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A look at the Mercantile Library

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

New Biology degrees approved by Curators

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

Current and future UM-St. Louis students will soon have two more degree programs to choose from, pending the final approval of Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The programs, one a Bachelor of science in biochemistry and biotechnology and the other a Master of science in biochemistry and biotechnology, were recently approved by the UM System Board of Curators.

Shirley Bissen, associate professor of biology, is the director of biotechnology for the biology

“
These programs will “build upon the foundations of all the courses that are needed to get a firm background in biochemistry and biotechnology, and get hands-on experience.”

--Shirley Bissen, associate professor of biology

department. Students can already earn an undergraduate certificate in either biotechnology or biochemistry, as well as a graduate certificate in biotechnology, through the biology department.

However, the new degree programs will merge these specializations through a joint venture between the department of biology and the department of chemistry and biochemistry. Teresa Thiel, professor of biology and Wesley Harris, professor of chemistry and biochemistry were instrumental in designing the programs. These programs will “build upon the foundations of all the courses that are needed to get a firm background in biochemistry and biotechnology, and get hands-on experience,” Bissen said.

As of now, biology students have to take courses in many different areas, such as physiology, ecology and environmental biology. This merge will allow students to focus on more specific topics such as molecular biology or cell biology. These new programs will “be a much more specialized education,” Bissen said.

Biochemistry is the study of chemistry and chemical reactions in biological organisms. Biotechnology is basically a buzzword that refers to any of a number of disciplines such as molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology and immunology in an applied setting, and will benefit students looking to study those fields.

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Sharpton makes campaign stop at UMSL

The Democratic presidential candidate sharply criticized the Bush administration over the war in Iraq

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

While Democratic presidential candidates were visiting other colleges or restaurants in the St. Louis Area, Reverend Al Sharpton put UM-St. Louis at the top of his list when campaigning for the Missouri primary, which will be held on Feb. 3. Sharpton has actively participated in issues concerning St. Louis in the past.

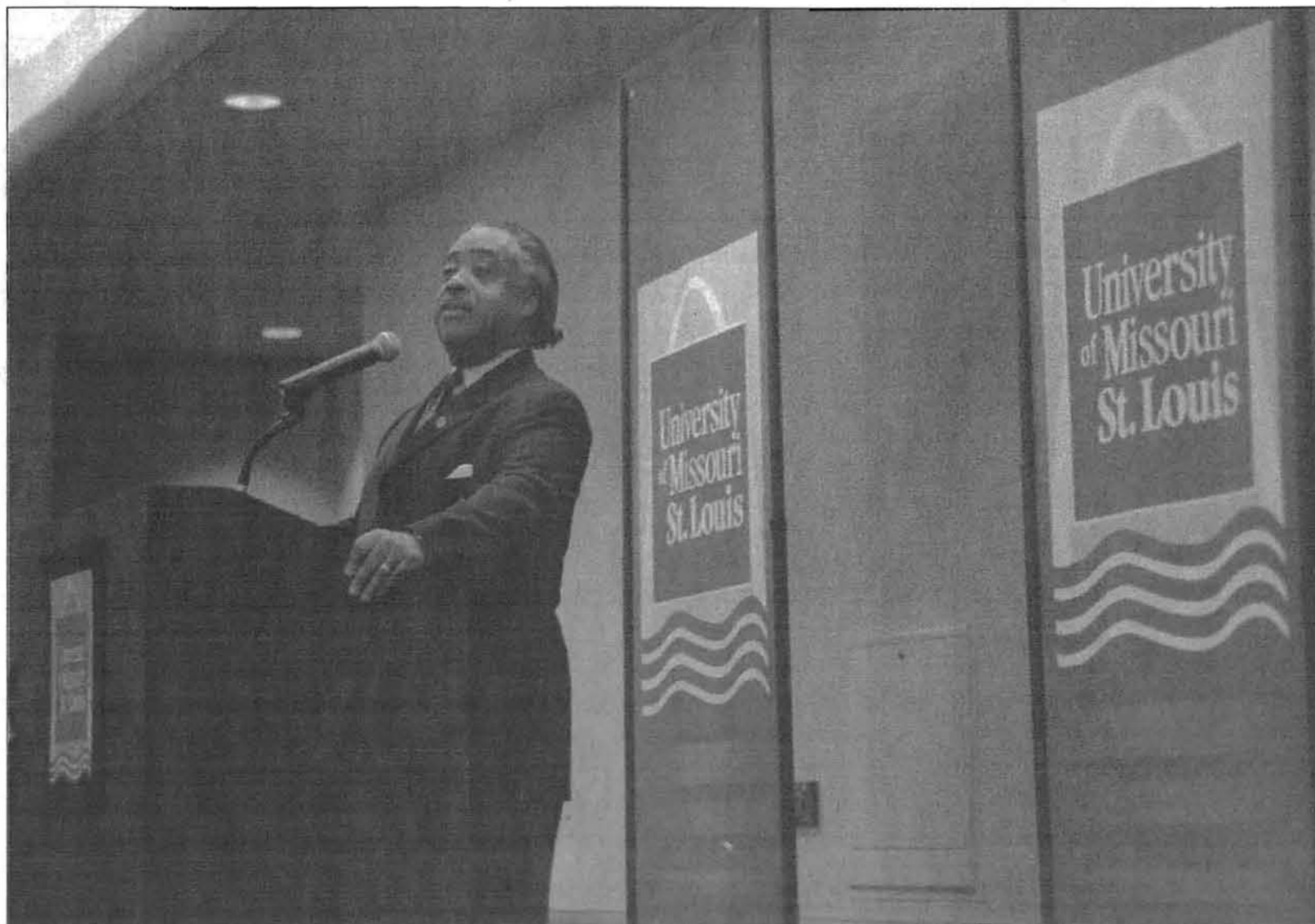
In September of 2003, Sharpton joined in local protests about the closing of city schools. Sharpton also rallied with activists in 1999, protesting minority labor opportunities and blocking off a portion of I-70.

He returned to St. Louis on Jan. 28 to address a large audience of students, faculty, staff and community members in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center.

“Since the withdrawal of Congressman Gephardt, many candidates found their way to St. Louis. I’ve been coming to St. Louis a long time. So, the reason I can get here first is that I knew how to get here; the rest of them are trying to find their way,” Sharpton said.

Sharpton attacked George W. Bush’s actions in Iraq, arguing that President Bush mislead the American people into believing that they were in imminent danger, due to Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction. Sharpton recalled an incident during the Cuban Missile Crisis in which Adlai Stevenson, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, went before the UN with pictures of the missiles in Cuba.

“In those days all we had was a little Kodak Instamatic camera,” Sharpton said. “Now, if in Kodak Instamatic camera days we could take pictures of the missiles in Cuba; I couldn’t understand given all the technology today—we have cameras that can take pictures 30



Jesse Gater/The Current

The Reverend Al Sharpton, Democratic presidential candidate, speaks in the MSC Century Room on Wednesday. His “Don’t be taken for granted,” slogan urges people to get out and vote to let their voice be heard.

miles down the road, turn the corner, and go through the building. How come Bush couldn’t show us one picture of one missile in Iraq?”

Sharpton said he supports a \$2 increase in minimum wage, rescinding trade agreements that have exported American jobs to other countries, a job creation program to rebuild highways, schools and ports, universal health care and ending the Bush tax cuts.

He opposed school voucher programs and said that the federal government’s job is to focus on public education.

“The job of government is not to select who you think can make it; the job of government is to help every child try to make it,” Sharpton said.

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Newspaper photographers Andrew Cutraro, of the Post-Dispatch and Wiley Price, of the St. Louis American take photographs of Rev. Al Sharpton as he rides the escalator to the third floor of the MSC on Wednesday.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

Water main break closes South Campus

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

A water main break on South Campus resulted in the cancellation of all classes and activities for the day and evening on Tuesday.

Bob Samples, director of University Communications, said that the main water line on South Campus burst. The burst was identified between 2 and 3 a.m. on Tuesday and affected the entire South Campus.

“As a result, all day and evening classes and activities were cancelled,” Samples said.

Crews identified the burst and fixed it around 3:30 p.m. that same day. The problem took nearly 12 hours to locate and fix. As a result, students in the dorms lacked hot water for most of the day. Signs were put up immediately all over South Campus and an announcement was placed on My Gateway to inform students of the circumstances.

All classes related to the College of Education, Honors College, College of Nursing and College of Optometry were cancelled for the entire day. These cancellations did not affect any activities or classes on North Campus. In an e-mail that he sent out student

Classes cancelled on South Campus; icy weather affects both campuses

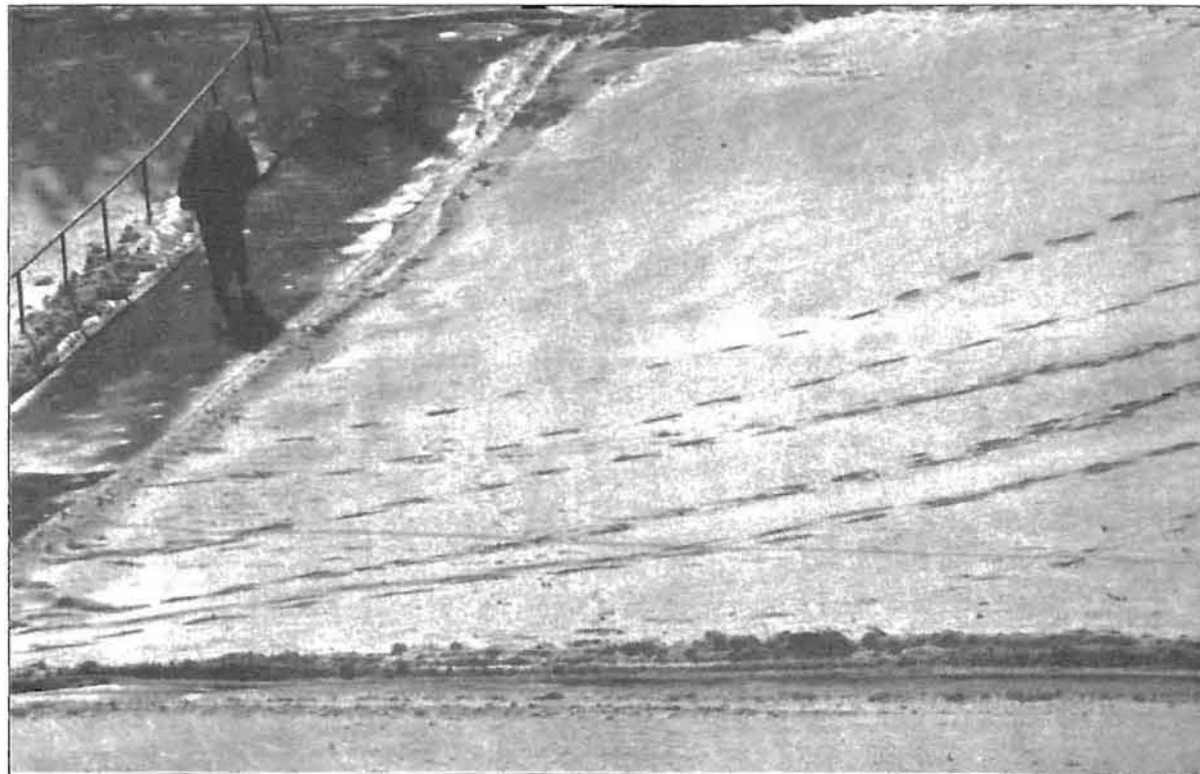
wide, Samples also said that the South Campus libraries closed at 5 p.m. that day.

Inclement weather proved to be the cause of the water main break. They do not usually break unless extreme temperatures occur. Free lemonade and water were provided for these students by the cafeteria. Residential Life also teamed up with the Mark Twain building so that students were able to take showers. “We arranged to make sure that there were shuttles to take students to the Mark Twain Building to take showers,” John Klein, director of Residential Life and Housing, said.

According to Klein, there were really no complaints about the problem. Students understood and took proper

precautions as soon as they identified the burst. These kinds of instances do not happen very often, so most people were calm, even though the cold weather was probably the worst that we have seen yet this winter.

Shuttles did continue to run on Monday and Tuesday, even though the weather was bad. Many students were not able to make it to classes on



Mike Sherwin/The Current

While a water main break closed down UM-St. Louis’ South Campus on Tuesday, the North Campus remained open for classes and activities. However, the icy road conditions kept many students at home on Monday and Tuesday. Above, a lone student walks from Clark Hall last week.

Monday and Tuesday. Some professors cancelled classes for the two days. Early Sunday morning people woke up to an ice storm, which covered all roads, streets and vehicles in the area with thick layers of ice.

Snow followed the ice later that night. Some commuters may have had

troubles getting onto campus on Monday. The campus was shoveled and the parking lots were cleared, for the most part. “It was better for us to be prepared for the worst case scenario because things like this don’t happen very often,” Klein said.

Students’ best bet to find out

whether or not their classes are cancelled is to look on My Gateway. Professors should post an announcement or e-mail about class cancellations. To find out if the University is closed, call campus or check your local television and radio stations.

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.

Thru March Woodcock Museum

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

Winter months Free refreshments

Counseling services is serving free hot drinks and cookies at the Compass resource room in Seton Hall during the winter months. Coffee, tea, hot cider and hot chocolate will be available along with four different types of cookies. The drinks and cookies are served between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. Students, faculty and staff are all welcome to drop by. The Compass is located on the ground floor of Seton Hall, in the lounge with the pool tables.

Through May MyGateway help

Information Technology Services will be holding workshops on MyGateway. They are free and open to faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants. For more information, call 6538 or e-mail rok@umsl.edu.

Mon 2 Monday Noon Series

Jeff McFadden, president of Big River Tours and skipper of the tour boat MorningStar, will present "The Real Missouri River: An Illustrated Talk" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. McFadden says the river is "beautiful and fascinating, although under attack." He will discuss river ecology, biology, hydrology and history. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. Call 5699 for more information.

2 Arianna Strong Quartet

The Arianna String Quartet, the quartet-in-residence at UMSL, will perform "Classic Beauty" at 8 p.m. at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road in Ladue, Mo. Call 5818 for more information.

Tues 3 Presidential lecture

Thomas Patterson, the Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., will deliver the Political Science Academy Annual Lecture on Public Affairs at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center. Patterson is one of the nation's leading experts on electoral participation, public opinion and the mass media. He will discuss the upcoming elections. Call 5521 for more information.

Wed 4 Lunch and Lecture

Carlos A. Schwantes, professor of history at UMSL, will discuss "Reflecting on the Leadership Secrets of Lewis and Clark" at noon in the Century Room of the Millennium Student Center. The lecture is the third installment in a special series called "In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark." The lecture is sponsored by the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM-St. Louis. The fee is \$18, \$15 for library members. It includes lunch. Reservations are required. Call 7240 for info.

Thurs 29 Concert at PAC

The five-member Canadian Brass will bring their incomparable artistry to the Blanche M. Touhill PAC at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$19 to \$38, and UM-St. Louis students receive a 10 percent discount.

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 Got an event, an activity?
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 A few good writers to take on challenging roles at the student newspaper. Call 516-6810 for information.

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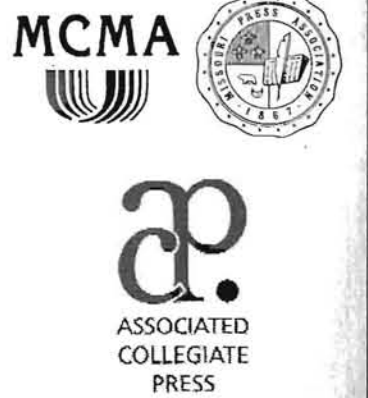
Shaun Kennedy

388 Millennium Student Center
 8001 Natural Bridge Road
 St. Louis, Missouri 63121
 Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
 Advertising • (314) 516-5316
 Business • (314) 516-5175
 Fax • (314) 516-6811

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

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

The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department during the winter between December 8 and January 24. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police as a public service to promote awareness provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort.

January 28 - Attempted Stealing under \$500 - Parking Lot E at the Millennium Building
 A wheel was loosened from the vehicle while parked.

January 28 - Stealing under \$500 - Parking Lot V
 License plates were cut and license tabs were stolen.

