

The Current

January 14, 2008

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THIS WEEK

Student organizations' budgets due Jan. 18

Student organizations requesting a budget for next year must submit their request by Friday, Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. Forms can be found online at <https://fusion.umsl.edu/studentlife/budgets/sabc/>

INSIDE

Top 10 Celebrity Oops of 2007

Check out who made *The Current's* list of the top 10 biggest mistakes that celebrities made last year.

See FEATURES, page 6



See what's good at Goody Goody Diner

The diner at the corner of Natural Bridge Road and Goodfellow got its name from children chanting when they arrived there.

See A&E, page 8



Tritons basketball faces rival Missouri S&T

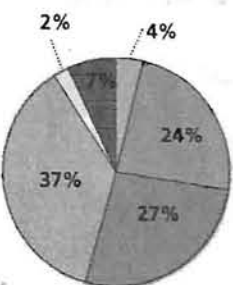
The men's team defeated Missouri S&T 60-46, while the women's team fell 62-60.

See SPORTS, page 8

ON THE WEB

The Current

Web poll results: How will you spend winter break?



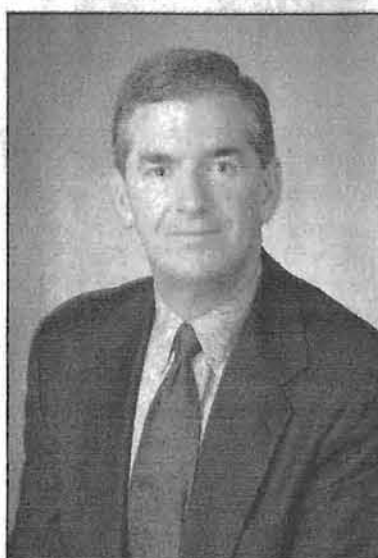
- Taking winter inter-session classes
- Sleeping
- Working
- Hanging out with family and friends
- Finishing off Thanksgiving leftovers
- Waiting in line to buy gifts

This week's question: What was your favorite part of 2007?

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Ex-Sprint CEO named next system president



Gary Forsee will officially begin his term as the next UM system president Feb. 18.

By SARAH O'BRIEN
News Editor

On Thursday Dec. 20, Gary D. Forsee, former chairman and CEO of Sprint Nextel Corp., was appointed as the next University of Missouri system president.

Forsee resigned from Sprint Nextel Corp. in October and will succeed interim president Gordon Lamb, beginning his duties as president on Feb. 18 of this year.

Forsee graduated from UM-Rolla in 1972 with a degree in civil engineering and has spent more than 35 years with the telecommunications industry and has held leadership positions with Southwestern Bell and AT&T, including chairman of Cingu-

lar wireless, and president and CEO of Global One.

Forsee was the vice chairman of domestic operations with BellSouth Corp. until 2003 when he took over as president and CEO for Sprint Nextel.

Forsee's abrupt resignation from Sprint Nextel on Oct. 8, 2007, halted Sprint stock exchange for nearly 45 minutes.

Forsee's hasty resignation led many to believe that his leaving was due to Sprint losing more than a quarter on their share values.

Sprint-Nextel had been suffering from a loss of stock share values beginning in 2005.

In a statement regarding Forsee's resignation, Sprint Nextel said that it was "the right time to put in place new leadership to move the company

Quick Read

Gary Forsee, who resigned from Sprint-Nextel in October 2007, announced on Dec. 20 that he would replace Gordon Lamb as the UM system's 22nd president.

forward."

Paul Selah, the former chief financial officer, took over as CEO of Sprint Nextel "until a permanent replacement for Forsee is named," according to a press release describing Forsee's resignation.

Before joining up with Nextel in 2001, Selah worked as chief financial officer for Walt Disney International.

According to Forbes, Forsee's total five year compensation from Sprint Nextel was more than \$43

million.

His salary per year for UM system president will be \$400,000 plus a \$100,000 incentive, which he will not receive until he has been president for three years.

The search for a new UM system president began when then president Elson Floyd resigned last year to take up a position at the University of Washington in Pullman, Wash.

Gordon H. Lamb was elected in April of 2007 as interim during the presidential search. The search was halted and started anew in June.

SGA President Bryan Goers sat in on the search committee's interview one time.

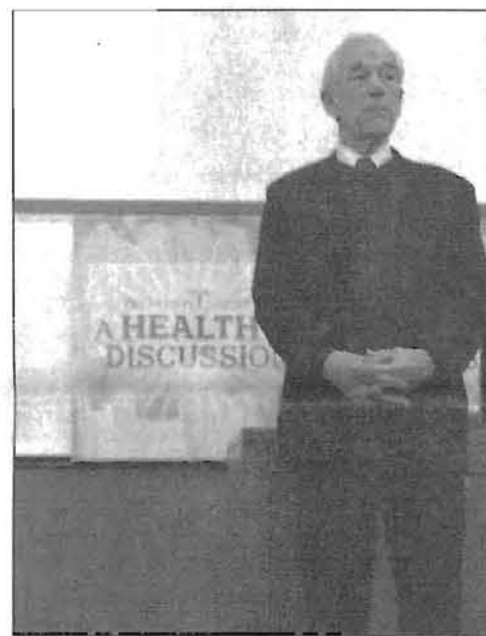
See FORSEE, page 3



Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) during his victory rally in Des Moines on the night of Jan. 4. He surprised most of the media, but none of his supporters when he soundly won the Iowa caucus. With Sen. Hillary Clinton's win in New Hampshire the following week, it may take until Feb. 5 when 24 states, including Missouri, hold their primaries on "Super Tuesday" for the Democratic (and the Republican) front runner to be clear.

Photos by: Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE STARTS IN IOWA



Republican presidential hopeful Ron Paul waits to answer questions during a caucus day stop at Des Moines University in Iowa on Jan. 4. Although he trails in almost every poll, the Texas congressman's ideas on policy change has found support with collage-aged students nationwide. Paul currently garners more supporters on Facebook than any other Republican candidate and second only to Democrat Barack Obama.

Mansion Hills Condominiums to open new police substation

By SARAH O'BRIEN
News Editor

Quick Read

After an increased number of criminal incidents took place in the Mansion Hills complex last semester, a police substation will open across from the Mansion Hills main office.

The Mansion Hills condominium complex will be the home of a new University police substation.

The police substation will be placed across from the Mansion Hills office in order to encourage a safe environment for residents.

Currently, both University police and Normandy police watch over the apartment complex since the University owns around 75 percent of the apartment grounds.

The Mansion Hills complex is situated on New Florissant Road in between North Campus and I-70.

Jill Henke, Mansion Hills and University Park apartment coordinator, said she, as well as the Smith Management Company, who are in charge of maintenance around the apartment complex, walked around the complex looking for areas that could be made safer.

"We have added lighting and improved existing lighting," Henke said. "We have added an emergency phone line in the laundry room. We have started and will continue to cut back overgrowth and brush."

She added that "we have started a Neighborhood Watch that met before

the holidays with Officer Clark," among other initiatives.

Henke also said she has encouraged residents to use the escort service that the University police provide.

Henke said she hopes to have most of the underbrush around the area removed by February, and that she is continuing to try and implement a strong neighborhood watch for the apartment complex.

The move for more safety came after a meeting, or gathering of the residents to voice their concerns, decided that more needed to be done to secure the apartment grounds.

Last semester, there were a handful of incidents that occurred at the Mansion Hills complex, including several cases of assault and larceny.

"There have been a few cars that have been broken into and a couple cars stolen that I can remember off the top of my head," Henke said. "The good news is that the police

have apprehended the guy who was involved in the last assault."

A campuswide e-mail was sent out regarding the assault that took place on Nov. 13.

In the month of November, police reported four different criminal incidents in the complex.

Both the Normandy and University police have promised to patrol the area more thoroughly.

"Safety is very important to me as I am a live-on manager, which means I also live on-site," Henke said.

"I understand the residents concerns because they are my personal concerns as well. I think Res Life has taken a lot of positive steps and we will continue to meet with the residents to hear their concerns and continue to make improvements as needed," she said.

Another police substation is located in the Provincial House on South Campus.

The substation opened in September 2004 and primarily serves the students who live and take classes on South Campus.

The main police station is located in the Telecommunity Center next to the UM-SL-North MetroLink station.

There will be a grand opening celebration for the new police substation on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. at the Mansion Hills clubhouse.

UMSL alum, Cardinals' community relations VP Marty Hendin dies at 59

By CARRIE FASISKA
Managing Editor

Marty Hendin, vice president for the Cardinals' community relations department and alumnus of UM-St. Louis, died Saturday night. He was 59.

Hendin worked for the Cardinals for 35 years, during which he worked in public relations before settling into community relations.

The long time Cards fan was well known for collecting memorabilia. He collected and displayed it in his office, which was nicknamed "Trinket City," in the old Busch Stadium.

During construction of the new Busch Stadium, Hendin decided to move about one-third of his most prized Cardinals belongings to UM-St. Louis.

"There are two very special places besides my home, Busch Stadium and UMSL," Hendin told *The Current* in 2005.

The trinkets he brought to UM-St. Louis helped tie the two places he held close to his heart together. The memorabilia is still on display in the Nosh.

Hendin also has a long record of being a sports fan at UM-St. Louis.



Chancellor Thomas George (LEFT) receives a photograph of the Jack Buck statue at Busch Stadium from Marty Hendin.

As a student, he worked as the statistician and public relations representative for the men's basketball team.

He attended UM-St. Louis' first baseball and men's soccer games and was the founder of the first pep club, The Steamers. Hendin was inducted into the UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 in the category of distinguished service.

Hendin also was the first sports writer for *The Current* and was later promoted to sports editor.

Visitation for Hendin will be held Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. until noon at B'nai El Temple. Memorial donations may be made to the Marty Hendin Fund at B'nai El, Cardinals Care, March of Dimes or the Athsma and Allergy Foundation of St. Louis.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Stay Current with this week's weather | Monday ☁ | Tuesday ☁ | Wednesday ☁ | Thursday ☁ | Friday ☁ | Saturday ☁ | Sunday ☁ | Weather predictions taken from NOAA national weather system. |
| | Hi/Low: 37/22 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 37/27 Precip: 0% | Hi/Low: 38/23 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 32/23 Precip: 30% | Hi/Low: 29/11 Precip: 10% | Hi/Low: 25/19 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 39/23 Precip: 0% | |

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

**PROPERTY DAMAGE/ATTEMPTED
STEALING UNDER \$500 -
WEST DRIVE GARAGE**

Sometime between 8 a.m. and 10:40 a.m., person(s) unknown tried to steal the victim's license plates. The victim reported that the front license plate cover was broken off and some of the screws were removed from the license plate. The victim suspects that the personalized plates were targeted, but nothing was actually taken.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

**PROPERTY DAMAGE -
UNIVERSITY PARK APARTMENTS**

At 6 p.m., a witness observed four black male subjects banging on apartment doors in the area. This witness observed one of the male subjects break out a tail light of a parked car and then ran away. Two of the subjects ran onto the bike path and out of sight. When the UM-St. Louis officers arrived on scene, they observed someone throw a rock off of the bike path bridge over Florissant Road, which struck a passing car. Normandy Police responded to the area in an attempt to locate the suspects.

**BURGLARY/STEALING OVER \$500 -
OAK HALL**

Sometime between Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 8 p.m., person(s) unknown entered and unlawfully removed the victim's television and cell phone. The victim also stated that his personal papers were torn into pieces.

MONDAY, DEC. 10

**STEALING UNDER \$500 -
UNIVERSITY PARK APARTMENTS**

Sometime between 2:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m., person(s) unknown removed some change and Christmas gifts from the victim's vehicle. The victim indicated that two of the windows on the car would not go all the way up, and were being held in by tape. There are no suspects in this incident.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13

**MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL -
UNIVERSITY MEADOWS APARTMENTS**

At 2:45 a.m. the UM-St. Louis Police were called to the Meadows Apartments on a report of a noise complaint. The officers located the source of the noise, and upon making contact with the occupants and party goers, it was determined that two of the individuals present were under 21-years-old. These two persons were arrested and released on a criminal summons for Minor in Possession of Alcohol. This matter will also be referred to Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action against the other occupants.

FRIDAY, DEC. 14

**ROBBERY AND STEALING -
MILLENNIUM STUDENT GARAGE NORTH**

Sometime between 3:50 p.m. and 4 p.m., the victim indicated that she was robbed of her cell phone. The victim came to the police station to report that she had pulled into the North Millennium Garage and was going to use her cell phone, when she was approached by an Asian male at her car door asking if she could do him a favor.

The victim indicated that she got out of her car with her cell phone in her hand, and that is when the suspect grabbed the phone out of her hand and also hit the victim. The victim said that she was able to scratch the suspect in the face before he left the area. The victim did not show any signs of an injury and did not need the assistance of an ambulance. The investigation is ongoing.

**STEALING OVER \$500 -
OAK HALL**

At around midnight, the victim stated that he was moving some of his personal items. The victim indicated that he placed the items in the hallway for a few minutes while he was talking to a friend in a nearby room. When the victim went back to get the items, they were gone.

The victim indicated that the items taken were a Nintendo Wii Game system and X-Box 360 Game system. The items were entered as stolen in the computer system. The investigation is continuing.

THURSDAY, DEC. 20

**CRIMINAL NON-SUPPORT -
MANSION HILL**

The victim requested a police report for a violation of criminal nonsupport. The victim indicated through court papers that the father of her children owes her more than \$12,000 and he has not paid any money recently. The St. Louis County Court required the victim to report this to the police. This information will be sent to the St. Louis County Courts system for review.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21

**STEALING OVER \$500 -
UNIVERSITY CENTER**

Sometime between Dec. 19 and Dec. 21, a laptop belonging to the University was stolen. The victim had the computer in his possession and was in the process of moving when he left it in his car while he ran several errands in the St. Louis area. The victim indicated that he last saw the item in his car on the parking lot.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

**STEALING OVER \$500 -
PARKING LOT K**

At about 7:15 p.m., the victim was walking back to his car after a basketball game and observed three black male subjects in his car stealing items from inside. The suspects fled the area in another vehicle. The victim reported that his stereo system was stolen from the vehicle and his dashboard was damaged in the process. There are no suspects in this incident.

**STEALING MOTOR VEHICLE -
PARKING LOT K**

Sometime between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., persons unknown stole the victim's vehicle. The victim had parked the car on Parking Lot K and went to watch a basketball game. The vehicle was recovered later in the morning in the City of St. Louis. The vehicle had damage to the ignition, and stereo items were stolen from the vehicle, as well as some custom wheels and tires. There are no suspects in this incident at this time. Evidence collected from the vehicle is being analyzed at the St. Louis County Crime Lab.

SUNDAY, DEC. 30

**ATTEMPTED BURGLARY -
SOFTBALL CONCESSION STAND**

Sometime during the night person(s) unknown attempted to break into the concession stand at the softball field by cutting through the door. Entry was not gained and nothing was taken.

TUESDAY, JAN. 1

**PROPERTY DAMAGE -
MARILLAC HALL LOBBY**

During a foot patrol of the building early on New Years day, the UMSL Police Department located a person sleeping on a couch in the hallway of Marillac. Further investigation found this individual to be intoxicated and that he had broken into one of the large front windows of the building by throwing a patio chair through the window. This person (who is not affiliated with UM-St. Louis) was arrested for the property damage and trespassing. The suspect's parents made restitution for the damage.

MONDAY, JAN. 7

**STEALING OVER \$500 -
DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY**

Sometime between Jan. 4 and Jan. 7, person(s) unknown stole some computer equipment from a common room area. The items stolen include a computer monitor, keyboard and mouse.

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

**STEALING UNDER \$500 -
MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER**

The victim delayed reporting this incident until her insurance company was notified. The victim left her cell phone at one of the computer stations around 3 p.m. on Jan. 9, and when she went back for it ten minutes later, it was gone. The victim questioned the three individuals sitting at the computers and none of them admitted to knowing anything about her cell phone. The victim determined that several minutes of phone usage and internet browsing was accessed from her phone before she was able to cancel the service. There are no suspects in this theft.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning this or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155 or 911.

GOV. BLUNT DISCUSSES INCREASED FUNDING



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt introduces SGA Vice President Cadence Rippetto during a news conference on Dec. 13 in the Millennium Student Center. Gov. Blunt visited UM-St. Louis to discuss his proposals to increase funding for higher education in the state.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

MONDAY, JAN. 14

Classes Begin

The first day of classes for the winter 2008 semester.

