

9-8-2003

Current, September 08, 2003

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: <http://irl.umsl.edu/current2000s>

Recommended Citation

University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, September 08, 2003" (2003). *Current (2000s)*. 157.
<http://irl.umsl.edu/current2000s/157>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at IRL @ UMSL. It has been accepted for inclusion in Current (2000s) by an authorized administrator of IRL @ UMSL. For more information, please contact marvinh@umsl.edu.



□ Dickie □ wants his career back See page 10

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Students have yet to receive refunds from student loans

Problems attributed to FFELP return

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

Since the fall semester started, the Financial Aid Office at UM-St. Louis has had much foot and phone traffic, mostly from students wondering why their loans still haven't been credited to their account.

Most of the delay stems from the University's decision to shift their participation from Direct Lending, where the money comes directly from the federal government, back to the FFELP (Federal Family Education Lending Program), where the funds come from a lender such as MOHELA. "My scholarships showed up right away, but I still haven't gotten my loan," Angie Woike, freshman, anthropology, said.

The reason for change is the benefits a student can get through MOHELA, including rewards programs for teachers, police officers, social workers, national guards, nurses and state government employees.

In addition to the rewards program, they have a relief program. In Direct Lending, the interest rate is 3.42 percent; under MOHELA, it is under 1 percent. "Eight years ago, we left the FFELP program and went into Direct Lending for all the right

“

My scholarships showed up right away, but I still haven't gotten my loan.

- Angie Woike, freshman, anthropology

”

reasons," Anthony Georges, director of Financial Aid, said. "It was a streamlined application process; it offered us an opportunity to work with one lender, one servicer, one guarantee."

Because of this change, two reasons for delays have arisen. When a school changes its loan program, all borrowers have to sign a new promissory note. It takes several weeks to process a promissory note.

The other issue causing a delay is that UM-St. Louis transmits its information electronically to a corporation called ELM (Electronic Loan Management), which encrypts personal information before it is sent to a lender. One of the keys used in encrypting and decoding the information was malfunctioning, resulting in a delay in the information sent to the lenders.

Students whose loans still haven't been credited to their accounts should have their loans cleared up within two to three weeks. Loans are the only financial aid that has come in late.

SEE STUDENT LOANS, page 3

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
News	3
Opinions	4 & 5
Science Column	5
Features	6 & 7
Sports	8 & 9
Arts & Entertainment	10 & 11
A Parrot Says	12
Classifieds	13

Thomas George takes over as UMSL chancellor

New administrator ready for action

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

The first official week of newly-appointed chancellor Thomas George began on Sept. 1. Many activities and meetings kept him busy.

On his first day, Labor Day, the chancellor had dinner with the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. "We had some visitors from Japan, and the former president of the University of Tokyo was here," George said.

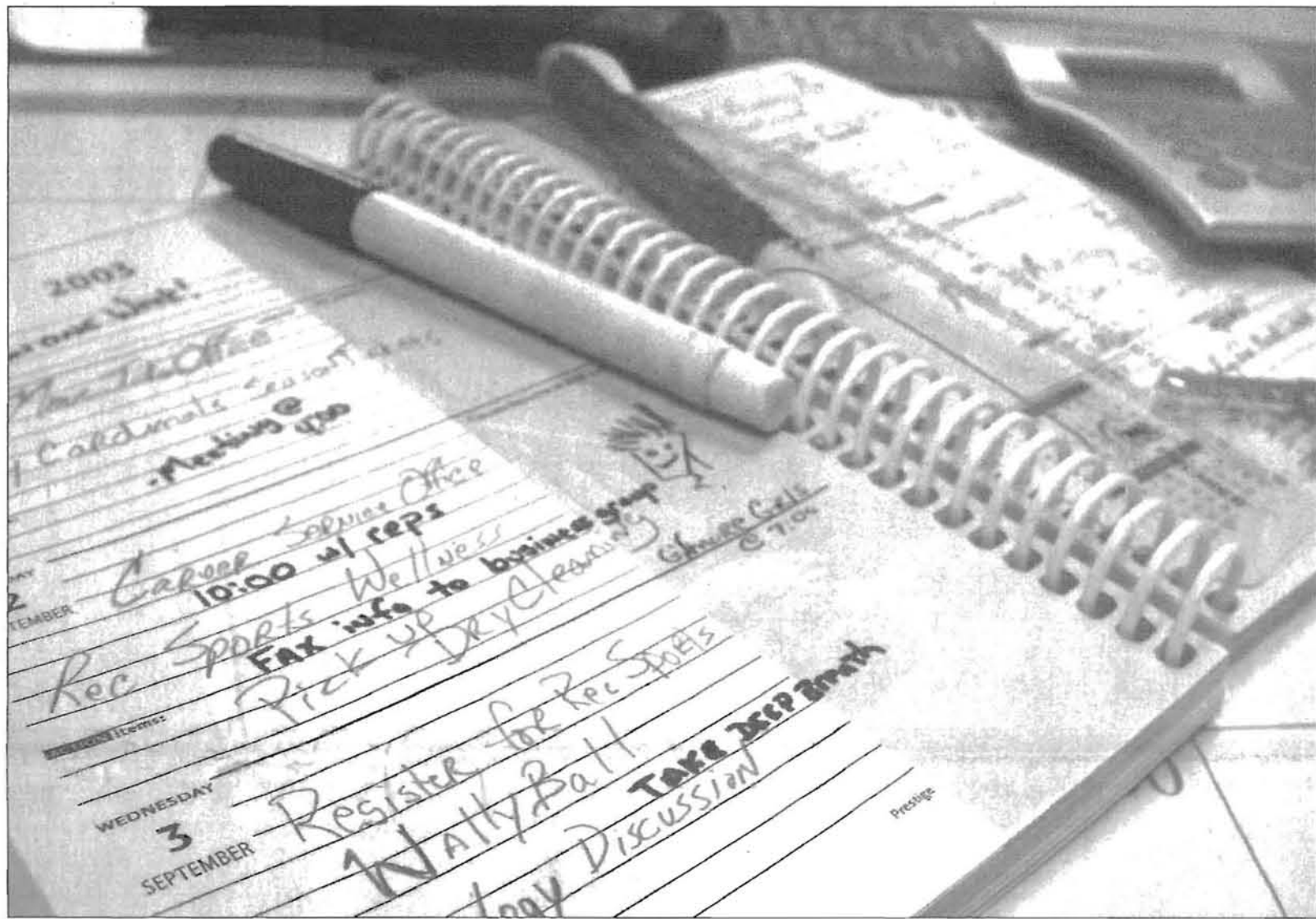
A retreat with all of the deans was on the agenda for the week, and the chancellor's council chair was in town. George said that meeting with the chair gave him many good ideas for the year.

