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Get ready for the holidays

A soldier speaks: Interview with David Dodd

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

Staff Sgt. David Dodd looks like what you would expect a Marine to look like. He's tall, broad-shouldered and stoic. Some people find his demeanor imposing. Those who know him see a different person.

This junior in International Business has studied art history in Vienna, served as a parliamentarian and assembly chair of the Student Government Association, been president of the Speech and Debate Club and attends Pierre Laclede Honors College. He plans on finishing his degree at UM-St. Louis before pursuing an MBA and hopes one day to own his own business in the spirit of entrepreneurialism.



David Dodd
Marine Staff Sgt. and UMSL student, recently returned from Iraq

However, Dodd's course was temporarily sidetracked in January 2004 when his unit was activated. After spending four weeks in California preparing for duty he was flown to Kuwait. On March 6 they began the drive into Iraq. Dodd wound up stationed in Taqadiah, a few miles outside of Fallujah.

He ran the gates, ensuring the safety of everyone and everything getting in or out of the base. Now, after months of service, Dodd has returned home.

Q: This war has faced serious criticism at home. As someone who has served in Iraq do you think this war was necessary?

A: That's a big question. I'm not a politician. I'm a Marine so I can't say that I saw all the facts. I can see a lot of reasons why what we did was good. I also know there are a lot of reasons out there that people would say would make the war unnecessary, so I don't really know. Thankfully, I don't have to make that kind of a decision.

Q: The draft has become another area of concern. Many people are suggesting that in order to meet the demands of Iraq, the government will have to reinstate the draft. Do you see this happening?

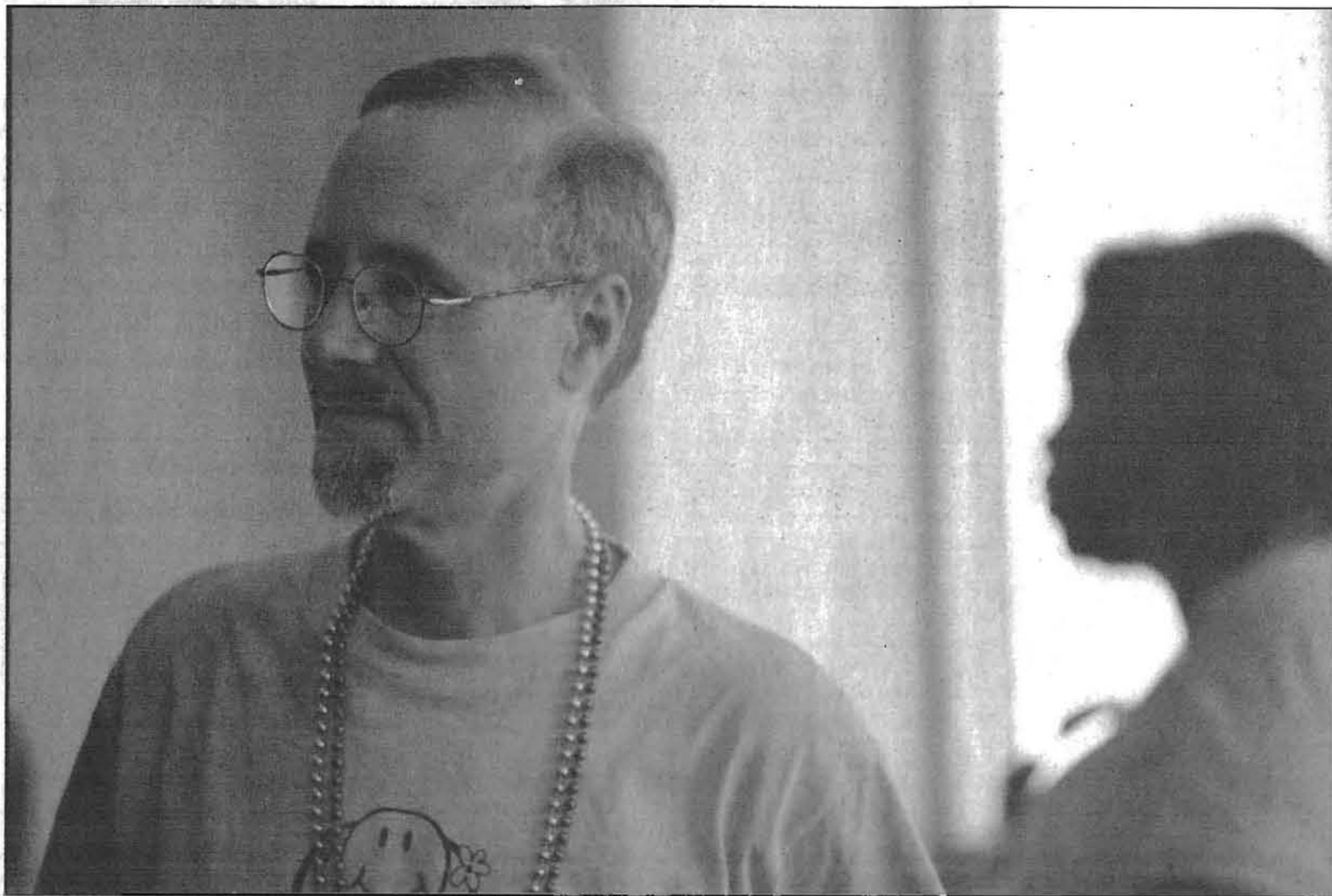
A: I don't see it happening for two reasons. First, I think that the military and the government realizes that the draft is not a good thing. It's worked in the past, especially in times of great national emergency like World War II. It did work well in other times, but right now we have a professional military. Everybody who signed up agreed to sign up for one reason or another. There may be people out there who signed up just for college, but it's good to have people motivated for their own personal reasons, even if it's only for two years or however long they enlisted for.

see SOLDIER RETURNS, page 3

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CHANCELLOR GEORGE'S FIRST YEAR AT UMSL



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Decked in a pink Residential Life t-shirt and beaded necklaces, then newly-arrived Chancellor Thomas George watches the festivities at a welcome back picnic in August 2003. George came to UM-St. Louis from his former post as chancellor of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Pointe.

Freshman year at UMSL ■ Goode, the bad and the underfunded

BY KATE SHAW
Staff Writer

Though he has been at his post for over a year, many students here say they do not know much about Thomas F. George, UM-St. Louis' seventh chancellor.

"I wouldn't know him if I saw him," said Brian Kennedy, senior, history. "Is he the one from Wisconsin? The one who's allergic to calling snow days?"

UM-St. Louis students can be notoriously pragmatic. But many also care about the same thing that George does: increasing the value of this University without wrecking its affordability.

Contention over equity adjustment has existed long enough for it to gain a new rhetoric called a "funding gap." It amounts to the state-wide acknowledgment that in terms of relative compensation, St. Louis gets the short end of the stick in the University of Missouri's four-branch system.

Though an old issue, it has become a more urgent one with overall drops in state appropriation for higher education spiraling into the hundreds of millions. In his first State of the University address last September, George praised many UM-St. Louis programs and advancements but also recognized "some weakening because of budget cuts." Despite being on the job for only two weeks, he vowed to



Mike Sherwin/The Current

It is not uncommon to find Chancellor George seated at a piano, playing jazz for guests at university functions or out on the town.

help work out a process to get more equitable funding.

Seven months later, on May 27, the UM System Board of Curators approved a \$2.7 million equity funding adjustment, which the legislature earmarked for UM-St. Louis.

George said that this success is just "the most critical first step" in a series of phases for more adjustment funding. Working with the Budget and Planning Committee, he put \$1 million of the funds into student scholarships earlier this year.

When asked how a fifteen-year old situation became somewhat resolved

after just seven months, George credited "a direct and civil approach" that he said incorporated intricate factors ranging from the support and recognition of UM President Elson Floyd and the curators, to the "tenacity and finesse" of Wayne Goode's efforts in the House.

"George's most direct link [to obtaining the funds] was his arrival," said Tom Kernan, senior, music, at UM-Kansas City and chair of the Intercampus Student Council. He said that George has a progressive vision that many in the region and the Legislature find exciting, including Goode and Floyd.

Thomas F. George

- Born 1947, Philadelphia
- PhD, theoretical chemistry, Yale, 1970
- Full professor of chemistry at U. of Rochester at age 29
- Dean of Nat. Sciences and Math at SUNY - Buffalo, 1986
- Provost, academic v.p. of Washington State U., 1991
- Chancellor of Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1996
- UMSL Chancellor, Sept. 2003

Kernan said that Floyd is a visionary as well.

"UMSL may have 25 percent of overall student enrollment, but equity compensation is based on the quality of programs at each campus," he said. "Floyd supported St. Louis on the basis of George's plan of action and strategies. George says, 'if I have these dollars, here's where we can go.'"

Kernan also said that "putting that money into scholarships is very bold." He said that as ICS chair, he is in touch with all the UM campuses and that what students want is more scholarship money.

"It's bold because he can say, 'I know we need more faculty, more libraries, more parking,' but of all the things to consider, he chose the students," said Kernan.

see GEORGE, page 7

PPRC shares findings of Old N. St. Louis project

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Staff Writer

While Old North St. Louis is home to Crown Candy Kitchen, it is also a famous historical district that has fallen on hard times. The neighborhood has experienced a severe decline in population and businesses, as well as high rates of asthma and lead poisoning.

Over the past three years, the Public Policy Research Center at UM-St. Louis has tried to improve this neighborhood through a partnership with Old North St. Louis.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, the PPRC shared their accomplishments, benefits and lessons learned in a session called "Community Outreach Program: What We Learned." The event, which was part of the Lunch and Learn series, took place in 427 Social Sciences and Business Building at noon.

In October 2001, UM-St. Louis

received a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For three years, the PPRC, Pierre Laclède Honors College and certain sociology, anthropology and nursing classes at UM-St. Louis helped renovate the Old North St. Louis neighborhood.

Kay Gasen, director of community and neighborhood development at the PPRC, spoke to faculty and students.

"The grant was designed to focus on urban problems like affordable housing, crime and historic preservation," she said. The grant required an authentic partnership, student involvement, matching commitments and a plan to sustain efforts in the neighborhood and work in the University.

Gasen said, "This project encourages universities to develop a partnership with a specific neighborhood and involve faculty, staff and students working with that neighborhood."

The Old North St. Louis Partnership benefited both the neighborhood and the University. The neighborhood received access to people power, new ideas and programs, plus partners and funds. UM-St. Louis benefited through hands-on involvement and new research opportunities.

UM-St. Louis chose Old North St. Louis because as Gasen said, "the needier the neighborhood, the better." However, they also chose Old North because they had a history with them. "We had a prior working relationship with this neighborhood," Gasen said.

She said the four priorities in the project were historic preservation, environmental health and safety, home maintenance and financial literacy and community organization and leadership.

While UM-St. Louis thought problems with asthma and lead poisoning were the neighborhood's top priorities, residents were worried

more about vacant lots.

"I think the neighborhood really did drive the project," Gasen said. "It was important to make sure residents had a say."

Gasen ended her speech with lessons and observations from the project. She described the basic differences in culture and priorities between the University and the community. She also said the ability to keep the changes implemented and the time to build relationships and produce outcomes were necessary. Gasen also believes the new tools developed in this project can be used in other neighborhoods.

Tim Baumann, anthropology professor at UM-St. Louis, was involved in the project and thought student involvement was the most important lesson learned.

"Students can interact with people in the neighborhood and break down the stereotypes," he said.

see PPRC, page 3

Death penalty debate pits professor against prosecutor

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Staff Writer

Larry White, criminology and criminal justice professor, spent this semester studying the death penalty with his senior seminar class. On Tuesday, Nov. 23, White invited three panelists to expose his students to the issue of the death penalty.

He said, "This panel discussion presented opposing view points so the students can see where they stand." White said students came into his class with an opinion and then changed their opinion after looking closer at the death penalty.

The panel discussion included three panelists. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch argued in favor of the death penalty. Margaret Phillips, criminology and criminal justice and foreign languages professor, and Sister Mary Pat White, from the order of Religious of the Sacred Heart, argued against the death penalty. Phillips and White were given ten minutes each and McCulloch was given twenty minutes.

Phillips approached the controversy from a utilitarian perspective. She said utilitarians have four goals, which include stopping murders, lowering government costs, helping victims and being fair.

"Executing innocent people is wrong. Whatever our definition of right or wrong, it's certainly unfair." She emphasized the need for suggestions to increase the likelihood of fairness or decrease errors.

Phillips said the death penalty is arbitrary across states and discretion occurs among prosecutors. Phillips also briefly discussed executing juveniles and said the United States has not signed an international agreement for children's rights.

"The U.S. clearly doesn't want to quit killing juveniles," she said. She hopes Missouri residents will work towards creating a moratorium in the future.

Sister White spoke from a Catholic viewpoint and opposes the death penalty on moral, ethical and spiritual grounds.

She said, "We respect life from the womb to the tomb. No one has the right to terminate a life regardless of how unstable that life may be."

White strongly believes in redemption and said, "the death penalty seals the spiritual fate and cannot be compassionate." She even showed that other religions oppose the death penalty and said the United States stands alone among western countries supporting the death penalty.

McCulloch argued from a legal standpoint and believes the death penalty is an appropriate form of punishment. His opponent's statements surprised him because most opponents support extremely limited use of the death penalty.

"This is the first time anybody on the other side stood up and said, 'I am absolutely, unequivocally, adamantly opposed to the death penalty under any circumstances,'" he said.

While he agrees executing innocent people is unacceptable, he said no innocents have been executed in this country since 1977. McCulloch also disagreed with statistics that show the death penalty is racist.

"If you compare the wrong numbers, you can justify your position," he said. He said the system is more sexist than racist since 99 percent of death row prisoners are male.

see DEATH PENALTY, page 3

Bulletin Board

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

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

Mon. Nov. 29 Monday Noon Series

Ted Heisel, executive director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment in St. Louis, will present "Who Owns the Earth? Natural Resources and Public Rights" at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Heisel will address concerns about protecting our natural resources. Call 516-5699 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh> for more information.

Mon. Nov. 29 Chemistry & Biochemistry Speaker

James K. Coward, professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Michigan, will discuss "The Design of Potent Inhibitors of ATP-Dependent Ligases: Synthetic and Biochemical Investigations of Organophosphorous Mimics of Tetrahedral Intermediates" at 4 p.m. in 451 Benton Hall. Coffee will be served at 3:45 p.m. Call 516-5311 for more information.

Mon. Nov. 29 Test and Performance Anxiety Workshop

A Test Anxiety Workshop will be held in 126 MSC, Counseling Services from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. A little anxiety can help you study but too much can hinder your performance. Our Test Anxiety workshop can provide strategies for getting back on track and managing that anxiety. For more Info contact Lori Tagger at 516-5711.

Tues. Nov. 30 Dance Auditions

Auditions for the UM-St. Louis Dance Repertory will be held at 3:00p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall of the Touhill. All UM-St. Louis students are welcome to audition. Dancers do not need to prepare anything in advance - just come ready to dance in dance attire. A short combination will be taught. For more information, please contact Alicia Okouchi-Guy 516-4852 or email her at alicia@umsl.edu.

Tue. Nov. 30 Biology Lecture

Jason Pither, post doctoral research associate at the University of Arizona, will discuss "Evolutionary and Ecological Mechanisms Underlie a Large-Scale Richness-Environment Relationship" at 4 p.m. in 120 Research Building. Call 516-6200 for more information.

Wed. Dec. 1 Intensive Spanish

Intensive Spanish offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Spanish language and culture while completing 15 hours of course work in one semester. Students will learn basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills at an accelerated pace. In order to be approved for registration in Intensive Spanish 2115, students must pass a general aptitude test only once per year. To register for the aptitude test, visit our website at www.umsl.edu/divisions/artsciences/foiranglit, or call the Foreign Languages and Literatures office at 516-6240. One must register in order to take the test.

Wed. Dec. 1 Tree Lighting Ceremony

The 10th annual UMSL Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Alumni Circle at the main entrance to the North Campus. The event will feature carolers and refreshments. It is sponsored by Administrative Services. Call 6100 for more information.

Thurs. Dec. 2 National Teleconference Focuses on First-year Experience

"Shaping the Future: Aspiration, Assessment, Action!" will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. in 210 South Campus Classroom Building. The campus community is invited to learn about the Foundations of Excellence Project, which offers a model to guide institutions to weave first-year experience programs into coherent and coordinated efforts. The model can aid institutions in measuring and evaluating their achievements. Call 516-5372 for more information.

Fri. Dec. 3 Fall Faculty Colloquium

"Preparing for Tenure and Promotion: A Perpetual Preoccupation," a faculty colloquium, will be conducted from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in 316 Millennium Student Center. A panel of faculty colleagues who have served on tenure and promotion committees and who have recently undergone review will discuss the import of preparing throughout the tenure-track years to achieve academic success. Refreshments will be served. The seminar is part of the Fall Faculty Colloquium Series, and sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the Center for Teaching and Learning. To register, go to <http://www.umsl.edu/ctf>. Call 516-5308 for more information.

Ongoing Newman Center

The Catholic Newman Center will hold mass every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 12:05 and Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. in the Bellerive residence hall chapel. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Newman Center at 314-385-3455.

Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between November 21, 2004 and November 27, 2004. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police as a public service to promote awareness provides this information. Remember-crime prevention is a community effort!

November 15 - Property Damage-Rear Parking Lot of General Services Building
A window was broken out of an UMSL Owned van used by the Mail Services Department.

November 15 -Towed Vehicle-A vehicle was towed from Parking Lot Z next to Seton Hall.
The vehicle had been abandoned on the parking lot by a former resident.

November 18 - Property Damage-Parking Lot E
A victim reported that someone had damaged her vehicle by scratching the paint while parked on the parking lot between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

November 20 - Burglary 2nd Degree/Stealing Under \$500.00-104 Bellerive Residence Hall
A Victim reported that someone entered his apart-

ment and stole his video game system and accessories.

November 20 - Stealing Under \$500.00-Millennium Garage North
A Victim reported license plate tabs were stolen from a vehicle while parked in the Garage

November 22 - Stealing Under \$500.00-West Drive Garage South
A victim reported that sometime in the last few months the license plate

renewal tabs were stolen from a parked vehicle.

November 24 - Stealing Under \$500.00-301 Woods Hall

An employee discovered two files were apparently stolen from an office. An ex-student was in the office to get a copy of a disciplinary letter, while the employee was making a copy the suspected student allegedly stole her files and left before the theft was discovered.

Wanted: Someone with strong personal drive, an ear for news,

NEWS EDITOR

and a pencil.

#



Corrections

The issue 1136 story about St. Louis Steamers cheerleader Kelley Alred was written by Ashley Richmond, not Melissa McCrary.

The issue 1136 story about recycling did not jump to the specified location. The full version can be read on the web.

GOT A GREAT STORY IDEA?

Call The Current at 516-5174

JULIA ROBERTS
JUDE LAW
NATALIE PORTMAN
CLIVE OWEN

CLOSER

If you believe in love at first sight, you never stop looking.

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COLUMBIA PICTURES **The Current**

Invite you and a guest to a special screening. Stop by The Current offices at 388 Millennium Student Center to pick up a complimentary screening pass for two to see

CLOSER

7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 2nd

AMC West Olive
12657 Olive St.
St. Louis, MO 63141

No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are ineligible. This film is rated R for sequences of graphic sexual dialogue, nudity/sexuality and language.

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

ASUM

2 Board seats open for election at the SGA meeting on December 3rd.

Positions are unpaid and some travel is required.

Call 516-5835 for more information

JOIN THE PEACE CORPS.

come to an info meeting:
SAT., NOV. 13, NOON TO 1:30
WASH. UNIV., UMRATH HALL, CAREER CTR.

Students face possible new fee for newspaper program

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

The Student Government Assembly will convene for their last meeting of the fall academic semester on Dec. 3. Among other items of business, the assembly will discuss the USA Today sponsored Collegiate Readership Program.

Kathleen O'Brien, circulation account manager with the USA Today, came to the SGA earlier in the semester to pitch the idea.

The program, which is intended to stimulate readership and a greater awareness of the world around the campus, would allow students to get discounted newspapers on campus. The cost of the program would be equally distributed among every registered student and is based on consumption.

For example, if students took 400 papers a day it would total \$140 a day based on a 35 cent price. At 150 school days that would total \$21,000. That price would be divided among the entire student body in the form of a fee.

The newspapers would be available at receptacles located around campus costing nothing at the site of

pick-up. However, a student would have to swipe their student ID card to get a paper in order to ensure that students are the ones getting the papers.

Only those papers which are taken will count towards cost. If the campus receives 400 papers a day, but only 275 are removed from the receptacle, the charge would be for 275 papers.

"Every paper that's taken and not back in the receptacle at the end of the day when they pick up the papers is charged to the students," SGA President Scott Bopp said.

Students can choose two to four participating papers, such as The New York Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and USA Today. The papers do not have to come daily, and the assembly would choose how many receptacles there would be.

