



See page 8

The best and worst in athletics

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

The Current has funding reinstated for '04-'05

Budget committee decides to cut funding by \$20,000; administration finds funds elsewhere

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
News Editor

The Current, UM-St. Louis' student news publication, has recovered its annual budget of \$38,000 after the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) denied nearly \$20,000 in funding. Following the SABC's denial of appeal, Chancellor Thomas George and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Curt Coonrod, stepped in to solve the budget crisis.

The Current and its former Editor-in-Chief, Jason Granger, threatened to sue over censorship violations. The lawsuit would have named the university as the defendant. According to the Student Press Law Center, withdrawing or reducing financial support constitutes censorship and violates the first amendment guarantee of freedom of the press.

Chancellor George said that he did not feel pressured by the possibility lawsuit. "Lawsuits happen every day. Its part of running a university," George said. "We support the student newspaper. It is a viable entity in this institution."

Vice Chancellor Coonrod, accompanied by Bob Samples, University director of communications and marketing, contacted other local and regional universities with student newspapers of similar quality to determine how other institutions handle student newspaper funding and payroll. The discovery examined UM-Kansas City, Central Missouri State University and Truman State among others.

"It was across the map. We had lots of input, and there was no single model, but we found that UM-St. Louis spends a lot of money on salaries," Coonrod said, referring to the results of the research.

"There is a conflict because the administration supports the students in determining how the money is spent, but we also support the newspaper and its presence on campus," Coonrod said. "We just try to do what's best for the University and the students."

According to Chancellor George, an organization as visible as The Current, there were bound to be personality clashes. "I think, in this particular situation, some personalities just got in the way," George said.

The current Editor-in-Chief, Kate Drolet, will meet with administration in the near future to determine a plan to keep The Current from once again becoming at risk for losing its funding next year. Several models have been examined, such as the UM-Kansas City model, which allocates a base amount plus inflation each year.

"After a few meetings, we've discovered that we really had the same goals for the newspaper," said Drolet

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Bopp is in; Abraham is out

Student court overturns election committee's decision to disqualify Bopp for SGA presidency

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
News Editor

After a lengthy student court appeal hearing on April 29 and 30, the Student Government Association (SGA) officers were finally elected. As of July 1, Scott Bopp will serve as president and Mindy McNabb will serve as vice president. The appeal came after the SGA election committee disqualified Bopp and his running mate, Erin Abraham, due to elections rule violations made by their campaign manager and former SGA vice president, Beth Grindstaff. Grindstaff was accused of unethical conduct after allowing Abraham to use the Office of Student Life after hours to make copies of campaign flyers.

The Student Court decided Bopp would be allowed to serve as president because he was not directly involved in the offense. Brandon Dempsey, junior, mass communications, serves as a member on the student court. "We chose to allow Scott to serve because, listed in the election committee rules, it states that the candidate must commit



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Stephanie Bell, a member of the student court, responds to a question from SGA presidential candidate Scott Bopp during a student court hearing in early May. The Student Court voted to overturn a previous decision by the SGA Elections Committee. Bopp will assume the office of SGA president on July 1.

the offense," Dempsey said. "But since he wasn't the person who did it, we couldn't charge him with the offense."

Mindy McNabb maintains that Bopp was not at fault. "Scott did not do anything wrong," McNabb said.

"My understanding is that the student court upheld the decision of the election committee regarding Erin because she was involved in the act that was in question."

The original election paired the Get Real Slate of Scott Bopp and Erin

Abraham against Kenyatta Thacker and Mindy McNabb. Thacker and McNabb originally appealed to the election committee, with complaints of unethical conduct regarding the use of the Office of Student Life and campaigning too closely to

Millennium Student Center computers, which could have been used for voting. Bopp and Abraham individually appealed formally to the student court after being disqualified by the election committee.

see SGA ELECTIONS, page 3

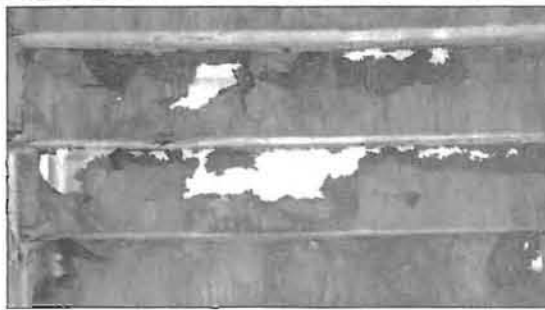
Garage N is closed



ABOVE: Garage N, located on West Drive located just north of the CCB, was closed to traffic at the end of May. The Office of Transportation and Parking Services cited the garage's deteriorating condition as the reason for its closing.

RIGHT:

Workers barricaded the deteriorating metal staircases in garage N, with sheets of plywood.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

KWMU's Weber takes home two AP awards

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
News Editor

On April 17, in Bloomington, IL, Tom Weber was honored with First Place in Best News Writing and First Place in Investigative Series from the Chicago-St. Louis Radio division of the Illinois Associated Press Broadcasters Association 2003 Journalism Excellence Contest. Tom Weber works as the News Producer for on-campus National Public Radio (NPR) station, 90.7 KWMU-FM.

The award for Best Investigative Series was awarded for Weber's piece, "Nightingale's Swan Song?" "I guess you could say that I broke the story," said Weber. His investigative series examined President Bush's proposed budget cut and how it would affect

Scott Air Force Base. "We try to take national news and find local angles."

Weber admitted that he's not known for breaking stories. "As I was researching the Nightingale series, I kept saying to myself, 'God, I hope I don't see this in the newspaper today.'" Weber said he encountered a lot of bureaucracy because the story involved the military.

"I was very happy to receive awards from the Illinois AP," said Weber, a Chicago-area native. "It was also rewarding to be up against Chicago reporters." Weber said he spends a lot of time keeping up with the news. "The good reporters are the ones who go out for a cup of coffee and come back with three story ideas."

see TOM WEBER, page 3



Stefanie Taylor/The Current

KWMU news producer Tom Weber recently received two Illinois Associated Press awards.

Recent storms cause only minor damage to campus

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
News Editor

After several days of aggressive winds, hail and tornado warnings, UM-St. Louis seems to have endured. According to the police department, no property damage was reported, but winds caused two trees to fall in Lot JJ on South Campus.

Although the campus witnessed little damage, the Environmental Health and Safety department is reevaluating their emergency operations plans for severe weather. These procedures detail responsibilities of students, faculty, staff and police officers during severe weather.

"I think that the campus is prepared," Craig Robinson, Environmental Health and Safety manager, said. "But there is always room for improvement."

According to Robinson, most campus buildings have their own procedures for severe weather or other emergencies. These plans include basic severe weather safety, such as seeking a small interior room and staying away from windows.

"Most of the buildings are tornado resistant because of their masonry," Robinson said.

The emergency operations plan also requires all police officers to make rounds during storms to secure all buildings. The officers are required to stay on their rounds until the storm becomes a threat to their personal safety. Because of mutual aid arrangements, UM-St. Louis would be able to receive assistance from local law enforcement if necessary, according to Robinson.

"With a campus community, it can be really difficult to maintain accountability," Robinson said. It is much easier to make sure all of the faculty and staff are accounted for than to try to account for students. "In the residence halls, [students] don't know if someone has gone to class, gone home, or is at a bar."

Robinson recommended that students inform others where they are headed during times of extreme "The key is awareness and communication," he said. Robinson advised students, faculty and staff to be mindful of weather conditions and plan accordingly.

"I think everybody sees bad summer storms each year. We just need to follow procedures."

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-served 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.

Sat. Jun 12
New student orientation

All new students are invited to attend this orientation designed especially for the first-time college student who has little to no experience with college. The event will be held in the MSC on June 12 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information contact Joe Fleas at 314-516-4535.

Mon. June 14
Summer sessions
2004-Session 5

Summer Session 5 begins today. The 8 week session ends August 3. Contact Academic Affairs for more information at 314-516-5371.

14
Creating and managing a successful planned giving program

This Course assists staff, board members, and other volunteers of nonprofit organizations considering the addition of a planned giving program, as well as nonprofit organizations wishing to improve a current planned giving program. Emphasis will be placed on marketing strategies, staffing issues, cost of program, board and staff education, strategy, and priority setting. Each participant will be given the tools to create or improve the planned giving efforts of his/her nonprofit organization. The course will include these topics: definition of

program, marketing resources, setting priorities, five-year program designed for success, and planned giving evaluation. This event will be held in the JC Penny Building, room 222. There will also be a \$100 fee. Contact Jeri Albl at 314-516-6713 for more information.

Tue. June 15
Successful grant proposal writing

Two-day workshop that encompasses a five-step program in grant writing; identifying the organization's need(s); identifying prospective grant makers; grant writing; cultivation; and accountability, including reporting to the grant makers. The presenter will provide practical guidelines for identifying and pursuing potential grant makers, present a model for use in planning grant programs, and demonstrate how to develop a program budget. A budget exercise will incorporate strategies for packaging agency needs, including administrative costs, to grant makers. Participants will critique a grant in class. This workshop will be held in the JC Penny Building, room 222 and there will be a \$185 fee. For more information contact Jeri Albl at 314-516-6713.

Wed. June 16

Interviewing techniques workshop

Learn how to polish your interviewing skills. Career Services will be holding this workshop in 278 MSC from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Advance registration is required. Contact Career Services at

314-516-5111.

18
MyGateway 1(v6.1 new SS04)

This workshop is a hands-on overview of the updated course management system that powers MyGateway. MyGateway 6.1 provides instructors with a variety of new features and enhancements to allow more flexibility in course content delivery and management. Experienced users of MyGateway will benefit from this overview, as will those new to MyGateway. There is a prerequisite: basic knowledge of computers and web browsers. This workshop will take place in 005 CCB from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. For more information contact Rocky Keel at 314-516-6052.

18
Introduction to Dreamweaver

This session is offered to faculty and staff and will cover getting familiar with the Dreamweaver interface and setting up a new site. There is a prerequisite: This is a BEGINNER level class. Simple overview of software; there will not be any webpages created during this session. There will be two different sessions held in 134 SSB, The first is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and the second class is from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information contact the Web Office at 314-516-6060 for more information.

Tue. June 22

25
Interviewing Techniques Workshop

Learn how to polish your interviewing skills. Career Services will be holding this workshop in 278 MSC from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Advance registration is required. Contact Career Services at 314-516-5111.

Thur. June 24
Resume Writing Skills Workshop

Learn how to create a marketable resume in this one-hour workshop. Advance registration required. This workshop will be held in 278 MSC from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information call Career Services at 314-516-5111.

Fri. June 25
MyGateway 1(v6.1 new SS04)

This workshop is a hands-on overview of the updated course management system that powers MyGateway. MyGateway 6.1 provides instructors with a variety of new features and enhancements to allow more flexibility in course content delivery and management. Experienced users of MyGateway will benefit from this overview, as will those new to MyGateway. There is a prerequisite: basic knowledge of computers and web browsers. This workshop will take place in 005 CCB from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. For more information contact Rocky Keel at 314-516-6052.

25
Using Dreamweaver

This session covers creating a new page, inserting tables, text formatting, inserting images. Making a link and other basics as time allows. There will be two different sessions on this day. The first is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and the second is from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information contact the Web Office at 314-516-6060 for more information.

Tue. June 29

Job search strategies Workshop

Learn how to polish your interviewing skills. Career Services will be holding this workshop in 278 MSC from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Advance registration is required. Contact Career Services at 314-516-5111.

Put it on the board!
Have an upcoming event?
Call ext. 5174 for info!

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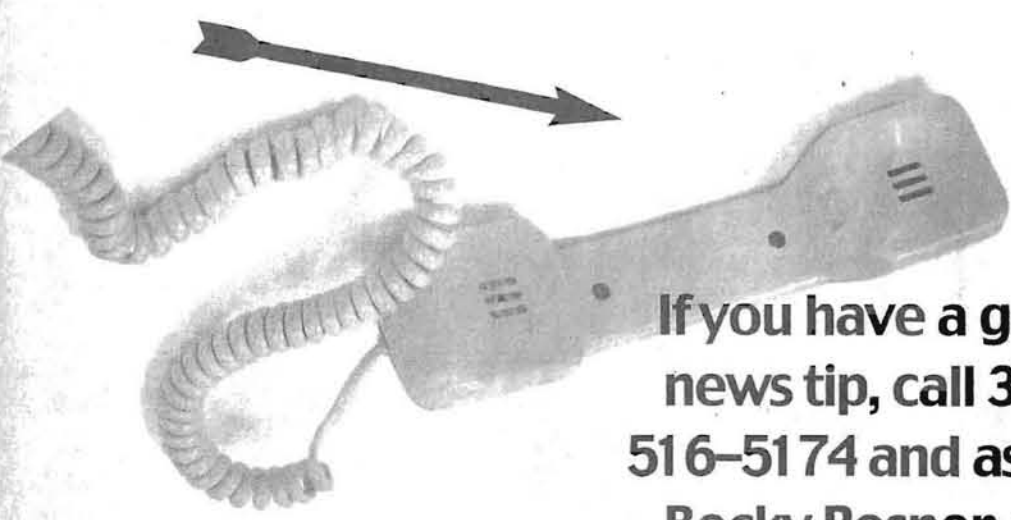
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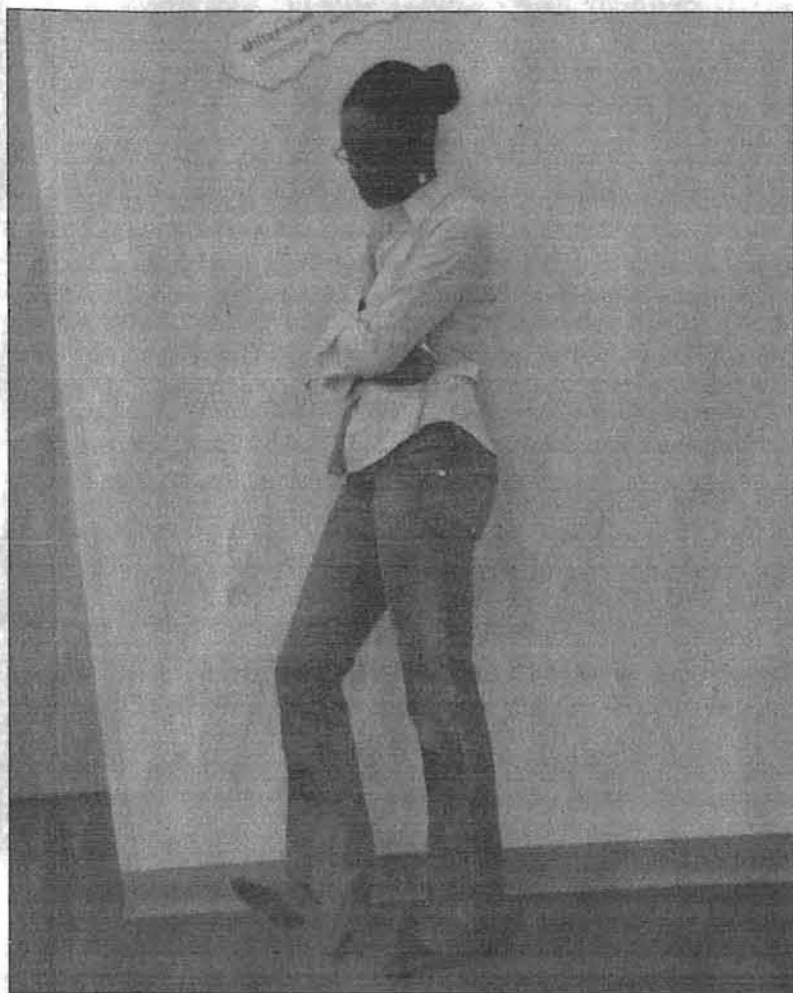
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SGA ELECTIONS from page 1



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Candidate Kenyatta Thacker waits on the Election Committee's final decision. Thacker filed a grievance against the Get Real slate, alleging that party members had violated election rules.