Going to many sporting events has been a highlight for the chancellor. He has attended several UM-St. Louis soccer games, one of which he sat and watched in the rain. "I've already used the athletic facilities here," George said. "I've used the pool and the fitness center."

One downfall to the stay here in St. Louis is that the house that he and his wife are living in has been vacant for nearly 12 years. Chancellor Emeritus Blanche M. Touhill, who served as the chancellor until December 2002, already lived in the St. Louis area, so she chose not to reside in the chancellor's residence. Touhill just used the house every now and then when sponsoring events and for entertaining.

Coming to UM-St. Louis from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, it seemed natural for the couple to live somewhere close to the University. "When you don't live in a house for 12 years, things have a way of deteriorating so there are just things that need to be done," George said.

Planning to tear down some shrubbery around the house to provide extra parking will also allow the house



Shannon Hoppe/The Current

to be well seen from the campus. When events are held at the house, cars have been parked in front of all the neighbors' houses, which angers them. A parking lot for the cars will help decrease this problem. George said that he just wants to open the house up to make it a more definitive part of the campus.

Comparing UM-St. Louis to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, there are many similarities.

Both are part of systems, though the University of Wisconsin system is much larger than the UM System. The campus that George was at was smaller than here, but they owned a lot of land around the University.

The government is also similar, in that the majority is Republican. Wisconsin has also gone through budget reductions like those Missouri has suffered. "I've kind of inherited one set of budget problems, and traded

off for another set of budget problems," George said.

Some of the focus that George will be taking for the year is curriculum development. Adding and expanding programs to fit into the group that we already have had in terms of capital construction, but remembering that this is a research campus will be some of the focuses.

George also wants to enable faculty and students to become more involved

in research and scholarships. UM-St. Louis is one of only four public institutions in the state that are research universities.

Fundraising is another important factor for the year. Raising sources of money besides what the state provides is key. "Sources of dollars from private individuals and from corporations, I will be spending a lot of time doing that," George said.