Big Band Jazz Festival

The Big Band Jazz Festival will be held in the Lee Theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. Free admission. For more info, call 4949.

TUESDAY, JAN. 15

Welcome Dinner

The Catholic Newman Center will be hosting a welcome dinner. All students are invited to a night of food and games. The event starts at 5:00 p.m. at 8200 Natural Bridge Rd. This event is free.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16

Delta Sigma Pi Meet and Greet

Delta Sigma Pi, a fraternity for men and women pursuing careers in business, MIS, and economics, is holding a meet and greet event from for prospective pledges from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in 313 MSC. Food provided to prospective pledges.

Relay for Life Team Captains Meeting

There is a meeting for Relay for Life team captains at 4:30 p.m. in the SGA Chambers. Contact RelayForLife@umsl.edu for more information.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

Delta Sigma Pi Dinner

Delta Sigma Pi will be hosting a dinner at the Breakaway Cafe for prospective pledges. Food is provided starting at 5:30 p.m. The Breakaway Cafe is located at 8418 Natural Bridge Rd.

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. To report any corrections that need to be made, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by email at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

In the Dec. 3 issue of The Cur-



File Photo

Members of the UMSL Performing Arts Dance Company perform an interpretive dance at last year's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18

SGA Back to School Dance Party

Starting at 8 p.m., SGA will host a back-to-school dance party in the Pilot House, featuring DJ Clockwork. A dance-off will start at 9:30 p.m., with a prize for the first place winner.

Chris Botti Concert

Chris Botti, jazz trumpeter comes to the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Starts at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$32. Group and student discounts available. Call 4949 or visit www.touhill.org for more information.

Warren Bellis Clarinet and Saxophone Festival

The Warren Bellis Clarinet and Saxophone Festival will take place at the Touhill Performing Arts Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local clarinet and saxophone students will perform along with professionals. Free. For more information, call 2263.

Student Organizations Budgets Due

Student organizations requesting a budget for next year must submit their request by Friday, Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. Forms can be found online at <https://fusion.umsl.edu/studentlife/budgets/sabc/>.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19

City Museum Trip

Delta Sigma Pi will host a trip potential pledges to the City Museum, location at 701 North 15th Street in St. Louis, from 1 to 6 p.m.; free admission. Transportation can be arranged with current members.

MONDAY, JAN. 21

MLK Day Event

Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau will host the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The event includes a multimedia presentation called "Journey to a Dream" and a keynote address by Shelton. The event begins at 10 a.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This event is free. Call 5695 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/oeo> for more information.

Announcements

University Events is looking for Student Ambassadors to help assist visitors to the University and University functions. Please contact the Office of Student Life at 5446 before Jan. 25 for further information. Applications can be picked up from the bookstore, the Office of Student Life, or the University Events office.

ent, the following corrections need to be made:
In the story "Kwanzaa is not just another Christmas," the information about the models was incomplete. The models were Dorian Hall, sophomore, accounting and finance; Royce Boone, junior, business administration; Adrian Walker, sophomore, sociology; Darren Nesbitt, sophomore, communications; Susan Jones, junior, nursing; Jhonna Woodard, sophomore, psychology; Savonne Whitfield, sophomore, communi-

cation; and a non-UM-St. Louis student. The story also incorrectly named the president of Helping Hands. The correct president is Dorian Hall.
In the story "Legislatures will tackle intellectual diversity again, speaker says," a quote from Gerda W. Ray was taken out of context. The quote should have read, "I'm not even sure 'Emily Booker' happened as we have been told." In addition, Ray is a member of the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative.

The Current

The University of Missouri-St. Louis
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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ON THE WEB

The Current

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 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.

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AFFILIATIONS



UMSL will face new criteria for '07-'08 reaccreditation visit

By JEREMY TRICE
Staff Writer

This year, the University will be up for reaccreditation.

Accreditation is what Graduate School Dean Judith Walker de Felix calls "a good housekeeping seal of approval," or the process of reviewing the accreditation of an institution, meaning the institution has been approved as a means for students of an accredited university to receive financial aid from the federal government.

Students who attend unaccredited universities cannot receive federal financial aid.

Every 10 years, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Accrediting Agency for the reaccreditation process reviews universities in the Midwest.

"Accreditation is a way of assuring citizens that this is a quality university," Walker De Felix said. "We have no trouble getting accredited."

The University was up for reaccreditation 10 years ago and was fully reaccredited.

In 2000, the criteria for reaccreditation changed. There are now five major areas of the process: mission, use of resources, learning, knowledge concerning research and general education, and involvement in the community.

According to Walker de Felix, "All colleges in the North Central region use this criteria."

The North Central Region is the region that universities in the Midwest are in and the region extends as far south as Arizona and Arkansas, as far east as West Virginia and as

far west as Wyoming.

Walker de Felix also said "95 percent of universities that have been reviewed under this new criteria have had trouble passing" and that they "usually have to do some other work" due to "being criticized for not having enough assessment activities."

"It's a process that if not taken seriously, a university can be placed on a 'problem list,'" she said.

"According to creditors, Lindenwood University was on this list because their faculty didn't have enough authority over the curriculum and had two years to make changes," she said.

Walker de Felix did not specify whether or not this issue had been resolved.

As for what the University is doing, Walker de Felix said, "UMSL has decided to get the whole campus involved" through staff meetings.

"On Nov. 10-13, when the University expects the Higher Learning Commission, they're going to talk to people, so people need to know that accreditation is taking place," she said.

What the Commission does is, "come in and look real closely at the problem on the 10-year visit," she said. "They don't give some people the full 10 years sometimes if they don't think a school is doing a good job."

"We'd like to get everybody's viewpoint," she said, referring to the Accreditation Feedback Section on the University's Web site, <http://fusion.umsu.edu/accreditation/login.cfm>.

"I hope everyone will go on to My Gateway and read the self-study and make comments," she said.

IT debuts new PRONTO instant messaging system

By JEREMY TRICE
Staff Writer

Starting this semester, MyGateway will be receiving new features, including PRONTO, a social networking tool that Marcel Bechtoldt, system administrator for Technology Services, said is "for the college community that integrates with course management tools like MyGateway."

"Understand that MyGateway does use some specific tools in it that we purchase from other than Blackboard, which MyGateway is based on," Bechtoldt said.

PRONTO is a product that comes from Wimba, the same vendor that created MyGateway's Live Classroom tool, which is used for online virtual classroom session purposes.

"Last year, Wimba announced this new instant messaging service and offered it to all colleges using their other products and services," Bechtoldt said.

"Once you sign up and follow the instruction to set up your course selection option, you will download the IM client and install it on your personal computer," he said on how to operate PRONTO. "Then login into PRONTO IM with your username and password that you just created."

"The rest of the use follows normal IM activities. Don't forget to set up your profile. It really personalizes

your information that is made available to other fellow students in your classes," he added.

PRONTO automatically sets up a course contact list through MyGateway as well as text chatting person-to-person or within a group.

PRONTO also comes with Voice Over IP (VoIP) audio, which Bechtoldt said is "a feature many other IM systems do not have."

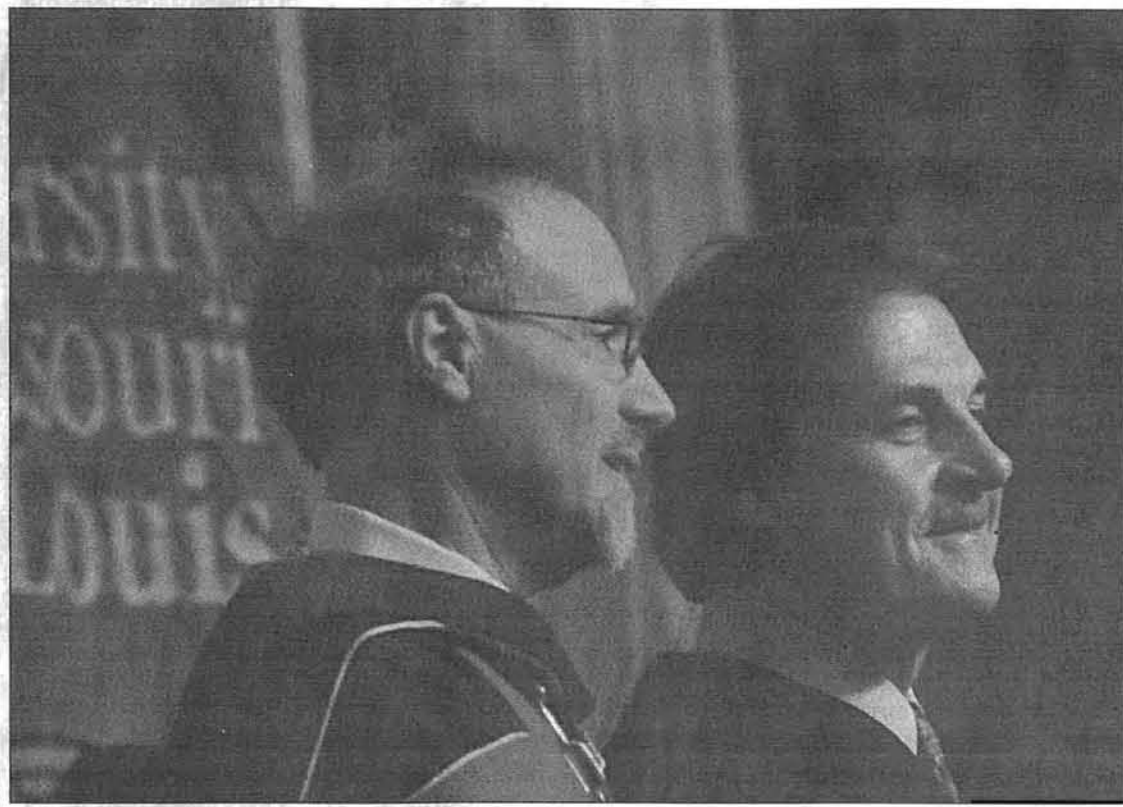
According to Bechtoldt, "Group IM and VoIP features allow development of study groups. It enables collaboration and active participation in your academic life and encourages student-to-student interaction and social networking."

"ITS feels that there are many creative ways PRONTO will be used," Bechtoldt said. "Since there are other universities using this now, all one needs to do is add a contact username to the IM and you can keep in contact."

PRONTO will be available for MyGateway users starting this spring semester of 2008.

"The mission of our University is to develop a community with our students, faculty and staff. Information Technology Services (ITS) see this as a natural path to take since students and staff are familiar with IM," Bechtoldt said. "PRONTO has the potential to have a big impact on campus community allowing us to communicate online, to share our academic interest and cultural diversity."

LARUSSA EARNS HONORARY DEGREE



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Chancellor Thomas George introduces St. Louis Cardinals Manager Tony LaRussa as the speaker at the first commencement ceremony on Dec. 15 in the Mark Twain Center. LaRussa also received an honorary doctorate of human letters for his work with abandoned animals and the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), which he co-founded with his wife, Elaine, in 1991.

SGA assembly passes \$1.06 increase in student fees

By CARRIE FASISKA
Managing Editor

Student Fee Increases

Health Services
2007-2008 Fee: \$3.15
2008-2009 Fee: \$3.25

Millennium Student Center
2007-2008 Fee: \$10.50
2008-2009 Fee: \$10.88

Athletics
2007-2008 Fee: \$9.50
2008-2009 Fee: \$10

Infrastructure
2007-2008 Fee: \$2.75
2008-2009 Fee: \$2.83

Money was on the minds of student government representatives at the Student Government Association meeting Dec. 7 as they approved student fee increases after the student fee review committee gave its recommendations.

Two colleges asked for increases in their academic supplemental fees to keep up with inflation.

In addition to the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Fine Arts and Communication asking for a 3.5 percent increase for next year, both deans of the colleges requested an automatic annual increase in fees by the rate of inflation as authorized by the legislature each year.

The proposed 3.5 percent increase for next year's fees were passed for both colleges, yet some members of the assembly questioned the need for annual increases.

While the assembly voted down the automatic increase for the College of Arts and Sciences, following a discussion about the need to increase annually to keep up with online and technology advancements for classes in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, representatives supported an annual increase in fees for certain fine arts and communication classes.

SGA President Bryan Goers recommended the assembly vote down any other proposed increases in academic supplemental fees for other colleges because no representatives from those colleges attended the meeting so SGA had no way to know what colleges wanted an increase at the time of the vote.

The body voted down all other colleges supplemental fees and because of a lack of information, any other increases were not approved to be sent to the UM Board of Curators.

In addition, the assembly voted on student fee increases for Health Services, Millennium Student Center, Athletics and Infrastructure.

SGA Vice President Cadence Rippetto presented the fees as the fee review committee had prioritized them with Health Services being top priority.

The committee recommended the representatives pass this fee increase so Health Services could better comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Nancy Magnuson, assistant vice provost for Student Affairs Health, Wellness and Counseling Services explained that part of the fee increase would help provide in-house

emergencies. Currently, there is no funding for this position and after an incident a few weeks ago where a student had a seizure, he said supervision in these areas is needed.

Garvillla said the Athletics Department does not want to depend on student fees alone for funding. Garvillla is pushing to form a new Triton Alliance to help raise funds for the department by asking for sponsorship funds from alumni and area businesses.

After hearing Garvillla's arguments, the assembly passed the 50-cent increase in the athletic student fee bringing the fee to \$10 per credit hour.

Last on the agenda for student fees was the infrastructure fee increase of 2.9 percent. The fee review committee chose not to make a recommendation on this fee because there were too many questions left unanswered during its review.

Joann Wilkinson, planning and budget specialist, and Reinhard Schuster, associate vice chancellor of Managerial and Technological Services, spoke on behalf of the fee and tried to clear up some of the questions about the matter.

Schuster said the 8-cent increase was needed for improvements in the campus shuttle services, the Metro pass, the Metro Call-A-Ride service for disabled students and repairs to sidewalks.

SGA representatives had some apprehension about prematurely approving the shuttle fee before the findings from the study from the Center for Transportation Studies was finished, which is expected to be out in January. When it came down to the vote, the proposed infrastructure fee increase was passed bringing the fee up to \$2.83 per credit hour.

The recreation and facility fee, student activity fee, student services fee, ASUM fee, USA Today fee, and performing arts fee did not ask for any increases.

The recommendations of the assembly will now go to the chancellor, who will recommend the fee increases to the Board of Curators, who make final decision on fee increases.

The SGA assembly also proposed SGA's budget for the 2008-2009 school year during the meeting. SGA received approval for a budget of \$112,700, an increase of \$8,400. The increase in money will go toward a larger homecoming and help co-sponsor more events with organizations.

The Student Activities Budget Committee will review the SGA budget and all other budgets submitted by organizations this year. Budgets are due by Jan. 18.

NEWS BRIEFS

Immigrant involved in car crash with UMSL student sentenced

Pedro Santos, an illegal immigrant from Mexico, was sentenced to 10 years in prison last week after being involved in a drunk driving accident that killed UMSL student Nicole Allen last April.

Santos pled guilty to the charges of involuntary manslaughter, leaving the scene of an accident and two counts of assault.

The Lincoln Town Car that Santos was driving struck the back of a 1991 Acura that was stopped at a red light.

Allen was seated in the back of the Acura and was killed by the impact. The driver, Larry Lane and another passenger, Charles A. Miller III were seriously injured in the crash.

Santos fled the scene and was found in a wooded area three hours later.

He also admitted being drunk the night of the accident. It was determined that his blood alcohol content during the time of the collision was three times Missouri's legal limit.

A proposal is in the works for an art scholarship in Allen's honor.

Campus mourns loss of Pat Mayberry at memorial

Patricia Mayberry, an administrative associate in the English and history departments, died on Dec. 16, 2007.

Mayberry began working at UMSL as a secretary in the chemistry department in 2000. She also worked for the Division of Teaching and Learning during her time at the University.



Pat Mayberry
Administrative Associate
in English and history
department

Mayberry was awarded the UMSL Riverstars Employee of The Month for November 2007.

Mayberry died after a battle with a neurological disorder commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS.

Memorial donations may be made to the ALS Association St. Louis chapter or the Muscular Dystrophy Association-ALS Division.

FORSEE, from page 1

Goers and Rachel Anderson, former president of the Missouri Student Association at the Columbia campus, asked Forsee about including students in his discussions about the system.

"Everything I've heard so far about him sounds good," Goers said.

Upon Forsee's request, Lamb is to continue on as the UM system vice president through 2008.

Forsee was born in Kansas City and has lived all around the state, including Springfield and Cape Girardeau.



