teacher or coach to have a dismal opinion on a person who is not performing to the expected levels. This kind of pressure to perform various tasks at a high level often leads to eating disorders, extreme fatigue, depression and injury among people who are under large amounts of pressure.

The student athlete is not different from any other student in the sense that they should have to earn respect in the classroom and in their sport just as anyone else would have to, but these several types of pressure often weigh heavy on them.

see PRESSURE, page 9

JAMES DAUGHERTY

Sports Editor

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Questions
or
Comments?

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

Basketball seeks fresh talent

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

Attention all basketball players. Were you the high school basketball team standout? Did you score 20 points a game, dish 10 assists or pull down 10 rebounds? Are you quick live Iverson, or do you have hops like Kobe? And if you do not have all of those athletic advantages, do you play excellent fundamental basketball? If you are any of the above, the UM-St. Louis basketball team might just be looking for you.

The varsity basketball team will be holding tryouts for the upcoming 2004-2005 school year. The tryouts will be held at the Mark Twain Athletic Center in the gym on Thursday Sept. 2, at 3 p.m. The tryouts will last for approximately two hours.

Coach Pilz has spent a great deal of time recruiting. There are already at least eight new players for next year. The post position is going to be filled by three men, a new guard is being recruited from Bradley University to fill Ronnie Banks' spot and Troy Slaten, a great shooter will fill the spot left by Kevin Nordmann. Despite filling the ranks of his program well, Coach Pilz knows that you can always find diamonds in the rough.

"We are not looking for any position in particular, but more someone who is fundamentally sound. Maybe he is 5'8" and 150 pounds, or maybe he is 6'8" and 250 pounds, either way they have to bring energy to the court. Just look at Tim Blankenship from last year. He came over from the optometry school to play 200 minutes on the year. Against conference champs Lewis he played 27 minutes and scored 10 pts" said Coach Pilz.

From NAIA to GLVC

The big picture: a history of UMSL sports

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

Some days ago one of the sports staff writers suggested that we do an article that explains the history of athletics. At first light, it did not seem that interesting. However, after speaking with some of our athletic department employees and learning where we have come from as a University, the story became much more interesting.

Recent sports articles appearing in The Current have described the department as "mediocre" and average. Though the numbers do show that the department was barely over .500 in wins and losses last year, but that is only part of the story.

For example, consider the parable of the three blind men and the elephant. One blind man grabbed the leg, and concluded that the elephant in fact was a tree. Another blind man grabbed the trunk, concluding that the elephant was actually a snake. The third blind man, he grabbed the tail, and realized that the elephant was without a doubt a rope. The bird's eye view would prove that the elephant is in fact the largest land dwelling mammal.

So it is with the athletic department. To appreciate where we are as a school, one has to understand where we come from. In 1966 UM-St. Louis first began competition as an NAIA (National Association of

NAIA is a step below the NCAA in terms of competitive nature and has different rules regarding eligibility, transfer and age, among other things. UM-St. Louis, had but two teams, men's basketball and men's tennis. In the '68-'69 season the men's basketball team won the NAIA district championship and appeared in the sweet 16. That year Greg Daust set the single season rebounding record with 18.7 a game.

With this success, UM-St. Louis moved a step up into the NCAA Division II athletic category in 1970. It featured men's basketball, tennis, cross-country, golf, baseball and soccer. Men's wrestling and swimming were added in 1971-72. In 1973, the men's soccer team, under coach Don Dallas, won the national title.

1974-75 marked the first year that women's sports were accepted into the athletic program. Title Nine had just been passed in 1973 at the government level, and being a government institution meant that women now had the same representation rights as men. UM-St. Louis now competed in women's basketball, field hockey, tennis and volleyball. These teams were already present on campus, but they were competing as club institutions and were not recognized by the athletic department.

The success of the men's soccer team and other sports as well allowed the program to become part of the

Athletic Association) conference. This was the first time the University had been accepted into a conference, which allowed for more competition and stability.

More success led to perhaps the biggest (at least most current) jump the university had experienced. In

“
As UM-St. Louis has moved up in rankings and divisions, it has fallen, rebuilt and then conquered.
”

1995-96 UM-St. Louis left the MIAA and joined the GLVC (Great Lakes Valley Conference), which is arguably the best conference in Division II in the nation. The goal of this move was simple: athletes would have better competition, become better players and then better recruits would join the ranks.

worked?" In some cases, it has. Coach Beth Goetz became the women's soccer coach eight years ago, and since then has built a program that has taken the team to the conference tournament the last four years in a row. In the 2002 season, the team lost the championship game to Northern Kentucky University, who consequently also eliminated the team last year in the tournament.

The list of turn-arounds goes on and on. men's tennis has gone to the regional tournament two of the last three years. In the 2003 season, men's baseball was ranked the top team in the region. Last season they finished second in conference. Coach Nikki Durmin has been with the softball program for two years. She started with only 10 players and has managed to bring the team from the bottom of the GLVC into the sixth spot, qualifying for the conference tournament. The women's basketball coach Lee Buchanan started with only seven girls and could not even have scrimmages. He led his team to victories over some of the top teams in the conference. Coach Chris Pilz has only had one season with the university, but he improved the men's record and has competed with the top teams.

As UM-St. Louis has moved up in rankings and divisions, it has fallen, rebuilt and then conquered. Sports information director Todd Addington commented on this phenomenon,

how each team has been built up. Then there was a slight drop off when we joined the GLVC, because of tougher competition. Since then we've rebuilt and we are on track to compete with the best on a yearly basis," said Addington.

So where is the University headed? Eventually to the NCAA Division I level. Athletic Director Pat Dolan foresees this.

"The end goal of the university should be to go Division I. This is not something that happens overnight though. We have to build to get there. We need to focus on winning at this level and then make the shift to Division I. It is a natural progression that we are going through, much like a child must go through adolescence to become an adult," said Dolan.

This progression throughout time has proven to be accurate. With the rebuilding that the university has done over the years and the current success being distributed among various teams, the future looks bright. The shift to Division I will not be easy though.

"Going to the Division I level will require a big change. It will require better facilities, a larger staff and more funding. It is something that should happen as the academics and athletics progress hand in hand," said Dolan.

Upcoming students should anticipate great things from athletics. UM-St. Louis' past, present and future

Let the games begin

Athletic department hires new coaches

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

This year has seemed to be a rebuilding year for most departments on campus. Many of the recent changes have seen anything from new chancellors to new teachers and faculty. The athletic department has certainly followed the trend and kept themselves very busy by both adding and dropping names from the department throughout the summer months.

This year not only brings in a large and very talented recruiting class of athletes, but for the first time in a long while we are also seeing changes in the faces of the coaching staffs. Within the past few months, the UM-St. Louis athletic department has seen six new faces added to an already talented coaching pool.

Women's volleyball most recently had a change in personnel by adding a new head coach within the past few weeks. Only a few weeks ago, Josh Lauer was named the new women's volleyball interim head coach effective immediately. Lauer will be entering his first year as an NCAA head coach and will be serving as the interim head coach for his first season. Josh is replacing long time coach Denise Silvester who resigned last week after serving as head coach for the Riverwomen volleyball team since 1986. Look for Lauer to add a much-needed positive boost to the team this upcoming season.

Rick Gyllenberg, assistant athletic direc-

tor had this to say about the new coaches.

"They all should bring new enthusiasm and energy to each team. They are the kind of people who can bring out the best in others and can make a positive impact on moral and attitude," Gyllenberg said.

Women's basketball also saw some new faces added to the coaching staff as second year Head Coach Lee Buchanan filled out a talented coaching staff. Coach Buchanan recently announced his new assistant coaches for next season, hiring Galen Harkness and his wife Stacy Harkness to complete the coaching staff for the upcoming year. Galen Harkness has worked at Kansas State University for the past three years, where he served as the Director of Basketball Operations for the women's basketball program. During his tenure at Kansas State Galen saw the team win 80 games while only losing 19, and he helped them to the Big 12 conference championship only two seasons ago.