January 28 - Stealing under \$500 - Parking Lot X
 License plate tabs were cut off of a license plate.

January 29 - Stealing under \$500 - Parking Lot X
 Three reports of vehicles parked on Lot X overnight had their windows broken out and the stereos and CDs stolen from inside.

January 29 - Stealing under \$500 - Parking lot JJ
 A window was broken out of a vehicle and the car stereo was stolen.

January 29 - Stealing under \$500 - General Services Building garage
 A compressor and air hose was stolen from the storage area sometime between 1-26-04 and 1-29-04.

January 29 - Stealing under \$500 - Millennium Student Center "quarters lounge"
 A student reported leaving his backpack with

books in the "Quarters Lounge," and when he returned a few minutes later it was gone.

January 30 - Stealing under \$500 - 571 Clark Hall
 Sometime between 1-05-04 and 1-19-04 a phone was stolen from an office.

January 30 - stealing under \$500 - Parking Lot E
 A service cart was stolen from the back of the Coca-Cola delivery truck while it was parked Lot E.

January 30 - Stealing under \$500 -

Commons area near Clark Hall
 A bike lock was cut and a ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the railing next to Clark Hall.

NOTE: Items will be stolen from your backpack, purse, wallet etc. if it is left unattended! Even if it is only for a minute or two. Please help prevent crime by always keeping your possessions with you at all times. It is also noted that just because a classroom, office, lounge, library, computer lab, lunch area etc. is occupied by many people doesn't mean your property is safeguarded.

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Students and members of the public crowd the Millennium Student Center's Century Rooms to hear Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton on Tuesday afternoon.

Jesse Gater/The Current

SHARPTON, from page 1

Sharpton would like to see federal funding earmarked for colleges and universities, so they do not get the short end of the stick. The financial issues the campus has dealt with was his motivation for coming to UM-St. Louis, because he said it illustrated that point very well.

However, Sharpton only fielded three questions from the audience, and of those only one was from a student. Stephanie Bell, senior, political science, and president of the College Republicans, asked him to explain the conditions of inner cities, considering they are almost entirely governed by Democratic

officials.

Sharpton responded by saying that the Republicans have to take some of the blame since they control the majority of all three branches of government at the federal level. The solution lies in fixing the Democratic Party, which is in need of realignment and revitalization.

"How can I kill a party that's already dead? The only thing I can do is resurrect the party," Sharpton said.

Bell enjoyed the speech, but said she still has concerns with Sharpton's policy. "I think it is dangerous to the economy. The \$2 raise

to minimum wage and rescinding the tax cuts, I feel, would put a chill on the economy and would freeze it in its tracks," Bell said.

The other side of the political voice on campus was encouraging. "I'm really glad Reverend Sharpton decided to come to campus. I think that he's very articulate in what he believes," Ben Declue, senior, political science, and president of the College Democrats, said. "I think that he definitely has a vision for the Democratic Party and he has just as much of a right to be here running for President as George W. Bush has to be running for re-election."

Should UMSL offer Parking 101?



Mike Sherwin/The Current

A Nissan Altima in Parking Lot BB sits directly behind a Ford Explorer on Friday afternoon. The Explorer was blocked in by the Altima to the rear and parking blocks to the front. Students complained to the UM-St. Louis Parking and Transportation Department that they were unable to move their vehicles because other students had parked directly behind them. A ticket was issued for the Altima's owner.

NEW DEGREES, from page 1

"It's going to be students interested in careers in industry, pharmaceuticals, but also students that are interested in going on to professional schools, medical schools or graduate schools," Bissen said. "It attracts new students at the undergraduate level, too. We've had questions from high school students that were interested in biochemistry because they've heard about it—so that they see the title biochemistry and biotechnology and it's going to look like UMSL is in the twenty-first century."

At least one student, June Smith, junior, biology, who works as a patient care technician

at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, is excited about the program.

"I think it's a great program for students like me who are planning to go to medical school," Smith said. "The combination of courses from biology and chemistry will help people fulfill the course prerequisites for medical school much easier and give us a more concentrated education."

Chancellor Thomas George is also very excited about the proposal for the new programs. George is also a professor in chemistry and physics and is optimistic about the emerging programs at the University.

"This is a very timely program. Biotechnology fits in very nicely with a life sciences initiative for this state, particularly the St. Louis region. We're very strong in that," George said. "Right on this campus we're partnering with Washington University, St. Louis University, The Danforth Plant Science Center, The Missouri Botanical Garden, The Zoo, Cortex, The Center for Emerging Technologies downtown—something called Technopolis; there's a major activity in this region for the life sciences, so this particular major fits in very well with that. We're very excited about it."

News Briefs

Democratic Presidential Debate Cancelled

The Missouri Democratic Party recently informed UM-St. Louis that the debate among Democratic presidential candidates has been cancelled. The debate was scheduled to be held on Monday in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Gallery 210 open in new location

The new Gallery 210 features two art galleries. The new location includes a 50-seat auditorium. In addition to housing lectures and classes, tentative plans for the auditorium ask for a French film series and Saturday morning anime series. The new location is in the TeleCommunity Center located adjacent to the MetroLink station off East Drive. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Call 516-5976 for further information.

Presidential race to be discussed by Harvard professor

On Tuesday, Thomas Patterson, the Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press at

Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., will deliver the Political Science Academy Annual Lecture on Public Affairs. The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. The event is free and open to the public. Call 516-5521 for more information.

Mercantile Library Lunch and Lecture

On Wednesday, Carlos A. Schwantes, professor of history, will lecture, "Reflecting on the Leadership Secrets of Lewis and Clark." The fee is \$18, \$15 for library members. The fee includes lunch and reservations are required and must be submitted by Feb. 2. Call 516-7240 for more information or to reserve a spot.

Statehouse Sisters to discuss women in politics

On Friday, Missouri Sen. Rita Days, St. Louis County, and Missouri Rep. Esther Haywood, Bellerive Acres, will discuss "Statehood Sisters: Women Legislators Talk about the Future of

Women in Politics." The event begins at 11:45 a.m. in Century Room A of the MSC. Call 516-6807 for further information.

Physics Department to hold colloquium

Mark Alford, professor of Physics at Washington University, will discuss "Superconducting Quarks" on Friday at 3 p.m. The lecture will be held in 328 Benton Hall. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 516-5030 for more information.

Director to discuss "Conflict Unending: India-Pakistan Tensions Since 1947"

Dr. Sumit Ganguly, director of India Studies Program and Rabindranath Tagore Chair of Indian Cultures and Civilizations in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University-Bloomington, will lecture on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. A reception will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Century Room C of the MSC. Call 516-7299 for more information. The event is free and open to the public.

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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Slow down! Start of new year brings winter weather woes

Though sparkling like a gem, winter weather is not a treat for drivers. Your windshield gleams radiantly with a fresh sheet of morning ice, and you only have half an hour to warm, scrape and navigate your car in order to brave the jammed and creeping roadways in a knuckle-whitening slide to class.

This scenario may sound familiar, especially after deep freezes stormed this part of the country recently. Though the frozen calm outside may be beautiful to look at, it proves to be a hazardous and sometimes fatal obstacle course to drive in. In fact, transportation accidents are the "leading cause of death during winter storms," according to www.web-worldinc.com.

you may burn out your wiper motor trying to start your wipers or, even worse, they may be out of service at a critical time, such as during a snow-storm.

Other recommendations include decreasing travel speed, avoiding passing lanes and allowing at least three times more distance than usual between you and the car in front of you. Use the gas and the brake pedals sparingly because a little goes a long way on ice. According to www.weather.com, if you find yourself in a skid, take your foot off the gas immediately but make no drastic movements with the vehicle. Lightly press the brake; too much brake will send you deeper into the spin. Also, keep an emergency kit in your car just in case the



While abstaining from driving in dangerous conditions is certainly the best option for staying safe, there are ways to help ensure safety in the event that you must travel. Perhaps the most important of these ways is to allow yourself ample time to reach your destination. You will have to prep your car for travel, pick your way through clogged roads and circle the parking lot for longer than normal in order to find a free spot. Take these and all other winter inconveniences into consideration when you set your alarm at bedtime. Getting up an hour earlier is a light price to pay to avoid a body bag.

Also, while warming up your car, do not forget to turn your heater to defrost to clear fogged windows and to brush the snow off of your headlights, which should be on at all times during overcast, snowy conditions. Make sure you clean ice, road dirt and snow off your windows, especially your windshield. At the same time, lift up on your windshield wipers to break them free in the event that they are frozen to the glass. Otherwise,

unavoidable occurs. This kit should include warm blankets and clothing, a change of socks and shoes, food, water, flashlight, jumper cables, rags, snow scraper and shovel, map, compass, matches, first aid, candle in a deep tin, rough material such as sand or kitty litter and a well-hidden stash of cash. Keep these items in a water-resistant, easily transportable container or bag.

Since so much of the academic world involves time limits and deadlines, rushing often becomes a habit for students. Please understand, however, that winter weather can bring the hatchet down on even the craftiest of procrastinators. It will not discriminate between the young and the old, or between sports cars and SUVs. And while making it somewhere alive is a good thing, you are even better off if you make it there safely as well. So, next time you rush off to class, think ahead and prepare yourself and your car for the icy bite of winter.

The issue

Winter weather is back in St. Louis with a vengeance. However, many St. Louis drivers tend to think that a snowstorm is equivalent to a sunny summer day, as out-of-towners can attest.

We suggest

Slow down and take it easy. Wherever you are going will still be there, even if you have to go slower. It's not worth not getting there at all to go a few miles an hour fast. Also, try to avoid driving at all. It's the best policy.

So what do you think?

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

Simple pleasures make a happy life

Okay, for all of you out there who hate mushy stuff, I would avert your eyes immediately.

I am proud to admit that I am officially off the singles market, as this past weekend I got engaged to a wonderful woman. Now, some people have questioned my desire to get engaged. "Why are you doing this to yourself, man?" and so forth have been asked of me a few times in the past month or so. And I answer them with a simple "I am madly in love with her." And that is an amazing thing.

That is something that is sorely missing today. People tend to focus on the material things, cars, money, stocks, bonds, etc. They forget about what really matters. Now, do not get me wrong, I understand the value of a dollar and I understand its importance. To quote one of my favorite bands, Everclear, "I hate those people who love to tell you/Money is the root of all that kills/They have never been poor/They have never had the joy of a welfare Christmas." While I have never had a welfare Christmas, I have been poor and appreciate the value of money. But I do not think it rules above all.

What I have discovered in my 24 years on this earth is that you have to enjoy the small things in life to be able to enjoy the larger scope of the world. For instance, I find great joy just spending time with my fiancée (and yes, it does take some time to get used to saying that) after a long day. To just be in her company, it can alleviate all the rigors of daily life. If

I have a headache, an argument with someone on campus or just get stuck in traffic, just knowing I am going to see her can improve my mood.

Now, for some people, myself included, also take joy in things like movies, music, books and other leisure activities. If you love music, listen to as much music as you can. If you love to read, get a library card. If you like movies, I highly recommend "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, "Jaws," "Field of Dreams" and "The

Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." It is simple things like that that make life livable.

So I am an engaged man, and it has made me the happiest man on earth. Even though we have months of planning ahead of us, I am still happy. Because when I am figuring out whom to cut from my guest list, I know the end result is spending my life with the woman whom I love. I know that when we are debating over what DJ to use or what kind of cake to get or where to register (to be fair, the only thing I will probably put up any kind of fight about will be the cake), a little over a year from now, we will start our lives together.

So here is some advice to all of you out there. Whatever you take joy in, make that a priority in your life. If you have someone in your life, a significant other, a good friend, a favorite movie, great music, what have you, make sure to take time to fit that into your schedule. You will be surprised what the simple joys in life can do for your demeanor.



JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Winter's doldrums can have nasty effects

With weather like we've been having, it's easy to get the "blahs". The temptation to hide away from all exertions (especially those involving scraping, shoveling and multiple layers of clothing) and give in to inertia is overwhelming. The pervasive community crab-biness doesn't help much either.

Still, most of us have enough good moments and days that we muddle through. We may complain a lot, but really, life is okay. But "carrying on" and "pushing through" isn't always enough. Some people need a little extra help, especially at this time of year. If your own case of the winter doldrums seems unusually hard to shake, ask yourself if the following symptoms apply to you:

- *Feelings of hopelessness, pessimism. *Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness.
- *Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities that were once enjoyed, including sex. *Decreased energy, fatigue, being "slowed down". *Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions.
- *Insomnia, early-morning awakening, or oversleeping.
- *Appetite and/or weight loss or overeating and weight gain.
- *Restlessness, irritability. *Persistent physical symptoms that do not respond to treatment, such as headaches, digestive disorders, and chronic pain. *Thoughts of death or

suicide; suicide attempts. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the above are all symptoms of depression and,

"In any given 1-year period, 9.5 percent of the population, or about 18.8 million American adults, suffer from a depressive illness." So you see, you're not alone, especially at this time of year when insufficient exposure to sunlight can affect the body's balance of melatonin serotonin and cortisol, resulting in Seasonal Affective Disorder.

If these symptoms sound familiar, even if you have fought them alone in the past, I encourage you to get help. See your own physician, meet with our campus counselors or take a look at other available resources, such as the National Institute of Mental Health's website: www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/depressionmenu.cfm. Campus counseling services has a site at: www.umsl.edu/services/counsel/, which includes an online assessment for depression and information on the counseling experience. You may also call them at (314) 516-5711 or stop by their office on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center, room 126, to the left of The Nosh.

There are plenty of things that you must face alone and/or conquer by sheer will while you are in college. This isn't one of them. Please take the time to talk with someone today.



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

LETTERS

MAIL

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

FAX

(314) 516-6811

E-MAIL

current@jinx.umsl.edu

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

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

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

What's your opinion?

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

- Winter weather
- A happy life
- Winter doldrums

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

What's the lamest pickup line you've heard lately?



Nakisha Miller
Senior Finance

"Patriots I think. They've recently won and have the heart to do it again. The Panthers had a good fight but I don't think they will pull through on Sunday."



Craig Johnson
Senior Finance

"If they can run the football and commit no turnovers, the Panthers can win the game."



Rachel Matthews
Junior Civil Engineering

"I think the Patriots should win because they're a better team. I don't even think North Carolina should be in the Superbowl."



Joe Lupo
Senior Chemistry

"Probably the Patriots. They've got the best record in the NFL."

Get sleep and learn



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

This finding supports other research indicating that sleep serves as a way to rearrange and sort out new information learned during the day. Musicians have reported that learning a new piece and then sleeping improves their performance. Studies have found that skill at a simple physical task, like key tapping, can improve by twenty percent after a night's sleep and even more with a couple of consecutive nights' sleep. However, without that first night's sleep after learning the task, the test subjects showed little or no learning, even after two days of catching up on sleep.

According to Robert Stickgold of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sleep appears to be "involved in rehearsing, restructuring and reclassifying our existing world view to allow us to function better."

Different phases of sleep might aid with different types of learning. Another researcher, Michael Stryker, of the University of California, San Francisco, conducted a study on cats. In an article in *Nature* from February 2002 he explained, "We wanted to ask whether, for example, studying for an exam and then sleeping is as effective a way of learning as pulling an all-nighter."

Stryker studied young cats that were adjusting to a new environment and looked at how their brains changed as the cats adjusted to visual input. The research team covered one of the cats' eyes for six hours and looked at the changes in the visual cortex. The brains of the young cats were rapidly growing at this stage and covering one eye reduces the visual cortex response to the covered eye's input and devotes more to the functional eye.

The study found that the amount of slow wave, non-dreaming sleep that the cats got affected the amount of change in the visual cortex. This was contrary to the expected effect of REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, which is thought to have a role in processing memories.

Another researcher, Carlyle Smith, of Trent University, Ontario, Canada, found a slow-wave sleep link, in another study on how memory and learning are affected by sleep in people. In his study, test subjects learned repetitive but precise tasks, like those learned by musicians or athletes. Then one group had their slow-wave sleep

interrupted. Surprisingly, those who had interrupted sleep did not do any better on the tasks than beginners.