"It depends on how you want to set it up," Bopp said. "We could say that we want the papers only on Mondays and Tuesdays. We could say Monday through Thursday only, since Friday is a slow day."

There is also a pilot program available that would allow the campus to try the program out for free and gauge its potential for success.

"A lot of information about what we'd choose would be provided by

the pilot program," SGA Vice-President Mindy McNabb said. "We would be able to see how it goes on campus, such as how many papers are picked up on Fridays."

The UM campuses of Rolla and Columbia already have the program on campus.

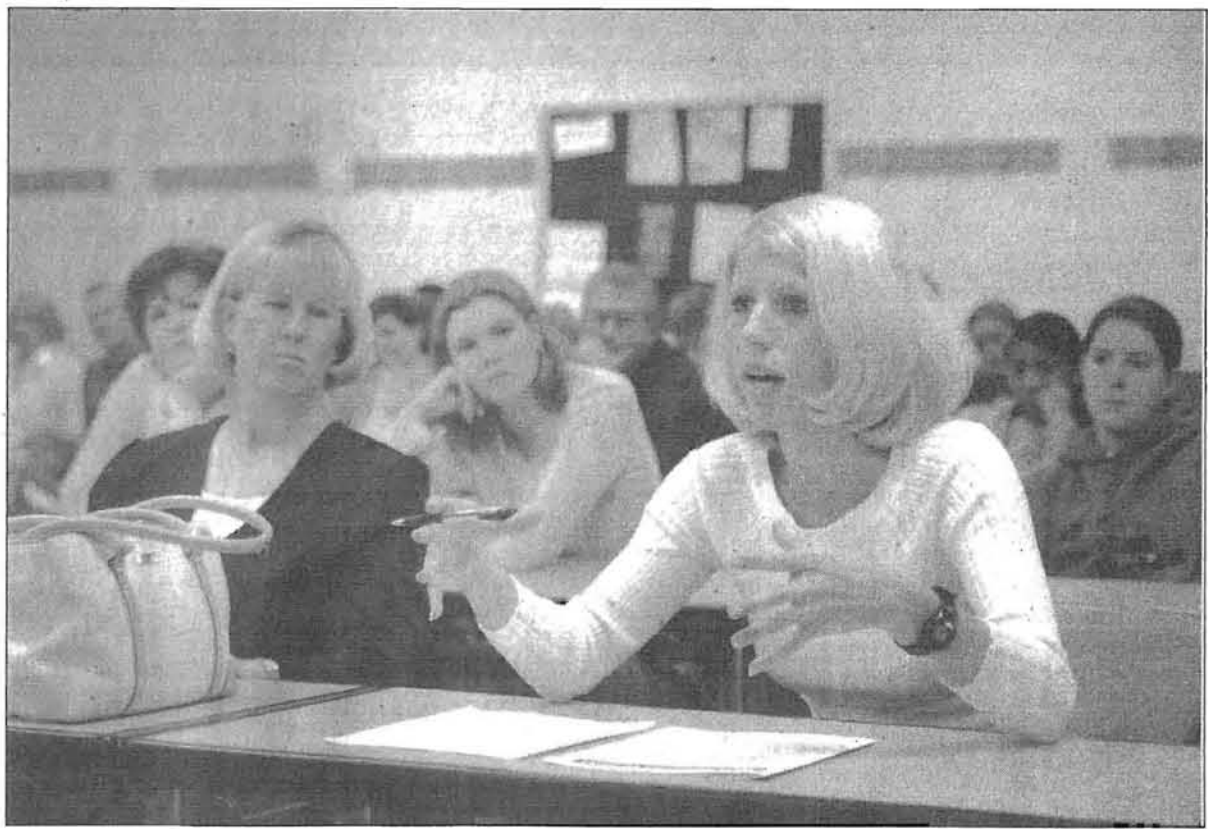
On a recent trip to UM-Columbia, Bopp decided to take a look at the receptacles. He discovered that his UM-St. Louis ID worked on both of their receptacles.

"I tried a series of other cards with magnetic strips but only my student ID worked," Bopp said. "It's possible that all UM-System student ID cards work on the same basic code and that's what it responded to, but I don't know."

Typically, the receptacles used during the pilot program are different from the ones used in the actual program and do not come equipped with the ID access unit, which some students think might affect the accuracy of the statistics gathered during the pilot. However, there are units available with an access unit, but these respond to any card with a magnetic strip.

The pilot program is what the assembly will decide on at the coming meeting.

DEATH PENALTY, from page 1



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Michelle Cartier, sophomore, criminal justice, asks a question to panel participants in a discussion about the death penalty. The panel included Dr. Margaret Phillips, senior lecturer, criminology and criminal justice, Sister Mary Pat White, both opposed to the death penalty, and Robert McCulloch, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, in favor of the death penalty.

When asked why he supports the death penalty, McCulloch responded by showing graphic images of the murder case of Richard Strong, who killed his girlfriend and her 2-year-old daughter.

After all panelists finished speaking, students, like Devon Jones, senior, CCI, asked them questions. Jones said she

saw no good reason to support the death penalty.

"I was pleased with the anti-death penalty panelists, but I feel they weren't given enough time to develop their argument," Jones said. "I also disliked the pro-death penalty panelist's choice of using images to play on people's

emotions." Professor White ended the discussion by asking the panelists what would happen to the death penalty in this country in the future. McCulloch said, "It's certainly not going away. It will remain with us. It's not an issue that will probably be resolved."

PPRC, from page 1

"This project also encouraged people to be more service oriented in their careers."

Baumann liked being a part of the partnership with Old North St. Louis. "I was very happy to have Kay ask me to be involved. I want

to have an impact in the community because I'm part of the community," he said.

Mary Rocchio, a member of the UM Extension Program, was impressed by the project.

"It was really incredible how

they brought together all entities and made different connections with the people and businesses," she said.

Although the grant ended in October 2004, the Old North Partnership relations will continue.

SOLDIER RETURNS, from page 1

I don't really think that the numbers they're talking about needing will require a draft. Even if we do need to increase the divisions that were talked about during the campaigns that's something that can happen, I think, by normal recruiting.

Q: Is it possible that you may be called back to service and if you are asked to return to Iraq what do you anticipate your reaction being?

A: It's possible. In the way things work, my unit is one of nine identical units in the Marine Reserves. We were one of the last ones to get activated with the ones that were activated for Afghanistan and the ones that were activated for the first phase of Iraqi Freedom. We were the eighth

battalion; for us to get activated again we'd have to go through the ninth and then the first through seventh before coming back to us. That would be a couple of years down the road. I don't think, and no one really thinks, that we're going to stay as busy as we are now for the next several years.

Q: While you were in Iraq what did you miss most about home, and now that you're back have you had any difficulties readjusting?

A: The people in my life that I was used to. As far as adjusting, no. I went over there expecting things to be a lot more Spartan than they were. We were taken care of really well. I've been to situations like that

before and this was actually set up a lot better. We watched TV while we ate. We passed the ketchup at the table. We slept in beds in a nice little air-conditioned tent. It was much better accommodated than Somalia and the other places I've been.

Q: What's next for David Dodd; are you planning on resuming your classes at UM-St. Louis and is there any truth to the rumor that you plan on running for SGA president?

A: I will definitely be in classes in January. I don't want to be presumptuous and say that I will be filling any role. I am looking at how I want to fit in to student government in the future and how I can help the students at UMSL.

NEWS BRIEFS

UMSL receives \$3.2 million federal grant

The College of Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in partnership with UM-St. Louis' College of Arts and Sciences and the St. Louis Public Schools, has received a \$3.2 million, three-year grant designed to strengthen the University's partnership with the school district.

The Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant is through the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant supports UM-St. Louis' field-based teacher preparation programs, including a new year-long internship and student teaching sequence designed to provide college students with extensive classroom experience. The sequence requires undergraduates to complete an internship before student teaching.

The grant will enable UM-St. Louis to develop "communities of practice" within the SLPS. Through these arrangements, teacher candidates will receive support from a network of UM-St. Louis faculty and SLPS teachers and administrators, as opposed to having a single mentor or supervisor.

In addition, UM-St. Louis students and faculty will work with SLPS administrators and teachers to meet school and district goals.

Charles Schmitz, dean of education, was quoted in a press release, saying, "As the largest supplier of new teachers in Missouri, UMSL prepares quality teachers for the schools where they are needed most," he said.

Principal investigators for the grant are UM-St. Louis education faculty Jane Fleming, Carl Hoagland, Allison Hoewisch, Susan Catapano, Kim Song and Charles Granger.

Visit <http://coe.umsu.edu> for more information about the College of Education at UM-St. Louis.

Rep. Esther Haywood named "Legislator of the Year"

Esther Haywood, Democratic Missouri state representative of the

71st district, was named "Legislator of the Year" on Oct. 15 for her work in Youth Services and Education.

Haywood's district includes UM-St. Louis.

In a press release, Missouri House Minority Floor Leader Bill Ransdall is quoted as saying, "Rep. Haywood has done outstanding work here at the Capitol for our young people...She is working to make sure that we keep youth services and education a priority in Missouri."

Mizzou basketball arena renamed after cheating allegations

The University of Missouri Board of Curators met on Friday, Nov. 26 to discuss the naming of the newly constructed basketball arena for the UM-Columbia campus. On Nov. 24, UM-President Elson Floyd and UM-Columbia Chancellor Brady Deaton announced that billionaires Bill and Nancy Laurie, who had donated \$25 million to help build the arena, had transferred the naming rights back to the University.

Mizzou supporters were initially upset when they learned the couple was planning on naming the arena after their daughter, Elizabeth Paige Laurie, who attended the University of Southern California.

Recently, Elena Martinez, who was Laurie's roommates during her freshman year at USC, told "20/20" that Laurie had paid her thousands of dollars to complete various assignments for Laurie.

The Laurie family stated that their daughter's academic record is a private matter. There was no word on exactly why the naming rights had been transferred back to the University. However, Floyd did thank the family for their generous support.

The Board of Curators chose to name the new facility "Mizzou Arena."

UM President declines raise offered by Board of Curators

The curators, in a closed-meeting on Nov. 19, decided to raise President Floyd's salary by 3 percent. However, on Nov. 24 Floyd announced that he will not accept the raise. He offered the Board words of consideration for their gesture, but cited the fiscal restraints that the University has been under as the reason for his declination.

Floyd also recommended that academic fees should not be increased by more than 3.5 percent for the next academic year. He said that the system needs to do all they can in order to keep fees as low as possible in order to allow families and students to succeed.

UMSL criminologist named Curators' Professor

Richard Wright, of Webster Groves, Mo., has been named a Curators' Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UM-St. Louis.

On Thursday, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators

voted unanimously in favor of the designation, which is given to faculty who exhibit outstanding scholarly achievements and establish reputations in their fields of study. The title is the highest honor a

professor can receive within the UM System.

Wright, who joined the UM-St. Louis faculty in 1984, has written four books, 37 journal articles and 10 book chapters. He is known for his innovative and path-breaking research methodology, involving in-depth interviews with active burglars, robbers, drug dealers and carjackers.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in social ecology from the University of California in Irvine and a doctoral degree in criminology from the University of Cambridge in England.



Wright

Visit The Current online at:

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University of Missouri-St. Louis

DR.
Martin Luther
KING Jr.



Essay Contest

Theme: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Are we deferring the dream?

Qualifications for Contestants

1. Contestant must be an enrolled UMSL student for fall 2004 and winter 2005 semesters.
2. Previous essay contest winners are not eligible.
3. Winners must be present on January 17, 2005 at the MLK Holiday Celebration to receive cash award.
4. Contestant must compose an original essay.

Essay Rules

1. Essay must speak to the theme: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr....Are we deferring the dream?
2. Essay must contain at least 300 words but no more than 500 words and will be judged on content and writing ability.
3. Deadline for submission is December 9, 2004.
4. Include name, address, telephone number and e-mail address with the essay submission.
5. Submit essay by electronic submission in Microsoft Word format to BurrissD@umsu.edu

Winners will be presented with their cash awards on Monday, January 17, 2005 at the annual MLK Holiday Observance.

First, second and third place winners could receive \$500, \$300, or \$200 based upon quality of essay.

For any additional help, the writing lab (409 SSB) is available to review your essay. Please contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5261 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 516-5695 for more information.

OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

You vs. finals: How to win the upcoming battle



We are still recovering from that Thanksgiving binge when we ate roughly our own weight in sweet potato pie, and the after-turkey sleepiness still clouds our brains. With nearly a week off, students may find returning to the books challenging. Now more than ever, though, is the time to kick your brain into gear to succeed in finals before the winter break.

Resuming classes means returning to homework and finishing up end of the semester priorities. Though several teachers assigned work in an attempt to keep our brains working over Thanksgiving, many students probably finished it before the mini-break, or they scribbled feverishly into Sunday night.

With only about a week of classes left, a large portion of students are beginning to feel the burn as they dread what is lurking right around the corner and long for the upcoming winter break. Feelings of exhaustion, loss of attention span, difficulty finding motivation and the endless sea of teacher evaluation forms are a few of the indications that it is that time of the year again. Before you give up on the trigonometry study guide and make cookies instead, think about how you will feel on test day.

While sleeping in, relaxing, spending time with friends and family, watching movies on snowy days and forgetting about the last four months of lectures seems much more enjoyable, preparing for exams and staying focused for the last crucial days is a must.

Anxiety often sets in about now for many students, as finals seem so much closer now that Thanksgiving is over. The majority of exams count for over 20 percent of the final grade, meaning that a final basically determines what final grade people will receive. Nevertheless, if students stay positive and study with confidence, they can battle the stress of finals.

Eating healthy during finals is just a start in preparing for these treacherous exams. With busy schedules, last minute projects and non-stop studying, fast and junk food might seem like an easy option, but in the long run these meals-on-the-go can have negative results.

Drink plenty of water to avoid the fatiguing effects of dehydration. Adding more fruits, vegetables and healthy carbohydrates to your diet will give you

more energy to stay focused during the marathon study sessions. Sugary snacks and caffeine provide an instant energy boost when blood sugar spikes, but when the sugar level drops dramatically, the body slides into feeling exhausted. Avoid processed carbohydrates high in sugar; choose whole-wheat alternatives instead. Make sure to get an ample serving of protein as well. There is no need to go and buy shopping carts full of diet food, vitamins and supplements. Just balance your diet and be conscious of what you eat.

Time management can also help students overcome the stress of finals. Do not procrastinate. Even though the syllabus says that you have a final on Dec. 9, do not wait until the night before. We all know what an all-nighter feels like. You never know what to expect from a final and going into a test extremely worn out will only make matters worse. Developing good sleeping habits and finding time to actually rest will lead to better grades. Making goals and organizing time can help students avoid disastrous finals.

Another technique to decrease test anxiety is finding time to relax. When studying, students should not work in an environment or do anything that will negatively distract them from studying. Some effective behaviors to ward off boredom and the inability to focus include taking a break to go for a walk or finding time to hang out with friends. Spending an entire day studying chemistry notes or passages from Shakespeare can only add more stress to test preparations, so give your brain a break from biology and go take a ten-minute breather.

During the week before finals, students might start to feel their muscles becoming tense and nervous as finals slowly approach. Exercising is a way to combat this physical stress. A simple 15 minute workout routine can make people feel refreshed and more energized when getting down to this studying business. Again, going crazy and starting an intense workout regimen is not necessary. Work exercise into your daily schedule.

Most importantly, do not worry yourself into insanity over finals. They will be over in no time, and we can go back to living our normal lives with no worries. Well, at least until January.

The Issue

Thanksgiving break lulled many students into temporarily forgetting about finals. Now that it is time to focus, students should follow a few guidelines to combat final-induced stress.

We suggest

1. Stay focused.
2. Put aside the cheesy puffs and reach for a healthy snack.
3. Fend off the procrastination beast.
4. Exercise to relieve physical stress.
5. Keep insanity-inducing worrying to a minimum.

So what do you think?

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

Say no to nosehair trimmers

The day after Thanksgiving marked the beginning of holiday shopping. I suddenly realized that there are a scant 29 days until Christmas, and my "to buy for" list rivals my foot-long grocery list. While each person you shop for deserves a meaningful, unique gift, some presents just fall into the bad-idea category. The following list is not all-inclusive, but it does out-

Purchasing clothes can be a dangerous ordeal. If you decide to go for it, make sure to steer clear of animal prints. Unless the intended wearer already has a collection of leopard print leotards, do not introduce a pair to his or her wardrobe. Gain a pre-shopping idea of appropriate sizes, and stick with practical items. The button down shirt with sequins on the collar might look like fun on the men's department sale rack, but try to think about where he might actually wear it.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Under no circumstances should you purchase personal grooming items with the intent of giving them as holiday gifts. Nose hair trimmers, while quite useful for some, are not appropriate unless the receiver has repeatedly asked for one. Though you may mean it in the kindest way, your girlfriend will not appreciate the mustache bleaching cream. Unsightly hair is a topic for careful discussion, not Christmas morning surprise.

Try to avoid giving a bottle of wine to an alcoholic, a ham hock to a vegetarian or a life-size chocolate cow to a struggling dieter. When shopping for someone, make a mental note of any weaknesses or habits they are trying to overcome. A carton of cigarettes may not be the best choice for friends trying to quit smoking. Common sense is a helpful shopping buddy; make sure to take it everywhere you go.

Do not buy gifts for other people that you obviously intend to use yourself. The man in your life probably could do without the deluxe scented soap making kit, and the woman may not appreciate the brand new box cutter sharpening set. This assumption is based on a broad stereotype, but it does have a basis in common sense. If he refuses to bathe more than four times a week, orchid-scented bubble bath will only serve as decoration in his bottom drawer.

Diet-related gifts are inherently dangerous territory. Even if your friend has followed Atkins religiously for the past eight months, giving a calorie counter can lead to insulting insinuations. Nobody wants to be reminded of personal flaws, and weight is a popular and sensitive issue. The South Beach diet cookbook and tickets to weight-loss camp are minefields.

If you have to introduce your gift by saying it involves "that little problem you've been having..." then save your money. If you were a compulsive bed-wetter, you would not appreciate plastic sheets for Christmas. Keep that in mind as you pass the deodorant aisle for your smelly pal.

Take extreme care when regifting. We have all received that hideous sweater, that strange appliance or the dollar-store perfume pack. Resist the urge to regift unless you are sure the original giver is not related to the new recipient. Besides, if you stashed the ornamental canary figurines in your closet, the receiver might too.

As you go on marathon shopping trips, try not to forget that the spirit of the holiday is not about what you buy, but for whom you buy. This season is about appreciating people, not material items.

*For fun gift ideas, go to the special holiday section on page 8.

Holiday break to-do list

Walking out of the classroom from your last final of the semester is one of the most refreshing feelings. Not only have you completed another semester of courses, but you have nearly a month off until returning back to classes. For those of us who do have more time here at UM-St. Louis, there is much to do over break.

While most of us will be spending our breaks working to pay for holiday gifts, you must also find some time to enjoy your time off. Although holiday parties and last minute shopping may consume a majority of your break time, there are other things you should try to fit into your hectic holiday schedule. I thought I would give a few suggestions for what to do while on break.

First and foremost, the most obvious holiday tradition for people is to spend time with family. During the holidays you may see people whom you only see a couple times a year. Indulge the time you have with these people. Take advantage of the time to bond and eat a big meal with your family members. Getting to know your family better is always positive.

Another activity that is fun to do over break is ice skating. It just started to get cold enough to enjoy. Freezing is not my idea of fun, so there are many indoor ice rinks around the city. There is one at the St. Louis Mills Mall that offers public skating hours periodically. Grab a group of friends, bundle up, grab some hot chocolate and head out to the nearest ice rink.

A fun doing for a group of friends is a trip to the City Museum. The museum is open late on Friday and Saturday night. They offer a wide

array of activities and alcohol is served in a certain area of the museum. This is a fun activity for a girls night out or for a group outing. It is also a perfect place to take children while they are on break. I would recommend comfortable shoes because they will do a lot of climbing. The museum is located downtown.

One not so unique idea is to go see a movie. There are quite a few movies coming out around Christmas time. "Oceans Twelve" starring Brad Pitt and George Clooney will be released close to Christmas. "Spanglish" starring Adam Sandler will also be released around the same time.

Go out to eat somewhere first and then go see a movie to make it a traditional date.

Another unique activity is to go skiing at Hidden Valley. They are located near Six Flags in Eureka and will be opening in December some time. You can rent skis or snowboards there and the cost ranges from about \$25-\$64 depending on when you go and if you need to rent skis. They offer a late night ski sometimes and will be open during break. Remember to dress warm and pack sunglasses and sunscreen if going during the daytime. Contact the facility for more information.

There are many fun things to do around St. Louis while on break. Make the most of your time off, because chances are you will not get too many more holiday breaks. Spend time with your friends and family, while having a good time. I know you will probably be broke from buying presents after the holidays, but splurge a little and do something different during your time off. And to everyone, have a safe and happy holiday season.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

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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.