Stacy Harkness has worked for Coach Buchanan in the past, serving as an assistant coach for him at Francis Marion University during the 2001-02 season. More recently, she has been the head women's basketball coach for Junction City High School in Junction City, Kan., where she has worked for the past two seasons. This season should be a strong one as these coaches can help bring the Riverwomen back to their winning ways.

The Rivermen golf program recently hired a new head coach within the past few weeks. The golf team recently heard news of the hiring of Dustin Ashby as their new head coach.

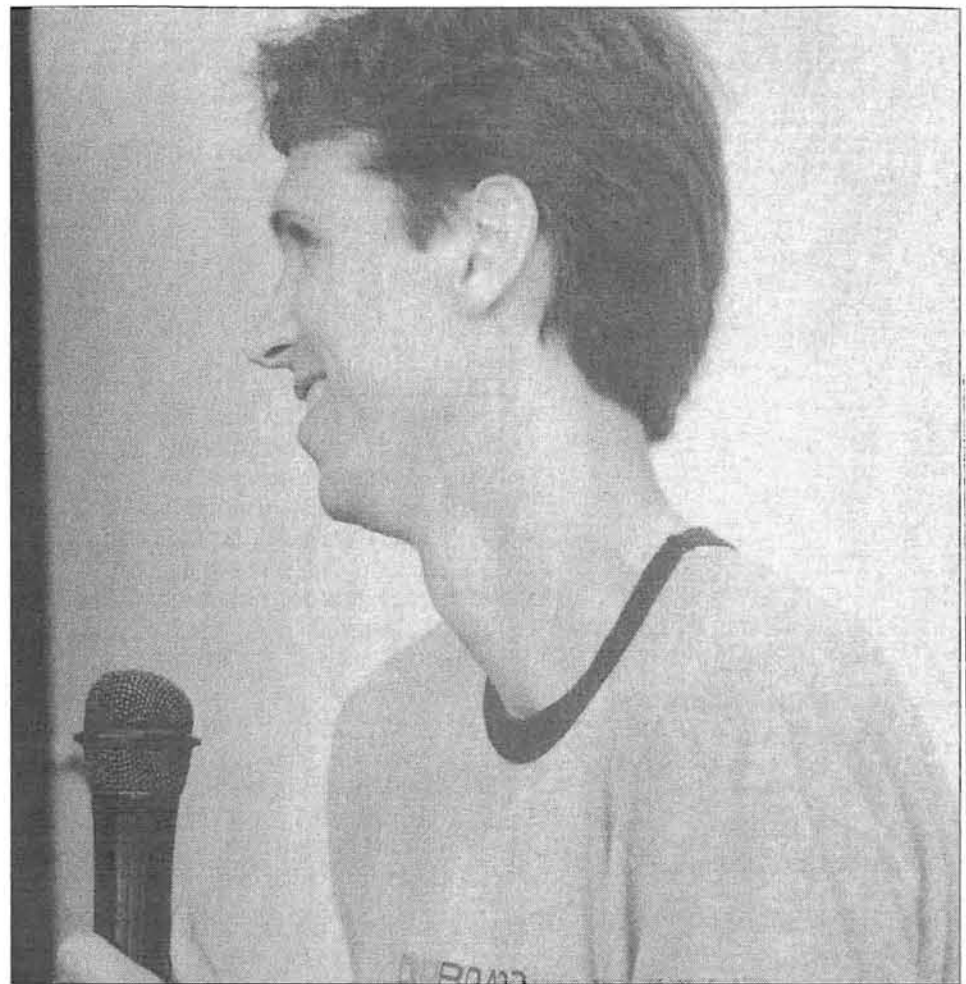
Ashby had been the assistant men's golf coach for the Rivermen for the past two years, assisting with recruiting and scheduling as well as practice instruction. Ashby returns to his alma mater, where he was a member of the UM-St. Louis men's golf team for four seasons. While playing for the Rivermen, Ashby was named an MIAA Academic All-Conference selection in 1994-95 and was the top player for the Rivermen golf squad. Ashby should make a positive impact for the team this season.

Among the many others, the Riverwomen soccer team also added a new face to their coaching staff for the upcoming season. Ike McMillan has been hired to be the assistant coach for the Riverwomen for this upcoming season. McMillan has been coaching soccer at various levels for many years.

Head coach Beth Goetz had this to say about the new coach.

"He is very knowledgeable and has a lot of experience at a high level. He will play a valuable role tactically on and off of the field this season," said Goetz.

Ike was the varsity boy's coach at Lutheran South High School for the past seven years, where he compiled a 110-43-14 record and has won five league championships. He has also coached various Busch soccer teams. He has continually been ranked in the top ten nationally and was a coach in the Missouri state Olympic development program for five years, from 1996-2001, where he finished with a 33-4-5 record. Ike brings a lot of experience and talent to the program and might be the key to the Riverwomen's quest to win the conference title this season.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Josh Lauer was named the new women's volleyball interim head coach. Lauer is starting his first year as an NCAA head coach. He will replace long-time coach Denise Silvester, who recently resigned after serving as head coach for the Riverwomen volleyball team since 1986.

RECRUITING, from page 8

Riverwomen
midfielder
Sonya
Hauan was a
Second
Team All-
Region
Selection in
2003.



File Photo

Coach Pilz offers tryouts once a year. Players will perform basic drills to show their fundamentals and may scrimmage. All of those that are interested can stop by the gym before Thursday and check out some of the team's unofficial pickup games to see just how good you have to be. The chance to participate in a tryout is something that not all schools or sports offer.

"We want to give anyone who is a full time student a chance to play. We want the whole campus to get involved and take ownership of this team," commented coach Pilz.

Playing sports for a university definitely helps a student take pride in it. Even for all of the shortcomings, you have to spill your guts to get the W for the team. Tryouts are chances for students to understand just how hard it is to be a varsity athlete and just how much work must be put in.

For all who are interested you must first contact Coach Pilz at 516-5661. He will require you to come by to sign a waiver, to have a current physical and to be a full time student. If you are missing one of these, contact Coach Pilz immediately and schedule a meeting.

PRESSURE, from page 8

The fans of the game and the teachers in the classroom often do not consider this when evaluating their performances. When you have pressure from more than just yourself, it can prove more difficult to perform at high levels than some might think.

It seems that these days everyone is short on patience and needs results in an instant. Every fan or spectator seems to think he or she knows how to play each sport and read each book better than the athlete, and that their

ways would produce a much more favorable result. It is no wonder the student athlete struggles to live up to the pressure that they put on themselves and to stand up and face the criticism that comes from everyone else each time that they do not succeed.

Muhammad Ali once said, "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it."

Athletes "explore" their own power each day by facing the pressures of sports and academics. Until a critic can step into the world of the athlete, they should not be so quick to judge who or what is better or worse and because of what reason. Life is just a game, it does not matter if you win or lose anything, it matters most to play that game to your potential. Sometimes you have to lose to truly feel what it means to win. It is not just the final score that truly defines a winner in life.

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Collateral is stylish, focused

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

"Collateral" is an action thriller with a strong streak of film noir. This tale of a cabbie driving around L.A. as his assassin passenger completes his assignments is visually striking and more thought provoking than the usual action film. The film is a psychological thriller than action film.

The surprisingly stylish thriller does better when it focuses on the psychological struggle between its two characters than when it turns to full-bore action.