Gordon Lamb, UM
system interim
president, will
stay on as Forsee's
executive
vice president.

He currently sits on UM-Rolla's Board of Trustees. In 2005, Forsee received an honorary doctorate in engineering from UM-Rolla.

Both of Forsee's daughters are graduates of UM System schools, as well as numerous other family members.

"The University not only serves our state. It has defined us since 1839, when we were established as Missouri's first land-grant institution," Forsee said.

"It also defines excellence in education, as our state's foremost public institution of higher learning. And it defines our future, by providing high quality, affordable education for the generations that will follow us," he added.

Forsee becomes the UM system's 22nd president.

To read Forsee's remarks at the press conference announcing his new position on Dec. 20 in Columbia, Mo., go to http://www.umsu.edu/services/ur/media/newsrel/fors-ee_remarks.pdf.

The Current

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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

Businessman or Academic?

Who makes for a better University president?

When searching for a replacement for a soccer coach, does the Athletics Department hire a basketball coach knowing that they are both technically coaches?

When trading for a pitcher, does a baseball team take a right fielder because at least they both know how to play the game?

Then why would the University of Missouri choose to hire a president of a telecommunications company to lead the largest public university system in Missouri simply because they are both presidents?

Besides the fact that sports metaphors do not make for the best argument when choosing a new system president, the question of where to pick the next president from, whether it be the world of academia or the world of business, has always been a contentious one.

Gary Forsee, the 57-year-old Kansas City, Mo. native has spent his entire career in the telecommunications industry.

He was the CEO/president of Sprint, a major player in the Nextel-Sprint merger and was listed at No. 116 by Forbes Magazine on a recent compensation list for CEOs.

So what makes him fit to run a university?

It is the very argument naysayers challenge when they say that being the top dog in one industry does not necessarily transfer to another industry.

Despite this, business is business and the same leadership skills that Forsee acquired and battles that he faced in the corporate world are the

The Current
SOUND OFF Who makes for a better leader of a university: a business executive or an academic? Give us your opinion on our message boards.

same aspects he will need and work with in the higher education arena, namely, competition, innovation and growth.

Academics argue that having a history of being immersed in the higher education structure from the inside can be beneficial, just as former UM President Elson Floyd came from an academic background working in various administrative positions at college campuses across the country.

However, a fresh eye from an outsider can be just as advantageous. Because of the structure of the UM system, the four chancellors at each campus are in charge of the day-to-day operations more so than the president.

The president has operations budgets, the price of attending college, a group of 10 curators to oversee and many more obligations that make up the president's responsibilities. Education is business and a businessman should run it.

Forsee is coming from a business where the price of telecommunications has dropped significantly while the cost of higher education has done nothing but skyrocket.

The knowledge of running a busi-

ness where people can afford cell phones more than tuition sounds like a good change of pace and just what the University of Missouri needs.

As a businessman, Forsee knows that a crucial aspect of business is controlling costs.

When college students are looking for what school they can actually afford to attend, it is a good feeling knowing that someone with that experience knows how to fight for the price that students pay for a good education.

It is also a background in business that can help Forsee relate to students, most of them who will be entering the corporate world upon graduating. At a meeting between interim president Gordon Lamb and students last fall, one of the most cited reasons for getting a good education was so that the students could find a good job.

That is one major role that professors are taking nowadays: how to get students prepared for the business world.

While the University's primary goal is to educate and not to profit, the University of Missouri still is considered a business by all accounts. As a business, the University's leader should take a business-like approach to running things.

Higher education is facing a crisis and to bring about true change for the better, the University needs to look outside the box and get a fresh perspective, and who else better to provide that perspective than someone from the business world like Gary Forsee.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

After the smoke clears Lessons learned from Illinois smoking ban

"Will that be smoking or non-smoking?"

The question seemed bizarre when I walked into a Missouri restaurant last week. Servers in Illinois bars and restaurants do not ask that anymore, as of Jan. 1.

As the clock ticked away the final seconds of 2007, smokers in Illinois bars, restaurants and casinos were taking their last few puffs indoors since 2008 was ushering in a new era: a smoke-free era.

At midnight on New Year's Eve, all public places in the state of Illinois put away their ashtrays and told their patrons in mid-celebration to put out their butts.

Senate Bill 0500 or The Smoke Free Illinois Act was enacted.

The ban prohibits smoking inside or within 15 feet of any entrance of any public building or place of employment.

Two weeks into the new year shows the ban is working, maybe a little too well. At a bingo hall in Swansea, there was discussion of a driver fined \$250 for smoking while in his vehicle when the driver pulled up to a McDonalds drive-thru window.

The ban sets fines for violating provisions of the law between \$100 and \$250 for individuals and \$250 and \$2,500 for businesses. Most of the places I visited since the ban began followed these new rules. Some places even got creative with the rules.

Bars like the Whistle Stop in Swansea and Show Me's in Fairview Heights created sheltered and heated outdoor smoking areas where smokers can drink and eat while not having to give up smoking.

Besides innovative outdoor smoking lounges, what effect is the ban having? The air is cleaner, not hazy



By PAUL HACKBARTH
Editor-in-Chief

like it used to be. I am not coughing as much. Food tastes better. Some people are smoking less or even quitting.

While some of the places I frequent are less crowded, business will pick back up. Smokers who sit at home will eventually get tired and go out to places and not smoke there.

When I see such a positive effect in Illinois, I wonder why the same could not take place on a college campus?

According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, as of Jan. 8, 2008, there are 105 campuses nationwide that ban smoking on the entire campus, both indoors and outdoors, including three in the state of Missouri.

Those are Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, State Fair Community College in Sedalia and most recently St. Charles Community College as of Jan. 1, 2007.

The new student organization, Peers Advocating Smoke-Free Solutions, hopes for the same benefits that Illinois has. While PASS considers a smoking ban, it should learn the lessons that Illinois is learning too little, too late.

The ban was put to no statewide vote. State Sen. John J. Cullerton filed the bill in February 2007. Five months later, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed it into law. Now, petitions calling for a statewide referendum are circulating around the state.

The rules are hazy. No detailed enforcement standards have been set, so police have been giving warnings for now. Businesses also lack appeal processes if they are found in violation of the law. It is even unclear if state universities can conduct smoking-related research.

So be warned advocates of smoking bans, smoke-free solutions are not as easy as one might think.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Huckabee's Fair Tax

Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee's tax plan, called the FairTax, looks like a simple way to make tax burdens lighter for Americans, but a closer look is needed.

In essence, the proposal replaces federal income and FICA taxes with a blanket 23 percent consumption tax, while providing every American a tax rebate equal to 23 percent of spending at the poverty level. Proponents argue that this gives more take-home pay because employees will receive their gross pay, instead of net pay, plus the prebate.

However, there is no guarantee that employees will receive the full amount of their gross pay. If the price of everything goes up by 23 percent, then workers need a 23 percent increase to have the same spending power under the FairTax as under the current system. Since some of this increase in pay would come from the Federal government's prebate, an employer only has to make up the difference between the 23 percent and the prebate. The average worker in St. Louis County makes roughly 2.5 times the Federal poverty line and pays an effective 15 percent federal tax rate (not counting credits or deductions, which will reduce that rate).

The prebate would amount to a 9.2 percent increase in income, which means that employers only need to increase the worker's take home pay

by 13.8 percent to keep that worker's spending power at the same level. The employer, not the worker or the government, would benefit from the difference of 1.2 percent.

This is far from FairTax proponents' claim that workers would be the chief beneficiaries. A similar calculation can apply to all workers who pay less than a 23 percent effective federal tax rate - which includes all single taxpayers making less than \$58,000 and all married couples filing jointly making less than \$133,000.

This is without taking into account the myriad deductions and credits that tend to reduce effective tax rates, which means that higher levels of incomes are necessary to attain a 23 percent effective federal tax rate once refunds are taken into account. In other words, the FairTax cannot guarantee that the vast majority of American workers would be better off under the FairTax without some attendant legislation that mandates all workers be paid their gross salary. Furthermore, given that most Americans who earn less than twice the poverty line spend all of their take-home pay, a 23 percent increase in pay would only exactly offset the 23 percent increase in expenditures required to maintain their level of consumption, meaning that the poor and lower middle class are left no better off by the FairTax.

Jeremy Loscheider
Alumnus
Class of 2007

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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 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.

Guest commentaries are typically longer (generally 400-600 words) on a specific topic of interest to readers. If you are interested in writing a guest commentary, please contact *The Current's* editor-in-chief.

Letters and commentaries will also be printed online at www.thecurrentonline.com

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STAFF VIEWPOINT

Can I get some good news, please?

The gods of all media must have a sick sense of humor.

As I made my Odyssean trek back to St. Louis through three different airports after the holidays, they saw fit to remind me yet again that Jamie Lynn Spears was pregnant, that her sister Britney was having a meltdown of biblical proportions, yet again, and that people are generally rotten to each other as story after story of petty theft, bizarre sexual assault and rampant murder was offered up to me.

Oh, and it seems that Wall Street was having a pretty good day; my IRA rejoiced.

My question is this: where was the news?

A teenage girl got pregnant? Stop the presses; I am pretty sure that has never happened before. A pop star in a highly publicized divorced has a really bad day?

Unheard of, I say! Someone pulled a gun on a counter clerk at a convenient store? Wow, thrills abound! In the case of the latter, I am certain some cities would call such an event, Tuesday.

The point is this: a major labor strike is going on, primaries to pick the next leader of the country are in process with some surprising results, Iran is getting snippy, Hugo Chavez is as colorful as ever, Fidel Castro is currently listed as a game-time decision as to whether he will be a



By STUART REEVES
Staff Writer

starter in World War III, Russia is slowly brewing the most subtle dictatorial coup ever, and oh yeah, Iraq anyone?

Why do we care about the Spears sisters and why do redundant criminal activities common to every city find their way to print and screen?

Some sympathize with my frustration here, however, rebut that it is all a matter of survival for the news game. In an age of hour to hour news coverage and a need to fill content and attract viewers and readers, they need the sensationalistic stories like those above to bait patronage, and if along the way they read about the current affect of the sub-prime housing market on the net U.S. economy, then great!

I greatly disagree with this information approach to news present-

tations. I pick up the paper to get a daily glimpse of the larger world in which I live and participate.

I cannot responsibly pick a presidential candidate without following their speeches and debates to see where they stand on the issues. I cannot form a well-developed opinion about the actions of my government, both local and national, unless I follow stories about these bodies in action.

Yet, I can get on quite well without knowing that a sixteen-year-old girl got pregnant.

And it is not that I turn a blind eye to such an issue. Debates are frequent in town halls around the nation about the role of sex education in schools.

It is there, when I read the stories about communities coming together to have an earnest dialogue about a social issue affecting it, that I can get my presentation of the topic, and not from a cable news network desperate to hook some viewers and fill some content.

So there you have it folks, demand good news. When you pick up the paper, skip the gossip columns or the entertainment section and stick to stories that challenge you to really think about this world, your place in it, and how these events shape and affect your life. In turn, you can affect this matter with your readership and viewership.

What's your opinion?

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

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary

UNDERCURRENT

By Danny Reise • Asst. Photo Editor

Are you going to vote in the primary election? Why or why not?



Matt Weaver
Sophomore
Music Education



Jamie Wall
Junior
Criminal Justice



Tegan Viggers
Graduate Student
Higher Education



Wendi Elmore
Junior
Art History



Ty Portell
Senior
Psychology

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu or talk about it in our online forums at www.thecurrentonline.com

"Isn't it too late to vote?"

"No because I just moved and don't have time to drive back to vote."

"I don't even know where I'm registered to vote right now."

"I am voting in the primaries to make up for the last elections."

"Yes. I'm afraid of P. Diddy. Vote or Die!"

STUDY ABROAD

Out of Africa

A departure like no other

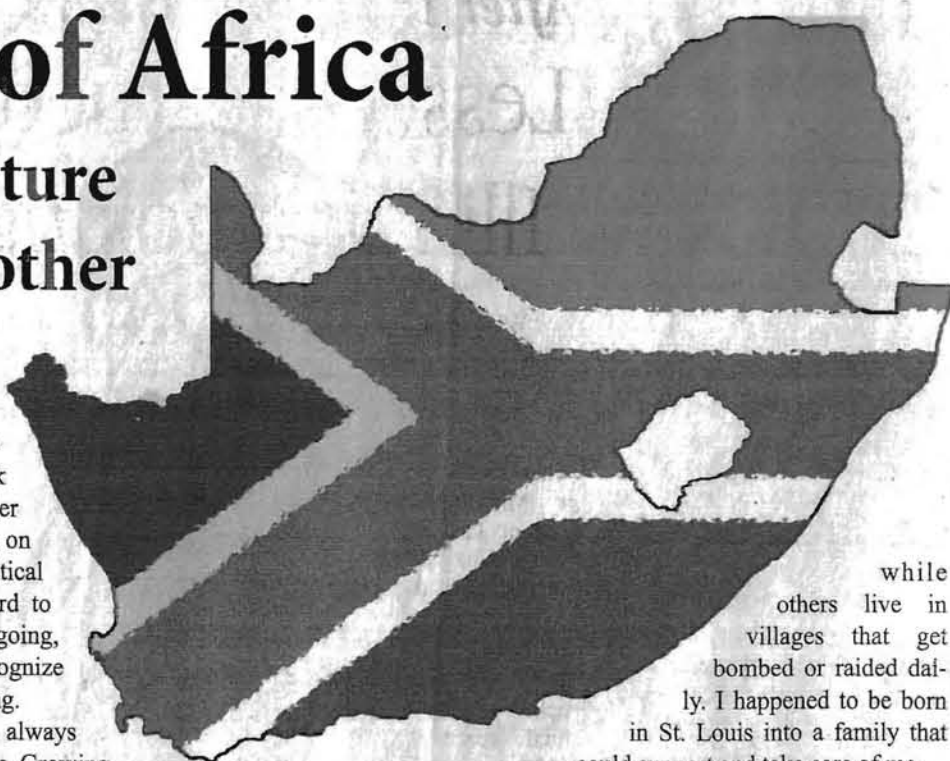
On Thursday I leave for South Africa. I will stay for five months and one week to complete a semester abroad while working on my 2+3 degree in Political Science. It is still hard to imagine I am actually going, and even harder to recognize the feelings I am having.

South Africa has always been an interest of mine. Growing up, I remember my parents watching the fall of apartheid on the news and talking about Nelson Mandela. Now, however, it is more than an interest. My intuition tells me that this trip will allow me to do more good in the world, though I do not know exactly why.

My flight leaves at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and I arrive in the late evening on Friday at Cape Town, South Africa. I have chosen to go three weeks before classes begin there so I can get used to the eight-hour time difference and to adjust mentally.

The advice I have received has varied greatly, with many people just saying it is amazing and not that much different from the states. Others who have been there or lived there tell of the dangers and stress the importance of being with other people when out at night.

I have contemplated about what



By THOMAS HELTON
Columnist

bad things could happen from being mugged, kidnapped or anything. While I do not plan on directly endangering myself, I do wonder what is so special about me that I can be protected from some of the less fortunate of the world. Millions of people around the world are starving

while others live in villages that get bombed or raided daily. I happened to be born in St. Louis into a family that could support and take care of me.

I am definitely excited but also scared in a sense. When packing to leave for five months, I realized what is actually important to me. I threw away so much stuff because I saw how it was just clutter. My packing list is short because I do not want to look like a tourist and I do not really need anything other than clothes and a sleeping bag.

I am taking three or four classes, mostly on politics from the perspective of South Africa. Cape Town is the legislative capital of South Africa, so it will be a great place to immerse myself in the political culture.

I have not thought about what to expect, because it might just be better as a surprise, and to play it one step at a time.

I plan to write a column for *The Current* and send in pictures from my adventures in Africa, so keep your eyes out.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

There are no traffic jams when you go the extra mile

What do Pope John Paul II and Highway 40 (because no one in this city calls it I-64) have in common?

If anyone remembers, when Pope John Paul II came to St. Louis in 1999, the news media made a huge deal about how crowded the entire city was going to be and warned travelers to be aware. As it turned out, so many people stayed home to watch it on TV that the streets were fine.

Nine years later, the media declared that gloom and doom would again strike commuters in St. Louis with the shutdown of Highway 40 between I-170 and I-270.

It seems people actually heeded the advice of the news media and found alternate routes ahead of time. They have reworked their schedules to avoid peak travel times or just found different ways to get around.

So, people actually listened to the news and made the impending crisis turn into a small obstacle in their daily route. Or did it?