What's your opinion?

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

- How to win the finals battle
- Awful Christmas gifts
- Catching up over break

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

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

Under Current

by Casey Ulrich
Photography Director

How do you plan on preparing for finals?



Sarah Trinkey
Junior
Anthropology

By threatening my husband to within an inch of his life to watch over our two-year-old.



Racheal Yamnitz
Sophomore
Communications

I will take the time to study and to talk to my professors.



John Adams
Graduate Student
Business

I will be spending lots of hours looking at books and will be drinking lots of coffee.



Bridget Andrews
Graduate Student
Social Work

I'm just trying to get ahead, not put things off until the last minute.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Mankind's family tree has expanded



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER Science Columnist

Way back when the idea of evolution was new, the popular imagination was fired by the idea of finding the "missing link," the species that joined the great apes to the human race.

These are exciting times for physical anthropologists, the folks who study the evolution of man. Besides the "missing link" discovery, a recent close relative discovered in Europe raises new questions about the assumption that man arose in Africa and then spread to other continents.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the idea of finding a

"missing link" between humans and the great apes fired the popular imagination and filled newspapers every time new fossils were discovered.

Since the fossil record always has gaps, it really is nearly impossible to establish a definite ancestor connection, so paleoanthropologists generally speak of likely or possible predecessors, not direct links.

There are several ways to classify species and classifications of human relatives are always undergoing readjustments. Humans belong to the genus of hominids, which split from great apes, which includes chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans.

The "missing link" idea comes from a search for the point at which the human line deviates from the great apes. The problem with the idea is that there may not have one clear split from all apes, as we are most closely related to chimps, and more closely related to gorillas than orangutans, according to some research, indicating that there may be different branching points.

There are several intriguing things about this new find. The new possible common ancestor, Pierolapithecus catalaunicus, was found in Spain, not Africa. Africa is thought to be the original home of our species, from which it spread to other places.

Although ape fossils are common in the area of Spain

where this find was made, the site had only one hominid, or ape-like primate.

The newly-found Pierolapithecus catalaunicus has fingers like a chimp, a body like an ape and the upright posture of humans. According to Salvador Moya-Sola, one of the husband and wife team of paleontologists who discovered the fossils, the species did not use the knuckle-walking technique of gorillas and chimps or the branch-swinging technique of orangutans for locomotion.

Interestingly, this finding ties in with a new hypothesis about human adaptation, proposed by University of Utah biology professor Dennis Bramble and Harvard anthropologist Daniel Lieberman.

It has long been noted that our bipedal locomotion, the fact that we walk on two feet, was an adaptation to moving out of the forest into the plains at the edge of the woods. Standing upright allowed our ancestors to see farther across the grass and freed up our hands for other uses.

But standing upright adds something that had been overlooked until now: running.

see SCIENCE, page 7

GUEST COLUMN

Coming out of the log cabin

Like many members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, I have often found my own fiscally conservative views to be somewhat divergent from the fiscal policies traditionally associated with the Democratic Party.

Regrettably, in the last decade I have gradually realized that time has moved on, and so has the Republican Party. Gone are the days of the "Rockefeller Republicans," moguls of American business and industry who guided our nation into the greatest prosperity in the history of the world.

their wisdom, they knew that without money, there would be no "Land of the Free". In 2004, Republican leaders find it preferable to pander to the misinformed wishes of "Heartland America", a numerically substantial but intellectually underdeveloped demographic category which carves a great hole in the center of our country.

Of course, miserable economic and foreign policy failure has now been rewarded with re-election. The reli-

gious right, foaming at the mouth with hatred, is now well positioned to launch a renewed assault on civil liberties, while our nation hemorrhages high-paying jobs, loses market share to Asia, and gains a worldwide reputation as a house gone mad.

Michael Rankins, M.Ed. Graduate Research Assistant College of Education

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader thinks Rosner is wrong

[In regards to Becky Rosner's editorial in the Nov. 15 issue of The Current]

Money does not equal happiness, in fact it is probably quite the opposite. Obviously Becky Rosner, nor any of her friends have ever been poor (in the bottom 5 percent of the tax bracket). I'll take this one step at a time to avoid sounding too opinionated.

"You could not stay warm in the winter." Not true, I lived in Texas for over five years, rarely had to wear a jacket and only when you do, it must be because you will be outside long...however, in order to further your education, you must fork out a large deal of money. It's almost like she is trying to lie. First, there are thousands and thousands of

scholarships across the country, many who never even get many applicants who want to give money to college driven students. I haven't "forked" over a penny since starting, and I haven't had any scholarships. Second, Bush happens to be pro-financial aid, which means it's now easier to get federal money, usually being interest free. Then when (if) you do have to pay, its low monthly payments after you've secured a job for yourself because of a nice degree. I wish I had the official statistic, but I'm willing to say more than a majority of college students receive financial aid.

"Driving is a privilege for people who have money." That's like saying, smoking is a privilege if you're 18. Driving is dangerous, costly,

harmful to the environment, harmful to others and a waste of time. I get to UMSL from University City in about 20 minutes, via the Delmar Bus and the train... oh, and it's free.

I'm happy, healthy, alive, prosperous, motivated and kicking and I haven't had health insurance for over 2 years, I have no car, I am poor, I eat mostly for free, I stay warm. Happiness stems more from not having something, then having it. Selfishness, and a total senselessness of community brought on these thoughts of money equaling happiness. If some rich person would like to challenge me to a "Happy Contest", please, don't hesitate.

Thomas Helton Freshman student

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader sympathizes with Yowell

After reading Jeremy Yowell's letter to the editor I wanted to march over to the UMSL police department and give them a piece of my mind. I have a great respect for the police department. I work with many fine officers from Maryland Heights and St. Louis County. I was appalled about how the police treated Mr. Yowell for a parking violation. Under no circumstances should there have been a shouting match in the lobby of the police

department over this matter. Especially for multiple hours. The man committed a parking violation! From Mr. Yowell's point of view it seems he was as calm as one person could be while being verbally abused in public. What really got me was the use of handcuffs. Did they actually plan to arrest him for a "counterfeit" parking pass? That is a waste of time and money. A person with a phony parking sticker is the least of my wor-

ries. I do not walk around campus at night scared that a person with a "counterfeit" parking pass will park in my prime spot. I am afraid that some mad person will mug me or heaven forbid something worse. Maybe they should focus on more pressing matters than illegal parking.

Stefani Marrah Junior, Elementary Education

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Former editor defends The Current

As Alicia Silverstone said in one of my favorite movies, "Clueless," the Nov. 8 letter by Noah Poeling criticizing The Current was way too harsh. For him to state that The Current is bad journalism is not accurate and is not fair to say about college students who are learning and doing their best. Don't be so hard on them. No one is perfect, and everyone makes mistakes.

The Current is a great organization with a great history. This may sound

ancient, but I was there when we got our very first computer under Editor Laura Berardino. The Current has gotten better through the years, and many former staff members have gone to have great careers and great futures. We wrote about the woes on parking on campus, as did our predecessors. I do agree it is a good idea to do investigative stories. they are great experience and provide necessary service.

Serving on the staff of The Current

and being editor were the best years of my college life. Having the position as editor is one of my most cherished accomplishments. I encourage the staff not to get discouraged because it is clear you are dedicated.

Michelle McMurray UMSL Alumni Fomer Editor, 1992-1993

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student thanks debaters, admonishes audience

The UM-St. Louis College Republicans were pleased last Monday to host the debate between Phyllis Schlafly and Dr. Joyce Mushaben. Both debaters illuminated their ideas on women's issues with intelligence, facts and reason. We were also pleased that each side provided an interested audience, some with passion and others with basic curiosity.

After the debate, Phyllis Schlafly told me that a young woman came up to her. She said this young woman told her that until that night she had been unhappy with her womanhood. The debate had brought her new assurance and respect for her gender. I thank both

our debaters for this accomplishment. Unfortunately, not all audience members could have the same positive experience. In fact, some turned the night into a negative event for many. I was particularly disappointed to see members of the student body and faculty feel it was appropriate to hiss at, bicker at, laugh at and interrupt the University's guest, Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly, a well respected local community leader.

It is these types of individuals who hold no respect for any other person's point of view and, I believe, hold no respect for themselves that give feminism the fanatical image it is unfortu-

nately associated with today. I am a proud feminist. I believe in equal opportunity for women and I believe that women have just as many strengths as men, though some may differ. I wish to see, as do most people, a fair and just society for women. I fear that many people in the audience last Monday were turned away from these interests, disgraged by those that participated in the degradation of their precious movement.

Benjamin Mason Secretary UMSL College Republicans

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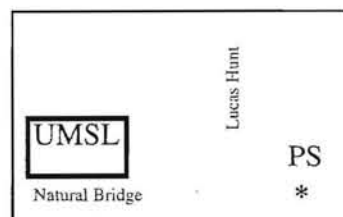


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FEATURES

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Features Editor

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New program will help adult children of alcoholics

BY CARRIE LEWIS

Staff Writer

The Wellness Resource Center at UM-St. Louis is providing a support group for adult children of substance abusers, commonly referred to as simply "adult children."

The following is an excerpt from a letter that the coordinator of the group, Michelle Schmidt, provides to interested students.

"For adult children of alcoholics and adult children of substance abuse, groups can provide much needed support. Having suffered the stigma, shame and isolation of parental substance abuse, members of support groups learn that others have similar experiences and feelings. They also find much needed consistency and antidote to their years of chaos and unpredictability."

Alcohol is the most widely used drug in the U.S. There are over one million alcoholics worldwide and many of these alcoholics and various other substance abusers have children.

The support group will be offered free of charge at UM-St. Louis next semester and lasts approximately six weeks.

see WELLNESS PROGRAM, page 7

Newman Center focuses on world hunger

BY MELISSA McCRARY
Features Editor

During the week of Nov. 15 through Nov. 18, UM-St. Louis held a "Hunger Awareness Week" with a variety of events focusing on the problems with hunger around the world.

All week long informational tables and booths were set up in the Millennium Student Center, providing students with literature about local, national and international hunger.

The events during the week were co-sponsored by Interfaith Campus Ministries, the Office of Student Life, University Program Board, Student Government Association, Residential Life, Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, Alpha Phi Omega, Chartwells and Oxfam.

On Monday, Nov. 15, and Tuesday, Nov. 16, students had the opportunity to participate in soup lines in the Nosh and give donations to hunger relief organizations.

Students received a bowl of soup and bread provided by Chartwells for a \$2 donation.

Bobby Wassel, campus minister for the Catholic Newman Center, described how many students seemed to take an interest in this problem and how more students attended the soup lines compared to previous years.

"The soup lines were really successful. We raised more than \$350 for the local and international hunger organizations," Wassel said.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Jan Mayer, senior, communications, and a member of the Catholic Newman Center, serves soup and bread in the Nosh on Nov. 15 and 16 for Hunger Awareness Week.

Wassel also said that although UM-St. Louis has held Hunger Awareness Weeks in the past, this was the first year that they held events such as the "Soup Line and Movie Night" held at the Provincial House, giving those who live on campus a chance to become involved.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, the soup line and movie night was held from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. While students made a

donation for a bowl of soup, they also watched the movie "Hidden in America." The film examined hunger related problems and looked at different situations in the United States.

The awareness week ended with a "Hunger Banquet" in the Pilot House on Thursday, Nov. 18, from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Michelle Albin, senior, communication, shared her thoughts about her

past experiences with attending the banquet.

"I think the banquet is an eye-opener on hunger. It makes you thankful for what you got and to think before you throw away half of your sandwich," Albin said.

Participants took part in a role play activity that demonstrated how food is unequally distributed throughout the world.

Kate Drolet, junior, mass communication, opened the event by welcoming everyone to the Oxfam America Hunger Banquet and gave a brief speech about hunger problems with statistics.

"We are here today because 1.2 billion people—about one-fifth of the population, live in poverty. Eight hundred and forty two million of these people suffer from chronic hunger," Drolet said. "Every 2.9 seconds, a child dies from hunger and other preventable causes. That is 30,000 children a day."

Drolet went on to say that participants can join in Oxfam's fight against hunger.

She said that in 31 years, millions of dollars have been raised to support Oxfam's anti-poverty work and that over a million people have participated in a Hunger banquet or have skipped a meal to recognize world hunger.

Participants were asked to draw cards out of a basket which determined the lots that they were placed in. People who received a card with a white sticker were placed into the high-income category and were escorted to a table on the stage. People who got an orange sticker were placed into the middle-income range and were led to two tables in the center of the room. Those with green stickers made up the low-income range and had to find a place on the floor in the middle of the room.

see CNC, page 7

Turkey Day at UMSL



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Junior and education major Darryl Diggs executes an unorthodox bowling style when he launches a frozen turkey towards ten innocent bowling pins. The event, called 'Turkey Bowling,' took place outside the Nosh Cafeteria and was sponsored by the University Program Board.

Spa Day pampers students before break

BY MELISSA McCRARY

Features Editor

Manicures, makeovers, massages and free goodies are a few things that were offered at the UM-St. Louis Spa Day held on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Many different businesses and organizations, such as A Back Rub Company, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Sarah and Sharon Clark Beauty Salon, a chiropractor from Ferguson and UM-St. Louis Counseling Services attended the Spa Day event to give students a chance to relax before taking upcoming final exams.

While Counseling Services offered tips on how to overcome stress, a chiropractor gave back and neck alignment checks. Beauty consultants and a representative from Mary Kay talked about the importance of people taking care of their skin while discussing ways that students can pamper themselves.

The Spa Day was held from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Pilot House and masseuses from A Back Rub Company gave massages to the evening students on the MSC bridge from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Shanna Carpenter, president of the University Program Board said that this was the first time Counseling Services had attended the Spa Day and that they held some activities throughout the day for the evening students.

Jill Henke, Vice President of the University Program Board, said that the evening students were happy that they had an opportunity to participate in Spa Day.

"The evening students really appreciated our consideration to give them massages later in the day," Henke said.

"This is the third year that we have orga-

nized and held a Spa Day," Carpenter said.

Carpenter said that the purpose of the event was to offer some stress relief to students before Thanksgiving break and finals.

Along with the beauty and stress relieving activities, students also received gift bags with exfoliators, lotions, bath salts and other spa products.

"We made about 60 gift bags and they were all handed out close to the beginning of the event," Carpenter said. "I would say that about

120 students came to this year's Spa Day."

Henke said that she enjoyed the massages the best and that they gave students who have never had one or who have never been able to afford a quality massage the chance to receive one for free.

Having a Spa Day definitely helped some to take their mind off of their busy last minute semester projects, while others felt that this was an excellent way to begin the holiday break.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Students and faculty receive manicures, back massages, and more at Spa Day. The event was held in the Pilot House on Nov. 17.

Trying to break the old habit?

Health Services 'Smokeout' offers students tips on how and why to quit smoking

BY MELISSA McCRARY
Features Editor

The "Great American Smokeout and the Lung Cancer Awareness Fair," sponsored by UM-St. Louis Health Services and the Wellness Resource Center, focused on the dangers of smoking while giving students the chance to win a free cold turkey.

"This year's theme was to 'quit cold turkey' and that is why we offered students a chance to win a turkey," Michelle Schmidt, coordinator of University Health Services Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program, said.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, a booth was set up on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Brochures and information about tobacco and nicotine problems were handed out.

Schmidt said that Health Services and the Wellness Resource Center have always held the "Great Smokeout" event, but that this was the first year that they incorporated and combined the event with lung cancer awareness.

Most people who walked by probably noticed the disturbing and graphic pictures exhibiting what different types cancer look like. Posters displayed pictures of the two main forms of lung cancer: small cell and non-small cell, carcinomas, patients with emphysema, throat cancer, neck cancer, cancer of the mouth, esophagus cancer and various oral cancers.

The purpose of the displays was to show how truly detrimental smoking can be to a person's health.

Kathy Castulik, Health Educator for University Health Services, said that many students had different reactions when passing by.

"Some said, 'eww, gross,' while others who saw the pictures said, 'I really need to quit,'" Castulik said.

Castulik also said that one of the posters was created in dedication of her father.

"My father was diagnosed with lung cancer, so this exhibit is in honor of him," Castulik said.

Along with the graphics displayed, brochures from the American Lung Association, Bacchus and Gamma Peer Education Network and from the American Cancer Society were distributed.

see QUITTING SMOKING, page 7

Mushaben, Schlafly debate gender issues at College Republicans event

BY M.K. STALLINGS
Staff Writer

The gloves came off last Monday evening, Nov. 22, when two distinguished intellectuals debated issues ranging from abortion to women in the Iraq War. The College Republicans sponsored the event.

Women and men filled the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center leaving very few empty seats. The audience watched Phyllis Schlafly, author of 'Feminist Fantasy,' and Dr. Joyce Mushaben, Director of Women and Gender Studies and political science professor at UM-St. Louis, contribute to the classic argument addressing the role of women.

Laura Marsh served as the moderator of the debate and announced the rules. The event sponsors gave questions to Mushaben and Schlafly prior to the event to allow them to prepare responses.

The debaters sat behind tables positioned opposite each other in front of the audience. Each speaker was allotted time to argue for her

respective position and to rebut the other.

The first question asked if women should fight on the frontline of a war. The responses given by Mushaben and Schlafly drew a line down the middle of the room.

"Women do not have an equal opportunity to survive," Schlafly said, arguing against women fighting on the frontline. She called female involvement in the war embarrassing and said men should not let women risk their lives in battle.

Roughly half of the audience applauded Schlafly's point. The other half of the audience waited for Mushaben to speak.

"Wars waged through air assaults put women and children on the frontline," Mushaben said. She added that women were never included in military strategy for frontline combat. She noted that weapons were built for male physiques, which place women at a physical disadvantage.

Schlafly rebutted by stating that the goal of war is not to have American soldiers die for the United

States. "We're talking about making the enemy die for his country," Schlafly said.

More exchanges continued for the next two hours that included political critiques and name calling before an expressive audience. Labels such as "feminist," referring to Mushaben, and "conservative," referring to Schlafly, were used by the debaters to characterize the opposing argument.

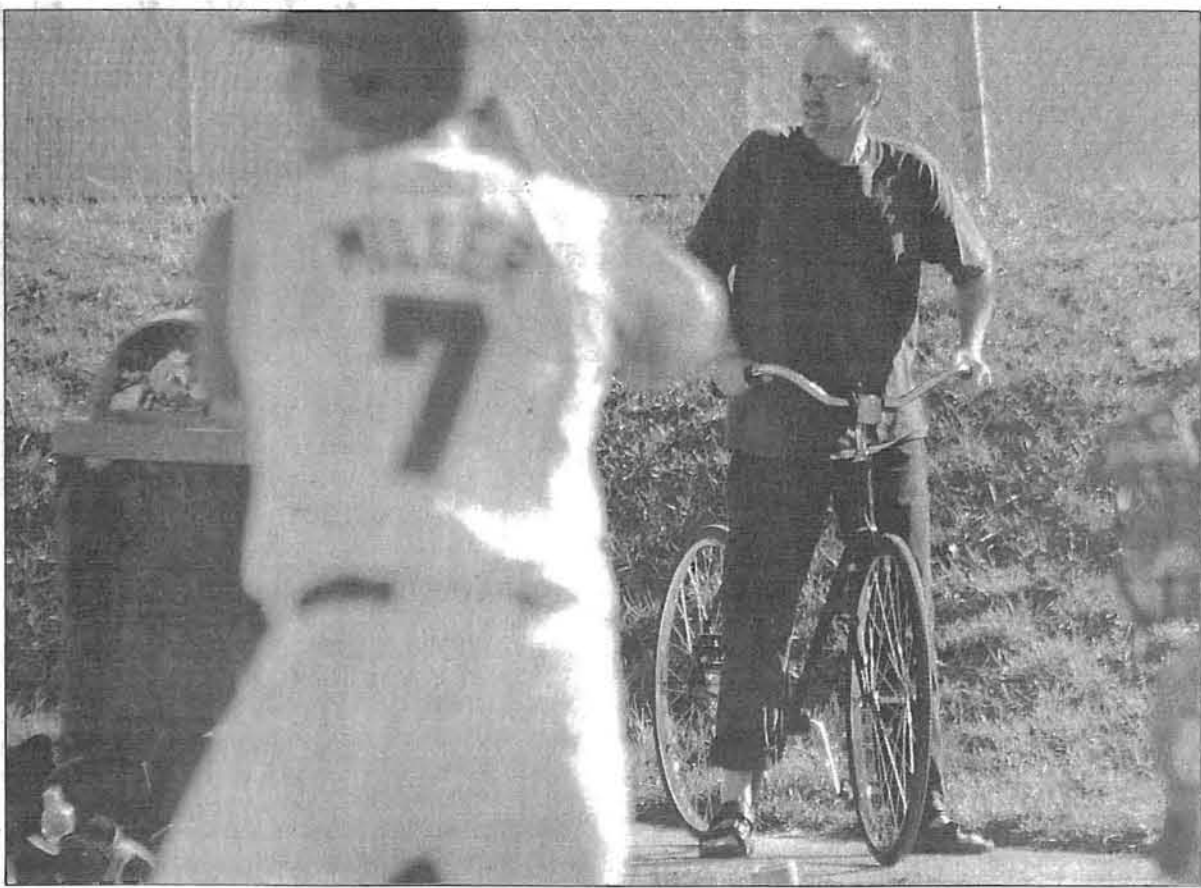
At times, the center aisle that divided the seating arrangement into two halves represented the ideological split among the audience. Supporters for Mushaben and Schlafly respectively took turns applauding their speaker.