SEE THOMAS GEORGE, page 3

International business nationally ranked

U.S. News and World Report ranks UMSL 18th

BY BECKY ROSNER
News Editor

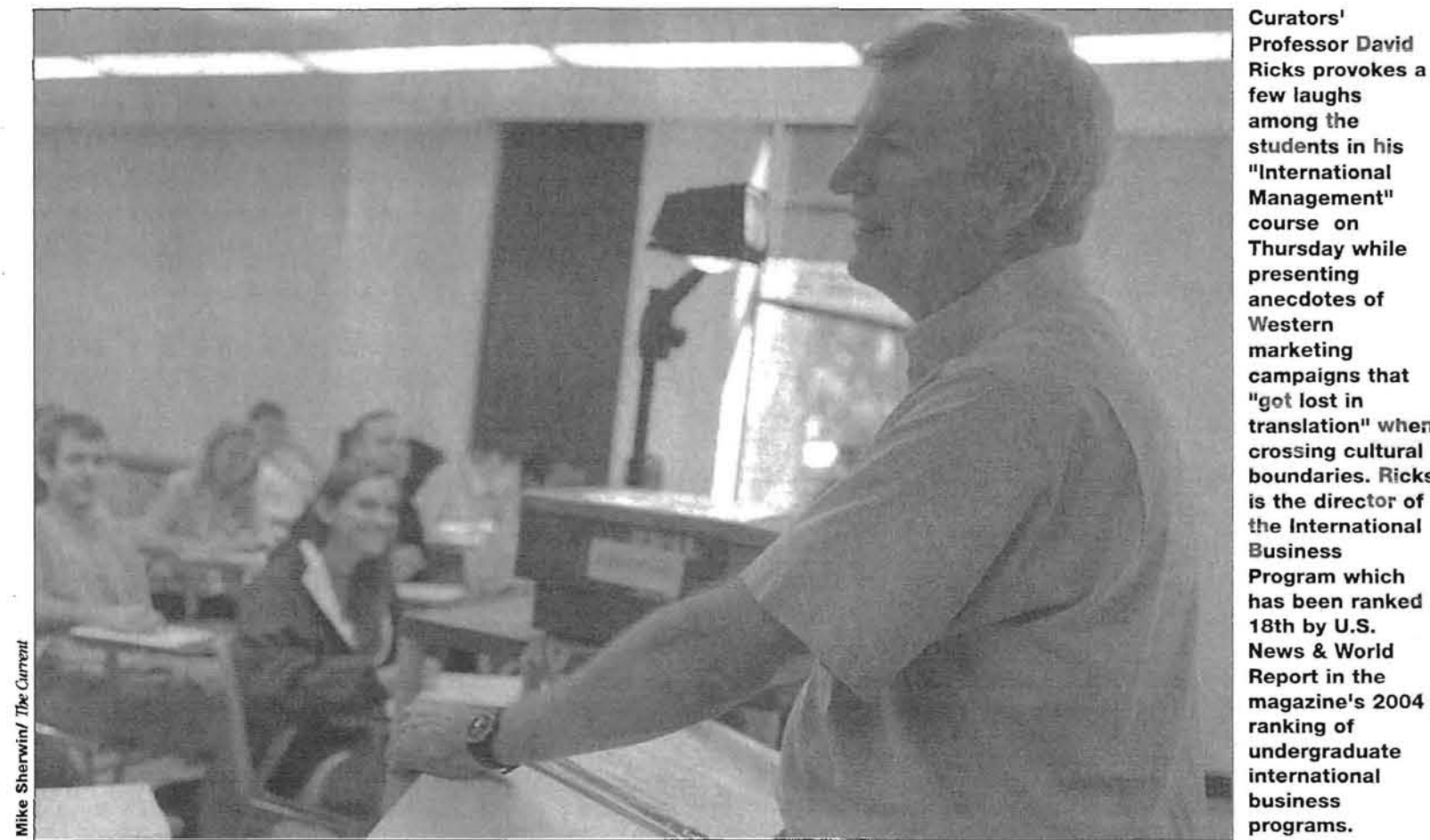
Last week, U.S. News and World Report ranked the International Business Program 18th in the nation. This is the first time that UM-St. Louis has been ranked at all by the publication.

The standing was included in the magazine's 2004 ranking of undergraduate business programs. The University was located below such prestigious schools as New York University, University of California-Berkeley and Georgetown University.

International business is still a fairly new program to the campus. It began in 1999, in collaboration with the College of Business Administration and Pierre Laclède Honors College. "Considering that we are not a very old university, it is hard to get into those national rankings this quickly," David Ricks, director of the International Business Program and curators' professor of management and international business, said.

For each of the different colleges around the country, deans and senior faculty rank the quality of the International Business Program on a scale of 1 (marginal) to 5 (distinguished). The Advance Collegiate Schools of Business must also accredit the programs.

There are about 1,000 business schools in the country. Being ranked in the top 20 is a prestigious spot in which to be. "I was hired to create a



Mike Sherwin/The Current

program and get it nationally ranked," U.S. News and World Report. In the future they may publish the entire list.

Ricks said that there are three reasons why UM-St. Louis was located so high on the list. First, the campus is the first in the

U.S. News and World Report. In the future they may publish the entire list. Ricks said that there are three reasons why UM-St. Louis was located so high on the list. First, the campus is the first in the

U.S. News and World Report. In the future they may publish the entire list. Ricks said that there are three reasons why UM-St. Louis was located so high on the list. First, the campus is the first in the

strong, recognized international advisory board. The president and CEO of Anheiser-Busch is on the board and co-chairs along with Ricks.

SEE BUSINESS COLLEGE, page 12

Curators' Professor David Ricks provokes a few laughs among the students in his "International Management" course on Thursday while presenting anecdotes of Western marketing campaigns that "got lost in translation" when crossing cultural boundaries. Ricks is the director of the International Business Program which has been ranked 18th by U.S. News & World Report in the magazine's 2004 ranking of undergraduate international business programs.

Bulletin Board

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

Mon 8 ASUM
 "Lunch with a Legislator" is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Century Room C of the MSC. Senator Maida Coleman will be present. The event is free and open to UM-St. Louis only. For more information, call Beth at 516-7306.