By ANGIE SPENCER
Proofreader

Ladue and Clayton Roads have been at a standstill. I-44 and I-70 might as well turn into a bumper car attraction because no one seems quite able to stay in his or her own lane.

I-44 has no shoulder to speak of. So what happens when a car stalls or someone gets pulled over? Anyone in the far right lane has to come to a complete stop so as not to hit the people on the pseudo-shoulder. I recently had to stop and almost got

rear-ended by the car behind me.

From what I can tell, the Metro-Link does not seem to have much of an increase in riders since the closing. However, the people west of the highway that is closed do not have access to the Metro system anyway.

The Missouri Department of Transportation, or MoDOT, has handled the shutdown and preceding construction fairly well. With every construction project, it announced when the bridge/section/road would be shut down and when they would finish ahead of schedule.

MoDOT is also working on regulating traffic signals on the alternate side roads in order to move the most amount of traffic as efficiently as possible.

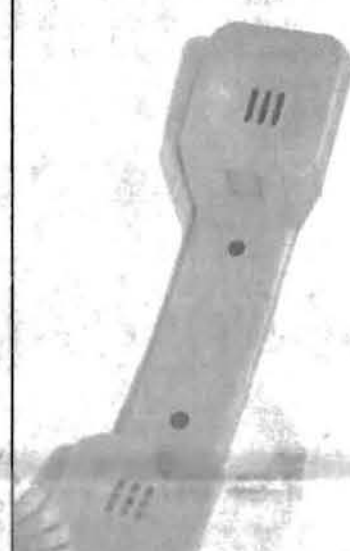
Maybe gloom and doom has not struck St. Louis, but what happens when it comes time to shut the eastern part of Highway 40 down is anyone's guess.

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor or guest commentary and email it to thecurrent@umsl.edu

Got a news tip?

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PERSONALLY, I LIKE THAT WE'RE ALL ENCOURAGED TO THINK LIKE OWNERS.

Lisa Church
UMSL class of '05, Edward Jones associate since 2000.

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|---|--|-------------------|
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| Working with Chartwells and Building Operations: | Helping to make your program great! | 1/23 & 4/9 |
| What can ICS do for you: | Get a tutorial on how to use our online "club manager" and all of its functions. | 1/25 & 4/25 |
| Bills, Bills, Bills: | How to get yourself or a vendor paid. | 1/30 & 2/27 & 4/4 |
| Running an Effective Meeting: | | 2/6 |
| Managing your organizational budget: | | 2/8 |
| Motivating your members toward greatness: | | 2/13 & 4/2 |
| Effective Advertising: | | 2/20 & 3/19 |
| Planning your event to perfection: | | 3/5 & 4/30 |
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| Making a Difference: | | 3/12 & 4/23 |

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STUDENT LIFE For more information contact Student Life at 314-516-6881 or stop by 388 M30.

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Say goodbye to holiday weight

By **CHRISTA RILEY**
Features Editor

Trying to lose that holiday weight? Too many cookies, candied yams and roasted turkey consumed over the holidays can take a toll on a person's body. UM-St. Louis students have a greater advantage than most in shedding those extra pounds.

The following suggestions of weight loss and healthy living will not interfere with already crammed schedules, leaving students with no real excuses to disable them to lose weight gained from the holidays.

As many people may think that not eating will benefit their battle against weight, this is simply not true.

More effective and healthier approaches to weight loss are available. As a UM-St. Louis student, routine walking goes hand in hand with health. Using those extra steps can be a great advantage to battle against weight loss.

Avoid parking close to buildings and use the staircases instead of elevators whenever possible.

Do not look at the return from the holidays as a dreadful fight for parking and long lines. Instead, think of this as another opportunity to burn those calories off through the simple act of walking.

UM-St. Louis alumna Agnes Grunzinger, who is educated in nutrition, said, "Eating every three hours keeps your metabolism from slowing down and collecting fat."

This way, eating every 3 hours keeps fat from absorbing into your body and gives you more energy. Your meals have to be very small though."

There are other ways to shed pounds off campus as well. Do you have a dog? Let your pet lead you to a healthier lifestyle while creating and maintaining that special

bond with your pet by walking it on a daily or weekly basis. Your dog will love you for it and the calories will scream for release from your body.

While exercise can be tedious, dull and boring, there are still many things most people enjoy doing which still constitute as exercise. Dancing, swimming and tennis are all common forms of enjoyable exercise.

Professionals from <http://www.womensweightloss.com> suggest the average weight gain amount is six pounds per holiday season.

Setting a goal of losing an average of two pounds per month will have you back in shape before it's time to take out those slinky summer swimsuits.

Considering the intake of calories is also important because if more calories are eaten than burned, weight is not able to be lost.

Try maintaining a diet which includes more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. And for those on-the-go folks, grabbing a banana or a granola bar is easy enough to eat anywhere.

"I'm always going from one place to the next it seems like. So on Sundays, I plan my week out by pre-cooking and storing my meals. This way, I can just grab Monday's lunch container and go.

"And when I return home late in the evening, it's so easy to pop my dinner in the microwave to reheat, and I don't have to worry about eating frozen dinners and things like that," said Suzanne Schopflin, a fitness instructor at World Gym Fitness Center on South Lindbergh.

Also keep in mind that it is a myth that liquids do not hold calories. Anything with major sugar content will balloon your calorie intake, and this does include sports drinks, soda and full flavored beer.

Drinking tea and water may be the health-

ier alternative for a sugarless liquid refreshment.

Try eating fish two or three times a week. According to Frank W. Jackson M.D., who is listed on the American Heart Association's expert opinion Web site, there is something about the unsaturated fats in fish that is quite healthy. Regular fish eaters have less coronary heart disease and heart attacks.

Women who eat a low saturated fat, high fish diet, have a much healthier form of fat in their breasts and have a much lower incidence of breast cancer.

There is increasing evidence for the role of fish in reducing both heart disease and cancer. Poultry without the skin is also a healthy high protein food alternative.

For more information about healthy dieting and weight loss, visit the American Heart Association Web site at <http://www.americanheart.org> for some excellent tip for maintaining nourishing habits at lifestyles.

Also visit the UM-St. Louis Web site concerning health, wellness a counseling at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/health>.

UM-St. Louis' Health and Wellness Center is located at 180 Millennium Student Center. The center offers information and referral sources on a wide variety of health related issues.



Elizabeth Gearhart • Illustration

Top 10 Celebrity Oops of 2007: What were they thinking?

BY ANGIE SPENCER • PROOFREADER

If the saying "There's no such thing as bad press" holds true, then some celebrities had a pretty good year last year. From Hollywood to Washington D.C., no one was free from the watchful eye of the paparazzi. The question is: which mishaps, drug scandals and custody battles top the list?

Britney Spears

"Oops...I did it again" and again and again and again. Who knew that that one lyric from her CD released in 2000 would come back to haunt her years later? 2007 was a year full of Britney scandals with everything from a custody battle with K-Fed, to a ridiculed Video Music Awards performance, to shaving her head. It seemed that she had a new story out every week. Maybe her lyric "I'm not that innocent" really is true.

Vanessa Hudgens

High school never looked so fun and clean as in "High School Musical." However, star Vanessa Hudgens has a not-so-clean past. In September, a nude picture of the new teen queen emerged. Her publicist said the picture was taken privately and should not have become available to the public eye.

Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, Nicole Richie, Misha Barton, Kiefer Sutherland

And yes, the list of celebrities that spent at least some time of 2007 in jail continues. Some, like Lohan and Richie, spent just an hour in jail, while Paris spent a grand total of 23 days there.

The Mitchell Report

Baseball fans everywhere were both nervous and excited as the report was released so they could see who was or was not using steroids. Even though some prominent names appeared in the report, not all allegations were proven to be true.

Current players like Gary Bennett, Roger Clemens, Rick Ankiel and Andy Pettitte found themselves on the list.

Isaiah Washington

He could not keep his words from spewing out around cast members of the TV show "Grey's Anatomy" and calling co-star T.R. Knight a "faggot." This caused controversy on set and on red carpets, ultimately leading to Washington leaving the show.

Bill Belichick

Head coach of the New England Patriots was caught videotaping New York Jets' signals that the coaches gave to the players during a Sept. 9 game. As a punishment, the Patriots were denied the first round draft pick and Belichick was fined a whopping \$500,000.

Michael Vick

Bad Newz Kennels led to bad news for Vick as he and three others were indicted on charges of sponsoring a dog fight, training pit bulls for fighting and having the fights across state lines. Vick turned himself into the U.S. Marshals early in hopes to make an early exit from prison.

Sen. Larry Craig

A toe-tapping good time is possibly what Craig was looking for when he walked into the men's rest room in a Minnesota airport, but instead, he ended up getting arrested for engaging in behavior usually used by persons looking to enter into sexual conduct. Craig plead guilty to disorderly conduct.

Jamie Lynn Spears

With such a positive role model like Britney in her life, who would have expected the Nickelodeon star to follow in the footsteps of her big sis? At age 16, Jamie Lynn Spears is pregnant and in the limelight with her sister.

Don Imus

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. That was not the case with Imus. He chose to use the words, "nappy headed hos" to describe the women of Rutgers' basketball team and those words hurt not only the women on the team, but Imus himself. Those three words led to his firing and to repercussions, for a while anyway. He was back on the air by December.

It is a new year folks. So, for lack of anything else to say, better luck next year.

TOP TEN

The Current online.com

Most emailed stories from The Current's Web site for the Dec. 3 issue

10. Reconsider pets as presents this holiday season
9. Stop the shopping madness
8. Undercurrent for the week of Dec. 3, 2007
7. MetroLink will not cost you \$3 a gallon
6. Will stem cell breakthrough really silence critics
5. Athlete of the week for the week of Dec. 3, 2007
4. One year later: Campus remembers Brian Schlittler
3. Porn King, Porn Pastor square off at The Great Porn Debate
2. Photo: 'Sopranos and the rest of the mob' storm the Touhill
1. An Afternoon of Bluegrass without banjos



ON AIR WITH WOODIN' PUDDIN'



Carrie Fasiska • Managing Editor

DJ Mini-U spends his time working the booth during the night shift at UM-St. Louis' student radio station, "The U."

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InterACT explores popular topics through theater

BY CAMILA BEUCHLER

Staff Writer

"This is exciting to see something that's done verbally and put into action. It's great to see students communicating their views on vital issues," said Linder Williams, the senior secretary of Disability Access Services, describing InterACT.

InterACT is a new student theater group at UM-St. Louis developed by the actors in the troupe along with the coordinators Jamie Linsin, counseling psychologist/coordinator of Outreach, and Jason Cannon, director of the Theater Department.

This theater production is intended for the 21st century and produces contemporary plays that explore issues of our time. Founded in 1988, this group's mission is to educate as well as entertain its audiences by using a variety of techniques to explore on stage.

The art of theater is sending empowering messages around the globe by utilizing the discipline of theater to facilitate critical thinking, foster positive social change and unity as well as empowering communities in the school and the community. By using acting and writing as its core, InterACT brings emphasis on increasingly popular yet conflicting topics such as relationship conflict, social and intercultural communications and wellness related issues to optimistically help tackle these scenarios.

More specifically, they speak about vital issues that many people face in their everyday lives concerning trusting authority, peer pressure, drugs, violence, the influence of pop culture and the media, prejudice and stereotyping, communication and understanding, intolerance and social responsibility. By discussing these topics, InterACT will be able to help students, faculty, youth and people "at risk" by mentioning these difficult issues in a safe and constructive environment.

In conjunction with these topics, these five to ten minute scenes incorporate theater games and confidence building exercises. In turn, actors as well as viewers gain street smarts and knowledge of different ways to solve dilemmas that are brought up in everyday life.

Through the magic of theater, InterACT examines the forces that influence people's beliefs and why we believe in certain complex and controversial issues. Each topic is brought up with artistic integrity and fairness for all races, sexes and ages to view.

"InterACT not only gets the students and teachers involved in situations that they might have to deal with in real life, but also assists them with ways of dealing with vital situations," said participant Elyse Garlinger, sophomore, theatre.

Prior to winter break, auditions were held and actors from recent productions, like "Booth," participated. The students currently participating in InterACT are Frankie Akhi, Kendra Berry, Sandra Bohn, Camila Buechler, Elyse Garlinger, Robert Haupt, Krystle Morehouse, Matt Steiner, Jared Thimes and Carlie Williams.

The concept of InterACT is pretty simple. After the initial presentation of a scene, audience members will be invited to ask questions to the actors who stay in character. This will help the viewer learn more about the character's background as well as his/her motivations.

After all of the questions are asked, the actors then go back onto the stage to reenact the scene. Once back onstage, audience members will be invited to stop the characters' actions at any point to suggest a different way to handle the conflict.

Another way for audience members to suggest different methods of resolving the conflict is by physically replacing one of the characters, preferably the inactive character. This action will let the audience member demonstrate his/her alternate course of action to alleviating the conflict. This is followed by the third and final scene, where the play is reenacted with incorporating the viewer's suggestions in solving the dilemma.

The possible venues for the InterACT performances are in the classroom, residence halls, sororities/fraternities, faculty meetings or orientations.

If you are interested in joining the InterACT troupe, there are a few things to know. InterACT members should be comfortable with acting and improvisation.

Also, they should be committed to educating the campus community about conflicting topics presented. InterACT will include an initial training and team building session followed by group rehearsals and performance schedules.

Today, this troupe is exploring ways for students to earn academic credit for their work. If you are interested in joining, space is available, so contact Jason Cannon at 314-516-4850, or by e-mail at cannonja@umsl.edu. You can also contact Jamie Linsin at 314-516-5711 or e-mail him at james@umsl.edu.

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A&E

THE CURRENT'S TOP TEN FILMS OF 2007

10. EASTERN PROMISES

Directed by David Cronenberg, starring Viggo Mortensen & Naomi Watts.

9. THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.

8. MICHAEL CLAYTON

Directed by Tony Gilroy, starring George Clooney as the title character.

7. LARS AND THE REAL GIRL

Directed by Craig Gillespie, starring Ryan Gosling.

6. ATONEMENT

Directed by Joe Wright, starring Keira Knightley.

5. JUNO

Directed by Jason Reitman, starring Ellen Page & Michael Cera.

4. PERSEPOLIS

Directed by Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, starring Catherine Deneuve

3. THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY

Directed by Julian Schnabel, starring Mathieu Amalric & Emmanuelle Seigner.

2. THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES...

Directed by Andrew Dominik, starring Brad Pitt & Mary-Louise Parker.

1. NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

Directors Ethan Coen and Joel Coen, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem.

TOP TUNES DOWNLOADS

1. Low - Flo Rida featuring T-Pain



2. Love Song - Sara Bareilles

3. Take You There - Sean Kingston

4. Paralyzer - Finger Eleven

5. Apologize - Timbaland feat. OneRepublic

6. Clumsy - Fergie

7. No One - Alicia Keys

8. Kiss Kiss - Chris Brown

9. Tattoo - Jordin Sparks

10. Bubbly - Colbie Caillat

Our own little Oscars: St. Louis film critics' picks

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

The St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association, a professional organization of area film critics, announced the 2007 winners of its annual awards for the best in cinema. The announcement was made at a press conference at Maplewood's Schlafly Bottleworks in December. This is the third year that the organization has given annual awards recognizing the best in cinema.

The Coen brothers' thriller "No Country For Old Men" took top honors for Best Picture of 2007. The harrowing film is an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy novel set in the 1970s Southwest, about a ranch hand finding a bag of money in the remote desert where a drug deal has gone wrong.

The runner-up slot in the Best Picture category was a three-way tie between thought-provoking historical drama "The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford," French bio "The Diving Bell And The Butterfly" and comedy "Juno." Other nominated films were "Into The Wild," "The Kite Runner," "Sweeney Todd," "Atonement," "Michael Clayton" and "There Will Be Blood."

Best Director honors also went to Ethan and Joel Coen for "No Country For Old Men," with the runner-up being Paul Thomas Anderson for "There Will Be Blood," a loose adaptation of an Upton Sinclair novel about the early California oil business.

The Best Actor award went to Daniel Day-Lewis for his powerful performance in "There Will Be Blood." The runner-up was Don Cheadle for the fact-based "Talk To Me."