Clearly, this gives a game plan for preparing for a test or maximizing the result of study and practice the day before. The findings about slow-wave sleep are particularly intriguing, since there has been so much emphasis on REM sleep, where dreams occur.

The fact is that we still do not know why animals sleep, but clearly the research so far points to both a processing and sorting of memories during dreaming REM sleep and this new connection to movement-related and visual learning during non-dreaming slow-wave sleep.

Stickgold, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, found that different phases of sleep were involved in different kinds of learning. Typically, a sleep cycle moves through several phases. You start out with a longer segment of slow-wave, deeper, non-dreaming sleep, and then start to alternate the non-dreaming sleep with periods of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep when dreaming takes place. As the night progresses, the non-dreaming phases get shorter and there is more REM sleep.

Stickgold found that slow-wave sleep in the first quarter of the night and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep in the last quarter helped with visual tests but movement tests benefited from the shorter cycles of non-dreaming sleep late in the sleep cycle.

This pattern seems to favor getting a whole night's sleep rather than just a few hours. However, a normal, adequate amount of sleep for you might not be the same amount for your roommate. Although getting an adequate amount of sleep is important, people do vary in their sleep needs. One study even indicated that people who sleep seven hours actually live longer than those who oversleep. Why seven hours in particular should be the favored amount is not clear. The other caution about this finding is that not all researchers agree with the conclusions, since the effect was discovered during a 1980s study of cancer prevention.

This much is clear: If you want to make the most of your practice or study time, then get some sleep afterwards. Furthermore, if you have a tough problem to figure out, sleep on it. Maybe your brain will sort it out for you while you snooze.

The best album that you've never heard

This week: 'The Baddest of George Thorogood and the Destroyers'

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

What images come to mind when I write the name George Thorogood? Perhaps one bourbon, one scotch, or one beer? Good, because that is exactly how he wants it to be.

Thorogood and his backing band, the Destroyers, are some of the finest blues-rockers out there today, blending classic influences like Buddy Guy, Muddy Waters and especially John Lee Hooker with rock and roll

his biggest hit is "Bad to the Bone," but I am not going to talk about that here. While I can appreciate that song for what it is, Thorogood has done so much better than that; I feel it would do some of his finest work a grave injustice to focus on that song.

My favorite song on this album, and indeed my favorite Thorogood song, is "Who Do You Love?" This infectious number, originally penned by E. McDaniel, is a rambunctious ode to early twenties arrogance. One listen to the line "I'm just 22 and I don't mind dying" can tell you that.

features a great John Lee Hooker-esque hook that draws you right in and makes you want to turn this song all the way up, to 11 as it was (musicians will get this joke. Let me hear those amps!). The words compliment the music quite well. "I walked forty-seven miles of barbed wire/I got a cobra snake for a necktie/A brand new house on the road-side/And it's a-made out of rattlesnake hide/Got a brand new gin that mamma put on top/And it's a-made out of human skull/Come on take a little walk with me baby/And tell me who do you love?" Thorogood sings the words with all the cocky swagger the song commands.

Next up is the Hank Williams tune "Move It On Over," updated to a blues number by Thorogood. This is a rousing pub song that sounds like Williams just knew that Thorogood would get ahold of this song. With a rousing guitar solo that Thorogood himself lays into, whenever you listen to this song, you can just imagine a whole pub full of people shouting at the time of their lungs in a drunken haze. "MOVE IT ON OVER COZ YOUR BIG DOG IS MOVIN' IN!"

The last song we will look at is "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer." By recording this song Thorogood acknowledged that he went by the credo of "liquor before beer, nothing to fear, beer before liquor makes you sicker." Of course, I am operating under the assumption that he did not drink the beer first. If he did, he was going to do some serious praying to the porcelain god. This is another great drinking song; just look at the title. And the words support the title. "Well I ain't seen my baby since I don't know when/I've been drinking bourbon, scotch and gin/Gonna get high man I'm gonna get loose/Need me a triple shot of that juice/Gonna get drunk don't you have no fear/I want one bourbon, one scotch, one beer." This is just a fun blues song (oxymoronic, isn't it?).

Young'uns these days do not understand the value of a good bar song. Nowadays, it's all Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake garbage that they sing along to. For me, give me a good George Thorogood and the Destroyers song. Pass me a Killians Irish Red and I'll shout to you at the top of my lungs to give me a bourbon and a scotch to go with it.



Photo courtesy www.georgethorogood.com

Blues-rocker George Thorogood plays some of the finest beer hall music in rock history.

in rousing beer-hall debauchery. And it's great.

This album highlights Thorogood's biggest successes. Now,

Few musicians have been able to make a sustainable career doing cover work, and only a couple have excelled at it. Thorogood is one of them. The guitar work on this song

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

John Kerry, the liberal choice for a liberal newspaper?

Dear Editor,

What a surprise...a liberal paper making a liberal endorsement. I would like to point out a few errors in your opinion editorial.

1. The decision to go to war was not against the will of the people or most of the world. Kerry voted for action, but has now waffled to get support for his candidacy.

2. Wrong...read David Kay's testimony to Congress. This is an intelligence issue. No one lied; they did not have accurate information.

3. Wrong again...tax cuts are a stimulating fiscal policy tool. It worked when Reagan did it and it is working now.

Senator John Kerry is not from the school of Clinton unless you look strictly at his reverence to polls. Kerry is far more liberal than Clinton and according to his voting record is even more liberal than Kennedy. Kerry may have been a veteran, but his behavior after the Vietnam War will put a chill on military personnel. When he was tossing medals of Honor to protest the Vietnam War he was tossing someone else's medals...not his own.

Where on earth does anyone get the impression that Kerry understands the middle class? Kerry attended Yale University, is a kept man to a woman with \$600 million dollars, owns three

estates in as many states, and travels regularly in a private jet. If this is what the middle class experience is like...let me in!

I would like to finally point out Kerry's voting record. If he stands against Bush so much, then why has he not bothered to show up for important votes? Kerry has only shown up 28% of the time on issues where Bush has taken a stand. I can't help but wonder that if by some miracle he is elected, will he bother to put in an appearance at the Oval Office?

Stephanie Bell
President, College Republicans

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Former editor-in-chief defends The Current's objectivity

Dear editor,

This letter is two-fold. First, to answer a recent letter about the perceived non-objectivity of *The Current*. The writer asked *The Current* whether or not it is truly separate from the University. Let me tell the author of that letter that indeed the newspaper is separate. From past experience, when things are going awry on this campus, you can rest assured that any journalist worth his by-line is on the phone or in someone's office trying to get the story. Hell, the fun part of journalism is cutting through the "no comment" and "nothing to say at this time" and "get the hell out of my office" that gets thrown at the student-journalist every day.

But sometimes good news is still news, and that is okay too.

Unfortunately this student would rather *The Current* beat a dead horse even dead (sic) by covering the "parking crisis" that plagues this campus. (Incidentally, has this student ever parked his car in the cavernous garage across from the Millennium Student Center?) I am glad that my old newspaper has steered clear of the parking issue and instead covered other news. Stories about parking are not new, but stories about current events are new, therefore they are news.

However, this brings me to another point. Recently, *The Current* has begun running stories about ASUM, the student lobbying group that I am a former-board member of. This is fine, and their stories are telling the campus what's really going on with their student fees (did you know that ASUM

has some pretty loaded wallets at our expense?) However, the writer, Will Melton, is a different question. What the campus doesn't know is that Melton is a former board member, and I think that by hiring him to cover ASUM, *The Current* has done a great injustice to his campus. Melton, as great of a guy as he is, has far too many biases and allegiances to ASUM to write a fair story, not to mention that many ASUMers probably aren't returning his calls. Keep Melton on staff, but Jason, please re-classify him.

And tell those who question your objectivity to get with the times. Parking is yesterday's news!

Nick Bowman
former Editor-in-Chief
The Current

Rising tuition

Budget cuts

Campus crime

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor.

Send it to:
current@jinx.usml.edu

FEATURES

EDITOR

KATE DROLET

Features Editor

phone: 516-4886

fax: 516-6811

St. Louis welcomes Mills mall

BY MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Associate

St. Louis is home to many area tourist attractions, including the new St. Louis Mills Mall.

This new shopping and entertainment spot is located only 15 minutes away from the campus of UM-St. Louis. One can find this new "hot spot" on Hwy 370 and at the St. Louis Mills Blvd. exit.

Laura Haywood, sophomore, secondary education, works as a manager at American Eagle at St. Louis Mills, and feels that the location of the mall is a good advantage to St. Louis residents.

"I think that the new mall is in a good location, because it is not too far from everywhere, and it might help to expand and bring more business to the highway," Haywood said. "I also think that the opening of the Mills brought more opportunity for people to find jobs."

The St. Louis Mills has over 200 specialty shops and 8 large anchor stores including American Eagle Outfitters, Bath and Body Works, Guess Factory Store, Nine West, Mikasa, Burlington Coat Factory, Circuit City, Marshalls and Off 5th Saks Fifth Avenue.

With numerous retailers that sell a variety of different items such as shoes, clothing, electronics, cosmetics and novelty items, shopping has become more convenient to many local residents, including UM-St. Louis students.

see MILLS, page 7

Mercantile Library displays local history

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

The Mercantile Library, located inside the Thomas Jefferson Library, offers a piece of Missouri history. Visitors can observe paintings of western culture, models of riverboats, sculptures and rare books.

The Mercantile Library was founded in 1846 and has hosted many famous speakers, such as Mark Twain and Oscar Wilde. It is currently the oldest circulating library west of the Mississippi River. The Mercantile Library has grown into a fully functional museum as well. It exists today because of generous donations and joined partnerships with other independent libraries. The Mercantile Library is a conglomeration of the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library, The John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library, The Woodcock collection and the Trans World Air archives.

The Herman T. Pott Inland Waterways Library is a collection of books, manuscripts, photographs and other collections that cover all aspects of river navigation in America, from its origins to today. The collection holds more than 15,000 volumes of books that cover the history of America's inland rivers and waterways that date back to the 1820s. The

library also has manuscripts and photographic collections for anyone interested in seeing how waterway transportation has evolved along the Mississippi River.

The Library also carries the Waterway Weekly Journal, which covers reports by government agencies and corporations about issues that pertain to the inland community.

"The Waterway Weekly Journal has been in circulation since the 1890s and has been called by river men as 'the bible of the river men'," said Bette Gorden, Curator for the Herman T. Potts Inland Waterways Library.

Gorden is currently working on categorizing a collection of postcards donated by James B. Swift. This collection is significant because the Waterways Weekly Journal published the postcards.

"Some of the postcards are from his wife and his travels across America," said Gorden. "Postcards, especially the older ones, add dimensions to life that aren't there."

Gorden, with work-study and undergraduate student help, hopes to have the Swift collection labeled for the public soon. Gorden says that they are in the process of alphabetizing the collection, and as of right now are currently working on the Ks.

The John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library is another collection of books and other research material that one can find inside the Mercantile

Library. The Barriger Library has over 45,000 volumes covering railroads and an archival collection that focuses mainly on railroad transportation.

Gregory P. Ames, curator for the John W. Barriger III Railroad Library, said that the library was founded as a source of culture and intellectual engagement for the citizens of St. Louis.

"The Barriger library is broader in scope," Ames said. "The most powerful aspect is that the transportation material doesn't exist just in a vacuum because it is shown through western expansion, especially strong in the nineteenth century. You see exploration, Native American culture and St. Louis culture."

The Woodcock Foundation is a collection of western art that is also working within the Mercantile Library. This foundation features western sculptures and paintings, which can be viewed during the library's operating hours. The Library has four paintings by the renowned western artist Charles Days, and several bronze statues by the famous sculptor Charles Russell. These are just a few of the pieces that one can view in the Woodcock collection.

see LIBRARY, page 7

The Mercantile Library is located on the first floor of the Thomas Jefferson Library.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

University Meadows offer student apartments

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis offers several options for students who want to live within a school-related community. The first of which is, of course, the dormitories. However, for those who are seeking more space and independence, area apartment complexes are a good option.

There are three complexes in the Bel-Nor vicinity that are at least partially owned by the University: the University Meadows, Mansion Hills condominiums and Hollywood Park Apartments. A fourth is on the way and is located at 7900 Florissant Road.

"The Meadows," as it is popularly referred to, is located on South Campus. This is by far the most expensive complex available, but it is also described by the UM-St. Louis student housing web page as "UMSL's finest student apartments." These are also the only apartments that allow residents under the age of 21. An efficiency is 495 square feet and is \$608 a month for a twelve-month lease. A two-bedroom apartment is 610 square feet and is \$437 a month per person for a twelve-month lease. Finally, a four-bedroom unit is \$322 per month per person for a twelve-month lease. Furnished apartments are available as well for a higher monthly rent.

Heather Wuller, freshman, nursing, lives in the Meadows and has only

good things to say about them. She said she enjoys the close proximity to school and freedom from her parents. She cuts living costs by living with three other roommates.

Mansion Hills Condominiums are located behind North campus at 4343 Normandy Trace Drive. Mansion Hill only accepts students over the age of 21. A one-bedroom unit here is 765 square feet and \$440 per month. A two-bedroom apartment is 830 square feet and \$575 per month. The brochure for Mansion Hills claims that they offer "off-campus housing with on-campus convenience." And with the apartments on the UM-St. Louis shuttle route, cars are not a necessity when traveling to and from class.

The Hollywood Park Apartments are next door to Mansion Hills. Being in the same area seems to be the only thing these two complexes have in common. Many people might consider Hollywood Park slightly rundown but they are cheaper. This complex is only for students 21 and up as well. A one-bedroom here is only \$395 a month and a two-bedroom unit is \$495 per month. David Hart, site manager of Mansion Hills and Hollywood Park, says that he hears more complaints from the residents of Hollywood Park. "The complex is older," Hart explained.

There are currently four units open at the 7900 Florissant location, with more on the way. Hart enthusiastically discussed the renovations the apartments are going through. "They are

getting new carpet, new appliances... basically everything that isn't drywall is coming out." These updated apartments will be the cheapest of all the UM-St. Louis apartments: one bedroom will be \$375 a month and two bedrooms will be \$425 a month.

Some of the complexes bill the rent directly to the student's university account and require a meal plan.

Despite all the benefits of living on or near campus, many students still prefer to live elsewhere. Angie Woike, sophomore, anthropology, says that her house is not too far from campus and that it costs too much money to move out on her own.

For more information about Mansion Hills Condos, Hollywood Park or 7900 Florissant call 314-524-3446. For more information about the University Meadows, call 314-516-7500.



Photos by Amanda Schneidmeyer/The Current

ABOVE: Tatum Megli, junior in special education, and Amanda Jennings, sophomore in anthropology, finish up dinner at their apartment in University Meadows Thursday night.

LEFT: Amanda Jennings, sophomore in anthropology and William Tracy, senior in English, enjoy a good laugh while watching television in University Meadows.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Robert Montz, junior, finance, and Christina Stephen, freshman, criminal justice, talk as they ride the shuttle bus around campus.

Shuttles: Warm on delivery

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

For many students, the shuttle service is a warm environment, especially during this snowy time of the year. The shuttle service on campus is provided for students, faculty and staff who need to travel around both North and South Campus. Most people agree that the drivers are friendly, but that the service has its limitations.

Katie Kohlbum, freshman, philosophy, frequently uses this service. Kohlbum said that the shuttle service is convenient during the winter season. "The drivers are friendly and dependable, and they get you from point A to point B without having to walk through snow," she said.

Although the shuttle service provides comfort from the snow, Kohlbum says that the buses sometimes come too late. "They sometimes don't go by the schedule which makes me late for class."

Shelton Thomas, shuttle bus driver for Huntleigh Transportation, has been driving shuttle buses for UM-St. Louis off and on for six years. Thomas says that the current shuttle bus route needs to be updated and rerouted to better serve UM-St. Louis students.

"When I was driving here in 1994, the bookstore and food court were all located in the J.C. Penney Building, which is why the North-South Circle is the main pick-up and drop-off spot for passengers. Now, all that has changed with the new Millennium Center, which now holds the bookstore and food court. So it seems to me that it would be in the best interest of students if the route focused more closely to the Millennium Center."