Tues 9 Wellness Resource
 "Join the Voices for Recovery: Celebrating Health." The Wellness Resource Center is recognizing Sept. as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. There will be an information table on the 2nd floor of the MSC from 10am - 2pm providing info. on the benefits of substance abuse treatment and local/community resources. Call 516-5380 for more info.

9 Bible study
 Christ Christian Center is holding a Bible study at 7:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel (Inter. 70 & Lindbergh), 11237 Lone Eagle Drive St. Louis, MO 63044 (314) 739-8929.

Tues 9 (cont.) Success Training
 Joshua 1:8 says that if we study and obey God's word, we will have success. Campus Crusade for Christ invites you to join us as we seek to study and apply the Bible to our daily life. Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from noon to 1:15 p.m. This week we'll be meeting in the Pilot House. Bring lunch and a friend.

9 Student Nurses Assoc.
 From 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. a meeting for the Banas College Black Student Nurses Association is in the Seton Hall living room. The meeting is free. For more information, contact Tanika Prowell at 516-7437.

Wed 10 Anthropology
 "Chasing Postholes at Cahokia Mounds: The 2003 Palisade Project" is from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 132 of SSB. This presentation will cover the 2002 field season at Cahokia Mounds to uncover portions of the palisade fence along its western side.

Wed 10 (cont.) Amnesty International
 If you are interested in human rights, gender issues, or environmental concerns join Amnesty International. The half-hour meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in room 313 in the MSC.

10 Inline Hockey Tryout
 Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 11:30. Both dates are mandatory. Bring \$20. For information, contact coach Tom Schneider at (314) 559-1452 or email at NHLORBUST1@aol.com.

10 Rec Sports
 Rec Sports bowling is from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at North Oaks. Two men or two women are needed for the afternoon league. Price is \$1.25 for 3 games. For more information, contact the Rec Sports Office at 516-5326. Open only to UM-St. Louis audience.

Put it on the Board!
 Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for more information.

Wed 10 (cont.) Comedy Night
 Improv Comedy Night begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. The event is free and sponsored by Delta Sigma Pi. For more information, contact Liz McGee at 277-4377.

Fri 12 Faculty Series
 "Navigating the Campus Libraries-Reality and Virtual Reality" is at noon in the Bibliographic Instruction Room, 315 TLL. How to request books from academic libraries in Missouri will be explained and how to access thousands of full-text articles using online library databases will be demonstrated.

Sun 14 Rec Sports
 A one-day tennis tournament, men's and women's A.B, C singles is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. For more information, call the Rec Sports Office at 516-5326. The tournament is free and only open to an UM-St. Louis audience.

Sun 14 (cont.) Rec Sports
 A Softball BBQ is from noon to 5 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. The game will be a coed slow-pitch tourney with 10-player teams. The event is free. For more information, contact the Rec Sports Office at 516-5326.

Mon 15 Counseling Services
 Choosing a major workshop - whether you're selecting a major for the first time or thinking about changing. Counseling Services can help match your interests and skills with a career. The workshop is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Call 516-5711.

Tues 16 Counseling Services
 Stop Procrastinating Workshop - If you are not happy with the grades you are currently getting, Counseling Services can help make changes for the better. Learn to stop procrastinating and complete the work you need. Workshop is from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call to register at 516-5711.

The Current

Jason Granger • Editor-in-Chief
Nichole LeClair • Managing Editor
Anne Bauer • Ad Director
Mindaugas Adamonis • Business Manager
Judi Linville • Faculty Adviser

Becky Rosner • News Editor
Mike Sherwin • Photo Director
Stanford Griffith • Copy Editor
Steve Harrell • Sports Editor

Casey Schacher • A & E Editor
Kate Drolet • Features Editor
Elliott Reed • Illustrator
Melissa McCrary • Features Associate
Sarah Weinman • Proofreader
Shannon Hoppe • Web Editor/Prod. Manager
Rudy Scoggins • Illustrator
Amy Gonwa • Music critic
Catherine • Science columnist/ staff writer
Marquis-Homeyer • staff writer

Staff Writers
 Samara Hamilton, Paul Crutcher, Carrie Lewis, Gretchen Moore, Tiffany Brown, Brian Ireland, Patricia Lee, Angela Ashley

Staff Photographers
 Kevin Otteley, Lishu Qu

Advertising Rep
 Shaun Kennedy

388 Millennium Student Center
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121
 Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
 Advertising • (314) 516-5316
 Business • (314) 516-5175
 Fax • (314) 516-6811

campus
 388 Millennium Student Center
 email
curent@jinx.umsl.edu
 website
<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

The Current is published weekly on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. The Current requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current, its staff members or the University. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current. First copy is free; all subsequent copies are 25 cents and are available at the offices of The Current.



Jefferson City. Politics. Legislators. You.

Want to know more about UM-St. Louis' premier internship opportunity in Missouri's state capitol? Call 516-7306 for more information.



Get real life experience in journalism at



Have fun, get experience, meet people on campus and in the community. Oh yeah, make some cash too!

Come by 388 MSC or call 516-6810 for details. Ask for Nichole, the managing editor.
 an EOE

Need to advertise an event?

