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Fun with motorcycles

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Conference examines universities' role in civic engagement

BY EUGENE CLARK
Staff Writer

On Thursday at noon, a teleconference was held called "Promoting the Public Good: Fulfilling Higher Education's Civic Mission." The event drew a crowd of about 14 people.

As people sat down and watched the big-screen television, a strange static muffled the words of the speakers. When the static became unbearable, Peggy Cohen, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs, sought assistance. They soon realized that the static was due to the intermittent rains, which fell throughout the day.

The purpose of the teleconference was to promote civic engagement among college, particularly undergraduate, students. Civic engagement means "creating a special climate in which the academic and civic cultures communicate more continuously and creatively with each other."

Advocates for civic engagement call for students to engage in world problems. The speakers in the teleconference, Edward Zlotkowski, Elaine K. Ikeda and Regina Hughes, want students and professors to go beyond class discussion of global topics such as politics, poverty or wars.

They believe that students must learn the motivation to go out in the community and help at soup kitchens or homeless shelters. They also believe that instructors need to teach their students to ask questions like "What kind of environment do I want my children to live in?"

The teleconference suggested courses that could help students gain the social skills to become more involved. These courses will help students learn to communicate with other students at their college or with different groups in online conversations about issues that mean something to them.

Another way to bring about civic engagement deals with co-curricular activities, such as an alternative spring break. Instead of spending spring break with friends at a resort, many college students would go to colonies or the unincorporated border towns and build houses. In order for this civic engagement system to work, professors and students have to step off their pedestals and work together.

As the teleconference came to a close, there was much discussion among the 14 people in attendance. All of them seemed in favor of the civic engagement approach.

"I wish they would have had these programs around when I was a student at University of Missouri-St. Louis," Maria Weldele, PPRC research analyst, said.

She remembers doing an internship in which the professor did not even give her information about where to go. She was on her own as to where to find a place to volunteer. If this system were implemented at UM-St. Louis, students would gain more from their education than just book knowledge and a high grade point average.

Weldele believes that by graduation, students should have developed the social skills to be employers and also have acquired an understanding of those who are outside their immediate group of friends, entering the world as leaders, not just intellectuals.

SGA votes on fee increase

Resolution passed opposing any tuition hikes exceeding 3-5%

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

At the Student Government Association meeting on Friday, a resolution was passed to try to prevent a 10 percent tuition increase in the fall.

Kristy Runde, SGA president, announced that tuition fees are set to increase in the fall by as much as 10 percent. The SGA executive committee members wrote up a resolution saying that SGA is against tuition hikes exceeding 3 to 5 percent.

"We are trying our best to figure out ways to make sure that it gets across that we do not want to see this happen," Runde said.

The increase has not been made public yet. The resolution says that such an increase would raise the average UM-St. Louis student's



Mike Sherwin/The Current

tuition fees by \$291.90 a semester. The change would go into effect starting in the fall semester of this year.

People raised points that the number of scholarships has been decreasing or not changing at all.

Other students now find it difficult to pay for their entire tuition with loans. At the Board of Curators meeting on April 1 and 2, the increase will be voted on.

"We will be meeting with Chancellor George to discuss this

issue and we will even try to meet with some of the Curators who will be voting on this to make sure that they know that the students here at UM-SL do not want a 10 percent increase," Runde said.

see SGA, page 3

Sue Shear Institute seeks a few good women

BY ANNIINA VUORI
Staff Writer

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life helps women become a part of the public policy debate. Every year the institute organizes the 21st Century Leadership Academy, which is a nationally recognized, weeklong leadership program for college women.

This year, the academy will take place on the UM-St. Louis campus from May 23 to 28. The application deadline is Friday, March 12. Applications can be obtained by calling (314) 516-6623, or e-mailing Dayna Stock, institute manager, at dstock@umsl.edu. More information is also available on the institute's website at www.umsl.edu/~iwpl.

"We are looking for women who have an interest in public relations and policy," Stock said. "They can be any major because public policy affects everyone's lives."

She said that one of the benefits for the participants is the opportunity to get a more in-depth look at how women can make a change. They can also get a look behind the scenes.

"They will be learning from woman leaders who will tell their story of how they became an elected official," Stock said.

Many agree that women can help to make changes. Stacy Ross, administrative associate at the Sue Shear Institute, said that "to be able to see role models of any age, race and marital status helps women picture themselves doing it too."

Previous academy participants are known as Shear Fellows. Marjorie Cole, who now works for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as a manager for the School Health Program, is one of them.

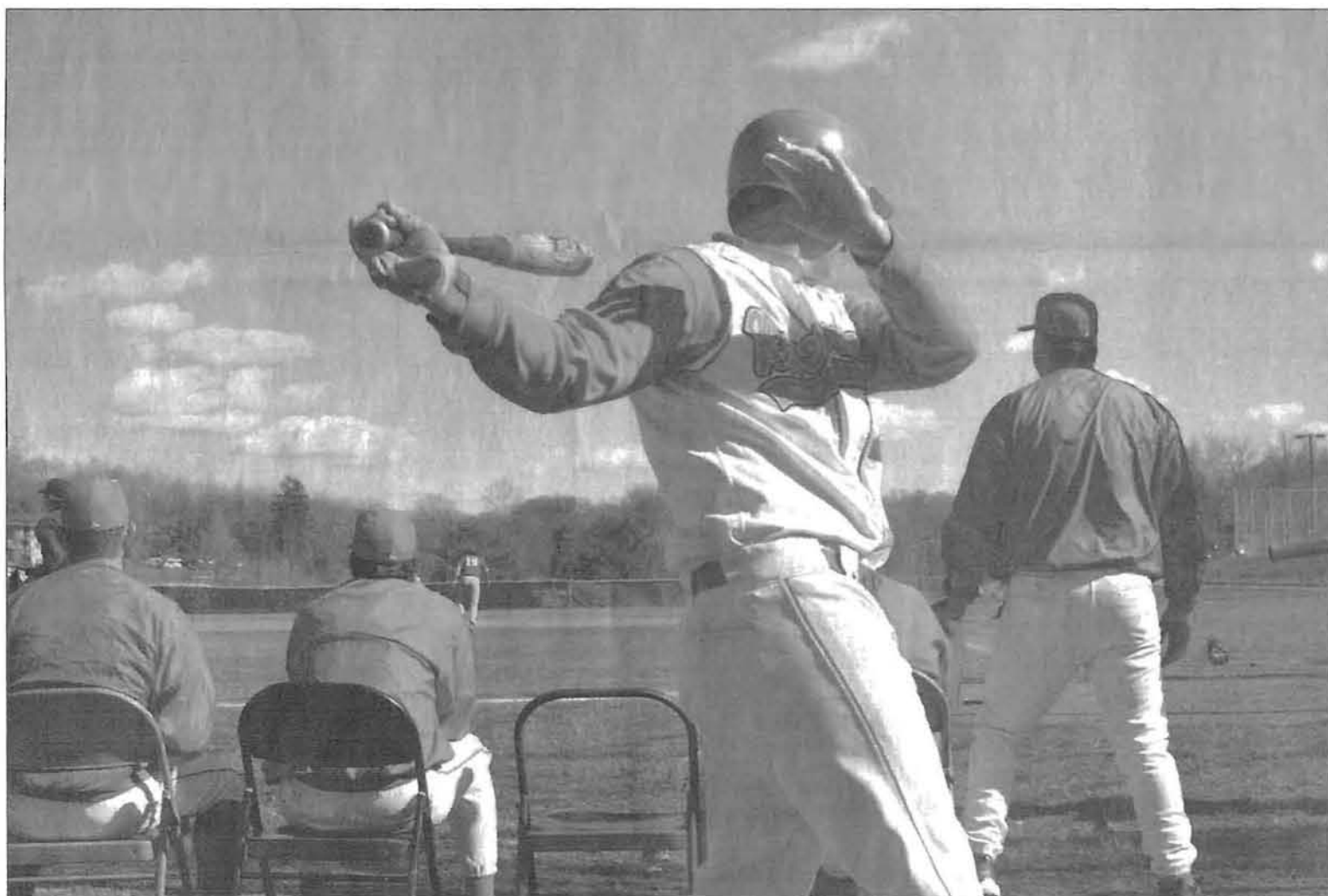
She said that even though she was older than the other participants, she did not feel that it made any difference. The leadership academy recognized that women in all aspects of life could benefit from their information.

"Leadership academy was a wonderful experience and opened up many opportunities," Cole said.

The class of 2003 held a mock legislative debate in the Missouri House with Speaker Catherine Hanaway presiding. They had lunch at the governor's mansion with women elected officials and Missouri Supreme Court Judge Laura Denvir Stith.

see ACADEMY, page 12

Swingin' into spring...



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Logan Hughes, Rivermen outfielder and pitcher, warms up before his at-bat on Sunday afternoon during the second of two games against Hillsdale. With temperatures over the weekend in the mid-50s, the Marriott UM-SL Baseball Invitational had slightly brisk but sunny weather as the teams competed. The Rivermen ended the weekend 2-2.

IWGS hosts discussion on women's health

BY AMANDA JENNINGS
Staff Writer

On Thursday at noon, the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies kicked off women's history month with the first of three panel discussions entitled, "Women's Health and Wellness."

The lecture focused on three major aspects of women's lives: hormones, stress, and depression. Many students and faculty members attended the lecture, given by Sue Kendig and Debbie Kiel of the nursing department.

The beginning of the lecture focused on stress and how women react to it. A widely known reaction to stress is the fight-or-flight response.

"When women are stressed, they release oxytocin, which actually buffers the chemical responsible for the fight-or-flight response," Kiel said. "Testosterone (which men release when stressed) actually enhances the response."

Also, when women are stressed, they tend to want to gather with one another and talk, whereas men tend to stay alone. There are many activities one can do to reduce stress, including physical activities, writing, drawing, painting, laughing and crying. After acute stresses, like an argument, it takes 30 to 60 minutes for the body to



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Sue Kendig, clinical assistant professor of nursing at UM-SL, discusses "The Great Hormone Debate: What's new from contraception to hormone therapy" on Thursday afternoon in the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies lounge in 211 Clark Hall.

recover, and if you do not get that time to recover, it could lead to more serious problems.

Hormones and hormone replacement therapy play a large and somewhat controversial role in women's health. Many recent studies have shown the dangerous side of hormone replacement therapy.

However, there are many facts about these studies one should take into account.

Women did not have to be included in studies on medications until the late 1990s. Most of the time they were not included because of their hormones, and the fact that they tend to complicate studies. After they began including

women, they found out that their hormones changed the way medications worked, as well as their effectiveness.

"Cardiac medications don't all work the same in all women," Kendig said.

At first, many of these studies were performed on women around age 65, which is older than most women

seeking hormone therapy. Also, the percentages they report can be deceiving, because many times they actually correspond to a small number of individuals.

There have also been more studies done that show an increased risk of cervical cancer for women who smoke. Another topic of the lecture was contraception. There are many forms of contraceptives available, and they are not right for everyone.

"Fifty percent of pregnancies are unintended, and half of those are aborted," Kendig said.

Depression is another disease that affects women. There are two main types of depression, one caused by situations such as a family member dying or the loss of a job. The other one is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain.

"Twice as many women suffer from mental illnesses than men," said Kiel.

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies has planned two more lectures. On Thursday, March 11 from noon to 2 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building, they will be hosting a lecture called "The Rest of the Story: Osage Women Discuss the Lewis and Clark Legacy." On Thursday, March 30 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in 212 Clark Hall, they are hosting "Women, Business, and Entrepreneurship."

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

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

Winter months Free refreshments

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

Through May MyGateway help

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

To March 12 IC Labs Short Courses

Instructional Computing Labs will be holding Short Courses over the next few weeks. These are free courses offered to any UMSL student, staff or faculty on the following topics: MSWord Basics, MSExcel Basics, MSPowerPoint Basics, UNIX/Mac Basics, C Writing/FTP/HTML/Studentmail/Samba. For a schedule or for more information, please visit www.umsl.edu/technology/instructionalcomputing/labs/shortcourses.html or call 6061.

Annual contests

UM-St. Louis students can participate in United Nations Day: World Holiday contests. The Center for International Studies is sponsoring three contests for student artwork, essays and web sites. A \$2,000 prize will be awarded to the first-place winner in each category. For more information, call 5753 or e-mail gonnellj@umsl.edu. Works are due in the Center for Int'l Studies, SSB 366, by Monday, March 29.

Thru March 31 Lewis and Clark exhibit in Mercantile Library

In commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Louisiana Purchase, the Mercantile Library at UMSL is exhibiting a collection of rare maps, prints, and books documenting the shaping of America. An Open House reception is on March 13 from 1-4 p.m. (Please call 7242 to RSVP.) For more info or to schedule a tour, call Laura Diel at 7240.

Mon 8

Murrow, McCarthy talk
 As part of the Monday Noon Series, Michael Murray, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Communication, will discuss "Murrow and McCarthy: The Broadcasting Landmark Revisited" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Bldg. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more info.

Tues 9 Conversations about Teaching, Technology

Virginia Navarro, assistant professor of education, and Carl Hoagland, professor of education, will discuss "Creating Online Classroom Activities: A Constructivist Approach" at noon in 316 MSC. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to faculty, staff, and graduate students. Call 4508 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/ctl> for more info.

Wed 10 Novelist reads at 210

Beth Jordan will read from her latest novel "But Ye Come Back: A Novel in Stories" at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Gallery 210 in the Telecommunity Center. Jordan is a professor of English at SIU-Carbondale. The reading is free and open to the public. Call 6845 for more information.

Thurs 11 Inauguration of Chancellor George

The inauguration of Chancellor Thomas George, 7th chancellor of UMSL, will begin at 4 p.m. at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Tickets are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the university bookstore, Honors College, Thomas Jefferson Library, Ward E. Barnes Library, and 440 Woods Hall. Call 5442 for more information.

11 Osage women discuss Lewis, Clark legacy

Julie Maker, Julia Lookout, Meredith Drent, and Deborah Yates of the Osage Nation will discuss "The Rest of the Story: Osage Women Discuss the Lewis and Clark Legacy" from noon to 2 p.m. in the Summit Lounge in the J.C. Penney Bldg. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. Call 5581 for more info.

Fri 12 "African Women and AIDS" lecture

Dr. Mercy R. Montsi will discuss the challenges that women in Botswana face in the context of HIV/AIDS in their struggle for gender equality and development. The lecture will take place at 12:30 p.m. in 216 SSB and is free and open to the community. For more information, call 7299.

Fri 12 (cont.) UMSL Spring Job Fair

The Office of Career Services will hold the UMSL Spring Job Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic Center. Participants include Anheuser-Busch, Enterprise, Edward Jones, the FBI, Judevine Center for Autism, and St. Louis Science Center. Admission for job-seekers is \$5. For a complete list of employers, please visit <http://www.umsl.edu/depts/career/activities.html>.

12 Learning disabilities colloquium

Dawn Peterman Allred, a student pursuing a doctoral degree in education, will discuss "When College Students Have Learning Disabilities" at noon in 225 MSC. Bring a lunch. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to faculty. Call 4508 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/cte> for more information.

Sun 14 French Film Festival at Gallery 210

"Le Placard" will screen at 1 p.m. in the auditorium at Gallery 210 in the TeleCommunity Center. At-the-door admission is \$1. Free parking available on Lot E off East Drive. Call 6546 for more information.

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Grace's Place is haven for forgotten technology

New UM-St. Louis computer museum in CCB honors Grace Hopper

BY AMANDA JENNINGS
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis is the home of Grace's Place, a welcoming museum of the history of computers. Located on the second floor of the Campus Computer Building, Grace's Place houses a wide variety of technology, both current and outdated.