L.A. cabbie Max (Jamie Foxx) is very particular about his cab. He keeps it sparkling clean and he is the model of efficiency and courtesy. His ability to predict his drive time and to suggest a faster route wins a bet with his fare, a pretty, well-dressed attorney (Jada Pickett Smith), and they chat a bit and she gives him her business card. Clearly floating on air with this unexpected encounter, he picks up his next fare at the same spot. The sharply dressed guy with salt and pepper hair named Vincent (Tom Cruise). Vincent is funny and charming and soon talks Max into driving him around Los Angeles all night, so he can get his work done and catch his morning flight out of town. It turns out that Vincent's profession is as a hit man, which Max discovers when Vincent's first victim falls out a window onto Max's cab.

This incident launches on a night of murder, with a running elements of

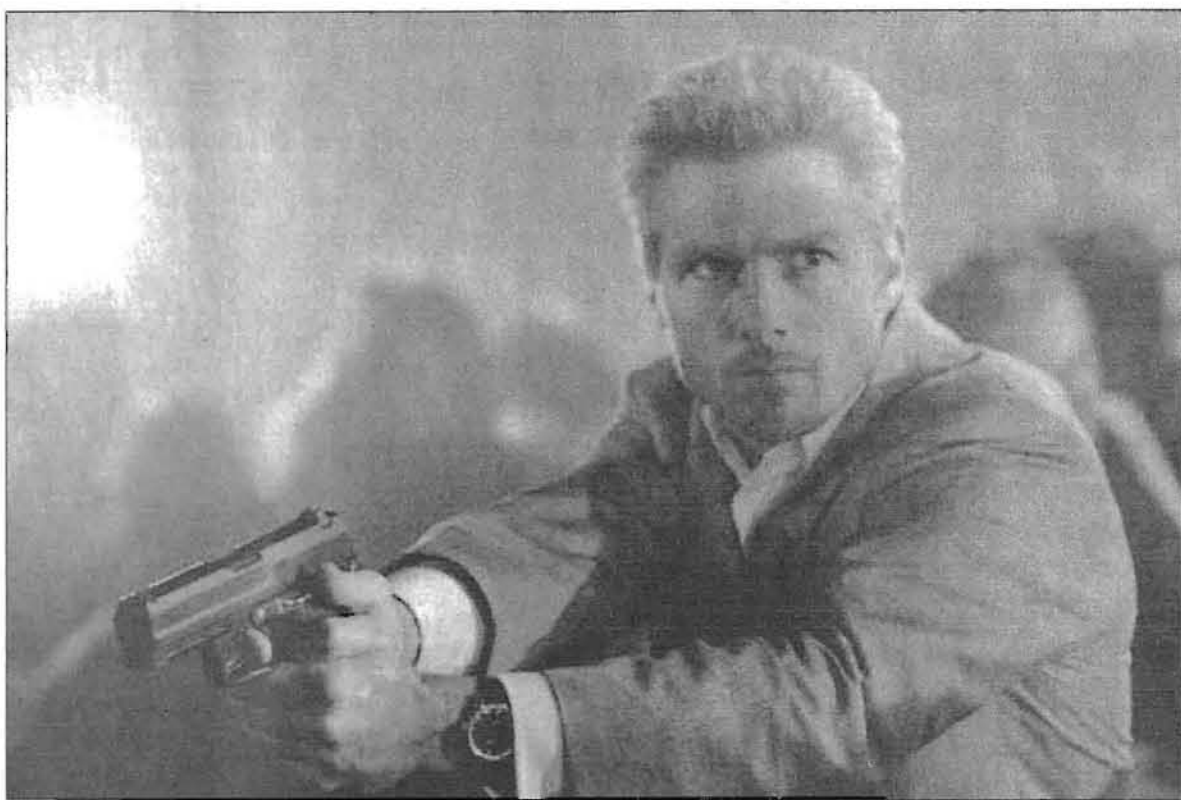


Photo courtesy www.rottentomatoes.com

Vincent (Tom Cruise) plays a charming sociopath killer in 'Collateral.' Jamie Foxx also stars in this film as L.A. cabbie Max. Max's efficiency and courtesy win the favor of Vincent, who hires him on as a regular driver. As Vincent's job as a hit man intensifies, Max finds himself along for the ride.

dark humor and philosophy between the unwilling cabbie and the charming sociopath killer. Despite the fact that I am not a big fan of Tom Cruise, both "Collateral" and Cruise's performance are entertaining. However, that could be due to his co-star, Jamie Foxx, who plays the innocent bystander good guy

to Cruise's gun for hire bad guy. It does not hurt that director Michael Mann seems to specialize in stylish looking films and keeps most of the focus on the psychological struggle between the two characters.

Where the film is just the two of them in the cab, it is terrifically

moody and engrossing. Where it does finally get down to more standard action flick shootouts, the scenes are more confusing, less sharp, and even difficult to follow.

Maybe Cruise just makes a better bad guy. This is not to overlook Jamie Foxx. Foxx is very strong in this film

as a cab driver who dreams of having his own limo service but is so particular about how perfect his dream-service must be that he never seems to get started. This largely psychological thriller takes a standard background for an action movie character and fleshes out the whole person. Likewise, Tom Cruise's well-dressed, hit man goes beyond clever wisecracks to uncover the inner sociopath philosopher. A running theme between them is the killer Vincent encouraging Max to act on his dreams. Later in the film, this takes on the aspect of a taunt, pushing Max to act on his situation with Vincent as well.

Although shots are beautifully framed and the visual aspect of the film is appealing, Mann's decision to shoot in digital and video diminishes the strength of the images. Action and movement on video has a smeary look, which some people see as "realism" since it looks like news footage or reality TV. However, the choice makes some shots vaguely dizzying and others less powerful than they could have been.

The story is a standard action film. The appeal of the film is in the stylish touches and the focus on the characters and dialog. The film has more talk and shots of empty L.A. streets than you expect, but that is when the tension is also at its tautest. When the usual action sequences come up, they are less compelling than the mental struggle between good and evil that takes place between just Max and Vincent.

A&E

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The Mills:

one stop shopping... and dating

BY TANA ROGERS
Staff Writer

Thinking about asking out that new cutie from class, but have no clue where to go?

Suggest a trip to St. Louis Mills Mall, located off of Hwy. 370 on St. Louis Mills Dr., for a night out.

Start out the evening on ice at the The Ice Zone skating rink and official practice facility of the St. Louis Blues.

If you would rather not go for a glide, race your date in the go-kart arena, accessible through the Nascar Speedpark.

The date could also begin with a game of miniature golf. The Putting Edge is an 18-hole course lit by black lights and glowing neon backdrops. Although many families frequent the course, the dark atmosphere has a charming and romantic feel. The darkness could also serve another purpose in your favor. If you have not seen your date since an initial meeting in a dark, smoky bar or club and no sparks fly this time around, you will not be staring him or her in the face.

The price per player is \$9, so you can treat your date for less than \$20. The challenging course merits the cost. Even putting experts can test themselves, seeing how many holes-in-one they can swing.

If all of the competition stimulates your appetite, then you and your date can exit into the mall. To get there, you turn right and head toward the food court. The Mills Food Court is home to Sbarro's Pizza, Popeye's Chicken and Biscuits, Hibachi San (Japanese cuisine), Panda Express, Burger King and Subway. One meal at any of these eateries runs from \$4 to \$7, depending on your order.

If you prefer to be served, then get to know your date over dinner and visit Johnny Rockets, a '50s style diner, or Chevy's Fresh Mex. You could also dine in Tony Roma's restaurant, which lies at the center of the court and happens to be one of Nick and Jessica's favorites on MTV's "Newlyweds."

Not hungry for dinner? Then, grab a something sweet at one of the dessert shops. The Candy Station, Cinnabon, Haagen Dazs, The Marble Slab Creamery and Starbucks are all located in the mall.

If the dinner goes well, then stop by and grab a dessert to share. If you still do not want the evening to end, ask your date if he or she wants to catch a late show at the Regal St. Louis Mills Stadium 18.