The Current is a great way for campus groups and organizations to inform the UM-St. Louis community.

Call The Current advertising department at 516-5316 for details.

"BRILLIANT! FANTASTIC!"
 Horror fans have been waiting years for a movie like 'Cabin Fever.' I LOVED IT!
 Lions Gate Films & The Current

CABIN FEVER
 TERROR...IN THE FLESH.

www.cabinfevermovie.com

Lions Gate Films & The Current

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

CABIN FEVER

7:30 p.m. • Thursday, September 11th

AMC Esquire
 6706 Clayton Rd • St. Louis, Mo 63117

No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating sponsors are ineligible. This movie is rated R for strong violence and gore, sexuality, language and brief drug use.

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH!

The Current is still looking for staff writers.

Openings available in news, sports and features. Interested? Call or stop by for more information on our flexible hours, fun assignments and appreciative management.

Permanent Part Time/ Full Time Summer.

Location: 3/4 mile west of I-270 on Olive Blvd.
 Telephone secretary on 3pm-11pm shift.
 Inbound call center (No Telemarketing).
 Includes evenings weekends and holidays.
 Answer phones for major corporations, attorneys and doctors. Min. 45 WPM
 \$9.40/hr. start & up to \$12.50/hr includes bonus. Rewarding job, will train.
 For additional info Call (314) 851-0990.

Parking problems rear their heads

Parking deters potential students

BY BRIAN IRELAND
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis students and faculty arriving on campus for the beginning of the fall semester have been exasperated by more than an oppressive heat wave, difficult new professors and large class sizes. They are also being confronted by a seemingly alarming shortage of parking spaces.

Beginning with the first day of classes on Aug. 20, and continuing on subsequent mornings when the student rush is largest, hundreds of cars streaming onto UM-St. Louis roads from Highway 70 and Natural Bridge Road have been sucked into a tangled parking nightmare.

It is not uncommon for traffic in and around parking garages to slow to a crawl as commuters search for places to park their vehicles. Squeezed out of garages and parking lots filled to capacity, students were initially forced to park their cars in restricted areas on the side of roads.

Currently, orange cones and construction horses are temporarily blocking access to those roadside bike trails. That is, until University police are confident that people understand that this is not a parking option.

In addition, there have been an increasing number of students complaining that not only was parking not as close to their classrooms and lec-

ture halls as they had expected, but that UM-St. Louis policemen have been short and often rude when asked for parking assistance.

Carolyn Thomasson, 19, toured the campus last week for the first time with her parents and made it clear that the parking inconvenience posed to her family left them disenchanted,

“
If a school can't be organized enough to get their parking together, what else are they going to be disorganized about?

— Carolyn Thomasson, UM-St. Louis recruit

“I'm considering enrolling here in the winter semester, but this is ridiculous. We drove around for a half hour before we finally found something reasonably close to where we were going.”

“If a school can't be organized enough to get their parking together, what else are they going to be disor-

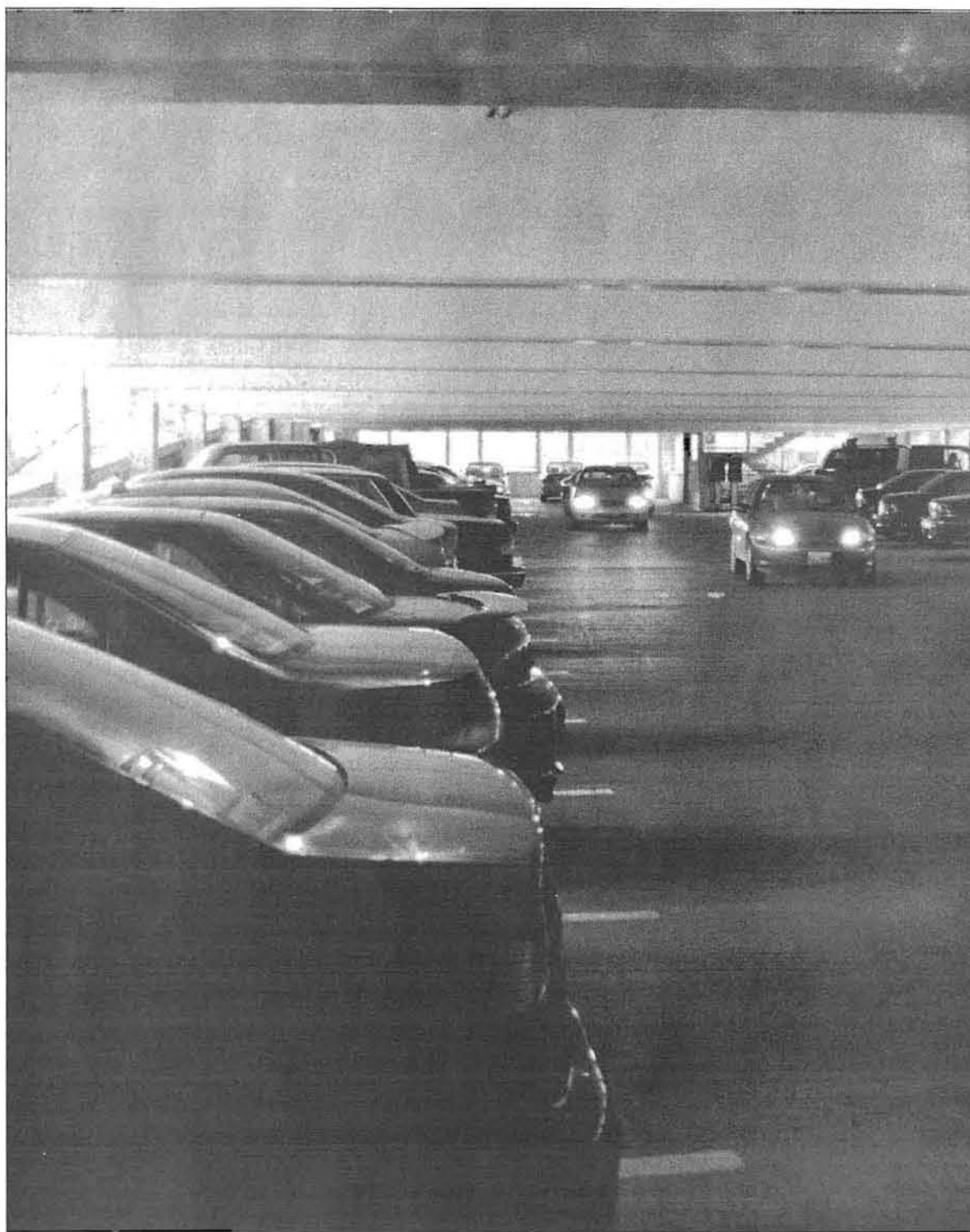
ganized about? I may still enroll for the winter anyway, but I hope they solve whatever the problem is,” Thomasson said.