Grace's Place

Located on the 2nd floor of CCB

Grand Opening: Fri. March 19, 4p.m.

Dedicated to Grace Murray Hopper, inventor of computer language COBOL

The museum has a variety of keyboards, including one in Hebrew. Many of the pieces are dismantled, allowing students to see the internal structure of the computers. Vicki Sauter, professor of management information systems, came

up with the idea for Grace's Place 15 years ago.

"As technology changes, people lose what it was," Sauter said. "You must know where technology came from to know where it is going. The



Vicki Sauter, professor of management information systems, stands in front of Grace's Place, a new computer museum on the second floor of CCB. Sauter and three doctoral students worked on the display, which features early and modern computer technology. The museum is named after computer pioneer Grace Murray Hopper.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

more you know about computers, the less frightened you are."

Sauter and three doctoral students began work on Grace's Place last summer. They gathered display cases and began to decide on the

pieces that would make it into the museum. Most of the items came from student donations, professors and friends of the University.

Sauter is planning to continue to add to the museum. They receive

most of the displays through donations.

"We look for items that are unique, show trends and show different perspectives," Sauter said.

The museum is named after

Grace Murray Hopper (1906 - 1992), a woman who played an integral part in the early stages of computer technology. Hopper founded a computer language named COBOL. She also coined

the term "computer bug" after finding a moth in an early computer that she was working on.

A sign in the museum records Hopper's account of the discovery "Things were going badly; there was something wrong in one of the circuits of the long glass-enclosed computer. Finally, someone located the trouble spot and, using ordinary tweezers, removed the problem, a 2-inch moth. From then on, when anything went wrong with a computer, we said it had bugs in it."

Hopper fought for and won entry into the Navy, reaching the rank of rear admiral before she retired at the age of 80. She was also the first woman to have a battleship in her name. She received the National Medal of Technology in 1991.

Hopper also believed in showing physical examples of abstract ideas. Grace's Place displays a 12-inch strand of wire, which represents how far an electrical current can move in a nanosecond.

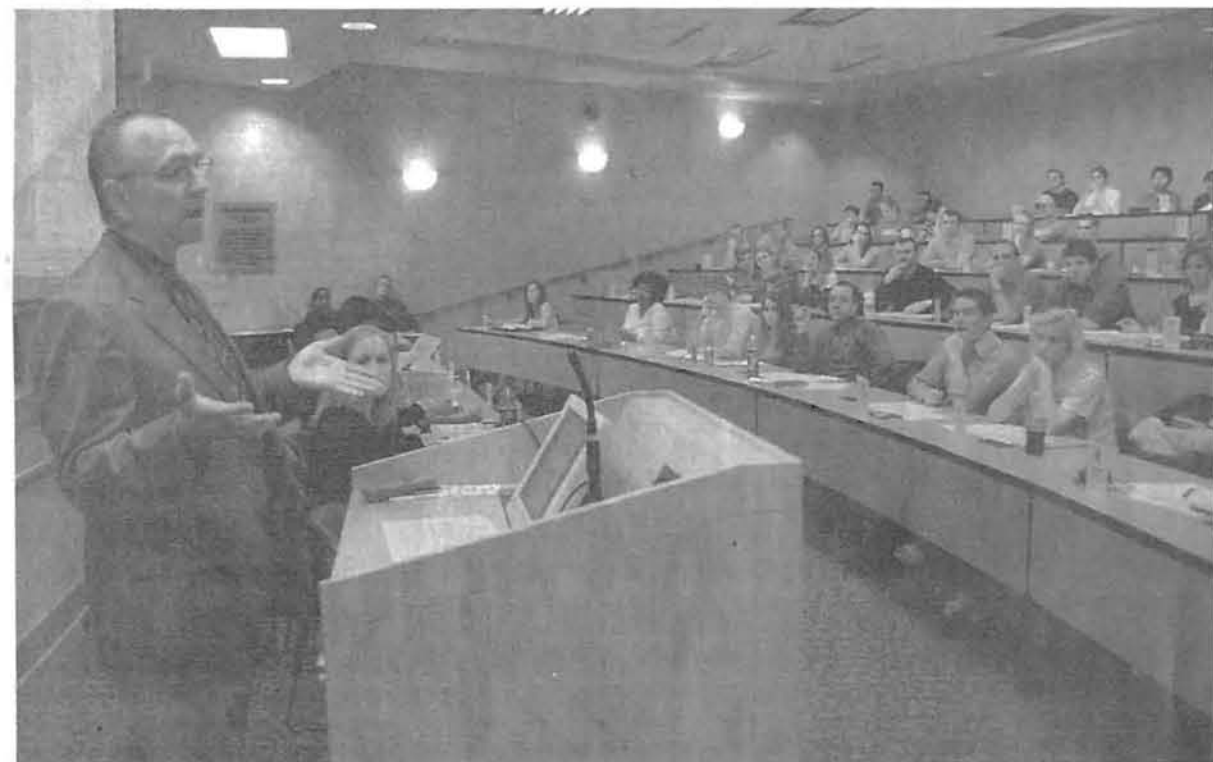
These physical representations of concepts that the normal student is not able to see or touch is just one of the many things that inspired Sauter to create this museum.

"It helps students visualize what they are learning," Sauter said. "Physical representations help make abstract ideas clearer."

Many of the students who have visited the museum find it enlightening.

"All the old computers are interesting," Tatum Megli, junior, special education, said. "It was really neat to see what the inside of them looks like. I didn't even know it was here."

The entire UM-St. Louis community is invited to a grand opening for Grace's Place, scheduled for March 19 at 4 p.m.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Van Reidhead, associate professor of anthropology, spoke to the SGA on behalf of the Faculty Senate, explaining the Senate's reasons for voting to adopt a different academic calendar, starting in Fall 2005. The change would add a fall break, but eliminate several study days before final exams.

SGA, from page 1

Runde said that she might contact students to write letters expressing their concerns about the proposed increase. The last line of the resolution says, "the Student Government Association opposes any tuition increases that exceed 3 to 5 percent of the current tuition rate paid by students."

The resolution in support of troops was passed after months of debate. The assembly decided to take out the last line of the resolution, which stated the support of David Dodd, former SGA chair, who was shipped out to Iraq last December. The resolution is now just in support of the troops in general.

Van Reidhead of the Faculty Senate spoke at the meeting about the proposed calendar for the 2005-06 academic calendar. The Senate has already adopted the UM-Columbia calendar for the given year. The calendar will include a weeklong fall break for Thanksgiving and intensive study days will only include two weekend days.

Campus will also not start in the middle of the week, but a week later. Graduation will also be moved to December, instead of January. Students will walk through the ceremony, but a confirmation of their degree will not occur until a few weeks later, after grades are released. This is a common structure.

"The December graduation date will be an experiment. We're going to see how it works, and we will continue to evaluate it in the future," Reidhead said.

Spring semester will include the same structure, with the intensive study days occurring over the weekend. Finals will occur the week directly after classes officially end. Reidhead said that there is openness to switch, if the campus would need or want to switch back. The spring semester will start after Martin Luther King Day.

The semester will be shorter than it currently is. UM-St. Louis has always had a different calendar than the rest of



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Student Government Association representative Amanda Stiehr listens in on the SGA meeting Friday afternoon.

the schools in the UM System, as well as around the state.

"The calendar of this campus has been an issue for a very long time and always a contentious one," Reidhead said. "The System has been trying to get a convergence of calendars across campus, never succeeded at it."

Also proposed at the meeting was an act to move homecoming to the fall. The resolution proposed stated, "the Student Government Association shall move homecoming to the fall, beginning in the 2004-05 academic year." The assembly voted to change the date to the 2005-06 year because they felt that it was too soon.

"We can work on it over the summer and then there is momentum when people come back to school, and then it will be done and over with," Beth Grindstaff, SGA vice president, said.

Concerns stipulated about having the event so close to the beginning of the year and getting students involved so soon. Most universities have their

homecoming in the fall, during football season. Since the University does not have a football team, they would use basketball and/or soccer.

A resolution in support of changing the mascot was passed by popular vote of the assembly. This just shows that students in SGA are in favor of changing the school's current mascot to something else.

Discussed briefly was a resolution calling for affordable food service on South Campus. It just states that food should be available on South Campus. The resolution was tabled until the next meeting. Some students suggested that a member of Chartwells come and speak at the next meeting.

Applications for SGA president, vice president and comptroller are now due on March 19. The date was moved by two weeks to allow more time for applicants. Elections will take place April 20 and 21. The next SGA meeting will be held on April 30 at 1 p.m. in the SGA Chambers.

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| Thursday | 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. |
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| Wednesday | 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
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OPINION

OUR OPINION

Obscene? Surely you must jest

Much unnecessary controversy has surrounded the Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake incident from the Super Bowl.

The whole thing has been blown out of proportion. Realistically, television has shown much worse things than a breast. Music videos show much worse, and so does late-night television.

This is a part of the human body. Children are going to see parts of the body that are usually covered with clothing. Someday, if they have not already, it is a natural thing that, when not displayed with lewdness or in an overtly sexual context, is simply not an issue.

Some people even say that the human body is a work of art. Though exploitation, especially that of women's bodies, is an unfortunate fact, the body itself is not something to inspire shame. And should an individual choose to represent him- or herself in a way that we may not agree with, it is still, within reason, that person's right. The human body is not inherently indecent, though the context it is shown in may be.

What is more worrisome? That the public saw a breast, or the type of act that it starred in? If the show was inappropriate, it was as much so before the

from school? How about the crime shows around dinner and homework time? The rampant pornography pop-ups on the Internet? That type of attack on children's senses is a daily occurrence, and the world goes wild over a breast?

Michael Powell, FCC chair, released new obscenity standards after the incident occurred. Apparently, the FCC was flushed with complaints after the Super Bowl show. Apparently, Powell is investigating not only the Jackson incident but the whole halftime show.

The investigation is unnecessary and a waste of time. The world has other things to worry about right now. The incident is done and over with, so just let it be.

Broadcasts that are considered indecent are restricted to be aired between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. This is when the least number of children are likely to be watching. Likely is the key word here; any child could stay up late and watch these "indecent" shows without their parents' permission.

Not to say that there are not children out there who would refrain from watching such things. There are some things that children should not be allowed to watch, and the stunt that Jackson and Timberlake played was hardly permissible.

But should children have been watching that act regardless? NBC should not be punished for what happened on the broadcast - if the station really did not know the act was going to happen. However, they might be questioned on their choice of performance to begin with.

As for future Super Bowl halftime shows, they will probably be monitoring the acts a little more closely, so that this does not happen again. Whether it was "indecent" or "obscene," it just needs to be dropped. What constitutes "family" programming, however, may need further questions and explanations.

We were not offended by the act that occurred at the Super Bowl. The time and energy that has been put into the case by the FCC has been a waste of time. The United States has worse things to worry about than the exposure of a breast. Like, for one, the type of media children are being exposed to on a daily basis, rather than in one brief

appearance of said breast.

This stunt was unnecessary and inappropriate for network television, but so are many of the programs on television today, with or without partially nude women. The latter is minor in comparison to the situations, language, violence and stereotypes perpetuated by many ongoing series.

This episode has brought controversy over other shows. However, nudity has become the focus rather than show content. For example, "ER" had to cut out part of their program because it exposed an elderly woman's breast during a scene. This may have been gratuitous, but it is hard to assume it was meant to be titillating. This is a part of medical reality, and this program is known for its accuracy in portraying such scenarios. Meanwhile, no one seems as concerned about the bold-faced sexual insinuations and scenes in other programs. What about daytime dramas, or "soap operas" that come on just as many children are coming home



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

LETTERS

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

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

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

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Staff Photographer

How do you feel about the homosexual marriage issue?



Emily Ewings
Freshman
Theatre

I feel homosexuals should have the right to get married. Everyone is equal and so they should be able to enjoy the freedom of a monogamous relationship.



Joe Garavaglia
Junior
Accounting

It's a very touchy issue that is personal to a lot of people. I'm neutral about it right now.



Sarah Miller
Senior
Business Admin.

The issue people miss is that it's not about the piece of paper, it's about shared rights.



Erica Turner
Freshman
Undecided

I don't feel as if anyone should interfere with another's love life. If they wanna get married, let 'em get married.

'Passion's' verdict

Well, the verdict is in. Last Thursday, I went and saw Mel Gibson's "The Passion of The Christ." Some of you may remember that, a couple weeks ago, I wrote my column about the hoopla surrounding the movie, that I thought it was over the top, that it was blown out of proportion. Now I know that to be true.

It was my mother's birthday last Thursday, and she wanted to go see the movie, so my fiancée, my uncle, my mother, her boyfriend and myself went to see "The Passion." I will say this about the movie: it is one of the best movies I have ever seen. And I will never see it again.

Did I think it too violent? No. Was it anti-Semitic? No. It was just so emotionally draining, so exhausting to watch, that I could never sit through it again. Each time the whip fell, I felt like it was ripping into my own flesh, and I jumped accordingly. Each time the stakes were driven through Jesus' hands or feet, I felt it (symbolically, of course) in my own hands and feet. One part in particular, in which one of the Romans' whips (tipped with metal claws) gets caught on what I can only assume was one of Christ's ribs, made me literally jump a couple of inches out of my seat. The Roman guard proceeded to jerk on the whip, taking a large amount of blood and skin with it.

Now, some might say that the violence was too much, that Gibson showed two hours of Jesus getting his butt kicked. This is true; Jesus does take a heavy beating, no doubt. But I believe the violence was necessary. I've said it once and now I'll say it again: Do people believe the beating was just some slaps with a wet noodle? Do people believe that Christ was attached to the cross with some rope?

No, this was a brutal beating of an innocent man.

As for the charges of anti-Semitism, while I can understand where some might come away with this conclusion,

I do not believe it to be true. Caiaphas is portrayed as a somewhat cold-hearted man, calling for Christ's death, true, but he was portrayed the same way in "Jesus Christ Superstar," and no one threw a fit then. As for the so-called "nice treatment" of the Romans, I do not believe I was watching the same movie others were. The bulk of the Romans are portrayed as blood-thirsty and cruel, especially the ones doing the

beating. They repeatedly laughed at Christ when he collapsed in agony. Most people point to portraying Pontius Pilate in a somewhat compassionate manner. If you have done even a cursory glance over the Bible, you will find that Pilate did not want Christ crucified, he wanted him beaten. Then he told the rabble, "If you want him crucified, crucify him. It is not on my hands" and "I wash my hands" of this decision. After watching this movie, I did not leave with a pronounced hatred of Jews. I thought much less of ancient Romans, but I left with no anti-Semitic thoughts, no anti-Semitic feelings. I did not blame Jews for Christ's death. In fact, we are all to blame. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Taoists, agnostics, atheists, we are all to blame.

I think this movie has been villainized for no reason. It is emotional (my uncle, fiancée and mother were all crying at some point) and hard to watch. But I think everyone needs to see this movie. It is beautifully made, but more, the message is beautiful as well. You'll just need a few hours to process what you've seen.



JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

The issue

All the hoopla that surrounded Janet Jackson's nipple slip and Howard Stern's removal from some radio stations has America in a witch hunt for obscenity.

We suggest

Relax, folks. It was just a nipple that slipped out. It would have been more offensive if she burned the flag, so let it go. And let's face it: Howard Stern is doing nothing today that he was not doing 10 years ago. Why is it now obscene?

So what do you think?

