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The Current

Your source for campus news and information



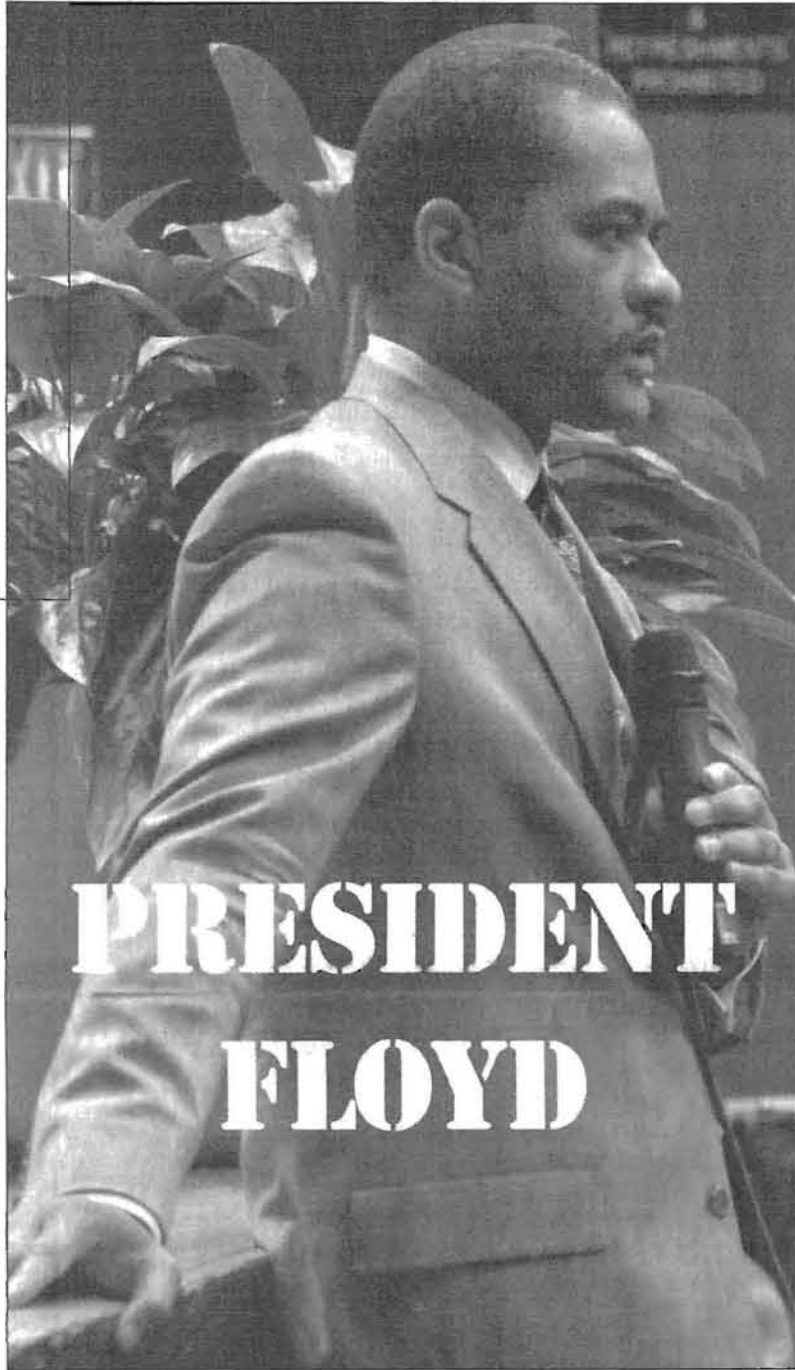
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Car accident on Natural Bridge

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

President Floyd explores taking over as chancellor of Mizzou



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

In July of 2003, UM-Columbia Chancellor Richard Wallace announced his retirement, effective Aug. 31, 2004. It concludes 38 years of service to the university. Following his announcement, UM System President Elson Floyd publicized his intention to use that time to explore the possibility of consolidating the positions of UM President and Chancellor of UM-Columbia.

Floyd then visited all the UM-campuses to address the questions and concerns of faculty, staff and members of the community. An article released in August of 2003 in Spectrum, a publication of the University of Missouri, quotes Floyd as saying that, "My primary objective in considering consolidation is to create a university organization that is relevant to our times. We will streamline university

operations while preserving the quality of the educational enterprise and the unique strengths of each of our four campuses and University Outreach and Extension."

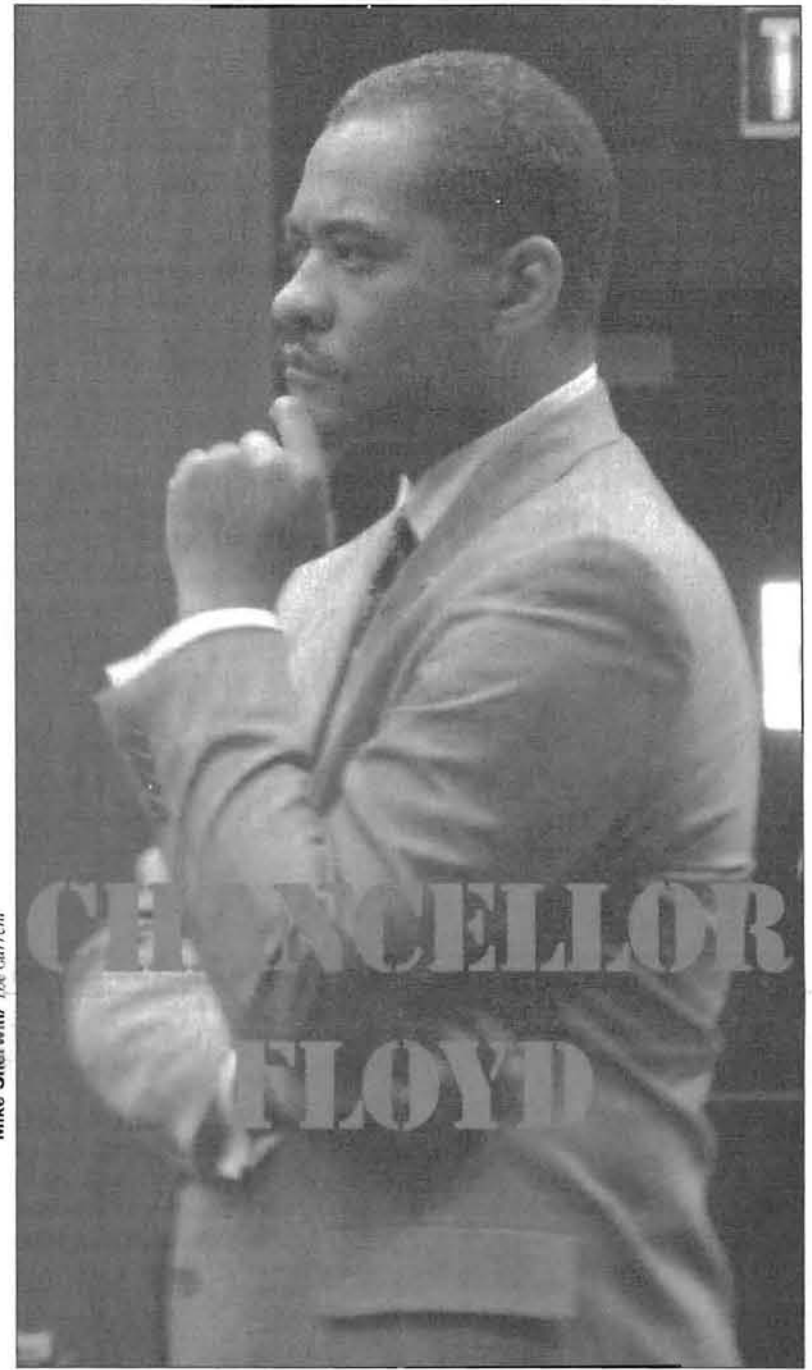
There has been some concern among students regarding this proposal. "Well, I don't know all the specifics on the issues here, but I do have a concern in that by consolidating the positions of the UM System President and the Chancellor of Columbia you're really consolidating a lot of power into one campus. The UM President is supposed to represent the entirety of the UM System. If he's making decisions as the MU-Chancellor then there's some questions as to how fair he can be to the other campuses," Ben DeClue, senior, political science, and recently elected chairman of the Student Government Association, said.

see FLOYD, page 12

OR

UM System President Elson Floyd is now entering his first full year in the University of Missouri. In recent weeks, he has explored taking over as....

Chancellor of UM-Columbia. By consolidating the positions, Floyd can focus his attention on the largest school in the UM System.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Garage D scheduled for demolition in spring

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

Demolition planning of parking garage D will take place at the beginning of next month. Following the demolition, a new parking facility will open across from the Millennium Student Center.

The bid opening for the old garage is on Feb. 3. This means that finances will be figured out and a decision of what will go in the empty spot will be decided. It will take a few weeks for things to get started. The facility should be knocked down by March 1.

"It's outlived its useful life; they're putting a lot of money into maintenance that could be better spent elsewhere," Alan Ritter, project manager, construction, said.

A flat parking lot and some landscaping will go in place of the old garage. If any additional money is provided in the budget, a couple of lakes with fountains will also be added. Sidewalks and benches would also be included in the package.

The total time for the project is 140 days and if the lakes are decided upon,

an extra 30 days will be added to the time. During the allotted time, demolition will occur as well as the new facilities being built. "From the time that they start, until the time that the garage is gone, should be 60 days," Ritter said.

Currently, only the top and bottom levels of the garage are open for students to park. Since the University decided to tear down the facility instead of fixing it, these are the levels that will remain open for a short time longer. Last year, both garage D and N were closed for some time, due to structural integrity problems. Both contained rusted out support joints and weight-bearing columns.

Both garages were built to be temporary parking facilities, with a predicted life span of around five years. The garages have been around for over 30 years now. They are both old metal garages.

"I think that they should have been torn down a long time ago," Angie Snyder, junior, nursing, said.

Replacing garage D, as well as a garage that was closed a few years in the past, will be a garage that is a duplicate of the Phase 1 Millennium

Student Center parking garage. The facility will have enough staff and student parking for around 936 vehicles. The garage is set to open, weather permitting, at the end of February. The other old garage, N, will be demolished in the years to come.

The new garage was originally scheduled to open late last year. The date has been postponed due to inclement weather. The past couple of winters have caused the construction to last a little bit longer than expected.

The new facility will contain six levels of parking and one service level. It will provide primarily student parking, with some faculty and staff also available. The new facility is next to the MetroLink station and quite a walk from the main buildings on campus. "It would have been nice if the new garage was closer to where students need to be," Snyder said.

Many people hope that the new parking space will ease stress for people trying to find parking spots during all hours of the day. Another suggestion for students who do not like to park is to take advantage of the free MetroLink pass that the University provides for all students.



Casey Ulrich/ The Current

Garage D shows deterioration. It is scheduled to be demolished this spring. Problems include rust in load-bearing joints, joists and pillars, as well as decaying concrete on the floors. The garage was originally supposed to last for five years.

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Student Court ready to judge students

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

The Student Court will once again be responsible for reviewing student appeals concerning traffic violations on campus.

"I'm very excited. We're really looking forward to being an advocate of the student voice, as far as being

the judicial branch of the [Student Government Association]," Scott Bopp, junior, international business, and chief justice of the student court, said. "I see nothing but growing in our ability to influence and help the students have a stronger voice here on the campus."

The process began last October when the newly elected court initiated

talks with Curt Coonrod, vice-chancellor for student affairs, positing the idea. They then had talks with Chancellor Thomas George, Reinhard Schuster, vice-chancellor for administrative services, Bob Roeseler, director of University Police and Leo Gutierrez, supervisor, parking and transportation operations. After a series of meetings that

continued until December, things started to become finalized. The court will begin to exercise this power on Jan. 30.

"Curt Coonrod was very supportive from the get go as were many people—Joe Flees helped us, Beth Grindstaff attended one of the first meetings with Chancellor George and Reinhard Schuster met

with us on a couple of occasions," Bopp said.

It has been a couple of years since the court was able to handle parking appeals. Many are excited about the decision. "The student court is an important part of campus life and I'm glad that it is back."

see STUDENT COURT, page 12

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 26 Monday Noon Series

Debra Drexler, artist and associate professor of art at the University of Hawaii-Monoa, will discuss "High Art and Low Life" at 12:15 p.m. in the auditorium at Gallery 210 in the Telecommunity Center on North Campus. Drexler will talk about her exhibition of the same name. It includes drawing and paintings that address the gener issue in art history. The exhibition opened Jan. 22 and runs through Feb. 21 at Gallery 210.

26 Sue Shear Institute

The Sue Shear Institute will hold "Pipeline to Local Office," a two-evening campaign training workshop for women candidates and campaign workers preparing for municipal elections. Call 4727 to register.

26 Saxophone quartet

The New Century Saxophone quartet will perform "The Art of Fugue" by composer Johann Sebastian Bach, in its entirety at 8:00 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theatre at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$18 for students and seniors. Call 5818 for tickets, and visit www.umsl.edu/~premier or www.newcenturysax.com for more information.

Tues 27 Seminar Series

Robert Skandalaris, founder and chairman of Noble International, will discuss his career and business experiences at 2:30 p.m. in 133 Social Sciences and Business Building. Noble International is a leading supplier of automotive parts, component assemblies and value added services to the automotive industry. The company employs 3,000 people and is based in Warren, Mich. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 6142 for more information.

Thurs 29 Women's spiritualism

Mary Pat Henehan, a marriage and family therapist, will discuss "Integrating Spirit & Psyche: Using Celtic Themes in Modern Psychotherapy." Call 6495 for more information.

PUT IT ON THE BOARD!
Got an event, an activity? Put it on the bulletin board!

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

WANTED
A few good writers to take on challenging roles at the student newspaper. Call 516-6810 for information.

The Current

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Nichole LeClair • Managing Editor

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Mindaugas Adamonis • Business Manager
Judi Linville • Faculty Adviser

Becky Rosner • News Editor
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Casey Schacher • A & E Editor
Kate Drolet • Features Editor
Elliott Reed • Illustrator
Melissa McCrary • Features Associate
Sarah Weinman • Proofreader
Shannon Hoppes • Web Editor/Prod. Manager
Rudy Scoggins • Illustrator
Laura Hepburn • Music critic
Catherine Marquis-Homeyer • Science columnist/ Movie Critic
James Daugherty • Distribution Manager

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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.

December 8 - Stealing Under \$500
A battery module for a lap-top computer was stolen from the Social Science Building.

December 10 - Stealing over \$500- South Florissant Rd.
A student's piece of artwork was stolen.

December 12 - Counterfeit money- MSC cashiers office
A counterfeit \$100 bill was discovered in the cashiers office. The money was originally given to a valet for parking at the Performing Arts

Center.
December 30 - Burglary second degree/Stealing over \$500 - 533C University Meadows
A Playstation game system and cash were stolen from the victim's apartment.

January 12 - Stealing under \$500 - Parking lot S at the Music Building
License plate tabs were stolen from a parked vehicle.

January 13 - Stealing over \$500 - General Services Building Storage garage
Sometime between 12-09-03 and 1-12-04, some stole various tools and equipment from the storage garage with no forced entry

January 14 - Stealing over \$500 - Social Science Building - Boiler Room
Sometime between 12-24-03 and 1-05-04, a welder was stolen from the maintenance area inside the boiler room.

January 15 - Sudden death - 7810 Florissant Rd.
A 63-year-old male was found dead in his apartment. The subject apparently died from natural causes related to numerous medical conditions.

January 15 - Burglary/stealing over \$500 - 104 Bellerive Residence Hall
A resident left his apartment unlocked and went outside for about an hour, when he returned he discovered someone had stolen a lap-top computer, a portable CD player and CDs and some clothes.

January 15 - Attempted suicide - 307 La Gras
A student overdosed on prescription medications.

January 15 - Attempted stolen vehicle - Parking Lot M at the Mark Twain Building
A visitor to campus had their vehicle damaged. Someone tried to steal the car by breaking the steering column, however, they were unsuccessful.

January 15 - Stolen Auto - Parking Lot E
A 1986 Chevy Caprice was stolen from lot E sometime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The vehicle's door lock was broken and the steering column was damaged. No arrests have been made in the case.

January 16 - Destruction of Property- Provincial House Hallway
A student was angry and broke out the window of a door in the first floor corridor.

January 17 - Stealing over \$500 - Mark Twain Gymnasium
A lap-top computer was stolen from the gymnasium during a basketball game; the owner left the equipment unattended, when he returned, it was gone.