Bopp and Abraham also filed complaints against Thacker and McNabb for campaigning illegally in residence halls. According to the student court, both Bopp and Abraham

"The election committee did not necessarily have the right to rule on this issue. Dempsey said that the student court was created to rule on matters such as SGA election discrepancies. "We put a lot of time and energy into the process. We reviewed the election committee rules and policies over and over to make sure we were making a fair decision," Dempsey said.

Bopp, formally a member of the student court, resigned before the election to avoid a conflict of interest in the event of an appeal.

"Scott made sure that he did not talk to the members of the court about the election before, during or after the appeal. He was extremely professional," Dempsey said.

According to McNabb, she and Thacker had been granted permission to post flyers in the residential life halls, but Bopp and Abraham were not. However, both sets of flyers were posted and residents did complain to the election committee.

Both McNabb and Abraham felt that the wording of the election rules kept the election committee and student court from making a fair decision. "The student court made the

best decision they could within the guidelines of the election rules," McNabb, who is excited about her term as vice-president said.

Even though the SGA will operate next year under a split ticket, McNabb looks forward to working with Bopp. "Scott and I were friendly through the entire process," McNabb said. "There will be no animosity between us."

Abraham plan to run again next year for vice president and hopes the question, of what and what are not unethical behaviors, has been answered. "The clause reads 'no use of bribery or any other unethical behavior'" Abraham said, who denied any unethical behavior. "I pride myself on being honest. I don't think what I did can be compared to bribery."

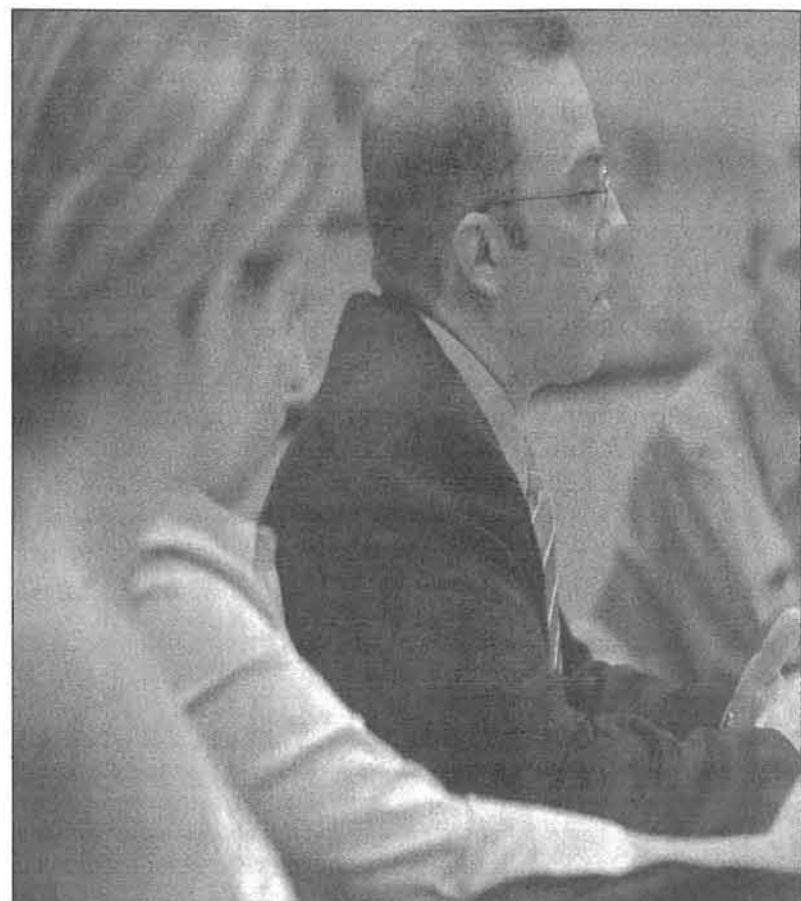
Abraham will continue to work on the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) and is working on a business proposal that will allow UM-St. Louis students to mentor 7th and 8th grade students at Normandy Middle School. "I want to teach them how to set higher goals and about the importance of a college education," Abraham said.

"What I was accused of really sounds bad," Abraham said. "It makes me out to be a really bad person, but I'm not."

While Thacker declined to comment on the decision of the student

court, both she and Abraham agreed that the process would have been more impartial, had it gone before the

SGA Assembly, which they felt would have better represented the student body.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Scott Bopp discusses allegations concerning his involvement in campaign rule violations.

CURRENT FUNDING from page 1

regarding the administration and the newspaper staff.

Both Chancellor George and Vice Chancellor Coonrod said they would like to see The Current become independent of direct university funding. The University would still allow The Current indirect funding through the use of office space, computers, telephones and electricity.

George and Coonrod said that they would like to see the newspaper function solely on advertising revenue within the next three years.

Drolet believes it would be nearly impossible to become independent of university funding within the next three years. "I think it's going to be a compromise."

Granger, who prefers the UM-Kansas City model of funding, agreed. "That is way too soon," Granger said. "I'd like to see the newspaper go independent in seven to ten years. That would give us enough time to build up decent outside revenue."

Granger thought the administra-

tion did feel threatened by the possible lawsuit. "The administration got backed into a wall by mistakes the students made, but they are taking the best way for public relations."

Vice Chancellor Coonrod said, "This Chancellor responds to con-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Former Editor-in-Chief Jason Granger and The Current faculty advisor Judi Linville discuss the SABC allocation with the Chancellor.

cerns." The decision to return funding was made three days after a meeting between The Current staff and administration.

"We're glad that we were able to reach resolution," Coonrod said.

Former president dies at 93

BY KATE DROLET Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, June 5, Ronald Reagan, fortieth president of the United States, passed away in his California home at the age of 93.

Reagan's lifetime achievements are numerous and varied. The former conservative president grew up in Illinois as the son of a shoe salesman. According to those who have interviewed him throughout his years as a public figure, Reagan often shared fond childhood memories of working as a lifeguard at a nearby lake. With a Hollywood career, work as a sportscaster and political experience as governor under his belt, Reagan entered the presidency in 1981 and impressed the American public with his eloquent and witty way with words.

The president led the country through several grave events in history. Though his economic policy left the country in serious debt, Reagan managed to leave the presidency with a 63 percent approval rating. His admirers credit him with the final blow that made the Soviet Union fall in 1989. Some people also believe that Reagan did not have any real hand in the collapse of the superpower, and that the nation was inherently weak. In the late 1980's, he signed the first Cold War treaty that agreed to arms reduction, and thought that he could restore peace to the conflicted world by discussing the politically inflamed situation between the

United States and the Soviet Union. He formed a personal connection with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which did assist in making disarmament discussions productive.

His role in the Iran-contra scandal did earn him negative light. Reagan was discovered to be secretly supplying funds to Nicaraguan contras that were attempting to overthrow the Marxist-Leninist powers. Several sources say that Reagan did not actually have a great deal of knowledge on the details of the plot; however, his involvement was still against the law.

Theatrics played a large role in his role as president. Before he took office, Reagan was president of the Screen Actor's Guild in Hollywood. He was an average actor by Hollywood standards, but enjoyed his brief film career. His role as Secret Service Agent Brass Bancroft in a series of movies brought him recognition that he was proud of. Once he stepped into the political limelight, Reagan used his skills as an actor to win the American public. He beat incumbent candidate Jimmy Carter in a presidential debate on what some would call sheer theatrics. He played off attacks on his policy plans with finger-wagging, head-shaking and well-timed comments. He inspired citizens with powerful speeches filled with emotion. But the public did not see the president as a con artist who faked his sentiments, though. He is still remembered by many as genuinely charismatic and

concerned. Reagan came to be known as the "Great Communicator."

Reagan finished his term at the end of the Cold War. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the early 1990's, and he battled the disease for a decade. By the end, his accomplishments and relationships faded away with his memory. He died from pneumonia, a complication of the Alzheimer's. A formal funeral procession will take place on Wednesday, June 9, in Washington D.C., and the former president's body will lie in state until Friday, June 11. The funeral will take place on June 11 at the National Cathedral. Reagan will be buried at the Reagan Library in California on Friday evening.



Photo courtesy free-stock-photos.com Ronald Reagan, fortieth president of the United States, passed away at the age of 93 on June 5, 2004.

TOM WEBER from page 1

software. "I like having control over the digital editing process," said Weber, who also said that he liked being in control over his own successes and failures. "If I make a mistake, there is nobody to blame but me."

Weber, who attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and University of Illinois in Springfield, now wakes up every morning at 3:30 a.m. in order to arrive on campus by

4:45 a.m. His radio show "Morning Edition," airs at 5:06 a.m. following a nationally syndicated broadcast by Carl Kasell.

After his show, Weber becomes a reporter, researching stories and chasing interviews. "I like to think that NPR is more in-depth," he said. "We try to package our stuff a little different." He went on to recite the stations slogan: "In-Depth News and

Intelligent Talk."

90.7 KWMU was founded in 1972 and now employs 27 full-time and 12 part-time professionals. The station raises nearly three quarters of its budget through listeners contributions. Shelley Kerley, station manager, was proud of their state-of-the-art facilities and dedicated staff, which reach 181,000 St. Louis area listeners. "We are very pleased with Tom," she said.

News Briefs

Womer named dean of business college at UMSL

Keith Womer will begin his new position as dean of the College of Business Administration at the UM-St. Louis August 1. He is currently serving as director of the Hearin Center for Enterprise Science and is a professor of operations management at The University of Mississippi in Oxford. Womer will replace Thomas Eysell, professor of

finance.

Travis named dean of nursing college at UMSL

Lucille Travis has been named as dean of Barnes College at UM-St. Louis Travis was the interim dean of the College of Nursing at Texas Woman's University. She will formally start the position on July 1.

Alumni contributions make up most of chancellor's fund

The Alumni Association donated \$10,000 to a fund to supplement UM-St. Louis chancellor Thomas F. George's salary this year. University had to seek \$50,000 in funding after hiring George for \$250,00 with a budget of \$200,000. The remaining \$40,000 came from three businesses who donated

\$5,000 each, two law firms who donated \$1,000 each,

and 37 individual donations ranging from \$50 to \$2,000 each.

Job search strategies Workshop

A workshop for students who are interested in learning about successful job search tips will be held in 278 MSC June 7 from 3:30 p.m to

4:30 p.m. Advance registration is required. For more information

call Career Services at 314-516-5111.

New student orientation

All new students are invited to attend a general orientation that will cover all aspects of the student experience at UM-St. Louis. The event will be held in MSC on June

11 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 .p.m. For more infor contact Joe Flees at

314-516-4536.

My Gateway 6.1 workshop

Faculty and staff are invited to attend a workshop that will focus on the updated course management system that powers MyGateway. The workshop will be held in 005 CCB on June 11 from 10:30 a.m.

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OPINION

OUR OPINION

Election rules not clear enough

As many UM-St. Louis students settle into work, intercession classes or the lull of summertime, the outcome of the spring Student Government Association elections still carries momentum.

This time last year, students still were not sure who would preside over the organization, as Adam Buemeler and Adam Schwadron fought for the top seat. After weeks of conflict and controversy, Scott Bopp currently holds the title of SGA President for the 2004-2005 school year.

Though results were finalized before the beginning of the SGA term (July 1), this year's confusion showed that election rules need to be clarified even further to avoid another fiasco in the future.

This year's race began fairly smoothly, as the election committee required all candidates to indicate that they were aware of campaign rules. Aside from a minor miscommunication between one of the candidates and the committee about online voting, the election continued on a path that appeared to be successful.

However, before the results were officially posted, presidential candidate Kenyatta Thacker filed a grievance against the "Get Real" platform, which included Bopp and Erin Abraham, vice president candidate, stating that the slate had violated the election rules. Bopp and Abraham filed a grievance against Thacker and Mindy McNabb, vice president candidate, as well.

All complaints were heard by the Election Committee, who ruled in favor of Thacker and McNabb. Bopp and Abraham were disqualified and Thacker and McNabb were subsequently appointed to the top two posts by the committee.

The election rules need to be clarified to a greater extent. Although the Election Committee spent some time and effort fixing the problems from the year before, the rules still lack a concise definition of terms.

Thacker and McNabb's complaint stated that the "Get Real" slate had campaigned in an unauthorized area. Maybe this is something that needs further clarification. We should ask:

Where are they allowed to campaign and where are they not allowed? Are the candidates fully aware of these areas? What are the punishments for violating the rules?

Bopp and Abraham brought up the fact that neither of them had been illegally campaigning. The person caught breaking rules was serving as a manager for the slate. Election rules should mandate that all candidates must indicate who is an official member of their campaign party, and all members should have to agree to the official regulations.

Are these candidates taking things too far? Yes, those running for office are students, but they still mirror the behavior of politicians. For the second year in a row the election has been contested. The student government elections are political in nature, and those running take the race seriously.

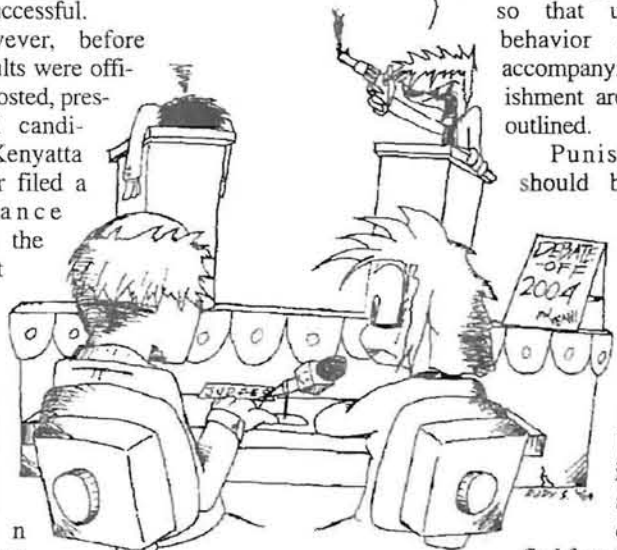
The cycle of controversy is no longer acceptable. This year's Election Committee has an important task ahead: redefining election procedures so that unethical behavior and its accompanying punishment are clearly outlined.

Punishments should be clear and strict. Those caught violating rules should be immediately disqualified from the race.

A chain of command should also be established in the event of disqualifications. Should the runner-up be appointed to office, or should there be a completely new election? Assuming that a student votes would have automatically elected the runner-up is not accurate or fair to others running for the position. Who has the power to appoint officers in the event of disqualifications or controversy? Should that power go to the election committee, student court, the SGA assembly, the entire student body? These are all issues that the election committee needs to address.