Best Actress went to the young Canadian actress Ellen Page for her

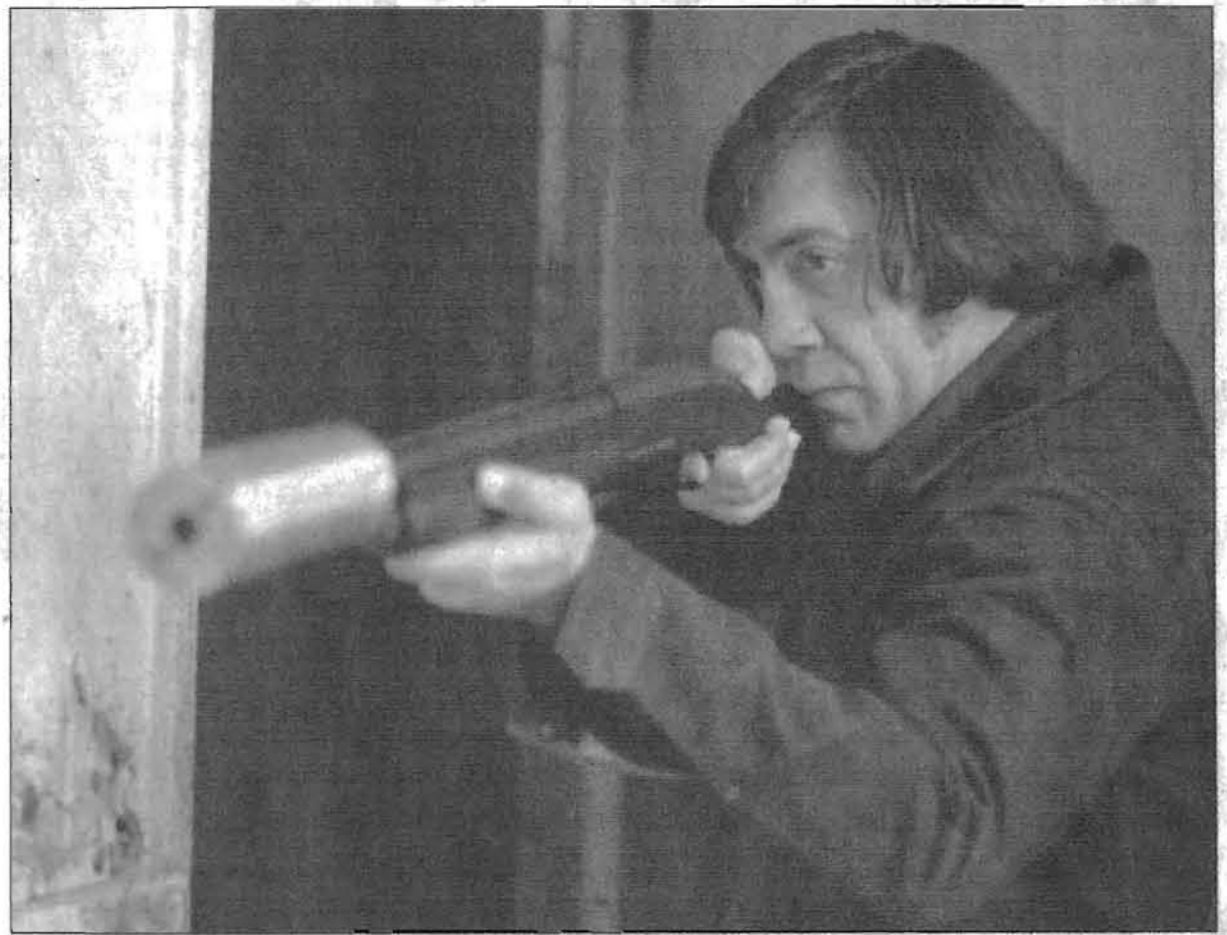
work in "Juno," an offbeat and unexpectedly charming comedy about a pregnant teen who decides to give her baby up for adoption. The runner up was Marion Cotillard for "La Vie En Rose," the French-language biopic about legendary singer Edith Piaf.

In the Best Supporting Actor category, the award went to Casey Affleck in "The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford," a remarkable meditation on fame and infamy, myth and fact, and obsession. Runner up was Phillip Seymour Hoffman as a maverick CIA agent in "Charlie Wilson's War," a fact-based tale of a Congressman doggedly helped the Afghans defeat the Soviets in the 1980s.

For Best Supporting Actress, the award went to Amy Ryan as the unreliable mother of a kidnapped child in the surprising thriller "Gone Baby Gone." Cate Blanchett was the runner up for her portrayal of a young Bob Dylan in Todd Haynes' innovative biography of Dylan, "I'm Not There," in which the musician was played by a host of actors.

The Best Cinematography award was given to Roger Deakins, for "The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford." Deakins, who is the regular director of photography for the Coen brothers, had also been nominated for his work on the Coens' "No Country For Old Men." However, the runner up spot for cinematography went to Seamus McGarvey for the lush World War II romantic drama "Atonement."

"The Diving Bell And The Butterfly," an inspirational and fact-based film about a French magazine editor who suddenly finds himself paralyzed, was named Best Foreign Language Film. Best Documentary was



Javier Bardem plays murderer Anton Chigurh in the critically acclaimed "No Country For Old Men." The film was granted Best Picture and Best Director awards at the St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association press conference in December.

Michael Moore's film about health care in America, "SICKO."

Named Best Comedy was Jason Reitman's biting funny "Juno." The Best Animated Film was culinary-themed "Ratatouille."

The Most Original Or Innovative Film award was given to "I'm Not There." The award recognizes artistic innovation in film. In "I'm Not There," director Todd Haynes had musician Bob Dylan played by a host

of actors, who portrayed him in different phases of his life and career.

The runner up for the category was "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" artist Julian Schnabel's visually dynamic film, in which the story of a suddenly paralyzed man is told mostly from his point of view but with both surprising humor and inspiration.

Other awards went to writer Diablo Cody for "Juno" for Best Screenplay, "300" for Best Visual Effects (CGI/

Special Effects) and Best Score went to Stephen Sondheim for "Sweeney Todd," the Tim Burton film version of Sondheim's murder-themed musical about the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

The St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association awards have been mentioned in movie ads around the country, in the award-season run-up to the 80th annual Oscar awards on Feb. 24, 2008.

THEATER REVIEW

The Black Repertory proves 'Othello' is more than a moor

By LAQUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

The Black Repertory Theater opened its 31st season with a twist to William Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello." The production is set in 1898 New Orleans and Haiti instead of Venice and Cyprus. The Black Rep's production also features Buffalo Soldiers and black military heroes in place of Moors and Romans.

The Black Rep's "Othello" focuses more on relationships and loyalty than on race. The primarily African American cast played roles that they may have never been able to play in other venues. This production does an outstanding job of expressing the hatred, jealousy and passion in one of Shakespeare's great plays.

Director for this year's production of "Othello" is Chris Anthony, a native St. Louisan and director of Youth & Education at Shakespeare Festival in Los Angeles.

In a Black Rep's press release, the director spoke about how he felt honored to bring this production of "Othello" to his home town. He also expressed hope that this new produc-

tion would help some audience members achieve a new level of comfort with Shakespeare's works.

Although the play's "themes of honor and reputation" are unchanged from the original, the director hoped that the new setting in New Orleans might help spark thought and "spur discussion about issues that still plague black people today."

Apart from the change in time and place, the production stayed in line with the original script about jealousy and betrayal. The superb performance from the cast received a standing ovation from the audience. Even though Shakespearean dialogue may be hard to keep up with at times, the use of nonverbal cues kept the audience entertained.

This play is great for lovers of Shakespeare and theater or anyone who is looking to be entertained. Moving the setting from Venice to New Orleans gave the set a very unique and entertaining atmosphere. The costume design of the Buffalo Soldiers was also a great addition to the play.

Andre Sills, in his debut season with The Black Rep, plays the role of Othello. Sills appeared in "Othello"

last year in the Stratford Festival of Canada as an understudy for Othello and also in the Hart House Theatre in Toronto.

Rory Lipede returns to stage at The Black Rep this year playing Othello's love, Desdemona. Lipede appeared on stage last year in The Black Rep's productions of "Cryin' Shame" and "Raisin."

Darryl Alan Reed played the role of Iago, Othello's friend and unknown foe.

Other actors from this production include Monica Parks (Emilia), Bob Mitchell (Cassio), Anthony Peebles (Roderigo), Erik Kilpatrick (Montano), Robert Davis (Lodovico), A.C. Smith (Duke) Kelvin Roston Jr. and Khnemu Menu Ra (Messenger, Soldier).

The production staff includes Jim Burwinkle, scenic design; Reggie Ray, costume design; Kathy Perkins, lighting design; Drew Matheny, sound design; and Richard Agnew, stage manager.

The Black Rep's production of "Othello" will run until Feb. 3. Ticket information can be found on The Black Rep's Web site, <http://www.theblackrep.org>.

PERFORMANCE PREVIEW

Chris Botti trumpets into the Touhill

Popular jazz trumpeter Chris Botti returns to the Touhill Performing Arts Center for a third concert on Friday Jan. 18 at 8 p.m., with an encore performance on Saturday, Jan. 19 at the same time. Botti's hot jazz is so irresistible, he has sold out the Touhill both times he appeared before. Botti's jazz roots go back to the early days as a young man with the legendary Frank Sinatra but his music has stronger ties to more modern jazz and crosses the divide between jazz and pop. His music is both tuneful and accessible enough for any audience and technically strong enough for more serious jazz fans. Along with his personable and even funny stage persona, Chris Botti guarantees an entertaining evening for everyone. Tickets are \$24 to \$42 and students get discounts. Tickets are available at the Touhill.



Chris Botti will perform at the Touhill Performing Arts Center both Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. The jazz trumpeter will be returning for his third concert at the Touhill.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Courtney A. Strong • Staff Photographer

The Goody Goody diner located on Natural Bridge near Goodfellow has been operating in North St. Louis for 59 years.

Goody Goody
A tasty and historic treat

By STEPHANIE SOLETA

Staff Writer

I had always passed by the bright blinking sign atop the Goody Goody Diner on my numerous trips down Natural Bridge, yet I never stopped by to try it out until now. I am glad I decided to sample the delights of this diner, as well as learn the fascinating history behind it.

While the diner was established in 1948, it actually started out as the site of an A&W root beer stand in 1931 during the Great Depression. The diner still sells A&W root beer today.

As Americans began to rely on the automobile for transportation, the diner emerged as a drive-in. It got its unique name from children excitedly chanting "goody goody" upon arriving at the diner.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Goody Goody Diner was the "cool" place to be. Orders were brought out on metal "window trays" to customers in their cars. Gradually, Goody Goody became bigger and can

now seat 110 customers, compared to only 48 when it first opened.

Goody Goody Diner's current owner, Richard Connelly, actually started working at Goody Goody as a carhop, a person who brought out food to customers in their cars. He was the youngest carhop when he first began working at Goody Goody, and he purchased the restaurant from his parents in the late 1960s.

Connelly and his wife worked hard to keep up the restaurant. In 1981, Connelly and his wife renewed their commitment to the restaurant and the surrounding neighborhood. They updated the restaurant by adding a second story storage space and new coolers. They also remodeled the entire inside and outside of the diner. Now the Goody Goody Diner is one of the best known places to eat in St. Louis.

Goody Goody Diner

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MOVIE REVIEWS

The best and worst of film in 2007: A year in review

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Whether your taste in movies runs to the entertainment or artistic end of the spectrum, everyone wants to see a good movie.

Generally, 2007 offered fewer good movies for the fans of big blockbuster American entertainment movies than those who like a thought-provoking drama, often with subtitles.

After having watched most of the new movies released in St. Louis this year, I would like to offer a little overview of the best dramas, comedies, action, thrillers, romances and documentaries this past year, including some overlooked gems.

Among the best films of the year were a lot of violent, gritty dramas. If you wanted to see great films in 2007, it helped if you were willing to tolerate some harrowing scenes. It also helped if you were willing to read subtitles, as a number of brilliant films were in a foreign language.

Best dramas and thrillers:

After a few slightly off the mark comedies, Ethan and Joel Coen returned to the crime thriller genre with the brilliant and violent "No Country For Old Men," a masterful example of filmmaking, filled with wonderful performances and a relentless level of tension.

The film is garnering Best Picture awards from critics' groups across the country, including from the St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association, and acting awards for Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem and Josh Brodin.

Another top-notch film in 2007 was the surprisingly thought-provoking "The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford," one of the most visually beautiful films of the year.

This superb film is more of a moody psychological thriller than

a Western action film or biography of the infamous outlaw. This atmospheric, taut, suspense-driven film focused more on young admirer-turned-assassin Robert Ford than Jesse James.

Based on the book of the same name, "Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford" was more a commentary on the cult of celebrity and myth versus reality and celebrity stalkers, and more about the modern world than you might expect. It also features breathtaking photography of wild, sweeping frontier landscapes, and a haunting score by Nick Cave.

With classic costume drama beauty, the tragically romantic British film "Atonement" is a beautifully shot and acted adaptation of the acclaimed novel of the same name.

Set in the waning days of the English class system and moving into World War II, it tells a story with a twist of two young lovers, played by Keira Knightly and James McAvoy, whose lives are shattered by the woman's young sister, an imaginative young girl who misinterprets what she thinks she sees.

This film is the best pick for those who like sweeping historical tales and romance. "Atonement" has also been nominated for several critics' awards, including seven for the Golden Globes.

Bloody films also topped critics' lists this year. Still in theaters is Tim Burton's relentlessly bloody, dark-humored version of Stephen Sondheim's musical "Sweeney Todd," with Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham-Carter in their singing debuts and aided by a cast that includes Alan Rickman and Sacha Baron Cohen.

"Before the Devil Knows You're Dead" showed that veteran filmmaker Sidney Lumet is still a master of the medium. This nonlinear crime thriller unfolds a tale of robbery, murder and family starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney and Marisa Tomei. The story is dark and twisting and while there are no



Brad Pitt plays the title character in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

heroes in this drama, the tension is gripping.

Not all worthy 2007 films still in theaters are excessively violent. Another worthy film is the inspiring and uplifting, fact-based "Great Debaters," Denzel Washington's film about a Depression-era African American college debate team. It is hard to do an inspiring film and avoid the pitfalls of corniness or predictability, but "The Great Debaters" pulls it off.

"Charlie Wilson's War" is classic Hollywood, but is also a surprisingly thought-provoking film once again based on real events. Tom Hanks stars as a hard-partying congressman who is persuaded by a rogue CIA agent (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and a wealthy Texas woman power broker (Julia Roberts) to help Afghan forces fighting Soviet occupation in the 1980s. It is very entertaining and also surprisingly nonpartisan.

Best comedies:

If you have not seen "Juno," you are missing out on one of the funniest, and best films of the year. With the unlikely premise of a teen pregnancy, the biting funny, rapid-fire dialogue is like gold in the hands of

actress Ellen Page.

A very creative film, and also featuring one of the best scores of the year, "Juno" is so good that it is a contender for several Best Picture awards, a category where comedies are often shut out.

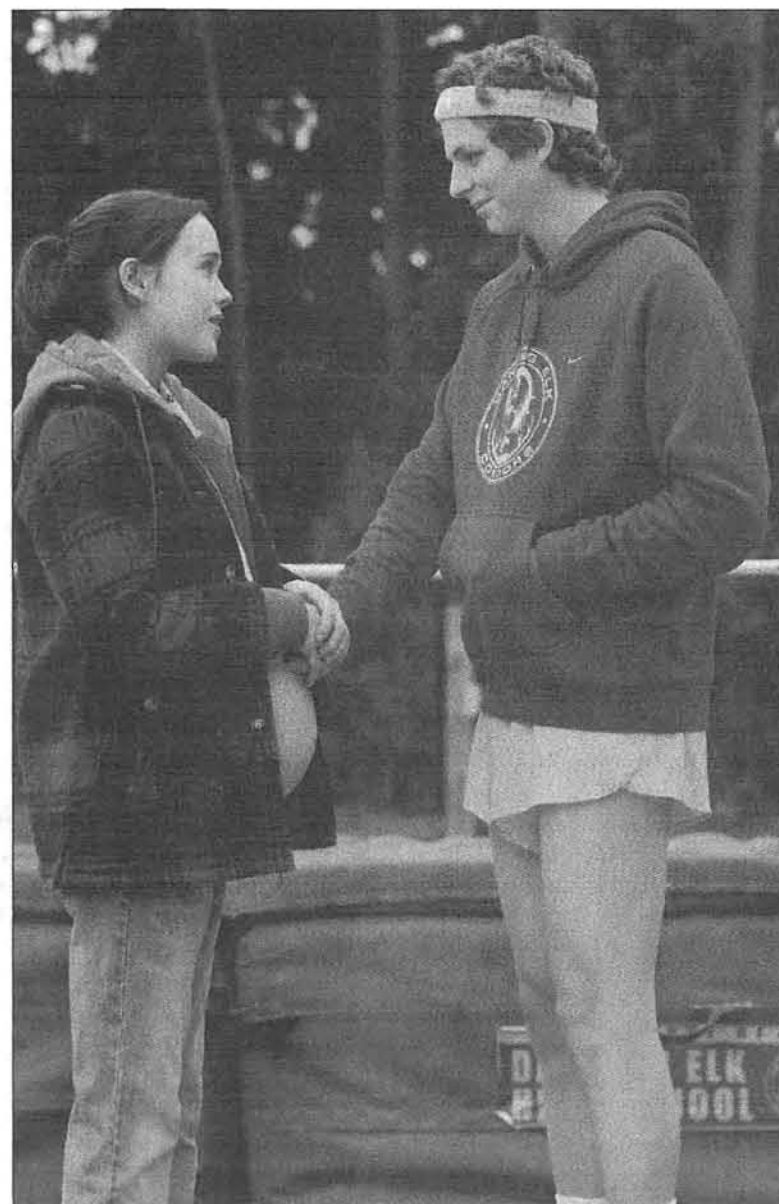
Also still in theaters is the raunchy but funny spoof on music star biopics "Walk Hard" with an amazing performance by John C. Reilly mimicking the singing of a host of legendary stars.