January 19 - Destruction of Property - Mark Twain Drive - Lot M
Property damage to a vehicle. On 1-15-04 while attending the basketball game, the victim's car

door lock was broken

January 19 - Warrant arrest - Marillac Hall auditorium
A subject (not a student) was found trespassing in the auditorium. Subsequent investigation revealed arrest warrants out of St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

January 24 - Domestic Disturbance/Destruction of property
A verbal argument between male and female subjects led one subject to kick a hole into the wall.

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.

!!!WANTED!!!

A FEW GOOD MEN...AND WOMEN TO WRITE SPORTS AND NEWS. COME BY THE OFFICE, 388 MSC AND DROP OFF A COVER LETTER AND RESUME. NICHOLE LECLAIR, THE MANAGING EDITOR, WILL CONTACT YOU ABOUT AN INTERVIEW TIME.

MCMA

ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

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Got a hot news tip? Give us a call at the office. 314.516.5174. Ask for Becky Rosner, news editor.

•You can also e-mail us at current@jinx.umsl.edu

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What do you need?

- Cover letter and resume
- Three letters of recommendation
- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Have completed 9 credit hours
- Be in good standing with the University

Good, because The Current is now accepting applications for editor-in-chief for the 2004-2005 school year. This is your chance to take the helm of the number one newspaper in division one of MCMA!

Health services offers cholesterol screening

BY WILL MELTON
Staff Writer

University Health Services, located in 131 Millennium Student Center, will now be offering cholesterol testing to students. Kathy Castulik, health educator, began the program so that students could have an affordable and convenient option for cholesterol screening.

She explains that despite cholesterol's reputation for being a problem for older individuals, those students are at risk as well. "We have found from the CDC that all ages are affected with high or low cholesterol. You have your HDL, which is your high-density lipoprotein—that is the good cholesterol. You have the LDL, which is the low-density lipoprotein—that is the bad cholesterol," Castulik said. "It's a myth that the elderly population is the one that should focus on this, but we're finding it affects all ages, even younger children from ten on up. I have had several colleges students discover they have high cholesterol and need to follow up with a physician."

Exams cost \$15, which, when compared to a typical exam at a physician's office is quite a bargain. Interested students should call health

services at (314) 516-4657 and ask for Kathy in order to set up an appointment. Castulik asks that students make their appointment as far in advance as possible. "Typically, these tests run anywhere from \$25 to \$50," Castulik said.

Another benefit is that students get their results in only seven minutes. Normally, a doctor would have to send the blood off to a lab and wait one to two weeks for the results to arrive. Then, a person would have to go back to the office for a follow-up visit.

The procedure is simple. When students arrive for their appointment, they fill out a brief consent form. Castulik then draws the blood and places the sample into a cassette that is then inserted into the machine. "It's not really painful," Castulik said. "It's a really tiny stick and is not at all like a normal blood stick. It's just a little tiny prick on the end of the finger and it happens so fast you don't even feel it."

After a short wait, the results are printed out. Castulik then gives the student an informative pamphlet that has the test results recorded on the front. The inside of the pamphlet explains, in detail, what each of the scores mean and makes all the techni-

cal jargon understandable for anyone. If needed, students can also take these pamphlets to their doctors and all the proper information is amply provided there.

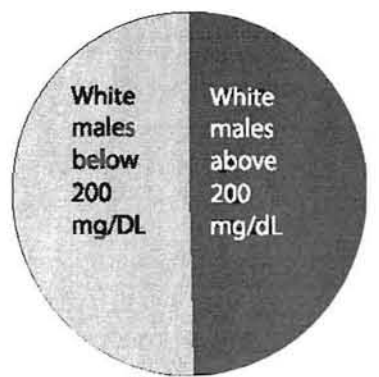
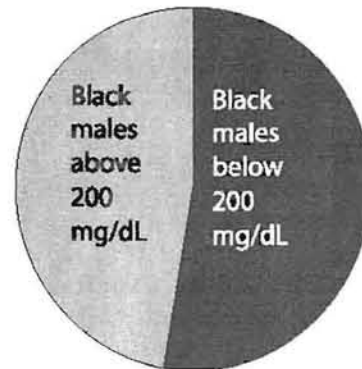
Results are kept on file and students can then compare results if they get another exam sometime in the future. "I think it's a good preventative measure because I think that college students don't realize that cholesterol problems can start at such an early age," Michelle Schmidt, coordinator of the alcohol and drug prevention program, said.

Castulik is also starting some new classes for the general student population. "We are now offering CPR and first aid classes that were formerly only available to nursing students. They can take either one or both," Castulik said. For more information on these, or other services, students are always free to visit the Health Services webpage online at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/health/>.

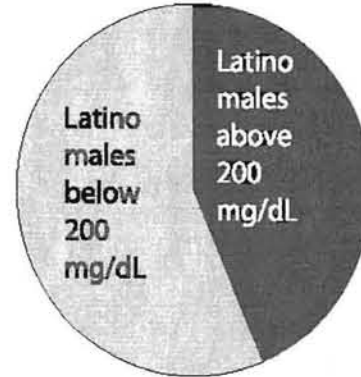
"I think that it's great we have an affordable option for finding out our cholesterol levels in a short period of time so students can work towards being healthy and save money at the same time," Randy Sommers, graduate student, educational leadership and policy studies, said.

One killer high: cholesterol

America's fast food ways are catching up to it. According to the American Heart Association website, nearly fifty percent of white, black and Latino males have 200 mg/dL, which is considered borderline high. 42 million Americans have cholesterol levels above 240 mg/dL.



Women's cholesterol levels generally run between two and six percent lower than men.



Information provided by the American Heart Association.

Info-graphic by Jason Granger/The Current

Can you hear me now

Cell phones are all the rage

BY ANNA JINKERSON
Staff Writer

On the UM-St. Louis campus, cell phones are a prominent part of a student's way of life. In the halls, cell phones are a more common sight than backpacks.

From personal ring tones to text messaging, a generation that takes pride in self-expression has found another outlet: cell phones. Increasingly, cell phones are becoming part of the culture on campus.

Meanwhile, cell phone manufacturers are fueling the culture by dropping prices and adding more features to their products. Basic mobile phones for making calls and sending short text messages cost around \$200. However, they are often provided free to those who sign phone service contracts, usually starting around \$25 a month.

Cell phones can come equipped with digital cameras, video and audio capability, calendars, address books, video games and the ability to surf the Internet and send e-mail, similar to a desktop computer. A survey conducted by the University of California at Santa Clara says that students have eased into the transition of college life by using cell phones as a way to stay in touch with family and friends.

According to a study of 41 families, nearly every family cited cell phones, "as the most important tool

they had for keeping families organized." Sociologists all over the country are currently studying the way cell phones are changing the ways that we communicate.

Rich Ling, a former sociologist at



Jason Granger/The Current

University of Colorado argues that cell phones are changing the way human activities are coordinated. For

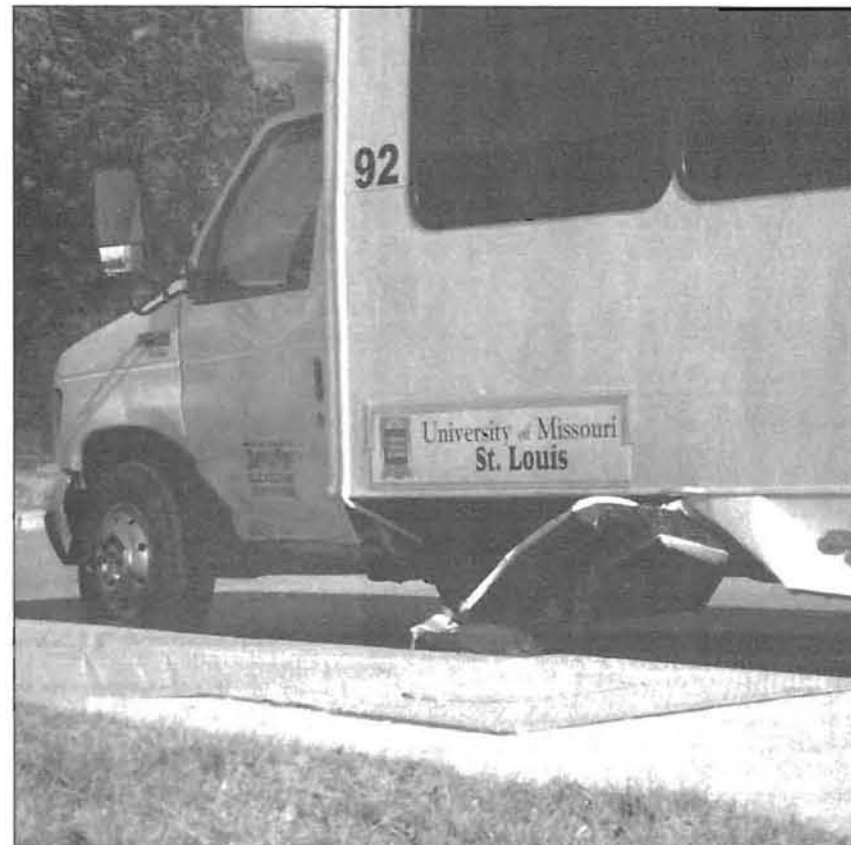
instance, cell phones give us the ability to call ahead if we are running late, and this relaxes the idea of being prompt for a meeting or date. Beyond logistics, cell phones have opened up family communication. It is easy to call a family member and have them "pick up dinner" on the way home. Regardless of the benefits, some argue that cell phones are changing our culture for the worst.

Groups such as cellmatters.com are promoting cell phone civility in a society that is becoming increasingly dependent on them. The group notes that cities around the world are beginning to ban cell phones in public places such as bars, restaurants and movie theaters, just like the smoking ban craze of the 1990s. According to the website, the city council in Campinas, Brazil, passed an ordinance declaring concentration as "prized" and that cell phones break concentration in libraries, movie theaters and classrooms.

If a cell phone rings in these places, you will be escorted out. Businesses must post signs that warn their patrons of cell phone use or face paying a fine of up to \$236. At Nottingham Trent University in England, if a professor hears your phone ring once after a warning, a student could be fined up to \$150.

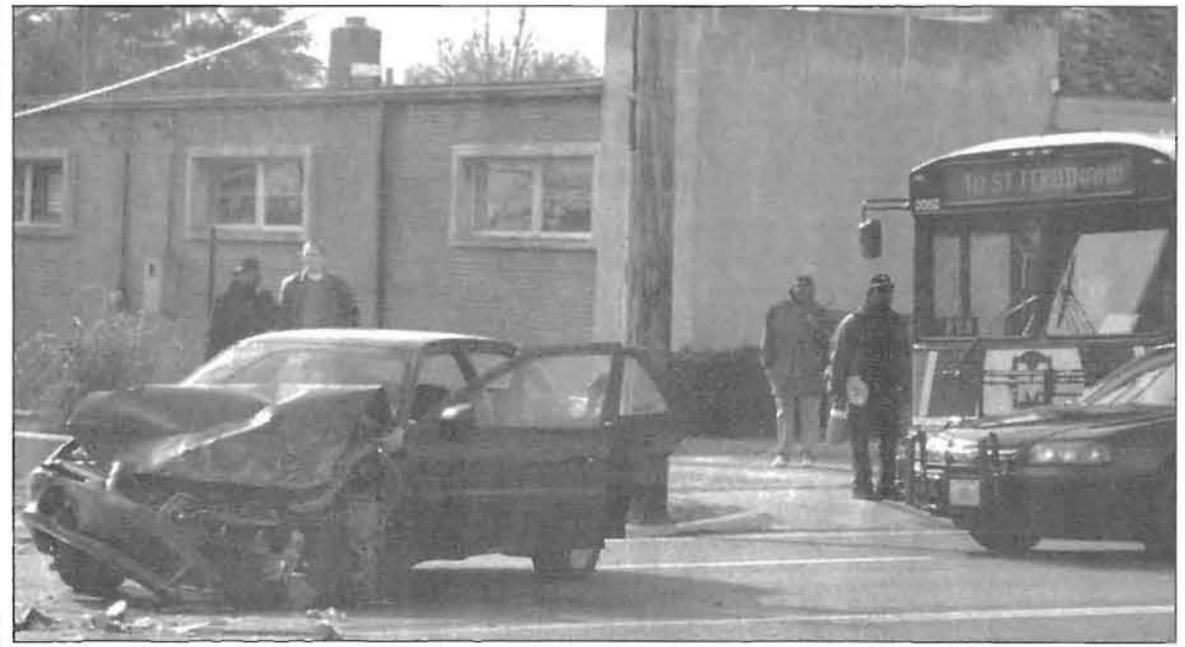
American universities like UM-St. Louis are advocating cell phone manners as well. According to Bob Samples, Communications director, there is no campus policy regarding the use of cell phones in classrooms to date, however, professors are including restrictions in their syllabi.

UMSL shuttle in accident



Police block off an accident scene on Natural Bridge last Friday, Jan. 23. The accident included an 1990s Pontiac and one of the school shuttle buses.

Photos by Jason Granger



The Current is now accepting applications for editor-in-chief for next year. If you are interested, bring a cover letter and a resume to 388 MSC addressed to Jason Granger, editor-in-chief. All applications must be received by Jan. 30 at 5 p.m.

You are cordially invited to attend

LUNCH WITH A LEGISLATOR

Missouri: 2004 and Beyond

Friday January 30, 2003
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
The Pilot House, MSC

Complimentary lunch at 12:00 PM
Program and Questions at 12:30 PM

Come show your appreciation to
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Strathmore 4-Pad Value Pack 9"x12" drawing & sketch	Windsor & Newton Artists' Soft Pastel (set of 12 & 24)	Canon Mi-Tenite Paper (8.5"x11" & 19"x25" sheets)
Faber (various sizes) Blue & Red Label Canvas	HUNT Foamboard white & black (various sizes)	Weber Odorless Turpenoid (various sizes)

OPINION

OUR OPINION

Rock the vote

The Current endorses John Kerry for president

The Current would like to take this time to issue its endorsement for President of the United States. The Current endorses John Kerry.

Now, we must be honest and say that Sen. Kerry was not our first choice. Originally, The Current felt the best choice would be Rep. Richard Gephardt. But after Gephardt pulled out of the race, we were forced to choose a different candidate, which is when we settled on Kerry.

Now, the members of The Current's editorial board felt like it was time for a change in the White House, we did not feel President George W. Bush was qualified to hold the office any longer. We felt that we for a few reasons.

1) The war in Iraq

While The Current's editorial board wholeheartedly supports the fighting men and women of the U.S. armed forces, Bush's decision to go to war was against the will of his people and indeed, the will of most of the world.

2) Lying about weapons of mass destruction

When the U.S. first went into Iraq, it was to rid America of the threat of Saddam

country (at least not those making millions a year) was mired in a recession. True, it hit hard due to the attacks of 9/11, but he never really did much to spur the economy on. He will site, of course, his tax cuts, but there are many who think they are a detriment, rather than a boost. They should be done away with.

So, why do we think Sen. Kerry would be a good fit for the White House? For one, he has momentum. After taking Iowa by surprise, Kerry's campaign is picking up speed. Once considered an outsider amongst major contenders, Kerry has jumped to the front of the pack, much in the same way that Bill Clinton did in 1992. Indeed, Sen. Kerry comes from the Clinton school of politics. Say what you will about his personal life, Bill Clinton was one of the best presidents this country has seen in decades. Having someone come in from the same school of thought could only be a good thing.

Sen. Kerry is also a Vietnam veteran. This should/would give him an instant rapport with the armed forces, and in this day and age, that is very important. With the constant threat of terrorism

Hussein's WOMD. So far, there have been no WOMD found. In his State of the Union address, Bush said there was "weapons of mass destruction" related programs found in Iraq. To quote the Daily Show's John Stewart, Bush was telling everyone "look, I lied about the weapons of mass destruction thing, so stop busting my ass about it."

3) Ignoring the economy

While the economy is making a decent turn around, Bush ignored it for far too long. While he was off fighting his wars, the rest of the

and having forces deployed in two hostile countries, Iraq and Afghanistan, having someone in office who has been at the front lines and laid his life on the line for his country would instantly lend credibility to his decisions...for battle or against.

Kerry also supports the middle class. He understands the plight of the working family. He knows the pitfalls that await many of today's working class homes, and supports measures to help said families. He is in favor of raising the federal Pell Grant to aid families in paying for a college education, something that should appeal to college students.



REED '04

The issue

It's time for a change in the White House. The Current has decided to endorse Sen. John Kerry for both the democratic nomination and the presidency.