Coordinators warned that particularly vocal audience members would be removed from the event.

Bill Costas, president of the College Republicans, thought the event went very well and that the debate was consistent with ongoing political arguments.

"With any type of debate, it comes down to politics," Costas said.

CHANCELLOR GEORGE'S FIRST YEAR, from page 1



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Chancellor Thomas George watches from his bike as the Rivermen baseball team plays a game last April. A member of his high school's wrestling and soccer, the Chancellor is a regular attendee at UM-St. Louis athletic events.

As SGA president at UM-St. Louis, Scott Bopp, senior, international business, travels to other UM campuses as well. He said the response of other student governments to Chancellor George is positive and even describes other students as "envious."

"They're impressed by the way he interacts with them, by the way he'll just sit down and play the piano for them," said Bopp.

Bopp said that he was impressed by the chancellor when George was still commuting between St. Louis and Wisconsin but showed up for move-in day at the residential halls.

"It was unexpected and unnecessary for him to be there," said Bopp. "But it illustrates how much he likes being in touch with students."

So, where did you go to high school?

Though he's lived in seven states and has spent time in twice as many countries, Tom George still speaks with the trace of a Pennsylvania accent. On varsity soccer and wrestling teams in high school, he continues to stay in shape by working out at the Mark Twain Athletic Center and by riding his bike around campus. His "seasoned" goatee suits his status as a renowned jazz pianist. A warm-weather preference for short sleeve shirts with a tie seems to complete his international reputation as a highly accomplished chemist and physicist. He is 58, but some would say he appears younger. He disagrees.

"I went to McDonald's for a cup of coffee, and they only charged me 37 cents," he said. "I was devastated."

George graduated from high school in 1963 at the age of 16, though he said that it was not because he was "particularly bright."

"I started kindergarten a year early. I don't remember why. I think my mother wanted me out of the house," he said.

He recalls taking a public bus at the age of 4 to his suburban Philadelphia private school. "I even had to transfer," he said.

He also skipped the second grade and said that he missed out on the crucial lesson of capital letters.

"I have a tough time to this day writing capital letters," he said. "I was two years ahead, not because I was particularly bright: it was just a private school and they moved you pretty

fast." Despite a difficulty with capital letters, George's ensuing scholarly pursuits would inspire the St. Petersburg Times in 2000 to call him the man who "may be the nation's most accomplished academic also running a college."

Doctor at age 23

George graduated from Gettysburg College in 1967 with a double major in chemistry and mathematics, both with honors. He then went to Yale University and earned a master's degree in 1968 and a doctoral degree in 1970 in theoretical chemistry.

He said that he missed earning his doctorate at age 22 by a few weeks.

"Part of that is that everything just fell into place," he said. "My thesis was one humongous computer program. And it worked. But it could just as well not have worked."

George continued to reminisce about molecular beam techniques ("avant garde"), chemical kinetics and the calculation of chemical trajectories before interrupting himself. "And anyway, it worked," he said.

A paper a month

George continues to be an active researcher in chemistry and physics, and his curriculum vitae sites the publication of 650 articles, two graduate-level textbooks and 14 edited books. He said his papers do not interfere with his chancellor duties, that he makes time for them "in the nooks and crannies," and late at night. He also said that his research helps him keep his sanity.

He is quick to point out that he "doesn't do it alone" and names collaborators from Italy to Siberia. He also collaborates with UM-St. Louis physicists and has submitted several papers with both Peter Handel and Bernard Feldman.

"For me it's been a great broadening experience," he said. "A lot of what I do in my research is to attach myself to very smart people."

Dr. Fraundorf does research and education in the nanoworld microscopies, or as Fraundorf says, "really small stuff." He said that since George adds science to his primary responsibilities, opportunities to collaborate seem to develop naturally, "as they have in other places that Tom has

worked." "Everyone who can contribute to making this place a cross-roads, for researchers to meet, helps also make it a richer learning environment for future researchers," he said. "Tom has brought in young researchers from as near as Indiana, and as far away as Norway, above the arctic circle."

Dr. Sonya Bahar, assistant professor of biophysics, said that she appreciates George's diversity.

"It's inspiring to have a chancellor who is also so deeply involved in the arts as well as the sciences," she said. "A diversity of interests can broaden and deepen anyone's work...his example will push others on the campus toward a diversity of interests as well, which is the best possible thing that could happen at a university."

1500 pound calling card

At the mention of his name, there is a good chance that the phrase "accomplished jazz pianist" will come up. George is well known for playing the piano at a variety of events around both the school and the city.

George's music resume is considerable, from his critically acclaimed jazz CD to his studies with faculty at the Berklee School of Music in Boston and the Eastman School of Music in New York.

Jim Widner, artist-in-residence and coordinator of jazz studies at UM-St. Louis, still says that he will not play with just anyone, chancellor or not. The two arrived at the campus at about the same time and Widner said that he was called on several occasions to play with George. He said that he ended up feeling "elated."

"This guy can play," he said. "There is a difference someone who can play and someone who can really play."

Widner said also said that George "delivered the goods" at the Missouri Educators State Conference last January at the Lake of Ozarks.

Well-versed

Kernan attributes George's success at UM-St. Louis thus far to the chancellor's willing accessibility to the community.

"A chancellor has to be able to communicate, has to be interactive with a diverse range of people," Kernan said. "[The Chancellor] truly has to be one person looking out for many."

QUITTING SMOKING, from page 6

Other handouts included statistics and information about the ingredients found in cigarettes, what is hidden in smoke and what happens after a person quits.

According to www.americanheart.org, there is a higher prevalence (35.4 percent) of smokers who have had 9 to 11 years of education. College students smoke for numerous reasons, such as stress relief or routine habits, but others might be considered social or casual smokers. Social smokers are those who only smoke occasionally when they have an exam or when they are out with friends drinking. The Bacchus and Gamma Peer Education Network says that social smokers are at a high risk of

becoming addicted to nicotine and are still at risk of having health problems.

The ingredients found in cigarettes include acetone, which is often found in nail polish remover, ammonia, benzene, which is used as a solvent in fuel and in industry, cadmium, which is a metal that is used to make batteries, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, which is used to preserve dead bodies, hydrogen cyanide, lead, mercury, nicotine and tar.

The flier about what happens after a person quits said that within 20 minutes of quitting, a person's heart rate drops. After 12 hours of quitting, the carbon monoxide level in a person's blood drops to normal, and after two weeks to three months of quitting, a

person's lung function begins to improve, followed by a decrease in coughing and shortness of breath.

Smokers who wanted to quit were able to sign up and get information about the free on-campus resources and the smoking cessation options offered through the Wellness Resource Center. Those interested in quitting can contact Michelle Schmidt at 516-5380 or email her at russellms@msx.umsl.edu.

Castulik said that over 350 students stopped by the table to discuss and get information about smoking. She hopes the event spreads the word about how deadly this addiction can be and hopefully makes students decide to quit.

CNC, from page 6

Each person was given a card with short biographies of real people who live in the different income groups. The people in the high-income group represented the 15 percent of the world's population with a per capita income of \$9,076 or more. The middle-income group represented the 25 percent of the world's population who between \$912 and \$9,075 a year. The low-income group represented the majority of the world's population, about 60 percent, who have an average income of less than \$911 a year, about \$2.50 a day.

"Most of you are from poor countries such as Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Haiti or Cambodia. Every day is a struggle to meet your family's basic needs. Finding food, water, and shelter can consume your entire day," Drolet said. "For many of you women, it would not be uncommon to have to walk five to ten miles every day to get water, spend several more hours work-

ing in the fields, and of course take care of the children."

Those who were placed in the high-income range received a five-course meal consisting of salad, mixed vegetables, rice pilaf, chicken and dessert, while the middle-income group received beans and rice. People in the low-income group had to eat white rice on a cardboard tray, had water to drink and sat on milk crates on the floor.

During the meal preparation, one low-income participant was getting her meal and she asked for a spoon to eat the rice. The server replied, "A spoon? You don't get silverware. You're poor. You have to eat with your fingers."

While everyone was enjoying their meals, a video showed slides on a screen depicting real life hunger situations and people struggling each day to survive.

After people ate their meals, they were asked to take a moment of silence to reflect and share their experiences

with the Hunger Banquet.

Jordan Steffen, senior, political science, was placed in the middle-income group and said that he felt that the people in the high-income group had it good compared to the poor people.

"It shows the real gravity and hugeness of the problems with hunger," Steffen said. "It shows the real conditions and how it's not fair."

Jessie Connor, senior, social work, said how she felt guilty and how her experience made her reflect on what she really eats.

Another student from the high-income group, Tim Schmidt, junior, music education, said that he realizes now how food is taken for granted.

"I think about all of the food that we waste on a daily basis," Schmidt said.

The Hunger Awareness Week at UM-St. Louis brought students together to fight against hunger and made them aware of the seriousness with starvation across the world.

WELLNESS, from page 6

A few topics that will be covered at the meetings include guilt, anxiety, depression, embarrassment, peer relationships and career preparation.

A book entitled "The 12 Steps for Adult Children" encourages participation in support groups.

According to the book, "relationships formed in support groups are a

source of many benefits and rewards. The experience of being in a support group creates an atmosphere in which healthy family-type communications can develop."

Al-Anon and Al-Ataen, which are both support groups for the family and friends of alcoholics, are another resource for adult children,

but it is likely that college-aged people will find the support that they need by attending any of these meetings.

For more information about the meetings that will be sponsored by the Wellness Resource Center, contact Michelle Schmidt at 314-516-5380 or at russellms@umsl.edu.

SCIENCE COLUMN, from page 5

Unlike other great apes, man is built to run and walk, whether sprinting or long distance, a physical skill that other apes lack. In a study published in the journal 'Nature,' Bramble and Lieberman, who proposed the new hypothesis, noted this surprisingly overlooked fact, and emphasized this development was not just a by-product of walking upright but the actual significant change that led to the development of our big brains.

The researchers focused on the importance of distance running in particular but whether that particular skill is the most important is less significant than finally noticing how well adapted we are to run. Most previous comments on the physical design of man focused on our lack of special ability, forcing us to invent with our big brains and clever hands. Upright posture was regarded as mostly significant in that it freed up the hands, and that it might confer an advantage beyond being able to see across the savannah.

These researchers cited genetic mutations that are helpful in running, which include a narrowed waist, shorter forearms, larger buttocks, the Achilles tendon and skull modifications allowing the body to cool itself. They asserted that these adaptations show the role of natural selection in

favoring early humans who had the ability to run. Since humans are not fast runners compared to other species, the researchers speculated that the human capacity for distance running may have been the more significant adaptation. They noted that running would have increased early humans' ability as scavengers and hunters.

The third recent finding, the discovery of a dwarf, hobbit-like species dubbed Flores Man, Homo floresiensis, is overturning assumptions about the evolution of humans and is rewriting the family tree of man. It has long been thought that close relatives of humans vanished relatively early yet the little species existed on an isolated island almost up to recorded history.

The best example of the new species uncovered was a 3-foot tall female. The fossil has many characteristics that would fit a description of a hobbit, including the small size, large round eyes and mixes of course and slight features. One of the most significant finding is that the skeleton is only about 18,000 years old. It had been believed that modern humans, Homo sapiens, had replaced other closely related species starting about 160,000 year ago. This new finding will create a major shift in the structure of human evolutionary.

The fossils were found on the island of Flores, near Java. The species is the smallest hominid found and had a grapefruit-sized brain, yet the find also indicates that Flores Man used tools, fire, lived in groups and had organized hunts. The species had a combination of slight build and course features which make it difficult to classify in the current human evolutionary tree that has slighter modern man descending from more big-boned ancestors. The species might even be considered a separate genus.

The island of Flores was also home to other odd creatures, such as giant tortoises, pony-sized elephants, dog-sized rats, and giant lizards, like the Komodo dragon. Homo erectus, a larger human cousin found in Java, may have been the ancestor of Flores Man, as indicated by artifacts found on Flores, and the dwarfism may have been an adaptation to the island's environment. But the skeleton's curious combination of primitive, even ape-like, and advanced features make it very hard to classify at all.

One thing is certain, these and other recent discoveries in physical anthropology make this one of the most exciting periods for the science in history and an intriguing time for the family of man.

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Happy Holidays

The **CURRENT**
SPECIAL
SECTION



Tired of giving the same old gifts?

A few ideas for shopping outside the box

BY **GARRIE LEWIS**
Staff Writer

The holidays are coming and most people are getting geared up to buy the same old gifts. Why not make this year different by searching for, or even making, a unique gift that will be remembered?

An alternative to buying dad another tie is available at Target. The chain store is stocked with "Powers of 2 Clocks." This clock looks more like a motherboard at NASA than a household item: it tells time in binary code by displaying a sort of light show that changes every second. Can't read binary code? That is okay because this \$24.99 clock comes with instructions and customer reviews on Target.com claim it is simple to learn.

Moms always appreciate creativity, even from their college-aged kids, and will certainly be impressed with a customized version of one of her favorites classic novels like Moby Dick or Alice in Wonderland. CustomizedClassics.com offers a service where customers can have books customized with names of their family and friends as characters, a dedication page, professional binding and even a personal photo on the cover. Most titles go for about \$30.

All women like candy and flowers, but a \$50.00 fondue pot from Target is an unexpected gift. Make it extra special by pairing it with a gift basket filled with cheeses, chocolates, breads and fruits for a romantic meal at home.

For the less domestic women, Abercrombie.com has an "Adele Mink Tippet Scarf," made from artificial fur, of course, for \$59.50. The scarf is reminiscent of the 1950s and doesn't look like the typical items

found at Abercrombie and Fitch.

Abercrombie also has an alternative to the boring boxers males often receive for the holidays. The "A&F Polka Dot Boxers" come in a variety of colors, including aqua and pink, and cost only \$14.50.

It is hard to find cheap, creative gift ideas for guests at a holiday party, but UrbanOutfitters.com has the perfect solution. The store located in Chicago, or on the web, has come up with edible candy cane shot glasses, and a pair is just \$8.

For those who are really short on cash, Michelle Reynolds, senior, biology, recommends do-it-yourself gifts like a personalized calendar she received in the past.

Baked goods are always a favorite. Instead of making more holiday cookies, go on the internet to find a simple candy recipe that can be made in bulk.

GetCrafty.com has several home spa ideas, including a recipe to make a facial scrub and a cleansing masque. Just buy cheap, decorative containers and make enough for everyone on the list.

Finally, for the person who has it all, LunarLandOwner.com offers a truly unique gift. For \$29.99 customers can purchase an acre of the moon. The standard package includes a lunar deed, lunar map, mineral rights, lunar constitution and bill of rights and a registration card. The website claims they are the only legitimate company selling land on the moon and that a lunar acre may prove to be a good investment.

But be careful because although everyone likes unique and creative gifts from time to time, some people, like Shannon Flanders, employee at Pony Expresso, prefers typical gifts, as long as they are thoughtful.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

We asked UMSL students what changes they'd like to see on campus

BY **KATE SHAW**
Staff Writer

There are many myths about the meaning behind the holiday tune "The 12 Days of Christmas," but most experts on the subject believe it was originally a children's memory game. This week The Current asked students what they would replace those items with if they could have anything they wanted from UM-St. Louis.

• **A partridge in a pear tree** casserole, \$5.99 with two sides...

"Something I'd like to see under my tree is food that doesn't suck," said Erin Mattingly, senior, communication. Mattingly reminisced about the food options offered at Mizzou, which she feels are of a higher quality than what is available at this campus.

"I had a buffalo chicken wrap recently in the Nosh and it was watery. How? I don't know."

• **Two turtle doves dropping a tuition refund check...**

"Lower tuition would be nice," said Pete Chang, junior, bio-chemistry. "It's still a good deal but not if it goes up every semester."

Chang also said that the rising cost of books is a big factor in his expenses as well.

"They really rake you over the coals on that one."

• **Three French (or Spanish or German) hens sleeping in...**

Ben Stanfield, senior, communications, said that he would not mind doing away with the foreign language requirement.

"It would be a gift not to have to come here on Fridays."

• **Four birds a calling for more you-know-what...**

"I am almost ready to transfer over the parking situation here," said Ericka Johnson, senior, criminal justice. Johnson is disabled and said that even with her handicap permit, parking is scarce.

"It's especially frustrating

when I have classes at Benton Hall," she said. "It's getting cold and it's a lot of walking. I don't understand why there is a lake for ducks but not a parking structure for students."

• **Instead of five golden rings...**

"I would say, 'Hey Santa, how's about a football team?'" said Tommy Brower, senior, communication.

• **Six geese a laying...**

"How about a bag of cement?" Megan Hill, junior, business, said. Hill points out the mud on her shoes and pants that identifies her as one of the many north campus Metro Link riders who opt for the direct route of a worn path to the Millennium Student Center over what Hill says is "an out-of-the-way staircase in the middle of nowhere."

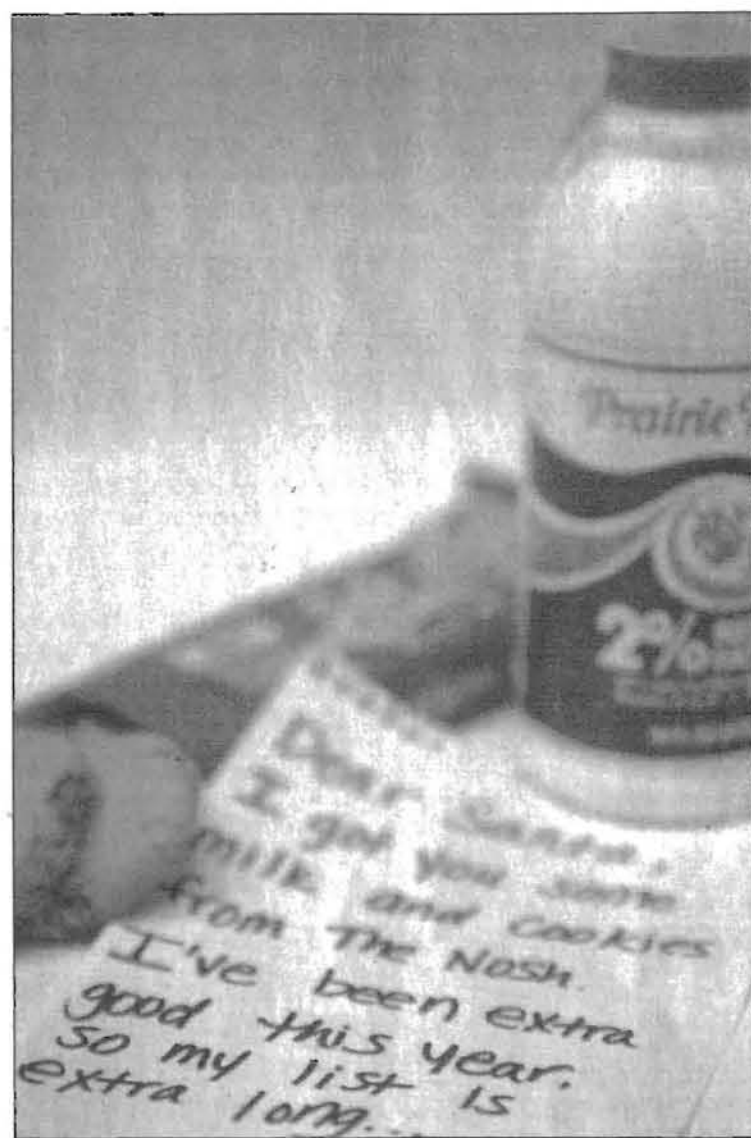
"Everyone goes that way so why not just pave it," she said. "I am trying to get to class but having to scramble through mud and bushes makes me feel more like someone who has just busted out of prison and is being pursued by dogs."

• **Seven swans a swimming (get in half-price with ad)**

Many students had harsh comments about the construction of the two ponds near the MSC, or as Brian Kennedy, senior, history, said, "How about some inner tubes for the water park by Lot D?"

• **Eight maids a milking... 100% juice cows?**

"I would like the option of non-Coca-Cola products," said Joe Decepeida, a St. Louis University graduate who is taking classes at UM-St. Louis before starting graduate school. "I don't know what this school makes on that contract, but what about the social cost? Students might want healthier alternatives than 'C2' and Minute Maid's 10 percent juice content."