Other great comedies this year were the weird and sweet "Lars and the Real Girl," with one of the year's most remarkable and charming performances by Ryan Gosling, and "Knocked Up" which took what could have been another silly slacker comedy and turned into something special.

Two other gems were the sweet and funny "Waitress" and the animated "Ratatouille," which also nailed the culinary world just right.

Most disappointing films:

Some movies are just bad ideas from the start, like "The Brothers Solomon," but others are missed opportunities. Here are some of 2007's biggest film disappointments.



Ellen Page and Michael Cera star in "Juno," the breakout hit comedy of 2007.

"Love In The Time Of Cholera," the big screen adaptation of the marvelous romantic epic novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, should have been a highlight of the year.

Certainly, the film looks beautiful, with lush photography and wonderful period detail, and brilliantly cast Spanish actor Javier Bardem in the film.

Unfortunately, the clumsy screenplay has the "love," but left out the "cholera," leaving an unbalanced and unsatisfying story that skips the

sweep of history that marks the novel. The result is a film that is excruciatingly boring. Who knew a film so much about sex could be so dull?

"Lions for Lambs" was Tom Cruise's highly anticipated political film starring Cruise, Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and Derek Luke. Too much talk and not enough action or plot made the film feel more like an academic lecture.

See FILMS OF 2007, page 12

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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Sky Frazier

Senior Sky Frazier is making quite an impression this year with the UM-St. Louis' Tritons basketball team.

He put up 12 points against Robert Morris - Springfield helping the Tritons overcome a 23-19 halftime deficit. Frazier sank four out of seven two point attempts, and gave the Tritons five defensive rebounds.

Frazier leads the team in defensive rebounds with 41 so far this season averaging 5.2 per game. On Dec. 17, Frazier led the team to victory against William Woods with 15 points.

UPCOMING GAMES

Women's Basketball

Jan. 17 at Lewis 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 at Wisconsin-Parkside 1 p.m.

Jan. 24 vs Northern Kentucky 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Jan. 17 at Lewis 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 at Wisconsin-Parkside 3 p.m.

Jan. 24 vs Northern Kentucky 7:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Tritons win first conference game

Losing streak comes to end with 60-46 win

By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

Paul Paradoski, David Ward and Sky Frazier led the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team to its first conference win of the season against Missouri S&T on Saturday night. The Tritons defeated the Miners 60-46 after trailing at halftime.

Paradoski and Ward scored 13 points each and Frazier chipped in for 12 points as the Tritons moved up one spot in the GLVC West standing.

De Chellis led the rebounding attack for Tritons with nine and totaled five points with two assists in the game.

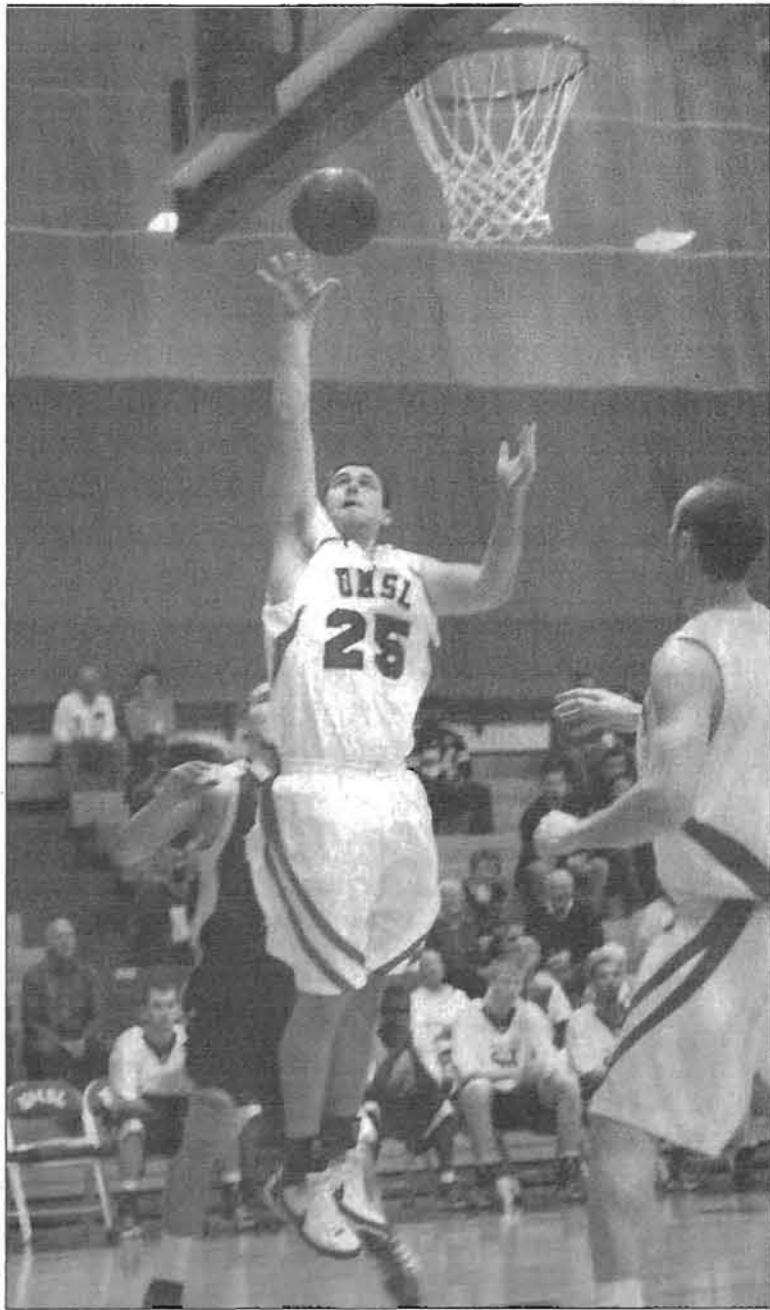
The Tritons finished the game out-rebounding the Miners 40-29 and now average 35.8 per game.

"The team that can get the second and third shots will probably win the basketball game," Head Coach Chris Pilz said. "That's the battle down there on the boards. We have to control the boards so we can push the ball out."

If you can eliminate teams to one shot, it will give you a greater chance of success. "De Chellis is a really good rebounder," Pilz said. "He has done a phenomenal job rebounding for us."

The centers in the game, Ward and Frazier, combined for 25 points and seven rebounds.

See CONFERENCE, page 11



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Tritons' center David Ward's 13 points helped UM-St. Louis defeat Missouri S&T by a score of 60-46.

Women's Basketball

Final seconds separate Tritons from triumph

By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

Two points and two seconds is all that kept the UM-St. Louis women's basketball team from pulling off an upset victory against Missouri S&T on Saturday night. The Lady Miners pulled off a 62-60 victory over the Tritons to remain in the top spot in the GLVC West standings. After the loss, the Tritons fall to 2-3 in the conference and 4-8 overall.

Both teams were evenly matched in the game since the lead changed 11 times. Tamara McCaskill led all scores in the game as she added 23 points for the Lady Miners including the last second jump shot in the paint which won the game.

"Our momentum was not like we wanted it to be the entire game," Head Coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor said. "People think we did good because we barely lost, but it's not what we look at. We want to win and we should have won."

Courtney Watts and Mary Slaughter led the offensive attack for the Tritons with 14 points each. Taylor Gagliano shot 5-8 from the field and 2-4 from behind the arc for 12 total points.

The Tritons had trouble defending McCaskill, who shot 10-16 from the field and scored half of the points in the game for the Lady Miners.

"We had spurts. Early in the game we were letting her backdoor us all night long," Curliss-Taylor said. "We switched up to keep people on her



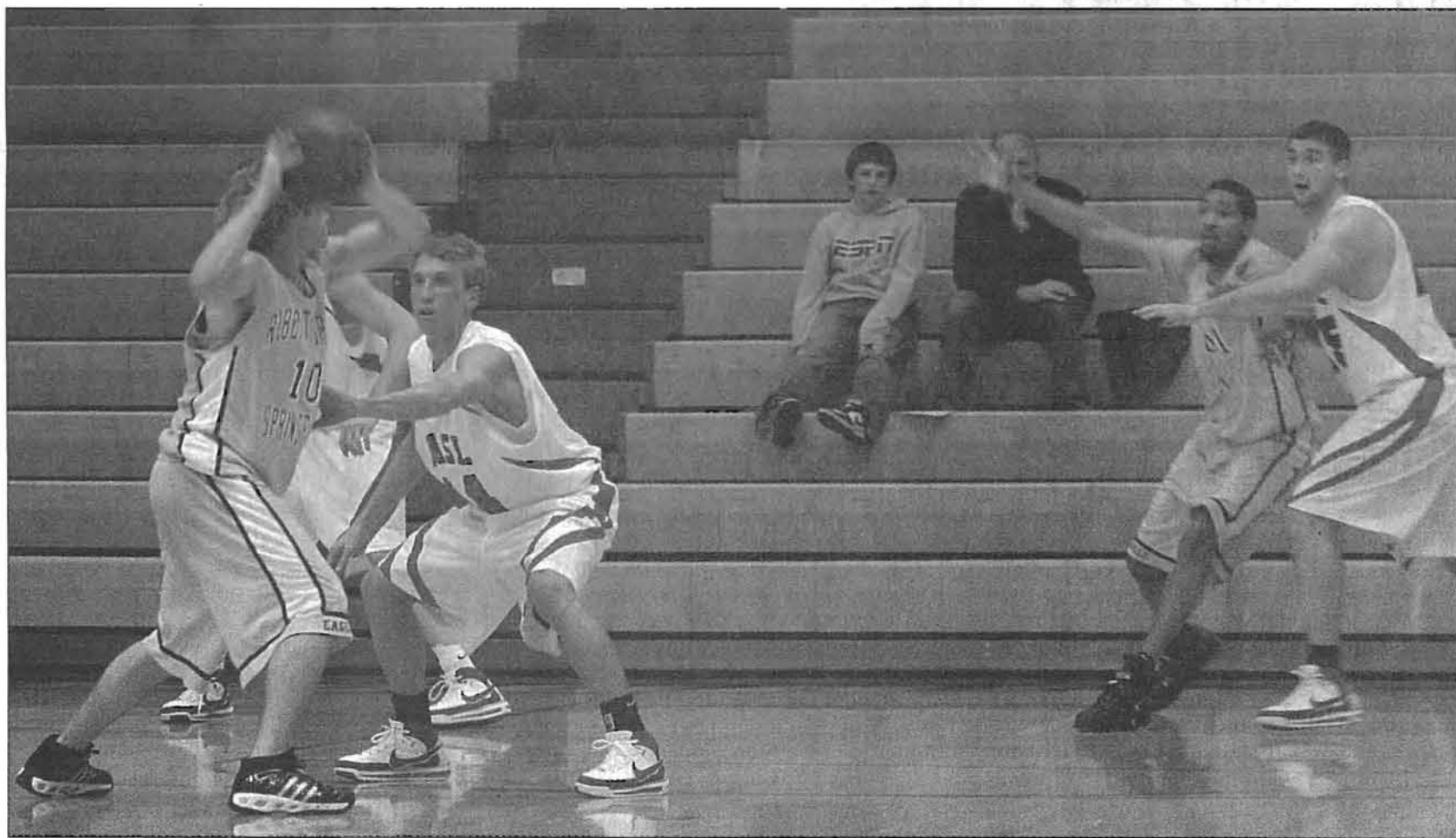
Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Courtney Watts, senior, guard, recorded two rebounds and 21 points against Missouri S&T Saturday at home. The Tritons lost by a narrow margin of 62-60.

and she didn't touch the ball until the very end of the game. We did the best we could on her. We tried to go in a zone, then we weren't rebounding as well so we had to end up back in man. We had a few who played good D on her and we had a few who didn't."

"We didn't plan on going zone at all," Curliss-Taylor said. "We were planning on D'ing-up the way we needed to D-up and we went in at halftime with a little lead at halftime but we should have had a bigger lead."

See FINAL SECONDS, page 11



A winning week for Triton basketball

Tritons Paul Paradoski (LEFT) and David Ward play defense last Tuesday in the Tritons 65-58 win over Robert Morris-Springfield at the Mark Twain Center. Paradoski had four steals while Ward recorded five rebounds for the game. The Tritons also won on Saturday against Missouri S&T, with a score of 60-46. The men's team is now 1-4 in the GLVC and 6-7 overall for the season.

Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Senior Tara Reitz named Second Team All-Region by NSCAA

By SCOTT LAVELOCK
Staff Writer

The honors and awards continue to pile up for UM-St. Louis senior soccer player Tara Reitz. The leading Triton scorer this season was named Second Team All-Region in the Great Lakes Region by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Adidas.

Reitz had already been named Second Team All-Region by Daktronics, who sponsors the teams that are selected by sports information directors from around the nation, in November. This latest honor from the coaches adds to a long list of those accomplished by Reitz, including First Team All-Conference honors this year.

The senior from St. Charles had the best season of her college career this year. Her eleven assists led the Great Lakes Valley Conference and ran her career total up to twenty-nine, which is second on the all-time UM-St. Louis list.

She also added eight goals this year, including the game winner in the GLVC Tournament Semi-Final against rival SIU-Edwardsville, and finished fifth in the conference in total points.



Tara Reitz
Senior, Midfielder

Her awards this year marked the second time that the alumnus of Francis Howell North High School had made First Team All-Conference in the GLVC, and the third year in a row that she was named Second Team All-Region.

Two other forwards in the Great Lakes Region were given Second Team honors this year: Jayme Light of Northern Kentucky and Jenna Boyko of Quincy. In the voting by the coaches, they finished behind the four first-team

forwards: Katy Tafler of Grand Valley State, Ashley Seehase of Indianapolis, Katie Yearian of SIU-Edwardsville and Sarah Powell of Mercyhurst.