We suggest

John Kerry has experience in the senate as well as the armed forces. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War, which will give him an instant rapport with the military. That is an important factor in this day and age.

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.

Ice storm be damned

Safety of staff is reason for late newspaper

I would like to apologize for the lateness of this newspaper. You see, I had to make a hard decision, one that affects the very security of my job. I had to decide whether or not to purposely delay publication of this newspaper.

Why, you may ask, did I decide to do this? Well, Saturday night, we kept hearing word that a major winter storm was on its way in, that instead of snow, it would be ice and be exceedingly dangerous. So I had to decide what was more important, publishing the newspaper on time, or risking the safety of my production crew. I decided to send them home before the storm hit.

We all know MODOT is not the most effective of government agencies in the state. They usually wait for four or five hours before they start working, by then it is too late, as was the case this time. We all also know that ice is far more dangerous and indeed, deadly than snow. I was not comfortable risking the health and lives of those I work with and count amongst my friends, no, I just could not do that.

I think there is precious little of that mentality left in this society. I think a general malaise has settled over our social conscience. All we

really care about nowadays is what makes our lives better, what makes it easier on us, rather than think about those around us. Think about stores such as Wal-Mart, Target and even malls that stay open during a winter storm. There could be an all out blizzard in effect, but if people need it, they can go to Eddie Bauer and get a \$50 flannel shirt. Priorities, I guess. But those stores staying open are risking the lives of those people who do the work. Instead of closing their doors and telling the workers they matter more than profit margins, they stay open, and then those same workers have to brave the elements to get home.

There has to come a time where people start thinking the safety and well-being of those around them takes precedent over money and prestige.

So I could not justify in my own mind keeping the production folks here. I could not justify in my own mind telling them to stay. I did not want to hear that one of them had been hurt or worse. I did not think I could live with myself if, by my decision, I told them to stay then they drove off a bridge or into a tree. It was time for their safety to come first.



JASON GRANGER Editor-in-Chief

Neighborly Advice

"Everybody get out! We're evacuating the building!" is not my preferred wake-up call. However, as I do not yet cherish the thought of dying in my sleep, I am willing to be understanding when roused in such a way. That is, up to the point of being without power or heat for more than eight hours in the middle of January. Then I become decidedly cranky.

Despite the firemen with pick-axes, frantic utility workers and milling police officers, the gas leak in our building wasn't terribly dramatic. Just a small group of people temporarily displaced from their homes. The situation didn't become truly problematic until late that evening, when the crisis had passed and we still didn't have our services turned back on.

While we were waiting, my neighbors and I spent some quality time in our stairwell. I hadn't yet met them, except in passing, being new to the building and keeping the strange schedule that I do. Yet we got along easily and I learned a little about them and my new neighborhood. I also learned that, while I was away in Vermont, my door had been left unlocked and was ajar. They told me that they hoped I didn't mind, but they first checked to make sure that I wasn't inside incapacitated, and then shut my door for me. I was strangely surprised and pleased by the gesture.

When everything finally seemed to be fixed, I returned to my apartment, only to find I was still without electricity. Everyone else's was working. Then began a lengthy and fruitless attempt to get either my leasing company or the electric company to come by to rectify the problem. Both blamed the other. After helping me make calls and try to reach someone, my neigh-

bors finally decided to troop, en masse, to the basement to take a look for themselves. After a few comical mishaps in the dark, they finally found that my fuses (yes, fuses, it's an old building) had not been screwed back in. We all cheered when my lights came back on.

As I was thawing out that evening, I had to wonder at my own surprise over these simple, neighborly gestures. I would have expected such helpfulness in the small towns I have lived in, but not here in St. Louis. I was dismayed to realize that I had adopted the notion that residents of this city were, by nature or necessity, less concerned with the welfare of others.

It surely does not help that we now live in an overwhelmingly transient and litigious society that fosters global connections, while neglecting local ones.

We can have intimate conversations online with strangers from Greenland, yet we hardly have the time or inclination to speak with the people we live among. We are afraid of reaching out to assist those who need help, due to potential lawsuits and con artists. We move and change employment and go away to school, so we never get familiar with our communities. For many of us, community is just the place we live, and not the people we are surrounded by.

I don't have an answer for how we can be different. Yet I would encourage everyone to make an attempt to reach out a little more—in a safe manner. At least meet your neighbors, keep abreast of community issues, and participate in local events as you are able. Just as they encourage others who go out into the "wilderness", don't just take what you can, leave it a little better than you found it.



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Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

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



Kyle McHugh Junior Computer Science

You must have a mirror in your pocket 'cus I can see myself in your pants.



Jeanne Patrick Senior Sociology

Are you from Tennessee? 'Cus you're the only ten I see!



Kristen Lewis Senior Political Science

The guy looks at your t-shirt tag and says, "Just what I thought...made in heaven."



Chris Rolland Sophomore Civil Engineering

Some of my gym buddies like to say, "Let's get Buff!"

To mars and beyond



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

treaties that reserved the Moon and space for peaceful uses only. So what is the actual motivation for putting a space station on the Moon?

The announcements about the new space initiative and the fate of the Hubble have had websites devoted to science mourning the Hubble and asking questions about the new space plan. NASA, long the forgotten stepchild of the defense department, was heartened by the news, but the truth is that the space telescope did more to advance scientific knowledge of our universe than the trip to the Moon did. The Hubble space telescope has been a major scientific boon, despite its initially rocky start. Cautiously optimistic has been the prevailing tone on the space and science websites, but questions are being raised about the goal of the program.

The Hubble telescope is able to capture sharp, clear pictures unavailable from Earth, due to the dust and elements of our atmosphere. Located 350 miles above Earth, the telescope's view is ten times better than that afforded from our planet. Ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths that are absorbed by our atmosphere are visible to the Hubble, and its images have given us unprecedented new information about the age and composition of the universe. It has been the gem of NASA's space program.

NASA was set to send a shuttle for a last service mission, to boost the Hubble into higher orbit and do some maintenance. Although the more-than-ten-year-old Hubble is to be replaced by the new James Webb Space Telescope, the lack of this final mission means that Hubble will fail prematurely, and we will be without a space telescope until it is replaced. As Hubble's orbit decays, NASA will also have to take steps to bring it down safely.

Even those enamored of space exploration realize the price of going into space. Scientists are aware that more information can be gathered by robot and remote exploration, but what has traditionally fired up the public's imagination is the idea of putting astronauts on the Moon and Mars. "No bucks, no Buck Rogers," said one wit when assessing the cost of manned space travel, but it is the tremendous expense for a mission to Mars that has made everyone gasp.

When Kennedy made his call to go to the Moon, the U.S. economy was so strong that his successor, Lyndon Johnson, could convince Americans to embark on a plan to eradicate U.S. poverty. Why should poverty exist in such a prosperous land? The economy is far different today.

In his speech, Bush called for a planning committee to be headed by Pete Aldridge, a Pentagon official and former astronaut with a long history of working in the aerospace industry. This committee is to include representatives from industry as well as the Pentagon, yet it is unclear if industry will be asked to share the cost. Clearly,

they could reap benefits in the long term, so this might not be too much to ask. Scientists are concerned that less costly but more scientifically valuable programs may be lost to keep "Buck Rogers"—manned missions—in the picture.

The plan to not service the useful Hubble and allow it to fall into uselessness, while devoting remaining shuttle missions to the space station (to be used in establishing a base on the Moon), hints at the priorities involved.

The plan also calls for scrapping the space shuttle by 2010 and replacing it with a new orbital vehicle, the Crew Exploration Vehicle. It is not clear if the shuttle will be forever grounded, or if it might have some new role, such as an unmanned cargo vehicle or a use in industry. The plan may be for this new shuttle to have nuclear, rather than the conventional, propulsion.

For several years, the Pentagon has been pouring money into what used to be called Project Prometheus, an, as yet, unsuccessful plan to develop a nuclear power source for rockets. Other ideas for propulsion appear to be on the back burner, as the present administration seems to have a preference for nuclear. Official details are sketchy so far.

Over the years, much of the information associated with the first Moon missions, including the plans for the rocket that sent the Apollo astronauts to the Moon, have been lost. In some ways, we will have to start from scratch.

Now is the time to ask questions about the goals and details of this plan before money is spent. How the plan will be funded is a big one, for it seems we have plenty of expenses yet little idea of where the money will come from. Will the space budget come out of the Pentagon's share? In Bush's speech announcing the plan, he spoke of redirecting some NASA funds to start up this new project, but this will not cover the whole cost.

The reorganization of NASA, already underway since the speech, will put it more firmly in the military, instead of its present specialized government position. Will defense department money be redirected to this project, or will it come from elsewhere in the budget? The Pentagon is undergoing reorganization itself, something not everyone in the career military is pleased with, and Army, Navy and Air Force divisions will be affected.

Will there be a new Space division that includes the revived "Star Wars" Missile Defense program now being launched? And will weapons satellites and space lasers, now under development, be a part of this program? If NASA is just a part of such an agency, will peaceful exploration be their mission?

Many scientists would love to see exploration of our solar system, as would a great portion of the public. But at what cost? Let us see the plans before we sign up for this mission to

Marvelous photos of both Mars and ecstatic NASA scientists have been splashed across newspaper front pages. The Mars rover has proven to be a success. Yet George W. Bush's decision to return to both the moon and Mars, coupled with the intent to allow the Hubble space telescope to fail, leaves many confused.

There is something inherently visionary about the idea of exploring space. It sounds like President Kennedy's "New Frontier," a call that still speaks to America's pioneer roots.

For those opposed to space exploration, even purely scientific missions, this kind of announcement is met with reminders of unresolved problems here on Earth. However, for many of us, the images that leapt to mind were of outward exploration, a focus that might spur economic growth, technological innovation and excite the public's imagination. One is tempted to imagine the world focused on cooperating to explore space and expand scientific knowledge, generating new jobs and new wealth and maybe distracting us from the issues that lead to war.

One thing is certain about this plan: more details are needed before it can be evaluated. Scientists, especially those involved in space research and physics, were thrilled with the idea. Not only scientists, but also many who are generally interested in space, have shared the immediate assumption that the plan was for a peaceful, cooperative, scientific exploration of our solar system. However, this may not be the kind of space initiative Bush is talking about.

Historians can tell you that Kennedy's call to put a man on the moon had much to do with Cold War fears. Of primary concern, was what might happen if the Soviets got there first. The pursuit of pure science came in a distant second.

The twin decisions to push for space exploration while dropping the scientifically successful Hubble, hints at a military purpose for exploration, rather than a strictly scientific one. This theory is even more plausible if you consider that Bush pulled out of

The best album that you've never heard

This week: The Rolling Stones 'Through the Past Darkly (Big Hits 2)'

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

How legendary are the Rolling Stones? Consider it this way: In the pantheon of rock and roll, the only act considered greater is The Beatles. Pretty good company if you ask me. Now, I am of the school that the Rolling

a poor boy do/Except to sing for a rock and roll band?" Indeed, at the time, the only solace was in the music.

Another truly fine track is "Mother's Little Helper." This song is a track about despondency in suburban life and looking for peace in a "little yellow pill." Jagger, one of the finest lyricists in rock history penned one of the greatest lines ever with "Life's just much too

ticular, perhaps his own mother.

One of the Stone's finer ballads is "Ruby Tuesday" (yes, the restaurant is named after this song). Granted, they are not known for their ballads, but this is still a great song. The music is the real high point here. Keith Richards showed his music writing ability on this song, complimenting Jagger's words quite well. "She would never say/Where she came from/Yesterday don't matter when it's gone/While the sun is bright/In the darkest night/Where no one knows/She comes and goes/Goodbye Ruby Tuesday/Who could hang a name on you/When you change with every new day/Still I'm gonna miss you."

The best overall song on this album is "Paint it Black." This is a very dark song about a man spiraling into insanity. This is one edge that the Stones had over The Beatles, they started writing darker material first. "I see those girls walk by dressed in their summer clothes/I have to turn my head until my darkness goes/I see a red door and I want it painted black/No colors anymore I want them to turn black." This is kind of a precursor to Pink Floyd's "The Wall."



Tom Petty's song writing just seems to get better with age, something few artists can say.

Stones' best work occurred before 1971. There is a reason for this, of course. After The Beatles broke up, the Rolling Stones had no direction, they had no guidance. They lost their way. But before that time, they could flat out rock.

"Through the Past Darkly" is the second greatest hits compilation from the Stones, and it features some of their best work.

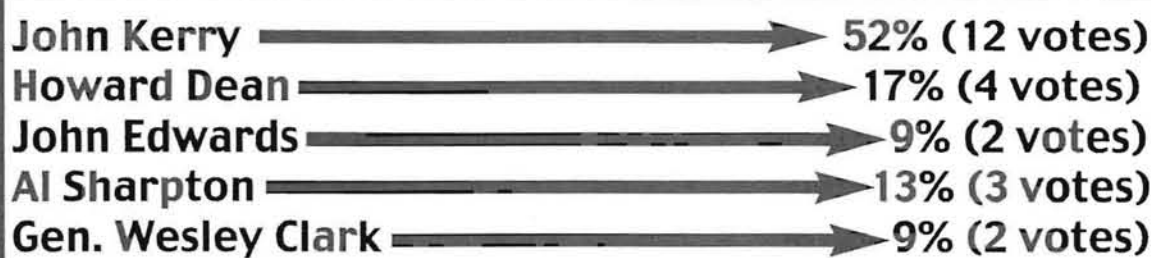
For example, track 11 is "Street Fighting Man," the Stones first foray into social commentary (but not their last. See "Sympathy for the Devil" and "Gimme Shelter" for proof). This song is a militant response to a militant situation. Referring directly to the Vietnam War, Mick Jagger decided the best way to get the anti-war point across was by "fighting in the street, boy." But it also expresses a confusion at the times, and finding solace in music. "But what can

hard today/I hear ever mother say/Mother needs something today to calm her down/And if you take more of those/You will get an overdose/No more running for the shelter of her mother's little helper/And just help you on your way/Through your busy dying day." One cannot help but wonder if he is singing about anyone in par-



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

Who will win the democratic nomination for president?



Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

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FEATURES

Not just another day at the office

UMSL Police Sgt. Marvin Blake says he spends at least 60 percent of his time on foot patrols around the campus

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Sergeant Marvin Blake spends his days supervising the police force at UM-St. Louis. To the average student this may seem like an easy task considering the relatively safe campus environment. Blake, who has served on the UM-St. Louis Police Squad for four years, says his days are anything but routine.

"We want the people to understand that we're not just here to enforce the laws," said Blake. "We're here to serve the people."

Blake also served as an investigator and supervisor with the Washington University Police Department. Prior to Washington University, he served on the major case, gang, and crime prevention task forces in Berkeley, Mo.

Although Blake is no stranger to the dangers associated with law enforcement, he said that he enjoys the campus community. "We don't deal with the 5 percent of habitual criminals that a typical metropolitan city does," he said. Blake explained that the most common crimes on a college campus are crimes of opportunity, such as property and auto theft.

Blake, who is required to spend 60 percent of his time on foot patrol, said he enjoys what he calls the "meet-and-greet."

"It's important for us to be seen doing our job, shaking hands and meeting people in a non-threatening manner," he said. "The students pay our wages and they should know that we are rarely sitting behind a desk."

When he is not out meeting and greeting the campus community, Blake is often on vehicle patrol. "We like to be proactive and take preventative measures; vehicle patrol is one way to accomplish that," he said.

The police force takes a proactive approach to more than just campus security. The force offers a women's safety class and campus safety presentations for student orientation classes and individual organizations.

According to Blake, serving the people is more than just tackling criminal problems. "We will escort someone to their car if they feel unsafe," he said.