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

Pressing on

I was just begging the sympathy of our former editor-in-chief last evening. Seeking solace from one who has shared my plight, the weekly editorial, and survived to tell the tale. Sometimes the greatest honors can feel like a curse.

Though sympathetic, we both knew that my call was less for bolstering, and more in the name of procrastination. After all, I'm at deadline - again.

Still uninspired at the close of our conversation, I decided to indulge myself a few minutes more. I had a book I'd been meaning to read...but I would only allow myself the introduction. No more. Then back to work.

So I guiltily cracked the spine on a Bill Bryson book I had wanted to read for ages, a collection of writing titled "I'm a Stranger Here Myself," and settled in for a few minutes of non-editorial related prose. And on page two I came across:

"The thing about a weekly column, I discovered, is that it comes up weekly. Now this may seem a self-evident fact, but in two years there never came a week when it did not strike me as both profound and startling. Another column? Already? But I just did one."

I mean it, truly; it happened just so. As I groaned and shut the book, reminding myself that I should be glad for my unusual opportunity, I couldn't help but think of other such honors I have taken, and still take, for granted. You know, those instances where, once you have won, acquired, or possessed whatever you had so fervently wanted, it suddenly becomes "just one of those things." Then you move on, at least mentally, sometimes literally. You want something new.

The hardest part is knowing whether our motive is growth, or escape.

In my case, it is certainly escape of hard work. Writing offers every oppor-

tunity for growth, of course; I was just feeling particularly lazy. And as we are now at mid-term in the school year, I couldn't help but see a correlation to education.

How many sacrifices do people make in the name of education? We study, suffer the rigors of applications, spend frightening sums, live out bizarre schedules. Then, once the semester's novelty wears off, we are instantly grumbling and wishing it would just be done with. In our minds we have moved on, we're ready for the next thing and the wait is interminable. Again, not a question of the need for growth, but escape. So what do we do when the miraculous, or at least commendable, has become mundane?

At this juncture, I imagine you expect an answer. Unfortunately, this is bound to be one of those circular essays in which I pose more questions than I answer. Sorry, but I thought you should know now.

Add to this worthy question, that of: What is more important, attaining a goal or completing a task, or the process you have weathered on the way? A trophy holds little meaning without a little suffering. When I pause from my own whining, I realize that I have gained more, grown more and achieved more satisfaction from the process of producing this column and living this student life than from the fleeting joy of my job assignment and acceptance to graduate school, and possibly, I dare say, than I will from their mark on my resume.

The real achievement may be what we learn from carrying on once the newness fades and the work becomes, well, work. It's certainly the truest test of our abilities. And that is hardly mundane.



NICHOLE LeCLAIR
Managing Editor

Terminator meets modern soldiers



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

animals to work to haul things or inventing maneuverable tools like the wheelbarrow. With this invention, the person becomes his or her own wheelbarrow.

The exoskeleton is a project of the University of California at Berkeley's Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory program and DARPA is the military's research and experimentation wing. DARPA is the organization that really invented the Internet, although it was university academics who brought it to a useful state, but DARPA is also the organization that brought us Carnivore and the Total Information Awareness project. DARPA's role is to fund research in the unusual.

This project has been running since 2000 and has now reached the point at which a person, which the project calls a pilot, can carry a 70-pound load with great maneuverability. "We've designed this system to be ergonomic, highly maneuverable and technically robust so the wearer can walk, squat, bend and swing from side to side without noticeable reductions in agility. The human pilot can also step over and under obstructions while carrying equipment and supplies," said Homayoon Kazerooni, professor of mechanical engineering and director of UC-Berkeley's Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory. The project's scientists plan to work on adapting the system so the wearer can also run and jump while using the system.

The device is connected to specialized army boots to which the leg braces are firmly and rigidly attached. The mechanical metal leg braces are connected in a more fluid manner to the rest of the legs, to prevent abrasion. The whole assembly has its own power source - the first prototypes used chainsaw engines - in a vest-and-backpack assembly, which also carries the braces when not in use, or can be used to carry a heavy load. According to the developers, wearing the 100-pound device and carrying a 70-pound pack feels like carrying five pounds.

The military is also working on

developing a sophisticated high-tech telecom and weapons control system for use by footsoldiers, as part of its Future Combat Systems program. This system will make it much more feasible for soldiers to carry those heavier packs of equipment over longer distances. This system will also be useful for non-military applications, such as emergency rescue personnel and firefighters, allowing them to also haul heavy equipment into inaccessible areas. Other applications may be to aid those with health-related mobility problems. "The fundamental technology developed here can also be developed to help people with limited muscle ability to walk optimally," said Kazerooni.

The fact that the device just moves with the wearer and does not require training to operate makes it something that could get wide use by rescue teams or be issued to all soldiers, once the product is through development.

The UC-Berkeley team is not the only group working on such a device but they are the furthest along in the process. "We are taking great pains to make this as practical and robust as possible for the wearer," said Kazerooni. "Several engineers around the world are working on motorized exoskeletons that can enhance human strength, but we've advanced our design to the point where a 'pilot' could strap on the external metal frame and walk in figure eights around a room. No one else has done that."

How does this system work? The device works by shifting the weight load of the wearer using more than 40 sensors and hydraulic actuators. The system forms a network that acts as a kind of nervous system for the device, with sensors in the soles of the boots providing information to its computer to direct it on how to adjust the load. The system uses hydraulic power for locomotion and electrical power for the computer.

While they will not be cyborgs, soldiers of the future might look more like the Terminator than G.I. Joe as they stride across a battlefield, thanks to robotics researchers in California.

The best album that you've never heard

This week: The Best of Simon and Garfunkle

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

One of the advantages of being one of the all-time great songwriters is, obviously, writing some of the best songs of all time. For Paul Simon, crafting beautiful folk-rock melodies has become old hat, but it was his time with Art Garfunkel that defined his status as a songwriter.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Simon and Garfunkel were a musical force to be reckoned with. They crafted songs of amazing simplicity, but the songs radiated with spectacular harmonies and words that still move people to this day. This week we will examine "The Best of Simon and Garfunkel," one of the true must-have greatest-hits collections.

The first song we will look at is "America." This is a tune about being lost and not understanding your place. It starts jollily enough, with two lovers experiencing a road trip via bus together. They are "laughing on the bus/Playing games with the faces." But then the song takes a more somber turn with the song's focal character saying, "Kathy I'm lost' I said/Though I knew she was sleeping/'I'm empty and aching and I don't know why'/Counting the cars on the New Jersey turnpike/They've all come to look for America." The profound loneliness in this song is beautifully sung by Simon and Garfunkel's harmonies.

Next up is "The Boxer." This is a story of a young man lost on the streets of New York. Not literally lost, but emotionally lost, wishing he could go home. This is an emotionally rending song, but its lush melodies make up for the melancholy, and as with all

Simon songs, the lyrics are incredible. "In the clearing stands a boxer/And he carries the reminder/Of every glove that laid him down/Or cut him till he cried out/In his anger and his shame/I am leaving I am leaving/But the fighter still remains." This is an amazing song.

Next on our featured songs list is "My Little Town." Recorded by

imagination they lack/Everything' the same back/In my little town/Nothing but the dead o night/Back in my little town." The song gets better, too. "In my little town/I never meant nothing/I was just my father's son/Saving my money/Dreaming of glory/Twitching like a finger on the trigger of a gun."

The last song we will look at is "The Sound of Silence." In my opinion, this is one of the ten best songs ever written. It is by far Paul Simon's masterpiece of songwriting. This commentary on society is dark, driving and somewhat depressing, but the words here, well, let's just say the only fellows who could do better were named Lennon and McCartney. "Fools," said I, 'You do not know/Silence like a cancer grows/Hear my words that I might teach you/Take my arms that I might reach you'/But my words like silent raindrops fell/And echoed in the wells of silence." Simon then goes on with an indictment of all things neon (which gets heavily maligned in rock and roll. Creedence Clearwater Revival, Paul McCartney and Billy Joel also lambaste neon). "And the people bowed and prayed/To the neon god they made/And the sign flashed out its warning/In the words that it was forming/And the sign said 'The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls/And tenement halls/'And whispered in the sounds of silence."

Being as legendary as Simon and Garfunkel are together, it is no surprise that the two of them teamed up for a massively successful tour this year. Now we have to hope that a new album will come out of the deal. Until that time comes, we can thank God there are such amazing songs as these to relish.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Simon and Garfunkel were a musical force to be reckoned with. They crafted songs of amazing simplicity, but the songs radiated with spectacular harmonies and words that still move people to this day. This week we will examine "The Best of Simon and Garfunkel," one of the true must-have greatest-hits collections.

Simon and Garfunkel for two separate solo albums: Simon's "Still Crazy After All These Years" and Garfunkel's "Breakaway." It was, however, still included on this CD. Great words again are the focal point on this song, as they sing about disillusionment in small-town America. They paint a picture of a drab existence devoid of color, an existence of perpetual night. They sing a tale of a young man who witnesses an amazing event. "After it rains/There's a rainbow/And all of the colors are black/It's not that the colors aren't there/It's just



Photo courtesy google.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Passion' could cause anti-Semitic backlash

Dear Editor,
As a Catholic man who regularly attends synagogue with my wife, I would like to add my comments to the discussion about Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion." The problem is not that a movie has been made about a religious story; the problem is that the story itself may have an anti-Jewish theme (Don't stop reading). Stay with me for a few more lines at least.
When I first heard the New Testament called anti-Semitic, my reaction was immediate and visceral: NO! The Gospels are the "Good News" of the salvation of mankind. The epistles are our instructions to lead a good Christian life. There's nothing evil in them. They say that Jesus' love is available to all. But then

I went back and reread the scriptures. For example:

Pilate...took water and washed his hands...and all the people answered,

"Let his (Jesus') blood be on us and on our children!" (MAT 27:24-25)

Men of Israel...you put him (Jesus) to death by nailing him to the cross. (ACTS 2:22-23)

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. (John 1:11)

Whether these passages are anti-Semitic or not is beside the point. The fact remains that they have been used

to supply Biblical justification for the mistreatment of Jews many times over the last 2,000 years. What's most frightening is that there is a powerful and vocal minority of Christians who still interpret scripture this way. As much as moderate Christians hate to admit it, this has happened and continues to happen.

This is the concern of Jews and moderate Christians about this movie. By graphically dramatizing the death of Jesus and the participation of some Judean people, we are afraid that more people will feel that there is Biblical justification for the hatred of Jews.

David Corley
UM-St. Louis student

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Granger forgot to mention Bob Dylan's first protest song

Dear Editor,
Just wanted to pass along the lyrics of a 1963 song that you may not have heard. Some may say that this song isn't exactly Rock'n'Roll (it was written in Dylan's pre-electric phase), but 'ole Bob was definitely speaking his mind. "Blowin' in the Wind", "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall", and "Talking World War III Blues", three more "protest" songs (loosely defined, but, hey he was working off of his own blueprint), were also on this album. Sorry to call you on that one, but as a Bob Dylan fan I couldn't let it pass. You should check Dylan out at the Pageant on Mar 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.

Thanks and Keep Up the Hard Work,
Chris Snively

"Masters of War"

Come you masters of war
You that build all the guns
You that build the death planes
You that build the big bombs
You that hide behind walls
You that hide behind desks
I just want you to know
I can see through your masks
You that never done nothin'

But build to destroy
You play with my world
Like it's your little toy
You put a gun in my hand
And you hide from my eyes
And you turn and run farther
When the fast bullets fly

Like Judas of old
You lie and deceive
A world war can be won
You want me to believe
But I see through your eyes
And I see through your brain
Like I see through the water
That runs down my drain

You fasten the triggers
For the others to fire
Then you set back and watch
When the death count gets higher
You hide in your mansion
As young people's blood
Flows out of their bodies
And is buried in the mud

You've thrown the worst fear
That can ever be hurled
Fear to bring children
Into the world
For threatening my baby
Unborn and unnamed
You ain't worth the blood

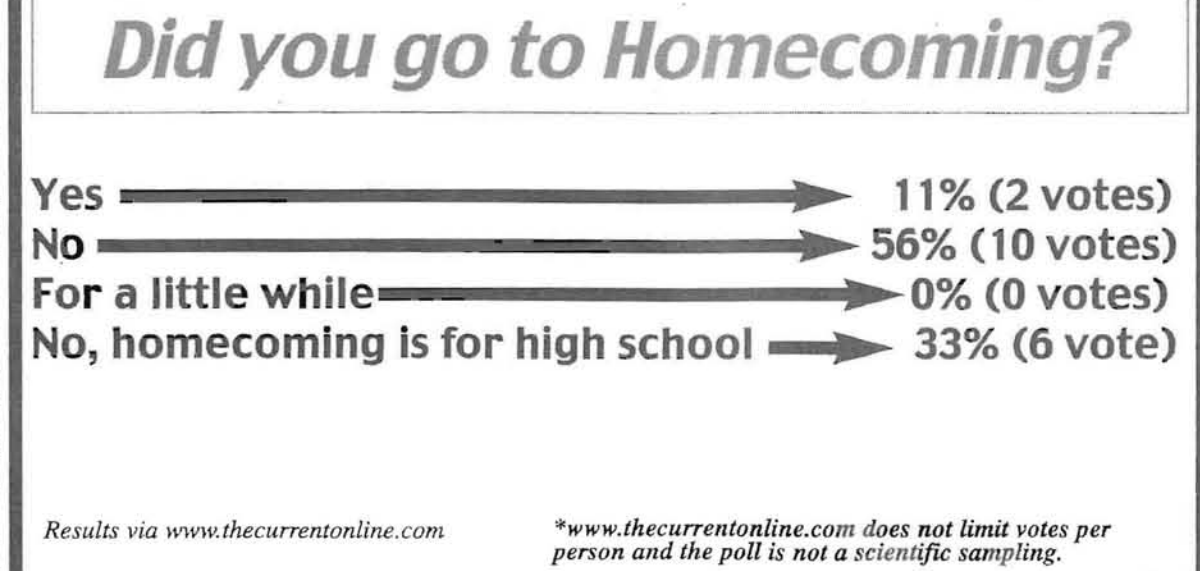
That runs in your veins
How much do I know
To talk out of turn
You might say that I'm young
You might say I'm unlearned
But there's one thing I know
Though I'm younger than you
Even Jesus would never
Forgive what you do

Let me ask you one question
Is your money that good
Will it buy you forgiveness
Do you think that it could
I think you will find
When your death takes its toll
All the money you made
Will never buy back your soul

And I hope that you die
And your death'll come soon
I will follow your casket
In the pale afternoon
And I'll watch while you're lowered
Down to your deathbed
And I'll stand o'er your grave
'Til I'm sure that you're dead

-Bob Dylan 1963

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Taylor's article pro-choice propaganda

To the Editor:
Was the "Students Rally for Pro-Choice Issues" article by Stefanie Taylor a news story or propaganda? Not once throughout the whole story is there any mention of the pro-life side of the issue, while there are numerous quotes calling people that are pro-life "anti-choice". There is not a single quote from a student who is pro-life.

It's an elementary concept in journalism to refrain from having a slanted or biased article featuring only one point of view.

Taylor's use of subtle phrases such as "the overwhelming support for women's rights" slant the article further. She makes it appear that people who are pro-life are a small minority. In reality, there are numerous people

on both sides of this very divisive issue. Her own personal views should not even come into play in this article. When writing articles The Current should stick to the facts of the story, or at the very least, present both sides of the issue.

Christopher Leicht
UM-St. Louis student

St. Louis celebrates women's history

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Associate

Throughout the month of March, many UM-St. Louis organizations and departments will celebrate the history of women.