Casey Ulrich/The Current

• **Nine ladies dancing for joy** post-class de-stressing."

Nancy Obenhaus, junior, French and history, said that she was generally satisfied with UM-St. Louis but that she would like more time for her studies.

"Maybe if I didn't have to shave my legs anymore," she said. "Put me down for laser hair removal."

• **Ten (inebriated) lords a leaping...**

Andrew Starr, junior, business, started to ask for better login ID's on My Gateway but changed his mind.

"How about some booze tappers in the Nosh," he said, "for

• **11 pipers piping pipes in a designated area**

"Smoking gazebos," said Stephanie Parmley, senior, communication. She said that the gazebos would also benefit the non-smokers who have to share covered areas with smokers during bad weather. "They don't even have to be heated," she added.

• **No "x - y" = 12 Drummers Drumming a happy beat**

"The end of college algebra," said Melissa Hernandez, sophomore, communication.

Taking a look at Christmas traditions around the globe

BY **MELISSA MCCRARY**
Features Editor

When most people in the United States think of Christmas, they usually think of Christmas trees, snow, Santa Claus and presents. Imagine what it would be like to celebrate Christmas by going to the beach, going camping or by hosting a barbecue. There are many different customs and cultures that affect how people celebrate the holiday around the world.

Because the Christmas season in Australia is celebrated in the summer, most Australians do not have to worry about bundling up in winter clothing. Some towns and cities in Australia hold large holiday festivals with parades, Christmas lights, carolers, while awaiting a visit from Father Christmas.

In Costa Rica, people use bright tropical and island flowers as their holiday decorations. Parades with brightly colored floats are held on Dec. 26. On Christmas Eve, people will dress up in their finest attire for a midnight mass service called "Misa de Gallo" followed by a family dinner consisting of chicken and pork tamales.

Since only 2.6 percent of the population in India is Christian, Christmas is mostly celebrated by people who live in the city of Bombay. Rather than decorating a Christmas tree with lights and holiday garland, people decorate a banana or mango tree. The small amount of Christians in India has a different belief about Santa. Most believe in Father Christmas, who comes through the city with presents on a

horse and cart, instead of a sleigh.

Camping and taking family get-aways during Christmas is not an uncommon tradition for people who live in New Zealand. A large barbecue with ribs, steak or chicken is the main Christmas feast to New Zealanders.

Children in Nigeria often celebrate Christmas by lighting firecrackers, just like Americans do on the Fourth of July.

Rebecca Campos, a Missouri resident who is originally from Brazil said that Christmas in Brazil is similar to Christmas in the U.S., except for the differences in the weather.

"My friend who is visiting me from Brazil is very excited about celebrating Christmas here, because she has never seen snow in her whole life," Campos said.

The holiday custom in Brazil is to spend quality time with family during a traditional holiday meal. Father Christmas in Brazil is called Papai Noel.

Only about 6 percent of people celebrate Christmas in China. Chinese Christmas festivities take place in the cities of Shanghai and Beijing. The song "Jingle Bells," trees, lights and "Shen Dan Lao Ren" (Santa) are some of their holiday customs.

Advent is the most popular part of the Christmas season celebrated in Germany. A different advent candle is lit each week, while Germans often have special prayers. Father Christmas (der Weihnachtsmann) comes on Dec. 24, and on Dec. 6 "der Nikolaus" leaves small gifts in the shoes of good children.

Germany is not the only country that lights candles during the holiday season and believes in St. Nicholas. Children in the Czech Republic anticipate a visit from St. Nicholas on Dec. 6, while children in Mexico normally receive gifts at Epiphany on Jan. 6. Some people from various cultures might receive gifts in stockings or in their shoes. In the United Kingdom, children might get gifts left in their pillowcases.

Cliff Holland, junior, business, comes from a Jewish background and describes how Hanukkah is celebrated.

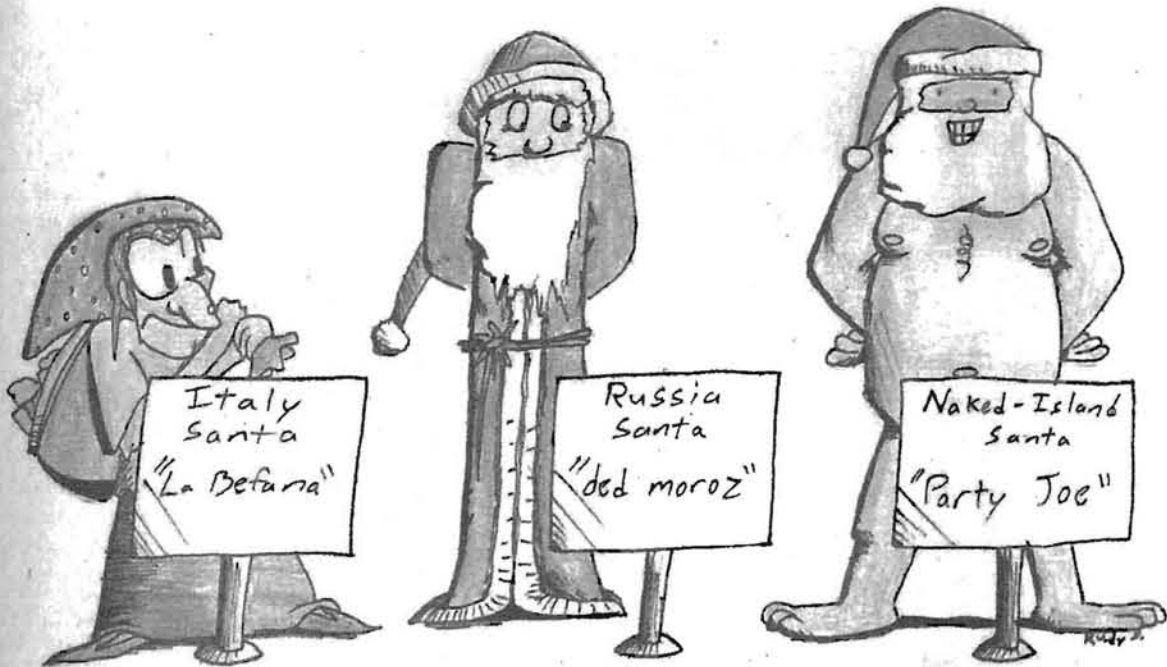
"Hanukkah usually takes place in the middle of December," Holland said. "The celebration lasts eight nights, by lighting a Menorah candle holder and each night people pray and they might give a loved one a gift."

Some African-Americans celebrate their heritage during Kwanzaa. The events during Kwanzaa last seven days, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. A Kinara candle holder with seven candles is lit each night.

Narges Salimian, a Muslim who resides in St. Louis, said that people from Pakistan and Iraq do not celebrate a Christmas holiday.

"We don't celebrate Christmas, but we do have a New Year on the first day of Spring, usually on March 20," Salimian said.

People from all over the world celebrate the holiday season with different customs, but one thing common to all cultures is spending the holidays with the people they love. To find out information about all holiday cultures visit www.whychristmas.com.



A Claus by any other name

Many countries have their own take on the Christmas figure

BY **MONICA MARTIN**
Staff Writer

In the United States, a man brings presents to good girls and boys all over the world on Christmas Eve. This man has several names, including Santa Claus, Kris Kringle and St. Nick. He also goes by different names in different countries. These countries also have their own holiday traditions. Here are just a few.

Austria
In Austria, Santa is called Heiliger Nikolaus. On Dec. 6, the feast of St. Nicholas, he visits children and brings sweets, nuts and apples. On Dec. 24, the children are visited by the Christ Child. The Christ Child brings presents and even a Christmas tree.

Belgium

In Belgium, two figures visit two different people. For the Walloon speakers, their figure is St. Nicholas. They are visited twice. The first visit is on Dec. 4, when St. Nicholas determines if the children are good or bad. On his second visit, Dec. 6, he brings the good children presents. He visits the bad children as well, bringing them twigs.

France

For the French speakers, their visitor is Pere Noel. He is accompanied by Pere Fouettard. Bad children receive a handful of sticks and good children receive chocolates and candies. Dec. 6 is known as the Feast of St. Nicholas, honoring the birthday of St. Nicholas. This day is observed with church services and family gatherings. Children leave their shoes out

to be filled with gifts. Players and puppets perform the birth of Christ in cathedral squares. The Christmas tree is not popular in France. The Yule Log used to be popular, but now that trend is fading.

Chile

In Chile, a man known as Vjito Pascuero wishes the people a happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Little figurines formed from clay are placed under the Christmas tree. These objects are known as pascobre.

Denmark

The figure who visits families in Denmark is named Nisse. Nisse is an elf and a prankster. Families leave bowls of rice pudding or porridge out for Nisse so that his pranks do not go too far.

Dropping the ball on New Year's Resolutions

Keeping up with personal improvement plans takes time, focus and commitment

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Staff Writer

For children, New Year's means trying to stay awake until midnight. For couples, New Year's means having the first kiss of the new year at midnight. However, for almost everybody, New Year's usually means it is time to make resolutions.

Like Christmas shopping, many individuals put off making resolutions until the last minute before midnight. While it may seem too early to make resolutions, the new year is only a month away.

New Year's is one of the oldest holidays celebrated around the world, and it is at this time when people reflect on the old year and look toward a new one. A new year, for many people, means new habits and changes in their lives. Each year, people resolve to change their lives, and most of them have similar goals.

The top ten most common resolutions are to:

1. Lose weight
2. Save or earn more money
3. Stop smoking
4. Spend more time with family
5. Stick to a budget
6. Find a better job
7. Eat better
8. Become more organized
9. Exercise more
10. Become a better person

Students at UM-St. Louis resolved similar changes for the new year.

"My number one resolution is to

plan on saving money," Sarah Lewis, senior, biology, said.

Another student, Diana Watkins, sophomore, international business, wants to become a better person.

"My New Year's resolution is to have more confidence in myself and my abilities," she said.

However, resolutions do not have to be about keeping a

budget or improving self-confidence. They can be about school.

"My resolution is to make nothing below a B," Annmarie Matlach, junior, optometry, said.

New Year's is also a time when people reflect on the resolutions they made last year and their failure to keep them. Usually, people will then set higher goals, resulting in bigger disappointments for the next New Year's. However, by following certain tips, these same people can turn their resolutions into realities.

Psychologists have shown that people who realize their resolutions share four characteristics. They believe they are able to change, they do not make excuses, they do not focus only on the results and they

understand the reasons for making their resolutions.

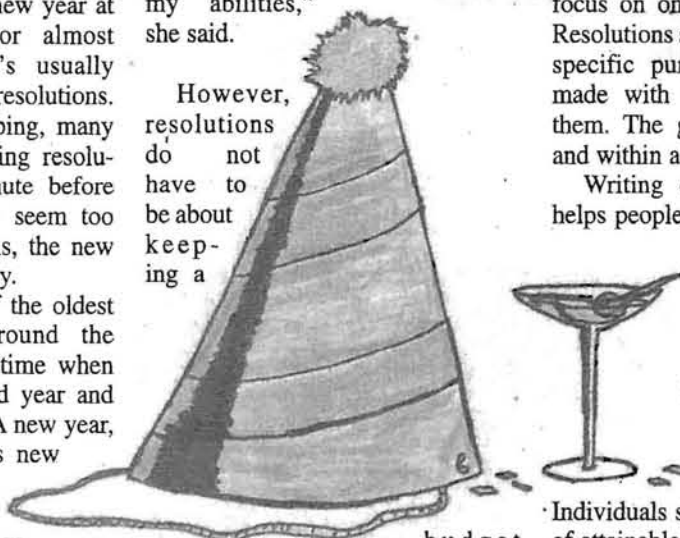
Successful New Year's resolutions require time, effort, focus and commitment. Breaking old habits and making new ones will not occur overnight. Also, it is important to focus on one resolution at a time. Resolutions should contain clear and specific purposes and should be made with the intent of keeping them. The goals must be realistic and within a person's control.

Writing down resolutions also helps people achieve their goals for the new year. When writing down a resolution, people should write what they precisely want, how they expect to earn it, when they want to achieve it and how it will benefit them.

Individuals should write a small list of attainable resolutions because the more resolutions people make, the less they will keep.

Individuals should also be held accountable for their resolutions. Having a friend, family member or support group helps individuals become accountable to themselves and their support group. Many people lack support systems because if they fail at their resolution, no one will know they are a failure. Being accountable also means people are responsible for their successes and failures. Finally, people should not give up until their resolution is achieved.

Overall, a resolution should improve a person in some way, should be beneficial to others and should never hurt others.



St. Louis offers seasonal attractions

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Now that the holiday season is officially here, people are looking for things to do and places to visit in St. Louis to kinder their holiday spirit.

Laura Haywood, junior, education, said that there are many things that she likes to do in the winter.

"I enjoy ice-skating, visiting different shopping malls and driving around looking at Christmas lights," Haywood said.

The Salvation Army Tree of Lights display in downtown Kiener Plaza held their official opening ceremony on Friday, Nov. 19. The ceremony celebrated the holiday festival of lights display, had a special visit from Santa and featured music and live dance entertainment. Throughout the month of December, St. Louisans can view the enormous Christmas tree and light display downtown.

On Wednesday, Nov. 24, other holiday events and exhibits opened up around town.

The Anheuser-Busch Brewery held a free light display from 6 p.m. until midnight. "Winter Wonderland" at Tilles Park on Litzinger and McKnight Roads in Ladue opened its doors to their annual light display. Winter Wonderland is open nightly throughout the month of December, for \$9 per vehicle.

On Friday, Nov. 26, a free "Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert"

event was held at the downtown St. Louis's Old Courthouse.

Susan McNabb, St. Louis resident, said that she enjoys visiting holiday light displays around St. Louis.

Although some might have missed out on the opening ceremonies of those three major events, here is a list of other upcoming events and activity ideas:

1. Santa's Magical Kingdom- a 35 acre park with animated light displays and holiday music. Located by Six Flags in the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, it is open nightly until Jan. 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and on Fridays and Saturdays until 11 p.m. The cost is \$15 per vehicle, but people can print a \$4 discount coupon online.

2. Way of Lights- light display located at the National Shrine of Our Lady of The Snows in Belleville Illinois. Open nightly and admission is free.

3. Wild Lights at the Children's Zoo- Dec. 2-4, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. At the St. Louis Zoo in Forest Park. \$4 per person. Call (314) 781-0900 for more details.

4. Chanukah Festival of Lights- Dec. 5, from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Missouri Botanical Garden. \$4 admission per person.

5. Kwanzaa: Festival of First Fruits- Dec. 29 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Free admission.

For those who are more interested in sledding, skiing or ice-skating activities, the Rec Plex in St. Peters is one popular ice-skating destination.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The Salvation Army Tree of Lights will be on display throughout December. The enormous holiday symbol is located in downtown St. Louis in Kiener Plaza. The opening ceremony took place on Dec. 19.

Skate rental is available for \$2.

Located in Forest Park, the Steinberg Rink is open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until midnight. The cost for ice-skating is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children under 13 and \$2 for skate rentals. Every Friday and Saturday a live band or d.j. plays from 7:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Holiday season hits the silver screen in six classics

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
AGE Editor

Everyone has a few favorite holiday films that they often watch every year to get them in the spirit of the season. This list tends to go with classic films but then isn't this a time for traditions? Some of these might be on your list and others might be new to you. Here are six worthy favorites:

It's A Wonderful Life (1946) - Frank Capra's slice of Americana from when Americans rooted for the underdog and pulled together for the common good always puts me in the holiday mood. With the wonderful Jimmy Stewart and Capra's underlying darker tones to cut the sweetness, it is the story of the difference one person can make, and the contrast of two different kinds of community leadership. I have heard that some people now hate this most American movie but I don't see how.

A Christmas Carol (1951) - The 1951 British black and white film, known in Britain as "Scrooge," is still the best cinematic version and captures the meaning of Charles Dickens' classic, magical tale of realizing that people matter more than

money. It is really the quintessential Christmas story.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966) - The 1966 TV classic is the only one that matters. Directed by legendary animator Chuck Jones and voiced by Boris Karloff, with singing by Thurl Ravenscroft, this version of Dr. Seuss' story has just never been matched for entertainment, quality or meaning.

A Christmas Story (1983) - I don't know why I never tire of this funny and warm 1983 movie of 1940s Christmas. It is like a favorite family memory, repeated every holiday. It is just perfect in its child's view simplicity and family humor.

The Gold Rush (1925) - The holiday in this film is New Year's Eve, not Christmas, so not many people put this on their holiday film list but this Charlie Chaplin silent comedy is a masterpiece of humor and human emotion. There are several versions - pick the original where he kisses the girl in the end. This is the film Chaplin wanted to be remembered by.

Holiday Inn (1942) - Everyone thinks that the classic Hollywood holiday musical is "White Christmas," but this is the actual Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire film about entertainers at a Vermont club, open only on holidays, which introduced the song. A delight.

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St. Louis World AIDS Day Quilt Display
Millennium Student Center

November 29 - December 2 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
160 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be spectacularly displayed in the tree-story atrium of the Millennium Student Center.

Quilt Panel Making

November 29 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (316 MSC)
November 29 & December 1 - 10 AM - Noon in Century Rooms
The St. Louis Chapter of the NAMES Project Foundation will provide the opportunity for individuals to make panels to add to the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

St. Louis AIDS Support Organizations - MSC
Wednesday, December 1

Representatives from St. Louis area AIDS Support Organization (ASOs) will be available to provide information.

HIV Testing - Office of Student Health - MSC
Wednesday, December 1

HIV testing will be provided by the UMSL Office of Student Health.

A Closer Walk

December 1 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Century Rooms
Narrated by Will Smith, one of the most artful, heartrending and inspirational documentaries explores the intricate relationship between health, dignity, and human rights, and shows how the harsh realities of AIDS in the world are an expression of the way the world is. Film runs 85 minutes and will show twice.

World AIDS Day Observance Program - Pilot House
Wednesday, December 1 - 7:00 PM

The St. Louis Chapter of the NAMES Project, the AIDS Interfaith Network, and the UMSL Office of Student Life have teamed up to present the most spectacular World AIDS Day event in recent memory. The program will include a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of those no longer with us. Candles will be lit by Women Affected by AIDS - mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, lovers and friends. Women of the St. Louis area clergy will share messages of hope, prevention, compassion and a call to action. Presentation of new panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, a dramatic monologue "Aunt Ida Pieces a Quilt," and musical selections from CHARIS and the Greater New Higher Heights Choir will complete the inspirational evening. A reception will follow the program.

RHA Luminary - South Campus Provincial House
Wednesday, December 1 - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

RHA will present an HIV/AIDS memorial luminary outside of the Provincial House. Don't miss this spectacular event.

PRIZM's Creative Competition Gallery and Awards
Friday, December 3 - 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

All artists and writers are invited to submit subject matter pertaining to HIV/AIDS. All mediums and sizes are welcome. Submissions will be judged December 3rd in the Pilot House during the Awareness Dance Party and the top three picks will be awarded prizes. All submissions are due in the Office of Student Life by 5:00 PM on December 3rd.

Awareness Dance Party - Pilot House
Friday, December 3 - 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

DJ Nestor will spin tunes while the student body comes together to celebrate awareness of HIV/AIDS issues in our community and around the world. Admission is free - all guests must be accompanied by any college student with valid ID.

WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1

WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS SPONSORED BY:
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE, UPB, PRIZM,
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ASA, RHA, CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
GALLERY VISIO, AND LITMAG II.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 516-5291

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Llywellyn's serves up Celtic cuisine

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

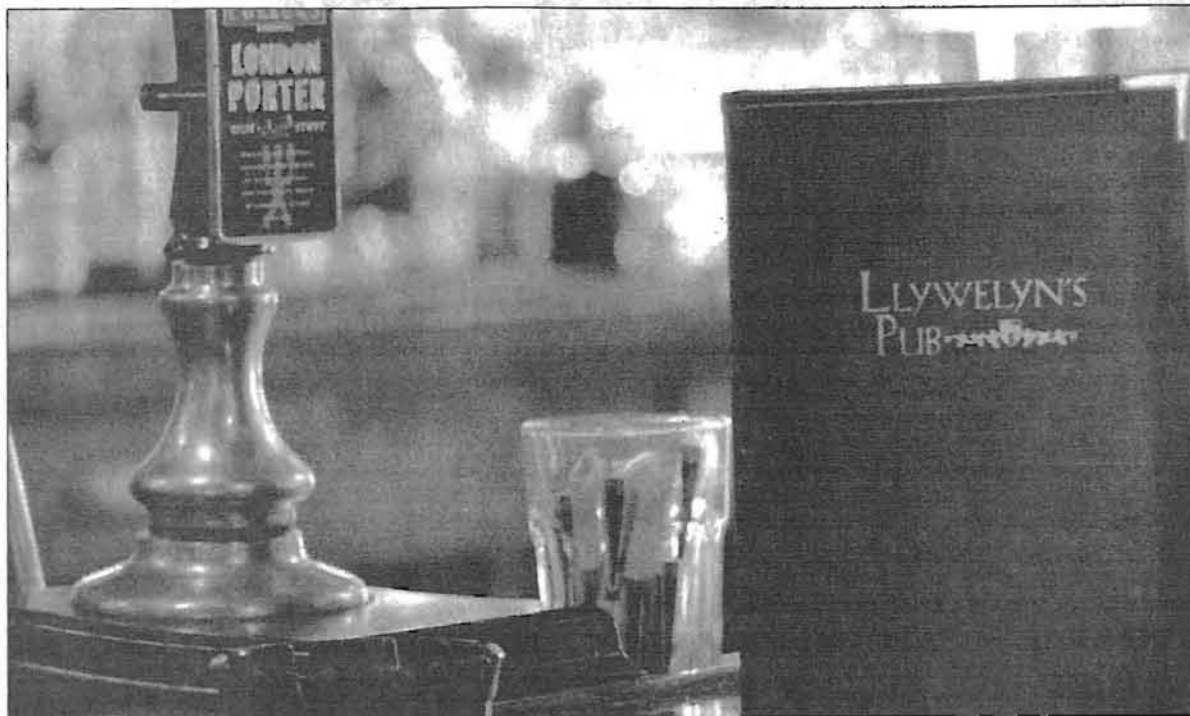
In the mood for some Celtic cuisine? Then visit Llywellyn's Pub in Old Webster for some hearty Welsh-Irish-Scottish Celtic dishes.

My guest and I arrived at Llywellyn's Pub on Halloween afternoon at 2 p.m. We had to cross the patio to get inside the restaurant. There were a few patrons on the patio and a few inside the restaurant. We walked in and were greeted right away. We asked to sit on the patio and were taken outside. The inside resembled a castle: it was wide and spacious, with a high ceiling. A large waiting area with chairs and couches was located to the left of the entrance. The hostess station is in front of the door. The bar is in the back right corner of the dining room. The patio is large with tables and chairs that can seat large groups. Small lights resembling Christmas lights are strung around the patio for evening dining. There is no sign advertising the restau-

rant. Instead, three Celtic flags hang over the patio door: from left to right are the Scottish flag, the Irish flag and the Welsh flag, one for each Celtic nation.

Right after we were seated, the waitress, Lauren, brought our drinks. The menu, with a Welsh dragon on the cover, offers over 30 items. These items include starters, soups and salads, the sandwich board, sides, traditions, puddings and kids' choices. I ordered a mild plate of dragon wings (more commonly known as chicken wings). My guest ordered a roast beef sandwich with a side of fries. We waited only 15 minutes for the food. When my wings were brought out, Lauren also brought out a large stack of napkins, knowing the sauce would cause a mess. The wings were hot and tender. My guest's sandwich was delicious and her fries were hot. She said the bread was a type of garlic bread. A small container of dipping juice came with her sandwich. It is important to pass the word of the good food onto the chef, who likes to hear when people love his food.

Llywellyn's Pub
Located in Old Webster, at 17 Moody Ave.



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Llywellyn's Pub, located at 17 Moody Ave. in Old Webster, offers place for patrons to sit down and enjoy a meal or just have a drink at the bar.

The service at Llywellyn's Pub is excellent, and it extends past the usual server friendliness. Aside from just taking patron's orders and checking up on them, Lauren would also stop and chat with people. She joked with customers and looked as if she enjoyed getting to know the people in her section.

Llywellyn's Pub first opened in the

Central West End in 1975. In 1997, three high school buddies, Scott Kemper, Chris Marshall and Brett Bennett, bought the name from the original owners. The boys then opened the restaurant in Old Webster, and in Westport. The one in Central West End is still open. Llywellyn's Pub in Old Webster is next to an antique mall called Maple Leaf Antique Gallery.

Across the street is Gerber Chapel. Other surrounding streets house many small shops.

If you are in the mood for Celtic cuisine, visit Llywellyn's Pub at 17 Moody Avenue in Old Webster. Ask to be put in Lauren's section. If you cannot make it to that restaurant, visit the restaurant in Westport or Central West End. Your taste buds will thank you.

EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor
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Coming to the PAC

Touhill has wonderful lineup for December

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS
Staff Writer

Although the fall semester is quickly coming to a close, the exciting and diverse season at the Touhill will keep cranking out events throughout early December.

On Dec. 1 the Arianna String Quartet Student Chamber Concert will perform in the Lee Theater at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. The next night, the UM-St. Louis Student Chamber Music Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. The St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra will perform their Holiday "Pops" Concert Dec. 3 at 8 p.m.

Two events are scheduled for Sat., Dec. 4. First, the Arianna String Quartet presents "It's All in Your Imagination" at 2 p.m. This event is free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. The next event scheduled that evening is the Ebony Fashion Fair, which will be held at 8 p.m. The traveling fashion show and charity fund-raising event began in 1956 and tours the country with the latest fashion trends. To round out the busy week at the PAC, the Arianna String Quartet will present "Intimate Expressions" on Sun., Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. This event is free for UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff.

Other special concerts and performances planned for the month of December cater to a wide variety of tastes. Everything from dance to a cappella singing will be presented at the PAC. The UM-St. Louis Orchestra will hold a free concert on Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. The Natural Bridge Theatre & Dance Workshop performance series will be held over a two day period on Dec. 9 and Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lee Theater. The Spirit of Korean Dance will take place Fri., Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. The world-renowned a cappella chorus Ambassadors of Harmony present their special concert "Holidays in Gold" on Dec. 10 and Dec. 11.

The last event to take place before the end of the semester will be Handel's "Messiah," presented by the Illinois Chamber Orchestra. After winter break, the PAC season resumes with the Jan. 28 performance of the famed George and Ira Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess."

For more information about these events, show times and ticket prices visit www.touhill.org or contact the box office at 516-4949.

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Neverland' is full of innocence, imagination

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

"Finding Neverland" is a fictionalized tale of the creation of J.M. Barrie's play "Peter Pan" and the family that inspired it.

This lovely film might get an Oscar nod for Johnny Depp as Barrie. A beautifully mounted film that thankfully avoids being overly sweet or speculating on the nature of Barrie's attraction to the boys, it paints the relationship as a man who finds refuge from a distant wife, and rigid post-Victorian society generally, in a ready-made family of four lively boys where he can also re-live his own boyhood and indulge his imagination. Based on a play by Allan Knee, the story also addresses the darker themes of death and lost innocence that underlie the original play.

It also stars Kate Winslet, in a wonderful turn as the widowed mother. Acting and directing are both very polished, and the look of the film is sumptuous.

Scottish playwright and author J. M. Barrie (Johnny Depp) is dealing with the less than stirring response to his most recent play and is worried about his career. His beautiful, socially ambitious wife Mary (Radha Mitchell) is much more concerned about making an entrance into high society than her husband's worries about his sagging career. Her lack of understanding of her imaginative



Photo courtesy Miramax Films

Johnny Depp and Freddie Highmore star in Marc Forster's 'Finding Neverland.'

husband and her embarrassment at his playfulness create a wall between them. A chance encounter in a park with the recently widowed Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Kate Winslet) and her four boys changes Barrie's life. He is immediately taken with the widow and her imaginative boys, including the solemn Peter (Freddie Highmore), who seems far too mature for his age after the death of his

father.

Marc Forster, who also directed "Monster's Ball," seems to have gone for a complete change of direction with this warm and charming film. The Llewelyn Davies family is as charmed by the entertaining Barrie as the playwright is with the boys. As Barrie spends time with the Llewelyn Davies family, Forster takes us on Barrie's imaginative flights of fancy

as he plays pirates and Indians with the boys, by creating their imagined forests and pirate ships visually for us. The director moves back and forth between the world of the real and that of imagination, just as the playful Barrie moves in and out of the world of play with the boys.

see NEVERLAND, page 11

'Kinsey' has intriguing subject, great acting

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Outstanding story, acting and filmmaking grace this Oscar-bait biopic about Alfred Kinsey, the Harvard-educated zoologist who first undertook the study of human sexual behavior and whose scholarly books became surprise bestsellers in the late 40s and early 50s. Liam Neeson stars as Dr. Kinsey with Laura Linney as his wife, in a film that tells an intriguing story with stylish filmmaking and superb acting.

Finding that balance between the person and the work is the challenge of all biopics. "Kinsey" succeeds completely in this balancing act, giving us not just an intriguing story but a wonderful piece of filmmaking studded with great performances.

The Kinsey Report, as the two-volume academic survey of human sexual behavior was commonly called, was the surprise bestseller of the late 1940s and early 1950s. Dr. Alfred Kinsey looked like a typical tweedy academic, but the wasp biologist turned human behavior researcher asked questions no one had asked before.

His two books on male and female sexual behavior were cultural phenomena. Cartoons appeared in the New Yorker and other magazines, and the books were discussed at cocktail parties and summarized in periodicals like Redbook. The question on everyone's lips was who had participated in his extensive series of interviews and answered all those embarrassing questions in the confidential survey. What made this racy reading in the strait-laced late forties and early fifties acceptable was its clinical, scientific approach to a forbidden topic.

Opening with a black and white scene where Dr. Kinsey trains a worker in his interview technique, director Bill Condon uses the training interview as a framing device as he recounts Kinsey's life and work. Using a minimum of cinematic tricks and a seamless, unobtrusive style, Condon evokes the time with wonderful period detail, adds strong acting and uses the whole to build a rounded and moving portrait of a man and his work.

"Kinsey" is everything a biopic film ought to be. The subject is intriguing and the acting is Oscar-worthy. Both Alfred Kinsey's personal life and his work are covered in a harmonious blend that shows the man's good points and bad. Best of all, Kinsey is a just simply a good film. Rarely do you see all these elements come together. "Kinsey" is one of the year's best.

see KINSEY, page 14

Stone's 'Alexander' is not quite great

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

Oliver Stone's big-budget epic film "Alexander" sets out to tell the story of Alexander the Great, the Macedonian Greek who became king of Greece at 20 and went on to conquer the Persian empire and most of the rest of the known world by age 25. Alexander continued to expand his empire as far as India, but died of a fever at age 32.

Typical for the auteur filmmaker, Stone creates something cinematically stunning but which is also a narrative mess.

Stone's film opens with the death of Alexander (Irish actor Colin Farrell, with dyed blond hair), then flashes forward many years later, as his elderly follower Ptolemy (Anthony Hopkins), now Pharaoh of Egypt, dictates his memoirs about Alexander. From there, the tale flashes back to Alexander's youth (Connor Paolo as the young Alexander, in a fine turn) and introduces his parents, Queen Olympias (Angelina Jolie) and King Phillip (Val Kilmer), whose conflicts shape his youth. But then the film flashes forward to Alexander's battle campaign against the Persians. The film continues to flash back and forward in time, spelling out the tale of his youth against the backdrop of his conquests and occasionally returning

to the narrator.

Alexander the Great should make a great subject for a great movie. Alexander's father, Phillip II of Macedonia, conquered all of Greece, unifying the peninsula. The Athenians, Spartans and other Greeks considered the Macedonians to be country bumpkins, barely Greek, but Phillip was set on consolidating his hold. His son Alexander was educated by the great Greek thinker Aristotle and groomed to be an enlightened philosopher king of a united Greece. Instead, Alexander became a brilliant general who conquered the entire world known to the ancient Greeks and more. Alexander spread Greek ideas and culture to the East in the age before the Roman Empire, with significant repercussions throughout history.

Yet, surprisingly little is known about his thoughts, feelings or personality. Alexander's history was written centuries after his death and, like all strong leaders, he was portrayed as demon or a hero, depending on the writer's agenda. He is considered to be the most brilliant military tactician in history and was never defeated in battle. Reportedly, he was happiest in battle and a man of unparalleled bravery and military skill who led every attack from the front. Almost certainly he was charismatic. Facts are known about background and about his deeds, but a sense of who he was is lost because none of his own words

were written down and eyewitness accounts were lost. This creates a tantalizingly blank slate on which a director and an actor may create a character.

Enough is known about Alexander to rough out a great tale that needs only a charismatic character to bring him to life. Naturally, we expect battles and sweeping action with such a rich history. But for director Oliver Stone this was not enough.

Curiously, this film gives you surprisingly little history and most surprising, little sense of what made Alexander great.

The film is typical Oliver Stone: it has great visual richness and inventiveness but the story is conspiracy-laden, often obtuse and has a sense of an underlying agenda. Despite its length of three hours, this tale of a man who spent nearly all of his life in battle has only two battle scenes. Instead we get a great deal about Alexander's personal life, psychobabble about his parents and a great deal about his relationship with his lover-friend Hephaestion (Jared Leto, with lots of eye liner). At times, Alexander seems more a victim of intrigue and conspiracies than a great leader.

The film is beautiful to look at, a product of stylish filmmaking, but is otherwise filled with flaws.

The major flaw of the film is that we never get a sense of who Alexander was, what made him great, why this man held such power over

his men and how he was able to create his empire. We never grow to care about Alexander as a character. The film spends too little time on Alexander as the brilliant general and visionary conqueror and too much time on political intrigue, psychological views of his personal life and his sexual preferences.

Unlike most of this talkative film, the battle scenes are glorious, if bloody, scenes of grand cinematic sweep and action, full of style and visual power with a pulse-pounding score. They are easily the best part of the film and if Stone had concentrated on Alexander the general, we would certainly have had a much better film. The first battle takes place as Alexander confronts the Persian king Darius and gives a soaring eagle-eye view of the battle and a wild race across the dusty plain as Alexander's cavalry flanks Darius's forces in an unexpected attempt to kill Darius to demoralize the Persian troops. In the second battle scene, Stone gives us a wonderful visual clash of cultures as Alexander's forces fight the Indian king on his elephant in a shadow-drenched forest. The shot of a wild-eyed Alexander on his rearing warhorse confronting the Indian king on his elephant is iconic, and the following sequence with a cinematic use of false color is moving and inspired.

see ALEXANDER, page 14

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Powerful 'Physical Graffiti' graces the Touhill

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

The dancers' poses were elegant, their movements were fluid. One might find it hard to believe that "Physical Graffiti" was produced and performed by UM-St. Louis students.

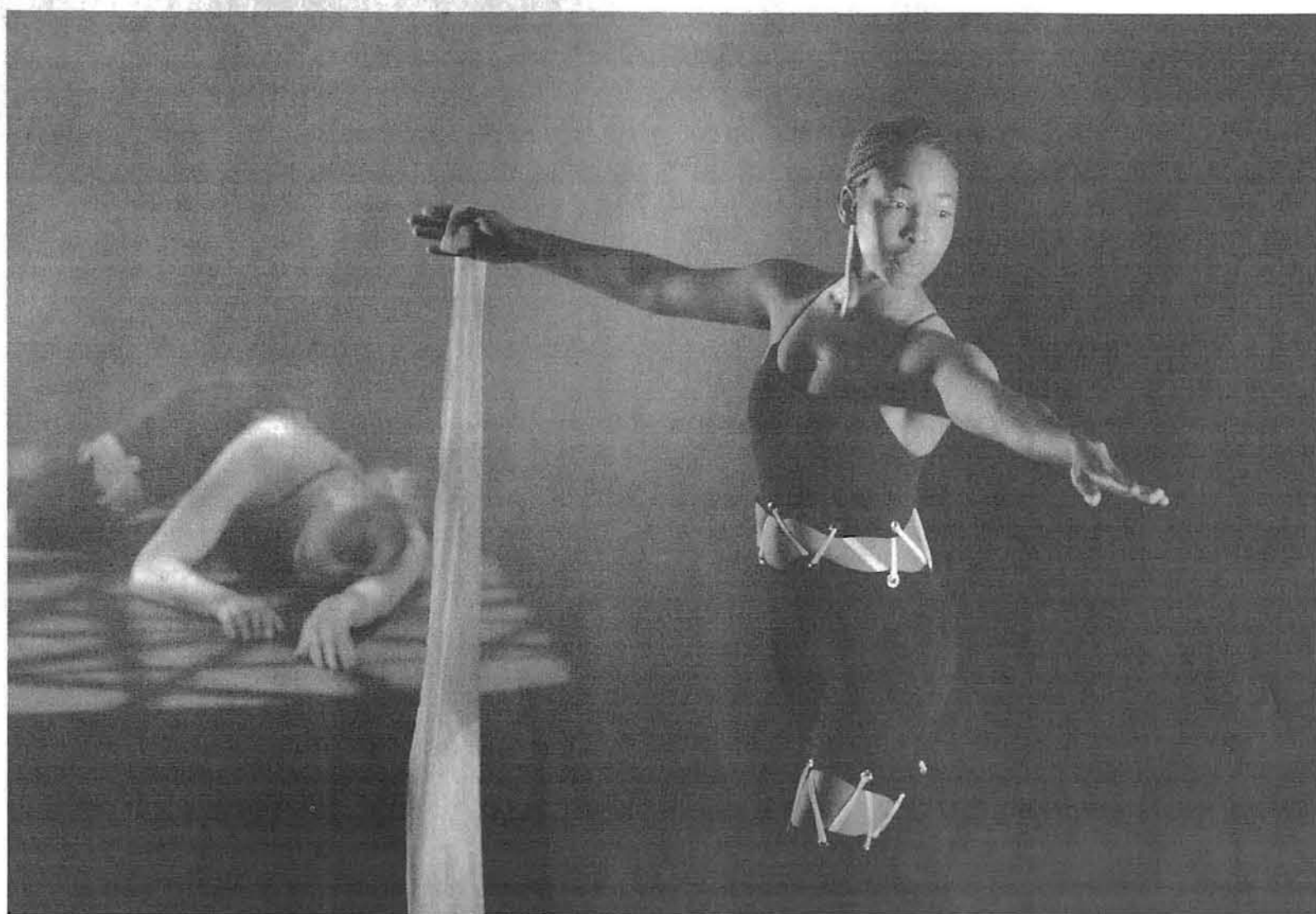
In the Lee Theatre, around two hundred and fifty people gathered to see a night filled with dance and concert. The show began with no introduction or emcee, just a pile of bodies on the floor. It was not until the stage lights began to shine and the music started playing that the bodies began to rise and come to life.

"Sleepwalkers," choreographed by Arica Brown, was the first dance piece. It was dark and heavy with slow confined movements, making the piece intense. The dancers pushed and pulled towards each other, coming within inches of each other's bodies, but not quite touching one another. After hovering all around each other, they would turn towards the audience and sway with their arms hanging low. The piece successfully conveyed the painful struggles of unhappiness.

After the wild and unrestrained tribal piece "Native Species," choreographed by Legih Ragsdale, followed by two more dance pieces that brought jazz and opera on stage, there was a fifteen-minute intermission that gave the dancers a chance to catch their breath and change into some of their many costumes.

"What a Funky Rhythm," was a good second half opener when it moved the show from dark and wild to fun. The piece was choreographed by Angela Mahlin, and featured three other dancers and her who playfully had a "tap-off."

Along with Mahlin, Kelley Alred, Amanda Boyer, and Laurne



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Amy Jordan (at left) and Dana Upchurch (at right) perform in 'Physical Graffiti,' a student-choreographed production, in the Lee Theatre of the PAC on Friday, Nov. 19. The piece they were performing is called 'humAln,' choreographed Tyler Cross. There were a total of eight different dance pieces that varied in style that included jazz, tap, modern, ballet. This is UM-St. Louis Department of Theatre, Dance, and Media Studies' first full length of concert and dance choreographed by department students and faculty.

Pitterman, (besides their tap shoes) were dressed in street wear that included fishnets, stocking caps, work-out gloves, and ripped jeans. The women had sass and attitude, daring each other to top the other one's taps. The clicks, taps, and

smacks of their shoes were the music and not only did each dancer have to reproduce their predecessor's sounds, but they had to mimic the other dancer's movements as well. The dancers were able to keep the rhythm funky and entertaining as

they tapped loudly and moved gracefully all while keeping the audience intrigued and laughing with their wisecracks at each other. The next dance piece was more introspective and serious than "What a Funky Rhythm," yet it was not as

dark as the opening piece, "Sleepwalkers." For "humAln," Tyler Cross choreographed and composed this dance piece. He said in his choreographer notes that the piece is about relationships in people's lives.

Cross said, "My piece is intended to display a number of very basic, but very important relationships found in everyone's lives. Dependence and freedom, selflessness and selfishness, a mechanical society and the organic self, as well as life and death."

These relationships were represented by dancers Amy Jordan and Dana Upchurch, who looked like cyborgs in their tight black outfits that made their skin look synthetic. The two dancers tugged and pulled on a rope, pulling towards and drawing away from each other. The piece ended with the music slowly stripping away the mixed sounds of Portishead and Prodigy, which left the techno beat of "Animal" by Nine Inch Nails beating, duplicating the sound of a heart, which finally stopped after the rope was wrapped around Jordan's neck.