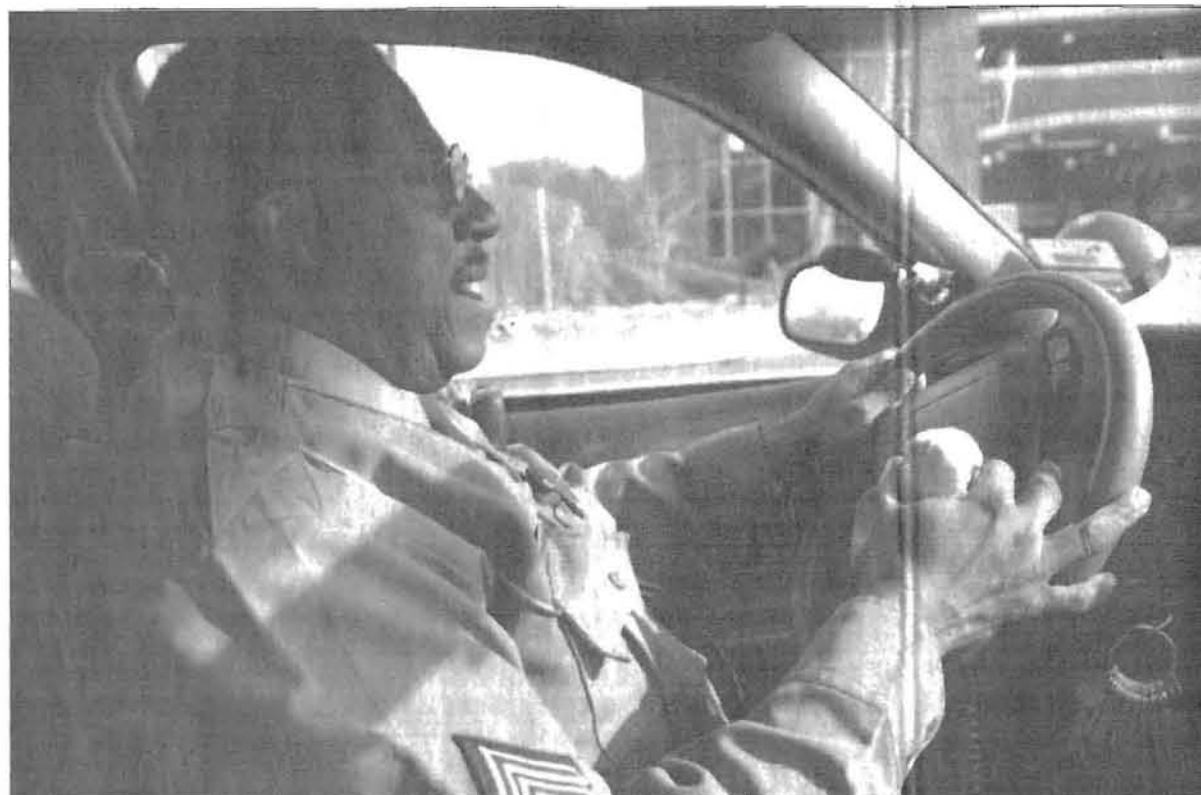
"We will also help them fix a flat tire or get their keys out of a locked vehicle. We understand the needs and problems of our campus community."

"There is no routine traffic stop and no routine day," he said. "I'm dealing with different people everyday." Blake said that even though the police are trained to follow protocol, every situation calls for good judgment. "We never know what kind of day someone has had when we pull them over, but we function under the same bureaucracy, so we try to be compassionate."

Blake said that he is happy to see

“It's important for us to be seen doing our job...the students pay our wages and they should know that we are rarely sitting behind a desk.”

- Sergeant Marvin Blake



Photos by Casey Ulrich/The Current

ABOVE: UM-St. Louis Police Sergeant Marvin Blake of the UMSL Police Department patrols campus on Saturday afternoon. Blake encourages students to get to know the officers that serve the campus. "We're not here to make students afraid," Blake said, "We're here to be approachable."

RIGHT: Sergeant Blake of the UMSL Police Department patrols campus, making sure that doors are locked.



more people thinking about safety. "People are becoming more safety conscious, even though campus communities have a relatively low crime rate," he said. "Everyone can take a proactive approach to their own safety."

The UM-St. Louis police department wants to students to know what the force is doing about safety issues that affect the campus, such as the incident last semester where a man filmed women using the restroom. "We were there when we realized there was a problem, we reacted, we did something about it," Blake said in

reference to the incident, which is now in the hands of St. Louis County Police.

"We don't have anything to hide," he said. "The campus belongs to the citizens, the students, faculty and staff, and we want them to know what's going on and what they can do to make themselves safer."

Blake and the UM-St. Louis Police department would like to encourage students to meet the police officers that serve the campus. "Get to know your police," he said. "We're not here to make students afraid. We're here to be approachable."

Television production club struggles to remain active

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

Students looking to excel as leaders in their field should consider joining a UM-St. Louis organization on campus. There are currently 82 funded organizations that rely on leaders to keep them together, both physically and financially.

Obtaining the funds to stay active is not a simple process. An organization's leader must go to leadership retreats, be present at Student Government Association meetings that are held once a month and most importantly, having a sound budget turned in to the Student Activities Budget Committee by the budget deadline. If an organization's leader fails to complete all these requirements, he or she risks having their organization's funds frozen or cut completely.

One organization competing to stay financially active on campus is the TV Production Club. The TV Production Club has had productions air on PBS, the Arts and Entertainment Cable Network, Committee for Access and local Origination Programming, the Higher Education Channel and local cable.

James Fay, faculty advisor to the TV Production Club says that the club is struggling because he was asked by Student Life to lessen his involvement and let students take over.

"Because the Club had heavy faculty advisor involvement for a long time, it was not well prepared for a



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Students use the television production studio on the first floor of Lucas Hall to film a UM-St. Louis news program in this file photo from Spring of 2003.

time without any external assistance," Fay said. Since Student Life advised him to give participating students more charge over the organization, "the club has struggled to meet deadlines and operate effectively."

Fay, who is Associate Professor of Communication at UM-St. Louis, has won several awards and grants includ-

ing The American College Theatre Festival Award for Technical Design for "Girl in the Dancing Box," 1976, Tulane University and the North Area Cable Television Authority municipal programming development.

Orinthia Montague, Acting Director of Student Life, says that she does not recall asking Fay to lessen his

involvement in the TV Production Club. She does agree with the notion that clubs should be run by students and advised by faculty.

"Faculty advisors are there as guides, not leaders. Students should be interested in their own involvement," Montague said. "And we help students to reach deadlines by requiring each

organization to send one member to a workshop, which was held in September. This workshop shows them how to write a budget proposal. We also have leadership retreats that go over leadership roles."

Fay felt that one of the problems with the budget process was that students wrote proposals for other students who would participate in the following year.

"Now that the media arts program is getting more support from Academic Affairs...the students in the club, who were previously creating video tapes for other student organizations and covering campus activities, are engaged in other projects. Those same students continue to do grant work, such as the Luxehaus video for Continuing Education, and work on projects of their own choosing," Fay said. "Often times, these students had other production agendas and didn't want to be accountable for promises made by graduating seniors the previous year. They felt that if what they were doing benefited students, then that would be sufficient. It apparently wasn't."

Students interested in video production should contact the current TV Production Club president, Robert Huesgen III, at rphk8@student-mail.ums.edu. The TV Production Club is still active and needs students to sign up to become members. Any organization seeking to be recognized on campus needs at least 11 members to be recognized, and 13 to apply for funding.

EDITOR

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ISO fosters cultural exchange

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Associate

The International Students Organization (ISO) has continued to serve as a successful special interest group at UM-St. Louis for more than twenty years.

Former advisor of ISO Marilyn Ditto-Pernell, now the Director of Disability Access Services, describes what the organization was like when it first began.

"I would say that this organization has been in existence since the 80s and has helped students become more familiar with different cultures around the world," Ditto-Pernell said. "When I helped coordinate activities for the group, there were probably only 200 international students attending UMSL, representing 40 to 50 different countries."

Ditto-Pernell went on to say that since then, UM-St. Louis has had an increased rate of students with diverse backgrounds.

The purpose of ISO is to welcome international students to the campus and St. Louis. International students can exchange personal stories about their own cultures with others, while participating in exciting activities within the community. This group also serves to promote the international studies program at UM-St. Louis.

To commute or not to commute: are dorms worth it?

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

After a year of commuting to school, many students may be considering a move to on-campus housing. This guide to UM-St. Louis' residence halls will explain the pros and cons of the different options available.

UM-St. Louis currently operates six dormitories for their students. Bellerive Hall is a coed building with single gender floors. Villa North has the same setup, but also has a Spanish Club theme for students interested in or studying the language. LeGras Hall houses students that are twenty years of age or older and has coed floors. Villa Proper is also coed, and many Honors College students live there. Seton Hall is for students looking for a place to live for twelve

months. This hall has coed floors and is the headquarters for the Residence Hall Association. Normandie Hall, which used to house the Honors College, is located in the middle of a Bel-Nor neighborhood. It is an all-female building and has spaces for students who turn in contracts after the deadline.

The next aspect to consider when moving on campus is cost. Although 95 percent of hall rooms are single occupancy, doubles are available for \$3,020 for nine months. Small single rooms, single rooms, singles with shared full bathrooms and singles with shared full bathrooms are also available. Prices range from \$3,020 up to \$3,900. Most hall rooms come equipped with a twin bed, a five-drawer chest and a desk. Each floor generally has a kitchenette, laundry room and lounge. Choosing to live in a residence hall also requires purchas-

“You can go to class in your pajamas!”

- Christi Mullis, Department Assistant of Residential Life

ing a meal plan of at least \$650.

Daron Dierkes, junior, history, lived in Villa Proper for two and a half years. He explained that he enjoyed the close proximity to his friends but also complained about the "bad lighting and bad food." Dierkes ultimately decided to move out of the dorms this semester because, "there were always a lot of people in my

room when I wanted to sleep."

Carlos Manaois, freshman, computer science, was a floor representative for his dorm last semester and has a slightly more positive outlook regarding on campus housing. Manaois lives in Bellerive Hall and says that he does not hear too many complaints aside from issues concerning the leaky air conditioners. He said that he enjoys activities the residents do together, such as Funny Bone night, when residents traveled to the comedy club in Westport Plaza. "I like the community, most people know each other," Manaois said.

Christi Mullis, Department Assistant of Residential Life, says that the only complaints she gets are usually maintenance-related. She also said that most people are satisfied with their choice to live in the residence halls. Mullis explained how convenient the dorms are, saying,

"You can go to class in your pajamas!"

Many students considering a move on campus are concerned with the level of freedom they will be given as well as the rules they will have to abide by. But after speaking with several residents, no one seemed dissatisfied with any of the regulations, including the ones regarding visitors and curfews. Visitors may be male or female, and are required to be signed in after 9 p.m. every night, and no curfew is enacted. University policies apply in the residence halls, and no alcohol is permitted on the premises. The rules are enforced by student resident assistants, who also plan programs and are available for any concerns residents have.

For more information about UM-St. Louis' Residential Life visit www.ums.edu/services/reslife, or call 516-6877.

"She is a great teacher who actually enjoys her job. How many people can say that?"

-Student Peggy Terrell, about English teaching assistant Heather Rodgers



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Heather Rodgers earned her bachelor's degree in English from UM-St. Louis in the Fall of 2002. She is now a graduate teaching assistant in the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

TA discovers that teaching & learning go hand-in-hand

BY ANGELA ASHLEY
Staff Writer

Many students at UM-St. Louis hold down jobs while attending school. However, how many students hold down a job teaching at the same university they are seeking a degree from? Heather Rodgers is one of those students.

Rodgers graduated from UM-St. Louis in the spring of 2002 with an undergraduate degree in English. She began to teach classes in the fall of 2002 as a way to pay her way through graduate school.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do," she said. "I applied for the TA position, which in the English department means that you teach freshman comp classes. It wasn't until the first week of classes that I knew I really wanted to teach," said Rodgers.

When asked what she liked the most about teaching, Rodgers replied, "I knew I was passionate about English, but when I was in my classes, I was very shy. Teaching gives me a voice and a place to interact. I'm not as scared to have conversations now." Rodgers also enjoys her students. "I feel like I can treat them as my peers and talk to them like human beings. I learn so much from them."

Rodgers is not the only one learn-

ing from her classes. Peggy Terrell, freshman, elementary education, is a former student of Rodgers. "She is a great teacher who actually enjoys her job. How many people can say that?" Terrell said. "Writing a paper used to scare me, before her class. Heather gave me the confidence and knowledge to write a paper. She makes writing a fun experience, but she can also be tough because she expects you to put some thought and effort into your work."

Rodgers' least favorite part of the job is grading student papers. "I hate giving out grades. I know they're not supposed to be personal, but for me they are," she said. "It's really hard for me, so usually I pass back the papers and then run."

Rodgers is currently pursuing a graduate degree in English with an emphasis in composition. "I have a love-hate relationship with writing. I usually begin a paper because the deadline motivates me, but once my ideas get going and I am in the thick of it, I get excited about it," she said.

Rodgers has won several awards for her writing, including the Undergraduate English Essay Award, the Women and Gender Studies Award, the Alumni Scholarship for Excellence in English and most recently, the Graduate Composition Essay Award. When asked which she

is most proud of, Rodgers said, "I would say the Graduate Composition Essay Award, because it's in my focus area. It was very difficult to write, and that others found it to be good is very rewarding."

When she is not teaching, Rodgers has several hobbies to keep her busy. She enjoys art, museums, music, movies and hunting for antiques. When asked to pick a favorite antique, Rodgers had to pause before deciding on an Indian jacket that she found in London.

"The colors are amazing and so are the materials," she said.

Originally from St. Louis, Rodgers says she likes that "it's a big small town. The museums are free, and there is music and theater everywhere, not to mention that my family lives here."

Since this is her last semester of graduate school, Rodgers is looking towards the future. "I plan on teaching, then more than likely pursuing my Ph.D. I don't have it all worked out yet," she said.

When asked what kind of impression Rodgers has on her students, Terrell answered, "She left a lasting impression on me. Her teaching will follow me for the rest of my life. She changed me as a student and a writer, and I thank her dearly for that. She taught me to never give up. To try again until you succeed."

Gallery 210 opens first shows in new location



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

TOP: Dan Younger, associate professor of art, talks with Marilyn Heldman, adjunct professor of art, at a reception on Thursday evening for the new exhibition of work by Mark Shultis at Gallery 210. The gallery recently moved to the Telecommunity Center, located next to the north campus MetroLink station. The new location includes two gallery spaces, a reception area, and a lecture hall.

LEFT: Christine Ilewski (at left) browses the Mark Shultis exhibit on Thursday.

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SPORTS

Bellarmine slams Riverwomen

Two days later UMSL rebounds, defeats Ky-Wesleyan

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen were on the wrong end of a lopsided victory Jan. 15 against the Bellarmine Knights ranked 21. Bellarmine's tough inside presence coupled with excellent shooting, doomed the Riverwomen from the start. The Knights jumped out to a quick 10-2 lead in the first three minutes of the game before Debi Dibella got the Riverwomen knocked down a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 10-5. UM-St. Louis had particular problems guarding Bellarmine's point guard, Shanta Bowens, who had a game high 19 points. Her quickness allowed Bellarmine to score inside and outside against the Riverwomen, and it became painfully obvious it was going to be a difficult game before the half was even close. At 10-5, Bellarmine took control, scoring the next six points of the game to lead by 11. Unfortunately, five points was the smallest gap that UM-St. Louis had, and by halftime, the Knights stretched their lead to 20 points, 42-22. In the second half, it looked like UM-St. Louis was going to start closing the gap. The Riverwomen seemed to muscle in some on the inside game and took away some of the scoring opportunities in the paint from the Knights. Bellarmine answered by relying on almost flawless perimeter shooting, knocking down 3-pointers seemingly at will. The Riverwomen's zone



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Riverwomen guard Crystal Lambert evades Drury University opponents during the game Tuesday night at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. Drury's Lady Panthers, who are ranked third in the GLVC conference, gave the Riverwomen a crushing 90-47 defeat. The loss left UM-St. Louis' record at 4-12 for the season.

defense could not keep up with the ball movement of the Knights, and consequently the second half did not go any better than the first. Bellarmine cruised to an 84-49 victory.

UM-St. Louis was led by Megan Alberts with 14 points on 6-of-11 shooting, and Iesha Billups who contributed 12 points.

UM-St. Louis rebounded from the tough night Thursday to do some thrashing of their own in a 71-55 victory over Kentucky Wesleyan Jan. 17. The win came from vicious inside play

from Alberts, who had a career high 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Billups who contributed a career high 14 points. Kentucky Wesleyan started out on top for the first ten minutes of the half before UM-St. Louis took the lead. The Panthers were up 15-11, with 11:12 expired, when the Riverwomen went a 14-0 tear. Billups led the run with six of the 14 points. The Panthers eventually scored, but UM-St. Louis was able to hold onto its lead with a jumper by Kali Birkey to lead by 11 points, 29-18 at halftime. The Panthers

began the second half with a strong run, outplaying the Riverwomen and cutting their lead to just two, 35-33. UM-St. Louis then put the pressure on. Up 37-35, the Riverwomen took control of the game once again on a 9-0 run behind a 3-pointer from Kali Birkey, who had 17 points on the day. The rest of the game the Panthers could not defend well enough to get stops and allowed UM-St. Louis to shoot 62.5% (15-of-24) from the floor. UM-St. Louis finished the game hitting several key free throws at the end

to win 71-55. Coach Buchanan commented on the game, "We established an inside game due to our height advantage. In the first period their biggest player got three fouls and had to sit out, so that made the advantage that much greater. The big difference though were the free-throws down the stretch, if we would have hit free throws like that against St. Jo's and Edwardsville we would have won those games also."

see RIVERWOMEN BASKETBALL, page 9

GRETCHEN MOORE

Sports Editor

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Questions or Comments?