The Business and Continuing Education departments, the Office of Student Life, Nursing, and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies will recognize and host programs that focus on the lives of women.

Since March is Women's History Month, some determined and hard-working women like Jane Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harriet Tubman, Mother Teresa and Anne Frank are being honored.

For a great deal of our nation's history, men were the only people allowed to vote and work. Instead of sitting around, some women spent their time helping the poor, improving social conditions, forming peace movements, beginning missionary work, becoming leaders for women's rights and ending segregation.

Students, faculty and staff at UM-St. Louis have turned the focus this month to past and current events sur-

rounding women. They will celebrate a rich history through many different activities around campus.

Keely Bursik, administrative assistant for the Institute of Women's and Gender Studies, describes the purpose for these presentations.

"Each year we do a panel series that deals with current women's topics and past women's experiences that have been largely ignored," Bursik said.

Bursik went on to discuss this year's panels and what each event is about.

The first event promoting Women's History Month took place on Thursday, March 4, and was held by the Women's Health and Wellness Center. Participants at the event "The Great Hormone Debate" discussed many different topics, from contraception to hormone therapy, and provided some insight to new women's medical research.

The next panel series will be held on Thursday, March 11, from noon until 2 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building. This presentation, "The Rest of the Story: Osage Women Discuss

For a much of our nation's history, men were the only people allowed to vote and work. Despite their second-class status, many women became innovators, social reformers, artists, and pathbreakers. The month of March is dedicated to the legacy of the remarkable women whose lives continue to inspire us.

Lewis and Clark Legacy," will help develop a consciousness of the roles that Native American women have played.

The School of Business is expected to co-sponsor an event titled "Women, Business and Entrepreneurship," on Thursday, March 30, from noon until 1:30 in 211 Clark Hall. This panel will concern women small-business owners, large financial institutions and how women can succeed in the business world.

The Office of Student Life is participating in a program in conjunction with the Office of Equal Opportunity called "The Trail Blazer Nominations."

"The intent of this program is to recognize women on campus who have noteworthy talents, recognizing student athletes, alumni who have contributed to the University or who have been the first to hold positions that men would normally have," Student Activities Coordinator Allyson Wilson said. "There will be awards handed out, including a scholarship to a female

student, and an awards banquet will be held in the fall."

Not only are some exciting events for Women's History Month taking place around campus, but some off-campus events will also honor women in the surrounding suburbs of St. Louis.

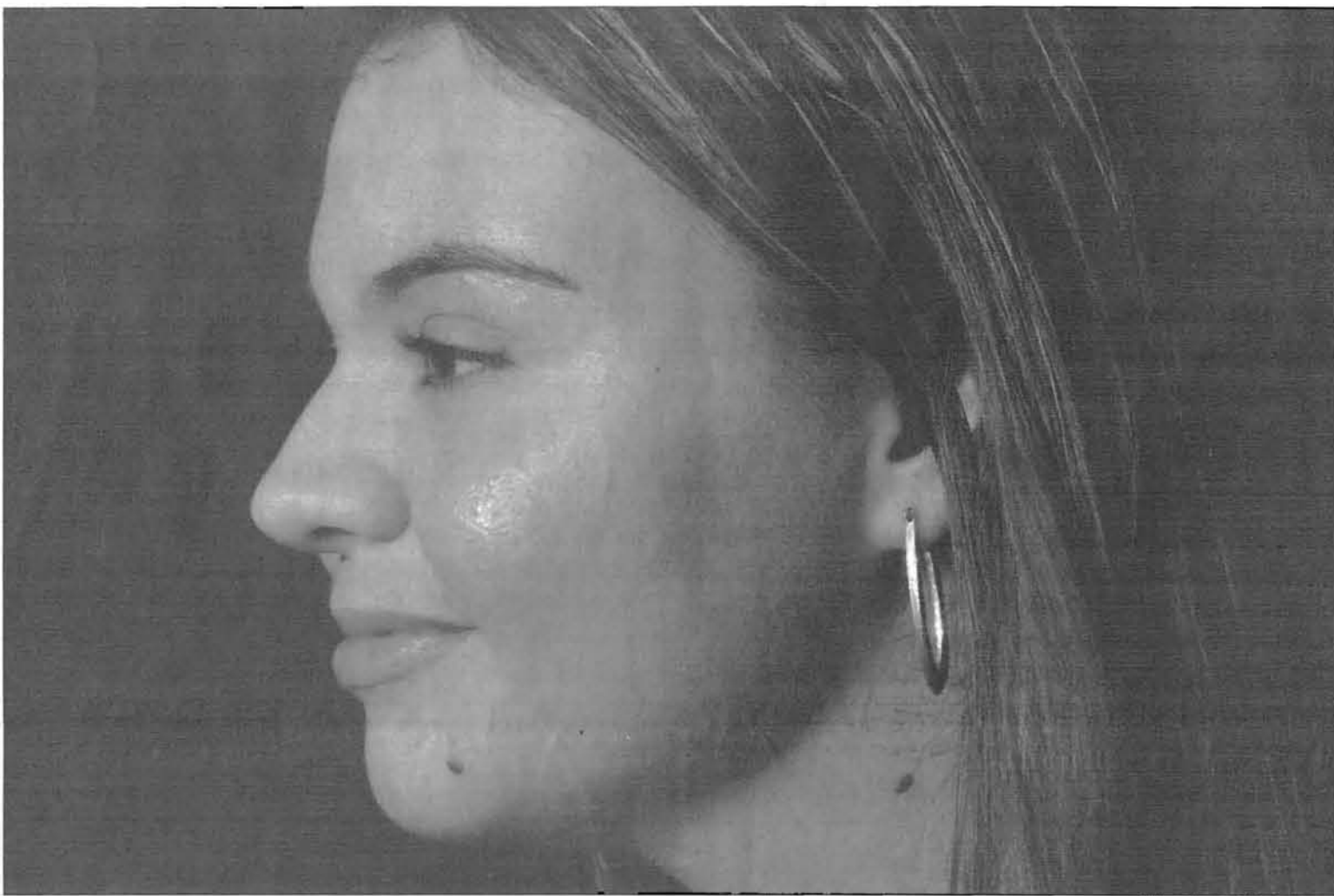
On Wednesday, March 17, two female musicians will perform their works at the St. Louis Powell Symphony Hall. This free show is open to the public, and is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

The Pageant, located in the U. City Loop, is hosting a benefit jazz concert for the Redevelopment Opportunities for Women Organization on Saturday, March 27, at 8 p.m.

The Missouri Historical Society and the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park will host an exhibition called "Today's Girls, Tomorrow's Women." The exhibition commemorates the founding of The Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis in 1918.

For more information about the events happening at UM-St. Louis, contact the Women's Studies Resource Center or Office of Women's and Gender Studies at 516-5581, or visit their website at www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/iwgs.html.

BIAUTIES



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Laurie Bainter, sophomore, international business, wears a number of hats at UM-St. Louis. Currently, she serves as the SGA Treasurer, the International Business Club as special events coordinator, International Business Advisory Board as a student representative, and Residential Hall Association as the Seton floor representative. Bainter is also a member of student sketch comedy group Grrilla Theatre, and is a first alto in the City Wide University Gospel Ministry choir.

Renaissance woman Laurie Bainter brings leadership and fun to UM-St. Louis

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

Laurie Bainter knows how to manage her time. Not only does she contribute to UM-St. Louis through her various student involvements, she still manages to maintain a social life and a 3.87 grade point average.

Bainter is a sophomore studying international business. This accomplished out-of-state student hails from the countryside of Yakima, Wash., where she grew up riding horses in the desert.

Bainter's resume is ideal for any employer looking for someone who has been involved in college organizations. She is involved in Student Government Association as treasurer, the International Business Club as special events coordinator, International Business Advisory Board as a student representative, and Residential Hall Association as the Seton floor representative. Bainter is also a member of student sketch comedy group Grrilla Theatre, is a member of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, and is a first alto in the City Wide University Gospel Ministry choir.

As treasurer of Student Government Association, Bainter's job entails keeping track of SGA's spending by reporting financial statements to the General Assembly.

Bainter also has other responsibilities in student government that go beyond serving as treasurer. As a member of the executive board, Bainter participates in the discussion and voting of election rules and resolutions proposed to the general assembly.

One of the resolutions recently brought up before the executive board, Bainter recalls, is "a resolution for vegan food to be served in The Nosh."

At times, SGA board meetings can get stressful, but that does not stop Bainter from getting things done while creating a positive work environment, says Kristy Runde, SGA president.

"Laurie is very outgoing when things are stressful," Runde said. "She brings in her personality and lifts our spirits. She's always there

for us in the executive board and goes beyond her duty as treasurer."

As special events coordinator for International Business Club, Bainter arranges for guest speakers, conferences and tours.

"We recently took a tour of Anheuser Busch where we got to talk to Steve Burrows, CEO of Anheuser Busch International," Bainter said.

In addition to participating in IBC, Bainter is also a student representative on the International Business Advisory Board. She said that although she is not on the board itself, she does offer a student voice.

"We organize fundraising to help raise money to advance the International Business curriculum at UM-St. Louis," she said. "Newsweek has ranked the undergraduate pro-

gram as eighteenth in the nation, and we want to continue to improve our ranking."

Fundraising through special committees is something the International Business Advisory is currently doing to get money to support their curriculum on campus. These committees include the Education Committee, Advancement Committee and International Experience Committee. Bainter works with the Advancement Committee.

David Ricks, director of International Business Programs and co-chair of Advisory Board, said that Bainter is an ambitious student. "She's working with the board, working very hard, and a good addition. She is one of the first students to get involved," he said.

After a busy and active day on campus, Bainter goes back to her dorm where she is a floor representative for Seton Hall. Bainter said that she is a voice for residents who have suggestions, comments or ideas about things going on in the Seton dorm and greater residential community.

"I have a suggestion box outside my door for residents, and it is my responsibility to see to it that they get the proper paperwork to send through to RHA," Bainter said. "I also arrange for 'H.O.T.' month, which is Hall of the month. Residents can earn points for their hall by going to certain events and the [winning hall] gets a fifty-dollar party. Seton won again so we are planning to have pizza rolls and root beer floats."

Bainter is also in a sketch comedy group called Grrilla. The sketch group, previously known as Guerilla Theatre, performs comedy shows on and off campus.

Brijul Bhakta, junior, theatre, said that Bainter is devoted and has fun despite her hectic schedule.

"She is a really funny performer and she brings her own style: wacky, loopy, silly," Bhakta said. "It's amazing how she can do all these things and still have the same devotion as the other fellow Grrillas."

Bainter will be performing with the Grrillas at the University of Missouri-Columbia and City Improv at Union Station. For further information about dates, times and places, go to www.guerillatheatre.4t.com.

Bainter is also a member of PLHCSA at the Honors College. She said that the Honors College, located on South Campus, is one of the biggest reasons that she enrolled at UM-St. Louis.

“ Laurie is very outgoing when things are stressful. She brings in her personality and lifts our spirits. She's always there for us... ”

- Kristy Runde, SGA president

gram as eighteenth in the nation, and we want to continue to improve our ranking."

Fundraising through special committees is something the International Business Advisory is currently doing to get money to support their curriculum on campus. These committees include the Education Committee, Advancement Committee and International Experience Committee. Bainter works with the Advancement Committee.

David Ricks, director of International Business Programs and co-chair of Advisory Board, said that Bainter is an ambitious student.

"She's working with the board, working very hard, and a good addition. She is one of

Everywhere & nowhere

The Office of Student Life aids, nurtures student organizations, but stays in the background

BY GARY SOHN
Staff Writer

The Office of Student Life is a place that every organization on campus knows. Student Life, located on the third floor of the MSC, provides advising and guidelines for all organizations on campus.

"All student organizations fall under the office of student life," said Parker Denny, advisor for Student Life. "We are responsible for all student life on campus."

Some of those responsibilities that Student Life carries out include helping organizations understand University policy procedures, guidance on writing out contracts, and demographic data, which gives an organization an idea of what students want.

"We advise on how to print posters, rewrite constitutions, and anything else that they need," said Denny.

Orinthia Montague, director for the Office of Student Life, said that Student Life has a long staff history background.

"Our staff has over eight years of experience on campus, whereas students in organizations have only four years. This is because most students in those organizations have graduated and moved on," Montague said.

Joe Flees, coordinator for Student Life, explained that the office not only gives advice to organizations, but they also sponsor events.

"We have leadership retreats in the fall, leadership banquet[s] in the spring and community service programs," he said. "We have a November Month of Service. We did all sorts of different things like going to a homeless shelter and helping out."

Flees also explained the goal of Student Life.

"The mission of the Office of Student Life is to provide social and education programs outside the classroom," he said. "This is important because you can learn a lot about society and about yourself, and your role in society, developing leadership abilities by just being in these programs."

A couple of events that the Office of Student Life sponsors include Health Awareness and Welcome Week.

"Welcome Week is an event that provides a venue for new and returning students to meet one another and get familiar with what's on campus," said Montague.

Student Life also helps advise events like Mirth Day, which will take place this year on April 21.

"Mirth Day is a big carnival and concert," Denny said. "We will have booths set up to promote their activities. We have scheduled the band Better than Ezra and three additional local bands."

Inching closer to spring break

BY COURTNEY HABERER
Staff Writer

Warm sunshine, good friends and no classes are in the near future for many UM-St. Louis students. It is only a few weeks until students take some well-needed time off for spring break.

Several UM-St. Louis students were surveyed on what they plan to do for spring break this year.

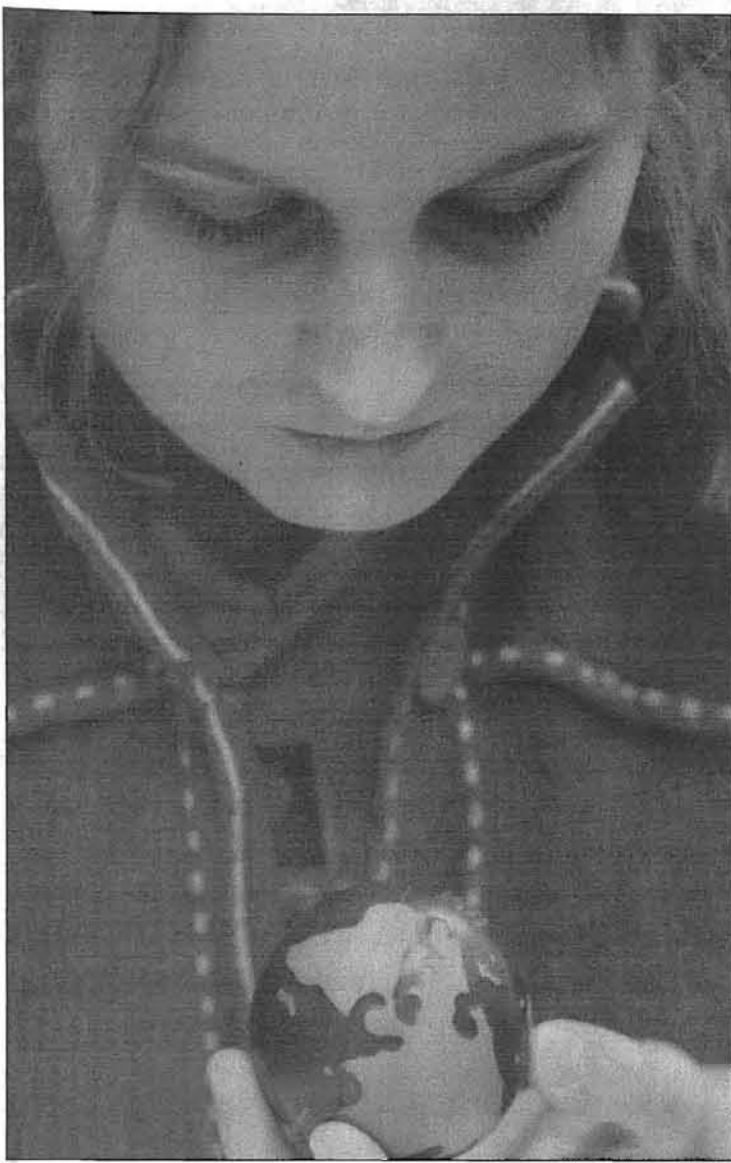
45 percent will be going on a trip with friends.