After two years of election controversy, what gives students a reason to have faith in the system? "Why should I vote? Some committee will ultimately decide on the winner," is a growing thought that can only be stopped with a just decisions and a successful future election.

Where in the rules does it say I can't do this?! HUH?!
...Yeah, that's what I thought!
Now, shut up! I just saved us a month of arguing!



The Issue

Student Government Association elections were full of controversy for the second year in a row. Campaign rules and punishments for violating them are not clearly defined.

We suggest

This year's Election Committee needs to redefine terms in the official rules, making expectations absolutely clear. All candidates and campaign members must agree to the rules.

So what do you think?

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

Hang on when change strikes

For a long time, I despised change. In my case, change meant moving. My dad's military career has led our family to ten locations over the last nineteen and a half years, and we are currently gearing up for yet another. Trading the cherished familiar for a place where I had no memories and no friends was always a struggle. Saying goodbye to good people hurts every single time, so this change always proved to be difficult.

Why do we fight change? It took me quite a few years and several relocations to understand that walking facing backwards is pointless. Memories are much easier to cling to than the tough realities of building a new life, but watching your comfort zone fade miles into the rearview mirror does not alleviate the sting of change.

The summer after my eighth grade year, my family climbed on a plane bound for a life an entire continent away. I cried as we left Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and moped for about three months after departing. Somewhere in that time span, I came to the gradual realization that I was a teenager living in Europe. My involvement and acceptance brought me to Italy, England, France, the Czech Republic, and places that many people only dream about visiting. I made lifelong friends who helped me to see that I had wasted months walking backward.

For two years I took advantage of the rare opportunities that I found every day. Then, completely without warning, my dad received orders to move. Three short months later, we flew across the ocean, this time head-

ed back to Ft. Leonard Wood. I cried for days when we returned, missing every piece of my life in Heidelberg. This move hurt more than any other, but I wanted to avoid walking backward again. A week after our arrival, I decided to attend a high school soccer camp where I met the man who is now my fiancé. I still miss Heidelberg, but at least I didn't miss out on memories.

Starting a new year in college, whether it is the first or last, comes with change. For freshmen, college may be the first experience with leaving family and joining the adult world. For non-traditional students, college is a path to a new lifestyle.

Try not to look back at the way things "used to be," and jump into the busy world right in front of you. They may be painful, but involvement and acceptance can only provide more opportunities to learn and grow.

Change often strikes with little or no warning. It usually hits below the belt, and does not abide by any rules of fairness. Meeting it with confidence is a serious challenge. Letting fear, nostalgia, or misery take the reins is all too tempting. The only way to prepare for a shift in regularity is to venture out of the comfort zone on a regular basis.

Abandon familiarity by going somewhere without familiar faces, tackling a huge obstacle or facing a fear. Wherever "normal" stops and "new" begins, know that every effort to confront the unknown will bolster confidence and allow you to hang on when change strikes and catches you off balance.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Hidden requirements

Everyone makes mistakes, some bigger than others. There is usually not just one person to blame, but someone is usually at the root of every conflict. Although that person does not always fess up to their mistakes, someone ends up suffering in the end.

Recently someone who is very close to me was not able to graduate from high school with the rest of his class. He was informed just two weeks prior to graduation that he would not be able to graduate with the rest of his class because he was missing a half credit of social studies.

The thing that makes the situation even worse is that he did have enough credits to graduate, but missing that half credit caused him to not be able to walk across the stage and receive his diploma. It seems to me that all too often the counselor or advisor makes mistakes that cause the student harm.

I have known many people who have not been able to graduate when planned, whether from high school or college, that have blamed the time lapse on their advisor. In this specific case, the counselor should have automatically signed the student up for this social studies class. The counselor would probably argue that he should have known to sign up for the class.

However, high school is just not the same as college. Not many students pay close attention to the classes they take. I just assumed that my counselor would sign me up for the classes that I needed and I would choose the electives. In this case, something happened that deferred this process.

The fact that this was not caught and brought to the student's attention until two weeks prior to graduation, when announcements had already been sent out, seems imprudent. At the beginning of the semester, someone should have seen that he was a senior and he needed to take that one extra class in order to graduate on time.

Not being able to walk with the rest of his class is the worst part of the situation. Graduating from high school is something that happens only once in a person's life and this student was shorn of this opportunity. I guess they have to go by the standards that are set for everyone and not bend the rules for one person. Not having the proper credits results in holding off on the graduation ceremony until all of the requirements are fulfilled.

My suggestion for everyone is to watch your requirements very carefully. The only thing that you can

really trust is your own personal records. Keep track of all the classes that you need to graduate and all the classes that you take. Retain all of your report cards because you may need proof that you completed and passed classes later in your education.

No matter how accurate your DARS report or transcript may be it is always safe to keep things for your own personal record. You may never know when you need to prove that transfer class that you took over the summer of your freshman year. I wouldn't depend completely on someone else, because you never know if that credit may show up missing right before graduation.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

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

- Election rules not clear enough
- Hang on when change strikes
- Hidden requirements hit hard

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

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



Mark Reece
Chartwells Employee

When people get in front of you on the highway and drive real slow in the fast lane.



Gary Sohn
Senior
Mass Communications

Getting dressed and finding out I only have one clean sock.



Ray Ferguson
Campus Visitor

People who can't drive.



Paul Crutcher
Graduate Student
Composition

People who drive in the left lane and refuse to yield to faster traffic; drivers who are unaware of their surroundings.

Editorial Board

- KATE DROLET
 - BECKY ROSNER
 - MELISSA MCCRARY
 - STEFANIE TAYLOR
 - PAUL CRUTCHER
 - JAMES DAUGHERTY
 - AMANDA LAVALLE
- "Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

Under Current

by Mike Sherwin
Staff Photographer

What's your pet peeve?

Climate changes: Not science fiction



CATHERINE MARQUEE-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

dent and extended summer heat wave should recognize is one of the possible effects of the global warming.

While some non-scientists continue to deny that global warming is taking place, the scientific evidence has continued to accumulate, so that now nearly all scientists recognize that the process is underway. They also recognize that the extensive impact of human activities are undeniably involved. The temperature of the Earth's surface increased significantly during the last century, with ten of the warmest years on record occurring in the 1990s. Those who would deny global warming seem to be oblivious to the gradual accumulation of evidence, but this slow build up of information is how science generally moves forward, not by sudden discovery.

Abrupt climate change has happened on earth before. In these events, conditions move toward a critical tipping point, after which the change starts in unstoppable fashion and takes place suddenly, in geological terms, equivalent to the bursting of a dam. Scientists have discovered that during the Younger Dryas period there was a period of abrupt cooling linked to disruption of ocean circulation, by the same method envisioned in the Pentagon report and the movie. This event took place about 12,000 years, during a warming trend at the end of the last Ice Age. However, the effect in that event, as in the Pentagon scenario but unlike the movie, is a geologically short term and local effect, which represents a break in the overall warming trend. "Abrupt climate change" in this case means in the space of ten years, not a few days, and it was "temporary" in that such an effect might be erased in decades.

So how can global warming make things cooler? Ocean circulation patterns are one of the things that determine the climate of a particular area. Western Europe is warmed by currents driven by thermohaline circulation, bringing warm water from the tropics across the surface of the north Atlantic, as part of a complex worldwide circulation pattern. Let us look at the ocean's thermohaline circulation, or the "great ocean conveyor belt," for a moment.

The keys here are changes in the saltness of ocean water and variations in temperature in oceans around the world. The variations drive a circulation pattern that moves water and heat around the world. In colder latitudes approaching the Poles, cold, salty (and hence denser) water sinks to lower levels of the oceans, drawing in warmer water from warmer latitudes to replace it at the surface. In the North Atlantic, the deep, cold water flows south along Canada, then south across the Atlantic to the eastern coast of South America and along that coast down to Antarctica. More sinking cold water around Antarctica joins this cold, deep current to flow north along the eastern coast of Africa and into the Indian Ocean and south of the Indian Ocean across to the Pacific. In both the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, the cold deep water gradually rises to the surface, where it is warmed by the sun, and also where it becomes saltier due to evaporation, as it flows north.

In the Pacific, this now warm, salty surface water now flows south and west again, past Australia and Southeast Asia, and joins the southward-flowing warmed, salty water from the Indian Ocean. This warm surface current travels south of Africa and flows north across the Atlantic and along the eastern coasts of Central America, and then it joins the Gulf Stream flowing north along the American coast. The warm surface current then crosses the Atlantic to Western Europe, and is drawn north along the coast where it releases heat to warm the atmosphere, and Western Europe. Once the heat is released and the water becomes cold again, the denser, salty water sinks in the north Atlantic as it flows north to the Arctic, restarting the cycle of drawing warmer water from the south.

The saltness is important to this process. Melting polar ice, which is fresh water, dilutes the salinity of the cold water. If it becomes too dilute and less dense, the cold water does not sink and disrupts the ocean circulation. The Gulf Stream, part of a large circulation of surface water in the north Atlantic, is a strong current that helps drive the warm water to Europe. The Gulf Stream is part of the overall thermohaline circulation, but it is partially driven by winds on the ocean surface. A disruption of the thermohaline circulation at deep ocean levels would not stop the Gulf Stream, but the water it circulates would not be as warm or salty and it might not travel as far across the ocean.

Unlike the abrupt climate changes in the Pentagon scenario and the movie plot, global warming will be a long-term change. According to climatologists, we are in an interglacial warming period, and the extent and speed of that warming is being accelerated by the release of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, deforestation, and other effects of human activities. Since these are human activities, we can exert some control over this trend. Carbon dioxide levels are higher than they have been in 400,000 years. The earth is getting warmer, which will cause rising sea levels and changes in rainfall patterns. This overall climate change may include abrupt climate changes, but will also include other extreme weather events of many kinds and erratic weather patterns along with increasing heat waves. Increasing unpredictability in the weather and general warming are likely effects, though the exact nature and timing of the changes is unknown. Right now, we can take steps to slow this process and reduce the chance of abrupt climate changes, but in a few years it will not be possible.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chancellor George, President Floyd, UMSL SGA President, Board of Curators, Student Curators and other UM System Leaders:

I was alarmed to read about UM System President Floyd asking for \$50K to help pay for UMSL Chancellor George's \$250,000 salary. Why is it necessary for "donations" to be made to pay such a high salary? President Floyd's annual compensation is \$350,000, plus an additional \$50,000 per year in deferred compensation dependant on successful performance reviews. UMSL Chancellor Gilliland got a 36 percent raise. Are these raises also performance based? I am very concerned about the justifications for these very high salaries.

With continued budget constraints in the state, a 7.5 percent increase in school tuition, and only a 2 percent increase in faculty salaries, how is it possible that there is such a disparity in these numbers? Even if these raises are from donation, I still think that

they are too high. I recommend that our trustees' groups that do private fund raising in Kansas City, donate \$50,000 to each campus to supplement students tuition, not to already high salaries. It should not matter what other systems pay or what CEO's are making. The UM System is a public university system, not a corporation.

I also urge curators to use any donations or endowments for other projects on our system's campuses. For example, we could use the donations to pay for the expensive parking garages at UMSL, or build more facilities for residents on UMSL's south campus, or what about creating scholarships to help less fortunate students pay for the 7.5 percent increase in tuition costs this year? Didn't UMKC's students tuitions go up 20 percent this year? I know that some students have to go part time because they can't pay for the increasing costs in tuition.

President Floyd's mission state-

ment says the following: "we are working hard to ensure that the University of Missouri is accessible, affordable, and accountable to those we serve." I think that affordable and accountable are key words.

I am an UMSL graduate and am very concerned about this request for donations. I look forward to responses from chancellors, curators, and of course the System President regarding the justification for such enormous salaries and donations being used for the salaries of persons who already get paid enough. Please do not send me a form letter.

Again, thank you for your immediate attention to my letter, and I look forward to your response.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lisa Foehner
UMSL Graduate

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ms. Foehner:

Thank you for sharing your comments on the compensation for the chancellors. This was an extremely complex issue that we struggled with last fall. It is important to note that it was necessary to raise the salaries of the chancellors for recruitment and retention purposes. In recognition of the fiscal crisis facing the University and the State of Missouri, the decision was made

to use privately raised and gifted funds to make the adjustments instead of state general operating funds. I believed this was the correct approach given the various budgetary considerations within and without the University. It is important to recognize that the salaries in fact are comparable to salaries of other presidents/chancellors at similar institutions.

I trust this response helps to provide you with a better perspective

on this matter.

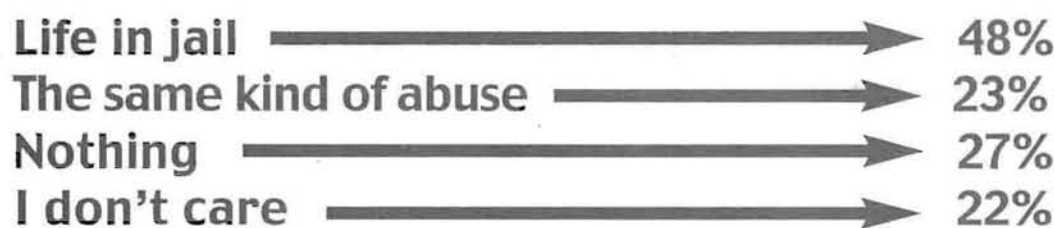
Take care.

Sincerely,

Elson S. Floyd, Ph.D.
President
University of Missouri
321 University Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65211

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

What should be the punishment for the soldiers who abused the Iraqi inmates?



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

Results via www.thecurrentonline.com

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Fall 2004 Career Services Events

UMSL August Teacher Job Fair

Friday, August 6, 2004 — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Mark Twain Building

Admission is FREE for pre-registered job seekers. Pre-register on line at www.umsl.edu/career/activities.html. Pre-registration deadline is 7/30/2004. Admission is \$5 at the door.

ResumeMania Week

Monday, August 30, 2004 — Friday, September 3, 2004.

Submit your resume on line at resumemania@umsl.edu. One of our Career Specialists will critique it and mail it back to you within 24 hours.

Career Days 2004

Tuesday, September 14 & Wednesday, September 15, 2004 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center. Meet with many employers to discuss employment opportunities. This event is FREE and open to UMSL students and alumni ONLY.

On-Campus Interviews — Fall 2004

September 27, 2004 to November 19, 2004

All interviews will take place in Career Services, 278 Millennium Student Center. You must be registered with Career Services and have your resume in our database to participate. Visit our web page for a list of companies scheduled to interview on campus.

Etiquette Banquet

Tuesday, October 26, 2004 — 12:30 p.m.

Lunch session includes guidance from a professional etiquette consultant. Tickets may be purchased in Career Services — \$10 for Career Services registrants — \$20 for all other students.

For more information on any of these events, please contact:

Career Services

278 Millennium Student Center

314-516-5111

career_services@umsl.edu www.umsl.edu/career

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The Current

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The Current is an EOE

National Association of Black Journalists at UM-St. Louis needs members to continue

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) at UM-St. Louis is in need of student leadership. According to NABJ faculty advisor Michael Smith, the organization has not been active because it currently does not have a president and has not reported any returning members.