"I like the shuttle service because it's faster than walking. But they need more shuttles at night," said Ricardo Lima, junior, management information systems.

see SHUTTLE, page 7

A shadow or spring? Groundhog predicts the weather

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Associate

On Feb. 2, if legendary groundhog Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his burrow and spots his own shadow, Americans can expect six more weeks of winter. If the animal stays above ground but does not see its shadow, then spring is just around the corner.

Some people might have heard different versions of this legend, but does anyone really know where or how the tradition began?

According to the Encarta Encyclopedia, this event, which takes place each year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, really began in Europe.

In Europe, the tradition of Groundhog Day started as a holiday known as Candlemas and the animal was a hedgehog. Their beliefs were similar to those today. If the hedgehog saw his shadow, then people could prepare for another six weeks of bad weather.

Many German and European settlers who traveled to the United States stopped to live in Pennsylvania. While inhabiting the area, they shared and practiced their own traditional customs. The groundhog became a symbolic creature because it related to their hedge-

hog. But can an animal really predict future weather, or is this theory just a myth?

Nikki Harrison, junior, communications, feels that there is no evidence that this creature can make a weather prediction.

"I think the impact of Groundhog's Day is overrated. Some people take it too seriously," Harrison said. "I've never under-

stood how a small animal seeing his shadow whether spring was coming or not. Too many times I've seen where it wasn't true and just the opposite of what was predicted would happen."

Perhaps the only logical scenario in the history behind Groundhog Day is related to whether or not the animal is done hibernating.

Many residents of Missouri have realized that any type of weather is possible, and that a groundhog is not always the best tool to make an accurate call.

"I think that spring will be here soon because the weather is so unpredictable," said Maria Curtis, junior, English. "It was in the 60s the week of Christmas."

With the heavy amounts of snow and the unexpected weather that has bombarded St. Louis over the past couple of weeks, students may be glad to spot a groundhog and to see a new season begin during the first week of February.

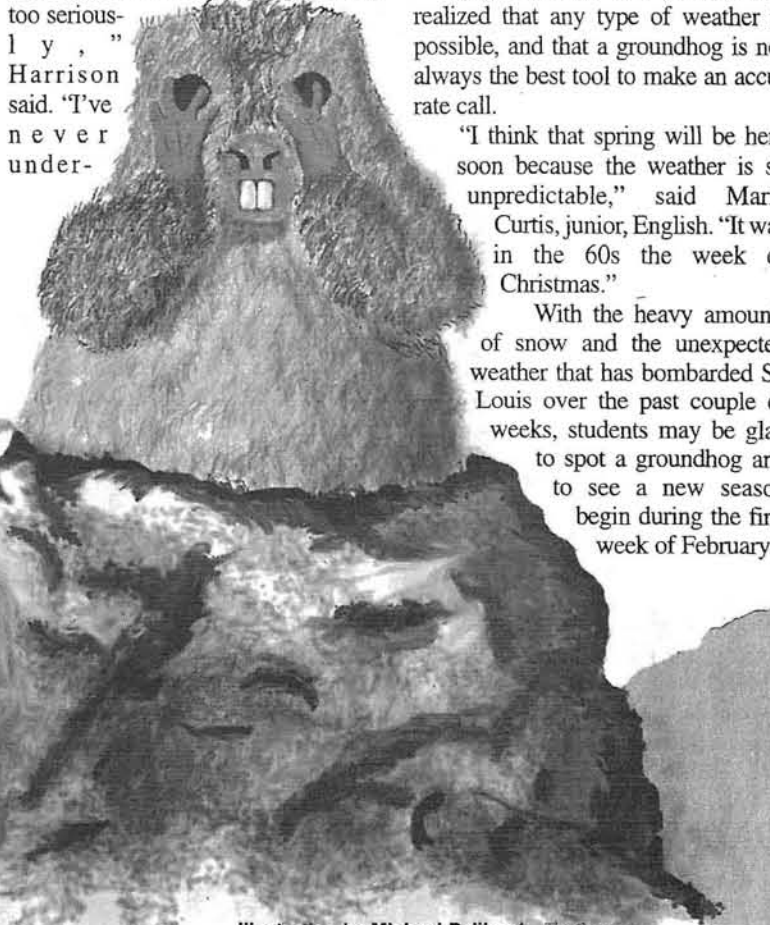


Illustration by Michael Pelikan/The Current

Sexperts create a brand new job opportunity

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Most careers have an appropriate path of education. If a student aspires to be an engineer, he studies engineering; if a student aspires to be a chemist, he studies chemistry. The system of field-based secondary education produces the desired result. What does someone study if he wants to be a sexologist?

Sexology, the study of human sexual behavior, encompasses many careers, including sex therapists and counselors, sex educators, and the ever-popular sex columnists. These professionals give advice and share their knowledge about sexual topics, but many of them are educated in psychology or health careers and find their "fetish."

Milinda Lacy, junior, psychology, wants to be a sex and marriage counselor.

"I just think sex is really powerful," said Lacy. "It's a natural thing and I don't understand why there aren't more people interested in sex professionally. [Sex] controls so much of our lives."

"I decided I wanted to do sex counseling about two years ago," she said. "I've always wanted to help people in relationships. We all need and want love." Lacy is currently studying clinical psychology at UM-St. Louis, and she plans to continue her education to receive a Master's and Doctorate in clinical psychology. Lacy said that she had not really started looking at specific graduate programs, but she said she knew that there are not many schools that have a special focus on sex.

Teresa Balestreri, director of career services at UM-St. Louis, said that experience is the key to anything. Balestreri, who received her Bachelor's in psychology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1986, said students interested in sex education or counseling should look for an applicable practicum or internship.

"Traditionally, you see sex educators that come from a health or wellness background," said Balestreri. "Secondary education teachers typically receive training and certification from outside sources."

Balestreri suggests that students who want to be sex therapists or counselors follow in the path of Milinda Lacy. "Students should specialize in clinical psychology and then look for

further certification," said Balestreri. "But psychology isn't the only field that requires topical specialization at a higher level. Lots of careers require more specific specialization."

Balestreri recognized that there are few universities that offer programs on human sexuality topics. "To get into a clinical psychology program at the graduate level is extremely competitive," she said. "With so few programs out there, the competition would be incredibly intense."

While no universities in the United

“**I definitely feel like education is the key. Guidelines from education provide structure, and that's important when you're dealing with different people and different problems.**

— Milinda Lacy, junior, psychology

States currently offer an undergraduate program focusing on sexology, Indiana State does provide a human sexuality minor, which is a far cry from the single sexual-based psychology class offered at UM-St. Louis: Female Sexuality. However, several institutions do offer further training in sexuality. For example, the Pan-Educational Institute on Human Sexuality in Independence, Mo. trains educators and health professionals on how to deal with teen pregnancy crises and sexuality transmitted disease counseling.

Similarly, the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, according to their website, was founded in 1992 to inform, educate and provide solutions to medical professionals, educators, government officials, parents and the media about problems associated with sexually transmitted diseases and non-marital pregnancies.

The Institute for Advanced Study for Human Sexuality in San Francisco, Calif., offers five graduate degree programs, including a

Doctorate in human sexuality. The Institute routinely invites noted sexperts to lecture, such as Sue Johanson, host of "Sunday Night Sex Show" on the Canadian Television for Women Network, and author of "Talk Sex," "Sex is Perfectly Natural, But Not Naturally Perfect" and "Sex, Sex, and More Sex."

Johanson, who has been teaching sex in her unique and explicit way for over 30 years, has won over the favor of American viewers recently after the show was syndicated to Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Network. But unlike Johanson, the majority of sex advice authors have very little formal training. In the sex business, professionals only learn from doing.

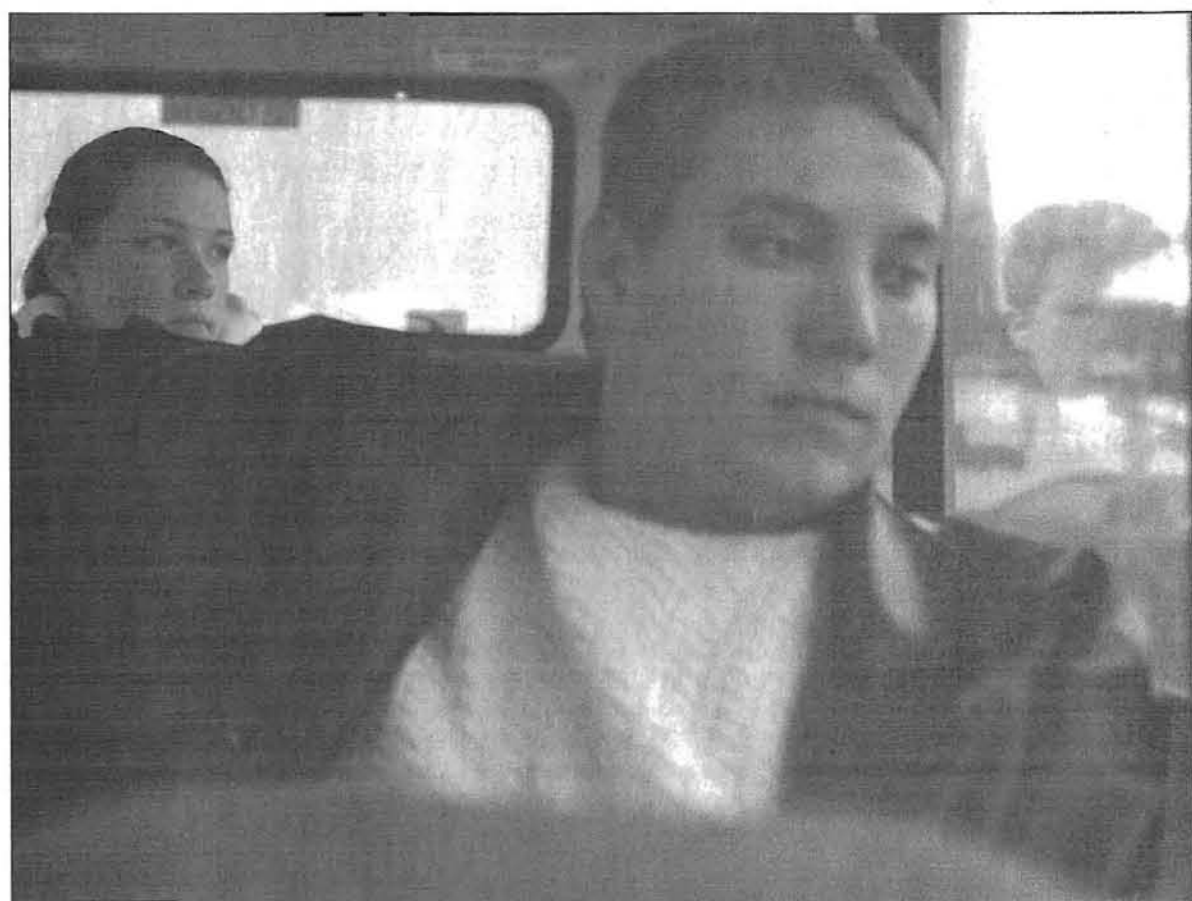
Tristan Taormino, columnist for *The Village Voice*, and author of "The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex (I and II)," abandoned her career as an adult film star to stage her own self-titled anal empire on puckerup.com, where she gives advice on all things sexual. While Taormino says she offers a hands-on guide to awesome, mind-blowing sex, Balestreri of UM-St. Louis career services remains skeptical about self-proclaimed sexperts.

"To be writing a book, you should have attended some academic programs," said Balestreri. "The advice these authors give could be completely opposing to scientific medicine, and readers should be skeptical."

Lacy, who also hopes to write a few books, said, "I think that to some degree (Tristan) doesn't have any education, but her profession is sex. She, more so than anyone, is qualified to talk about her experiences. Maybe anal sex is her specialty, and she may have some meaningful advice to offer for the women she writes for, as long as they don't take it as medical advice."

"I definitely feel like education is the key," Lacy said. "Otherwise people are just giving advice about what works for them. Guidelines from education provide structure and that's important when you're dealing with different people and different problems every day."

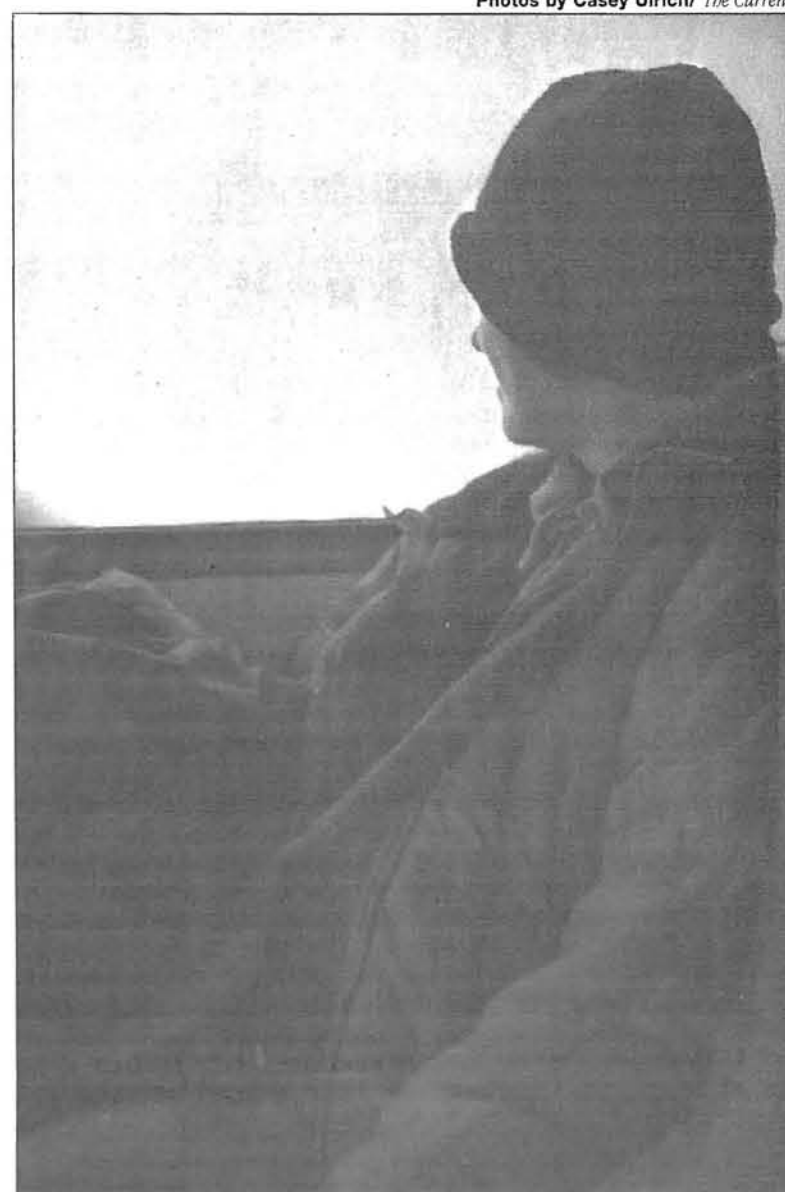
As the modernization and acceptance of human sexuality has progressed, careers have opened up for students like Lacy. Sexperts are no longer hippie products of the sexual revolution, braless and barefoot. The training ground has gone from the shag-carpet padded seats of a utility van to the classroom.



Photos by Casey Ulrich/The Current

ABOVE: Students watch out the window as they ride the UMSL shuttle bus around campus.

RIGHT: Foreign exchange student and American Studies major Vera Gugochkina watches out the window as she rides the campus shuttle bus.



SHUTTLE, from page 6

Fran Kissane, sophomore, psychology, agrees with Lima that more shuttles are needed at night. "I like that the service exists if you need to get across campus. But I have a car, which is more reliable when getting to my classes on time," Kissane said.

Even though the lack of buses at night is a weakness in the shuttle service, it still has many benefits. Anyone who wants to get acquainted with the campus can ride along and find out where all the facilities are located, such as the Mark Twain Building, the new Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center and residential housing. Schedules for pick-up times are available in the MSC Building or on the UM-St. Louis homepage.

Anyone with questions or concerns about the campus transportation can contact Leonidas Gutierrez, Supervisor of Parking and Transportation, at 516-5298.