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

WEB

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

UPCOMING

Men's Basketball

Jan. 29

• at Lewis University 7:45 p.m.

Jan. 31

• at Wisconsin-Parkside 3:15 p.m.

Feb. 5

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

Women's Basketball

Jan. 29

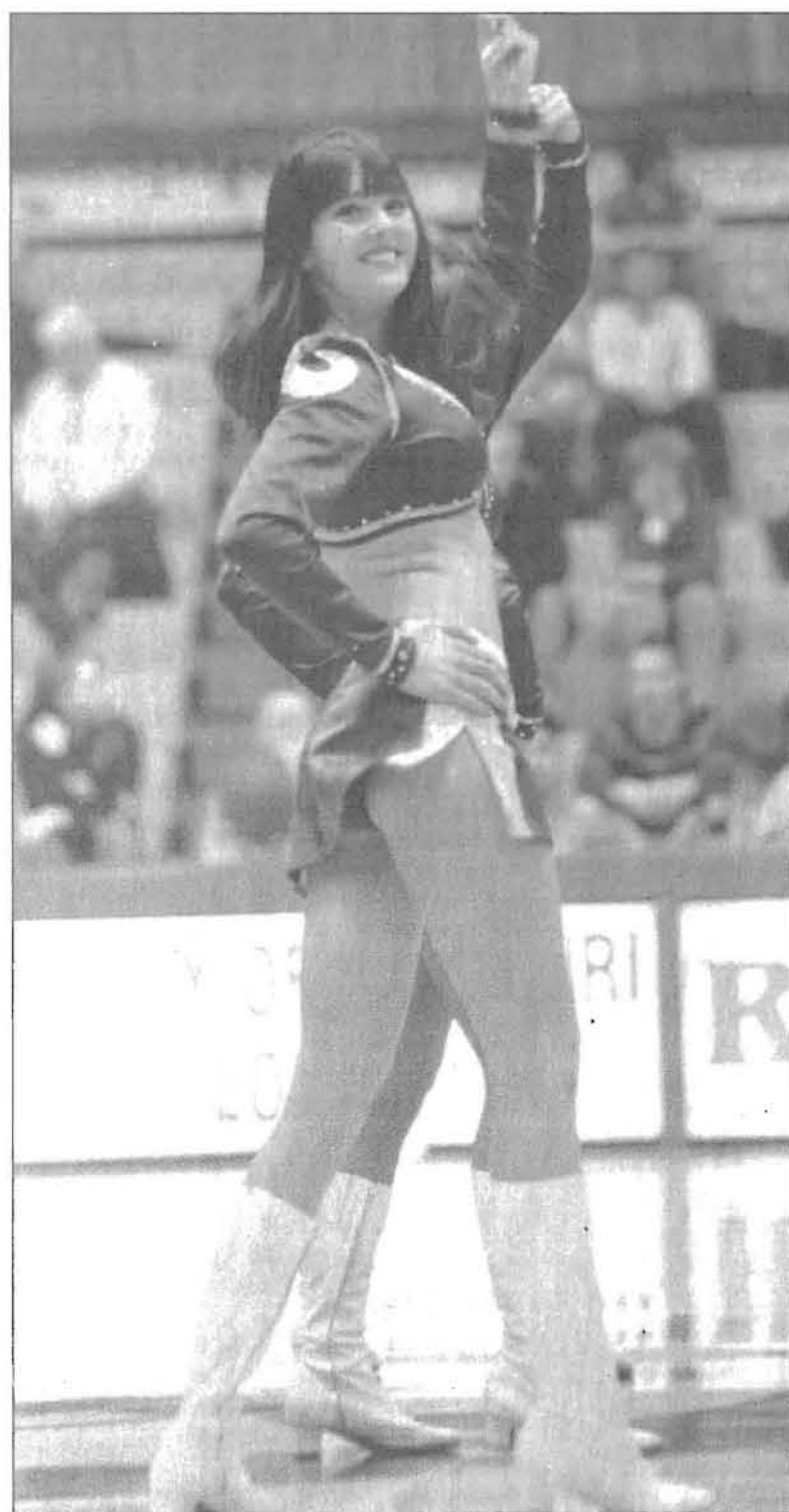
• at Lewis 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 31

• at Wisconsin-Parkside 1 p.m.

Feb. 5

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



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

ABOVE AND BELOW RIGHT: St. Louis Rams Cheerleaders were featured guests at the Rivermen basketball game Saturday. Fans who braved the weather were treated to a halftime show and offered autographed photographs of the cheerleaders.

More than just pompoms

Cheerleading for the Rams takes more than you might think

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

Shoulder definition, sculpted buns, toned legs and of course rock-hard abs. These characteristics are normally used to describe athletes that play soccer, football or even baseball. But who knew that these attributes could describe someone who struggles to live up to the stereotype of the meat-head jock that lifts weights in the gym with his headphones on and a sweaty towel around his neck as he grunts holding a 375-pound barbell over his head.

If cheerleaders do not come to mind when you think of athletes, think again! It takes hard work, motivation to stay in shape and commitment to help the community to be a cheerleader for the NFL.

According to the Winter 2004 issue of Alive magazine, "In the world of football, the players aren't the only athletes on the field. If you look closely, athletes can be found on the sidelines in flashy uniforms and holding pompoms."

The Rams cheerleaders performed at the Saturday, Jan. 24 UM-St. Louis men's basketball game in order to help promote spirit and spread the good nature of the St. Louis Rams and their supporters.

Alive describes game day for a Rams cheerleader, "The whistle blows and the kickoff begins. The Rams are playing hard on the field and the cheerleaders are dancing and cheering effortlessly off the field. But don't be fooled, cheerleading is not as easy as it looks."

In order to become a Rams cheerleader all participants must be 18 years or older by June 1, 2004. The St. Louis

Rams cheerleaders attend mandatory rehearsals every Tuesday & Thursday evening beginning immediately after the final squad is selected.

Each cheerleader must be able to attend a 3-day cheerleader camp and must be able to cheer at all 10 home games during the season. Participants may not cheer for the Rams and any other professional or college team concurrently. A panel of judges selects the cheerleaders. Judging is based on physical talent, dance ability, personality, appearance and poise.

Once the squad is formed, the girls quickly find that there is more than just cute uniforms and pompoms. These women are athletes: they practice, eat

right and have a workout routine. In fact, they start practicing immediately after tryouts in May. Then they devote six hours a week learning new dances, performing old ones and getting themselves ready to perform.

In the world of football, the players aren't the only athletes on the field...

- Alive magazine

According to Alive, these practices are only the beginning of their exercise regime. They all find time outside of their dance workouts to hit the gym and do some strength training. Erin, a three-year veteran who also attends UM-St. Louis says, "it's not just about looking good in the uniforms, it's more about feeling good and having confidence while performing."

see CHEERLEADING, page 12



R-men tennis looks for third straight trip to NCAA regionals

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's tennis program has made two straight trips to the NCAA Regionals and will be looking for a third straight this year. This success has led to some national recognition for the team as the pre-season polls, conducted by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, have UM-St. Louis ranked sixth in

the Great Lakes Region to start the season.

UM-St. Louis is one of five teams from the Great Lakes Valley Conference ranked in the pre-season regional polls and is third of those teams behind third ranked Southern Indiana and fourth ranked Northern Kentucky. Northwood (Mich.) University is ranked first in the region, followed by Ferris State. Wayne State, the team that has eliminated UM-St. Louis in the NCAA

Regional each of the past two years, is ranked fifth in the region, one spot ahead of the Rivermen.

The Rivermen are led this year by senior Matt Vaulkhard from Victoria, British Columbia, who has a chance to etch his name in school history with a good showing this spring. Vaulkhard currently had 43 career singles wins at UM-St. Louis, needing just seven more to tie the career record of 50 wins established by UM-St. Louis Hall of Famer Tom

January.

"This year is going to be very good for the tennis program, and we are all excited and ready to show the other schools what we have been preparing for," Vaulkhard said.

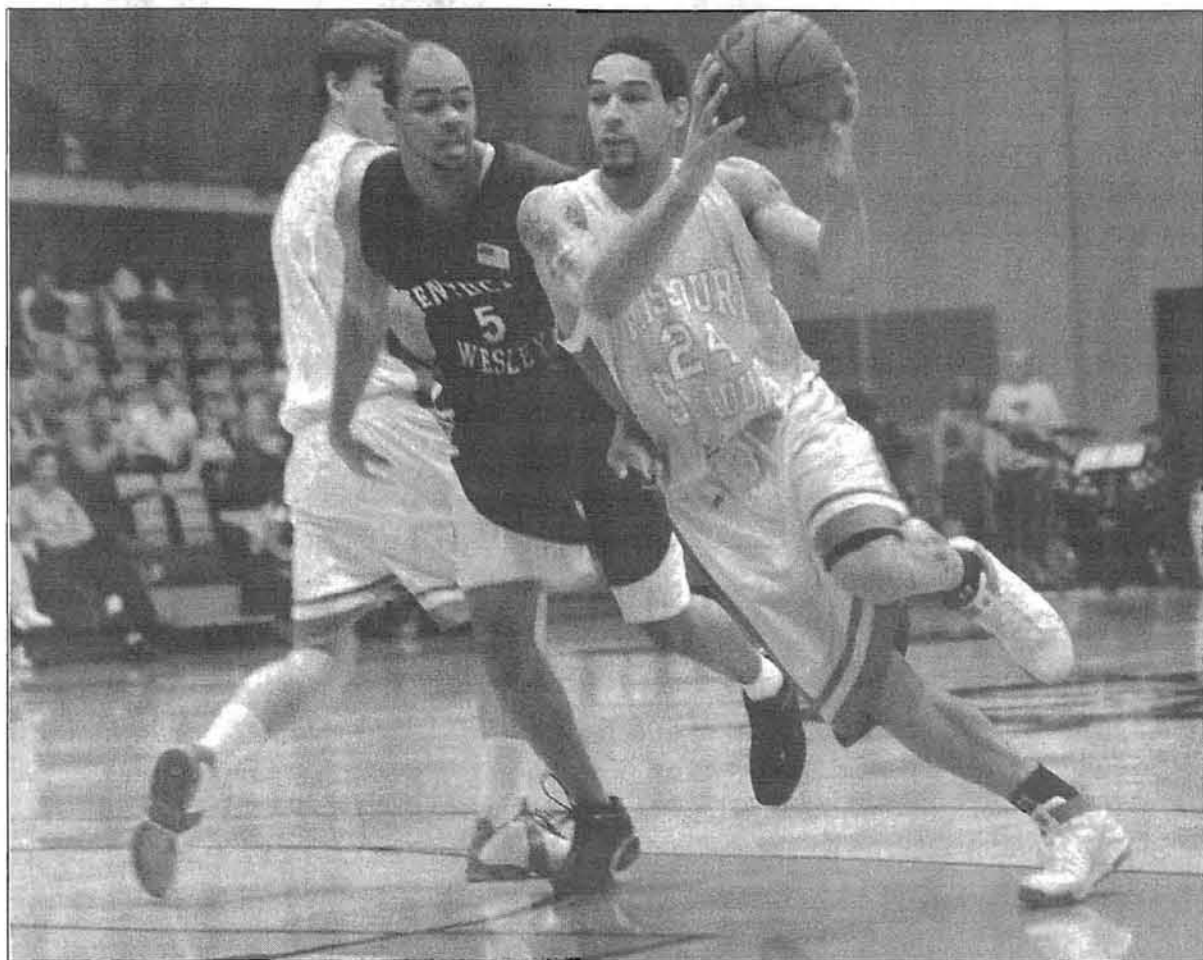
The rest of the squad is a young team for head coach Rick Gyllenberg, which includes returning players Mike Schaaf from St. Charles, Mo., Rajan Saini from Victoria, British Columbia and Stephen Pobst hailing from Sikeston,

Mo. Last year, Schaaf finished 14-3 in the singles play, Saini was 10-4 and Pobst was 9-7 on the year. New additions to the team this year include James Daugherty, junior, from White Settlement, Texas, Max Bugner from Kingwood, Texas and Francis Lam, hailing from Kettering, England.

"I think we are going to hold up to the expectations that people have in us. We are a really strong team with a lot of returning players," Schaaf said.

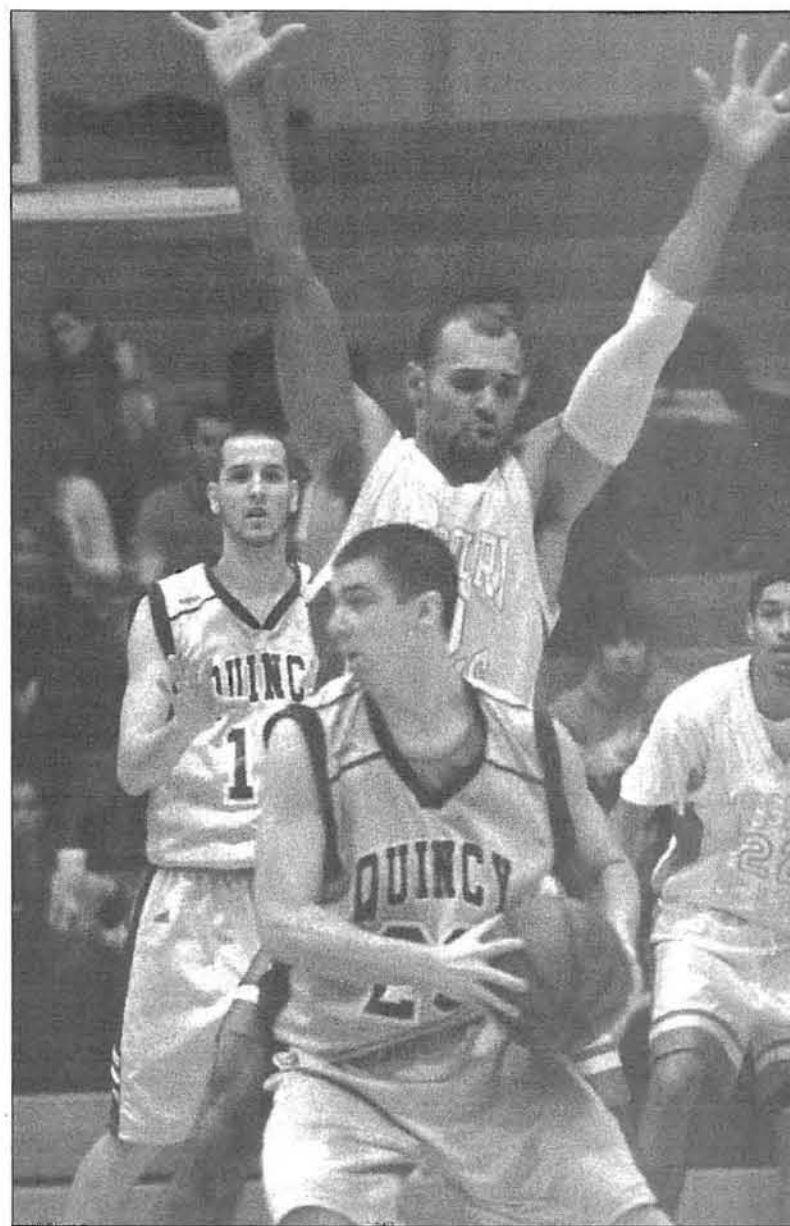
Rivermen win their way out of a slump

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Sports Editor



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen guard Johnathan Griffin (#24) drives toward the goal, past Dewayne Rodgers of the Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers, on Jan. 17. After defeating Bellarmine two days earlier, the Rivermen were overcome by the Panthers, losing 75-62.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The Rivermen's Ike Attah attempts to block a Quincy player's advance during the second half of play Saturday at the Mark Twain Building.

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball team has found their way out of a slump by bringing home two wins and one loss to improve their overall record to 6-10. The team faced Bellarmine on Thursday, Jan. 15, Kentucky Wesleyan on Saturday, Jan. 17 and Harris Stowe Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Thursday night, senior guard, Ronnie Banks helped lead the Rivermen to a 85-74 victory by scoring a career high 33 points. Banks hit 11-of-16 from the field and 5-of-6 from three-point range to lead UM-St. Louis to an emotionally charged win on Thursday evening.