"This organization hasn't been active because their president hasn't contacted me and I don't know if they even have a president since the last one graduated last semester," Smith said.

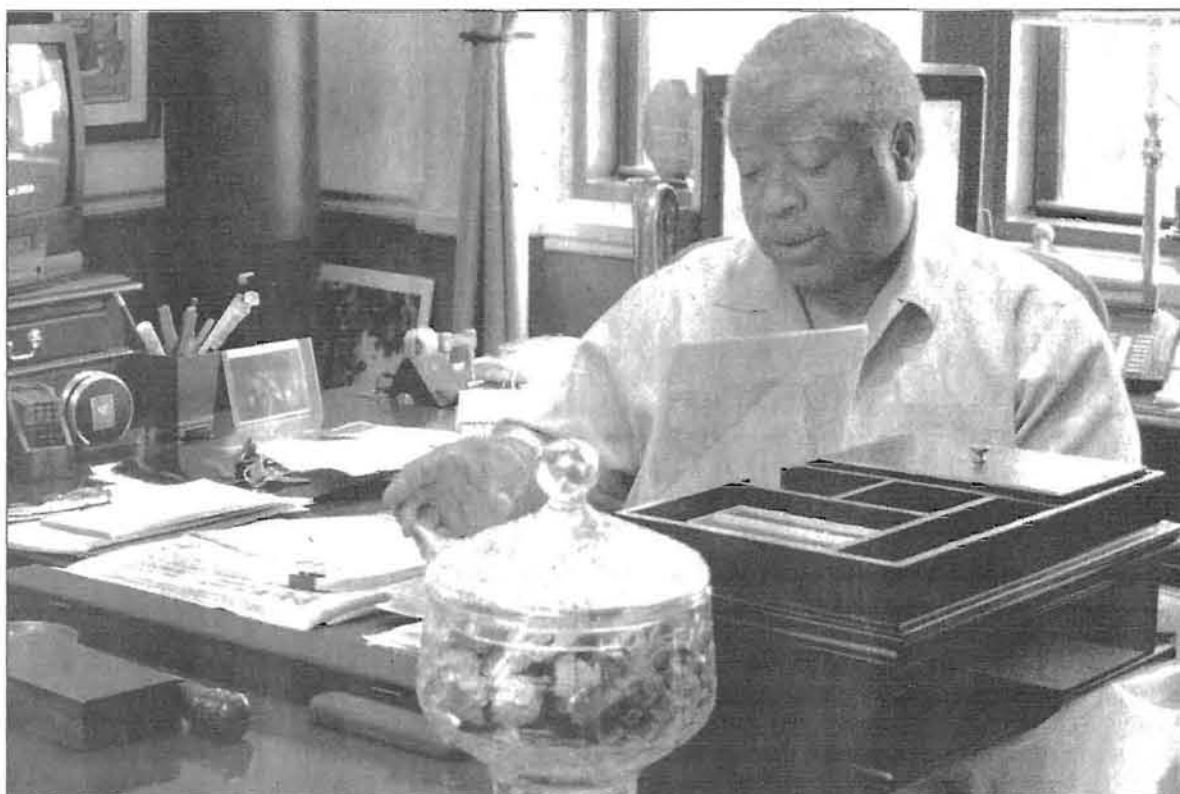
The UM-St. Louis NABJ makes up only a small percentage of the nationwide organization.

Nationally, the NABJ was founded on December 12, 1975. Today it is the largest organization of African American journalists in the world. With 3,300 members, the NABJ has many professional and student chapters serving the community.

NABJ mainly focuses on providing quality programs and services to advocates of and on behalf of black journalists worldwide. Their slogan is clearly stated on their website, www.nabj.org/about.html.

Smith recalled the University chapter of NABJ working with the St. Louis area chapter.

"They do a career day each year on campus. They mentor high school students, as well as college



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Dr. Julius Hunter, a veteran broadcaster of 33 years, is now applying the skills that he learned to community relations at St. Louis University.

students looking for jobs, as well as holding numerous opportunities for students interested in the communication field," Smith said.

The NABJ assists students interested in careers in journalism, public relations and marketing.

According to Smith, almost every

prominent news reporter, such as Julius Hunter, is an active member.

Not only is Hunter an NABJ member, but he is also the Vice President for Community Relations at Saint Louis University. While having 33 years of experience in broadcast and print journalism,

Hunter has had seven books published.

"I imagine that I am among the first to pay my annual dues each year, when the statement comes out for the renewal. That's because I believe in the mission and goals of the National Association of Black

Journalists," Hunter said, regarding the NABJ.

Hunter has participated as an instructor for a number of years in the seven-week annual workshops sponsored by the local chapter of NABJ. These workshops are for minority high school students interested in journalism. Comprehensive classes in print broadcast and public relations are held at UM-St. Louis, on Saturdays, throughout the months of January and February.

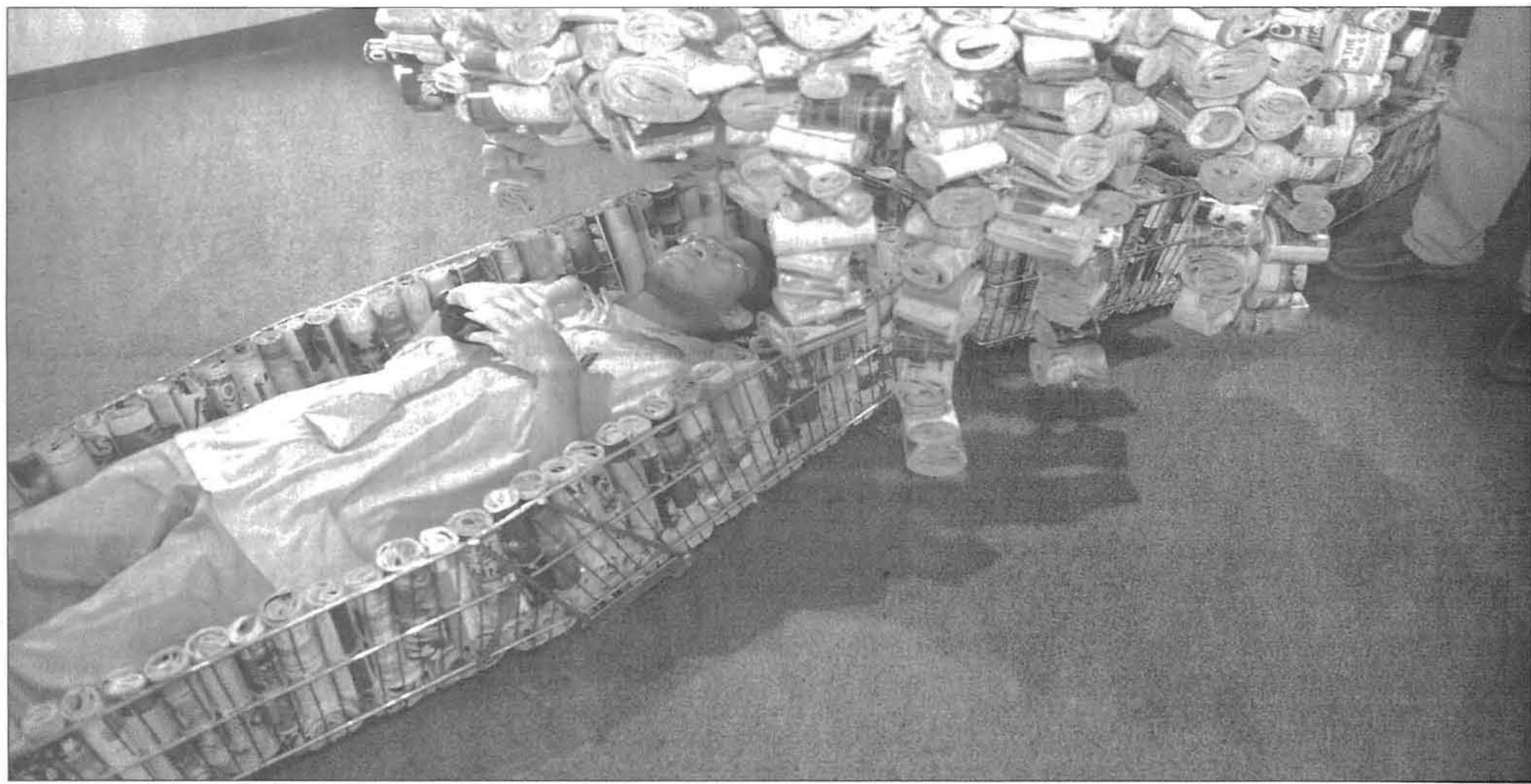
Hunter has witnessed some slow, but positive changes in the news business.

"I was the first African American news anchor to be given a regular Monday through Friday prime-time newscast in St. Louis. As amazing as it sometimes seems to me, this didn't happen until 1974," Hunter said. "I entered into the news business in 1970. Just think...television got started right after World War II ended, yet it was not until three decades later that a black person got that prestigious spot. There were African American anchors in St. Louis before 1974, but we were all assigned to the weekends only."

Despite advancements of African American anchors, content of the news regarding blacks concerns the NABJ and Hunter.

Hunter claims that some stations are still caught up in negative news representations regarding the black community.

see NABJ, page 7



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Damien Johnson, junior, criminology, checks out the view from below one of the pieces featured at the opening reception Thursday of the new exhibit "Mind Games" at Gallery 210.

Gallery 210 displays art works by St. Louis artists

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Acrylic paintings, pen and ink drawings, graphite collages, monoprints, photographs and sculptures are just a few types of artwork displayed in the Gallery 210 "Portfolio" art exhibition at UM-St. Louis.

The Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, a St. Louis magnet school, has selected thirty-two students to display over 100 pieces of art in a special exhibit open to the public.

Damien Johnson, UM-St. Louis student and art gallery employee, explained the major intention of the art show.

"This display lets the public see how great of artists these students really are and gives them the opportunity to gain experience in the professional art world," Johnson said.

Despite the fact that the students who display artwork are between 14 and 18 years old and none of them have art degrees, they are often asked to display their pieces at St. Louis area community centers, public schools and galleries.

"These students have so much potential," Katie Anderson, art gallery assistant said. "Some of the students have received art scholar-

ships and even awards for their unique abilities."

Anderson pointed out the graphite drawing of a human as one of her favorites in the "Portfolio" display.

Each piece of work was marked by the artist's name, title and art media used. Subjects included frogs, tigers, angels, ballerinas, self-portraits, still life and cartoon characters. Various black and white photographs of architecture, constellations, children and outdoor scenery were some images presented by students interested in photography. There were many stoneware pieces including pots, bowls, vases, human figures, animals and glass-decorated plates.

"This exhibit was supposed to be primarily focused toward the Central [Visual and Performing Arts] High School graduates, but since there were not enough pieces of work, other students were recommended to the gallery by teachers," Anderson said.

The public can view "Portfolio" daily from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. until June 12 at Exhibition Space A, Gallery 210. Gallery 210 is open Tuesday through Saturday.

In addition to "Portfolio," Gallery 210 is hosting "Exposure VII: Mind Games," featuring the work of four St. Louis artists: Brian Burnett,

Michael Keller, Robert Goetz and Ron Laboray. "Exposure VII: Mind Games" is a multi-media exhibition focusing on conceptual art, with different media, including video, installation and printing.

Goetz, who received his Masters degree in Fine Art from Washington University, is delighted to display his art.

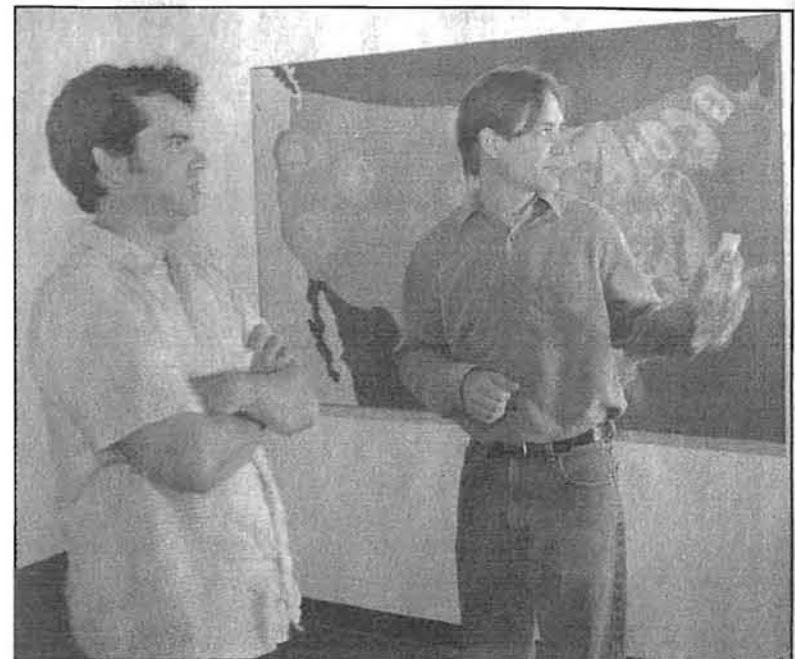
"With my work, I explore a cross over between photography and video movement by taking print images in virtual space and putting them in a traditional environment such as a picture," Goetz said. "This form of digital and traditional media is an eighteenth century photo process."

Another artist and gallery curator, Laboray shared what he believes visitors can expect from the exhibit.

"All works are linked together through mind games and play," Laboray said.

Laboray also received his Masters degree in Fine Art from Washington University and has displayed his pieces at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis and at the Los Angeles Raid Projects. He is locally sponsored by the Phillip Slein Gallery and, in Chicago, is represented by the Peter Miller Gallery.

One of Laboray's works is a map with a study of pop culture, borrow-



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Ron Laboray (at right) talks about the work on display at the opening reception Thursday for the new Gallery 210 exhibit "Mind Games." Laboray is one of four artists whose work is featured in the exhibit, which he also curated. "Mind Games" will be shown until September 11.

ing from the popular animated TV sitcom, "The Simpsons." Laboray found all towns and cities named Springfield in the United States,

revealing 121 similar cities. "Exposure VII: Mind Games" will be on display in Exhibition Space B until September 11, 2004.

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

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Ferris wheel transports riders back to 1904

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Throughout the summer, people can experience the 1904 World's Fair by taking a ride on an 11 story Ferris wheel in Forest Park.

On April 30, 1904, when St. Louis began one of the largest celebrations in the world. For eight months, over 20 million visitors came to take part in the festivities held in Forest Park. The main purpose of the 1904 World's Fair was to celebrate the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase, commemorate the voyages of Lewis and Clark and to give recognition to inventions like the new gasoline-powered automobile. Twenty-five countries came and built pavilions and 11 grand palaces displayed exhibits. There were amusement rides, games, entertainment and food from around the world.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1904 World's Fair. New Year's Eve kicked off "Celebrate 2004," starting with a fireworks display and the bright lights of the Giant Wheel in Forest Park.

see FERRIS WHEEL, page 12

Sid Savan's delivers final lecture at UMSL

Savan predicts winner of 2004 presidency

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

Lecturer Sid Savan presented Savan's Seven Campaign Commandments before retiring last month. Savan lectured at UM-St. Louis for over 15 years and gave his final speech on politics this May.

"I've always been interested in politics," Savan said. "I was a poll watcher before I was 16 years old, before computers did it for you."