After such a fun-filled date, you will be sure to get a kiss, that is, if you want one.

RiverSplash comes to a close



Casey Ulrich/The Current

The 2004 RiverSplash brings thousands to the St. Louis riverfront for free entertainment. A movie of St. Louis is projected on a wall of water with a laser light show and a firework display after a concert performed by BB King.

'Broken Music,' Sting's story from childhood to adulthood

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

Sting decided to write a different kind of autobiography. Instead of writing about his experiences as a rock star or celebrity, Sting chose only to write about specific moments of his life.

For fans looking to hear about how many girls he bedded, drugs he did, or any other kind of typical rock 'n' roll story one might hear by a rock star, they may as well put down Sting's "Broken Music," and pick up Motley Crew's book instead.

"Broken Music," is a story about a boy growing up in the industrial city in northern England; about his trouble relationship with his parents; about his first love; about his love of music and where these experiences eventually took him.

The book shares some very intimate details about his life. In the book he talks about his mother's infidelity and the incident where he caught her and her lover having intercourse. Sting also shares his own sexual confessions.

Sting said "I lie in the darkness of my attic bedroom above the dairy, where I have successfully ejaculated into my hand for the first time...I have no idea what it is that has exploded into my hand in the dark, only that it has the viscosity and temperature of blood."



Photo courtesy Dial Press

'Broken Music,' is a memoir by Sting about his early childhood through adolescence.

Sting also shares in his book his troubled relationship with his father. His father owned a dairy and paid little attention, or complimented, Sting or his mother. This lack of love or attention had a hand in Sting's mother cheating on his father. For years, Sting despised his mother for doing this, but he would soon follow in his mother's footsteps with his own infidelity when he would later fall in love with a neighbor who he eventually married.

Sting had discovered music at an early age banging on his grandmother's piano keys (she called this early

effort 'Broken Music'), listening to his parent's record collection, and later on playing around on a guitar given to him by an uncle. Growing up Sting would learn guitar riffs and then replay the music at the local YMCA and, attend Newcastle's Club a Go-Go, where he watched influential musicians such as Mayall's Bluesbreakers and Jimi Hendrix.

The book also talks about Sting's struggles to make it as a working musician while at the same time teaching, and even working as a tax collector. He talks about his early bands, Earthrise, The Phoenix Jazzmen, The Newcastle Big Band and Last Exit. He even talks about his time in a trio band that played on a cruise ship.

Sting mentions only briefly his experiences in The Police, and the rise of their popularity. He even gives readers the pleasure to learn what inspired his career making hit 'Roxanne.'

'Broken Music,' is an interesting enough read that could easily be considered for feature film. With rich detail and vivid characters, one gets a sense of what it was like growing up as the rock icon.

Although the book does use some 16th century flowery language which makes it dry and hard to read at times, the book keeps one's attention. For fans that cannot get enough of Sting, this is a perfect addition for their collection.

Dip into something different at The Melting Pot

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you have a little bit of extra money, and want to treat yourself, friends, or a girlfriend to something nice, head over to the Melting Pot at 6683 Delmar in the U. City Loop.

On Sunday at 5:30 p.m., my friend and I arrived at the Melting Pot in the Loop. We were greeted by two hosts. When waiting to be seated, you have the option of sitting at the bar in the dining room and watching TV or waiting in the small area to the left of the door.

When we were taken to our seats, we were led through a labyrinth of tables and booths to a back booth near the bathroom. The lighting was dim and a small votive candle sat on the table. The booths are private, so you do not have to worry about seeing other patrons, or about being bothered by anyone else. A stove is built into the stone table and a fondue pot sits on the stove. A pair of fondue skewers, two forks and a knife are wrapped up in a black cloth napkin.

While waiting for other friends to join, we went ahead and placed our order. We thought about just appetizers and dessert, but then we decided to spoil ourselves and go all out with the four-course dinner, "Big Night Out."

We started with a cheese fondue appetizer, and there are many different cheeses to choose from. The appetizer comes with three vegetables; carrots, cauliflower and celery; three kinds of bread, pumpnickel, French and rye; and granny apples, all cut up. The fondue is prepared in front of you by the waiter, so everything is hot and fresh. After the appetizer comes the salad. There are three different salads to choose from.

There are three different main entrees to choose from, each that comes with six or seven different meats. We chose the Classic Feast—no seafood. There are six different meats in this entree, including tenderloin, chicken breast and fillet mignon. The meat is accompanied by seven different sauces including plum sauce and barbecue sauce, and four vegetables: squash, potatoes, broccoli and mushroom heads. All come pre-cut, and you cook them yourself in a vegetable broth of small vegetables, wine, more mushrooms and Worcestershire sauce. The meat and vegetables are cooked for two minutes tops, and the food is hot and juicy with each bite.

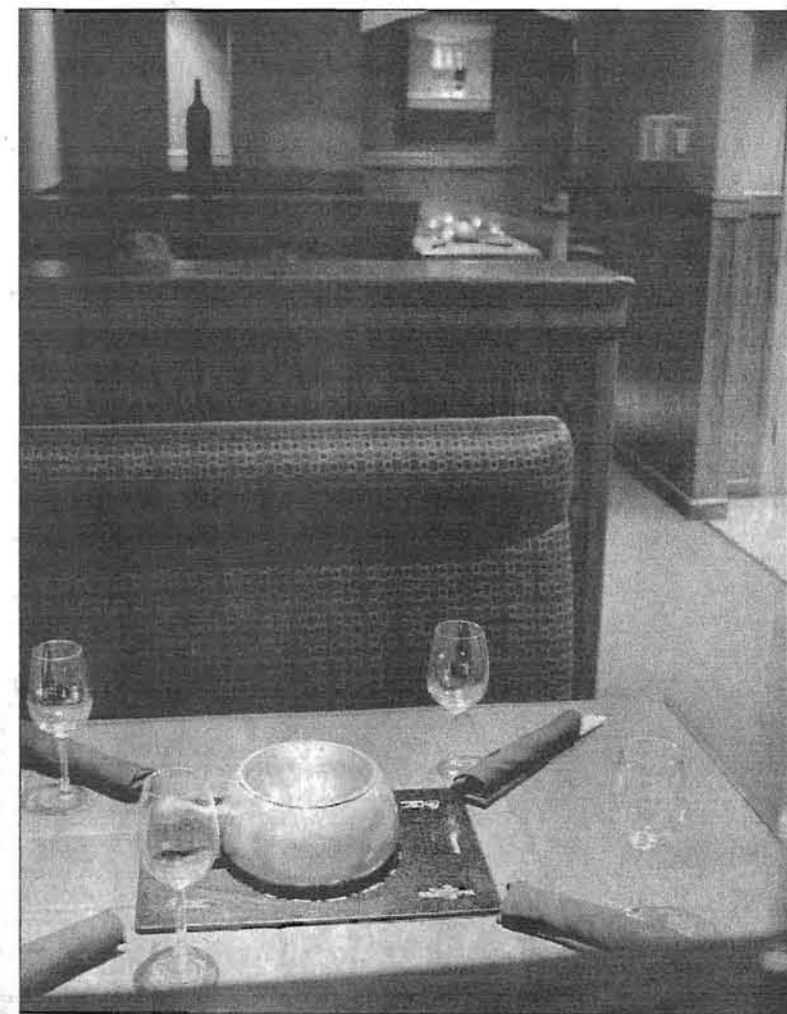
Finally, if there is enough room, there is dessert. There are nine different chocolate fondues to choose from, including Chocolate S'mores and Cookies in Cream. We chose the Flaming Turtle, which is milk chocolate and pecans flambéed on the table

like everything else. Along with the chocolate comes a plate of pineapple, brownie, pound cake, marshmallows, a small slice of cheesecake and strawberries, perfect for dipping into hot milk chocolate. Once everything is polished off, you will find yourself begging everyone in sight to carry you to your car because you are so full. Of course, everyone else has the same goal you do.