In the first half, Bellarmine had the early lead at 6-4 before UM-St. Louis caught fire and went on a run. The Rivermen used a 17-5 run over the next five minutes to take control of the game and push the lead out to 21-9. During that run, Ronnie Banks led the UM-St. Louis charge, scoring 10 straight points for the Rivermen, including two three pointers during that time.

"There were just a lot of open better shots than what I normally get, so I would just pump fake and make the shots," Banks said.

The Knights came back and cut the lead to nine points at 28-19 with 7:24 left in the half, but the Rivermen scored six of the next eight, getting two three pointers to push the lead back to 13 points and took a 40-28 lead going into halftime.

Junior, forward, Josh Hardin commented on the team's performance, "We played good defense which lead to good offense. Ronnie really stepped up and had an excellent game. Our intensity and togetherness was the main reason we won."

UM-St. Louis came out strong to start the second half and led by 23 points after a jumper by Jared Pratt made it 53-30 at the 15:45 mark. The Knights then came charging back,

going on a 16-4 run over the next four minutes to cut the UM-St. Louis lead down to just nine points at 55-46.

The Rivermen responded with a three pointer from Justin Foust to stop the Bellarmine run and push the Rivermen's lead back up to 12 points. The Rivermen then made another big run, leading 66-54. UM-St. Louis went on a 12-2 run, getting seven of those 12 points from Ronnie Banks, to increase their lead to 22 points at 78-56 with just under five minutes remaining. That lead proved to be enough, as the Rivermen would hold on from there for the 85-74 win.

Justin Foust, a junior guard who

scored 13 points against the Knights said, "This was one of the first times that we have played as a whole as a team with a lot of energy."

Coach Chris Pilz reflected on his team's performance, "This was the best 40 minutes we have played the entire year. We shot the ball well, defended properly and had success in shooting."

The Rivermen then faced tough competition when matched against the 12-8 Panthers of Kentucky Wesleyan. Early in the first half, the Panthers used a quick spurt to jump ahead and take control of the game in the opening minutes. With UM-St. Louis leading

6-5 just two minutes into the game, Kentucky Wesleyan went on an 8-0 run over the next four minutes to take a seven-point lead at 13-6.

The Rivermen fought right back, getting five straight points from Ronnie Banks and a fast break lay-up by Sherome Cole to cut the lead down to just one point at 17-16. The Panthers eventually pushed their lead up to nine points at 29-20, and trailing by eight, UM-St. Louis finished the last three minutes of the first half with a 6-2 run and trailed by just four points, 33-29 at halftime.

"We played good overall, and John helped keep us in the game. We ran the

offense well, but just couldn't hit our shots," Foust said.

The second half featured much of the same action, as UM-St. Louis would cut into the Panthers lead, but each time Kentucky Wesleyan would respond with a couple of baskets of their own and push the lead back up.

UM-St. Louis got as close as two points at 44-42 with 10 minutes remaining and twice had it down to just three points, but a 9-2 run by Kentucky Wesleyan made it too much of a margin for the Rivermen to overcome, losing 75-62.

"It was a very hard fought game by

Funny how some things just don't seem to change

Friday morning rolls around and I struggle once again to find a topic to write about for my editorial. I sit at the computer in the office and am told to go flip through the books of old Current issues from 1971 to see the funny Stag beer and Wrangler Jeans ads. I grab the first book I see and flip to September 2, 1971.

I find the sports editorial and this statement caught my attention, "our students have become exceedingly polished in the exercise of the activity of griping, bemoaning the minor-league status of both the university in general and its athletic program in particular."

Hmm. Why does this sound so familiar? This problem still exists over 30 years later and nothing has seemed to change. As Mike Olds, 1971 sports editor writes, "With the completion of the new field house, UM-SL's 'New Era' has arrived. The facility may very well open the door to a taste of college life, which has been non-existent since the inception of this institution."

Ah Mike, I feel your pain. What is so different about the UM-Rolla campus, which is in the middle of nowhere but still manages to have 24 fraternities and sororities as well as football, swimming and track.

This part of the editorial really got to me. "The expression of 'new era' sounds rather pompous for a school, and an athletic program, which can boast only a five year history."

Yet, this lack of a college atmosphere is still lacking despite the assistance of new student organizations and activities. This campus seems to

still be full of grippers. Students should take this establishment for what it is worth and do something positive with it.

Mike continues in his editorial to say, "The idea of 'new era,' therefore, is fine unless the students on campus continue to maintain an 'old era' attitude toward things."

"New era" is a term, which can be applied far beyond the field of athletics. It can and should be brought to bear on university life. It is a rather well accepted fact that development of the physical is every bit as important as development of the mental. And, carrying that line of thought a bit further, it is the feeling here that development of the social is every bit as important as either of these.

It is common knowledge that UM-St. Louis is home to a majority of students who have transferred from prior colleges. They should not use it as a crutch, but in turn, as a stepping-stone to the fullest potential. Go to a basketball game and see the spirited pep band and elaborate half time shows. Meet the extraordinary athletes that represent you.

I will close with my favorite sentence; "the value of these facilities may only be judged, in fairness, by the amount in which they help improve the quality of campus life. And there is, as a poet said, room for improvement."



BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

On and off the court, Rivermen basketball guard Tim Blankenship excels

Off the court, you'll find Riverman #12 in class at the School of Optometry or at home with his wife

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

Tim Blankenship was born July 24, 1981 in Cardwell, Mo. He is majoring in optometry, and he plays basketball for the UM-St. Louis Rivermen. A few things make Tim a little bit different from your average college athlete. For starters, he is not even an undergraduate. He is in his second year of optometry school here at the university.

According to NCAA rules you can only represent a collegiate team within your first five years of schooling, but Tim graduated from Arkansas State with a bachelor's degree in biology in just three years, so he has this year of eligibility. He is very dedicated in the classroom, and to put perspective on his high GPA consider the following. It is difficult enough to get above a 3.0 a semester taking 15 credit hours in general, it is even more difficult to be an athlete and get that 3.0, but it is quite another to take 25 hours of school, and still stay above a 3.0.

On top of having the extra hours last semester, and now 19 this semester, he has to balance a marriage with his schooling and basketball. When

asked how he balances his basketball duties with his school and personal responsibilities, he responds,

"I guess I'm just passionate about whatever I do, and I take pride in it. Something that helps me is that I allow excelling in one area to drive me to excel in another area, so that being a hard worker on the court makes me a hard worker in the classroom and in turn a better husband. It is also a huge help that I have a very patient wife." Coach Pilz comments on Tim's drive and ambition,

"Tim is a young man with great conviction and character. His family did a super job in raising him to be a great person. His work ethic is evident, he excels in the classroom and that drive and determination allows him to play for the team. He has earned the respect of the players and the coaches."

Coach Pilz couldn't resist mentioning Tim's patient wife as well, "I also think it helps to know that if his GPA drops his wife will take him off of the basketball team."

Tim's best game this season came against Lewis, the best team in the conference, where he had 10 points in 27 minutes of play. His drive has



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UMSL Guard Tim Blankenship catches his breath during a physical practice session at the Mark Twain Athletic Complex. Blankenship, a student in the College of Optometry, is in his last year of eligibility for NCAA basketball.

helped him be fundamentally sound, and amazingly enough, in 153 minutes of playing time he has only had five turnovers. It is one thing to have five turnovers as a post player, but Tim plays guard for the Rivermen and handles the ball whenever he is on court. Unfortunately, Tim will not be able to play next year due to eligibility, but hopefully his maturity and drive can stay with the UM-St. Louis team for years to come.

helped him be fundamentally sound, and amazingly enough, in 153 minutes of playing time he has only had five turnovers. It is one thing to have five turnovers as a post player, but Tim plays guard for the Rivermen and handles the ball whenever he is on court. Unfortunately, Tim will not be able to play next year due to eligibility, but hopefully his maturity and drive can stay with the UM-St. Louis team for years to come.

RIVERWOMEN BASKETBALL, from page 8

The Riverwomen controlled this game by out muscling Kentucky Wesleyan. The Panthers just did not seem to have an answer for the power of Alberts in particular. On one occasion, she ignited a fast break with a steal, and while throwing the basketball down court, she was clipped by an opposing player causing her to flip sideways in the air. Playing physical seems part of her nature though, on another instance she rebounded a ball under the basket sandwiched between two Wesleyan players, who made the mistake of holding onto the basketball at the same time as her. In an attempt to free her arms and move away, she threw both players to the floor. If UM-St. Louis can continue to play aggressive basketball around the paint, more opportunities to score will come.

The Riverwomen played their next game against the Drury Lady Panthers, ranked three, on Jan. 20. Pardon the pun, but the Riverwomen were eaten alive, in a 90-47 loss. Unlike Bellarmine, Drury had an answer for everything the Riverwomen attempted to do. The Lady Panthers took no time to estab-

lish a lead going up 13-2 in the first four minutes of the game. UM-St. Louis got the deficit down to single digits on a lay-up by Ashley Richmond, to make the game 17-8, but it was as close as they were going to get the rest of the way. Drury put on a shooting clinic, hitting from anywhere and everywhere to take a 22-point lead going into halftime, 40-18. The closest that UM-St. Louis would get the second half was down 19 points, on a pair of free-throws by Crystal Lambert to make it 44-25. Unfortunately, that was too little too late. Drury picked the Riverwomen apart in the second half of the game, getting steals, offensive rebounds, and running perfect plays. It is difficult to guard a team that does not have to dribble to score. The Lady Panthers cruised to a 90-47 victory. Richmond found the positive aspect of the game, "It's always good to play good competition because it makes us better as individuals and as a program."

Dibella was the high scorer for the Riverwomen with 14 points and seven rebounds. The Riverwomen are now 4-12 on the season.

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Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Ongoing

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.

Jan. 26

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.

Ani goes solo for latest release

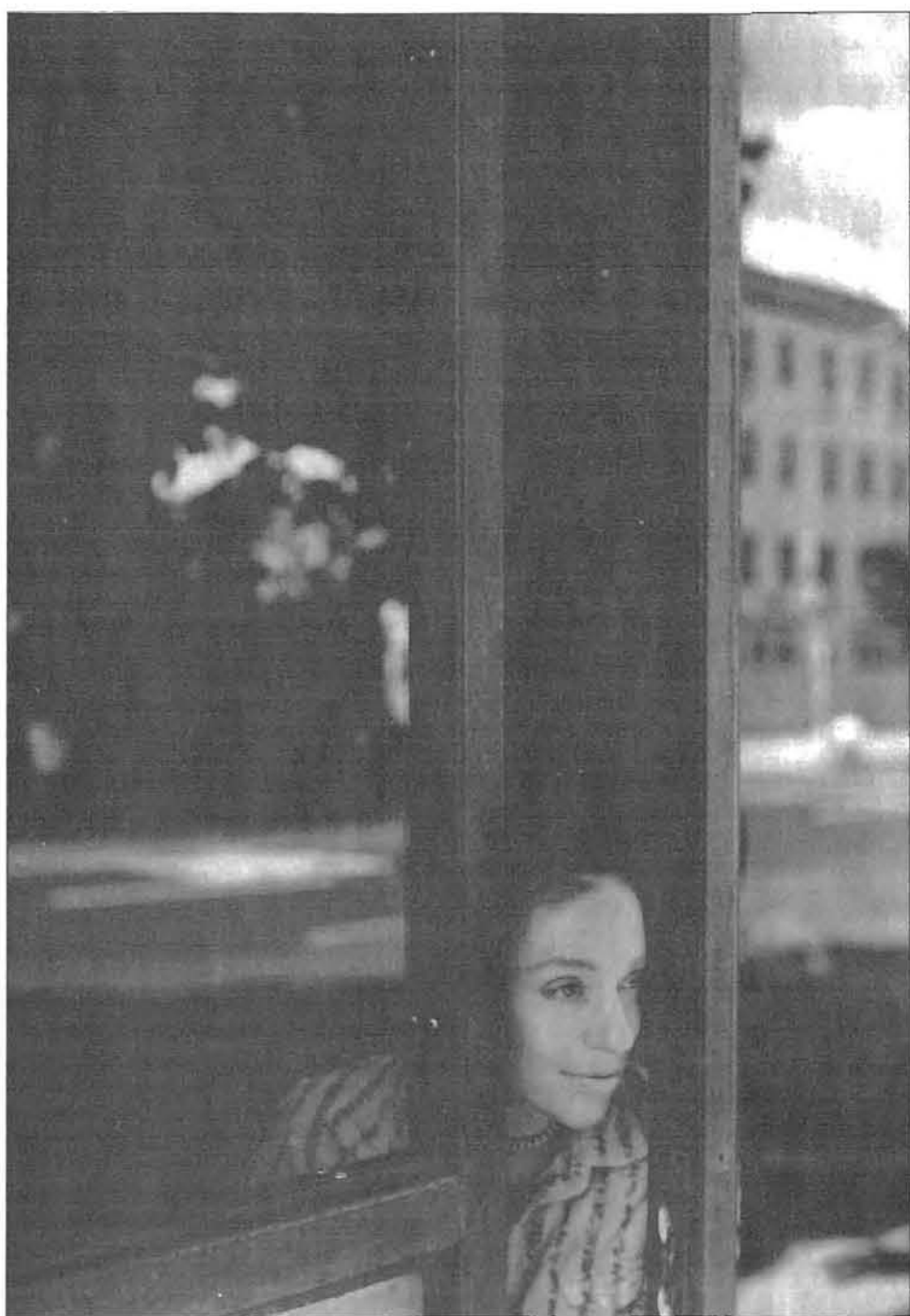


Photo by Danny Clinch, courtesy Righteous Babe Records

"Educated Guess" forgoes the rhythm section, focusing solely on DiFranco's trademark singing style and acoustic guitar

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

While many musicians get CDs out in stores, songs on the radio and concerts on tour, musicians are only a fraction of what really goes into their music. This is especially true of one-name bands such as Cher or Justin Timberlake. There are producers, mixers, back up musicians and so many more people who are not rewarded with fame and fortune. While it would be exceedingly difficult to change how the music business works, to sell tickets for a touring producer or get People magazine to publish an interview with the guy who mixed the latest Jessica Simpson album, would be something. Artists should get more involved in the less glamorous aspects of music making.

Ani DiFranco has done just that. She started Righteous Babe Records instead of waiting for a big "established" company to appreciate her music and sign her. Even after those big companies pursued her, DiFranco realized they had nothing to offer that she could not provide for herself. Now comes the proverbial icing on the cake. DiFranco's new album, "Educated Guess," features writing, guitar playing, singing, recording and mixing by the artist herself. She even contributed to the photography and artwork in the CD jacket. Whether you have been a fan for years, or you have never heard of her, DiFranco's latest endeavor deserves respect (especially from those of us who have grown rather cynical of today's music business). It takes a lot of strength and independence in a modern musician to achieve so much.

Of course, none of her hard work would be worth it in the end if DiFranco did not deliver an album worth listening to. While her unique flavor is definitely not for everyone, "Educated Guess" offers interesting takes on themes such as patriotism and fresh, plucky guitars. The album also keeps in tradition with DiFranco's love of spoken word poetry in several tracks, including "Grand

Canyon." The track begins with the words, "I love my country / by which I mean I am indebted joyfully / to all the people throughout its history / who have fought the government to make right." This track is slowly accompanied with subtle music and whispers in the background. These words contribute to DiFranco's trademark of getting politically involved and challenging social concepts. Her words on "Grand Canyon" take patriotism to a place that listeners that are more liberal can relate to (as opposed to the more traditional views of patriotism that the media portrays). The album features three other spoken-word pieces, "Platforms," "The True Story of What Was" and "Akimbo," though they are not as long or as poignant as "Grand Canyon."

Besides the intriguing poetry, "Educated Guess" also serves up the folksy tunes that fans have enjoyed for years. "Swim" was my favorite song as well as one of the tracks to have a little bit of the funky, fun attitude (reminiscent of "32 Flavors"). Meanwhile, "Animal" features the bittersweet ballad style that evokes quiet reflection. Several tracks use bluesy fingerpicking to contribute laid-back and upbeat melodies, while other songs focus on heart-felt lyrics.

With no percussion, electronic guitars or thumping bass, the acoustic guitars and bubbly vocals become a brighter focus. The singer/songwriter has worked on twenty previous albums to achieve the level of skill needed to pull off such an undertaking. "Educated Guess" will be thoroughly enjoyable to fans of acoustic music who do not mind an alternative approach to singing.