Savan has handled political accounts, as well as run an ad and public relations agency for 40 years, and believes this is why he understands the way political campaigns work.

Savan gave his last speech in the SGA chamber on May 5, wrapping up his three-part lecture series, Savan's Three Final Lectures. Over 20 people showed up to hear his final lecture, "Who Will Win the Presidency in 2004."

He began his lecture by discussing the power of voting.

According to Savan, voting is a powerful tool and should be used by

informed voters who must use the privilege responsibly.

"You have a very powerful tool in your hands, when you're in the voting booth. Like anything that powerful, to vote without knowledge is extremely dangerous, like giving a loaded pistol to a child," Savan said.

His lecture series was founded by years of research, based on lost elections which wasted large amounts of money on those failed campaigns. Savan dedicated his speech to "the ones who lost elections, because they taught me so much."

Savan's Seven Campaign Commandments are seven practical strategies for winning elections.

"They will form the seven criteria we will use in the presidential election of 2004 to determine the winner," Savan said.

His seven campaign commandments were based on the theory that 20 percent of the electorate is perennially uninformed, or as Savan titled them, the ignorant.

Savan explained why it is important for both informed Democrats and Republicans to call on the ignorant 20 percent of the voting population in Missouri.

"Even if a Republican in this area gets all of the Republican and Republican leaning votes and all of the independents votes, he or she still can't win the election. Republicans have

only 30 percent of the votes and the independents make up 10 percent," Savan said.

"Democrats have it easier, but they still can't win without the ignorant," he said. "If they get all of the Democratic and Democratic-leaning votes plus the independent votes, they still can't win. Democrats have 35 percent of the votes and the independents make up 10 percent. 35 plus 10 equals 45 percent. So you have to convince the ignorant in order to win."

According to Savan, in order for a party to win an election they must focus on the ignorant or uninformed voters.

"So, your job in an election campaign is," Savan said, "to get the intellectually lazy, uninformed, emotion-driven, short-cut-taking bigots to vote your way."

If concerned candidates want the ignorant vote, they should follow the seven campaign commandments laid out by Savan, he disclosed.

The first commandment Savan presented was to say nothing in a media campaign.

According to Savan, taking a stand on controversial issues in a media campaign only causes a political candidate to lose votes amongst the ignorant, who have the ability to sway an election at any juncture. The ignorant only get their news from TV and radio spots and usually vote only in opposi-



Mike Sherman/The Current

“Like anything that powerful, to vote without knowledge is extremely dangerous, like giving a loaded pistol to a child.”

— Sid Savan, retired lecturer in communication

tion to a political position.

Savan elucidated that television and radio ads are vital in campaigning for the ignorant vote.

"The ignorant don't listen to political speeches; they don't read about politics in the newspaper, they don't watch the news shows on TV. Except the weather and the sports, they really aren't that interested in the news. But they do watch TV and listen to radio; the only thing about politics they can't

avoid are the spots bought on TV and radio," Savan said.

"I never really worried about what my political clients said in speeches. It made them feel better, and the ignorant never were aware of those positions," he said.

Savan advised, during his final lecture, those candidates who take a position on valid issues, in television or radio spots, have nothing to gain and plenty to lose.

"Ignorant do respond to TV spots. They can't avoid them, especially if you buy enough. So, when a candidate takes a firm position on a controversial issue, what he or she really does is lose votes from the ignorant...not win any. Because the ignorant are not really interested, they really only pay attention to a political position when they disagree with it. Ignorant vote against, not [for an issue]. This is one of the reasons why negative campaigns work so well," Savan said.

"George W. [Bush] was way ahead in the surfacing stage of the 2000 Campaign," Savan said. "That was because he was saying nothing in the campaign. When he was forced by the debates to take positions, his polls started going down."

Savan's second campaign commandment was to never campaign for the votes already secured.

"If you're running as a Democrat, you already have the Democratic vote and the so-called Independents who lean Democratic. Don't prove to the Democrats how liberal you are," Savan said. "Likewise, if you're Republican, why campaign for the conservative vote? Would they vote for that Democratic liberal? Would they stay home and see that Democratic liberal win?"

see SAVAN, page 12

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Casey Ulrich/The Current

Buying and selling books online is becoming a trend for students who have found it to be a better deal than going to a bookstore.

Students save cash shopping for books online

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

When it comes to college, students try to manage their money the best way they can. With costs of books, parking, campus living, food, student activity fees and loans, numerous students hold part-time jobs or search to get the most out of their college expenses.

One way that some students might try to save money is by shopping around for the cheapest text books and returning their used books to earn extra cash. With the fast growing advancement of the Internet, more students are beginning to shop online for their textbooks.

Online book companies allow students to list and sell their books through auctions, marketplaces and book buyback centers. Top bookstores

like Barnes and Nobles and Borders have made book shopping easier, more secure and easier to locate, by offering online sales to their customers. Barnes and Nobles employee, Mike Coleman recommends people purchase their books through Barnes and Nobles' online store.

"With shopping for books online, people don't have to worry if our store is open or making an extra trip to wait at a register," Coleman said. Borders has teamed up with amazon.com to allow customers to shop from their homes, list their own items to sell and find buyers through online marketplaces. If a person chooses to sell their items, themselves, they can click on "Sell Yours Here" or "Sell Your Stuff" on the navigation bar.

Laura Haywood, junior, psychology, is one student who has previously sold books online.

"Listing a book for sale online is not very difficult," Haywood said. "I

like to resell my books online, because I think that I receive more money back, rather than by reselling them on campus."

Depending on the company, a person might be required to set up an account before he or she can buy or sell their books online. Amazon allows people to set their own price; however, the price of an item must be at or below the company's suggested price.

The suggested price quote is based on the future demand, the current stock availability and the condition of the book. Although people can make money by selling their own books online, most companies collect a percentage of the sales price. At the University Bookstore at UM-St. Louis, a wholesale book company, Missouri Book Services (MBS), gives students the opportunity to resell their books at the end of each semester.

Textbook manager Teri Vogler

explained how book buybacks work.

"Prior to the buyback, the bookstore sets up a database of titles that will be used for the next semester. MBS scans each book, and if the bookstore needs that title, then a student is paid half of the new price, even if it was used when the student purchased it," Vogler said. "Even though a book might be listed in the database, not everyone's books can be bought back. The quantity of books bought back is determined by the number that is needed for the upcoming semester, and how many the bookstore may have on hand."

Find options regarding purchasing and book buyback prospects online, through the UM-St. Louis bookstore website, www.umsllibrary.com, or from Follett Campus Book Service. In addition, students are permitted to post 'Used Books for Sale' notices on bulletin boards located in many different areas around campus.

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NABJ, from page 6

"There is still a tendency of some stations to quickly, and without investigation, label any crime story's location as being in 'North St. Louis.' For some stations, crime in St. Louis is often assumed 'North St. Louis' and North St. Louis is a euphemism for the black community."

Hunter went on to say how members of NABJ have noticed that in nine out of ten cases, a black suspect would be paraded before the cameras by the police department, whereas only three out of ten white suspects were brought to the media's attention.

"Organizations like the NABJ should rise up in righteous indignation when this sort of offense is the

order of the day," Hunter said.

Hunter believes that the organization has been a great agency for networking and assisting black people in finding job opportunities.

Another prominent African American person involved with media is Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Michael Powell. Powell was unable to talk directly to *The Current*, but shared his thoughts and feelings about the importance of having an organization like NABJ, through his media news contact, David Fiske.

"Powell believes in membership organizations. They play a very important role. They provide a forum for professional advancement, professional goals in the journalistic

profession, and in many cases represent a collective membership in policy proceedings in Washington," Fiske said.

Fiske went on to say that Powell respects the fact that there is a combination of promoting the advancements of blacks and also taking on broader issues that involve journalism.

Powell has met with many NABJ members, in various forums, interviews, television and radio shows, and, overall, he believes those sorts of organizations play important professional roles.

Any UM-St. Louis student interested in activating the organization should contact Smith at 516-6566 or email him at MTSmith@umsll.edu.

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SPORTS

JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

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Questions
or
Comments?

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Hughes receives Paragon award

Courtesy Sports Information Office

Missouri-St. Louis baseball player Logan Hughes (Walnut Shade, Mo./Branson) was named the recipient of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award as voted on by the league. He becomes the first ever UM-St. Louis student-athlete to receive this award and adds to his list of honors this season. Earlier this week, Hughes was named a CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team Selection and was named a GLVC Second Team All-Conference selection earlier this year as well.

The Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award was established prior to the 1990-91 school year in honor of Richard F. Scharf, Commissioner Emeritus of the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Paragon Award is awarded annually to one male and one female student-athlete based on academic excellence, athletic ability and achievement, character and leadership to represent the best student-athletes the GLVC has to offer.

Hughes was voted as a co-recipient on the men's side, earning the honor along with Southern Indiana soccer player Duncan Bray, and SIU Edwardsville softball player Jenny Esker won the women's award. The recipients will be honored during a reception at the GLVC spring meetings on May 26 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Hughes was the starting third baseman for UMSL and batted fourth in the order all year. He was a GLVC Second Team All-Conference selection at third base after hitting .345 on the season, third best on the team, and led the Rivermen with 70 hits, six home runs and 56 RBIs. His 56 RBIs tied the school record for most RBIs in a single season, matching the record he set last year. Hughes scored 39 runs on the season and had 12 doubles with a slugging percentage of .517. Hughes started off the season with a bang, hitting safely in each of the first 14 games of the season.



Senior Logan Hughes gets ready to play ball.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

Spring season 2004

THE BEST & THE WORST

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

As the fan population is not overwhelming at UM-St. Louis, some students may be wondering how University sports teams ranked by and large in athletics.

This spring, seven sports teams competed in Division II athletics. It was not the best season for the University en bloc, and so the 'best' and the 'worst' are not necessarily relative to last year's results or to other teams in the conference, but more-so relative to other teams within the athletic department.

For example, this year's basketball teams fall under the 'worst' category. The women's basketball team had an overall record of 7-20 (4-16 conference). Their season will not be one to brag heartily about. Their record did not even allow them to enter the conference tournament, which takes the top eight teams in a conference of just eleven. However, there is a justifiable defense. First, the team received a new head coach this year, and the majority of the team was unfamiliar with him as they were with one another. Second, the team had between seven and eight starters in all of their games, five short of what is considered essential. Third, there were five games that the team lost by less than five points. Given the aforementioned obstacles, they did not fair so terribly. About rebuilding the team? Coach Buchanan believes they're only eight recruits away.

"We are going to actually look like a basketball team next year," Buchanan said. "We've recruited to fill positions rather than forcing players into slots they are not used to. We will have a good mix of size and speed, so we should be more athletic than last year."

Second place for worst team of the year goes to the men's basketball team, who posted a record of 9-18 (5-15 conference) and also kept out of the conference tournament. They do not have as many excuses as the women's team for their lack of success, but they did have a few positive notes. They did better than last year's all time low. In addition, NCAA All-

American and UM-St. Louis Hall of Famer Chris Pilz became the new head coach for the team. Hopefully this ship will be on course soon.

The next few teams fall somewhere in the middle. Due to unexpected disappointments, the men's golf team did not perform so well in the end. Head coach, James Trittler resigned, and it remains to be seen who will replace him. The women's softball team placed higher than last year and had a better record at 27-27 (9-9 conference), but they did not fare so well in the conference tournament and wound up with a sixth place finish. The women's golf team, despite a first place finish in one tournament and second place in another, didn't make the regional tournament. Now, on to the bright spots in the entire season.

With a record of 11-8 (4-4 conference) and a third place finish in the conference tournament, the men's tennis team secured the spot of next-to-best. A sub-par record against fellow Division II teams kept them from moving into the regional tournament. The bright spot of the season was the breaking of the school win record by senior captain Matt Vaulkard.

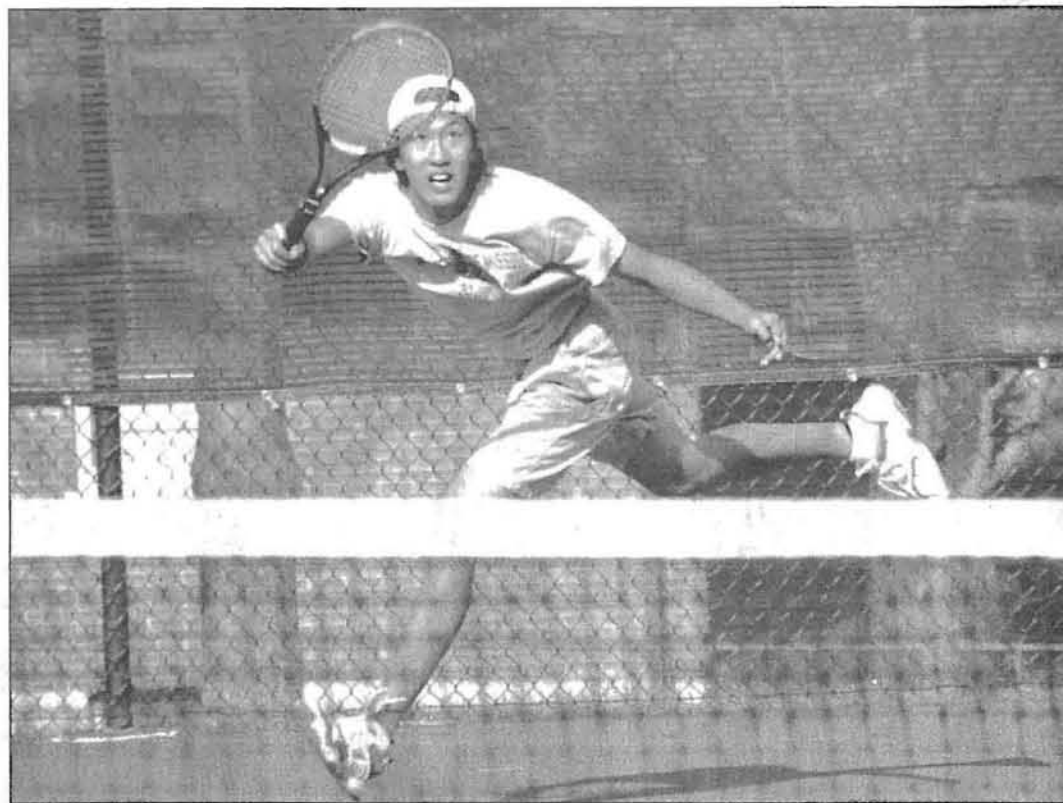
"We are getting two new kids to make us more competitive in practice and matches," Tennis Coach Rick Gyllenborg said. "Especially during the fall, we will be getting more work and our practices will be more intense."

The best team of the spring was the UM-St. Louis baseball team. With a record of 30-23-1 (23-13 conference) and a second place finish in the conference tournament, no other team rivaled their success. As fate would have it, the one team needed to beat in order to place in the regional tournament, was the team that won conference. (Thank you, Northern Kentucky University.) Like the tennis team, this year's baseball team also fell short of last year's accomplishments. In the end there were bright spots, with four players named to all-regional teams and the Great Lakes Valley Conference Paragon Award was received by Logan Hughes, an award reserved for a player in conference who shows exceptional academics, leadership, and athleticism. So, that is how UMSL's sports season concluded.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

UM-St. Louis Riverwoman Megan Albers takes a free-throw shot. The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team did not rank high in this year's division. The team was under direction from a new coach, and often played lacking regular starters. The women's overall record was 7-20.