The Melting Pot opened in 1999. It is a sophisticated restaurant, quiet and comfortable. Marshal Faulk has even been spotted dining there. Dinner attire ranges from casual to dressy. Blue jeans can be worn with a nice dress shirt and shoes. The wait staff is friendly and humorous.

Our final total came to around \$100 for all four courses. It sounds extreme but it is well worth the price. You get hot, fresh food fast and great service. If you are not hungry enough for all four courses, mix it up. Get the appetizer and the dessert. The cheese fondue is \$14 a person, and the dessert is \$14 for a small and \$28 for a large. Or get a \$7 salad and dessert. Whatever your combination, you will not be disappointed. The melting Pot is a nice place to bring that special someone or your parents for an anniversary gift if you are willing to spend a little more.

Head over to the Melting Pot and dip into something different.



Jesse Gater/The Current

The Melting Pot is famous for its fondues. The restaurant is located on Delmar in the heart of the Loop.

MOVIE REVIEW

Braff blooms in 'Garden State'

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-
HOMEYER
Film Critic

As an actor, Zach Braff plays a mostly silly doctor on TV, in the comedy "Scrubs." Braff's TV role is not too demanding and there is nothing much to indicate there is more to the actor than an appealing smile.

Yet, there is indeed more. Braff stars in, wrote, and directs the off-beat art-house comedy, "Garden State." Doing any of these tasks is a big job and being able to do all three at once is impressive. Better yet, "Garden State" is not a bad film.

"Garden State," of course, refers to the state nickname of New Jersey. In his weird and surprisingly sweet little film, Braff plays Andrew Largeman, a struggling Hollywood actor who has just returned home to New Jersey for his wheelchair-bound mother's funeral, following her accidental death.

Struggling with personal issues as well as his career, Andrew has been heavily medicated for a long time by his psychiatrist father (Ian Holm) since his childhood, following the injury that put his mother in a wheelchair. Shortly after arriving in New Jersey, the actor discovers he has left his many medications back in L.A.

Feeling numb rather than sad at the death of his mother, Andrew Largeman also feels like he is sleepwalking through life. While in a doctor's waiting room for his checkup, the reserved Andrew encounters Sam (Natalie Portman), a lively, talkative, oddball young woman, who tells him a great deal about herself and then tells him that she is a compulsive liar. Her mix of vulnerability and odd charm strikes a chord with Andrew. She inspires Andrew to decide to stay off his meds for a while and see how he does.

Of course, Andrew Largeman encounters some of his old high school friends, including Mark (Peter Sarsgaard) who is now working as a grave digger. Largeman's high school buddies treat him like a big movie star, but his only big role was on a TV show where he played a mentally challenged athlete. Since the TV show ended, he is now actually working as a waiter but he avoids details about his flagging career just like he avoids his emotions. None of his buddies have done much with themselves since high school except one, who invented "silent Velcro," and is now fabulously rich but directionless.



Left to right: Mark (Ian Scarsgaard), Sam (Natalie Portman) and Andrew (Zach Braff) appear in 'Garden State.' In the film, Andrew has been heavily medicated by his psychiatrist father (Ian Holm) since childhood. Andrew goes on a trip to New Jersey and realizes he's left his medication behind. Sam persuades him to stay, and Andrew slowly comes out of the trance he has lived in for years.

The film is good but not flawless. It has a nice mix of drama and comedy, with enough weight to be taken seriously without being too much beyond the range of most filmgoers. While it has a great deal of quirky charm, some of this premise is pretty familiar from other indie films, where a twenty-something person returns home and

Acting is very strong, both by Zach Braff and the rest of the talented cast. Ian Holm turns in a spectacular performance as Andrew's rigid and emotionless father. Likewise Portman is delightful as the weird but fascinating Sam, and strangely, the offbeat Sam is somehow just what the damaged Andrew needs. Peter Sarsgaard turns in a performance that is both underplayed and a bit sinister as the gravedigger with ambitions. The comedy and tragic elements are balanced nicely and the budding romance between Sam and Andrew are deftly handled.

The visual elements are strong in the film as well. Shots like where Braff's character becomes one with the wallpaper while wearing a shirt made for him by his aunt, has both visual humor, eye appeal and commentary on the character's feelings. Braff repeats that kind of visual commentary successfully throughout the film. The skillful handling of the actors and the visually strong framing of scenes point to potential for Braff as a director.

"Garden State" is a slightly quirky little film with a lot of heart. While it is not perfect, it is a pretty darn good effort, with nice performances and visual complexity. It is both funny and touching, with sweetness and romantic appeal. Kudos to Zach Braff, and we can look forward to more quality films from this budding actor/writer/director.

re-evaluates himself, his family and relationships with high school buddies. However, while some of the concepts are familiar, they are all well done. The disconnect of returning home and growing beyond high school friendships is familiar territory but Braff covers it well by concentrating on good, believable characters and nicely presented scenes.

“Garden State” is a slightly quirky film with a lot of heart...it is both funny and touching, with sweetness and romantic appeal.

'Comedy Showcase' gets a lot of laughs



Danielle Fry, senior, criminology, cracks up during the performance of Honest John on Thursday night in the Pilot House.



ABOVE:

Monrey Griffin, sophomore, psychology, opens up for Honest John during the "Comedy Showcase" held in the Pilot House on Thursday Night. Griffin is an established local comic, and has performed locally at the Funny Bone Comedy Club and City Improv, and has appeared in Atlanta and Chicago. Griffin has a DVD, "Crazy As Hell" which will be released in September, and will be available at Vintage Vinyl, Streetside Records and at the UM-St. Louis Bookstore.

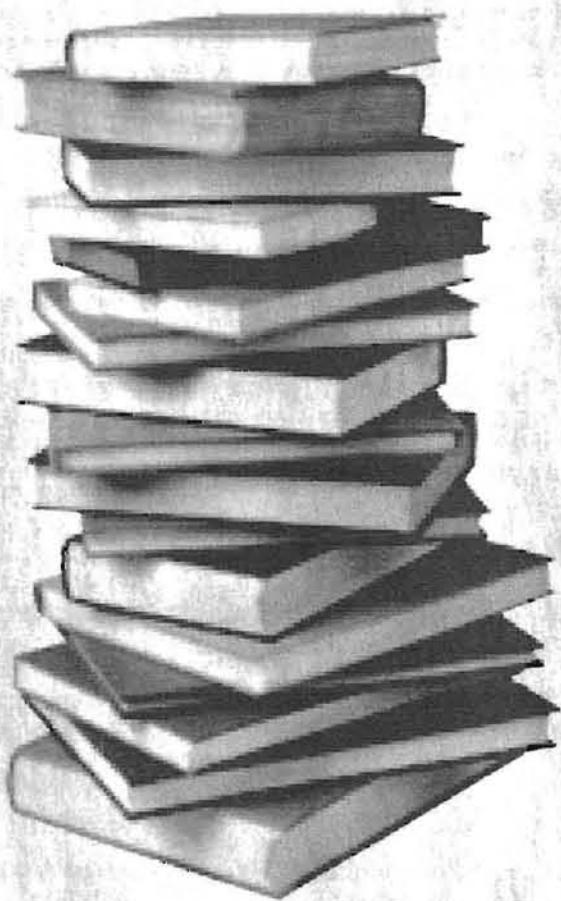
RIGHT:

Honest John, who has appeared numerous times on BET, served up a raunchy set of jokes on a diversity of topics, including: Viagra, Michael Jackson, false teeth, Bill Clinton, and the war in Iraq. His appearance was sponsored by UPB, Student Life, Auxiliary Services, and Student Affairs. The showcase was part of a week-long series of events for Welcome Week. Welcome Week continues this week with free snow cones on the MSC bridge on Tuesday from 11-1, and Wednesday with karaoke in the Pilot House from 10-2.