30 percent will be working.

10 percent will be spending time with their family.

15 percent are unsure of what they will be doing with the time off.

Patrice Williams, senior, music, feels that the popular destinations for spring break are the beaches. She thinks students go to beaches and party with friends on spring break, instead of during the summer. She thinks this is because students feel summer break is more of a time for family vacations, and spring break is more like a national college party.



Christina Lyubenko, sophomore, American studies, cradles a toy globe while completing a career goals worksheet during the "Choose Your Major" workshop Wednesday. Kathline Kelly, an intern with Counseling Services, led the workshop that used games and personality assessment tests.

Still Undecided? ■ Counseling services can assist with school and career-preparation choices

BY STEFANIE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis Counseling Services held a "Choose Your Major" workshop for students on Wednesday, March 3. Kathline Kelly, master's-level intern with Career Services, led the workshop, which utilized personality and values inventories to determine students' interests.

"The first thing is knowing your interests and values," said Kelly. "That will help you determine what major and career you want to pursue."

First, the small group linked personality type to occupational choices through the "Party Exercise," a spin-off of John L. Holland's career model. Each student was asked to pick a group at a party that he or she would like to spend time with. The groups were given characteristics according to their titles.

The party groups were realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising and conventional. After making their decisions, the students were shown a parallel chart to careers that matched their personality types.

"You can see the careers that fit individual personalities," said Kelly.

Next, the group completed the SIGI PLUS Values Game, which asked students to decide which career values are most important to them, such as income, advancement, leisure time, prestige and challenge.

"Continuing education is important to me," said Shemonika Graham,

senior, political science. "I want a company that wants to help me succeed."

Christine Lyubenko, sophomore, American studies, also chose learning environment as a top value.

"I like my job to feel like I'm always learning," she said.

High income was a priority on almost every student's list of values. The students expressed a desire to work for a company that is dedicated to their employees and pays well.

Kelly answered students' questions about what high income should mean to a college graduate.

"I think it's an individual decision," she said. "It's self defined like happiness or success."

Lindsey Seals, sophomore, communication, said she wants to be paid for what she is worth.

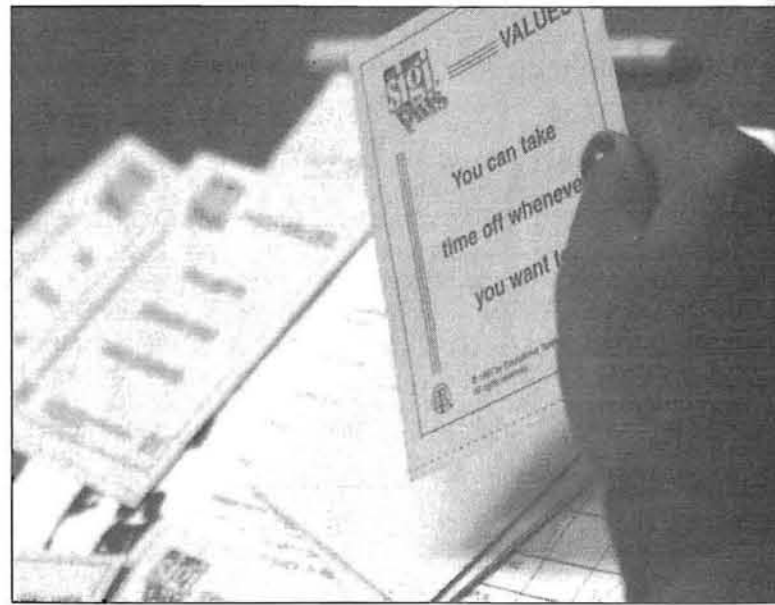
"I don't have to be rich, but I don't want to live from paycheck to paycheck."

Kelly warned that students not take the inventories too seriously.

"These inventories don't tell you what your perfect career is. They just tell you what your interests are," Kelly said.

Finally, the students took a smaller version of the Myers-Brigg Personality Type Indicator, called the Tieger Assessment. The Tieger assesses personality based on four sets of polar characteristic types and assigns each type a letter, resulting in a four-letter sequence for each student.

"These types give you a better pic-



Shemonika Graham, senior, political science, flips through the career values cards of the SIGI PLUS game in order to prioritize her most-desired traits in a future career.

ture of yourself," said Kelly, who encourages students to consider how their personality determines their ideal work environment. "For example, an introverted person may not feel comfortable in a team-oriented environment."

Kelly also encourages students to seek out a professional in their field. "Consider doing an interview, job-shadow or internship," she said. "Internships are great because they allow students to get a feel for the job, start networking and even get a foot in the door."

Kelly offered students the opportu-

nity to use the Counseling Services copy of the Federal Bureau of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook 1 research career opportunities. The handbook describes positions available, the average day of a position, academic criteria required and typical salary references.

She explained that students naturally do well in classes that fit their personalities.

"The same standard applies to careers," she said. "Students should choose something that they will enjoy. We want students to think outside the box of traditional careers."

BAINTER, from page 6

Todd Taylor, admissions counselor, is impressed with Bainter's drive and devotion to student life. "I think she's an excellent student. I'm impressed that she is so engaged on campus with Grilla's, SGA, IBC," he said. "I think she's an excellent young lady."

And while it seems more than likely that Bainter could not have any more time in her schedule to do other things, she still manages to serve as a first alto in the City Wide University Gospel Ministry choir.

Bainter has been with the gospel choir for one year and just moved up from a second alto to the first alto voice section. She said that she got

involved through a friend and has been singing with the choir ever since. Bainter says that she sings in the gospel choir because she wants to strengthen her faith.

"I do City Wide because I take responsibility in my faith. Faith is one aspect in my life. I wanted to deepen my faith and spread the word of God to others," she said.

This ambitious student has been all over the world and is interested in international business.

"I lived in Moscow for a summer when I was four years old. I've also been to Scotland, London and Denmark, just to mention a few."

The reason that she is involved in

so many different organizations on campus is because she wants to know what is going on in her home.

"I want to know what is going on at UMSL because this is my home... and being on a board I have an ear and a voice on my home," she said.

Bainter said that she got involved in her first organization by just showing up to a meeting without any intent of joining.

"I showed up to a student general assembly without any experience but I has a desire to learn, and that is the best thing you can have. Experience helps, but desire is more important."

How does one person manage to make the most of a 24-hour day? A

good calendar. She emphasized that students who want to get involved on campus must learn how to manage their time well.

"I never kept a student planner before, but now that I'm involved in so many things on campus I write everything down in one. I write everything from "mail a bill" to "going out with the girls clubbin'," she said.

Though Bainter has a full and active life on campus, she stressed the importance of "being able to give your all."

"Make sure you have fun and be involved on campus," she said, "but make sure you can give one hundred percent."

STUDENT LIFE, from page 6

Denny said that though primarily the University Program Board sponsors Mirth Day, Student Life assists in the planning and implementation of executing the event.

"I help with the contracts with the bands and the carnival equipment, and with whatever else they need me to do," he said.

The Office of Student Life was once known as Student Activities, but the title has changed "due to

the new direction of the organization," according to Flees. He explained that the Office no longer seeks to encompass the mission of educational programming with more than just a couple of fun programs.

To find out more about the Office of Student Life and future programs, visit www.ums.edu/studentlife/osl/index.html.

The Current is seeking a new production manager with experience in Quark/PS/Illus. Please contact Nichole LeClair at 516-6810

IN HONOR OF CHANCELLOR GEORGE'S INAUGURATION
THE UMSL 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE CORDIALLY INVITES
STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND A
PERFORMANCE OF:
"UMSL – THE FIRST 4 BILLION YEARS"...

AN ORIGINAL HISTORICAL PAGEANT REFLECTING ON FOUR BILLION YEARS OF LIFE ON THE UMSL CAMPUS AND FEATURING APPEARANCES BY:

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- NAPOLEON BONAPARTE;
- MAUNATAUNTA OF THE TAMAROAS;
- AND A CAST OF SEVERAL.

PERFORMANCES WILL BE STAGED FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004, AT 10 A.M., 1 P.M. AND 3 P.M., IN THE LEE THEATER OF THE BLANCHE M. TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER. RUNNING TIME IS 55 MINUTES.

MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE UMSL WIND ENSEMBLE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF WILLIAM RICHARDSON.

ADMISSION IS FREE

SPRING BREAK, from page 6

According to the Travel Channel's website, the top ten spring break destinations this year are:

10. Bahamas
9. Rosarito Beach, Mexico
8. Key West
7. Daytona Beach
6. Mazatlan, Mexico
5. Jamaica
4. South Padre Island, Texas
3. Lake Havasu, Arizona
2. Cancun, Mexico
1. Panama City Beach, Florida

As many students, professors and parents are aware, the most enjoyed pastime for spring breakers is drinking. As we well know, the legal drinking age in the U.S. is 21. However, international destinations, such as Mexico, do not maintain this regulation. Perhaps this is the reason many travel to Mexico on spring break.

Alcohol is a dis-inhibitor, which may cause people to act unlike they normally would. Some of these actions are commonly promiscuous

and risky behaviors such as unprotected sex and illegal drug use.

Many people drink excessively during time off from school to help them relax and have fun. People are constantly reminded to drink responsibly via television programs and adults.

So what is UM-St. Louis doing to prepare students for a safe and responsible spring break? Andrew (who wishes his last name be left out), a mathematics graduate student, plans on working during spring break.

"Last year, my wife and I went to Cancun and the plane was full of college students," he said. "I think that students go to spring break destinations and party to get away from their parents and their inhibitions."

Andrew said that UM-St. Louis could help people stay responsible by continuing to refrain from glorifying alcohol. Williams said that she thought UM-St. Louis could promote having a responsible spring break by

having some type of game in which the students have so many cards to spend and once they spend them all it is representative that they are too intoxicated to play anymore.

UM-St. Louis has many student organizations. This year there are two in particular that are hosting programs promoting a safe spring break.

The first of these groups is Horizons Peer Educators. They will be hosting an event in the Provincial House on March 17. During the program, students will be able to get free food, information on partying responsibly and an opportunity to get involved in the "Condom Olympics."

Another event free for students will be hosted by S.H.O.T.S. on March 15. S.H.O.T.S. is a part of Health Services. They will have their program at the University Meadows clubhouse. They plan to have live bands, along with information on staying safe during spring break from a physical health perspective, such as STDs and alcohol poisoning.

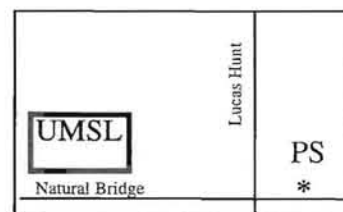
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SPORTS

Rivermen drop two close ones

BY CAMPBELL MCLAURIN
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis baseball team dropped two close games in a Saturday double-header at Central Arkansas before picking up a big win on Sunday in the series finale. The win on Sunday proved to be crucial as the Rivermen avoided being swept in the road series. The team was also looking to maintain a respectable overall record after opening the season with a difficult schedule; their first six games have come on the road against stiff competition.

In the first game on Saturday, Central Arkansas darted out to a quick lead after scoring four runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Rivermen would later settle in the game and cut the lead to 4-2 in the top of the fourth inning. Jonathan Mercer opened the inning with a walk and advanced to second on a wild pitch. A double down right field line by Logan Hughes sent Mercer home to score the first run of the game for the Rivermen. Then, brother tandem of Logan and Colby Hughes worked together to produce the second run of the inning. Colby knocked brother Logan in with a single through the right side, capping the scoring in the fourth.

In the bottom of the fifth, Central Arkansas again increased their lead to four runs after adding two in the bottom of the fifth. The Rivermen would respond in the top of the sixth, adding three more runs of their own and closing the score to 6-5. A two-run double from Colby Hughes and an RBI single from Josh Morgan scored the runs in the inning. However, UM-St. Louis's efforts in the top of the sixth were not enough, as Central Arkansas scored three more runs in the bottom half of the inning. The Rivermen would not

be able to recover, and the ballgame ended in a 9-5 loss.

The second game of the Saturday double-header bore striking similarities to the first match up. As in the first game, Central Arkansas jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead; UM-St. Louis would later respond to cut the lead to one run before being outdone once more by

In the first game on Saturday, Central Arkansas darted out to a quick lead after scoring four runs in the bottom of the first inning.

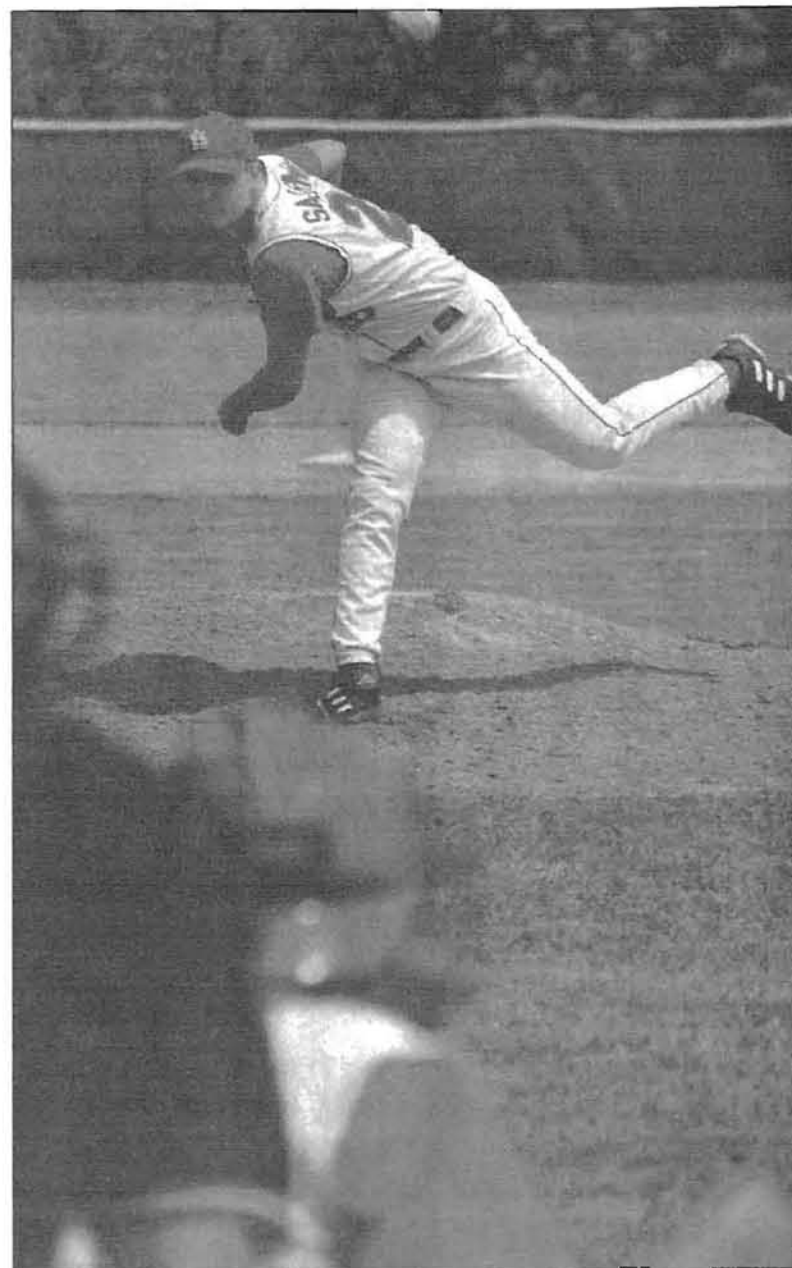
their opposition. Central Arkansas was able to accumulate a four-run edge after picking up one run in the first inning and three more runs in the second. In the top of the fourth inning, the Rivermen would pull one back after Colby Hughes drove in Mike Wulff with a double. In the bottom of the fourth, Central Arkansas would add one run of their own to make it a 5-1 game. In the fifth, UM-St. Louis would add two more runs, one coming off a single from Morgan. Again, Central Arkansas came right back with two runs to lead 7-3 after five innings.