Amanda Schniedermeier/The Current

Francis Lam, freshman, leaps after the tennis ball to ensure himself a win against Lindenwood University. The men's tennis team finished third place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament.

Successful sports recruiting always a challenge for UMSL coaches and staff

Navigating the complicated rules set by the NCAA is no easy task; mistakes can be costly

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

One of the most complicated and heavily regulated aspects of sports beyond the high school level is recruiting.

It wouldn't seem so in theory, however, rather a fairly simple concept. A coach discovers a player he fancies, tries to convince the athlete to play for his university and then the player either commits or refuses. It is not as if the ordeal is a United Nations peace summit. Unfortunately, the U.S. (and the entire world, for that matter) tends to take sports very seriously, and even at the collegiate level, a lot of money can be at stake.

Look at the scandal revolving around basketball superstar, Chris

Webber. Because he and other players at the University of Michigan received special perks and benefits not given to everyone (gifts which included large amounts of cash) Webber was investigated and suspended for eight games this past season.

Another example is the dishonor revolving the University of Colorado football team. The university's football coach, Gary Barnett, was investigated for a number of accusations, among them selling sex to recruit players.

At Division II level athletics, things are not quite so dramatic, but it does get out of hand, causing entire teams to lose winning seasons because of disqualification. In explanation of this controversial topic, begin by understanding the rules. Because each sport has specific rules, use basketball as a

generic template.

The year is broken up into four periods. There is a period of evaluation in July. Coaches may watch players at games, but they can not communicate with them. Upon entering a gym, parents of players will go in one direction and coaches another. This is to prevent any illegal contact. The next period is a quiet period. Coaches are not allowed to leave the campus to recruit, but prospects can visit campuses and talk to coaches at the university. Then comes a dead period, which lasts only two days, but absolutely no contact can be initiated by either side, in any way. The dead period directly precedes the National Letter of Intent signing in early November and again in late April.

Aside from rules governing when contact may be initiated, there are also

rules governing exactly who can be contacted. Students who will be juniors or seniors in the following fall term may be sent letters informing them about particular sports programs, but student athletes who will be freshmen or sophomores may only receive generic correspondence about the institution. Verbal contact is off limits to underclassman.

Among the many regulations in recruiting, there are a few memorable ones. School jets can be used to pick up recruits, but not helicopters. Limos are not allowed. Upon arrival to the school, it is prohibited for the school band to strike up a tune of welcome. As Coach Buchanan put it, "You know those rules are in place because somebody did those things."

So, what works best for recruiting new players? There are clubs that host

tournaments where the players and all their stats are listed on a spreadsheet, including player information on everything from height and weight to G.P.A. There are high school coaches who broker for their players by initiating. There are also a large number of letters and e-mails that coaches get year round from players and agencies advertising them. These are great opportunities to scout new players.

"Half of recruiting is luck. Of course, there is a lot of hard work involved. I would say, though, that networking does much of the work and it might not even be considered recruiting," Coach Rick Gyllenborg of the men's tennis team said.

Hopefully, some networking luck will grace UM-St. Louis' slumping athletic department, giving UMSL a chance at success this upcoming year.

Olympic torch relay comes to St. Louis June 17

Event marks marks 100-year anniversary of 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

St. Louis will make history once again, when it hosts the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, at Art Hill in Forest Park.

In 1904, St. Louis was the first U.S. city to host the Olympic Games. There will be appearances by former Olympians, members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, a look back at the 1904 Games, a fireworks display and conclusion of the Olympic Torch Relay through St. Louis. This event is free to the public.

St. Louis is one of four American cities and one of 34 cities worldwide to be part of the first-ever Global Torch Relay. This will mark the 100th anniversary of the 1904 Olympic Games and the end of the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay.

The torch relay has unique importance to St. Louis, greater than other cities participating in the 2004 Global Torch Relay, according to Mark Schreiber, Director of Marketing and Communication for the St. Louis Sports Commission.

"Every city on the route has its own end-of-the-day celebration, but only one can use the occasion to commemorate the centennial of its Olympic games," Schreiber said.

St. Louis Sports Commission President Frank Viverito reiterated the importance of this Olympic celebration.

"I think it is important for every St. Louisian to know that St. Louis is the birth place of the Olympics in

America," Viverito said.

The Olympic flame will be carried 34 miles, starting at the Arch and concluding at Forest Park. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, three-time Olympic gold medalist and East St. Louis native, will light the Torch Relay Cauldron on a stage at the base of Art Hill.

Joyner-Kersey talked briefly about being part of the Olympic Torch Relay during the St. Louis Sports Commission press conference, also held at Art Hill on June 3.

"I would like to thank the St. Louis Sports Commission, because it is indeed an honor to be able to come home and celebrate this joyful occasion. Being an athlete and competing all over the world is one thing...but it is another thing when your community thinks you're worthy of a cause like this," Joyner-Kersey said.

She also spoke about the significance of having an Olympic presence in St. Louis.

"People might not be able to travel to Athens," Joyner-Kersey said, "but they can travel to St. Louis and we can bring those Olympic experiences right here."

Several athletes are scheduled to appear including Shannon Miller, seven-time Olympic medalist in gymnastics; Bonnie Blair, a five-time Olympic gold medalist in speed skating; Sammie Henson, a graduate of Francis Howell High School who won the silver medal in freestyle wrestling at the 2000 Olympics; Wendy Williams, Bridgeton native who won a bronze medal in diving at the 1988 Olympics; Craig Virgin, three-time Olympian in track and field from Lebanon, Illinois, and Connie Teaberry, a 1996 Olympian from Florissant, Missouri.

KSDK-TV News Channel 5 anchor Mike Bush will emcee the event, scheduled to be televised live by the NBC affiliate.

Bush was chosen to emcee the event because of past involvement with the Olympic Games and his recognition around St. Louis.

"Mike has been here since 1985. He's covered the Olympics and he is well known in our community. Because he is connected to the networks and Olympics...he was an appropriate choice. He's a good guy and we really like him," Schreiber said.

Bush carried the torch in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, and covered the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

"I think this is a great thing for St. Louis and I am proud to be part of this event. I have a long relationship with the Olympics. I think this is a great thing for St. Louis because it's the anniversary of the 1904 Olympics and 1904 World Fair," Bush said.

Spectators are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chair to Art Hill. There will be limited seating available. People are invited to bring their own food and beverages. There

will be food and water vendors at the event, however no alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the park.

There are several parking options for those attending the Torch Relay. The St. Louis Zoo north and south offer free parking after 7 p.m. Parking will also be available in the upper and lower Muny lots, Washington University and on streets throughout Forest Park, as permitted by law. The east and west circle lots atop Art Hill and at the Art Museum will be reserved for handicapped parking and parking pass holders.

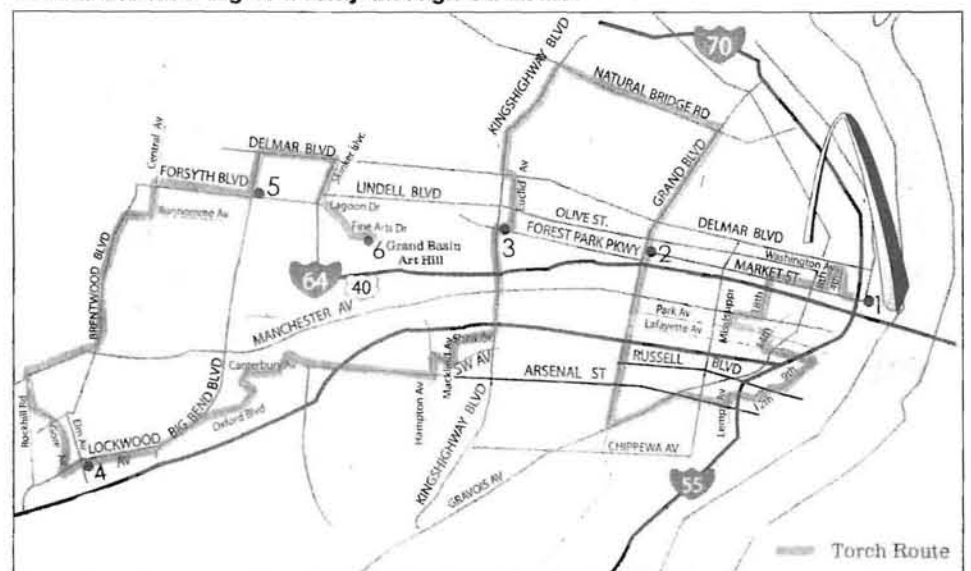
Deaf Inter-Link will provide sign language interpreting services for the Celebration. People with disabilities requesting accommodations are urged to call 314-206-7385. If requesting accommodations are asked to call at least 48 hours in advance of the event.

“
People might not be able to travel to Athens, but they can travel to St. Louis.
”

- Jackie Joyner Kersee



Mike Sherwin/The Current
Jackie Joyner-Kersey answers questions from news reporters after a press conference held Monday morning at the top of Art Hill in Forest Park. Joyner-Kersey will carry the Olympic Torch across the final leg of a relay through St. Louis.



The Olympic Torch will be relayed through St. Louis on June 17. The torch will begin at the Arch, and wind through the city until a torch lighting ceremony takes place at Art Hill in Forest Park.

Map courtesy St. Louis Sports Commission

UMSL Athletics celebrates alumni athletes during Hall of Fame ceremony



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Members of the 1973 UM-St. Louis soccer team surround the widow of their late coach Don Dallas during an induction dinner and ceremony into the UMSL Hall of Fame. In 1973, the team claimed UM-St. Louis' first and only NCAA championship. Around 200 people attended the Hall of Fame induction, which also honored seven individuals: Stuart Vogt, Kris Wilmesher, Skip Erwin, Joan Gettemeyer, Jeff Heveroh, Sharon Kampwerth, and Dave Roither.

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Humorist Sedaris to perform at Powell

BY MIKE SHERWIN

Music Editor

A one time housecleaner from North Carolina, David Sedaris has not done too poorly over the past ten years. Sedaris has risen to great acclaim, peddling his comedic wares starting with his first appearance on National Public Radio's (NPR) "Morning Edition." He read "SantaLand Diaries," a recollection of two years he spent working for Macy's as a slightly-irate Christmas elf. "SantaLand Diaries" became the second most requested show in NPR's history.

Through stories like "SantaLand Diaries," Sedaris guides listeners and readers through absurdities of everyday life, taking a wry and incisive look at cultural values, American kitsch and struggles of growing up in today's world.

With recurring appearances on NPR's "This American Life," Sedaris built a strong following which helped thrust his first book, "Barrel Fever," onto the bestseller list. Three best-sellers later, Sedaris has embarked on his latest speaking tour which visits St. Louis, June 11, at Powell Symphony Hall. The tour chases the heels of Sedaris' newest book, "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim."

With a characteristically nasal, Southern drawl and deadpan delivery, Sedaris' stories are at their best when delivered by the author himself. An essay from his fourth book, "Me Talk Pretty One Day," relates a common situation from childhood, music lessons. In Sedaris' world, music lessons became a symbolic microcosm in confronting a dangerous and distrusting world.

Sedaris was a reluctant music student, forced to study music by his jazz-obsessed father. However, Sedaris' musical interests were limited to singing commercial jingles in the voice of jazz queen, Billie Holiday. After several unsuccessful weeks of lessons with his midget guitar instructor, Sedaris decided to reveal his secret wish to perform Holiday-esque jingles. The result is a funny, poignant but slightly sad confrontation in which the teacher - nonplussed - responded, "Hey, guy, I'm not into that scene. There were plenty of screwballs like you in Atlanta...and you can count me out." Thus, an episode about music lessons morphed into commentary on dealing with parental expectations which are rarely met) and facing a society burdened by homophobia and lack of acceptance.

Although Sedaris' stories often deal with prosaic topics, the stories themselves never come off as trivial. Rather, with his incisive wit and masterful storytelling, Sedaris reminds his readers that in every moment, there is a truth waiting to be discovered.

Tickets are available ranging from \$18.50 to \$30 for David Sedaris' Powell Symphony Hall appearance, and may be purchased online at www.sloso.org or by phone, 1-800-232-1880.



Summer sizzlers and stinkers

Hollywood's summer films run the gamut from silly to spectacular

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Movie Critic

In the summer, Hollywood offers movies in two flavors: spectacular and silly. These spectacular category finds all the blockbuster wannabes, big-budget movies with big name casts, special effects films, pumped-up action flicks, scary movies and thrillers. In the silly category, discover light, cotton-candy stuff; comedies, kid flicks, animation and romantic movies.

Fortunately, in preservation of the ability to think after consuming too much cinematic cotton candy, art house theaters appear oblivious to the summer season, continuing to offer the same mix of intelligent cinema as usual, including documentaries, foreign and indie films. If other films are called "spectacular" or "silly," maybe these categories should be titled "specialties." There are also a few movies in limited release, mostly Indies, not yet scheduled for release in St. Louis, which may or may not show up. Call these films "sketchy."

Take a look at the movies of summer, and what summer movie categories - spectacular, silly, specialty, or sketchy - have to offer this June and July.

June

Spectacular/Blockbuster - "Spider Man 2" is undoubtedly the biggest blockbuster wannabe coming out this month, but its late release (June 30) makes room for other movies to hit blockbuster status first.

A few contenders for summer blockbuster have debuted, some more successfully than others. The flawed "Troy" is a long shot; however the just-released, environmental science fiction film, "The Day After Tomorrow," is a likely winner of the blockbuster title. "Shrek 2" is a cinch for runaway hit, with a story that is the perfect next step. Another contender for blockbuster status: the third in the Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." A few days away from release (June 11) is "Chronicles of Riddick," a sequel to the low-budget Aussie science fic-

tion/action film that launched Vin Diesel, this time retaining the original director, Twohy, but with added big budget special effects.

On June 18, see the Steven Spielberg/Tom Hanks collaboration, "The Terminal," a comic tale inspired by the real story of a man stuck in a Paris airport for ten years. When transferred to New York, the immigrant (Hanks) gets stuck when war sends his country to extinction and him into legal limbo. With Spielberg, Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones, "Terminal" has a chance of making blockbuster status, and along with "Day After Tomorrow," these are about as close to thought-provoking as Hollywood will get this June.

Silly/Light - Lots of recently-released light and fluffy entertainment is now out, including "Soul Plane," floating a one-joke comedy about launching an airline business, the much funnier farce "Breakin' All the Rules" with Jamie Foxx and Gabriel Union, and the unremarkable comedy starring Kate Hudson, "Raising Helen."