- Photographs by Mike Sherwin -

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SCIENCE COLUMN

Does music affect intelligence?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

Did your parents play music for you before you were born or when you were a little infant? Did they encourage you to play a musical instrument?

It has been believed for some time that there is a connection between music and intellectual development. For generations, parents have encouraged their children to take music lessons. While some hope to find a budding Mozart, others just to make their child's education more well-rounded. Starting in the late 1970s, early exposure to music took another turn, when some parents seeking to give their offspring an intelligence edge played music to their babies, even before they were born. But not just any music — specifically classical music. There were studies looking at correlations between music and mathematical ability. Early exposure to music, while the brain is still developing, was

thought to be key but no one had devised a way to measure this.

Now there is a new study that looks at the link between intelligence and the study of music. Parents who encouraged their children to take up an instrument may have been on the right track all along. However, this is the first study to provide clear, measurable proof of the intellectual advantage of studying music.

Music teachers everywhere have to be smiling at this news.

A study done at the University of Toronto looked at the effects of music lessons on IQ for six year old children. Dr. E. Glenn Schellenberg and his colleagues recruited 144 six year olds for the study and assigned them to one of four groups randomly. The kids either got singing lessons, keyboard lessons, drama lessons or were assigned to a group that did not receive after school lessons. The researchers wanted to see whether studying an instrument or voice lessons were different or if studying another performance art, like drama, had a similar effect. Two kinds of music were used to see if the effect would apply to more than one kind of music lessons. The groups assigned to no lessons and the drama lesson groups were treated as control groups. Besides looking at intellectual changes, the researchers also evaluated whether the lessons effected social skills development.

The children were given IQ tests and evaluated in academic and social skills before and after the series of lessons began, to determine if there

was a change. Increases in IQ and academic performance were taken to indicate an increase in intellectual ability.

After one year of lessons, the children in both the music lesson groups showed the greatest gains in IQ. The increases were across the board of IQ subsets and academic areas tested. The groups that took drama lessons also showed an increase in intellect as compared to the control group. Interestingly, the children in the drama group also showed an improvement in social skills, while the children taking music lessons did not show this improvement.

That all the groups taking some kind of art lesson showed improvements in intellectual ability tells us that parents are doing the right thing by sending their children to some kind of art or music lesson.

The study provides a big boost for music lessons but might suggest that art lessons of other kinds are also valuable. This research study suggests a follow-up to measure whether sports activities or other after school activities also provide a boost, and in what areas, or whether it is the arts in particular that produce this benefit. Also, future researchers might look at which arts or activities might provide the best all-around benefit or the biggest boost. Is violin better than piano, or does the instrument not matter, only the study of music? Are the benefits of classical music greater than, say, blues or country? Further studies may tell us. Either way, this study lends support music in schools.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Amendment not in violation

Much passion went into the writing of the August 16 "Our Opinion." It is a shame that so little research accompanied the passion. It was not the Missouri legislature that passed the marriage amendment to the State Constitution, but rather the voters of the State of Missouri, who did so by plebiscite.

The State Constitution provides for voters to amend it if a percentage of the voters' petition for a ballot issue and if

that issue passes by majority vote. Such was the case in the recent primary.

Since the voters enacted the amendment, the concept of separation between church and state does not apply here. This judicial concept has never been interpreted as forcing a citizen to separate his or her beliefs, religious or otherwise, from his or her political actions. Indeed, a truly representative form of government depends upon its citizens acting on their most

deeply held beliefs, religious or secular. If a law banning pork consumption were rejected because Jewish or Muslim beliefs support it, then that rejection would also infringe upon the beliefs of the vegetarians, animal rights' activists, and cattle ranchers who would also derive benefit from the law.

Jeremy Ryan Loscheider
Graduate Student, Economics



Honors College, Provincial House

Welcome New Students!

From the faculty and staff at
Pierre Laclède Honors College

Come check us out!

Located on UM-Saint Louis South Campus, we offer students of any major the opportunity for challenging seminars and scholarship support. If you are interested, please contact Maureen Callahan @ x7769 or via email @ callahanmau@umsl.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No proof of Moore's 'lies'

I'm fairly shocked that you printed Bob Freese's letter to the editor asserting that Michael Moore's film 9/11 contains "lies," since he did not provide any examples of what those "lies" might be or sources for how

he determined they were indeed "lies."

Mr. Freese, I sincerely hope you will be more specific in the future when accusing others of lying, including referencing sources which

would give some credence to your assertions.

Paulita Burns
B.S.B.A Logistics &
Operations Management

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gingham's review on target

I was so happy to see your review of Gingham's in St. Charles (not to be confused with the South County location), my favorite inexpensive restaurant! I have been going there with friends at all hours of the day and night for seven years. I've discovered that one of the benefits to going to Gingham's is that the 24 hour WalMart is about 1/2 mile away on the South Service Road; it's a great way to pick up a few things and then sit with a

friend over coffee for as long as we want.

Also, the customer service is the best and most consistent of any restaurant I've ever been to in the St. Louis area. The servers smile and are very friendly and will do everything they can to meet a customer's requests. I've only had bad service once, and when I told the manager she took off the cost of one meal and then gave my coupon back to me so that I could use it again.

Another place to check out is Sunrise Restaurant on Lindbergh by Northwest Plaza, about 5-10 minutes from the UM-SL campus. It is basically a greasy spoon sit-down restaurant, and the service depends on which waitress you get, but the prices and portion sizes are worth it.

Give both of these places a try.

Stacy Beckenholdt
Junior, anthropology

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Defense Act against marriage

Ultimately, the people that want to preserve marriage as ONLY a union between a man and a woman do more harm to the notion of marriage than those that want to include the union of gay men and women.

Taken from the Defense of Marriage Act:

"In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is

a husband or a wife."

Conservatives are worried that granting recognition of gay marriages trivializes heterosexual marriages. The sanctity of marriage is upheld in the trust, fidelity, and everlasting love present between two people who have devoted their lives to each other.

I think making sexual organs the litmus test for the validity of marriage is what really devalues commitment and trivializes the very nobility, social significance, and symbolic power of marriage. These proponents of banning gay marriage only need to look at the divorces and multiple marriages among Ronald Reagan, Newt

Gingrich, Rush Limbaugh and Bob Bar, the author of the Defense of Marriage Act to find the trivialization of the hallowed institution.

From King County, Washington's Superior Court Judge William Downing:

"Tradition compels it."

Downing cited the Massachusetts Supreme Court's opinion that "it is circular reasoning, not analysis, to maintain that marriage must remain a heterosexual institution because that is what it historically has been."

Joe Decepeida
Reader

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Political coverage biased

You said that you want *The Current* to be unbiased. I don't remember seeing coverage of Cheney's visit. I don't remember seeing coverage of Rod Page, Secretary

of Education, when he visited. I don't mind editors expressing themselves in the editorial section, but I do mind unequal coverage. I believed 51% of UM-SL students

will be interested in these people.

Damien Johnson
Junior, Criminology

NEW COURSES, from page 6

Phillips went on to say how some students might take this course to satisfy their language requirement, while others register for it because they are interested or curious in the topic or they might take it to receive their Greek Studies Certificate and their Interdisciplinary minor. A student must take at least 10 credit hours for Latin or other majors to earn this minor. The Greek Studies Certificate includes the study of modern, versa-

tile and ancient Greek.

Currently there are 19 students enrolled in this course, some graduate students, some for interest and a variety of majors. Phillips said that the cap for this course was set at 20 students, but she would accept a few more.

"This class is fun, challenging and great for people majoring in philosophy, anthropology, history or any language in general," Phillips said.

All of the new courses for this semester and descriptions can be viewed online or discussed at the University Advising Center.