It has the raw, naked feel of a talented street musician combined with layers of thought-out harmonies. In essence, this album has everything to offer fans of the genre: thought provoking monologues, a variety of songs, amazing acoustic guitar parts, unique vocals, intelligent lyrics and an artist who was gifted with the ability to fly solo and succeed. I am unable to recommend it to everyone, but if you have ever heard a DiFranco song that you liked, buy "Educated Guess."

Woofie's offers a change in fast-food routine

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

Each of us experience food cravings occasionally. She needs a chocolate shake; he is dying for a slice of pizza. Perhaps you are the sort of character who wants a chili-dog. A friend suggested that I check out Woofie's to cater to the child dog craving. Celebrities have been there and signed pictures, he added. They have classic car shows too. That was all I needed to hear before setting off.

Tucked a block north of Page on Woodson Road (two blocks west of I-170), Woofie's sits in an unassuming small building. A spinning name sign towers above the orange-and-brown brick restaurant. When I pulled in, I admit being more than a little disappointed that no hot rods accompanied me in the parking lot. When I asked the clerk about the car shows, she said that Woofie's did not have shows. If people show up with a trick ride, the owner pops a photo and hangs it on the wall. That is all.

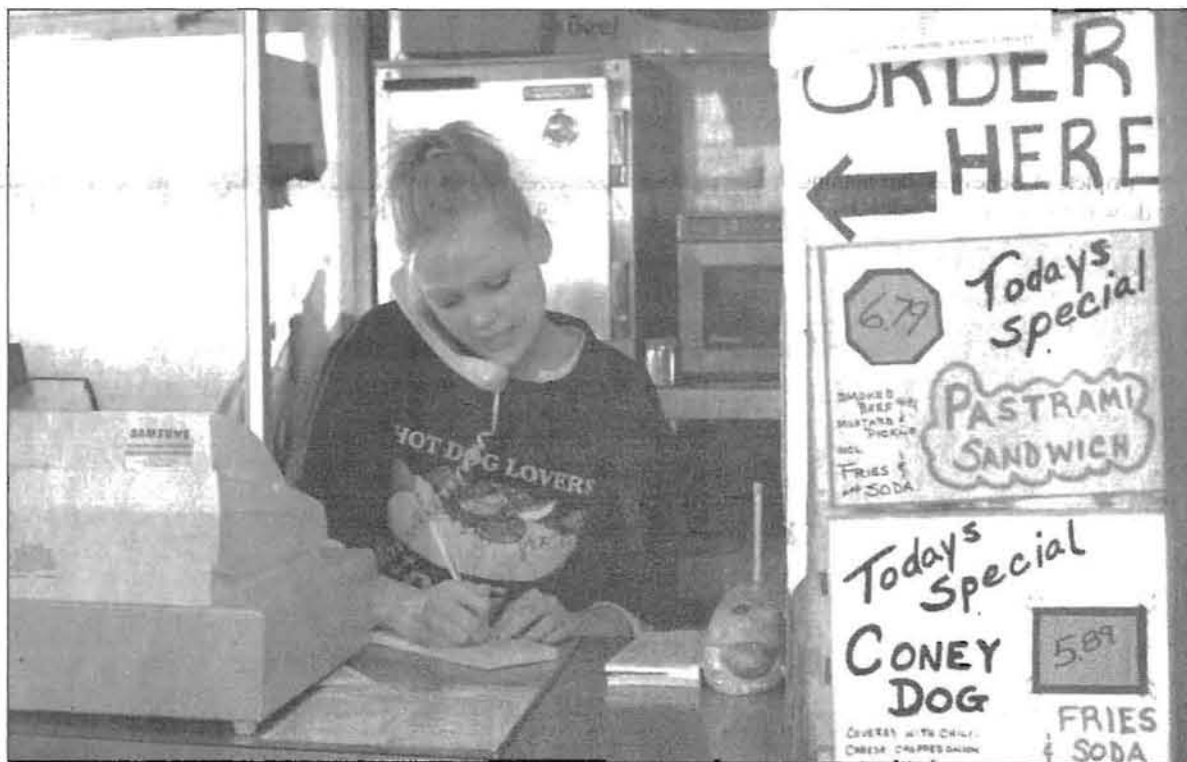
The dining area might fit twenty people, but Woofie's is not much about dine-in. While I munched on my dog, at least half the customers drove their orders out the drive-thru or strolled them out the front doors in brown sacks. For those who choose to stick around, counters line the three walls and windows opposite the kitchen. Red stools are offered for people not interested in

standing at the counters. Pictures of the celebrities, available food and cars cover the walls and windows in front of the counters. "Celebrity," I might add, is a relative term. Some of the photos date back a minimum of twenty years, and everyone there is local. Woofie's charm, however, exists in its local appeal. The people who frequent Woofie's would not care if Ashton Kutcher signed a photo, but that one Rams linebacker is an important addition. If pictures do not appeal to you, stuffed surfer dudes and an occasional bear-like figurine sit around to help make small talk.

Woofie's offers dogs, brats and sausages with a wide range of trimmings. Many menu items carry some family names, like the "Nathan-Style New York" dog or the "Big

Herm." Woofie's offers burgers in three varieties. Also, for whatever reason, you can get a pastrami sandwich if you want.

Even if you do not feel that chili-dog craving, Woofie's offers a needed change in the eating routine and a menu that differs from those of McDonald's and Taco Bell. Menu items (dogs and burgers) run between around \$2.50 and \$4.50. Throw in fries and a drink for about what they cost anywhere else, and you eat at Woofie's for about \$6. Daily specials show up too, as they would at any good local spot. But remember, if you want to see some hot rods with your child dogs, you need to be lucky.



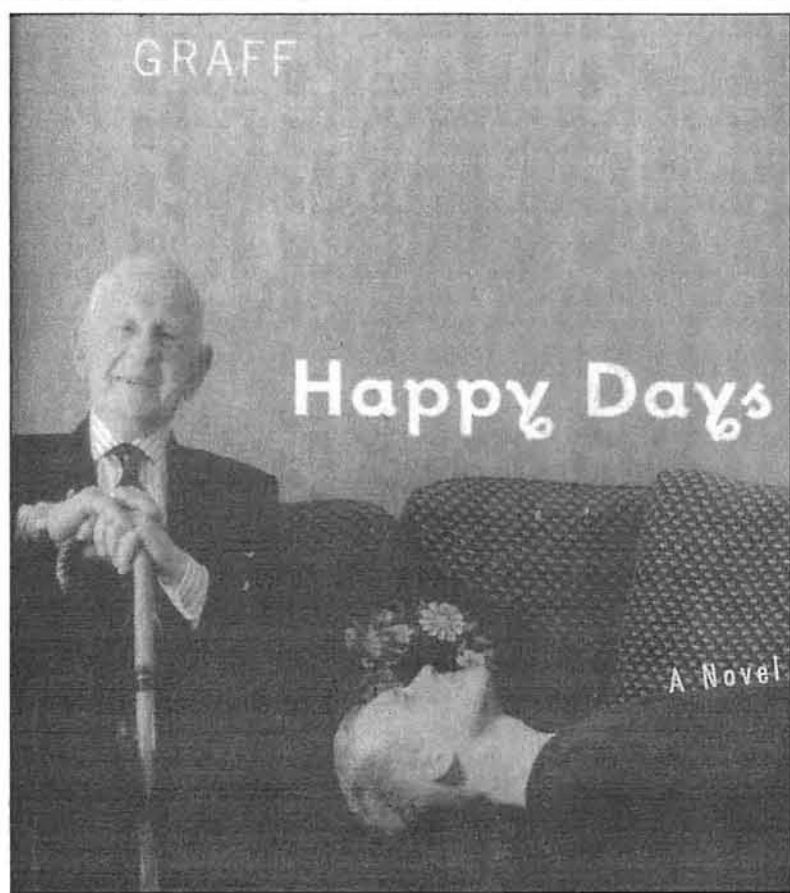
ABOVE: Mindy Gleason, employee of Woofies, takes down an order by phone. Woofies, a hot dog joint located in Overland, Missouri on Woodson Road just north of Page Avenue. PHOTOS BY AMANDA SCHNIEDERMAYER/ THE CURRENT

Mindy Gleason, employee of Woofies, takes down an order by phone. Woofies, a hot dog joint located in Overland, Missouri on Woodson Road just north of Page Avenue.

RIGHT: "Serving the hot dog with dignity" is the slogan of Woofies, a hot dog joint on Woodson Road just north of Page Avenue in Overland, Missouri.



BOOK REVIEW



Discovering the meaning of life

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

Saying "Happy Days" will likely get people reminiscing about a TV show some twenty years removed. Even though re-runs ran when I was a munchkin (I remember that much), I never found the show interesting.

Laurent Graff, author of 2004's "Happy Days," probably knows less than I do about the TV show. Mr. Graff is French, and his "Happy Days" refer to The Happy Days—A Private Retirement Home, not Fonzie and malt shops. The former strikes as more significant, though perhaps just a niche in the vast pop-culture landscape.

"Happy Days" details the life of Antoine, a man preoccupied with his own mortality. At 18, Antoine, the narrator, takes readers along as he buys his grave plot in the cemetery and pur-

'Happy Days' is the story of a man preoccupied with his own mortality

chases his headstone. He works through a myriad of epitaphs, each of which he has inscribed on a plaque, each of which is discarded onto a growing stack of plaques in his closet. After trying his hand at the three things that most of us use to define the first half of our twenties: university, relationships and careers, Antoine decides to pull his inheritance and move himself into The Happy Days.

In the first portion of the book, feelings and assessments of Antoine, conflict readers. He comes across as genuine, bizarrely nuts, morbidly obsessed, outrageously lazy, caring, indifferent and perfectly normal (finding his own way down the path to "purpose" that we all plow through, sometimes without ever reaching it). For example, Antoine leaves behind a wife and two children when he retreats

into retirement. Readers abhor him for this abandonment—especially without any logical explanation. But then, Graff paints a visit between the former family, and readers wave off their previous judgments in favor of one that runs something like this. Both the family and Antoine are much better off anyway. More or less, that is exactly how it goes. You will grimace at Antoine's social butchery, yet then cheer his friendship and his compassion when he goes well out of his way to help a friend.

Life in Happy Days runs a bit differently for Antoine than it does for other residents, "oldsters," as he calls them, but he fits right into the humming, clattering, where's-the-bathroom commotion.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Monster' is a stunning drama

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

Hollywood bombshell Charlize Theron turns in a gritty performance in portrayal as serial killer

Aileen Wuornos was the 1980's Florida highway hooker-turned-murderer who was convicted and recently executed as America's first female serial killer. Glamour was not her signature.

Charlize Theron is a beautiful movie star who has appeared as the blonde bombshell in such caper films as "The Italian Job." Gritty realism is not her calling card.

"Monster" is the powerful new film about Aileen Wuornos and her crimes, a drama that is garnering rave reviews and stunning audiences. Charlize Theron plays Wuornos.

Not since Halle Berry's Oscar-winning turn in "Monster's Ball" has an actress turned in such an unexpected performance and moved so completely beyond the audience's expectations. If fact, Theron's performance is the more complete transformation, for even if you can recognize Theron, she remains completely transformed into the unattractive, abused, semi-psychotic Aileen. Who knew Theron had this in her? Maybe there is something about the word "mon-

ster" that brings out stunning performances in beautiful actresses.

In "Monster," Aileen "Lee" Wuornos, a penniless roadside hooker contemplating suicide meets Selby, a young woman who has been sent by her father to stay with friends to be "cured" of her homosexuality. Looking for a last beer, Wuornos happens into a gay bar where the petite, child-like Selby befriends her. The only thing they have in common is how much they feel like outsiders, but this unexpected relationship ironically spurs Wuornos' rampage of death.

This compelling film is not a gory horror film, but a powerful drama about human weakness and human failing. Theron's performance is marvelous but by no means the only thing great about this film. "Monster" takes an unpleasant subject, a serial killer, and tells the story in a uniquely human way, making the subject much more disturbing and thought provoking than you might expect. The film partially takes the killer's point-of-view but the director never pulls back and excuses her bursts of violence. The simple might misread writer/director Patty Jenkins' intent, as an attempt to turn a monster into a victim, but the director takes us

farther than that. When we make a criminal into something inhuman, it is easy for us to handle their horrible deeds as something none of us can comprehend. But the director forces us to see the monster's humanity, which makes her even more frightening. What person has not felt like an outsider at some time? It is the director's ability to find the common human thread in the monster that makes this film so compelling and terrifying.

The director continually returns to focus on the human side of these two, particularly Wuornos. While she may be a monster, she is a human monster rather than something from which we can push ourselves away. Common human needs for love, hope and acceptance are touchstones, as the director unfolds the tale that leads these two souls down this terrible road. Still, despite the humanity that she might share

with us, her capacity to kill forever separates her from our recognition.

Wuornos' story of her sexually abused childhood and life as a cheap

hooker is heartbreaking until her actions wipe that feeling away. Her mental illness, with her delusions of grandeur and her paranoia are pitiable until we see the impulsive, self-serving violence they generate. Her deep need for love, her self-disci-

pline and her self-sacrifice for love seem admirable but not her twisted rationalizations and the heartless cruelty of what they lead her to do. Her life is close enough in its parts to stories we hear all the time of neglected, mistreated children, or the mentally ill and the disadvantaged, that her rage becomes comprehensible. She commits her first murder in self-defense. Because she is human, we see how easy and

human the mistake might be. But step-by-step, she slides into the monster, like someone losing their footing on a hillside. By the last death, we know and she knows that what she is doing is horrible and unforgivable. She cannot justify or rationalize her acts, yet she still moves forward as if compelled by gravity after having already fallen over the cliff. It has the awful fascination of a traffic accident from which you just cannot look away. Skillful direction and stunning performances make us think beyond the headlines, transforming a biopic or crime film into a much more disturbing and unexpected examination of the acts of which humans are capable. Theron and her costar Christina Ricci are fearless in their portrayals. In the filmmaker's quest to make these two seem ordinarily human, we see these two beautiful actresses as real people, in their underwear, without makeup, with all the little bulges and imperfections real people have, the way you never see movie stars. No airbrushing, no artful photography, just bare truth, flaws and all. The visual impact is subtle but powerful. Their human appearances underscore the way that, despite their flaws as people, we recognize the universal need

for love, hope and the desire to please or protect the one you love.

Wuornos's skewed view of the world, formed by her abusive and self-destructive life, is far beyond Selby's more conventional and child-like view and much closer to our own. Even when they think they agree, they are talking about different things. As shallow and simple as Selby sometimes seems, she voices things the audience may think about Wuornos. She is so far into her own pain and delusions that she only periodically surfaces into our realm. Wuornos' ability to lie to herself staves off the truth for a while but in the end, even she sees her guilt while Selby fails to see her complicity.

Although the film adopts the murderer's point-of-view, the director still presents the inescapable facts of her guilt, not a rationalization. The story, told in a straightforward manner, offers the director's subtle hand to guide the electrifying performances and us. The film is thought-provoking in the best sense but terrifying as well. If anything, the film, a powerful indictment of complacency towards child abuse, cautions us to take action lest we find another child grown up to be a "Monster" in our midst.

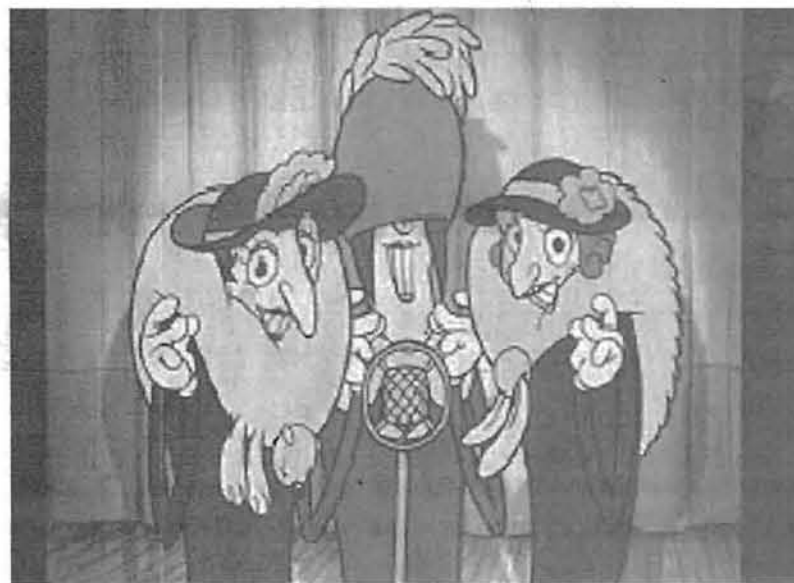
“ It is the director's ability to find the common human thread in the monster that makes this film so compelling and terrifying. ”

MOVIE REVIEW

'Triplets of Belleville' is an animated delight

But call up the babysitter, as 'Triplets' is no kiddie flick

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic



"The Triplets of Belleville" combines hand-drawn and computer animation and made a big splash on the film festival circuit.