LIBRARY, from page 6

Julie Dunn-Morton, Woodcock Curator of American Art, says that the Woodcock collection's most valuable piece is the statue of Harriet Hosmer's "Beatrice Cenci."

"The statue was sculpted by the first American woman to have opened up her own studio overseas, in Rome," said Dunn-Morton. "The sculpture is about Beatrice, who is shown the night before her death, sleeping while holding a cross open in her hand. Sculptures during this period were supposed to teach you something."

Dunn-Morton also says that the archives hold every journal ever published by the *Globe Democrat*. "We even have the original photograph of the famous picture of Truman holding the paper that says 'Dewey Beats Truman'." The photo was taken by a photographer from the *Globe Democrat*," she said.

The Mercantile Library is also a great place for anyone who is interested in being an historian or curator of another museum. Janet Wilzbach, a

graduate student, is in the museum program at UM-St. Louis.

Wilzbach said that she is currently documenting a collection by American photographer Edward Curtis.

"I'm studying the inner works of a museum right now which applies to any type of museum: Art, Science, History and Zoo. Right now I'm going through this collection of 722 images, taking inventory and seeing what the collection consists of."

Wilzbach says that the Mercantile has a large and rare collection that includes the Ariel material provided by the TWA Archives. "I came across some Lindbergh stuff that hasn't seen the light of day," she said.

Though there are several different entities, such as libraries and personal collections, going on in the Mercantile Library, all the books, paintings, sculptures and other archive material do one thing: bring St. Louis culture to the UM-St. Louis campus. Six years ago, the Mercantile Library joined the University of Missouri system.

"In addition to books, original manuscripts and art, we now serve as a focus for historical and cultural development by having a lunch and lecture program," Ames said.

Carlos A. Schwantes will host the next lunch and lecture presented by the St. Louis Mercantile Library, a St. Louis Mercantile Library endowed professor in Western and Transportation Historical Studies. The lecture will continue its third part in the series, "In the Footsteps of Lewis & Clark: Reflecting on the Leadership Secrets of Lewis & Clark." The lunch and lecture series will be held in the Millennium Student Center on Feb. 4.

The Mercantile Library is open during the same hours as the Thomas Jefferson Library. For more information about clippings, books and other archival material, the curators on duty are available. Students interested in their undergraduate cooperative program can contact Daniel L. Rust, Assistant Director for Undergraduate Program Development, or the director of the program itself, Ray A. Mundy.

MILLS, from page 6

Not only does this mall have many places to shop, but it also offers a wide variety of entertainment for people of all ages. Most of the entertainment activities are located in the mall's wing known as Sportstreet.

One of the attractions is the "Ice Zone." Here people can ice skate or watch others from their stadium seating. The "Ice Zone" is also the home of the St. Louis Blues hockey team's practice facility.

Hockey lovers and Blues fans can come view their favorite players practice for free.

Another popular attraction is the NASCAR SpeedPark and the ESPN X Games Skatepark. The skatepark has over 25 walls, ramps, boards and half pipes for skateboarding and bicycle athletes to practice and show off their moves.

The Putting Edge is an 18-hole miniature golf course with many challenging obstacles surrounded by a room of black lights and glow-in-the-



Jesse Gater/The Current

The St. Louis Mills' Ice Zone is the official site of the St. Louis Blues. The Zone, located on the northeast side, provides skaters a full-size rink for their skating pleasure.

dark structures.

For those who enjoy watching movies, the Mills has an 18-screen Regal Stadium Theater.

Activities are also available for children to explore and participate in. "A Place to Grow" allows children to learn while having fun with foam figures, cartoon characters, games and an interactive story book. The "PBS Kids Backyard" located near the center of the Mall consists of climbing structures, bridges, slides and jungle gyms.

"I think that the new mall is unique in its own way. It has many diverse stores that most people might not have heard about, but overall I think that the mall is mainly directed towards children," said Duc Le, junior, business.

Shopping and entertainment are only a few things that bring life to the St. Louis Mills Mall. The Mills fascinates its visitors with bright painted walls, streamers, twirling exhibits and sculptures, like the larger-than-life butterfly that hovers above shoppers. Some have described the multi-colored floor tiles and the different street names of each wing as places of imagination, fun and fairytales.

The mall, located in Hazelwood, is yet another addition to St. Louis and is another place that the public can visit. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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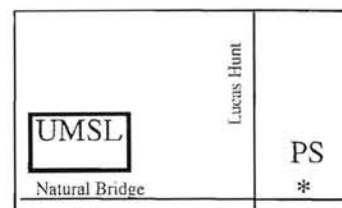


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SPORTS

Slow first half hurts Rivermen

Defeat against Quincy leaves the Rivermen's record at 2-8

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team will now have to try and play catch-up for the rest of the season as they dropped to 2-8 in the GLVC with a 73-59 loss to the Hawks of Quincy on Saturday.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the Rivermen basketball team played host to conference rival Quincy University. UM-St. Louis fell behind early in the contest, as the Hawks were able to score 9 of the first 11 points in the first five minutes of the game. As the game continued, the lead for the Hawks also continued to grow as they grabbed a 21-9 lead by the mid-way point of the first half. UM-St. Louis had trouble finding the net to close out the rest of the first half and entered the locker room facing a 43-20 deficit. During the first half, the

Hawks shot a blistering 60% from the field while UM-St. Louis managed to shoot only 30%.

Scott Wittenborn, sophomore, guard, who saw time on the floor in the first half commented on the slow start to the game.

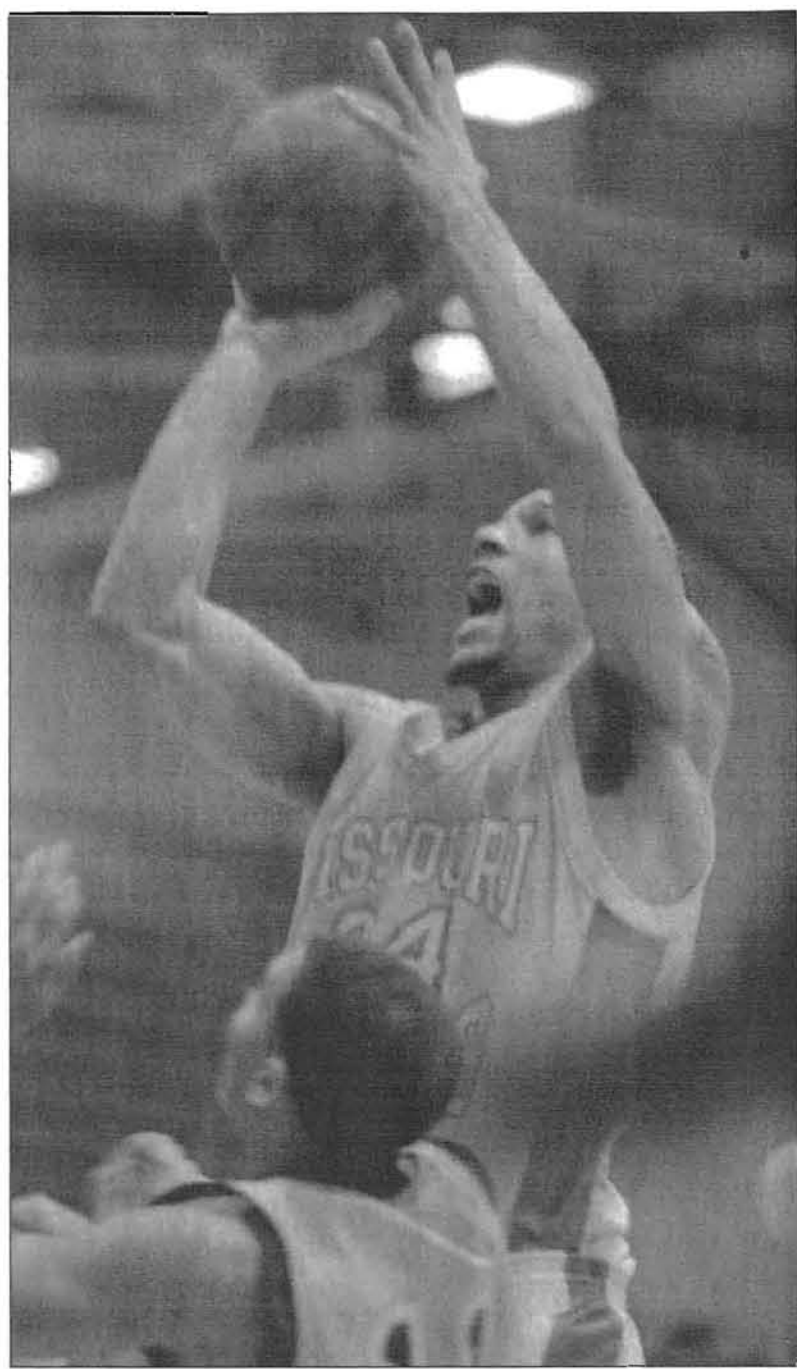
"We came out slow, and we all realized that if we were going to cut into the lead, we needed to make some changes going into halftime."

With that, it seemed almost as if it might turn out to be a tale of two halves, as the Rivermen came out blazing to begin the start of the second half. UM-St. Louis raced out of the gates with a 13-2 run which seemed to get the momentum to begin to swing their way. The Hawks seemed vulnerable but were not easily fazed by the quick start of the Rivermen. Quincy countered with a run of their own, which pushed their lead back out to a 16-point margin at 52-36. With about

eight minutes remaining in the contest, Josh Hardin, junior, forward, rallied the Rivermen back to within 10 points of the Hawks by scoring all five points in a 5-0 run, which set the score at 52-42. That would be the closest the Rivermen would come for the remainder of the game, as the Rivermen seemed to run out of gas, getting outscored 23-17 by the Hawks to lose 73-59.

The Hawks shot 56% for the game, while the Rivermen shot 32%, which fell well short of the team's season average of 41%. The Rivermen were led in scoring by Jonathan Griffin, sophomore, forward, who had 19 points for the game and also by Ronnie Banks, senior, guard, who added 15.

UM-St. Louis is now 6-11 on the season and 2-8 in the GLVC. Their next game has the Rivermen traveling to play on Feb. 5 against Indianapolis.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

ABOVE: Johnathan Griffin goes up for a shot during a game Jan. 24 against Quincy University. The Rivermen were defeated by the Hawks 73-59.



LEFT: Griffin advances the ball down the court during the second half of the Rivermen's game. The Rivermen's next game is scheduled at 7:45 p.m. Feb. 5 against Indianapolis.

GRETCHEN MOORE

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

Questions or Comments?

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

WEB

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

UPCOMING

Men's Basketball

Feb. 5

• vs. Indianapolis at Mark Twain Athletic Building 7:45 p.m.

Feb. 7

• vs. Northern Kentucky at Mark Twain Athletic Building 3:15 p.m.

Women's Basketball

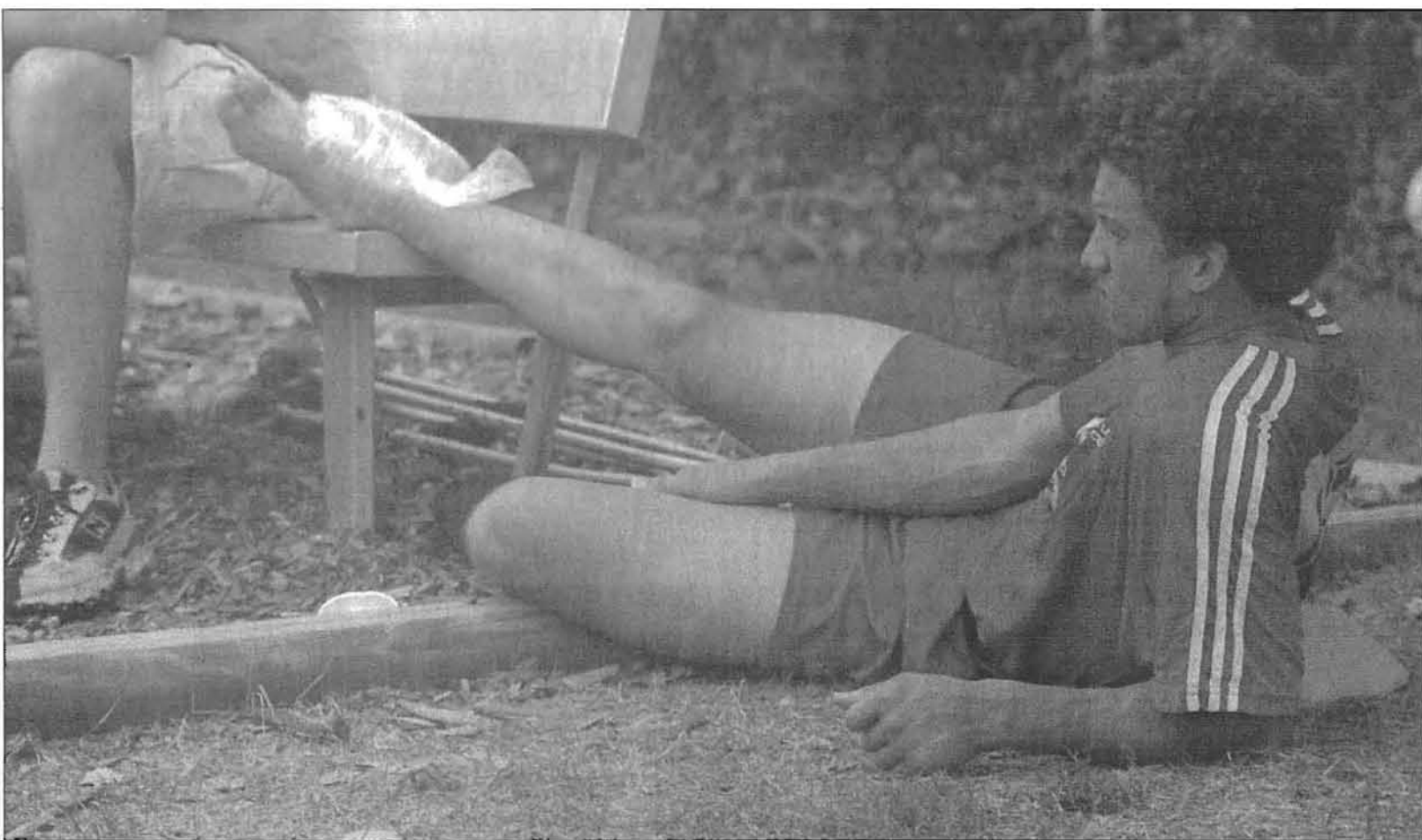
Feb. 5

• vs. Indianapolis at Mark Twain Athletic Building 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 7

• vs. Northern Kentucky at Mark Twain Athletic Building 1:00 p.m.

"I've been around sports my whole life, but you can't play sports forever. I also liked medicine, so with this field I can have the best of both worlds."
-Jamie Delgado, assistant athletic trainer



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen soccer player Alex Kerford sits on the sidelines after injuring himself in a game last fall. UM-St. Louis athletic trainers help athletes like Kerford by treating injuries during practices and games.

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

In good hands

Athletic trainers for the UM-St. Louis Rivermen and Riverwomen help to keep all athletes healthy for their seasons

Meet two people who keep our athletes in good shape. Chad Oberbroeckling and Jamie Delgado are UM-St. Louis's head and assistant trainer. Their medical training comes from years of school. Oberbroeckling is from Iowa, where he got his undergraduate degree in psychology and sports medicine. He went on to get his Master's in recreation administration from Aurora University in Illinois. Before coming to UM-St. Louis, he worked in Milwaukee as an athletic trainer in a physical therapy clinic. Delgado got her undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia in nutrition and fitness/sports medicine. She is currently working on her graduate degree here at UM-St. Louis in physical education. Her goal is to work as a P.E. teacher and trainer when she graduates.

Their sports training goes far back, and they both played in high school. Oberbroeckling participated in basket-

ball, baseball, cross-country and track, and Delgado played soccer.

Sports medicine is a different type of field. It requires one to understand medicine and anatomy, but also the mechanics in sports. It is almost like combining the brains with the brawn.