"Students can still register and sign-up for courses through Tuesday, August 24 depending on whether there are still open available seats and the wait list for classes will end on Wednesday, August 25," Simeone said.

COMMUNITY SERVICE, from page 7

Kibby-Williams said how the house is currently looking for volunteers to help with laundry, playtime supervision, sewing and mending clothes and working with arts and crafts.

"Students can get involved by calling us, completing community service hours, make a request through the school or by applying for a volunteer job up to a year," Kibby-Williams said.

Operation Food Search is another organization, which works hands-on with the university. This group collects, sorts and distributes food to those in need. UM-St. Louis has helped by holding many canned food drives and box sorting jobs.

Karen Janson, Operation Food Search Food Donor Recruiter said where the food is redistributed to and who it helps.

"The food collected is sent to over 300 different agencies, shelters, kitchens and pantries in Missouri," Janson said. "Over 95,000 people are

given this food each month."

People affiliated with churches, civic and social organizations, corporations and schools can volunteer with Operation Food Services by filling out an online application at www.operationfoodsearch.com. People also interested can conduct a food drive with soups, rice, canned vegetables, powdered milk, hot and cold cereals, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned juices and baby food.

The St. Charles Humane Society offers volunteer service positions to those who will help clean their facilities, walk dogs, assist with training and look after the general need of the animals.

"During the 'Big Event' last year we worked at St. Vincent County Park near UM-St. Louis to place large stones in a drainage ditch to keep it from eroding, which helped to beautify the park," Heinz said.

Other St. Louis organizations are currently working with service pro-

jects.

With the recent Hurricane Charley in Florida, St. Louis residents are helping those who have become victims of the storm. American Red Cross in St. Louis is gathering food and clothes for the millions of people who have lost their homes. To help or make a donation call the Red Cross at 1-800-help-now!

The UM-St. Louis Office of Student Life- Division of Community Services website will be updated throughout the year with service opportunities. Student Life will also advertise community service projects by hanging fliers and posters around the campus. Other campus organizations can be contacted for other service information.

Whether a class requires hours of community service or a student is interested in a career of service, or they would just like to make a difference in the community, many organizations in Missouri need volunteer help.

GLOBAL WARMING, from page 1

One of the scientists interviewed by Rudolph and Grossman, Canadian climate researcher David Keith, said that how much the greenhouse effect is slowed down is ultimately up to the public.

"The key question is: are we willing as a species ultimately to spend a couple percent of global economic productivity over the next century to avoid making major climatic changes that lead to really quite substantial changes

and extinctions and so on throughout the global environment," Keith said.

UM-St. Louis students have differing views on global climate change and what should be done. Geentanjali Pande, senior, economics, thinks that global warming has the potential become a major problem.

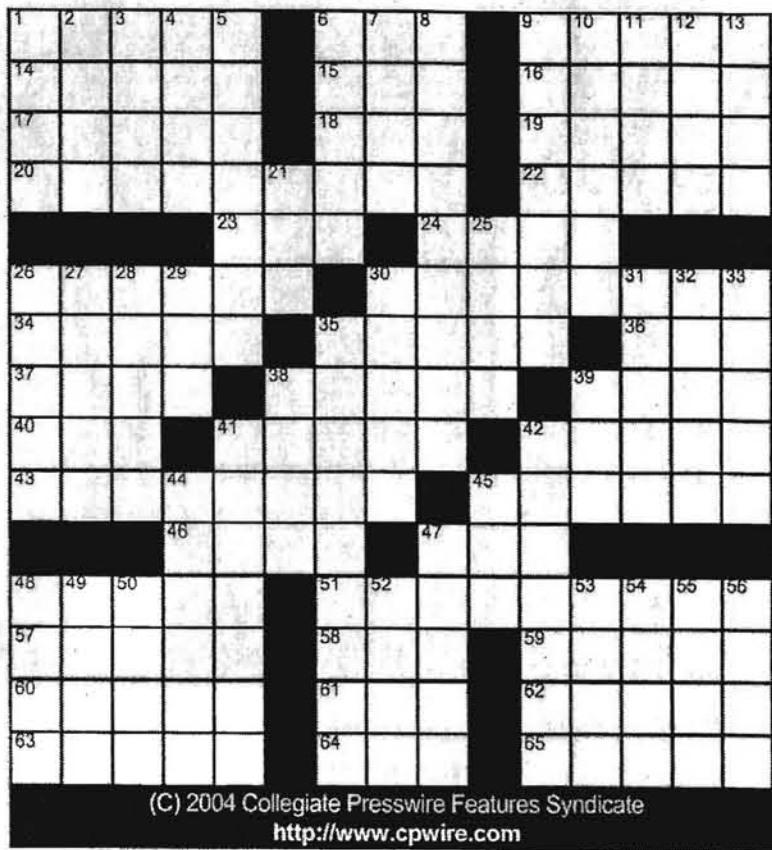
"I think we should learn to take care of our environment and things like CFCs in packaging and even pressurized containers contribute to that, so if

we can cut down on that," Pande said.

Kelly Gerren, senior, anthropology, thinks that global climate change has been going on too long for people to do anything about it.

"I think it's a severe problem. Eventually it will probably kill all of us," Gerren said. "I think it's probably too far past to do anything about it. The steps that people are taking to try to prevent it is slowing it down... but too much damage has been done."

PUZZLE



ACROSS

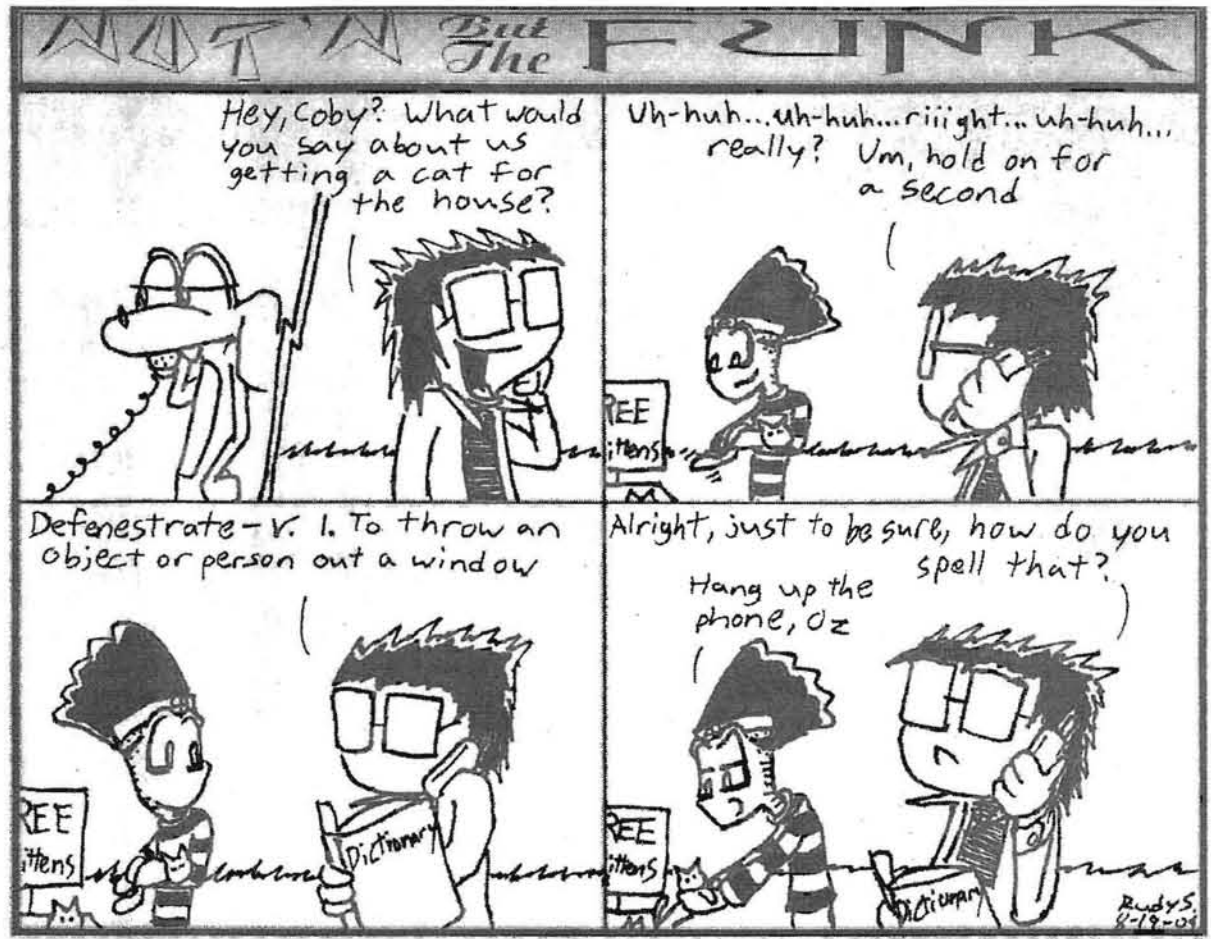
- 1. Hit
- 6. Taxi
- 9. Praise
- 14. Characin
- 15. Retirement savings vehicle
- 16. Accustom
- 17. Lend one of these
- 18. Spasm
- 19. Trick partner
- 20. Tail end
- 22. Cottonseed containers
- 23. Used to own
- 24. Close off
- 26. Depth measurement
- 30. Small telescope
- 34. German sub
- 35. Pesky insects
- 36. Not he
- 37. Emporium
- 38. Victual
- 39. Dick and Jane's dog
- 40. Immature newt
- 41. Exploits
- 42. Mutsuhito
- 43. Secretive
- 45. Nicotinic acid
- 46. Visage
- 47. Not hers
- 48. Soft palate pendant
- 51. Manicurist's tools
- 57. Mathematical term
- 58. Publicity
- 59. Optimal
- 60. Vassal
- 61. Enemy
- 62. Rent
- 63. Totaled
- 64. Finish
- 65. Type of seal