The culmination of "Physical Graffiti," showed off the power of the dance department at UM-St. Louis. The evening's final piece, "It's Just A Chair," choreographed by the Artistic Director Alicia Okouchi-Guy, featured thirteen dancers from the UMSL Dance Repertory, and one chair on stage. The dancers sat, climbed, and jumped on the chair, where it was led from one side of the stage to the other.

This well-orchestrated piece captivated the audience with its large ensemble moving on and off stage as they danced around an inanimate object. This dance piece showed the complexity of their dance training and the strong bond between all the dancers because they each had to dance as a unit or team. They executed the piece on time and with great success.

At the end of "It's Just A Chair," all the dancers took the stage, gathering around Okouchi-Guy. The entire cast was glowing on stage as they accepted a well-deserved round of applause.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Sideways' is a delightful, wine-filled adventure

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-
HOMER
A & E Editor

"Sideways" is a wonderful, wine-filled road trip that is a kind of buddy picture for grown ups. It is a comic, dramatic, romantic film that hits some real truths about facing who you are and who your friends really are.

Middle-aged former college roommates Miles (Paul Giamatti) and Jack (Thomas Haden Church) start out on a carefree road trip through the California wine country, sampling Pinots, exploring the vineyards, and even meeting women, on a

kind of rolling bachelor party the week before Jack's wedding. All is going well, until it all goes sideways.

Like a fine wine, "Sideways" gets better as it develops. At first, it is all comic fun but as it unreels, it deepens into an intelligent and emotionally engaging look at fading hopes, dimming youth and second chances.

Miles is a junior high school English teacher who aspires to be a novelist. He still has not accepted his divorce and his novel still has not been published. Miles is a discerning wine connoisseur and a man with a growing drinking problem—he put the wine in wino. As a wedding gift, he offers his old college roommate Jack, a handsome, immature has-been actor coasting on his past, a road trip through California wine

country to sample and learn about wines, fit in some golf and just have a little fun. With the wedding just a week away, Jack thinks this bachelor trip might be just the thing.

The buddies are a kind of odd couple, as different as you could find. Jack the actor is effortlessly successful with women, a happy-go-lucky, self-indulgent guy who seems hardly to have a thought in his head beyond the next hedonistic pleasure. After a successful start in TV acting, his career is now fading away. When wine-connoisseur Miles suggests the tasting trip, Jack is happy to go along, to learn about wines and savor a last taste of "freedom" before his wedding day.

Miles, on the other hand, is a perpetual worrier and a man with little confidence with women. Miles lives for his dreams of being a writer and for wines, particularly Pinot Noir. When he talks about his ex-wife, he rhapsodizes about her palate for fine wines. She was perfect, in Miles' mind, chiefly because she understood his wine obsession.

When Jack and Miles find a pair of beautiful women, Maya (Virginia Madsen) and Stephanie (Sandra Oh), to share the wine with, the trip seems nearly perfect. At Jack's urging, Miles and Jack are not completely honest with these two, claiming Miles is a published author and omitting mention of the upcoming wedding. Miles rationalizes away the lie, figuring it will not matter by the

weekend, when they go back home. But then things start to get complicated as Jack seems to forget about his upcoming wedding, much to Miles' dismay.

Director Alexander Payne, who also directed "About Schmidt" and "Election," has crafted an Oscar worthy film, and Paul Giamatti, unfairly overlooked for his splendid performance in "American Splendor" may finally get some wider recognition for his fine performance in this film and maybe an Oscar nomination as well. This film is that good.

All the performances are pitch perfect in this film. Thomas Haden Church's big-kid Jack is a comic gem, hilarious until we start to see how his childish antics affect everyone else. Sandra Oh's flirty Stephanie is funny, sexy and unpredictable. Virginia Madsen's more reserved Maya is delicately drawn, vulnerable and sweet.

Everything about these characters and the places they visit is completely believable. In fact, the places they visit are real places. The authenticity of the characters is due to the way they are so fully developed. Curiously, Rex Pickett's novel was languishing unpublished, just like Miles' novel, until Payne expressed interest in making it into a film.

Like the many films that have food themes, we learn a bit about wines along the way and learn about the characters through wine. Miles is very fond of Pinots, and in when he



Photo courtesy rottentomatoes.com

Miles (Paul Giamatti) and Jack (Thomas Haden Church) make a toast during their tour of California wine country. The unlikely duo's trip turns from leisurely excursion into a 'sideways' adventure as they meet a pair of beautiful women and the complications begin.

explains his fascination with the temperamental, fragile grape by citing the nuanced and complex wines it can yield, we note that he sees something of himself in the grape.

Despite his charm, Jack is just a big irresponsible kid. As things get complicated, Miles has to come to grips with how little he has in common with his emotional manipulative and self-centered friend. Coping with a situation he feels like he created, Miles also has his own confrontation with a past he cannot give up and changes he does not want to accept.

As long as Jack and Miles were just two guys having fun, everything was fine. When they have to face going home to their real lives, they both resist, in their own ways, and try to cling to the moment and the perfume of the past.

In the hands of another director, this film could have been turned into standard stuff. Instead it is real, insightful, comic and just true. Miles is forced to confront things about himself and his friend, and release the past and embrace the future. Once he does, he finds it's not so bad.

NEVERLAND, from page 10

Barrie spends more and more time with the widow and her family, neglecting his own wife. Rumors spread about his interest in the widow and her boys, prompting Sylvia's stern mother (Julie Christie) to step in to protect her daughter's reputation.

The film has a wonderful period look and strong performances by all the actors. Although his Scottish

accent is distracting, Johnny Depp turns in an unmannered performance that successfully blends the elements of childish whimsy and adult seriousness the role requires. Reportedly, Depp was so impressed with the boy who plays young Peter (Freddie Highmore) that he recommended him for a role in his next film. Kate Winslett is perfect as the sweet young

widow coping with her difficult circumstances and trying to shelter her boys from harm and from growing up too soon.

"Finding Neverland" is a warm, delightful film with a hint of bitter sweetness. The beautiful period costumes transport us to another time and trace both the creation of the famous, beloved play and its author's relation-

ship with the family that inspired it. Bits of the play that evolved in Barrie's mind and its first stage production are sprinkled through the latter half of the film as well, enough to give us a sense of it but not so much as to slow down the pace of the film.

"Finding Neverland" premiered locally here at the St. Louis International Film Festival.

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SPORTS

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JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

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Upcoming

Men's Basketball

Dec. 2
◆ at SIUE
7:30 p.m.

Dec. 4
◆ at Quincy
7:30 p.m.

Dec. 8
◆ at S. Indiana
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Dec. 2
◆ at SIUE
5:30 p.m.

Dec. 4
◆ at Quincy
5:15 p.m.

Dec. 8
◆ at S. Indiana
7:30 p.m.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Rivermen, Riverwomen triumph in home openers

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams gave fans reason to cheer at their home opening games this week. Both took home wins, and gave the UM-St. Louis audience its first peek at the teams' lineups for the season.

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team easily defeated Harris-Stowe College on Nov. 23 to win their home opener 92-66. Several days later on Nov. 26 the team was defeated by conference rival St. Joseph's University 80-65. Size made all of the difference.

The Rivermen dominated Harris-Stowe from the very beginning of the game. The Rivermen were down 6-5 before scoring the next seven points to gain the lead for good. The Rivermen pushed the lead to ten on a jumper by Chris Mroz ten minutes into the game and before the half was over the lead was extended to 16 on a lay-up by Jonathan Griffin.

The Rivermen exploded in the second half. Behind 65.5% shooting and an offensive onslaught the Rivermen were unstoppable. In the first five minutes of the game the Rivermen outscored Harris-Stowe 12-4, and Tim Guerin capped the run with two free throws to push the lead to 21. Harris-Stowe managed to cut the lead to 12 with 13:00 left in the game, but the Rivermen came back with an 11-0 run to push the lead to 23 with 8:36 left in the game. The Rivermen refused to let up, and by the end of the game the lead was 26.

Griffin led the team with 16 points, followed by Aaron Green with 15 and Sherome Cole with 13. The most telling statistics for the game though, were the points in the

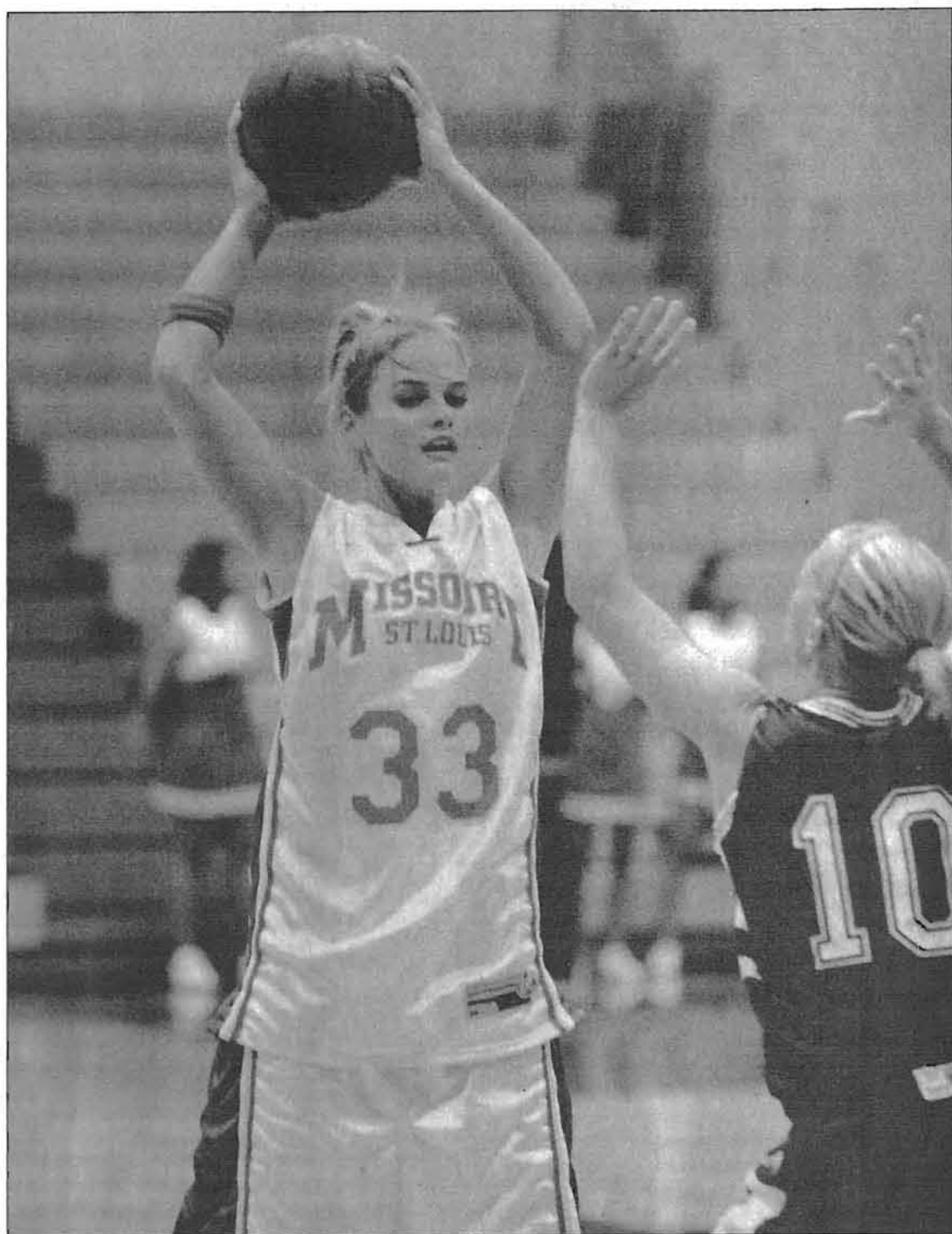
paint and the rebounds. The Rivermen outscored Harris-Stowe 43-18 in the paint and out rebounded them 42-32. These numbers turned out to be reversed in the loss to St. Joseph's University.

The Rivermen started the game 2-2, but four turnovers and four fouls over an eight minute span gave St. Joseph's a 15-6 lead. The Rivermen made a slow comeback, and with 7:24 left in the half Griffin hit a jumper to get the Rivermen to within five, but they followed it with 0-7 shooting to get back into a 15 point hole.

The skid was finally stopped with 3:07 left in the half by a monstrous dunk by Green after he pulled down an offensive rebound. St. Joseph's entered halftime leading 38-25.

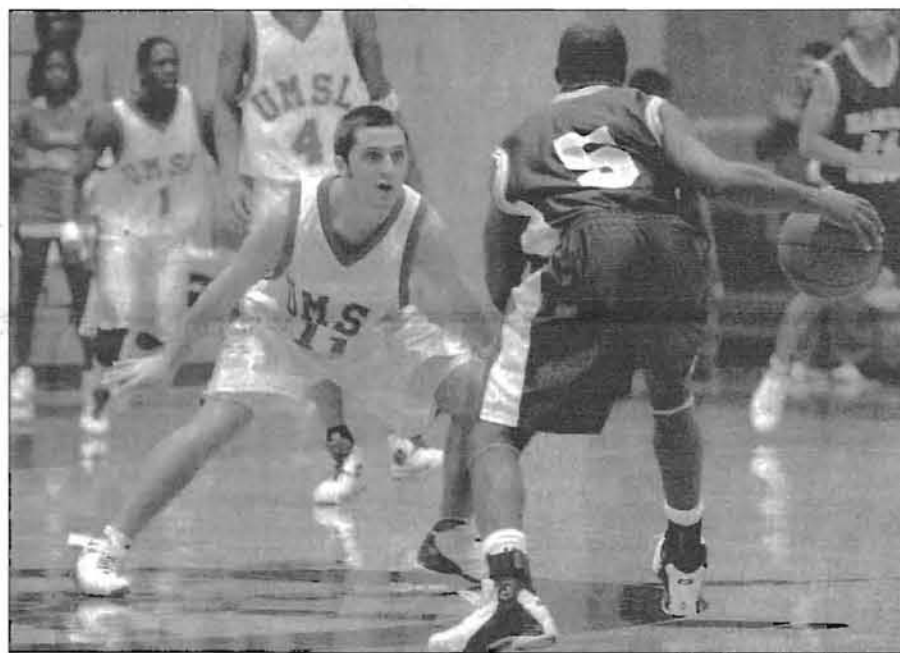
The second half the Rivermen came out attacking and Griffin hit a three-pointer after four minutes of play to cut the lead to seven. St. Joseph's began to push the lead again, but Green came through with another three-pointer to put the lead at seven yet again, at 44-37. With 13:00 left to play St. Joseph's was up by 11 and having their way in the paint, pulling down easy rebounds and scoring on second chance points. The Rivermen substituted freshman David Ward to try and curb the inside play, and over the next four minutes he out-muscled St. Joseph's to pull down several much-needed rebounds, including two offensive rebounds in a row to give Cole back to back chances to score. Ward and Cole combined to cut the lead to six with 9:17 left to play, but then both teams hit a two minute drought without being able to score.

see HOME OPENERS, page 13



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Leslie Ricker, freshman guard for the Riverwomen, looks to pass during the first half of the home-opening game Nov. 18. Ricker comes to UM-St. Louis from North Posey High School in Poseyville, Ind.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen point guard Chris Mroz stares down Harris-Stowe player Chuck Walls on Tuesday night. Mroz scored a game-high seven assists along with ten points, helping push the Rivermen to a 92-66 victory.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Megan Alberts, sophomore forward, sails toward the basket during the Riverwomen's home opener on Nov. 18. The Riverwomen beat the McKendree Bearcats 66-62.

Women's basketball opens season 50/50

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team opened their regular season with an 80-61 loss at Pittsburg State, but then redeemed themselves with a home opening 66-62 win over McKendree College. The difference between the two games can be summed up in two categories: field goal percentage and turnovers.

Against the Pittsburg State Gorillas the Riverwomen did themselves in by shooting only 27% in the first half and having a game total of 27 turnovers. The low field goal percentage got the Riverwomen in a 19 point hole, falling behind 22-41 in the first half. The turnovers did not help their cause as 14 of the Gorillas points in the first half were scored off of Riverwomen turnovers. The Riverwomen were also outscored 20-10 in the paint.

The second half was a complete turnaround for the Riverwomen, but they could not manage to overcome the 19 point deficit. They began taking control of the paint more and outscored the Gorillas 16-8, but they still allowed 12 points off of turnovers. The biggest difference for the team though, came from their field goal percentage. The Riverwomen shot 44% from the field, including an impressive 40% from beyond the arc.

The game against the McKendree Bearcats was a completely different story. The Riverwomen came out ready to play. In the opening minutes of the game the team was led by Kali Birkey and Taylor Gagliano in an 11-0 run to give the Riverwomen a 13-4 lead. The theme of the game for the Bearcats, however, seemed to be getting down and fighting back.

see RIVERWOMEN, page 12

In first game of season, R-men fall at fifth-ranked Washburn U.

Jonathan Griffin, Joey Paul are top scorers

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

The Rivermen basketball team finally got to show everyone what they were made of as they took the court for their long anticipated season opener. They played the nationally fifth-ranked Washburn University Ichabods in a tough road battle that proved that the Rivermen are no joke this season.

Junior Jonathan Griffin helped the team get off to a good start by scoring the opening points. After the opening bucket the Rivermen played it close as both teams started the game on the fly. The Rivermen grabbed an early 8-7 lead on Washburn, but in the next few minutes Washburn scored seven straight points to establish their first significant lead.

As the half continued Griffin again gave the Rivermen a needed spark as he nailed a shot from the three-spot to give the team a 17-15 lead, but the Ichabods would again respond with another seven-point run. Despite Washburn's efforts to build a larger lead, the Rivermen continued to keep the game close and with under five minutes left in the half the Rivermen regained a lead of their own at 31-30 on a three pointer by Sherome Cole.

Again the Ichabods responded with seven straight points and led 37-31, but three pointers by Troy Slaten and Griffin tied the game again and the teams went into halftime knotted at 39-39. The first half saw a total of seven ties and



Rivermen forward Jonathan Griffin sizes up the opposition at the team's home opener Tuesday night at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. Griffin leads the team in points scored, with 47 in the first three games.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

nine lead changes. The Rivermen were on fire from long range as they hit 9-of-10 from three-point land, led in the category by newcomer Joey Paul who was 3-for-3 from beyond the arc in the half.

Washburn began the second half the same way the Rivermen started the game and got the first field goal to take the lead. The Rivermen stayed alongside and kept the lead within three points for the first seven minutes of the

second half. With nine minutes already off of the clock the Rivermen were down by just three, 51-48, and got the spark they needed as Derrell Minner scored six straight on four free throws and a field goal to give the Rivermen the 54-51 lead with 11 minutes left in the game.

see MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 13

SPORTS EDITORIAL

Where are all the hecklers?

As a college student-athlete here at UM-St. Louis I can't help but notice our lack of crowd heckling. Where are our drunken college faithfuls filling the stands and making fun of the other team for anything they can think of? Where is the occasional streak across the game field? Where are the your mom jokes and in your face yelling? Having fans in the stands, especially students, can help make the home team better and make the visitors break.

Fans are the key to the home field advantage. They don't call it a home field advantage just because of where the field is located—it is because home fans have the ability to knowingly make fun of the opposition and have no consequences for their actions. At any professional level sporting event you have the crazies who go to games dumbfounded, throwing themselves out into the freezing cold without shirts on and painting their entire bodies with the color of their team. They do all this just so when the opposition comes out onto the field they can yell out absurdities that, even if they make no sense to any normal person, make them feel like they are part of something.

Nonsensical as they may be, these fans feel that they are part of the home team, part of the emotion and energy that fills a home stadium. It is no wonder you see teams winning 20-30 games in a row at home; they have the crowd to back them up, making the team that is visiting more worried about the things the crowd is saying than actually playing the game.

As a player, it is tough to go through a game when people are calling you out by your name. Looking like an idiot in front of the entire crowd and then having all of them laugh at you just makes you feel that much worse. In any professional sport the fans are far enough removed from the actual field that even though they think they are comical geniuses, they are usually muffled out by the noise. However, at a home UM-St. Louis game you are right on top of the game. You could talk with little more than a whisper and the player could probably hear you. Heck they could probably feel you breathing on them.

Players can act as tough as they want, but at this level



BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

it is not so easy to be tough when you have about 20 people telling you that you are the worst player that they have ever seen. Although you know that you are probably not the worst player they have ever seen, just hearing it makes you think about it and for the fan that is half the battle. Once he thinks about it he gets out of the game. It only takes one comment about his mom or her personal hygiene to get him out of it.