According to Leo Gutierrez, the supervisor of Parking and Transportation Operations at UM-St. Louis, the problem is not parking, but lazy students.

“It's not a lack of space. We have plenty of parking spaces,” Gutierrez said. Gutierrez instead sees the main culprit in this issue to be a slacker generation of students who want things to be easy.

“People want to park near certain buildings, whether it be students, faculty or visitors. It's impossible to provide that much convenience whether you're here or a shopping center or anywhere,” Gutierrez said. “We have to change our culture and values and responsibility. You can't get here 15 minutes before class starts and expect to get right in. Students don't even respect our message, people are going around areas that are barricaded looking for places to park.”

In a bit of good news, a new parking garage is expected to open early next year at the corner of East Drive and Bellerive on the outer edges of North Campus. However, that development is tempered by the recent announcement of University officials to close several older parking garages in the near future.



Jesse Gater/The Current

Parking problems have continued to plague and irritate students and visitors to the UM-St. Louis campus. Here, students look for parking spaces last Wednesday in the library parking garage.

STUDENT LOANS, from page 1

One of the things the financial aid office is doing to fix the problem is having its staff working on Saturdays, when the office is normally closed. “One of the by-products that have occurred because we didn't expect this to happen is the heavy foot traffic we've had coming into the office,” Georges said. “We're getting a record volume of telephone calls and a record volume of folks

coming to the front desk, and that's taking away from the time we need to process the loans.”

According to Georges, students whose loans still haven't come in should go to the financial aid office to check on the status. Despite the strain it puts on the staff, he said, “What I want students to do is come in and check because we're crediting students' accounts every day.”

THOMAS GEORGE, from page 1

On Sept. 17 at 3:30, the Chancellor will be presenting the State of the University Address. He plans to talk about his direction for the year. Also, he will put out everything that is already on the table and expand on it. Anyone is welcome to attend this and find out what the Chancellor has planned for the year.

George was able to sit in one of the boxes at a Cubs vs. Cardinals game. He caught the first ceremonial pitch

that Interim Chancellor Don Driemeier threw to him. “Fortunately, I caught it, and Don did a great job of throwing it,” George said.

Going to a Rams vs. Chiefs game was also an exciting part of being in St. Louis. He took the MetroLink down to the game and got to sit in a box at the game as well. George said that he got a chance to meet many community leaders at the football game.

Having dinner out on the town every night has helped the chancellor become familiar with the area. However, he did say that he eats lunch at the MSC every day.

In order to become more involved with the student body, George has taken over the duty of advisor of the Student Government Association. “I'm impressed by the SGA's full slate of senators,” George said. “It's difficult to find students to fill all of the

senate spots.”

George is excited about opportunities for the year. He hopes to meet a many new people as possible throughout the upcoming years. “I think that the best way to come into a campus is to learn the culture, learn what exists and work with people to see what kind of directions they want to go in,” George said. “Some things that I want to emphasize are research, diversity and increasing community relations.”