When asked why she chose this particular field of study, Jamie said, "I've been around sports my whole life, but you can't play sports forever. I also liked medicine, so with this field I can have the best of both worlds." Working here at UM-St. Louis is

enjoyable for both and for very similar reasons. Before coming here, Jamie worked at Missouri-Columbia amongst Division I athletes. There is a particular difference, she says. "The athletes at that level are very good, but they treat it much more like a job. It's almost like they don't want to practice every day. Here, though, the athletes are always ready to play and enjoy it still."

Oberbroeckling commented on working with the UM-St. Louis athletes as well.

"My favorite part of the job is working with the athletes. They are motivated to do their best, so that makes my job easier. Another thing is they are always entertaining." The good part of the job may be working with the athletes, but that at times is the tougher part of the job, especially when injuries take place. Fortunately for Jamie, she has never had to deal with anything too severe, just simple breaks, noses, ankles, etc. Oberbroeckling though, has seen some ugly injuries. "The worst I've seen is a broken leg. On two occasions in football, a player had both lower leg bones broken to where they were at 90-degree angles. It makes it tough to treat, especially when the guy is screaming." Maybe that is one good thing about not having football on campus. Fortunately for the athletes, here on campus we have two very qualified sports medicine practitioners to take care of them. For those of you who are interested in sports medicine, Oberbroeckling teaches a class in the Mark Twain building.

Local pizza joints look to students for final judgment

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

Thursday, Jan. 14 was a night to remember as eight students tested their skills as judges for four well-known area pizza joints. The eight UM-St. Louis students each got to taste-test a handful of pizza that not only filled expectations but their stomachs as well.

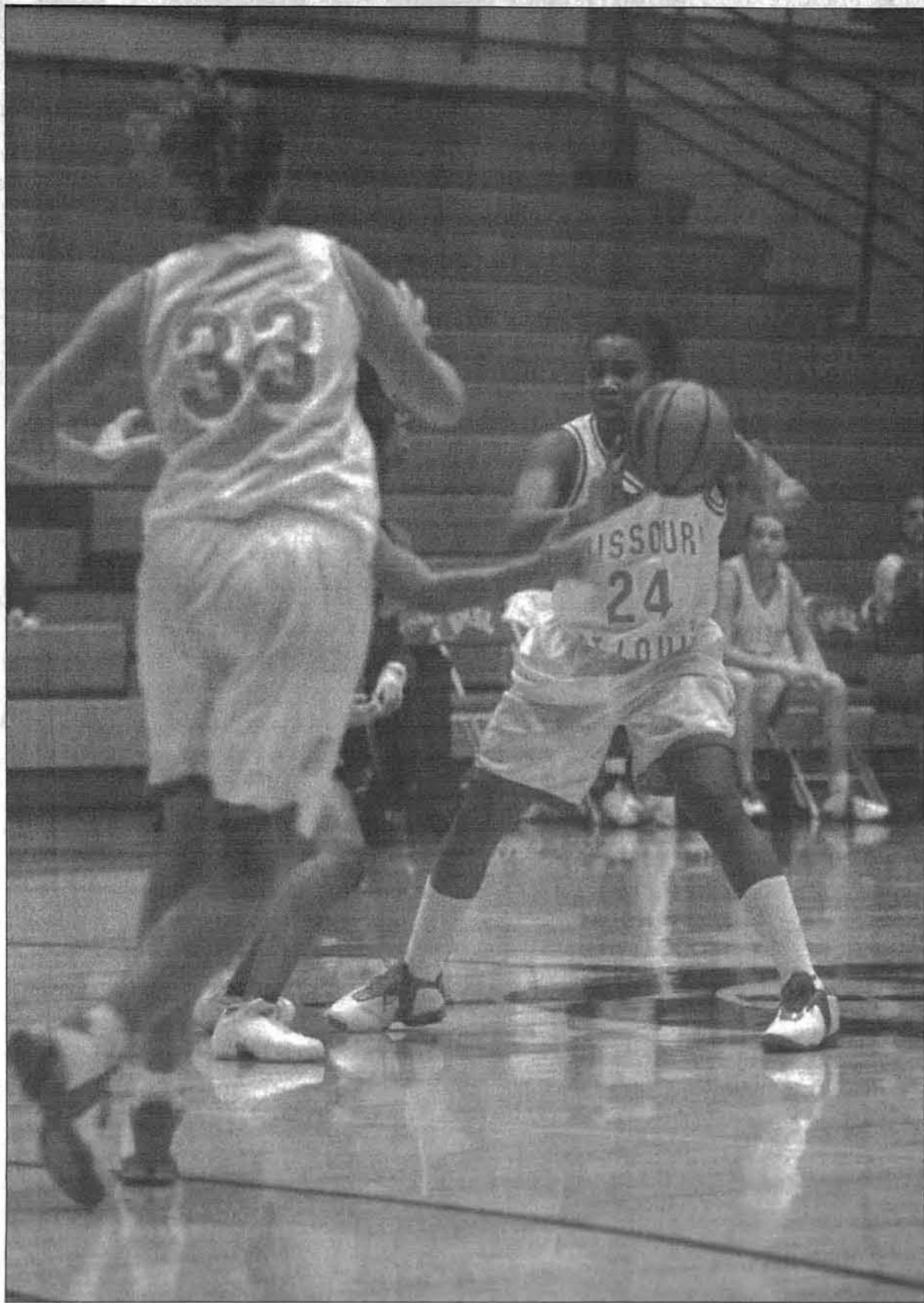
All eight of the students dug in and voted only once on what they thought was the best cheese, pepperoni and specialty pizza from around the area.

The pizza companies that participated included St. Louis Pizza & Wings, Pizza Hut, Chartwells and Domino's. Each company donated six pizzas for the contest, two pizzas for each category. At the end of the contest, the students decided that Domino's made the best specialty pizza, St. Louis Pizza and Wings made the best pepperoni pizza and Pizza Hut made the best cheese pizza. Chartwells came a close second in several categories.

Doug Boyer, UM-St. Louis athletic business manager, helped the athletic department organize and run the contest.

"It is a good way to reach out to the area businesses and to extend relationships beyond just athletics, and it helps not only to get students out to games but to also get them involved with UM-St. Louis athletics," Boyer said.

The UM-St. Louis athletic department organized the pizza-judging contest in hopes of bringing out more students and local fans to attend UM-St. Louis sporting events. The department is looking to continue the contest on an annual basis and eventually bring in several more pizza companies along with more students to participate in the event.



Jesse Gater/ The Current

The Riverwomen's Crystal Lambert looks to teammate Debi Dibella (#33) for a pass during a game Jan. 15.

Riverwomen lose in blowout vs. Hawks

Coach Buchanan and Riverwomen struggle to dig out of 1-10 standing in GLVC

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

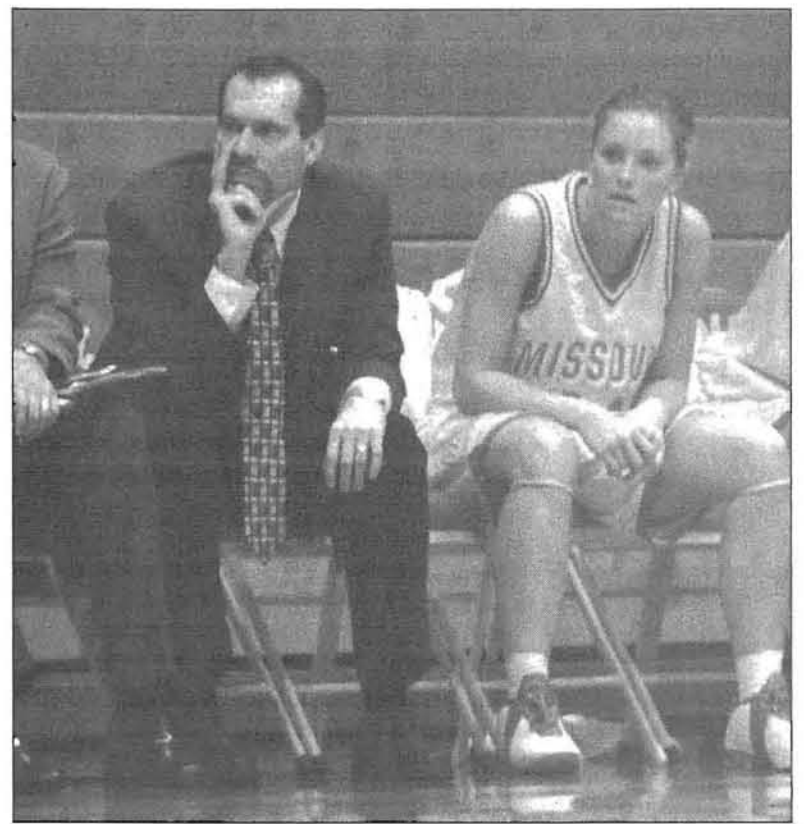
The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen lost another game by blowout, 84-46, Saturday, Jan. 24 against the Quincy Hawks. The Hawks were ranked tenth in the nation, and they showed exactly why. They used their shooting and overall size to go up 13-0 to begin the game. Debi Dibella finally scored for the Riverwomen on an assist by Simone Verhulst, but it did not do much to dent the lead. The Hawks extended their lead throughout the half to 45-18 by the break. In the second half, Quincy went about business as usual and kept control of the game. They went on a 12-0 run at one point, and their defense shut down the Riverwomen altogether. The final score was 83-46. Coach Buchanan shed some light on the loss.

"I scouted Quincy at USI the Thursday before the game. USI upset them that night, and I knew right away they were going to come here ready to play. They basically came in and took their frustrations out on us. To give some perspective on the win, they shot 38% at USI and then came in here and shot 65% the first half."

The Riverwomen have now had three recent blowout losses to fourth-ranked Drury, eighteenth-ranked Bellarmine and Quincy, ranked 10. The question has to be asked: Why are these losses so lopsided? Coach Buchanan responded to this.

"After the break we were engraining our defensive principles and really working on defense. Lately we have slipped from those concepts, and we have to get back on that to keep the score down. After all, we're not exactly a high-octane offensive."

One of the problems with focusing on defense is that it usually requires a



Jesse Gater/ The Current

Riverwomen basketball coach Lee Buchanan and player Ashley Richmond watch the action from the sidelines on Jan. 15. After a defeat to Quincy on Jan. 24, the Riverwomen have a 1-10 record.

decent rotation of players. In order to press, to trap and to go after the hustle plays, you have to have fresh legs the entire game. This is the opposite of what the Riverwomen have at their disposal. Take for example the Quincy game. Finally, there were going to be eight girls (which is four less than an average team) to suit out for the game, but then Ashley Richmond fell ill with the flu, and they had to play the game with only seven players.

To put on a convincing defensive effort with seven players is a feat by any stretch of the imagination. They attempted it, though, and before the last

five minutes of the game, two players fouled out, which left five players to finish the game. When your opponent can run the entire game because their starters are rested by an extensive bench, it makes it difficult for your starters who can never come out.

Nevertheless, even with the rotation disadvantage, by returning to defense the Riverwomen will be giving themselves better odds of winning and keeping the score down. If the Riverwomen can couple that defense with a few more players in the rotation, they are almost assured more victories in the future.

No ordinary halftimes this week

Upcoming events include mascot night and banner-raising for Rivermen baseball squad, 2003 GLVC champs

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

This week's Rivermen basketball games against University of Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky will have some exciting events during halftime.

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7:45 p.m., the Rivermen will host the 16-3 Greyhounds of the University of Indianapolis. At halftime there will be a banner-raising ceremony to commemorate the 2003 GLVC championship Rivermen baseball team season.

The Rivermen recorded a school record 39 wins on the season, finishing at 39-15, and took first place in the GLVC regular season with a 23-7 conference record. In addition, UM-St. Louis hosted and won the GLVC Championship in any sport.

Later this week, on Saturday, Feb. 7, will be Mascot night. Local mascots from around St. Louis will be walking around the Mark Twain Building. Come watch local mascots battle it out in a halftime bas-

ketball game.

The one and only Fredbird will be in attendance of the game against the 13-8 Norse of Northern Kentucky.

Mascots will be signing autographs and taking pictures throughout the night and competing against one another in the halftime basketball game. It will also be "Take a Kid to the Game Night" where children under 14 get free admission with an adult.

This weekend's final home games before Homecoming should prove to be exciting with the halftime entertainment of the baseball banner-raising ceremony and Mascot night.

RIGHT:

The UM-St. Louis mascot, the Riverpup, will be one of the team mascots present on the Athletic Department's "Mascot Night" on Saturday, Feb. 7. The mascots will compete in a half-time basketball game and be available for photographs and autographs while the Rivermen play against Northern Kentucky.



Kevin Ottley/ The Current

Lock-in scores big for SAAC

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor

The first UM-St. Louis student/athlete lock-in proved to be a success for the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) Saturday, Jan. 24. The Mark Twain building was host to athletes from the men's and women's basketball, soccer and tennis teams as well as the softball and baseball teams. Students from around campus showed up to support their school sports teams and spend the night with the athletes.

Upon entering the building at midnight, visitors were handed a stack of fake money to play with throughout the night. On the main level of the gym, there was a 9-hole miniature golf course, a basketball shootout, football toss, soccer kickoff and baseball throw. Meanwhile, upstairs on the balcony, gambling was the focus as Texas Hold-em and blackjack tables were attracting participants and their money. A 3-on-3 coed basketball contest took place around 2:30 where the champions won \$300.

Students and athletes could play games the first hour free and try their luck on the games before spending their cash. Many of the athletic coach-

es were present for the event.

Beth Goetz and Deron Spink helped to organize the event and supervised throughout the night.

Sports information director Todd Addington was controlling the Texas Hold-em table as women's assistant basketball coach Melanie Marcy was dealing the cards at the blackjack table.

“It was our first large-scale student/athlete event...we have to start small and work our way up.”

- SAAC advisor Beth Goetz

Both head Coach Pilz and Assistant Coach Deryn Carter were present for the event to support SAAC's efforts to introduce athletes to their fans.

Once everyone played for a fee, participants started winning more money, which they could use to buy a raffle ticket. Items were awarded

throughout the night to those who had the winning ticket. Prizes included athletic gear, clothing, St. Louis Cardinals tickets, restaurant gift certificates and hotel room reservations.

As the night progressed, students and athletes won more and more money and in a few cases lost. Some participants could not stay up the whole five hours, so they found spots around the building to sleep such as the hardwood of the gym floor or the entranceway.

"It was our first large-scale student/athlete event. There were more athletes than students, but we have to start small and work our way up. People brought friends and significant others and if they had fun then they will come back for more," women's soccer coach and SAAC advisor Beth Goetz said.

From midnight until five in the morning, the lock-in was an all-around success for SAAC. They would have liked to see more students attend but were pleasantly surprised with attendance.

Coach Goetz commented on SAAC's commitment. "SAAC president Josh Thomas and vice-president Emily Worley did an excellent job coordinating the event. Everyone worked really hard and the night went very well."

Sports Writers:
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A&E

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A&E
Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Win a date with Tad Hamilton!- In a promotional ploy, sexy and famous young star Tad Hamilton participates in a dating show. It is woman against woman until the smoke clears and only one beauty remains, a woman he falls desperately in love with. Stars Josh Duhamel and Kate Bosworth. Rated PG-13.

Torque- Motorcycle gangs feud in this tale of racing bikes, running from the law and seeking revenge. Rated PG-13.

Ongoing

The Big Bounce- In this gangster movie set in Hawaii, Owen Wilson plays Jack Ryan, a con who ventures to the tropics in search of a change of pace. When he reaches the beautiful shores, however, he discovers that crime soils even the purest of sand. Rated PG-13. Opens Jan. 30.

You Got Served- Street dancers compete for a chance at success in this film about the hip-hop subculture of street dancing. Rated PG-13. Opens Jan. 30.

CD REVIEW

Floetry's Floacism 'Live' CD reveals more than laid-back grooves

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

If you are not familiar with Floetry, then you are missing a fresh new outlook on R&B. Marsha Ambrosius (songstress) and Natalie Stewart (floacist) make up Floetry, a spunky duo with their own vision of "music." Their previous debut album, "Floetic," earned three Grammy Award nominations including Best Contemporary R&B Album, Best Urban/Alternative Performance (for "Floetic") and Best R&B Song (also for "Floetic"). This kind of response to a debut album is certainly noteworthy. The musicians, however, wanted more. Because so much of what Floetry does is spontaneous and because of their incredible chemistry with each other, Ambrosius and Stewart felt that a live album was in order.