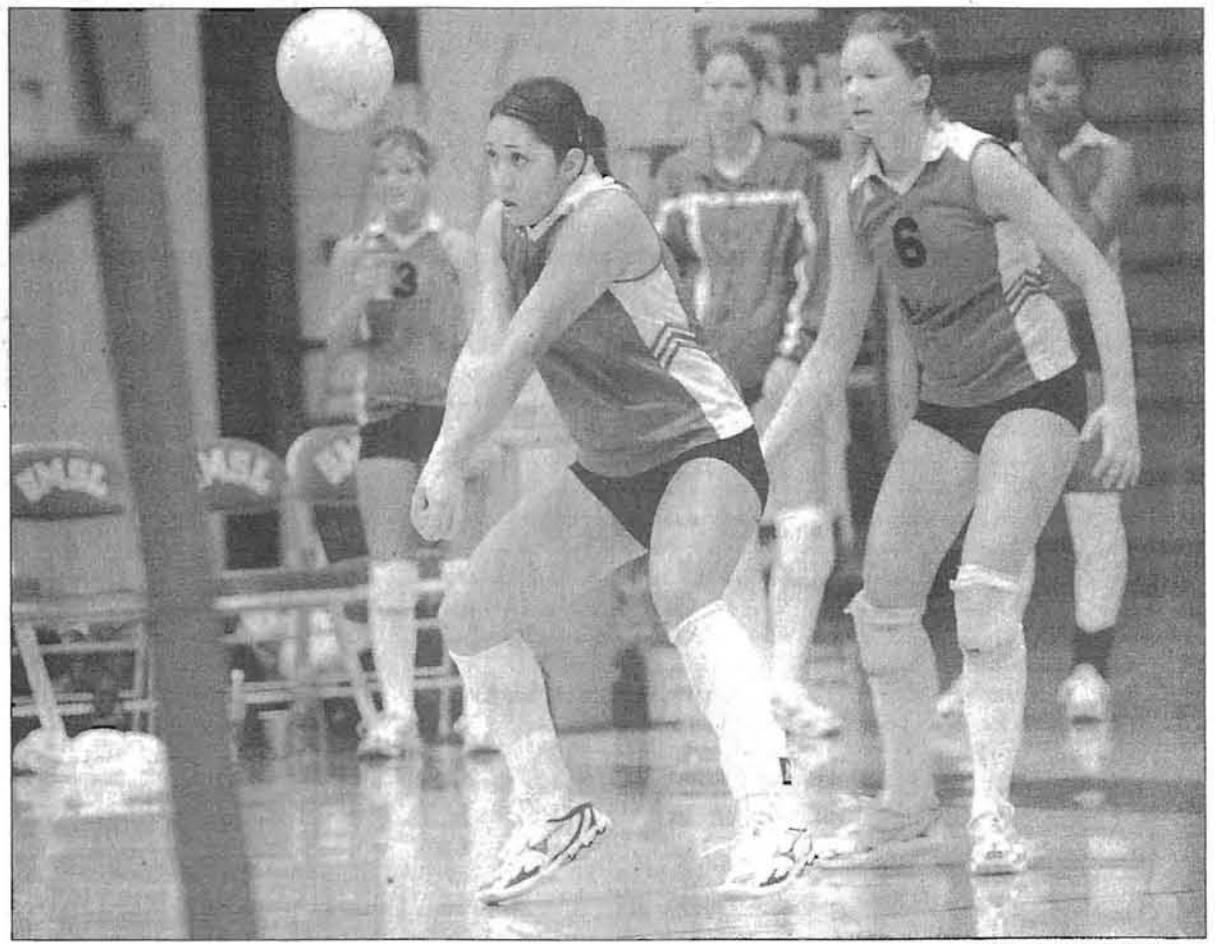
For instance, during this season the men's soccer team traveled to California to play in several games and at all of the games the opposing fans heckled the crap out of us. They would call us anything they could think of and did not get into trouble for it. It is the glory of being a college fan. One of the fans was making fun of the shortness one of our players by calling him an "umpa lumpa" referring to the famously short creature from the Willy Wonka movie. When you are already self-conscious about your height, having a person that you don't even know making fun of it is something that

will definitely get to you. Every time there was a goal scored on us they would ask us why we didn't put both of our goalies in the net. They would say "don't you play with goals in Missouri." Well, needless to say we lost the game, but the point is that the fans got into our heads, got us mad and got us out of the game.

It is not just in those games that this happened. Every place we travel to the other teams fans love to tell us how much we suck: man, one time a fan spit right into one of our players faces. Do you think any player likes to have this happen?

This University is lacking these types of fans. Now, I am not saying that you should come to the upcoming home basketball games wasted and without your shirt on, but have you ever at least thought about it? Getting heckled on the field is something that most athletes have to deal with at sporting events and as a player it throws you off of your game no matter who you are. Around here, all you can really hear are the crickets chirping. Everyone else is so willing to yell at us, so why don't we try and make a little noise around here back at them? The other team might actually listen.

“ I am not saying that you should come to games wasted and without your shirt on, but have you ever at least thought about it? ”



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Freshman Claudia Medina was selected to the second team all-conference. She lead the team and the entire conference in service aces and she led the Riverwomen in kills, with 277, and an average of 3.15 per game.

Volleyball's Medina is selected all-conference

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer

After a long and tough season, the Riverwomen volleyball team they finally got some of the recognition that they deserved from the conference. Freshman standout Claudia Medina was selected to the second team all-conference. She is just the second player in the past four seasons to be selected and only the sixth since UM-St. Louis joined the conference.

This year, Medina led the Riverwomen in several key categories and helped the team stay close in almost every match they had. She led

the team in kills, tallying 277 kills on the season, while averaging an amazing 3.15 per game. She also racked up plenty of digs throughout the year, as she was third on the team with 255 total digs, an average of 2.90 per game.

During the year Medina played in all 26 matches on the season and recorded double digits in kills in 15 of those 26 matches. During the season she also recorded double digits in digs in 12 matches.

The freshman led both the team and the entire conference in service aces, averaging 0.53 per game. She totaled 47 service aces on the year and had a season best five aces in a match

against Aquinas early in the season. Medina was also second on the team with 48 total blocks on the year. This season saw Medina at her best when she totaled 17 kills in a match at Wisconsin-Parkside, 23 digs in a match at Quincy and six total blocks in a match against Southern Indiana.

Medina spoke about her season's accomplishments. "I was really excited to have gotten the named to the all-conference team. It was nice to get the award after such a tough season," Medina said.

She is the first UM-St. Louis freshman ever to be named to an all-conference team and will look to continue her success in the years to follow.

MEN'S BASKETBALL, from page 12



Erica Burrus/The Current

UM-St. Louis held onto a narrow 58-55 lead seven minutes from their first win of the season. It was not to be though, as the Ichabods made a big run once again. Washburn went on a 14-1 run over the next five minutes, stretching the lead to as many as 10 at 69-59 with only two minutes remaining in the game.

The Rivermen would get a late jumper from Chris Mroz to make it 69-61, but the Ichabods had already caused too much damage for the Rivermen to fix and Washburn held on for the 74-62 win.

Sophomore Chris Mroz commented on loss. "We had the lead late, but we just couldn't finish it off. I think we played well together tonight, and if we can play close against them we should be able to play with anyone this year," Mroz said.

The Rivermen were led in scoring by Jonathan Griffin who had 18 points on 7-of-15 shooting from the field and five rebounds. Joey Paul added 16 points on the night for the Rivermen, hitting 3-of-5 from three-point range.

The Rivermen are now 0-1 on the season and will travel to play at Missouri-Rolla in another tough road test.

LEFT: Rivermen forward Aaron Green (2) takes off from the key in a first half drive to the net.

RIVERWOMEN, from page 12



Erica Burrus/The Current

The Riverwomen's newcomer guard, Courtney Watts (5), evades St. Joseph defenders as she makes her way up the court on Friday night.

After continually trying to push the lead up the Riverwomen finally got it into double digits with a run that started with 3:47 left in the first half. With the score 27-25, Birkey kick-started a run by scoring the next eight Riverwomen points. Before the 14-6 run was over, Birkey had accumulated 10 points, two rebounds, and a block. The Riverwomen went into half-time up 41-31.

The Bearcats were not going to be kept down. The Riverwomen were playing great defense, but they were missing key lay-ups. The lack of conversion allowed the Bearcats to keep coming back and chipping away at the Riverwomen's lead. With the score 55-47, the Bearcats finally made their best run of the night. In a three minute span the Riverwomen were outscored 8-0 as they racked up three turnovers, four fouls and missed the only shot they attempted. The run was finally broken almost single handedly by Megan Alberts. Alberts came into the game and made a key save on the defensive end to keep the game alive. The Riverwomen missed their next opportunity to score, but Alberts again saved the play by diving out of bounds and

throwing the ball off of her defender to reset the shot-clock and retain possession. She then capped her heroics by scoring a lay-up despite being surrounded by Bearcat defenders. The game then became a free for all, with both teams fighting to get the advantage. The Bearcats managed to tie the game 61-61, but then with only 34 seconds left in the game, Crystal Lambert hit a 3-pointer to give the Riverwomen a three point lead. From there the Riverwomen were able to hold out with clutch free-throws and take the 66-62 victory.

It was a close game in which everyone had to contribute. Coach Lee Buchanan believes that this was the key to the victory. "I thought our effort and our energy was really positive. I thought that we competed on every possession, which is one of the things that we talked about. It was a real good effort overall and a good team effort, which is the way that we are going to have to win this year," Buchanan said. Junior transfer Nikki Jerome felt the same way: "Definitely team work without a doubt made the difference. Everybody scored and everybody hit big shots at the end of the game. We

really played together as a team," Jerome said.

Birkey led the way for the Riverwomen with 19 points, nine rebounds and three steals. Albert and Lambert both tallied nine points each to help the team. Two of the most entertaining plays of the game involved Birkey. Freshman guard Courtney Watts, who also had nine points, drove the lane around one defender, and while spinning around a second defender (who came to help out) threw a perfect pass into Birkey's hands right under the basket. Birkey looked as confused as the rest of the crowd that the ball had somehow managed make it into her hands. In the other play a small Bearcat guard set a moving screen on Birkey to keep her from blocking another Bearcat's 3-point attempt. Birkey threw the screen down; when the screener fell backward she collided with the shooter's knee, toppling the shooter forward. The shooter wound up on top of the screener; it looked something like a folding lawn chair.

The Riverwomen are now 1-1 on the season and will be playing again on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at UM-Rolla.

HOMEOPENERS, from page 12

St. Joseph's finally scored, but Cole answered with a three-pointer to put the Rivermen within five, 57-52. The lead would stay at five though and when the Rivermen needed to close the gap, they were unable.

With 1:51 left, the team resorted to fouling to stop the clock and St. Joseph's was able to push the lead to 15 by the end of the game.

Green led the team with 22 points, followed by Cole with 15 points. St. Joseph's out rebounded the Rivermen 53-39, and outscored the Rivermen 17-6 on second chance points. The rebounding was so hard to watch that some of the fans started screaming at the team to box out.

The UM-St. Louis women's bas-

ketball team found a similar fate, winning their home opener against McKendree on Nov. 18 and falling in their next match at UM-Rolla.

The Riverwomen trailed McKendree 4-2 until Kali Birkey tied it up less than two minutes in, on an assist from Megan Alberts. From there, the team racked up a nine point lead with a free throw from Alberts, layups from Iesha Billups and Birkey and a jumper by Taylor Gagliano.

By the second half, the Riverwomen were up 41-31. Ten minutes in, the team lost momentum and allowed the Bearcats to narrow the lead to 57-55 with 5:31 left to go.

Despite a couple of close calls, the Riverwomen only gave up their lead

once, when the Bearcats tied the game 61-61 with only a minute remaining.

Crystal Lambert made the critical three point shot, breaking the tie with only 34 seconds left. With two successful free throws by Riverwomen point guard Nikki Jerome, the Riverwomen swept through the final seconds to a 66-62 victory.

The Riverwomen's next game also ended with a four point difference — this time not in their favor. The team played at UM-Rolla on Nov. 23, and despite strong point scoring by Birkey and Alberts, the team came up short, losing to the Miners 65-61. The Riverwomen and Rivermen will play next on Dec. 2 at SIU-Edwardsville, at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

KINSEY, from page 10

Liam Neeson gives one of the best performances of his career as Kinsey, letting us see both his strengths and flaws.

In fact, the entire cast is superb in their roles. Laura Linney gives a wonderful performance as Kinsey's wife Clara, an open-minded, practical soul mate who encouraged him. Peter Sarsgaard turns in a fine performance as the somewhat predatory bisexual Clyde Martin, who encourages Kinsey to uncover his own hidden desires.

Given its subject matter, there are a few sexually themed scenes in the film but there are fewer than you might expect.

One of the strengths of this film is its willingness to look at both the flaws and strengths of its subject. The film covers Kinsey's late Victorian era upbringing by his strict minister father (John Lithgow). Eventually, Kinsey rebels

against his father, switching to study biology instead of engineering. But Kinsey's rebellion against his father's strict ideas about sex also colors his later views, when in response to his studies he establishes an institute to study sex and embraces an approach of openness to the variety of sexual behavior.

His lack of moral condemnation troubled some people and was sometimes misinterpreted to imply acceptance of certain behaviors. The film addresses this issue tastefully by including a scene in which a researcher is so moved by disgust at the sexual exploits listed by one subject, that the researcher flees the room, while Kinsey calmly concludes the interview.

The film also shows the naiveté of Kinsey's assumptions about openness about sex, which failed to take into account the power of love and human feelings. Kinsey is shown struggling

with issues in his own marriage and conflicts in his organization arising from jealousy and marital infidelity.

The initial popularity of Kinsey's book leads to an eventual social backlash. Kinsey's second book, on women, proves to be more controversial and his own advocacy of openness and acceptance come under fire, causing funding sources and grant makers to shy away. The lack of money endangers the project just as Kinsey's own health starts to fade. Kinsey died in the 1960s.

Although the books were published more than fifty years ago, the story still seems timely today. Surprisingly, the film has even drawn protestors who still blame the long-dead Kinsey for opening the door to the 1960s "sexual revolution" after the invention of the birth control pill. "Kinsey" is an excellent piece of filmmaking and a first rate contender for a best picture nomination.

SANTA, from page 8

Parents decorate the tree in secret and the children unable to see it until Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is also known as Juleaften, and is the biggest occasion of the year in Denmark.

England

In England, it is Father Christmas who visits children. He puts gifts in stockings or pillow cases that children have tied to the ends of their beds. In different towns and villages, Christmas plays are acted out. "Boy Bishops" are chosen to commemorate the compassion St. Nicholas had for children. These boys are allowed to do the duties of the clergy, with the exception of Mass.

Germany

Christkindl is an angel who is the Christ Child's messenger. Weihnachtsmann is also known as the Christmas Man. Dec. 2 is Nikolaustag, or St. Claus Day. Children leave out a boot or shoe on Dec. 5. If the child is good, the shoe is filled with gifts. Bad children receive a rod.

Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, the figure who visits children is known as Lan Khoong or Dun Che Lao Ren. There are church services given in Chinese as well as English. Children send Christmas cards depicting the Holy

Family in a Chinese setting. Public areas are decorated with nativities, poinsettias, streamers and paper chains.

Iraq

In Iraq, families read the story of the Nativity. After the story is read, a bonfire is made in a corner of a courtyard. If thorns that are being burned burn into ashes, the family will be blessed with good fortune. The Christmas Day services end with the blessing of the people. A bishop blesses one person, who turns and blesses another, and so on in a chain reaction. This continues until all have received the "Touch of Peace."

Japan

Only a small number of people in Japan believe in Christ. However, they do have a figure who acts as Santa: a priest named Hoteiosha. He visits homes and leaves presents for children. Christmas is not a day for family in Japan. They visit sick people in hospitals and do things for other people. For the Christians, the children put on performances on Christmas Eve in which they sing and act out the birth of Jesus.

These are just some of the ways different countries celebrate Christmas. For more on these and other countries, visit www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm.

ALEXANDER, from page 10

Apart from those scenes, the story is often muddled and the film could easily be shorter than three hours. "Alexander" certainly has spectacle and is filled with lavishly colorful costumes and sets, yet it often has a nightmarish quality as well.

Music that is powerful in the battle scenes becomes intrusively distracting in the other scenes. Worse, when actors spout dialog that often begins with phrases like "By Zeus" and then embark on florid speeches, the Irish accents seem more unintentionally comic than anything.

Farrell's Alexander often has a dazed look, and he seems as much obsessed with getting as far away from his homeland as possible as he is with conquest. Farrell gives hysterical speeches and emotional outbursts, but we get little sense of why his men might love him and follow him into battles, where he takes refuge from whatever demons bedevil him as he indulges a burning, unexplained desire to cross the next river. Almost the only thing we know is that

Alexander longs to meet interesting, exotic people and conquer them. However, Farrell's performance is generally overwrought and never really gives us a sense of insight into the man's inner life.

Many potentially rich aspects of history are left on the table in favor on Stone's own shadowy views of the modern world. Alexander's lessons from the great philosopher Aristotle (Christopher Plummer) are reduced to a sense of the superiority of Greeks over other peoples, a prejudice Alexander does not share. The irony that Alexander was educated to be an enlightened Greek king yet uses his education to become an unstoppable conqueror is left untouched.

The focus is on cultural clashes between the Greek military officers and their new Eastern peoples, as Alexander tries to blend the new territories into one multicultural country and assimilate Eastern troops into his army.

One of the bright spots of this film is Angelina Jolie's performance as

Alexander's ambitious, ruthless, snake-handling mother. She is powerful, hypnotic and scary, a tour-de-force performance by Jolie. Val Kilmer is also very good as the brutal, egotistical Phillip, who alternates between encouraging his son and thwarting his ambitions.

In Oliver Stone's world, the great love of Alexander's life is not his Queen Roxane (Rosario Dawson) but his boyhood friend and lover Hephaestion (Jared Leto). History records that Alexander was bisexual, an unremarkable preference in his culture, but Stone leans heavily on the relationship with Hephaestion, while infusing his relationship with women, and Roxane, with conflicted feelings about his mother. Hephaestion is the light of Alexander's life, his unwavering supporter and the one true friend who understands him.

Some comparison with this year's earlier ancient history epic, "Troy," is inevitable. "Troy" was all standard Hollywood and fell apart when the filmmakers decided to abandon a

great story to remake "Titanic" in the sand. While "Troy" completely avoids the homosexual aspect of Achilles' character, "Alexander" makes his bisexuality a central theme. Still, the narrative of "Troy" was much more accessible than in "Alexander," with its flash forward-flash back structure and muddled conspiracy subtext. Oliver Stone's "Alexander" focuses more on his subject's personal life, and especially his sexuality, than on his exploits as a warrior or innovations as empire-builder which might be more important to why he was remembered in history. Certainly Brad Pitt did a much finer job giving his character screen charisma and a sense of an inner life, than the dazed-looking Farrell gives his crazed Alexander.

The Stone film is visually stunning, particularly in the battle scenes, with visual artistic merit throughout, but the resulting film is heavily flawed as storytelling and likely to leave an audience perplexed and exhausted from three hours in their seats.



Colin Farrell portrays legendary figure Alexander the Great in Oliver Stone's 'Alexander.' The three-hour film chronicles the battles of the notorious conqueror.

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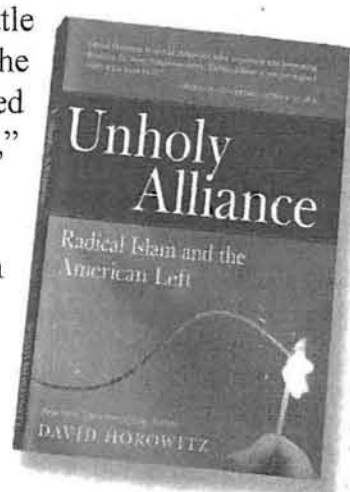
Twenty-five years ago, there were two non-Islamic democracies in the Middle East: Israel and Lebanon. This was too much for Islamic radicals, Syrian irredentists and Palestinians who joined forces to destroy Lebanon and make it a base for terror.

The goal of the post-Oslo Intifada is not to establish a Palestinian state alongside a Jewish state. Its goal is an Islamic umma extending "from the Jordan to the sea." That is why Oslo was rejected by Arafat even though Barak and Clinton offered him an independent state on virtually all of the land Palestinians claimed in the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza. That is why the very birth of Israel is referred to by all the present Palestinian leadership as the "Naqba" – the "catastrophe." To Islamic radicals at war with the West, the very creation of Israel is a catastrophe.

American apologists for Arab aggression are also apologists for Islamic aggression. In their eyes, Arab terror in the Middle East has a root cause in the policies of Israel, whom terrorists refer to as the "little Satan." For apologists of the Islamic terror of 9/11 and the Zarqawi terror in Iraq, jihad is not a self-generating creed but has a "root cause" in the policies of "the Great Satan," which is us.

Peace in the Middle East and peace in the war with al-Qaeda and Zarqawi will come only when the terrorists surrender or are defeated, and when Arab governments cease their incitement of hatred against Israel and the United States.

~ David Horowitz



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