Resume your résumé

Career Services helps students with job skills

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

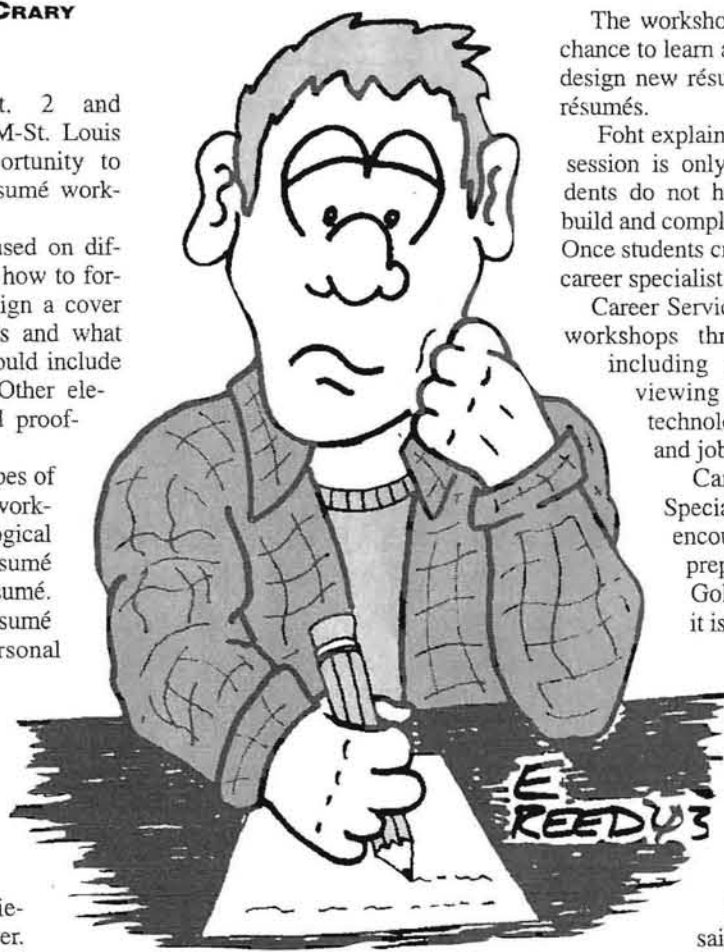
On Tuesday, Sept. 2 and Wednesday, Sept. 3, UM-St. Louis gave students the opportunity to attend a free writing résumé workshop.

Both workshops focused on different types of résumés, how to format a page, how to design a cover letter, interviewing skills and what information a person should include on his or her résumé. Other elements like wording and proof-reading were explained.

The three different types of résumés covered at the workshops were the chronological résumé, the functional résumé and the combination résumé. Each different form of résumé provides different personal information about the potential employee.

Some of the interviewing skills discussed included what to expect at an interview, what to wear, frequently asked questions and what interviewees can ask the employer.

“There are usually up to ten spots available at each résumé workshop,” Career Services Specialist Cynthia Foht said. “It is a good idea for interested students to



The workshops give students the chance to learn about a future career, design new résumés and update old résumés.

Foht explained that because each session is only an hour long, students do not have enough time to build and complete an actual résumé. Once students create their résumés, a career specialist can critique it.

Career Services offer a variety of workshops throughout the year, including seminars on interviewing techniques, using technology in a job search and job search strategies.

Career Services Specialist Rebecca Golden encourages all students to prepare for their future.

Golden emphasized that it is never too early for a student to prepare a résumé.

“A résumé is essentially the first impression to an employer, and it is fundamental that a résumé is flawless,” Golden said.

The next Résumé Writing Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. Students can check the campus calendar online for all Career Service events.

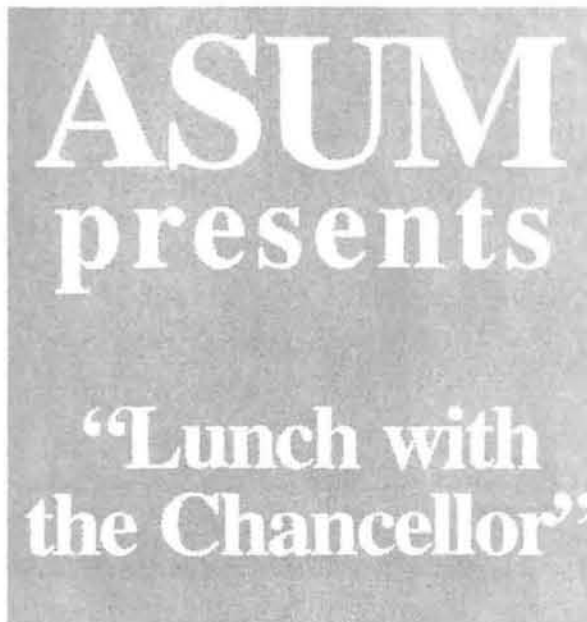
call and reserve a spot; however, if spots are available, walk-ins are welcome.”



Senator Maida Coleman of St. Louis

The Governor has called the legislature to an emergency meet today. Senator Coleman will not be able to attend “Lunch with a Legislator.”

Instead ...



Today

Monday, September 8, 2003
Century Room C
Lunch begins at 11:30 am

For more information, please call (314) 516-7306.