While the tracks on "Floacism" seem too seamless for spontaneity, the sparkling and energetic personalities of the dynamic duo manage to have a strong presence. One benefit of a live album that some artists do not take advantage of is the ability to give listeners a taste of the personalities behind the music. Floetry, with several song introductions, give brief yet inspiring explanations of how they feel about what they do and what their hopes are for their listeners.

The well-recorded tracks on "Floacism" manage to keep clear, distinct notes as well as audience responses. The album features nine songs from the celebrated "Floetic" including "Floetic" and "Butterflies," two of the most energetic and beat-influenced songs. Floetry wrote "Floetic" as a musical expression of what they are. "Butterflies" is a hit single they wrote for Michael Jackson. The star track of this CD, however, is one of the three newly recorded studio

tracks. "Wanna B Where U R (Thisizzaluvsong)" is a mesmerizing collaboration between Floetry and Mos Def. This track stands out due to the more prominent role of bass guitar and electronic influences, in tradition with Mos Def's signature sound.

The majority of the album is made of various smooth, jazzy R&B tracks. Floetry combines two contrasting styles of vocalization to achieve a unique style. Ambrosius provides powerful and melodic lines of inspiring lyrics while Stewart contributes gentle and sometimes whispered spoken-word poetry. Subtle beats and bass lines accompany this vocal arrangement.

One area lacking on the album is diversity. Too many of the songs seem to be slightly altered versions of each other. Perhaps if the style were more exciting or catchy, it would be easier to listen straight through. As it is, "Floacism" has nine similarly mellow R&B songs that make it obvious why the standout track "Floetic" was the one nominated at the Grammy Awards.

Despite a few funky tracks and a glimpse at Floetry's unique "poetic delivery with musical intent" philosophy, the rest of "Floacism" is a little slow. For fans of the genre, it could be a worthwhile investment. What I recommend is to attend the Erykah Badu concert at the Pageant on Feb. 20, when Floetry will be the opening act. This way, you can get some of the best aspects of Floetry (their chemistry and charisma) while deciding on the rest (the music).

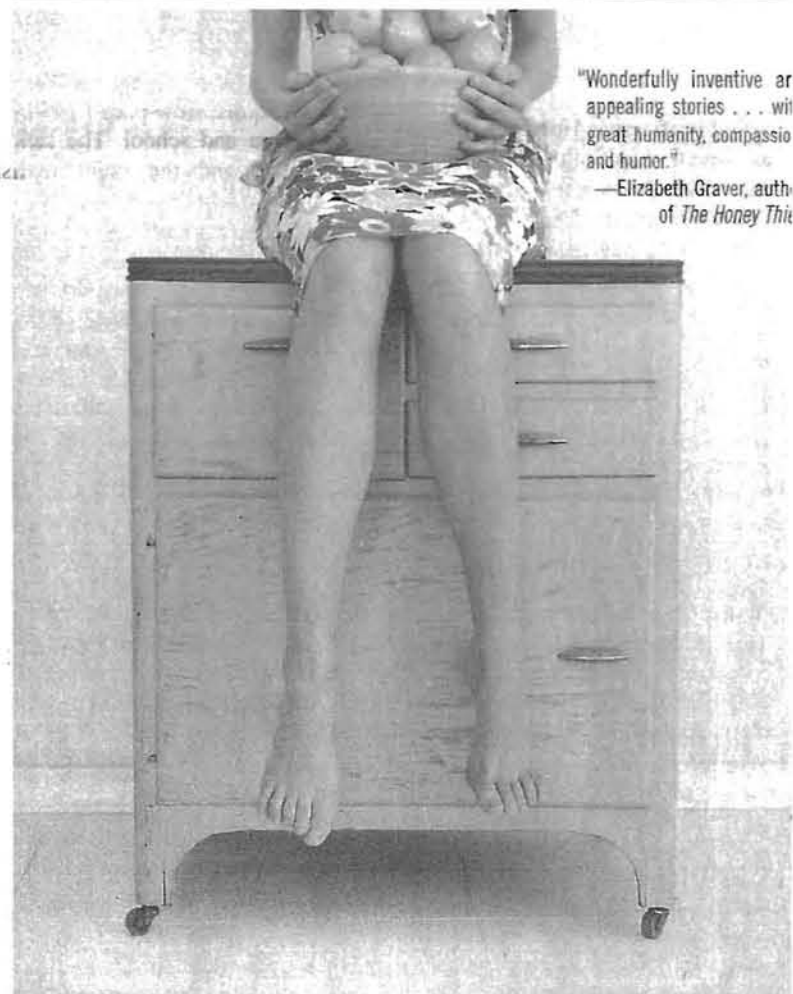
RIGHT:

Sexy duo, Floetry, releases sophomore album "Floacism," a "poetic delivery with musical intent."



Photo courtesy Dreamworks Records

BOOK REVIEW



"Wonderfully inventive and appealing stories... with great humanity, compassion and humor."
—Elizabeth Graver, author of *The Honey Thief*

Thank You for the Music
STORIES
Author of *One Heart*
Jane McCafferty

MOVIE REVIEW

Butterflies in stomach

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-
HOMEYER
Film Critic

"The Butterfly Effect" is a science fiction-thriller movie starring Ashton Kutcher. I was wary about a film in which heart-flutterer Ashton Kutcher tries to make the leap from comedies like "Dude, Where's My Car?" to serious dramatic films. However, the movie's "what-if," Chaos Theory, science fiction premise persuaded me to try it.

Actually, "Butterfly Effect" was neither as good as the premise suggested, nor as bad as one might fear for Kutcher's switch to drama. Overall, it somewhat entertains, for a B movie that is not as "science fiction" as promised but more thought-provoking than expected. However, it does little to launch Ashton Kutcher's dramatic career and is unlikely to lead to deeper film roles. Kutcher is not bad so much as underpowered in this role.

Either you like Ashton Kutcher or you do not. A career built on such ventures as "Dude, Where's My Car?" has brought him success with a core of fans, although his good looks and personal appeal seem to be more of a factor than great talent. Certainly, Kutcher looks good in this film, but it is hard to see much strength in his acting. Of course, maybe I am being too harsh on Kutcher, who has been very successful in the teen comedy genre. But an attempt to break into another kind of role has to be met with some evaluation. He will not lose any fans over this, but he will probably not gain any either.

This is not to say that the film falls flat because of Kutcher. It has some script problems, with too many script holes, uneven tone and an over-emphasis on special effects. The film opens with dark, atmospheric effects and a reference to chaos theory.

see BUTTERFLY EFFECT, page 11

Compelling literature

Jane McCafferty's collection of short stories, "Thank You for the Music" is an intimate portrait of interpersonal relationships

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

Ever read a story about a clown? Did the clown have neighbors, young lovers who could not seem to keep their voices low enough not to break through the thin walls separating the apartments? Were you chuckling when the couple would hear the clown drop the bowling pins he was trying to juggle, mutter a profanity and try again only to get the same results? If there was a pin-juggling clown in your story there, did he also have a frumpy wife, coated in a lime green facemask, who would knock on the young couple's door to inform them that their bizarre philosophical conversations were destroying the clown-husband's pin-juggling chi? Have you ever seen them all pondering questions like "Would you still love me if I were fat?" and "Would you still love me if I were a rat?"

I doubt you have, and I had not either until I picked up "Thank You for the Music," a collection of short stories from Jane McCafferty. The clown story is one of the little gems in "Music," one of 14 stories in the 201-page book. I half expected the stories to take on a familiar tone after reading a few (because they all share their author), but I was pleasantly surprised

that they did not.

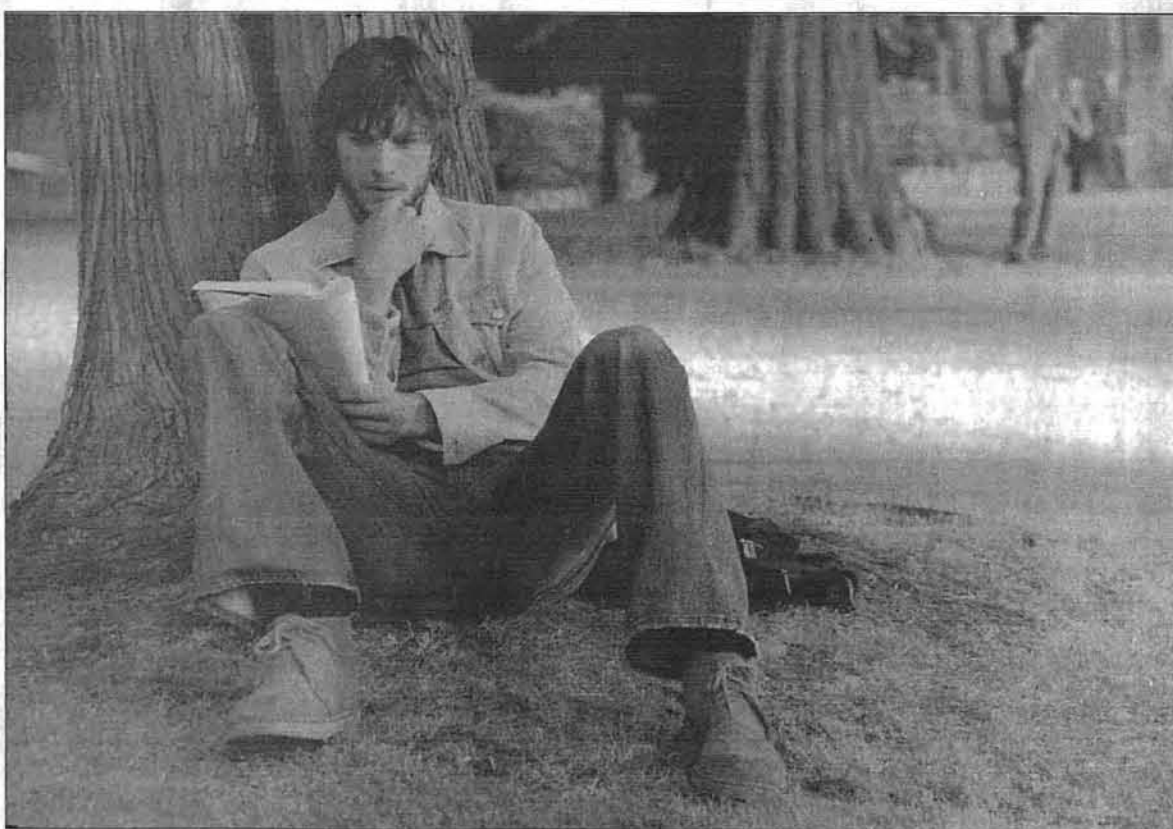
Instead, McCafferty reaches into her bag of talent and compiles stories that only resemble each other in their intimate look at relationships between people. She writes in straightforward prose, and dialogue, for the story about the clown shifts to something more dynamic in a story about two brothers. One story I interpreted to be a description of crashing off a fearful trip, while anxiety and terror are wrapped up through the gray empty street and one huge, black winged rat. That said, "You never quite know what to expect when you thumb the page into the next story."

McCafferty's ability to work with multiple styles is not the only strength in "Music." All that ability would be of little interest if the stories failed to be compelling. Thankfully, they do not. You do not need to find yourself in one of them to relate either, even though she provides a spectrum of characters to identify with. In one story, we meet a father trying to recapture the joy of living amidst a parking lot full of uninterested parents in minivans waiting for their kids to return from a ski trip. As he wanders around outside the cars, smoking, he meets Lucille Ball, waiting, of all things, for Desi. They round up the kids and get hot cocoa at a nearby

diner.

My favorite, called "Berna's Place," is about a woman in a hollow marriage. When her twenty-something son visits one night with his new girlfriend, Berna, a sixty-something vet, and the couple confesses that they are actually married, the woman starts on a journey to reassess her relationship. Her son's euphoric situation gives her the courage to have an affair: If he can do it, why can I not do it? When she confesses the brief tangle to her distant husband, he returns with admitting numerous indiscretions. She takes a hard look at what it means to be married, to have a committed relationship with another person. After reading about Berna, you will undoubtedly view comments like "You are my life" and "She is my world" differently.

I think good books should affect you in that way. McCafferty packs her pages with strong images and characters that you would actually want to meet. I admit being wholly ignorant through one that she wrote as a letter to Mr. Springsteen, as I know nothing about that Bruce. But, there are 14 ways in "Thank You for the Music" to connect with people. You are bound to find something; perhaps it will be the clown and his wife who strike you as near perfect.



Ashton Kutcher stars as Evan in New Line Cinema's thriller THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT.

Photo courtesy New Line Cinema

RESTAURANT REVIEW

The Grind is relaxing coffeehouse

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you are in the mood for an intimate conversation over a hot latte, visit The Grind, a little hole-in-the-wall coffeehouse that lurks unsuspectingly in the Central West End. When you walk in, a room to the right offers pool tables, foosball and video games. A smaller room off to the left has tables and chairs as well as potted plants to brighten the large windows. The bar guards the doorway leading to the game room, and above that doorway hang plaques celebrating The Grind as a great coffeehouse. Guests are beckoned to sit in front of the fireplace by a light blue wrap-around couch. Discontentedness is unlikely, despite the fire being a video rather than the real thing.

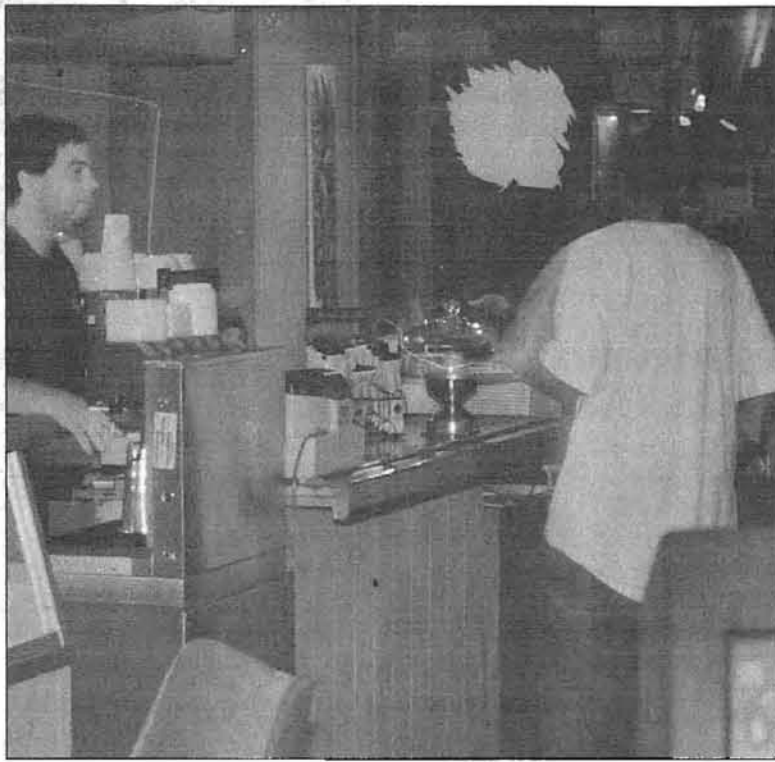
A combination of music filters through the speakers, while varying colors trip across the walls. Oil paintings hang amidst a smoky haze. People sit in intimate groups or by themselves, talking, studying, reading or working on laptops.

Along with a cozy comfortable

atmosphere, The Grind offers coffees and teas, as well as a variety of edible treats, but no alcohol. Nothing on the menu costs more than five dollars. We waited in line for less than five minutes. Brennan, a recent addition to our traditional weekend outings, ordered a latte with chocolate and caramel (\$2.25) and a piece of cake (\$3.00), which we all split. Melissa ordered a latte with caramel (\$2.25), and I ordered a 32 oz. Sprite (\$2.00). The cake tasted rich and delicious.

"What I was impressed with was that the latte was not scalding hot," Brennan said.