In the sixth, the Rivermen would cut the lead to one after a RBI base hit from Mike Wulff and a two-run homer from Colby Hughes. After UM-St. Louis closed the score line to 7-6, Central Arkansas later added three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to put the game out of reach at

10-6. In the series finale on Sunday, the Rivermen came out swinging, scoring two runs in the top of the first. They would jump out to a 6-0 lead in the first three innings of play. Tony Grana, Logan Hughes, Colby Hughes and Josh Thomas all contributed RBI to the early lead. Central Arkansas responded in a big way to the Rivermen's early lead by picking up six runs in the bottom of the third inning. They would later take the lead 7-6 in the bottom of the fourth. This lead would not last long as UM-St. Louis would permanently take the game back into their own hands.

In the top of the fifth, the Rivermen added four more runs off an RBI from Scott Sanders, Scott Davis and Doug Wiles. They would further increase their lead to 13-6 after in the top of the sixth after picking up three more runs. Central Arkansas was only able to score four more consolation runs, and the Rivermen headed back to St. Louis with a 13-10 win under their belt. Jonathan Pate tallied the win for the Rivermen (1-0), and Colby Hughes notched his second save of the year.

The win on Sunday was huge as the Rivermen avoided being swept by a solid Central Arkansas team. It also kept the team from suffering another early loss in the year, as it improved its record to 2-4. The team, ranked number 10 in the nation by the Collegiate Baseball preseason poll, has played some difficult competition in its early going, as two of its first three opponents were ranked nationally in the top 15. The Rivermen will look to add a few more wins to their record as they open conference competition at home with back-to-back double-headers against Indianapolis on March 13 and 14.



Rivermen pitcher Kevin Sahrman pitches during a spring 2003 game. Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen basketball endures two tough defeats to end the year

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team suffered back-to-back home defeats to end its season. The first defeat came to the GLVC Conference's last-ranked Wisconsin-Parkside on Feb. 26 by a margin of just seven points, 78-71. The Rivermen jumped out to a quick start behind Ronnie Banks, five points, and led 11-2 in the first four minutes.

Things quickly disintegrated, however, and the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers were able to go on a 15-0 run over the next five minutes to take a 17-11 lead. The Rivermen gathered themselves and tied the game at 19, but then allowed Wisconsin-Parkside to go on another run, this time being outscored 14-3 to go down 33-22. The Rangers held onto their double-digit lead going into halftime, 41-30. Wisconsin-Parkside then continued to dominate in the second half and extended their lead to 17 points, going up 54-37.

Every time the Rivermen would make a run at the lead, the Rangers would counter with one of their own, and led by 14 points at 63-49 with

under ten minutes left. The Rivermen finally got within six, at 66-60, but could not convert after getting defensive stops on the Rangers to continue chipping away at the lead. The game was tight the rest of the way, but UM-St. Louis could never fully close the gap, most notably when the score was as close as 76-71 in the final seconds. Jonathan Griffin, with 25 points and nine rebounds, and Banks, with 21 points, six rebounds and five assists, led the Rivermen.

The final game of the season for the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team was on Feb. 28 against St. Joseph's. The Rivermen found themselves in a hole early and did not have quite enough to dig themselves out in the 98-87 loss. UM-St. Louis started the game without reserve, jumping to an 11-6 lead in the first three minutes. The first three minutes of games can apparently be very deceiving.

In the next four minutes of play, St. Joseph's went on a 19-2 run, then later coupled that with a 10-0 run, and went into halftime leading by 22 points, 55-33. The outlook was definitely bleak from a spectator's perspective, but the Rivermen did not give up and fought

back in the second half. The Rivermen chipped away at the lead in the beginning of the half and eventually got the score to 64-51 with 13 minutes left in the game.

St. Joseph's was able to push the lead back out to 20 points with 11 minutes left, but then Griffin and Kevin Nordmann kept the Rivermen's comeback alive with key baskets when they needed them most. Nordmann hit a three to knock the lead down to 17, and then Griffin added an assist and four free throws to knock the lead down to 12 with seven minutes to play. Nordmann then struck again from downtown with just six minutes to play, to get the lead down to 10. The Rivermen were within striking range the last six minutes of the game, but as has been typical of this season, could not convert when they needed it most.

St. Joseph's was able to hold onto the lead and took the game 98-87. Griffin led UM-St. Louis with a career high 33 points, including three 3-pointers in the last minute and Nordmann with 17 points. The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team ended the season with a record of 9-18 overall and 5-15 in the GLVC.



Jonathan Griffin, sophomore guard, backs his defender down in the Feb. 26 loss to Wisconsin-Parkside. Jesse Gater/The Current

Golf team sets sights high for this year

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Golf Team has lofty goals for this spring, and hopefully the right players to make those goals a reality. The team has the goal of winning the Conference Championship this spring, and advancing to the Super Regional tournament.

The roster for this year is made up of returning players Patrick Murillo, a senior, and Sam Wiles, a sophomore, as well as new recruits Diego Jimenez from Colombia, Andrew Sullivan from Hazelwood, and Ryan Andrews from Canada. Transfer students Jimmy Simon, Brandon Mallinkrot and Drew Stevenare also here to help the team reach its goal.

Golf is a little different from other sports in that the fall and spring seasons both count toward regional advance-

ment. For those of you wondering how golf can be a team sport (I admit I was before this article), this is how it works: the five top players on the team will compete in a tournament, usually a regional tournament. The top four performers for each team will have their scores added up, and the fifth is thrown out. The total will determine where the team is placed at the end of the tournament.

Because golf is such a mental game, stress can change the outcome from day one to day two a great deal. "After the first day in the Regional Invitational last year, we were ranked third, but then after the second day we slipped to 10th," Coach James Tittler said.

The team is currently in 10th place in the region, and must attain a placement of eighth or higher to qualify for the Super Regional tournament, the tournament that precedes nationals. To prepare the team for the upcoming tournaments, Coach Tittler mentioned the importance of inter-squad competition.

"We have players with a lot of talent. We are counting on Diego and Sam to post good scores to lead the team, while senior Patrick

Murillo will contribute his experience in tournament play to post consistent scores throughout the spring. Ryan and the others are very good, but don't have as much tournament experience,

and the more that they push each other in practice the better the team will be for it in the end. We need the team to get ready because the first tournament is the most important, and we really need to place above 5."

Apart from the inter-squad competition, the golf team has two other key advantages they are looking to exploit. This year the team will be playing better competition than in years past, and so should improve quickly with the experience. The other advantage is that the weather here in St. Louis (or O'Fallon, where the team practices) has been favorable for golfing, whereas in the northern states, and consequently rival schools, weather will not permit the chance to practice as much before the season begins.

If the team can capitalize on the good fortune and talent it has, it should be in a condition to fulfill its goals this season. The first tournament will be on March 19 in Falls of Rough, Kentucky.



Some of the tools of the trade. You must have tees to get your ball in play. Photo-illustration by Jason Granger/The Current

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current@jinx.umsl.edu

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

UPCOMING

Baseball
March 6-7
• Spring Hill Suites by Marriott UMSL Inv.

March 10-15
• Florida trip (five games)

Softball
March 3-7
• At Rebel Spring (Florida)

March 11
• At Central Missouri State

UMSL Soccer

March 12
7 p.m. UMSL soccer trivia night. \$100 per table - up to 8 players per table
Price Includes: Beer (ID Required!), Attendance Prizes
Doors Open at 6:30 pm - Game Begins at 7 pm

Tennis has high aspirations

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

lightly. I am very eager to see how my new players can perform under pressure and I am also eager to see how my upperclassmen have improved and to see if they will perform on a higher level," Gyllenborg said.

“
Talent-wise, we are very good, but proven-wise, we are still mostly inexperienced on the court.

— Rick Gyllenborg, head tennis coach

This year's men's tennis team is filled with a mix of returning players and newcomers. New players such as James Daugherty, Max Bugner, Francis Lam and Rusty Durbin bring a lot of new talent to an already well balanced and experienced team.

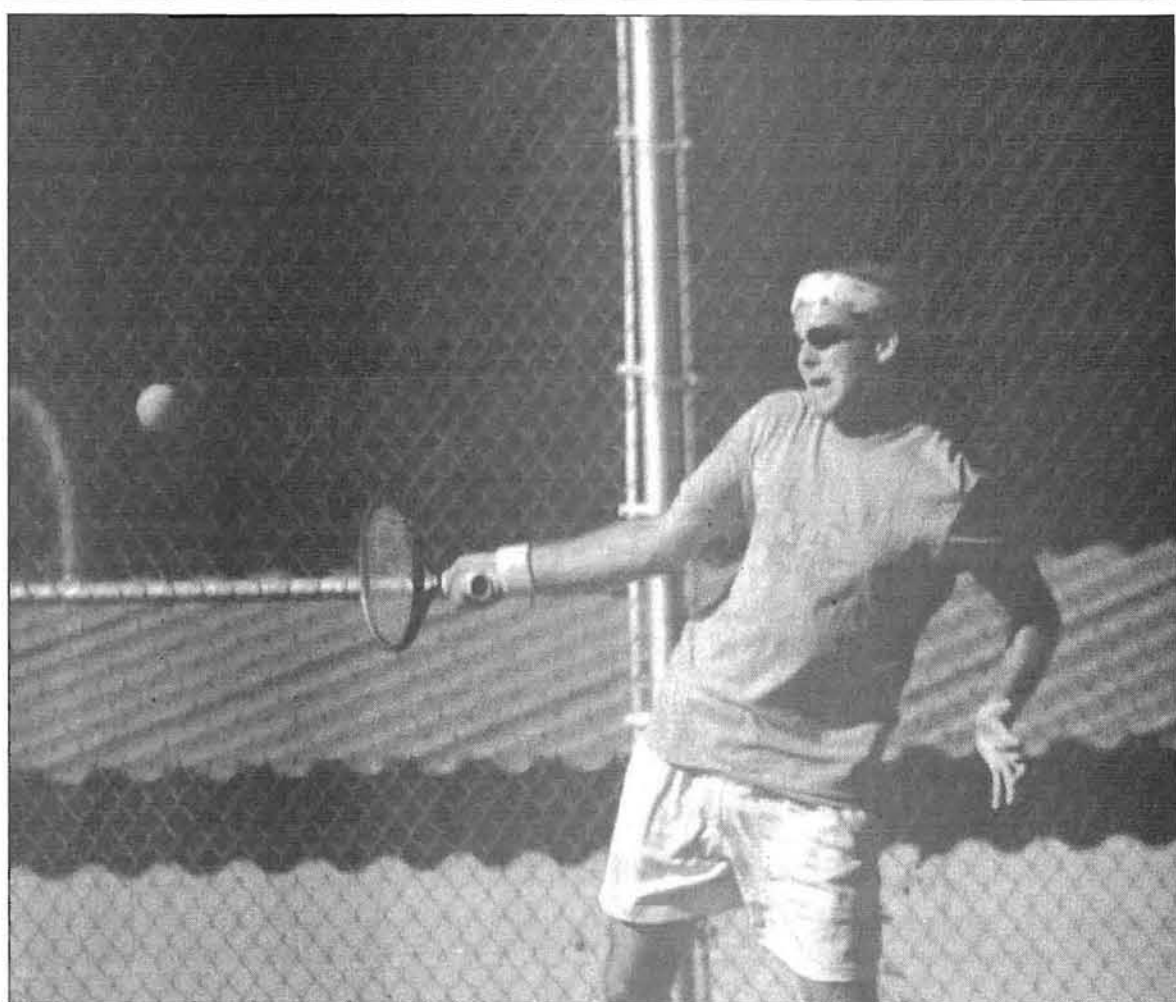
"Talent-wise we are very good, but proven-wise we are still mostly inexperienced on the court," Gyllenborg said.

The Rivermen are looking to continue their championship form in three other matches leading into their tour of the East Coast.

After Lewis and Clark, the Rivermen look to face Maryville College, McKendree College and Rockhurst University. Coach Gyllenborg is optimistic about the Rivermen's chances to start on the right path to the NCAA tournament.

"I would be a little disappointed if we do not go at least 3-1 after the first four matches. Rockhurst and McKendree are both very good teams and it will be tough to overcome both of them, but that is what the season is for. Whoever shows up that day to win will get the job done," Gyllenborg commented.

After their first four matches, the men's and women's tennis teams will be heading on to Hiltonhead, South Carolina, where they will face some very tough competition from East Coast universities. The men's tennis team will see its first home conference matches coming up on Tuesday, March 30. Come out and support the men as they try to make it back to the NCAA tournament for the third time in three years.



Jesse Gater/The Current

UM-St. Louis's tennis team has been reflecting on last year's NCAA Division II Tournament loss to Wayne State for nine months. They are now ready to get back into the swing of things.

Spring training: Not fun in the sun

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

It is not always fun in the sun when you travel to Florida. The UM-St. Louis softball and baseball teams are making it all business this time around. For the softball team, it will be its first test of the season against any team other than itself, and for the baseball team, it could be a weekend that could have a huge impact on the outlook of the its season.

The softball team has been practicing six days a week for three hours a day for almost the last two months to prepare for its season opening trip to Florida. The trip gives the team a taste of something that it has not seen all season long; it is a team other than itself on the field. Senior Savanna Adams was relieved to be able to get out and see some competition.

"I am excited to get out on to the field and finally play, after practicing for so long. We have been practicing for three hours a day, six days a week now for a long time. It can wear on you when you haven't gotten a chance to see if all the practice is really paying off," Adams said.

The softball team will start against

some tough competition from teams such as LeMoyné College, Northwood University, Concordia College and Southern New Hampshire University. They will start the trip off with four games in two days, playing games only hours apart from each other.

"I am super excited to get out and play, and I think that the team has looked great. Our practices have been very intense and I think that we will have no trouble turning it on come game time," Adams added.

As the softball team returns from a weeklong trip to Florida, the baseball team will be getting ready to depart for a very important five-game series. By then the baseball team will have played 11 games and will have a good feel as to how the season is going to look for it.

Head coach Tom Brady commented on the tough schedule and his team's abilities to win.

"This year is probably the toughest schedule that we have ever played since I have been here. Florida is going to be a very tough week for us. We are playing teams like Ashland, Winona State, who just upset the national #1, and Slippery Rock, who have been an East Coast powerhouse for years now.