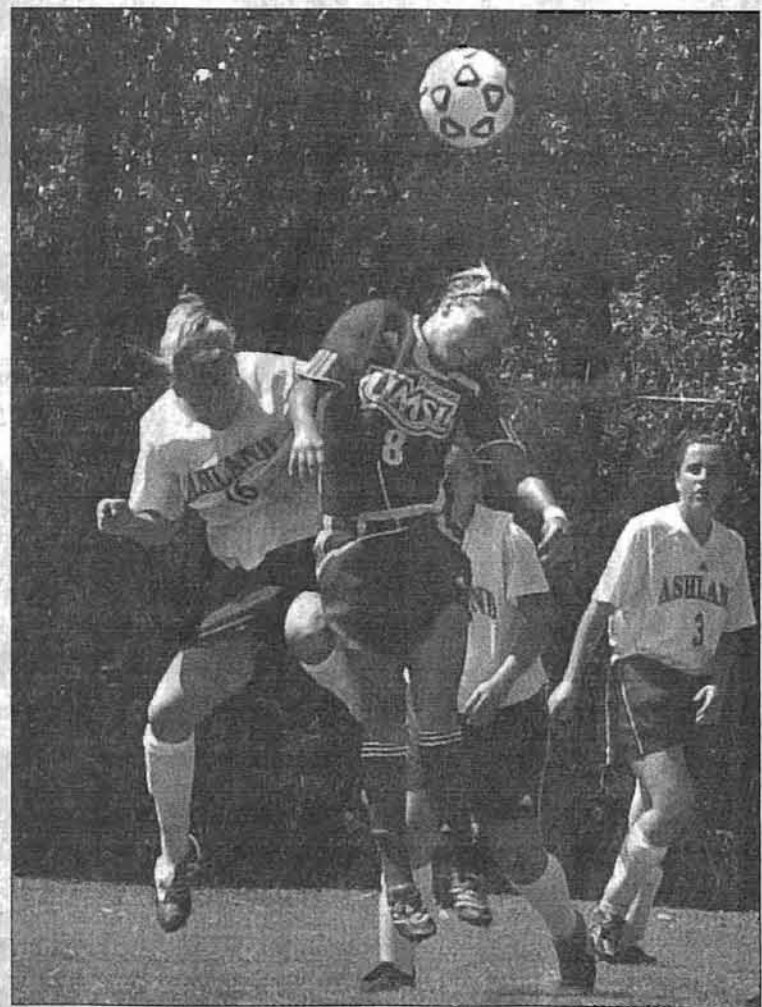
Reitz plans to graduate in May with a degree in Special Education, now having finished her soccer career at UM-St. Louis. During that three year tenure, the red and gold won thirty-five games and tied three more, while losing only twenty-three.

The team made it to the GLVC Tournament each of those years, running their streak to ten consecutive seasons earning a berth in the tournament.

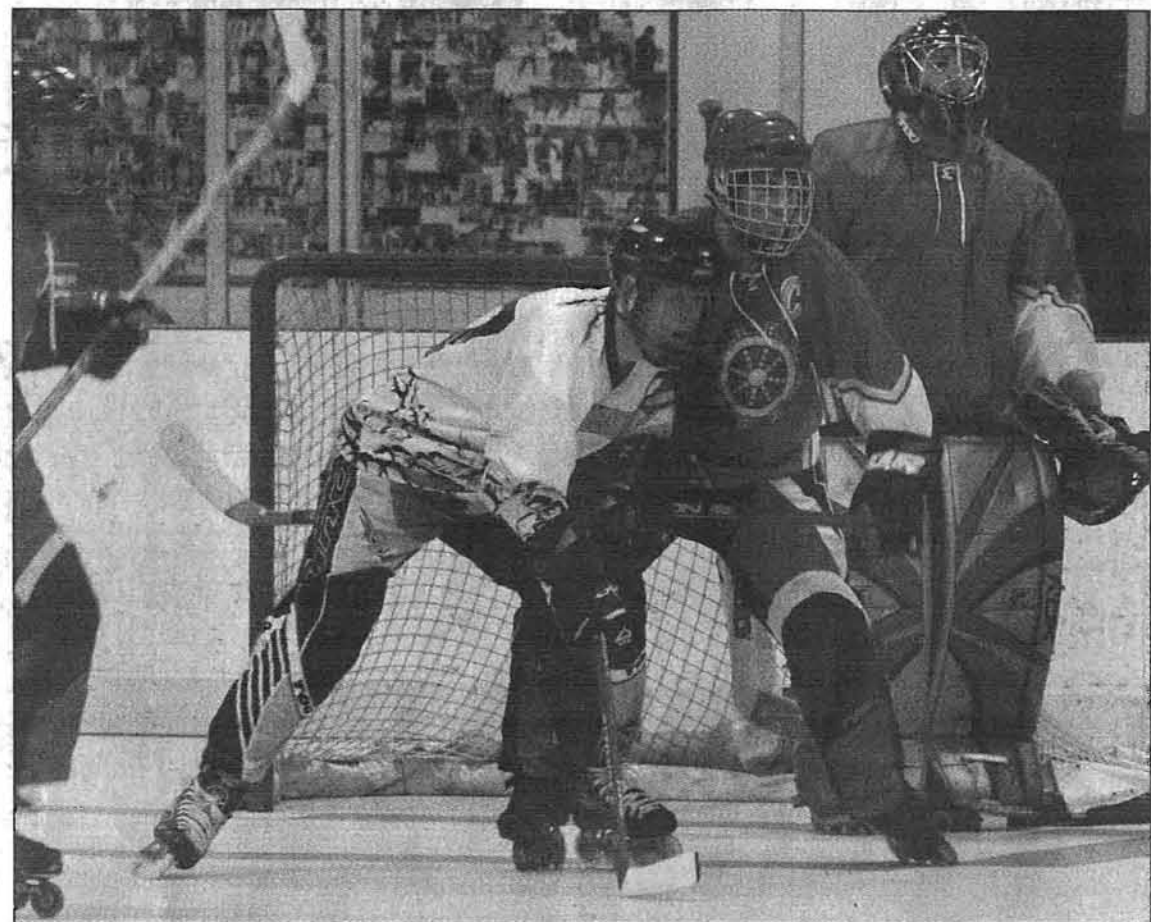
That was all highlighted at the end of this season, when the Tritons made it all the way to the championship game of the conference tournament against Drury.

With most of their players eligible to return next year, UM-St. Louis will look to improve on that accomplishment next year, but everyone on the team agrees that it will not be easy to fill the shoes that Tara Reitz, their all-region player, will leave behind.

(RIGHT) Tara Reitz heads a ball while playing against Ashland early in the 2007 season.



File Photo



Adam Clarke, team captain and defenseman, seen here last February, attempts to keep a player from Truman State away from the goal.

Q&A with the roller hockey team captain

By Tom Schnable
Assistant Sports Editor

Following a season where the UM-St. Louis roller hockey team won the Great Plains Regional Division II championship, the Tritons put up a respectable 5-2 record in the fall portion of its schedule this year.

Disappointing to some, considering the two losses are as many as the team had all of last season.

The Current caught up with team captain Adam Clarke, a junior majoring in education, and asked how he felt about the team's performance in the fall, and how he sees the team doing when it starts play up again next weekend.

The Current: Talk about your team's performance in the fall portion of the schedule.

Adam Clarke: Honestly, I thought we did a really good job. We had some new players come

in, and it was kind of like rearranging the pieces from the year before when we were so successful. I think once we got everybody to fit in together, we started to play much bet-

“Our division is just so strong and so good that if you want to see the most exciting roller hockey that you're probably going to see across the nation, you can see it right here in St. Louis.”

- Adam Clarke
Triton Roller Hockey
Team Captain

ter.

TC: Who were some of the people who played well?

AC: People that helped us out a lot were Andy Meade and P.J. Tallo. They were two big pickups that we

got that chipped in a bunch. Andy is an extremely good defenseman, who is big and physical. P.J. is a phenomenal goal scorer with just a lot of talent on offense.

TC: Who are some players fans should be looking out for when the season gets going again?

AC: We have a new pickup that will be coming over named Blake Propp who has a lot of scoring talent. I think he and P.J. will be two of our biggest threats on offense.

TC: How do you see the rest of the season going?

AC: I think we'll have a better second half of the season than we did in the first part. We've been working really hard in the off season. Everyone's been running and spending a lot of time on the rink. I think it's going to pay off for us and we're going to do really well.

See **ROLLER HOCKEY**, page 12

STATS CORNER

MEN'S BASKETBALL

| GLVC Standings | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Team | Conf. (W-L) | Overall (W-L) |
| Drury | 6-0 | 13-1 |
| Southern Indiana | 3-2 | 9-4 |
| Rockhurst | 3-3 | 6-5 |
| SIU - Edwardsville | 1-4 | 7-5 |
| UM - St. Louis | 1-4 | 6-7 |
| Quincy | 0-5 | 6-7 |
| Missouri S&T | 0-5 | 3-10 |

| Box Scores | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| January 12 | 1st | 2nd | F |
| UM - St. Louis (W) | 19 | 41 | 60 |
| Missouri S&T | 23 | 23 | 46 |

| Box Scores | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| January 08 | 1st | 2nd | F |
| UM-St. Louis (W) | 28 | 37 | 65 |
| Robert-Morris (Ill.) | 29 | 29 | 58 |

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

| GLVC Standings | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Team | Conf. (W-L) | Overall (W-L) |
| Missouri S&T | 4-1 | 10-2 |
| Drury | 4-2 | 12-2 |
| SIU - Edwardsville | 3-2 | 10-3 |
| Quincy | 3-2 | 8-5 |
| Southern Indiana | 2-3 | 7-6 |
| UM - St. Louis | 2-3 | 4-8 |
| Rockhurst | 0-6 | 4-9 |

| Box Scores | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----|
| January 12 | 1st | 2nd | F |
| Missouri S&T (W) | 26 | 36 | 62 |
| UM-St. Louis | 27 | 33 | 60 |

| Box Scores | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| January 05 | 1st | 2nd | F |
| UM-St. Louis (W) | 33 | 35 | 68 |
| Kentucky Wesleyan | 35 | 28 | 63 |

ROLLER HOCKEY

| GPCIHL Standings | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Team | Overall (W-L-T) |
| Lindenwood | 6-0-0 |
| UM - Columbia | 6-3-0 |
| UM - St. Louis | 5-2-1 |
| Missouri S&T | 2-5-1 |
| Illinois | 2-5-0 |
| Middle Tennessee | 1-7-0 |
| Illinois State | 0-7-0 |

Upcoming Roller Hockey Games

January 19
UM-St. Louis vs. St. Charles Community College - 11 a.m.

January 19
UM-St. Louis vs. Middle Tennessee State - 5 p.m.

CONFERENCE, from page 10

“Coach told us to get the ball into the post and I think that is what we did,” Ward said.

Coming into the game, UM-St. Louis was tied for fifth place in the GLVC West with Missouri S&T and Quincy. All three teams were winless in conference games. The Tritons snapped their four-game losing streak with a 65-58 non-conference win against Robert Morris (Ill.) on January 8.

The Tritons trailed the Miners 23-19 at the end of the first half. The Tritons shot 29 percent in the half while the Miners shot 35 percent.

FINAL SECONDS, from page 10

“We are a quicker team, a faster team, but [S&T] are a bigger team and they have players who can get in there and score very well. Overall, we like to run, [S&T] does not like to run so we were going to take that advantage but if we are going to give up easy shots and lay ups, you're not going to win,” Curliss-Taylor finished.

The Tritons did not have a free throw attempt during the first half, but during the second half, the Tritons made seven of 12 attempts from the line.

Slaughter battled for position in the paint during the second half and was responsible for eight of the Tritons' free throw attempts, making six.

The two starting centers were the leading scorers in the half. Taurance Townsel led the Miners with eight points going into the half, while Ward led the Tritons with six.

The Tritons shot 29 percent in the first half for 19 points, but improved to 59 percent for 41 points in the second half. The team also went 0-6 from behind the arc in the first half, but did not make a single 3-point attempt in the second.

“We want to play inside out, that's our strength, Frazier and Ward,” Pilz said. “They have not shown up like we need them to show up but they

were better in the second half. When Ward and Frazier are going well, you have to get it in there to them.”

“We have to figure out how to score the basketball,” Pilz said. “We need to get some transition baskets, get some easy ones, then we have to score with our offense a little bit. I think we did that better in the second half.”

The Tritons travel to Lewis and Wisconsin-Parkside next weekend to continue conference play.

The team will return home on Jan. 24 to face off against Northern Kentucky.

“I knew we were not getting any calls in the first half,” Slaughter said. “In the second half I wanted to go to the hole strong, whether I got the call or not.”

Slaughter finished the game shooting 4-12 from the field and pulled down five rebounds.

Watts led the Tritons with five assists and three steals. She finished the game shooting 5-11 from the field and 3-5 from behind the arc.

UM-St. Louis gave up the ball 24 times in the game and Missouri S&T scored 22 points off of the turnovers. Watts and Kelly Mitchell both ended the game with five turnovers each.

Since Dec. 1, the Tritons have been on an up-and-down streaking of

winning and losing. A quick look at the schedule shows that the team has been unable to pick up consecutive wins, but are not losing back-to-back games either.

“Coming in new this year, putting in a whole new offense, a whole new game, we are playing better than our first game, but that's what happens,” Curliss-Taylor said. “It's basically like having all freshmen, because even seniors have to learn an all new game, how to run the ball, take care of the ball. Courtney Watts is getting a lot better at doing that. That's what happens. You are up and down when you put in a whole new system, it takes about a year to get it developed.”

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ROLLER HOCKEY, from page 11

TC: You mentioned Blake and P.J., but is there anyone else we should look out for?

AC: You should definitely expect some offense from Jeremy Scott. He's another player that came from last year who contributes a whole lot to the team. Ben Lambert is also a player who helped us out a lot last year. I think Ben is the longest tenured River-

man, or Triton now, I guess. He's having a great season this year.

TC: In the spirit of promoting the team, what would you say to the students to try to get them to come out?

AC: I would say that our league, the Great Plains division, is one of the best college leagues. Our division is just so strong and so good

that if you want to see the most exciting roller hockey that you're probably going to see across the nation, you can see it right here in St. Louis.

The Tritons season and championship defense continues on Saturday when they play St. Charles Community College and Middle Tennessee State. The team follows that up with games against Mizzou and Missouri S&T on Sunday.

GOODY, from page 8

People from all across St. Louis are regular customers. The diner was noted in the books "Eat Your Way Across the USA" and "Road Food."

Numerous celebrities have visited the restaurant. Some of the most notable include Al Gore and local St. Louis comedian and actor Cedric the Entertainer.

Upon entering the diner, one cannot help but glance around. The flashing neon sign atop the building immediately attracts attention and the retro-theme inside the diner makes customers feel like they have walked back in time.

While the diner was somewhat small compared to other chain res-

taurants, there were plenty of places to sit. There were tables, booths and even stools at the front counter. The coat racks near the tables were very convenient for customers wearing heavy winter coats.

The diner serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and also offers daily specials. I arrived there early and was in the mood for a sweet breakfast. The service was friendly and prompt. The employees and the customers are from all over the St. Louis area.

The wait was only ten minutes for the entrée: three slices of French toast with two eggs on the side with orange juice. The French toast was quite tasty, but a little rich because of the butter. It was perfectly sweet,

since it was topped with a slight sprinkling of powdered sugar. The eggs were cooked to perfection, and the orange juice was Dole orange juice served cold in a glass bottle.

The trip to Goody Goody Diner was a very pleasant experience and a return to try the lunch and dinner specials may be in the future. Goody Goody is located at 5900 Natural Bridge Rd. near the corner of Natural Bridge and Goodfellow. It is only a few minutes from UM-St. Louis.

For additional information, as well as photographs of the diner throughout the years, visit their Web site at <http://www.goodygoodydiner.com>.

FILMS OF 2007, from page 9

"Simpson's Movie" was not a bad film but a disappointing missed opportunity.

The film was like an average Simpson's episode, or maybe two combined, when it could have gone to another level and created a full-length story in the expanded time.

"Bee Movie" was the Seinfeld version of not living up to potential. Like the "Simpsons Movie," there were funny bits but not enough creativity in the story and not enough funny business to sustain the whole film. While the Simpsons team continues to crank out funny TV episodes, one has to wonder about Seinfeld.

So that is it, a whole year of movies boiled down into one not-so-little article. Go out and catch a good movie while the award season crop is still there, rent the DVD of the good ones you missed and we will see what 2008 brings to the big screen.

Gone to DVD but not forgotten:

A number of excellent dramas and thrillers for the past year are worthy rentals. The Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe crime thriller "American Gangster" may not have been the new "Godfather," but it was a daring film, with some surprising parallels in its fact-based story about an African American crime lord.

Speaking of Russell Crowe, the Aussie actor starred in one of the best entertainment films of the year, the stylish remake of the old Western "3:10 To Yuma." With iconic performances by Crowe and Christian Bale, and a fast-paced modern approach to the action, the remake surpassed the original.

The entertaining "Bourne Ultimatum" was the exception rule in the big-budget entertainment sequels this year.

Don't fear the subtitles:

Some people avoid films with subtitles but foreign-language films were among the year's best in 2007. These include Spanish-language "The Orphanage," Del Toro's chilling ghost tale, a worthy follow up to the director's "Pan's Labyrinth."

The amazing "The Diving Bell and The Butterfly" is a fact-based story about a sarcastic, high-powered French magazine editor who suddenly finds himself paralyzed and only able to blink one eye.

Told largely from the editor's point of view, the film is far from depressing or conventional and unfolds almost like a thriller but also with a generous helping of humor. Ultimately it is about the limitless-

ness of the human spirit. Inspirational, engrossing and entertaining, it is well worth reading subtitles.