You can find exceptional service at The Grind. The servers are friendly and could very well be the person sitting next to you in class. They wear street clothes instead of uniforms, adding to the comfort of this cozy coffeehouse. The Grind serves all walks of life and caters to night owls, staying open from 3 p.m. until 3 a.m. during the week. On Saturdays and Sundays, The Grind operates from noon until 3 a.m. Although they do not deliver, they do offer carryout. For intimate chats, fun and great lattes, visit The Grind in the Central West End. They wait to serve you.



ABOVE: A customer waits for a coffee drink at The Grind, a coffeeshop in the Central West End.

BELOW: Customers enjoy the ambience at The Grind



BUTTERFLY EFFECT, from page 10

Then, after pouring over notebooks, which piques our interest, we get a flashback to horrific childhood incidents involving Treborn and three friends, a rather gruesome thriller-like setup of what is to come with the adult Treborn. However, having set up this dark and horrific tone effectively and evoked Chaos Theory, the film then turns into a darker version of "Groundhog Day," by having Treborn discover he has a talent to go back to certain points in time and alter the past.

The chaos theory caution is, of course, that every change has unseen consequences, the title being a reference to the changes that could be wrought by a butterfly. Although Kutcher's character is a gifted student studying psychology, the filmmakers never really attempt to

gives us a how or why for his unique time-travel gift, beyond implying that it he inherited it from his father.

After a grim, even gruesome opening sequence, the film tends to be lighter weight and brings in comic elements, such as when the scholarly college student Treborn finds himself transformed into a shallow frat boy. The surprising thing about the film is

the thought-provoking twist, as Kutcher's character Treborn must weigh changes that are bad for him against the benefit of others, especially his childhood sweetheart Kayleigh (Amy Smart).

The child actors in the earlier sequences are very good, and Eric Stolz as the abusive father of Treborn's childhood friend Kayleigh

is highly effective. However, it seems as if the first half of the film remakes "Stand By Me," and the second resembles "Groundhog Day"—not a likely combination.

The idea has potential but was never fully exploited. No effort seems to have been made to explain the events and little is done to cover plot holes. Despite having more style



Irene Gorovaia (left) and John Patrick Amedori (right) star as the young Kayleigh and Evan in THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT. Photo courtesy New Line Cinema

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MOVIE REVIEW

'To Be and To Have' is warming documentary

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

January is the silly season for Hollywood, when studios release oddball films that they do not know what to do with and real turkeys that they hope will soak up a few bucks while nothing else is there. That is not true for the foreign and indie films. Therefore, the pick film for this week is "To Be and To Have," a documentary about the students in a French, rural, one-room school and the final year for their soon-to-retire teacher. Actually, even without the January slump, this wonderful film would likely be the pick of the week.

"To Be and To Have" takes place in a traditional one-room schoolhouse in a rural farming area far from any city. Without narration, but with subtitles, it follows the dozen students and their teacher, George Lopez, through his final year of teaching before retirement.

"To Be and To Have" appeared on many film critics' lists of best films for 2003, with good reason. Although this documentary played at the St. Louis Film Festival last fall, this is the first theatrical run for the film here. It will run at the Tivoli for one week only. Elsewhere, the film has been a big hit, mostly because its quiet, slice-of-life, unnarrated, cinema verite approach avoids false sentiment and lets the film focus on the appealing children, ages 4 to 12, and their wonderful teacher. In France, the film has become the highest grossing documentary ever and made a national hero of Lopez, the school's teacher.

I am cautious of films that are called "heartwarming" or "feel-good" because they are often too sentimental or overly saccharine, or both. "To Be and To Have" is entirely natural. The appeal comes from the charm of the children themselves and the quiet, slow-paced life of the rural area and school. The lack of narration and the quiet realism means that you have to give this film a little time to work its magic on you. Do not dash out if the first fifteen minutes are not exciting. Be patient and you will be rewarded.

This documentary seems to look back at how schools used to be, and not just the one-room type. The film takes us all back to the pre-PC world, before worries about pedophiles, when teachers were like parents, who knew their students and interacted warmly and affectionately with them without fears of being misunderstood. The teacher knows each child well and nothing escapes his attention. No child falls between the cracks or is overlooked, and no slacking off is possible. In this remote, rural farming district, life seems like a snapshot of the past, with a lifestyle suited to simple times when traditional, small family farms are the norm. Lest someone think that this film takes place in some capsule of the past, before diversity made things more complex, you should note the surprising ethnic diversity of the students and even the teacher, who is half Spanish. Yet, the film never shows this diversity.

The title, "Etre et Avoir" in French, refers to the first lessons of grammar learned in school. There are only a dozen students, but the teacher, Lopez, moves easily between teaching each age group appropriately for their age and problems. Students learn the basic subjects of grammar, writing, reading, arithmetic, some history and geography. The younger ones learn counting, colors, and do hands-on art projects. Lopez gives the older ones instruction in math, writing and other subjects, with testing and assignments given with exacting standards along with encouragement.

With the little ones, Lopez shows patience and affection, even being silly and playful as he teaches. When a little one falls, he picks the child up and hugs him. The truth is that young children need this kind of affection from the adults in their lives. With the older children, he is more reserved. In guiding, advising and encouraging them to do their best, you always feel his affection for them and concern that they do well. When students and teacher say their farewells at the end of the year, they kiss each other on the cheek in the traditional French manner.

Along with the grammar school basics, Lopez teaches his students to get along with each other and be kind, and he helps them learn how to resolve conflicts. The students learn art and cooking and all the children, even the older ones, go sledding. The children are completely relaxed and natural in front of the camera, which filmed throughout a whole year. Consequently, they do the kind of things kids do, squirm and fidget, wipe their noses on their sleeves, make messes and tease. They are amusing and delightful in their naturalness.

An unnarrated, slice-of life film where nothing blows up and which has the quiet pace of real life is bound to be a film that takes a little time to get started. But before long, the children and their remarkable teacher will charm you. By the end of the film, you will likely feel like this is how grammar school should be, and you will be awed by Lopez and entranced by the cute kids.

It can also be a real "reality" show. Bravo to director Nicolas Philibert for having the sense to stand back and let the kids and teacher take center stage. His decision not to add commentary is one reason for the film's effectiveness, for what we see proves far more powerful than the words could ever be. And bravo to Lopez, as well, for being what a teacher ought to be, the teacher every child needs and every parent wants for his or her child.

Documentaries like this one are different from fictional films, where things have to happen fast and everything has to be a big dramatic gesture. You know real life is usually not like that, and this film is far closer to real life, which has its own appeal. This quiet, charming film has real, not false, feeling. Corny and overblown "feel-good" films leave me cold, but this feel-good film is completely different.

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PPRC bids farewell to longtime educator & curator Jean Tucker



Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

ABOVE:

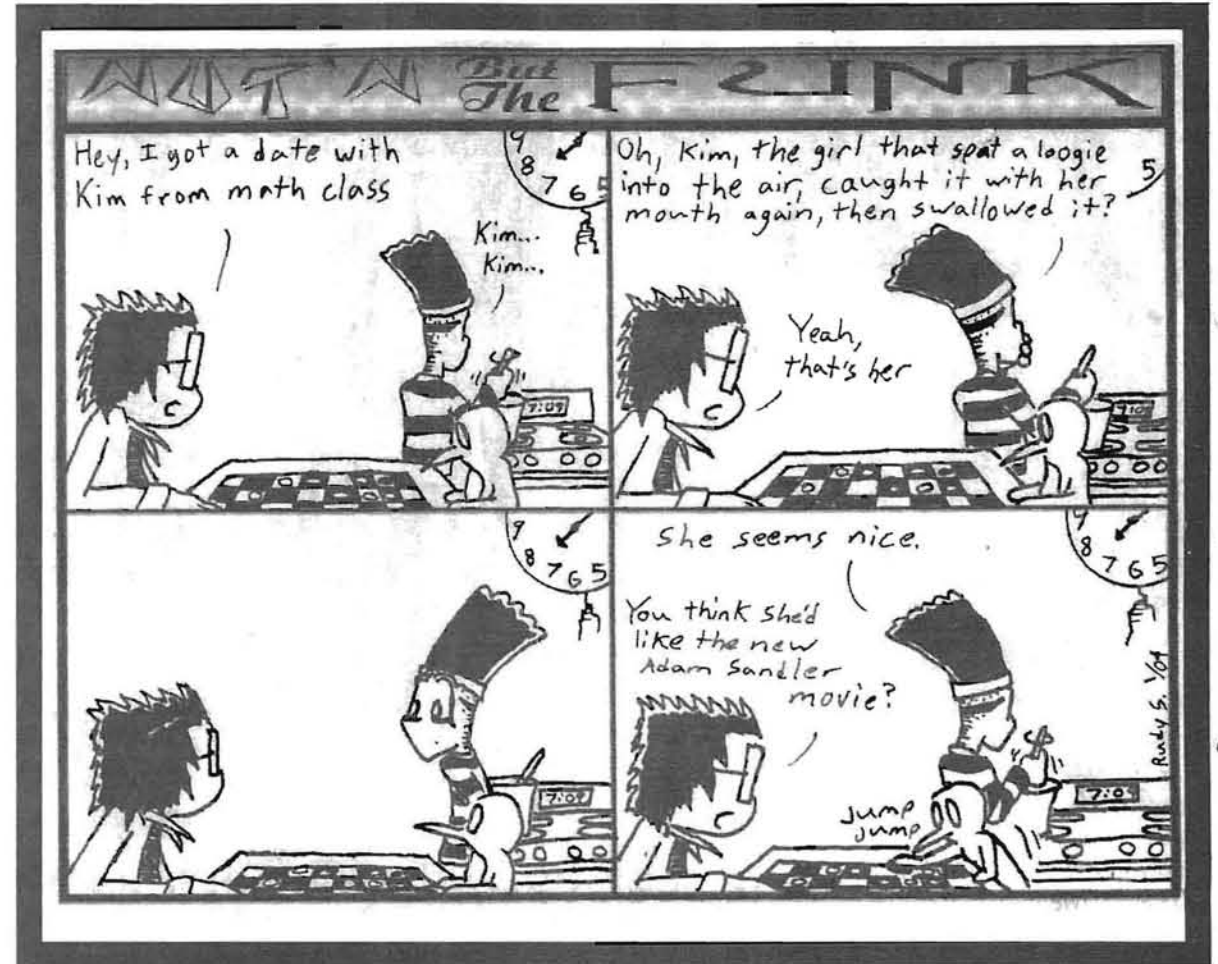
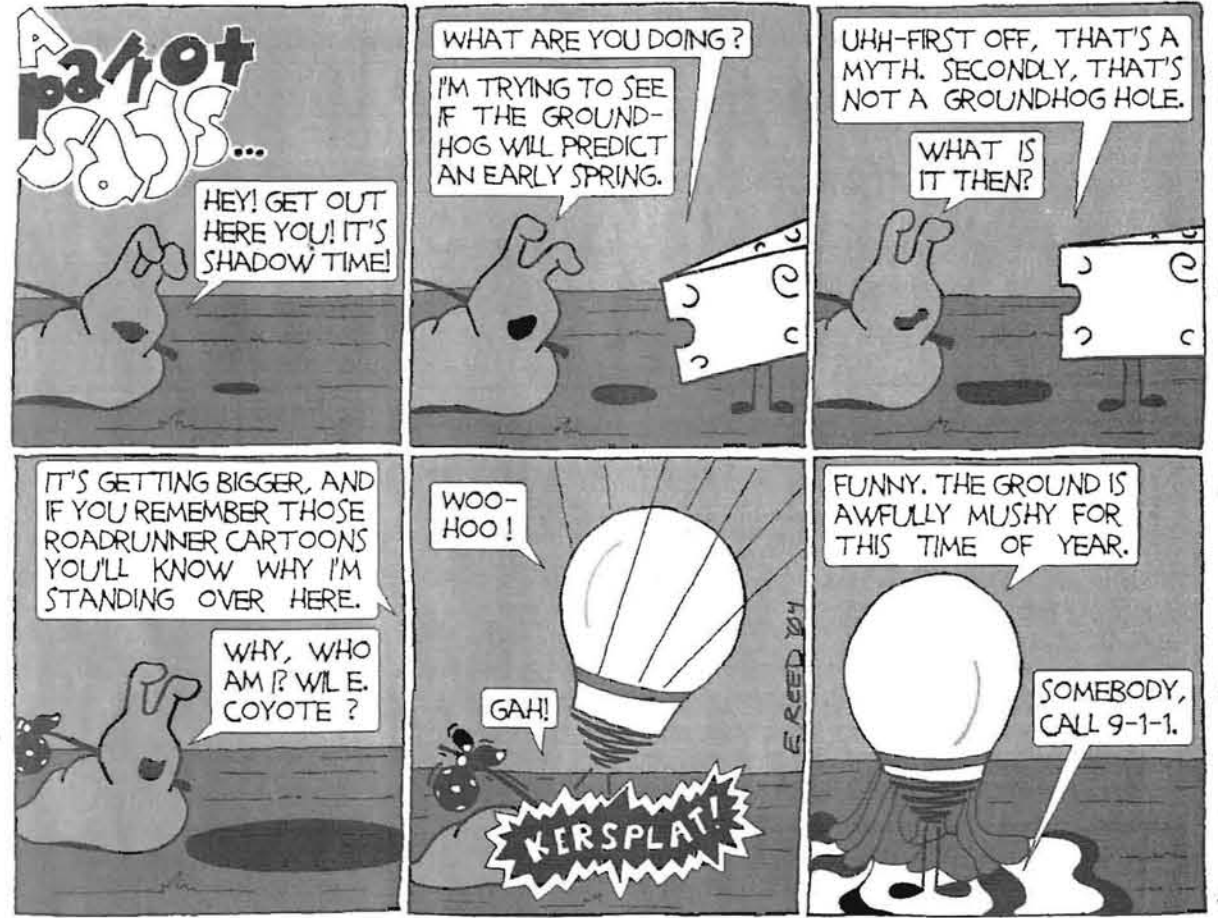
Jean Tucker, former Curator for the Public Policy Research Center's art gallery, talks with guests at a closing reception for the exhibit "Light Abstractions, Revisited" on Wednesday, Jan. 28. The reception honored Tucker, who retired from the PPRC in September. Tucker began her career at UM-St. Louis in 1968, teaching art and photographic history. She was also responsible for opening Gallery 210 and the interdisciplinary program in photographic studies.

LEFT:

Jean Tucker's husband, Joe, speaks at the reception about his wife's career at UM-St. Louis, and her work as an educator and curator.



Guests check out the photographs of the exhibition "Light Abstractions, Revisited" at a closing reception PPRC on Wednesday. The exhibit takes a look back at a 1980 exhibit, "Light Abstractions" which was curated by Jean Tucker. The "Revisited" show features four of the original show's pieces, and additional, informal photographs of the artists that made up the 1980 exhibit.



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The sweet sound of song enraptures the Touhill when composer, pianist and crooner Marvin Hamlisch takes the stage for a Valentine's Day delight. As composer, Hamlisch has won virtually every major award that exists: Oscars, Grammys, Emmys, Golden Globes, a Tony and the Pulitzer Prize for "A Chorus Line!" Remember "The Way We Were" with the incomparable Marvin Hamlisch.

**LINCOLN CENTER
JAZZ ORCHESTRA
WITH WYNTON MARSALIS**

Sunday, February 15, 7 p.m.

Under the leadership of Wynton Marsalis, the LCJO comprises many of the finest and most versatile instrumentalists playing in jazz today. From historic jazz compositions to newly commissioned works, it's a performance no self-respecting jazz aficionado — or any one else who loves great music — will want to miss!

**THE ACTING COMPANY/
"RICHARD III"**

Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

For 30 seasons and nearly 100 productions of great classics, The Acting Company has garnered critical acclaim on a national scale. Now the company brings to the Touhill Performing Arts Center Shakespeare's tragedy of plotting and betrayal in a brilliant rendering of political intrigue, family relationships and ambition.

And coming this winter and spring...

- **Little Angels**, Feb. 17
- **University of Missouri-St. Louis Faculty and Friends Dance Concert**, Feb. 20-21
- **Stage One Dance Competition**, Feb. 21-22
- **Faculty Cellist Kurt Baldwin with friends Jane Price and Minoo Mehta**, Feb. 29

...and much, much more!



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a Touhill Magazine!**

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