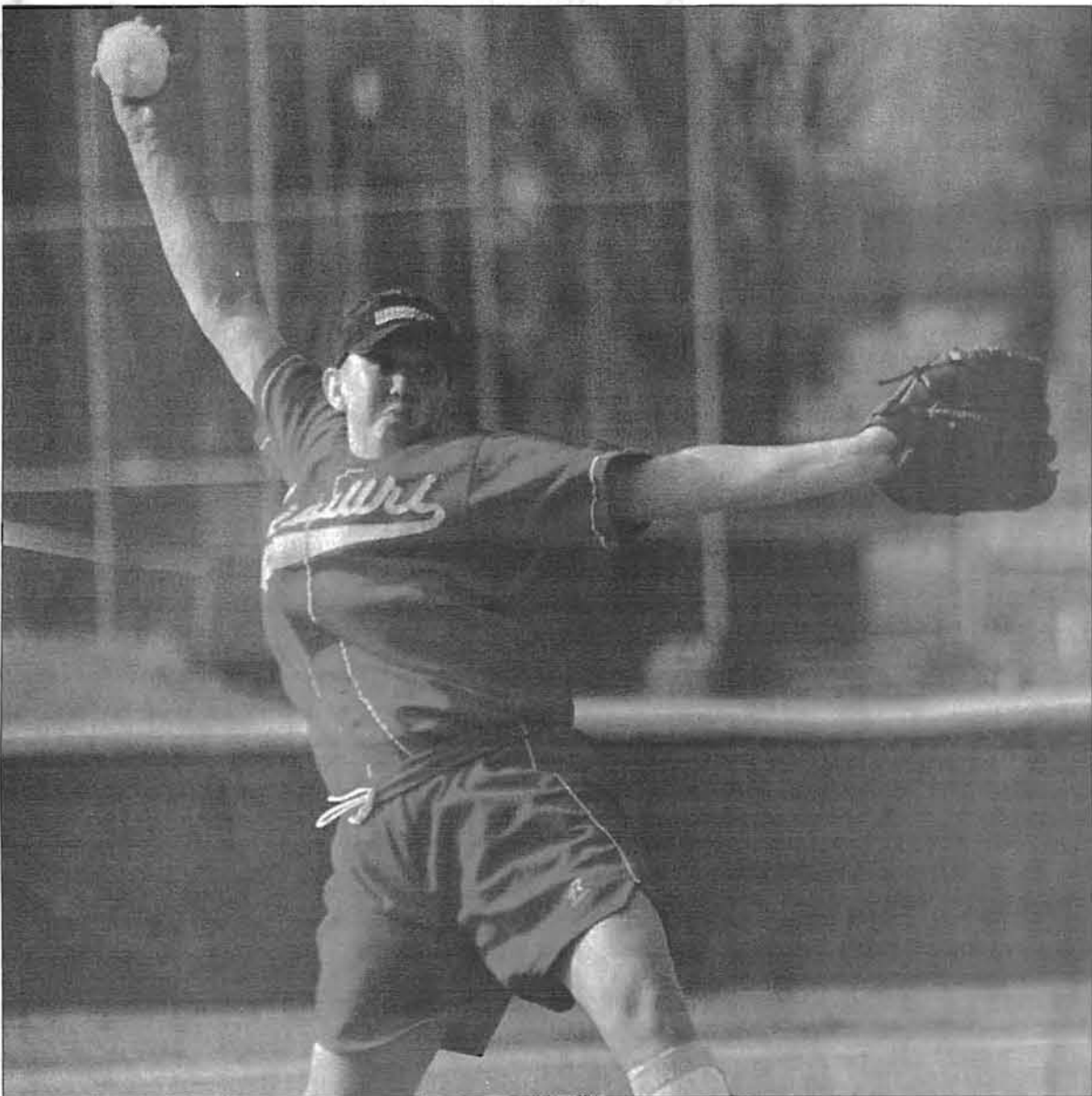
It is a very difficult task in light of the competition we are going to be playing," Coach Brady said.

Another obstacle that the team faces is that it will be using aluminum bats during the tournament, which is different from the wood bats that the baseball team normally plays with during most of the season. Aluminum bats are notorious for producing more runs during games, and can give good hitters the capabilities of becoming a great hitter overnight.

The baseball team will be looking to impress everyone after a slow start to its season, which has seen some pitching woes thus far.

"We have got our work cut out for us, but we are all very optimistic and confident in our chances of winning. We need some people to step it up the next few weeks, because it is vital for our team if we hope to be competitive against the other teams," Coach Brady added.

Come out and cheer on the baseball team as it plays host to Kentucky Wesleyan to open its conference regular season on April 3 and 4 at the UM-St. Louis baseball field located just behind the Mark Twain athletic building on campus.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Softball pitcher during a Spring 2003 game at Quincy University.

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Motorcycling is fun in the sun

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

The entire attitude in St. Louis shifts one notch up when we get a break in the nasty February cold. People laugh with each other and play Frisbee. The optimistic see a break in the cloud cover, and the hike in temperatures warrants the wearing of t-shirts and shorts. Kids run around in the streets (my street in particular) and create the sort of havoc kids create. And when the weekend forecast predicts beautiful weather, motorcyclists wake their sleepy bikes from winter hibernation. Motorcyclists, that is, who do not run their bikes all

year round. Last year, I traded in my 2002 Honda Civic Si (a zoomy hatchback) for a 2003 Honda Metropolitan (a cutesy scooter). The story behind that decision is long and complicated, but let it suffice to say that with the sunshine pouring on me in mid-April, the scooter seemed like a unique alternative. My 40-mph top speed (downhill, screaming, with the wind) restricted me from the highways, but I found all sorts of new routes to and from places I frequented. Interesting routes littered with this-and-that which I would have never found otherwise. When someone scoffed, I said something like,

"I get 75 mpg and I can park on the sidewalk. Let me see you do that in your Explorer."

The zigging and zagging was addictive, and I wanted more zoom-zoom from my go-button. So, I returned to my Honda dealer and exchanged my 50cc Metropolitan for a 250cc Reflex. Mucho improvement. I jumped on 40 and whizzed along with traffic at 75 mph. I drove to Kansas City, then Chicago. My mother asked, "What will you do when it rains?" I returned, "Get wet, I suppose." I had no serious commitments, so when the skies turned ominous, I could simply opt for HBO. Plus, I lived through the rainy season in Tokyo on a bicycle. Let the rain come, I challenged.

Then, one day on 270, just south of Clayton Road, the tach soared and my throttle hand refused to translate into motivation from the rear tire. I parked the defunct Reflex on the shoulder, phoned a ride and within two weeks had upgraded myself to an 800cc VFR Interceptor, an honest-to-goodness motorcycle. Bright yellow, a bona-fide crotch rocket. Then, the world flew by at sometimes-dizzying speeds. Terrible fun.

Part of the fun included in the purchase price of any motorcycle is immediate inclusion in a society that car-people never see or understand. I passed a sport bike once on Old State Road at night in a downpour, and when we exchanged the small extension of our left hands toward each other, it was more than a friendly hello. It said, "Hey, friend. This weather sucks. Take it easy."



Motorcycles are on display at Gateway to the West Harley Davidson.



The gleaming chrome of this Harley Davidson motorcycle woos customers at Gateway to the West Harley Davidson, located at 3600 Lemay Ferry Road.

see BIKE, page 11

A&E

EDITOR

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A&E Editor

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A&E Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of March 8

Operation Cody Banks 2: Destination London- Teen spy Cody Banks (Frankie Muniz) returns in this film set in London. Posing as an exchange student, Banks must regain possession of a top-secret mind-controlling device. Rated PG. Opens March 12.

Secret Window- Johnny Depp stars in this adaptation of a novella by Stephen King about a writer who is being stalked at his remote lake house by a madman who claims that the writer's brilliant stories are not only stolen, but are, in fact, his. Rated PG-13. Opens March 12.

Ongoing

The Passion of the Christ- The money keeps coming in for this movie, having grossed well over \$200 million in its first two weeks of release. The controversy surrounding the film has not died down. Jim Caviezel stars as Jesus Christ and the movie was directed and partially bankrolled by Mel Gibson.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Welcome to Mooseport': Do you love Raymond enough to endure yet another romantic comedy?

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Reviewer

It seemed like a good idea: releasing a comedy about running for political office during an election year when more people were watching the presidential race than in many previous years. "Welcome to Mooseport," however, provides only a moderately amusing piece of escapist entertainment, despite the potential of the idea and mostly good cast, by opting to be a standard romantic comedy vehicle for TV star Ray Romano.

"Welcome to Mooseport" is by no means without some appeal but most of that appeal comes from Gene Hackman, who is delightful as a Clintonesque ex-president who is drafted to run for mayor of the tiny Maine town to which he retired. Monroe "Eagle" Cole (Hackman) planned to write his memoirs, build a library and embark on a lucrative career on the speaker circuit until he finds himself drawn into this tiny political ring by the town leaders, who beg him to run and bemoan the fact that no one has applied for the job.

At first, Cole is just looking for a graceful way out, but he and his staff



Gene Hackman and Ray Romano are political opponents in the romantic comedy MOOSEPORT.

(Marcia Gay Harden and Fred Savage) cannot quite get out of the "running for office" mindset. When he realizes the election can be a way to establish his Maine mansion as a residence instead of a vacation home

and keep it out of the hands of his soon-to-be-ex First Lady Charlotte Cole (Christine Baranski), the idea has more appeal. Meanwhile, local hardware store owner and plumber "Handy" Harrison (Romano) has

signed up to run for mayor. Once the national media pick up the story, the staff and the Prez start to worry about how it would look to his legacy if he does not run or, worse yet, loses to a plumber.

All this is pretty contrived but Hackman nearly brings it off. The beginning of the film has humor and a certain "West Wing" appeal. When Hackman unknowingly invites his political rival's long-suffering girlfriend Sally (Maura Tierney) out on a date, the prospects for a funny movie look even better. Now Cole and Harrison are competing for both the mayor's office and the girl. The problem is that this film was clearly designed as a vehicle to launch Romano from the small screen to the big one, and so the focus is pulled away from Hackman and Tierney and placed on Romano. However, Romano is not up to the task and Hackman, Tierney, Harden and the rest of the cast easily outshine him. On top of that, the story trots out more plot clichés as it progresses, especially in the little town, which seems to exist in a 1970s pre-Wal-Mart world where its hometown still exists, a common if appealing fantasy about rural life, plus enough "Northern Exposure" references to make you wonder whether this is Maine or Alaska.

see MOOSEPORT, page 11

MUSIC REVIEW

Changing Tunes: St. Louis music fans embrace Ima Robot



"Ima Robot was able to bridge the gap between 1970s glam rock, '80s pop and the modern sounds of Blur. The CD was such a strange mix; it begs to be listened to repeatedly."

BY LAURA HEPBURN
Music Critic

As I stood in line outside of

Mississippi Nights on March 2, I looked around at the fans who had gathered. Though we were all attending a concert featuring three bands, I

was surrounded by a sea of black t-shirts supporting the second opening band, Kill Hannah. I reflected on the interview I had just had with Alex

Ebert, the lead singer of Ima Robot. "Being the first of three bands, it's a little hard to perform in tepid conditions," he said. I began to worry if this

night would be a rerun of luke-warm reception.

I first became interested in Ima Robot upon hearing their debut album, self-titled and unique. Somehow, Ima Robot was able to bridge the gap between 1970s glam rock, '80s pop and the modern sounds of Blur. The CD was such a strange mix; it begs to be listened to repeatedly. Though I had discerned some of the influences from listening carefully, I was not prepared for Ebert to explain one of the main reasons he got involved with music: "I always liked rap when I was little."

It impressed me that one style of music could inspire someone to go out and form his very own style, rather than simply to imitate. Nothing about this band could be simple.

"I'll infuse anything as long as it excites me," Ebert said while explaining his limits, or lack thereof. "We're not comfortable playing it safe." This was evident to some degree already by the diversity of Ima Robot's album. However, no amount of listening to their CD could prepare one for experiencing this band in concert.

see IMA ROBOT, page 12

MOVIE REVIEW

'Twisted' is not much like its name

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

mid-to-top-range cast that also features Samuel L. Jackson and Andy Garcia under the direction of Philip Kaufman, whose previous efforts include "Quills," "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" and "The Right Stuff." The strong cast and top-notch director immediately raise expectations for the film, but "Twisted" is never as kinky as the title might lead you to expect.

The film starts out like a dark and atmospheric psycho-sexual thriller,

with cop Jessica Shepard (Judd) making a bust of a potential rapist, but with hints that her lure of kinky sex may have been as titillating to her as her potential attacker. The bust earns Shepard a promotion to detective but there are suspicions that her move up is linked to her status as protégé of her adoptive father, top police official John Mills (Jackson). Mills had taken Shepard in when her father, also a cop and Mills' partner, went on a rampage, killing her mother and then himself.

Shepard grew up to be a hard-working cop but harbors lingering worries that she may have inherited her father's killer tendencies. Shepard's chip-on-the-shoulder attitude does not help her gain acceptance in the all-male and hostile detective's division. Only her new partner Mike (Garcia) reaches out a friendly hand, although Shepard all but slaps it away.

It turns out that tightly-wound Shepard does have some kinky habits that come to the surface when she is

assigned to talk with a police therapist, Dr. Frank (David Strathairn), after being roughed up during her violent bust of the rapist. It seems that she has a taste for anonymous sex but when her ex-lovers start turning up dead and she starts experiencing blackouts, suspicion starts to point toward Shepard.

This film is actually more of a throwback to a 1940s big studio Hollywood mystery than a modern thriller. The look of the film is quite

stylish and atmospheric, which is not surprising when you note that its cinematographer, Peter Deming, also shot David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive" and Sam Raimi's "Evil Dead II."

After its dark and kinky start, the film morphs into an old-fashioned noir-ish mystery movie more akin to "Double Indemnity" than "Seven." It has twists and red herrings but develops much more linearly than you would expect. To the film's credit, it does not cheat the audience by solving the mystery with information unknowable by viewers or by gross violations of internal plot or character logic, as some films have done. It has some hints about rough sex and kinky elements but less than we expect given the film's opening sequence.

The presence of a couple of "name" stars keeps us from quickly solving the murder by looking at the cast. Still, it is hardly challenging stuff and all finally works out to a sweet ending that modern audiences expect to see for this genre. The structure of the story has hints of a poor man Hitchcock but without the same level of style.

The fact that the film is an old-fashioned thriller is likely to put off some filmgoers who prefer the modern style. It might appeal, however, to some older audiences whose tastes were formed by an earlier style. Either way, it is a moderately successful mystery but one that deviates so much from its opening tone that it is likely to leave some audience members feeling teased.

The film is a good but not great thriller. Given its cast, director and cinematographer, the most surprising thing about "Twisted" is that it is not a better film. Something just did not gel in this story to boost it out of the genre norm.



Photo courtesy Paramount

Camryn Manheim as Lisa, Ashley Judd as Jessica Shepard and Andy Garcia as Mike Delmarco in "Twisted."

MOOSEPORT, from page 10

Harden and Savage play almost stock characters as the ex-president's staff, although Harden manages to wring more appeal out of her devoted Grace Sutherland. Townie Rip Torn also adds a splash of comedy with his usual overblown efforts, as does Baranski with her relentless Charlotte Cole. However, as the film progresses, the plot becomes more trite and predictable and finally sputters to its conclusion as just another standard Hollywood romantic comedy.

Standard romantic comedy, reliable but not very remarkable, is the specialty of genre Hollywood direc-

tor Donald Petrie, who also brought us such middle-of-the-road fare as "Miss Congeniality" and "How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days." "Welcome to Mooseport" is not bad so much as tepid. There are not enough sparks between Tierney and Romano, and Romano lacks the kind of charm and on-screen appeal that Romano's Handy Harrison needed to overcome the conventional plot devices.