Opening on June 11, are "Garfield:

the Movie," a computer animated version of the comic strip, which may or may not win over kids, and "The Stepford Wives," a tongue-in-cheek remake of the 1970s dark humor film in which real women are replaced by man-pleasing 'idyllic' doubles, starring Bette Midler and Nicole Kidman. June 18 sees the release of another remake, the Jackie Chan version of "Around the World in 80 Days," a big-budget, over-the-top, special effects-jammed, Jules Verne-inspired tale starring Steve Coogan, Kathy Bates and Jim Broadbent. The same week witnesses the release of "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," an off-beat comedy that flirts with an Indy style. This low budget mainstream could be a sleeper delight or small budget silly. However, there is no doubt about the silly factor in another comedy, Wayans brothers' "White Chicks," due out June 23. Also tentatively set for June release is "Saved," a dark comedy about a religious girl, starring Jena Malone, who is demonized by born-again former friend, actress/songstress Mandy Moore, when Malone becomes unexpectedly pregnant in an

attempt to 'save' her possibly gay boyfriend.

Special/Serious - Some excellent films are still running: the re-release of Monty Python's Biblical-era satire, "Life of Brian," "Super Size Me," and the old-style Italian thriller, "I'm Not Scared" (reviewed May 3). Also just opened for this week only, is the excellent "Twilight Samurai," one of last year's nominees for Best Foreign Film Oscar. Opening this week are "Carandiru," director Hector Babenco's (of "Kiss of the Spider Woman") film, set in Latin America's largest prison and loosely based on a best-selling novel; "Valentin," an Argentine coming-of-age hit about a 10-year-old boy and his father's ex-girlfriend; "A Slipping-Down Life" with Lili Taylor and Guy Pearce, in an odd adaptation of an Anne Tyler novel; and a hit from last fall's St. Louis Film Fest, Jonathan Demme's "The Agronomist," a documentary film about popular Haitian hero and patriot, Jean Dominique.

see **SUMMER MOVIES**, page 9

Story of the Year delivers mature show to immature audience

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR

News Editor

Story of the Year, a St. Louis hometown band, played on Saturday at 105.7 The Point's annual Pointfest 16. While 16 probably referred to the average age of the fans in attendance, SOTY put on a mature rock show.

Story of the Year is comprised of local rockers Dan Marsala on vocals, Ryan Phillips and Phillip Sneed on guitar, Adam Russell on bass, and Josh Wills on drums. Poised on a small stage in an annexed parking lot of UMB Pavilion, the band gave the anxious crowd a show that revived the rock lifestyle.

When old-rock meets new-punk, Story sings songs such as "Until the Day I Die," from Page Avenue, their debut album released in September 2003. The band also proved it is more than a one-hit wonder with its recently released single "Anthem of our Dying Day."

As the band warmed up to Lynard Skynard, the mostly pre-teen crowd of fans watched anxiously and tried to ignore the underage drinking and potent smell of burning marijuana. Once the show began, the crowd thronged to the stage via body surfing. The surfers eagerly waited for the

moment when they would be snatched by a burly and ever-alert security guard and then tossed to the side of the stage. More timid fans simply threw their water bottles and shoes on stage to pay homage to the rock stars.

The St. Louis native band encouraged the crowd by telling them, "There's no place like home!" The rockers abandoned their semi-safe stage to join the crowd in body surfing, but specifically requested a circle mosh instead. Young girls with autographed cleavage and bright smiles eagerly lifted lead singer Marsala over their heads.

The band has been on their first year of tour, opening for the established Linkin Park, and is slated to headline in this summer's Warped Tour with Good Charlotte, Simple Plan, Sugarcult, and many more less recognizable but hopeful bands. The band still maintains that no place in the world compares to St. Louis.

Sensing the age of the crowd, Story fed the intensity by asking the crowd to give "a shout out" for their individual high schools. The crowd chanted "SOTY," to show their local support for the much anticipated homecoming. Pandemonium nearly erupted when Story invited local hot shots, The Dare, to come on stage and assist

in screaming lyrics and knocking over mic stands.

Junior-sized bikini tops flew into the air when the local bands announced their heated rivalry with the grungier Godsmack. Earlier in the day, Story fed the conflict when The Point featured a broadcast "bring-it-on." Story antagonized Godsmack by offering a three-on-three physical battle of the bands.

Story, which claims Metallica and Deftones as musical inspirations, sounds more like a pleasing old-school Rage Against the Machine meets modern Tool. The band manages to sing a ballad which includes the lyrics, "Until I die, I'll spill my heart for you," without dipping into the rock boy-band genre of bands like Vertical Horizon and Creed.

Story of the Year may be a misnomer for this concert season, but the group has promise. After all, those pre-pubescent teens will eventually grow up to buy Story's explicit lyrics. High energy and a modest attitude make it easy for Story to keep the hands of the fans in the air. This much anticipated "local band gone big" proved that there is more than rap in the St. Louis music scene. As bass player Russell said, "It feels good to be home."

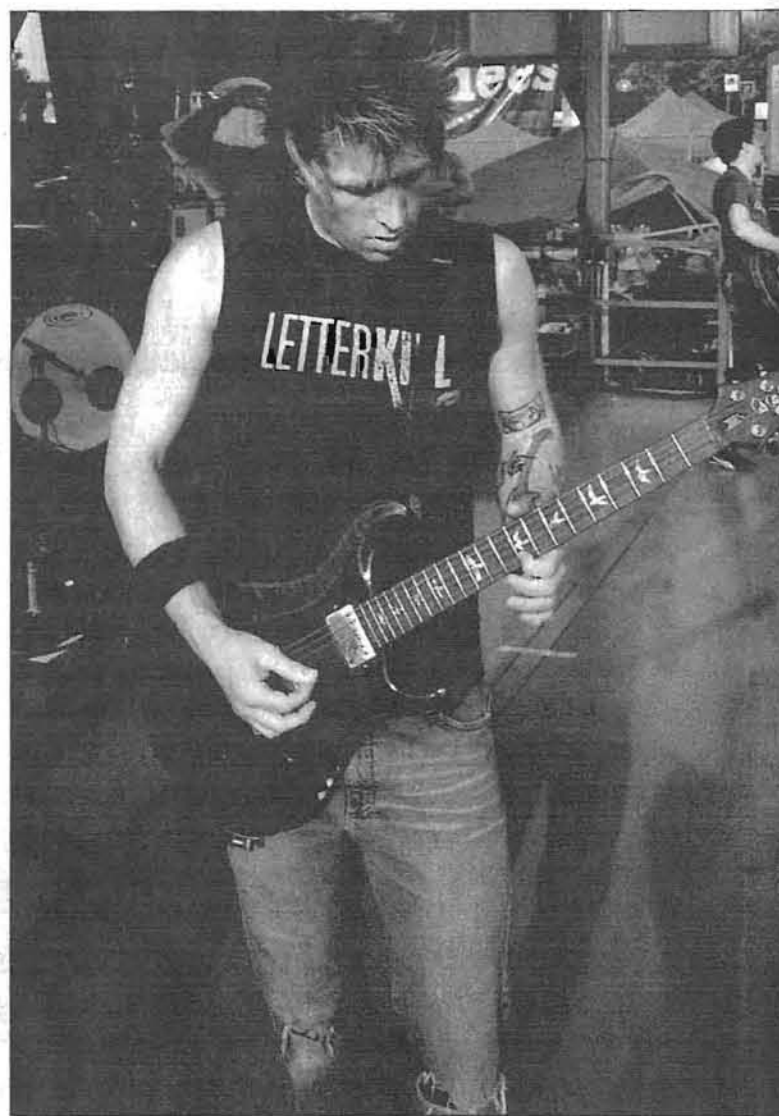


Photo courtesy Denny Fry

The band Story of the Year performs at Pointfest on Friday evening at the UMB Bank Pavilion.

Baldo's on the Hill serves up great Italian eats

BY MONICA MARTIN

Staff Writer

Looking for a romantic restaurant to take your girlfriend, or a quiet place to enjoy a meal alone? Check out Baldo's on the Hill. Baldo's, a family owned restaurant, has been in business since 1981. They serve Italian and American dishes to Italian and American patrons, and with its intimate atmosphere, it offers a great place to take a date.

A friend and I visited Baldo's to celebrate her birthday. The Sunday evening crowd consisted of only two other couples, but the relatively empty dining room was more indicative of nasty weather than of Baldo's lack of appeal.

A sizable wooden door opens into the dining room. To check for unsightly broccoli, mirrors line one wall. A traditional bar with stools, liquor, TVs and smoke, can be found through another corridor off the dining room, and is lined with couches and small tables, presumably for lounging somewhere between dining and drinking, a pleasant purgatory.

Menu items, with descriptions in both English and Italian, include the expected and obligatory appetizers, pasta, side dishes and entrees. Baldo's also offers a menu written entirely in English with distinctly more American dishes, including pizzas, sandwiches and



Baldo's, one of the many Italian restaurants on The Hill, is located at 3518 Hampton.

wings. Most entrees stay around the \$15 mark, and include soup or salad.

My friend ordered Fettuccini from the Italian menu. I chose from the more American menu, opting for the Pasta con Broccoli. Our courteous waitress brought both steaming-hot dishes in hefty bowls right away. The Pasta con Broccoli was delicious and very filling.

"The food is excellent, and the atmosphere is nice. It is definitely a good place for couples," my friend said.

Baldo's on The Hill is located in South City at 3518 Hampton Ave. To book them for event catering, call 832-6660.

'A Rip in Heaven' recounts St. Louis rape, murder

Author's two cousins were murdered on the Chain of Rocks Bridge in 1991

BY PAUL CRUTCHER

A & E Editor

On Wednesday, June 9, Jeanine Cummins comes to St. Louis to promote her new book, "A Rip in Heaven." Released June 1, the book details the horrifying experience of Cummin's older brother, Tom and their two cousins, Julie and Robin Kerry, on a spring night in 1991. The Cummins were visiting St. Louis County with their parents on vacation from Washington DC. Nothing seemed unusual, according to the author, until a police officer knocked on the Kerry's door and told the family that Tom, Julie and Robin had been involved in an "incident."

On the last night of their visit, Tom, Julie and Robin decided to go out. Julie planned to take Tom and Robin to the Chain of Rocks Bridge. A budding poet, Julie wanted to show them her most recent poem, which she had spray-painted on the old bridge. The cousins left Robin's younger sister, Jeanine behind as they secretly took off for the old



Photo courtesy Penguin Books, Ltd.

Jeanine Cummins, author of "A Rip in Heaven" will be at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on June 9 at 7p.m. The library is located on Lindbergh, just south of I-40.

bridge. Unbeknownst to Cummins and the Kerry sisters, their future killers also headed toward the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge with thoughts about how to spend their evening. "A Rip in Heaven" surges forward; unfolding with the horrifying events as the two groups cross paths on the old bridge.

The three murders set a break-neck tempo for "A Rip in Heaven." 297 pages were quickly turned, providing an intense book easily digested in one or two sittings. The dramatic content undoubtedly thrust the plot forward; Tom Cummins was mistakenly fingered in the rape

and murder of his two cousins and questioned extensively for some time and the St. Louis community became outraged as the events unfolded. The four men that committed the rape and murders of the Kerry sisters were ultimately convicted for their actions on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Three of the men were sentenced to death for their involvement in the girls' homicides. "A Rip in Heaven" proved a compelling and quick read.

Jeanine Cummins will be at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on June 9 at 7p.m. The St. Louis County Library Headquarters are located just south of I-40 on Lindbergh Blvd. across from the St. Louis Galleria. For more information about "A Rip in Heaven" or Cummin's visit call 994-3300.

It's festival season for the St. Louis performing arts scene

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

June 19-20.

While purists have pointed out that a Shakespeare festival should really have more than one of the Bard's plays, the St. Louis Shakespeare festival makes up for the single play with a lively festival atmosphere. After only four years, the festival is well on its way to becoming a summer tradition. The festival takes place in a natural amphitheater in Forest Park, just to the east of the St. Louis Art Museum. This festival is free. Unlike other venues, bring a blanket or lawn chairs to sit on, rather than being charged a fee to rent them, and feel free to bring a picnic dinner or purchase something at the concessions tent. But get there early - very early - to get a good view of the stage. Fortunately, the pre-show feasting and entertainment is half the fun. Picnic on the grass; watch roving jugglers, Elizabethan dancers and other pre-show entertainers. The

Shakespeare festival runs a scant three weeks, May 28 to June 20 (except June 1, 8 and 17), weather permitting.

The other early season starter is the delightfully accessible Opera Theater of St. Louis. For opera novices, this is a highly enjoyable and easy way to dip a toe into the pool of opera without becoming overwhelmed. The operas are sung in English and there is an entertaining pre-show lecture explaining the plot and providing some amusing historical tidbits, as well. The opera features musicians from the St. Louis Symphony and brings rising stars to the Loretto Hilton stage, along with gorgeous costumes and sets. This year the big opera is Bizet's "Carmen," one of the world's most popular operas due to its memorable music and fiery story. The contemporary opera this year is "Nixon in China," a critically praised and popular operatic tale of President Nixon's 1970s ground-

breaking efforts to establish diplomatic ties with communist China in the late Cold War era. Check the schedule online, at www.experienceopera.org, or call 314-963-0644 for play dates.

The third summer classic is Circus Flora, a unique gem and national treasure. Circus Flora runs this year from June 10-27, under the big top in Grand Center, the lot next to Powell Symphony Hall. Forget the Ringling Brothers Three-Ring Circus, this is much better - part traditional circus acts, part theater, and all gorgeous in a personal, intimate venue which makes the acts even more thrilling. Other small, traditional circuses, like the Big Apple Circus, can not compare to Circus Flora in sheer beauty or thrilling artistry.

A narrative story loosely ties the acts together, adding a dash of theater to the show. This year's story, "Kawayo: Nino and the Wild West,"

has a Wild Wild West theme. Nino is the circus' popular and award-winning, acrobatic clown. The performers are superb, and come from some of the greatest circus families around, including the famous Flying Wallendas. Finally, there is the presentation: performers are bedecked and bejeweled in fantastic gypsy/Byzantine blends that make watching the show like watching the interior of the Fox Theater get up and dance.

More information on Circus Flora is available at (314)533-1285 or circusflora.org.

In July, there is the Cinema St. Louis' St. Louis Filmmakers' Showcase. Cinema St. Louis is the year-round organization that brings the annual St. Louis International Film Festival in the fall. The St. Louis Filmmakers' Showcase is a chance for audiences to see a program of short films by local professional and ama-

teur filmmakers. This year, the showcase will include many of the films entered in the local portion of the "48 Hour Film Project," an international competition in which teams of filmmakers have 48 hours to write, shoot, edit and score a short film. Those who didn't get to see these films at the sold-out Webster showing can catch many of them, plus other locals' short films, at the St. Louis Filmmakers' Showcase, July 11-15, at the Tivoli Theater.

Lastly, for early summer preview, there are more cinematics. The Tivoli offers a perfect solution for cinephile insomniacs, a "Reel Late" series of midnight shows. The series presents cult favorites, edgy films, some classics and campy, offbeat and obscure films. The guys at the Tivoli usually hit the mark with their selections.

SUMMER MOVIES, from page 10

calendar. A schedule can also be found on its website (www.landmarktheatres.com, then click on St. Louis). Other Indy, foreign and documentary films to watch for from the Tivoli and elsewhere, are "Coffee and Cigarettes," "Love Me If You Dare," "The Door in the Floor," "A Widow for One Year" and "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead."