DOWN

- 1. Jones of *The View*
- 2. List of offerings
- 3. Thing
- 4. Trick
- 5. Hearing distance
- 6. Quoted
- 7. Solo
- 8. Ball motion
- 9. Soldier packs
- 10. Open
- 11. Contest
- 12. Type of test
- 13. Groups
- 21. Beret
- 25. Looked
- 26. Raged
- 27. Toward the stern
- 28. Rich cake
- 29. # 21 Down, e.g.
- 30. Grayish
- 31. Clear jelly
- 32. Japanese partition
- 33. Inset
- 35. Seafood utensil
- 38. Reject
- 39. Ocean
- 41. Sore winner did this
- 42. Store incorrectly
- 44. Affirm
- 45. None
- 47. Climbed
- 48. Calif. university
- 49. Null
- 50. Type of car
- 52. By and by
- 53. Thought
- 54. Shakespearean king
- 55. Soothe
- 56. Winter vehicle

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☐ Crossword answer key on page 2



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Can you find the hidden word?
 Somewhere in this issue, we randomly placed the word

LUMMOX

which means
 "clumsy person."

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current@jinx.umsl.edu
 with the location. The first person to reply correctly will win an autographed beach ball and a free copy of **The Current.**

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Personals

Like To Bowl?
 Join our Intramural League (Sept. 15-Nov. 17)
 Wednesdays 3:00-4:30PM at North Oaks Boal. Only \$2.00/week for 3 games. 2 guys and/or gals per team. Register in the Rec Office 203 Mark Twain by Sept. 14.

Help Wanted

Child Caregiver Needed
 Looking for energetic caregiver for 3 children ages 5,2,and 6 mos. in my home from 4-9pm Monday-Thursday. Must have references and reliable transportation. Call Jodi at 636-288-5963. Need to start 8/18/04.

Lifeguards
 Certified Lifeguards needed for UMSL indoor Swimming Pool this Fall. Afternoon, evening & weekend hours available. Pay is \$6.30 per hour. Apply in the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain. Call 516-5326 for more info.

Sport Officials
 Campus Rec Officials needed for intramural flag football, soccer, floor hockey, & volleyball this semester. Afternoon and evening games. Pays \$7.50-10.00 per game. Knowledge and interest in the sport is required. Apply in the Rec Office, 203 MT, 516-5326.

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Candy Vending Route
 50 all cash high traffic locations. \$18,000 annual income. Cost \$3000. 1-800-568-1392 or www.vendingthatworks.com

Selling a Pro-Form treadmill
 only 1 year old. It has the space-saver fold away option for easy storage. There is several different work out programs to chose from or you can customize your own. Selling for \$500 OBO. email: jsdae9@studentmail.umsl.edu

TI - 86 Scientific Calculator
 w/graphing capabilities only a year old. Great for anything from college algebra through calculus. 128K RAM with 96K user memory. New \$120.00 only asking for \$60 / OBO Call 314-516-7818.

Campus Rec Fun!
 INTRAMURAL Softball, Coed Volleyball, Tennis, Bowling & Flag Football. Open to students, fac & staff. To Play, sign-up in the Rec Office, 203 MT, 516-5326. Deadline is Wed, Sept. 8.

Free Golf - 18 Holes!
 Enter Campus Rec's Intramural Golf Scramble & BBQ Monday, Sept. 20, Normandie Golf Course, 10:30AM shotgun start. Free to students; only \$20 for fac/staff/alumni. Four folfers per team. Sign up in the Rec Office 203 MT by Sept. 8.

Graders/Tutors Wanted
 A west county Mathematics and Reading learning center is hiring part-time graders/tutors helping children ages 3 to 15. We offer flexible schedule, fun and rewarding working environment. Interested candidates please call 636-537-5522
 E-mail : jwchan@earthlink.net

SLAM is the word

Students and local poets compete in a poetry slam hosted by UMSL and 105.7 The Point; The winners won the chance to perform at UMB Bank Pavilion



Kevin McCameron, a "SlamMaster" with St. Louis Poetry Slam, co-hosted the poetry slam with The Point's radio host Rizzuto. St. Louis Poetry Slam holds a slam event every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Red Sea restaurant at 9 p.m. in the Delmar Loop.



David Blum, a.k.a. Noodles, cheers on Zaire Imani, a regular on the St. Louis poetry slam circuit. Blum and Imani both won spots to appear at the "Projekt Revolution" tour.



Patrick Johnson, senior, elementary education, performs at the Poetry Slam hosted by UM-St. Louis and (KPNT) 105.7 The Point on Saturday night in the Pilot House. Johnson competed with other poets for a chance to appear on the "UMSL Artist's Deck" at the UMB Bank Pavilion on Aug. 25 during the "Projekt Revolution" tour, with headliners Linkin Park and Snoop Dogg. Johnson and nine others won the poetry slam, and will perform on Tuesday.



ABOVE:

Kevin McCameron exults after defeating radio host Rizzuto in a mock poetry battle. McCameron was demonstrating for newcomers the mechanics of a poetry slam. Poets had three minutes to perform, and would be penalized for going over. Judges evaluated the poets on a scale of zero to ten.



ABOVE:

Rodney Sadler, freshman, business administration, holds up his score for one of the poet performers at the poetry slam. Judges were chosen based on two criteria: judges could not have come to support a performer, and preferably they were newcomers to the poetry slam scene.



LEFT:

Rizzuto, radio host for The Point (KPNT), confers with the scorekeepers before the winners were announced at the end of the poetry slam. Over 30 poets signed up to perform at the event. Although many were veterans of the slam scene, several others were performing at a slam for the first time.