"Triplets of Belleville" has nothing to do with that nearby Illinois town.

Instead, "Triplets of Belleville" is writer/director Sylvain Chomet's animated delight, whose Belleville is a madly fantastic combination of New York and Paris, filled with comically grotesque characters, hilarious sight gags and jazz-flavored music. This is no kiddie film. Way beyond Disney or anime, "Triplets of Belleville" uses a combination of hand-drawn and computer-generated animation to create one of the most breathtakingly creative animated films you have ever seen. The combination of animation techniques makes the visual film entertaining even without its story. The film is filled with sight gags and delightfully weird comedy, as well as astounding and amusing images.

The story is told in visual, nearly wordless form. A tiny granny sets out to rescue the bicyclist grandson she raised from the gangsters who kidnapped him during the Tour De France race. Sound absurd? That is not the half of it in this hilarious film. The granny is aided by the once-famous 1920's jazz-singers, "Triplets of Belleville," now eccentric old gals living in poverty in the big city. With a catchy, jazz-inspired soundtrack that reminds one of Django Reinhardt, "Triplets of Belleville" is both weird and wonderful. The humor is some-

times a tad crude, sometimes classically slapstick and sometimes even a bit biting. Although a French film, there is so little dialog that the few words do not even need subtitles. The film was a big hit at the Cannes film festival and has done well with audiences at other festivals as well, including the one here in St. Louis. If you like animation even a little bit, or if you are just looking for a comedy and are not afraid to try something a bit different, "Triplets of Belleville" is just the ticket.

Along with the feature film at the Tivoli, you will get to see another animated gem. "Destino" was an animation collaboration between surrealist painter Salvador Dali and studio

head/animation pioneer Walt Disney. It seems both men admired the other's work, and when Dali was in Hollywood fifty years ago to work on the Alfred Hitchcock film "Spellbound," Disney approached him about this film. The film was never released but has been completed and released now by Disney's nephew. "Destino" is a 16-minute-long film without a story, which follows a ballerina-like character through a bizarre landscape of eyeballs in tuxedos and other Dali-esque creations. This is a rare chance to see a great surrealist painter try his hand at this flexible medium.

HAPPY DAYS, from page 10

Everyone shares the understanding that Antoine is the gardener, agreeing that is the best way to avoid further unanswerable questions from outsiders. But Antoine joins in the activities with the oldsters, befriends them and appreciates their candid honesty. During his time, he poses bits of philosophy. Once, for example, he mentions how most people live life without providing a "satisfying or encouraging justification for having lived." Later, in a quick blurb, he tells us, "All my life, I've let myself die." Again, the conflict

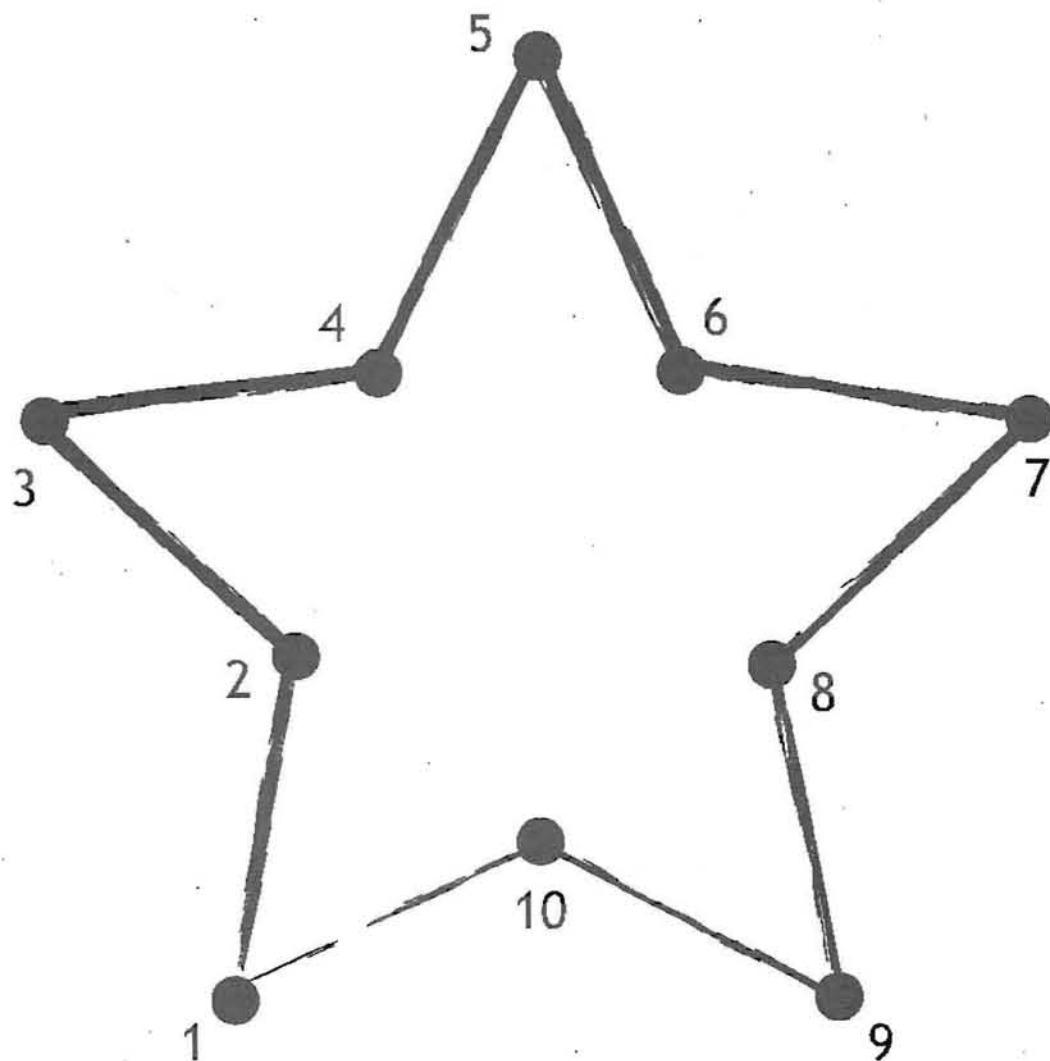
emerges. Is Antoine merely morbid or an advocate of living every moment to its fullest? I say the latter.

The cover bit about "Happy Days" describes how Antoine's life changes after meeting Mireille, an oldster with terminal cancer, but I do not buy that explanation. Antoine is unique in his outlook, his life and his interaction with his friends both inside and outside Happy Days. "Days" is not overtly preaching, nor is it flashing neon alternative lifestyles in our heads. You take what you want from Antoine. He

may or may not make you think about life, your life. Happy Days transforms by the end of the novel, and we imagine that Antoine has come closer to understanding his purpose in life: being a friend, gardener and resident of The Happy Days.

The Fonz may forever be cool, but Antoine is happy. I would rather be happy than cool any day. Antoine's adventure in the 99 pages of "Happy Days" sells for \$11.

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FLOYD, from page 1

On Dec. 11, 2003, Floyd went before the Board of Curators to report on the status of the proposed consolidation. Floyd explained that after careful consideration, he decided it would be best if he had more information before rendering a final decision and as for now, brought no recommendation to the board. "He has said that at this time he believes that the two positions cannot be consolidated whether or not they're held by the same person," Joe

Moore, UM spokesman, said. Though Floyd has stated that he will continue to develop the idea before he makes his decision definite, it is still an option. "If President Floyd can prove that he can effectively represent the interests of the UM-System without favoring the Columbia campus, then I feel that he should be given an opportunity to explore this option," DeClue said. The Board of Curators will meet

again on Jan. 29 and 30 at UM-Columbia, when a decision should be made. "I whole heartedly believe that we couldn't have found a better person to be UM President," Beth Grindstaff, senior, political science, and SGA vice-president, said. "President Floyd is an awesome guy who really does care for the students of all UM campuses. He most likely would do a good job as both UM President and UMC-Chancellor, but I do have some concerns."

STUDENT COURT, from page 1

In addition to the important role it plays, the student court offers a great learning experience for our students," Coonrod said. "I think returning the parking appeals back to the student court indicates a strong commitment to students and belief in their ability to handle these kinds of issues." Appeals will still be submitted to the police department as directed on the back of any ticket. Only now, a board consisting solely of students will review their cases. The student court will pick the tickets up from there as needed. They plan to convene once a month, at the minimum. "We're really shooting for every other week and possibly, if volume

demands, every week." Bopp said. Gutierrez will be serving as an advisor on the student court. He will advise the court on certain laws and issues but will not have a vote when it comes to the decisions. In the past there were some who thought that the power was being abused, which ultimately led to the student court losing this responsibility. Current members are confident in their ability to make it a self-regulating system. "We aren't going in there saying well just because a student has an appeal and it's a student we're going to give it to them," Bopp said. "We're still going to look at the parking regulations, but we felt that it was

important to get these parking appeals back to be able to better advocate the student's voice and opinions directly from their peers rather than others." Students are welcoming the change. "I think it's good that the student court is taking over the appeals process for tickets. It means fairer decisions for students," Mike Rogan, senior, criminology and criminal justice, said. "In previous times, at least I know in my personal case, it didn't seem like the appeal was going to get too much attention. It seemed like it was just going to get sent over somebody's desk who was going to say oh well too bad and send it off."

INTERNATIONAL, from page 6

Current advisor Christopher Sullivan describes some of the events and activities that ISO holds to get students more involved on campus. "Each year ISO participates in an International Week, which often takes place around Mirth Day, which will take place on April 21 this year," Sullivan said. "Members of ISO will host an international dinner, a fashion show and hold other special world exhibits." Not only is the International Student Organization involved with the forming of events during International Week, but it also hosts activities throughout the year.

Some of the activities that ISO is involved with include a bowling event, a trip to Six Flags, ice-skating and occasional gatherings at local restaurants. The last social event for 2003 was a dinner banquet at T.G.I.Friday's on December 18. The dinner meeting was held to give group members a chance to say goodbye to some international students who were returning home to their native countries. The meeting was also an opportunity for students to celebrate the end of finals and socialize before the holiday break. "The group is always looking to recruit new members and the organi-

zation is open to everyone, American or international," Sullivan said. "There are no set dates for group meetings, but most meeting times are posted on the International Student List Serve. ISO's group officers meet on a regular basis to come up with ideas for future events." For students interested in joining this organization or to find out more information, visit www.umsl.edu/~iso. On the website, people can view pictures from past events and fill out a contact page to join ISO.

CHEERLEADING, from page 8

After the UM-St. Louis basketball game is over, the players leave and the fans make their way out of the arena. But where do the cheerleaders go? More specifically, what do the Rams cheerleaders do when not performing? According to Alive, "a Rams cheerleader is an extraordinary woman. She is an intelligent and motivated businesswoman or college student who just so happens to also love cheering in the NFL. She could be sitting next to you in class or she could be your accountant, hair stylist or your

child's second grade teacher. These women are smart and strive to do their best at whatever they do. They definitely make the typical cheerleader stereotype a thing of the past." Although the St. Louis Rams cheerleaders are mostly recognized for their entertaining performances on the sidelines, the majority of their time is spent in the community. In addition to local engagements, the cheerleaders have entertained both nationally and internationally. The St. Louis Rams cheerleaders have traveled to Japan,

Korea, Austria, Mexico City, entertained at Military Bases in Florida & Texas and have set sail with a cruise line in the Caribbean. The St. Louis Rams cheerleaders have worked hard to establish a positive and professional relationship with St. Louis and the surrounding communities. They are committed to continuing to build and develop this bond by reaching out to as many people as possible and always lending a helping hand.

HAPPY DAYS, from page 10

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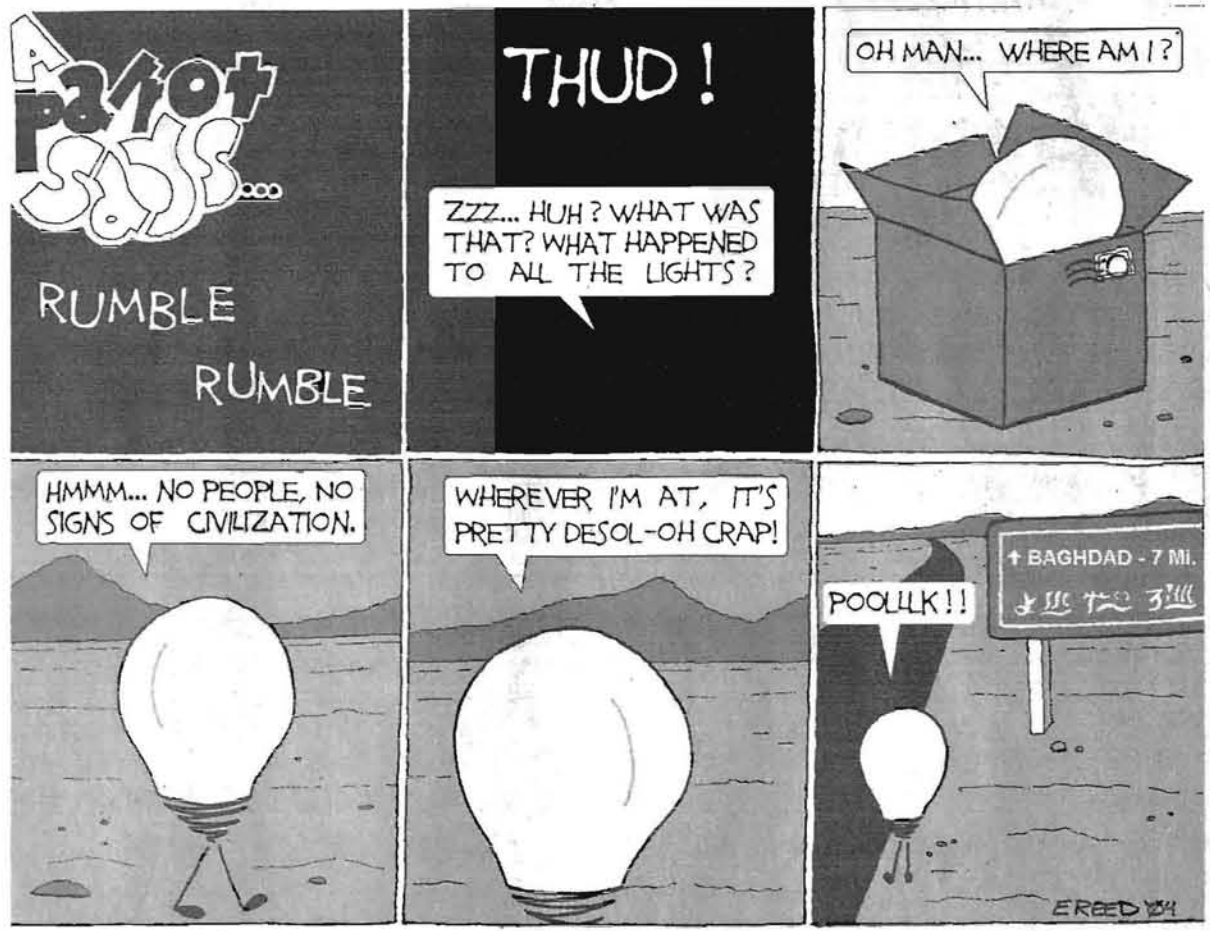
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IWGS holds forum examining roles of women in workplace



Casey Ulrich/The Current
Joyce Blackwell leads a round-table discussion on women's roles in the workplace during the Womenomics forum held Saturday morning by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies and the St. Louis chapter of Business and Professional Women/USA. WOMENomics forums were being held nationwide in celebration of the 75th anniversary of National Business Women's Week.



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Look for the annual April Fools issue in April (or March 32!)

This annual satire issue is one of our most popular issues of the year. Last year's leaves some pretty big shoes to fill be we feel we are up to the task.... Just thought we'd give you a heads up.

NEXT AT THE

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PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

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- New Century Saxophone Quartet, Jan. 26 • Arianna String Quartet Family Concert, Jan. 31**
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