If you are a fan of the director's other films, or a fan of Romano, you may find this film more appealing than I did. Although I was unimpressed by Mr. Romano, Tierney was fine on the big screen, although her

character was not sufficiently different from her role on TV's "ER" to say much about her acting range. Still, she did not fade into the woodwork when paired with Hackman, which cannot be said for Romano. Hackman is always delightful and the egotistical but charming ex-Prez was especially well suited to him. If this comedy had been about his character or even a romance between the ex-Prez and Sally, "Welcome to Mooseport" would have been a more entertaining film. However, the filmmakers passed up this opportunity and gave us a pleasant but only moderately entertaining film.

BIKE, from page 10

And more, that downward wave is important in the subgroups in the motorcycle adventure, but they work pretty much as one might imagine. Thundering Harleys might nod at you if they are friendly. Sport bikes wave at sport bikes. However, the best riders out there are on touring bikes. They will wave you a greeting regardless of what sort of motorcycle you pilot.

Whether you are cruising on an H-D, carving up twisty wooded lanes in a rocket Aprilia, taking a friend on a road trip to Miami on a Goldwing or buzzing your commute in a scooter, owning and driving a motorcycle is about brotherhood and sisterhood. You become a member of a group of people who understand the bliss of charging into the wind on two wheels. That said,

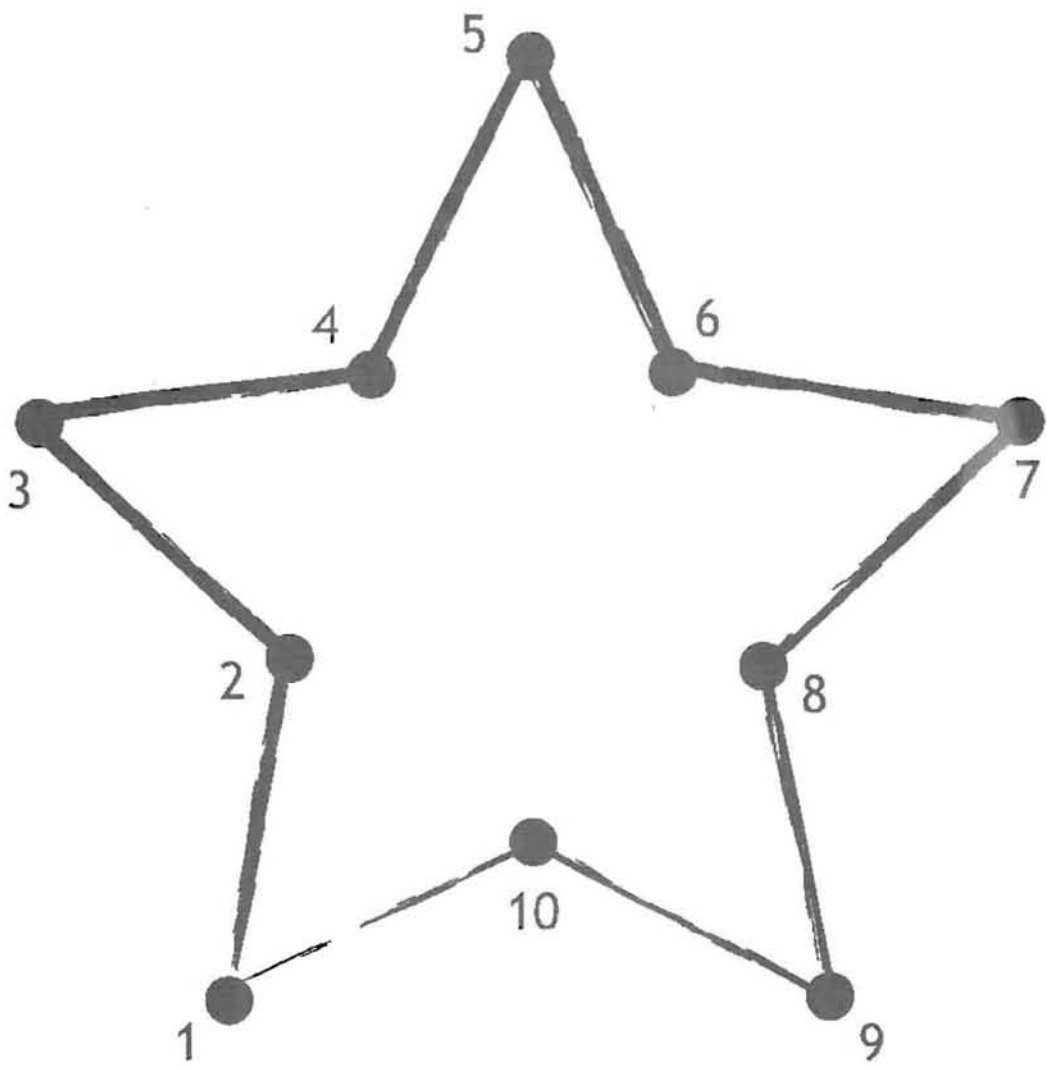
absolutely nothing beats finding a group of motorcycling friends for a ride.

For all the fun and camaraderie that motorcycles deliver, they also pack plenty of caution. Part of the reason that car-people do not understand the motorcyclists' connection is because car-people drive around in varying states of oblivion to the world outside their cars. Get anything short of a reflective neon-yellow motorcycle, and you become a target for 3,000-pound cars. And when cars hit motorcycles, the motorcyclists always lose.

That is not to say that cars are the only caution. Any salesperson for sport bikes will attest to the nearly prohibitively dangerous combination of ignorance and a 600cc sport bike capable of besting the most exotic sports cars.

Motorcycles just do not provide the berth for mistakes that cars do. Hit a pothole in a car and at worst, you blow a tire or damage the suspension. Hit a pothole on a bike and things get much more dramatic. With this in mind, remember that state-approved helmets are not only required by Missouri law, they also save lives.

Nevertheless, if you pay attention to safety and the people around you, motorcycles deliver on your investment: Buckets-o-fun. Insurance will likely fall into the shadow of your car insurance. And with gas prices expected to rise as summer nears, 75 mpg sounds pretty fine. I cannot imagine a better way to spend a sunny afternoon than on a motorcycle. Even, that is, if I was good at Frisbee.



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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND!

IMA ROBOT, from page 10

As Ima Robot entered the stage and began to play, polite Kill Hannah fans clapped a little and turned toward the band. Through the first two songs, the audience watched and apparently enjoyed it. The third song, "Alive," began to draw people in with its catchy melody and unique styling. "What Are We Made From" really turned the fans from passive bystanders to excited music fans. This song catapulted the audience into the next level of music appreciation.

It helped that Ima Robot were some of the best live performers I have ever seen. Ebert had amazing presence as he danced wildly around the stage. At one point, he grabbed a pair of sunglasses and strutted around stage in true rock-star form. In fact, unlike many performers, Ebert performed the entire show with the microphone in hand (rather than in a stand) so that he could be rambunc-

tious and crazy. The audience was crazed at this point - everyone was dancing and excited and cheering loudly between songs. Obviously feeling pleased and surprised by this turn of events, Ima Robot gave it their all with the guitarists and bassist rocking out.

Both bassist (Justin Meldal-Johnsen) and drummer (Joey Waronker) have experienced the true rock-star life by playing with such bands as Beck, Air, Tori Amos, REM and The Smashing Pumpkins. Having had the opportunity to continue a successful music career with posh touring buses and four-star hotels, they turned it down for true self-expression. Ima Robot appealed to their musical aspirations and it was all over. I believe this to be one of the most noble and courageous things I have seen from musicians. It all just adds to the incredibly unique band that is Ima

Robot.

At the end of their set, Ima Robot expressed their genuine gratitude at having such an appreciative audience. I was touched that the band had heartfelt things to say rather than just walk off the stage. I was equally proud that a St. Louis audience had finally given this band the kind of attention and applause they deserved.

As I left at the end of the night, I looked around me at the other showgoers. I noticed a pattern that put a huge smile of agreement and satisfaction on my face. All around me were fans in Kill Hannah t-shirts carrying their very own copies of Ima Robot's CD. Not only do I encourage everyone to pick up this album, but also I desperately hope that St. Louis made a big enough impression on Ima Robot that they will return. This was a concert to remember and an experience to pursue if ever you have a chance.

ACADEMY, from page 1

The program this year will include a trip to Jefferson City and a mock debate on a piece of legislature.

"I particularly enjoyed our field trip to the Missouri Legislature," Cole said.

Stock said that another benefit of taking part in the leadership institute is the contacts one can make there. As an example, she named Allison Bruns, a Shear Fellow, who is now working in the governor's office.

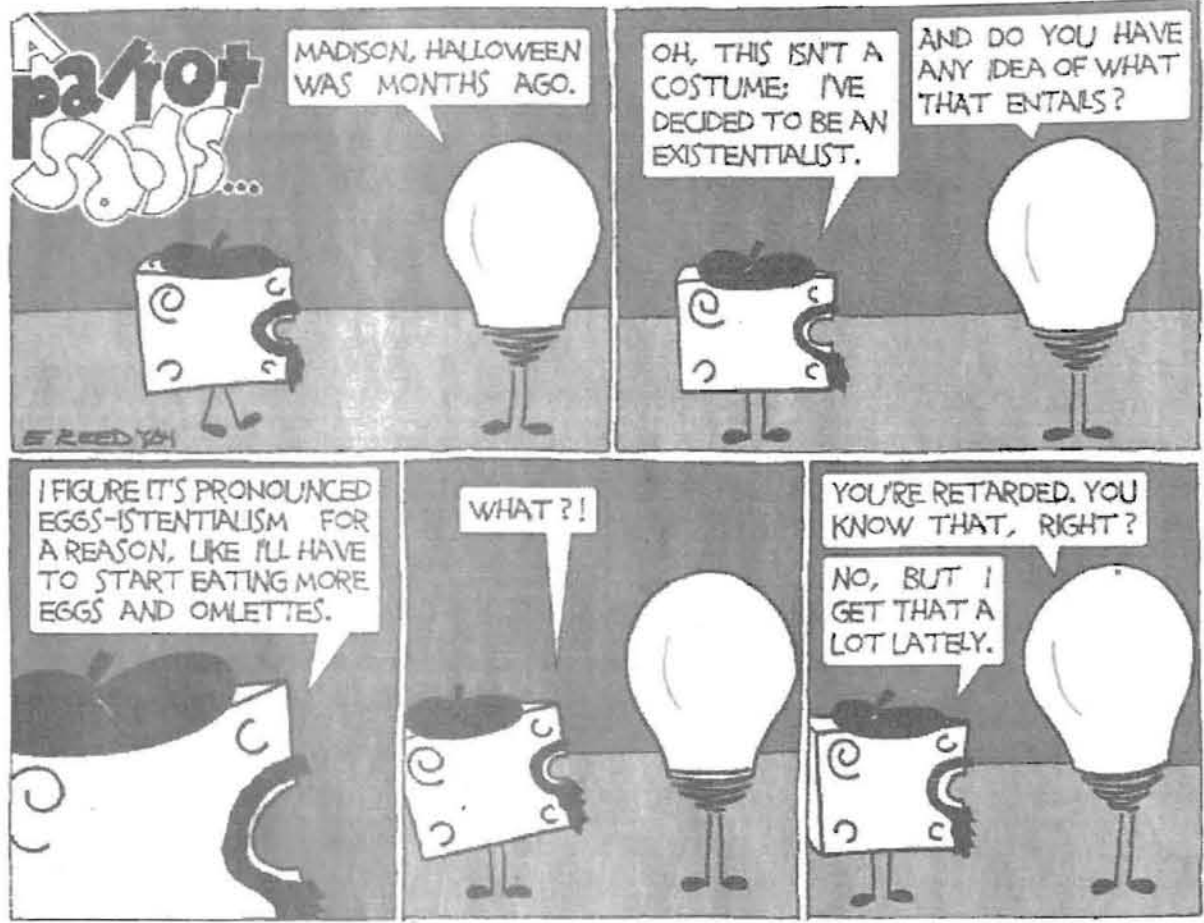
"You make good contacts and life-long friends in addition to contacts for internships and jobs," Stock said.

The 21st Century Leadership Academy will bring together women from nine participating universities, four from each campus.

"I don't want anyone to feel they are not qualified. It is about having an interest in the world around you, not about being an expert in politics," Stock said.

When Stock and Ross were asked if they had taken part in the leadership academy when they were students, both said that they wished they could have, but that the program did not exist then. This will mark the eighth year of the academy.

"This is a very unique program with a practical, hands-on opportunity to learn from women leaders and to get to know them in an informal setting," Ross said.



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Seeking Roommate

Roommate needed to share 3BR house, one mile west of UMSL. Washer, Dryer, Dishwasher, Deck, Fireplace, Finished Basement. \$250/month + deposit. No pets. 314-426-7471, ask for Amy.

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Exceptional room for rent in Ferguson. Minutes from University, quiet neighborhood, spacious beautiful home. Cable TV, utilities, washer/dryer, phone, security system, furnishings, fireplace, nice yard, and much more all included in monthly rent. Contact: Jill 314-521-5307 or riggsj@umsl.edu

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Two units, one bedroom each. Both recently remodeled. Very close to UMSL and the airport. Students welcome. Private street w/ yard, separate driveways. Other properties in St. Louis available. Call Patrick 544-1711.

Housing

Apartment for Rent

Needed: Female roommate to share a 3BR/2BA duplex in U City. Spacious, beautiful hardwood floors, and two fun roommate who keep clean but can still kick it! \$250/month + utilities. Call 314-229-6553 and ask for Mary Beth.

Room for Rent!

\$295 + utilities. 64xxx Arsenal, just of I-44. Spacious, two large closets, hardwood floor, nice yard and patio area, modern kitchen, off-street garage parking. Students or young professionals preferred. Call (314) 646-1905

Apartment for Rent!

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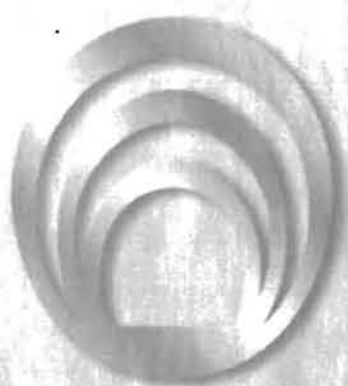
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PAULA POUNDSTONE

Friday, March 19, 8 p.m.

One of today's most popular stand-up comedienne, Paula Poundstone's humor knows no bounds. Whether she's talking politics or Pop Tarts, her off-kilter worldview makes her one of the foremost topical humorists working today.

SAINT LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, March 20, 8 p.m.

The campus-wide celebration of Chancellor Thomas F. George's inauguration includes a celebratory concert by the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. As part of the celebration, each University of Missouri-St. Louis student, faculty and staff member may receive two free tickets to the concert. On the program are Mozart's "Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 173dB," Hartmann's "Concerto Funebre," and Tchaikovsky's "Suite from Swan Lake, Op. 20a."

KRONOS QUARTET

Welcomed by KFUE-FM/Classic99

Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

With David Harrington and John Sherba on violin, Hank Dutt on viola and Jennifer Culp on cello, the Kronos Quartet has been expanding the minds of musical risk-takers for over 30 years, combining classically associated instrumentation with the cutting-edge sounds of commissioned works.

And coming this spring...

- Fosse, March 25
- Paragon Ragtime Orchestra/
"The Clown Princes," April 3
- Teatro Lirico d'Europa/"Rigoletto," April 4

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