You will have to see it on DVD, but the French biopic about soulful French songstress Edith Piaf is well worth the effort, especially for Marion Cotillard's marvelous performance in the title role.

No need to be a Piaf fan or even know who she was to enjoy this film.

Coming soon:

January and February can be strange months for films. Studios release films that did not lie up to expectations and ones too quirky to figure, but great films that opened in New York or Los Angeles to qualify for Oscars, plus foreign-language gems also make their local debut.

Apart from the screenings at the St. Louis International Film Festival, these outstanding films have yet to play theaters in the St. Louis area but they are coming. Among the treats is one of the year's best films.

"Persepolis" is the screen adaptation of the acclaimed graphic novel about an independent and outspoken young girl growing up in Iran after the Islamic Revolution. Beautifully animated in the style of the black and white graphic novel, this French-language film is funny, harrowing and enlightening.

Best documentaries:

It was a good year for both innovative hard-hitting political documentaries. Michael Moore's look at American health care struck a chord with American voters, but the documentary I saw was from a Republican and former Bush insider "No End In Sight," a chilling exposé of war-profiteering, lack of real-world planning and general incompetence in the occupation of Iraq.

There were other worthy but less seen documentaries last year, some of which played at last fall's St. Louis International Film Festival and will come to our area in the coming year.

Among these is "Taxi To The Dark Side," the examination of the death of a Afghani taxi driver who was in the wrong place at the wrong time, from filmmaker Alex Gibney, the producer of "Enron: The Smartest Guys In The Room," "Who Killed The Electric Car," and "No End In Sight."

Another nonfiction film coming here later this year is the drama-documentary hybrid "Chicago 10," in which actors play the part of historic figures from the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention, which was rocked by anti-war protesters seeking a voice.

On the nonpolitical side, the truth-is-stranger-than-fiction prize goes to "Crazy Love," a bizarre tale about obsession and love that has to be believed.

Another documentary favorite focused on the unlikely story of a match up of two masters of the classic video game Donkey Kong, "The King of Kong."

Best overlooked films:

We cannot see everything but some surprisingly good films slipped under the public radar this year. You might want to rent these next time you need an idea for something new, but be warned, some are a bit off beat.

"The Lookout," starring the underrated Joseph Gordon-Levitt, tells a story that seems to go in one direction before morphing into a terrific thriller.

"Control" was another sleeper, a black and white film about a British punk musician with an engrossing dramatic arc beyond the usual biopic.

"Zodiac" featured Jake Gyllenhaal as a newspaper cartoonist who becomes obsessed with the Zodiac serial killer of the '60s and '70s, with real life forming the basis for an unexpected story.

"Goya's Ghosts" turned a potential biography of the Spanish painter into an ironic tale about ruthlessness and power, starting in the time of the Spanish Inquisition and moving into the French Revolution, with another great performance by Javier Bardem.

A hit on the film festival circuit, "Wristcutters: A Love Story" sounds like something grim but was actually a very funny Beetlejuice-like indie comedy about love in the afterlife.

Steve Buscemi and Sienna Miller traded head-twisting barbs in the entertaining, twisting Buscemi written and directed "Interview."

Maybe it was just too much Iraq this year, but "In The Valley Of Elah," a fact-based story about a father, played by Tommy Lee Jones, trying to uncover the truth behind his soldier son's disappearance after he returns from a tour in Iraq, was a gripping and moving film that too few people saw.

Michael Douglas starred in the indie gem "King of California," which was kind of reminiscent of the sweetness and madness of the 1970s film "They Might Be Giants."

"Shoot 'Em Up" was a parody of every action film of the last few years, and tried to do for that genre what the "Scream" films did for the horror genre. Many critics, including me, found it hilarious but it left others puzzled.

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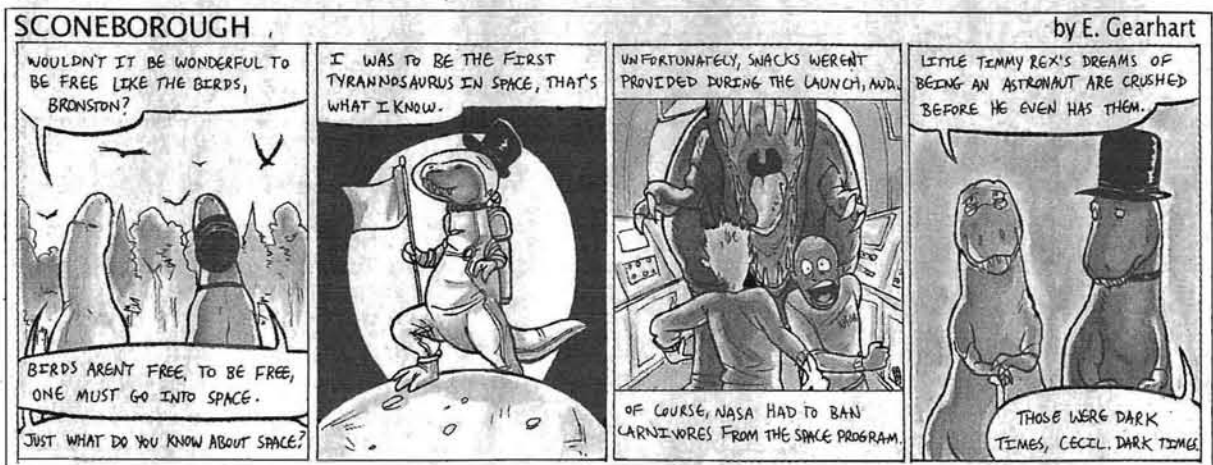
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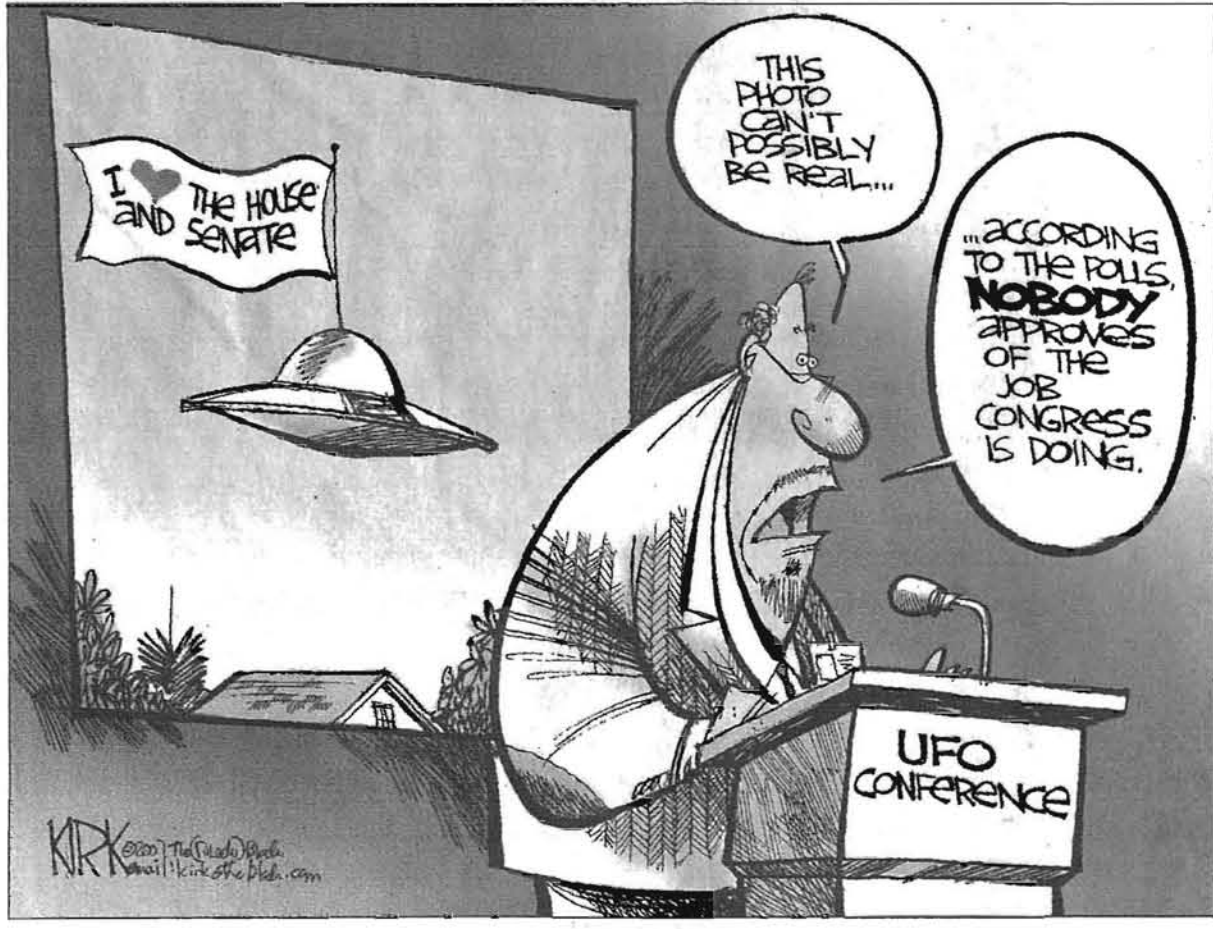
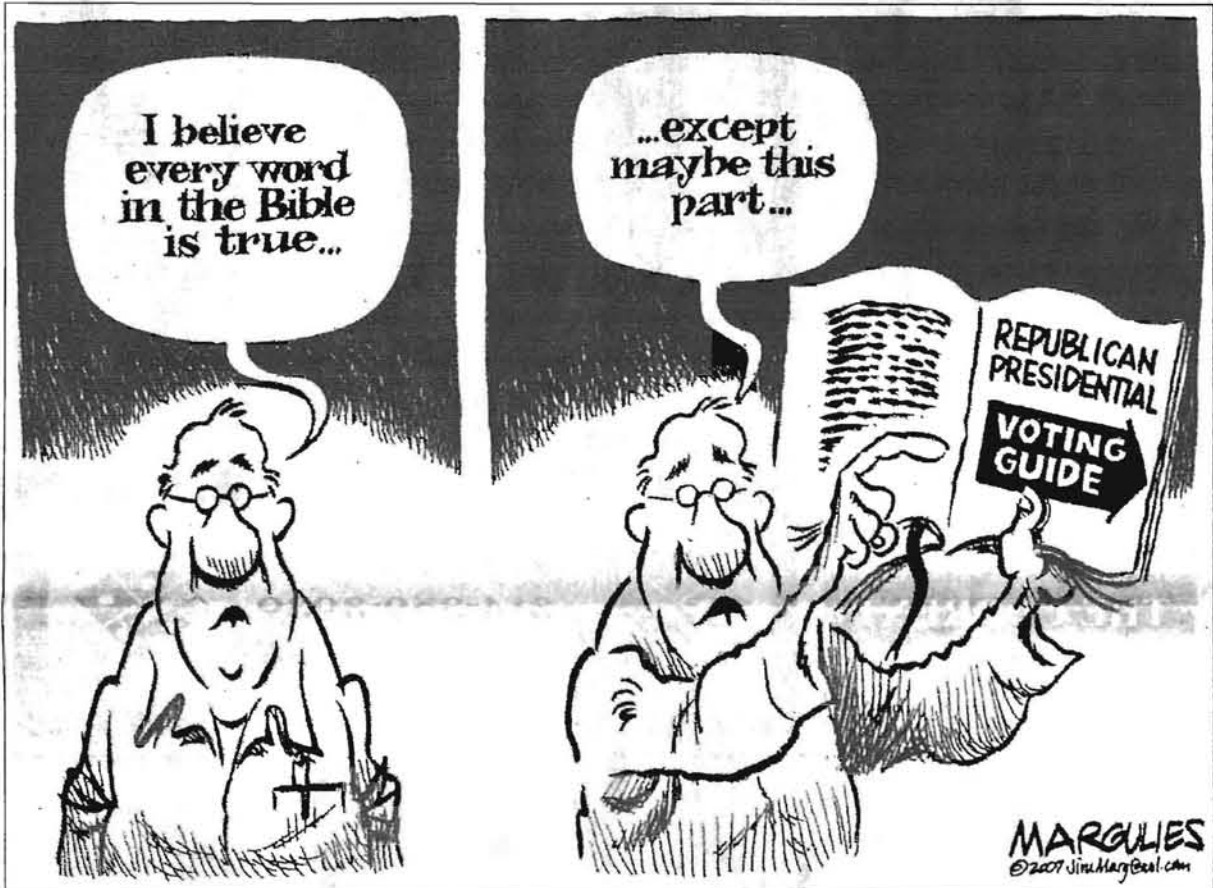


"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart



"Margaret and Hooray" is drawn by Current cartoonist Cody Perkins

SYNDICATED CARTOONS



Think you can draw better than this?

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cilium
- 5 Early bird?
- 8 Distort the facts
- 12 Reed instrument
- 13 Sought office
- 14 Call to Rover
- 15 Bogart/Bacall flick
- 17 "Cave Bear" clanswoman
- 18 Roma's place
- 19 Card carrier
- 21 Leftover bit
- 22 Big show
- 23 Squid squirt
- 26 Replacement
- 28 Filch game
- 31 Profound
- 33 More, in Monterey
- 35 Roughly
- 36 Fashion
- 38 Chatter on and on
- 40 Party bowful
- 41 Acknowledge 2/29?
- 43 Anger
- 45 Fly
- 47 "- With Wolves"
- 51 Alger's "before"
- 52 Arch part
- 54 Arthur of tennis fame
- 55 Inseparable
- 56 Send forth
- 57 Shea squad
- 58 Mag. staffers
- 59 1981 Warren Beatty movie

DOWN

- 1 Trickster god
- 2 Help a hood
- 3 Sauce source
- 4 Response to ringing?
- 5 Slip
- 6 Throttle
- 7 Travelocity mascot
- 8 Rug cleaner
- 9 QWERTY
- 10 - Stanley Gardner
- 11 Sport
- 16 Ostentatious manner
- 20 Cost (Abbr.)
- 23 Egos' counterparts
- 24 Bottom line
- 25 It makes a poser easier to see
- 27 Satchel
- 29 William Petersen series
- 30 Gym party
- 32 Satisfies
- 34 Agreed
- 37 Nosh
- 39 Support group?
- 42 Tea variety
- 44 Frequent stage direction
- 45 Composer Khachaturian
- 46 Bud holder
- 48 Arrive
- 49 Oklahoma city
- 50 Collections
- 53 This clue, aptly

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | 7 | | 5 | | 1 | |
| | 1 | | | 4 | 6 | | |
| | | 6 | 2 | | | 7 | |
| 7 | 5 | | 4 | | | 1 | |
| | | 4 | | 3 | | 9 | |
| | 9 | | 2 | | 3 | | |
| | 6 | | 8 | | | 2 | |
| 1 | | | | 5 | 2 | | 3 |
| | | 3 | | | 6 | 4 | |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Find the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and Sudoku at TheCurrentOnline.com

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be hurt by a colleague's harsh criticism, but do not let it shake your confidence in what you are trying to do. A more positive aspect starts to appear by week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are torn between your sensible self and the part of you that enjoys acquiring lovely things. Best advice: Wait for an end-of-month sale and then buy something wonderful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your artistic side has practical applications this week, such as redecorating your home or redesigning your personal stationery. Whatever you do, someone special will like it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You could be drawn into a problem "twixt friends or family members. Best bet: Ask the questions that go to the heart of the matter, then get them all together for a group hug.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) As much as you love being the center of attention, your big Lion's heart impels you to share the spotlight with a colleague who helped you with that well-praised project.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your eagerness to act on a challenge is wisely tempered early in the week by a lack of necessary information. Things begin to clear up during the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A relationship you had hoped would keep going seems to be going nowhere. Close it out and move on to a brighter romantic aspect just beginning to manifest itself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Things do not go completely as planned this week, but enjoy the surprises, even if you have to adjust your schedule. Some of them could be quite delightful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Making choices is usually easy for straight-shooting Archers, but a new development could deflect your aim. Try to put off decisions until you know more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) While part of you might prefer taking a more familiar path, let your more daring and -- admit it -- super-curious self see what the unexplored has to offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Those nasty types have slithered back under the rocks and present no more problems. Now is the time to move ahead on that promising new relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) A new offer could clear up that lingering money problem. Also, a more confident attitude on your part might well help get that personal situation back on track.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of turning chaos into order. You are also generous with your help for those who seek it.

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