Sketchy - One film that looks like it will be approaching St. Louis is "The Mother," but info is sketchy. Not yet slotted for St. Louis: Nick Cassavetes' new film, "Notebook." There is also "Grand Theft Parsons," a Sundance entry about a guy kidnapping the corpse of his pal, Gram Parsons, to make good on a promise to bury him at the Joshua Tree. "Napoleon Dynamite," another Sundance Festival entry, about an eccentric kid trying to help his best friend become class president, the Hollywood insider tale "Frankie and Johnny Are Married," and also "Facing Windows," an Italian hit with rave reviews about a woman who takes in an amnesic Holocaust survivor.

JULY

Spectacular/Blockbuster - July's lineup is heavy with thrillers and action. First, note the exception - something elegant. Opening July 9 is "De-Lovely," a musical about legendary composer Cole Porter, starring Kevin Klein and featuring Elvis Costello performing some of the classic hits.

Back to the thrillers: big stuff includes "The Bourne Supremacy," sequel to "Bourne Identity" with star, Matt Damon, but without director, Doug Limon; Jonathan Demme's updated remake of the political thriller, "The Manchurian Candidate" (July 30), starring Denzel Washington; and the Wil Smith science fiction vehicle "I Robot" (July

16), which shares the title but, apparently and unfortunately, none of the intent of Asimov's stories. Other thriller and action releases are "The Clearing" (July 2) which stars Robert Redford, Willem Dafoe and Helen Mirren, in a thriller about a kidnapped executive; M. Night Shyamalan's supernatural thriller "The Village" (July 30); and Halle Berry's "Catwoman" (July 23). Also on July 9, there is "King Arthur," which purports to be a "demystified" take on the legend, but producer, Jerry Bruckheimer is notorious for big explosions but not medieval lore or romance.

Silly/Light - July 9, we get comedies "Sleepover," a teen-themed movie about an all-night scavenger hunt with Spy Kid Alexa Vega, also Will Ferrell's 1970s themed "Anchorman." July 16 finds Hilary Duff's "Cinderella Story." Released July 30, the live action version of the 1960s British TV series "Thunderbirds" and "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle," from the guy who brought us "Dude, Where's My Car?" Disney will release the aptly-titled documentary "America's Heart and Soul."

Specialty/Serious - Set for release, July 2, is "Before Sunset," Indy director Richard Linklater's sequel to "Before Sunrise," which has been getting good reviews at film festivals. Tentatively scheduled for July release is a comedy/romance named "Undertaking Betty" with stars Alfred Molina, Brenda Blethyn and Christopher Walken; also, the hit from the Toronto and Venice film festivals in Japan, "Zatoichi: The Blind Swordsman." On July 30, moviegoers should get Spike Lee's latest, "She Hate Me."

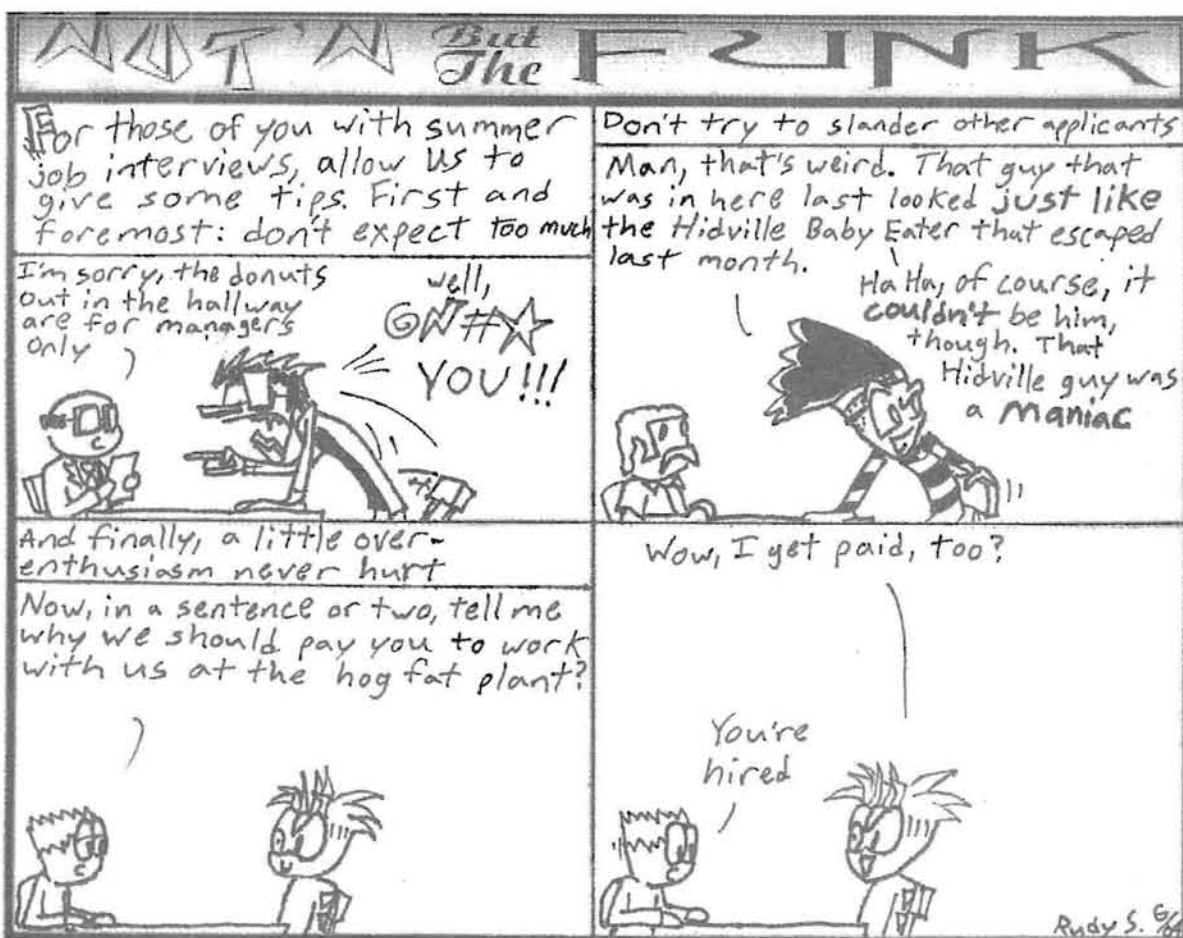
July 9-11, the Tivoli has the wonderful French classic, "Umbrellas of Cherbourg," a visual delight on the big screen. July 11-15, Cinema St. Louis presents the St. Louis

Filmmakers' Showcase at the Tivoli. This year, the showcase will include many of the excellent short films that competed in the local section of the international "48 Hour Film Project."

The Tivoli will also continue its series of one-week-only films. Opening on July 2 is an intriguing documentary from an Egyptian-American filmmaker which gives a behind-the-scenes look at the Arab news service Al Jazeera, titled "The Control Room." On July 16, "The Story of the Weeping Camel" arrives, a visually beautiful and delightful documentary about a traditional family ranch in Mongolia that is as lyrical as a fairy tale. July 23 brings the prize-winning documentary, "The Corporation," which presents an entertaining and informative view of the past and future of a pervasive and influential part of our lives - the corporation. Rounding out July is a documentary about writer Charles Bukowski, "Bukowski: Born Into This," July 30.

Sketchy - These might show up on local screens in July or August: "Danny Deckchair," a quirky comedy with Rhys Ifans that appears to have been inspired by the Darwin Award-winning (true) event when a man tied a too many helium balloons to his lawn chair and launched himself into the stratosphere.

There are a few other possibilities: surf doc, "Riding Giants," Chinese drama "Zhou Yu De Huo Che," documentary "Metallica," alternative comedy "Touch of Pink," Sundance hit "Maria, Full of Grace," French Canadian "Seducing Dr. Lewis," a re-release of "Donnie Darko," Japanese thriller "The Grudge," Colin Farrell's vehicle, "A Home at the End of the World," Zach Braff and Natalie Portman's Sundance entry, "Garden State," and the French romance, "Intimate Strangers."

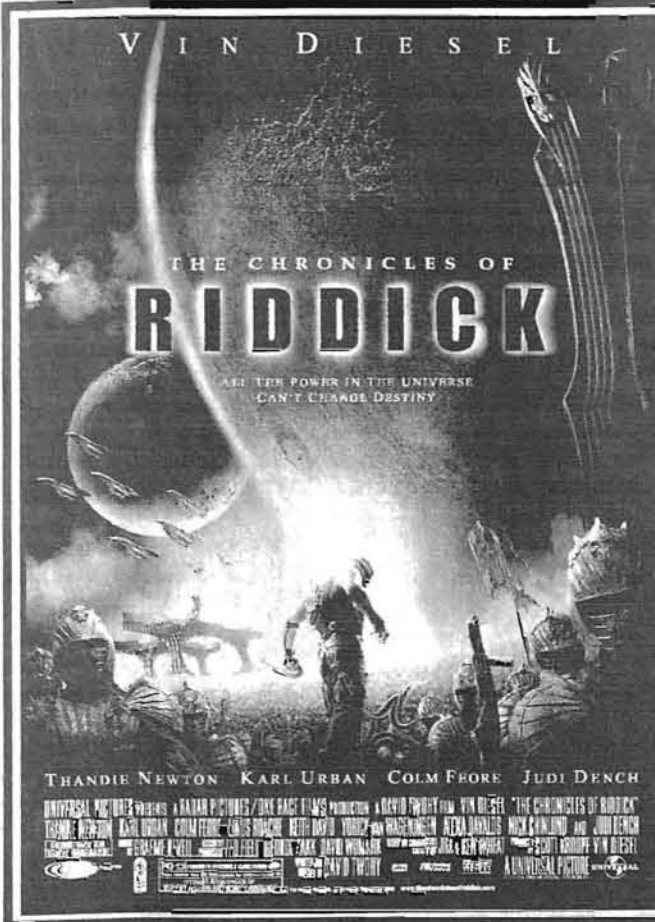


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On Campus Living: The Smart Choice

SAVAN, from page 7



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Sid Savan delivers his last of three lectures, where he predicted the outcome of the 2004 Presidential election. He used "Savan Seven Campaign Commandments" to explain his prediction.

Savan gave examples of how the second campaign commandment has worked.

"What the Republicans didn't learn in 1992 and 1996 was that you can't be elected by appealing to your own base. In 1990, Buzz Westfall, a Democrat ran for County Executive. He won handily in Republican St. Louis County. Why? He appealed to Republican and middle-of-the-road Democrats. The liberal Democrats, like me, didn't like it, but we voted for him anyway. Republicans didn't like it, but they wouldn't have approved of anything Westfall did. The problem was, his opponent, who was running as a downright conservative, only carried the hard-core Republican vote," Savan said. "Clinton won the elections in 1992 and 1996 by appealing to the center, and incidentally, the ignorants."

Savan's third campaign commandment; always go for the emotional appeal. "Nearly all people make decisions emotionally and not with their brains. He says that they do it with their gut," Savan said.

"Is there anything we buy logically; SUV's or Tommy Hilfiger clothes?" Savan said. "Especially the ignorants, who vote with their emotions."

Appealing to ignorant voters' emotions is effectual because "they won't take the time to attack politics from an intellectual basis."

Negative campaigns work was Savan's fourth campaign commandment.

"It's easier to get people to vote against someone than for someone. It's much easier to get the ignorants to vote against someone," Savan said.

Savan's fifth campaign commandment was fight back immedi-

ately if attacked.

Michael Dukakis learned this the hard way in the 1988 election, according to Savan's lecture because he did not respond immediately to negative attacks, and it ultimately cost Dukakis the election.

"He counted on the good sense of the American public to see past the ridiculous attacks on him; that he [supposedly] wasn't a patriot, that he was [supposedly] in favor of black convicts raping white women, that he [supposedly] polluted the Boston harbor," Savan said.

“
Could you win without using my seven commandments? Maybe, but I wouldn't count on it.
 ”

- Sid Savan

"When you don't fight back immediately, you tell the ignorants that the attack was true. The quicker and stronger [a candidate is to] answer an attack, the better. Don't let it sink in," Savan said.

Savan's sixth campaign commandment; let somebody else fling the dirt.

"It is not the responsibility of the candidate to resolve major problems, but someone else in the campaign, such as the vice president nominee," Savan said.

Savan gave examples of candidates who did not heed his sixth campaign commandment.

"Guys like Vice President Agnew were perfect for the job. However, Dan Quayle wasn't; he wasn't taken seriously by anybody. When George W. [Bush's] campaign got the message out that McCain was 'nuts,' because of his treatment, as a prisoner of war, they [political advisors] made sure that the shrub [George W.] didn't say it," Savan said.

Savan's seventh and final campaign commandment; spend the bulk of your dollars on TV.

"This is the most important campaign commandment to remember, because it incorporates all the other commandments. Spending money on ads in newspapers, surveys and direct mail is a waste of time," Savan said.

"Don't spend money on newspaper ads. The ignorant don't read newspapers and, particularly, not newspaper ads for politicians. Don't spend too much for surveys. Don't use target mailing. The ignorants don't open direct mail. It requires reading," Savan said.

"But the ignorants do watch TV, and lots of it. They listen to radio, too. Buy radio [ads], after you've saturated TV. With the high cost of media, concentrate your dollars trying to reach the ignorants through TV," Savan said.

The candidate who does the best job following Savan's seven campaign commandments will win the next presidential election, according to his lecture series. Audience poll results from Savan's lecture series predicted Kerry to win the 2004 presidential election.

"Could you win without using my seven commandments? Maybe, but I wouldn't count on it," Savan said.

FERRIS WHEEL, from page 6

Laura Holloway, website editor for the Missouri Division of Tourism, believes the Giant Wheel is just one of many incredible attractions added in St. Louis this year.

"While smaller than the famous Ferris Wheel that was on site in Forest Park during the 1904 Fair, the Giant Wheel is a tip of the hat to one of the popular attractions at the fair and, in a way, brings back the flavor of the fair to the park," Holloway said.

Those who've yet to ride the Giant Wheel can take a ride to the top, May 26 thru August 19.

"I think that this Ferris wheel is something that people of all ages can enjoy throughout the summer," St. Louis resident, Linda Zimmerman said.

The Giant Wheel is open Monday thru Thursday, noon to 6 p.m., and

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. Admission prices are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 4 to 12 years old and free for those younger than 3. The wheel is located in Forest Park on McKinley Drive between the green houses and ball fields.

Other "Celebrate 2004" events include the River Splash water screen and music spectacular, U.S. Olympic Trials, dining at Eats Bridge and Independence Day events.

"Close to 17 million people visit St. Louis each year. I'm excited about all of this year's many special events relating to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, the 1904 World's Fair and the first U.S. Olympic Games Centennials," Holloway said.

For more information about "Celebrate 2004" events, visit www.celebrate2004.org.



Above: Riders hang on as they experience Forest Park's "Great Ferris Wheel."



Left: "The Giant Wheel" is Forest Park's latest attraction, albeit a temporary one. The ferris wheel is located near the ball fields along Highway 40, and is part of the "Celebrate 2004" activities commemorating the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Other events include the River Splash water screen and music spectacular, the U.S. Olympic trials and Independence Day events.

ex-pe-ri-ence \ik-'spir-e-ens\ n

:

- 1. observation of or participation in events resulting in or tending toward knowledge**
- 2. something encountered, undergone, or lived through**
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