**Need to get your message out?
Have an event soon?
Starting a new club?
Holding an election?
Are you having a meeting?**

**Then advertise in The Current.
Call 516-5316 for more info.**

OUR OPINION

Make safety your priority number one

Take adequate steps to protect yourself

It's time to face facts; UM-St. Louis is not in the best of neighborhoods. Granted, it's not exactly Beirut, but it can still be a little rough at times. Last week witnessed a knifing and a burglary on campus. Now it is time to reinforce some ideas about safety.

Here are some tips to avoid dangerous situations that may arise living or going to school in a dangerous area.

Safety first:
If a mugger ever confronts you, it is best to do what they say, especially if they are carrying a weapon such as a gun or a switchblade. Wallets and purses can be replaced and credit cards can be cancelled, but blood is much harder to replace and cannot be cancelled. It's best to take the safe route and give them what they want.



Most muggers are not looking to have murder added to the rap sheet anyway, so you will more than likely come away unscathed.

Be prepared:
Women in particular need to heed this credo. It is not a sexist comment; it is just a matter of fact that they are more popular targets than men. Most muggers are weary of going after someone that might get angry and fight back with more force like men can do. That is not to say that women are helpless. There other options open to women. Look into mace or another deterrent spray. It is ridiculous that UM-St. Louis does not allow people to carry mace, but in the interest of safety, do it anyway. After all, it is much better to have to deal with disciplinary action from the University than deal with rapists. Females might also look for tazers. Extremely debilitating and effective, tazers will allow you to escape and contact the police.

Walk in numbers:
It may seem trite and heckneyed, but walk in groups. Criminals are less likely to go after a large group of people. Criminals may be dumb, but they aren't stupid. They can understand simple logic and numbers. The odds are in a group, someone will be able to do damage to them as well. It is also a good idea to stay in a lighted area. If other people can see you, criminals will stay away. They are trying to not get caught, and standing in a streetlight will hinder that process.

Practice home security:
Your home is your temple, protect it as so. Home security systems are getting cheaper by the month, and they are invaluable. At night, keep all doors and windows locked. There is no point in making your home an easier target than absolutely necessary.

Trust the police:
This can be hard for college students to do, but sometimes it is a must. If something happens to you, do not hesitate to dial 911. We have all heard stories of the girl who is raped and feels guilty about it, like she was asking for it. Under no circumstances should anyone ever believe this. If you are ever the victim of a crime, it is not your fault. Go to the police and see if they can catch whoever wronged you.

Don't tempt fate:
If it is three in the morning, do not walk down dark alleys or parking lots. That is asking for trouble. Stay to well lit areas or just don't be in that situation at all. Women, have a man escort you to your car. Again, this is not chauvanistic it is safety. You won't be sacrificing your independence; you will just be helping ensure your safety.

These are troubling times in which we live. It's best to take action against potential incidents before hand. Safety should be your first priority. Don't leave anything to chance because that is when chance fails. It is best to protect yourself and let the criminals face the consequences of their actions.

The issue

UM-St. Louis can be a dangerous place. There are certain steps that students can take to counteract this danger. Do not tempt fate and invite danger to confront you and follow simple safety measure

We suggest
Make safety a priority. Walk in numbers, be prepared with a deterrent of some kind, stay in well-lighted areas and make your house as safe as possible.

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

I paid for my class, I'll sleep in if I want

I have a news announcement for the professors of this campus. I could call it late breaking but it's something I've had to deal with since my freshman year of college.

For some odd reason, my professors seem to think that I am some punk kid still in high school.

News flash: I am 23 years old.

While I may not be as "wise" and "mature" as some, but not all of the professors out there, I am not some 14 year old who cannot even drive yet.

The fact of the matter is, as students, we pay money to attend our classes. In this day and age of rising tuition and budget cuts, this is becoming a greater issue. I am paying a lot of money to go to this school, so the least a professor could do is cut me a little slack.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Each year, it seems to me, I get that one professor who is anal retentive about attendance—that one professor who tells the class if we miss three classes, we fail. Our only recourse is if we have a doctor's note or a funeral announcement. I'm sorry, but if I am up late the night before doing homework for THEIR class, then I might just have to skip so I can sleep in. I mean seriously, why is it that professors are so touchy about this? Do they really think their class is that great? If I want to skip a class I paid for, then I am going to skip.

Here is another example. Some classrooms come equipped with computers nowadays. Professors get all upset if we want to check our e-mail at the beginning of class, or even type our notes. Seriously, if I have to pay \$600 or more for a class, I'm going to check my e-mail.

One last example for you hold-outs. Tardiness penalties, is there anything more annoying? In case you have not noticed, traffic in and around UM-St. Louis stinks. So does parking. Under principle alone, most students refuse to leave two hours early for class. They should not be expected to. However, due to the traffic and parking problems this campus always seems to have, students will wind up being late at times. There are still professors out there who either choose to ignore the problem or do not care. They will still count off points or not let you turn in assignments with a "No exceptions to the rule" policy. It's just not right.

The best way to look at it is this: I am paying for a product. I can choose to use the product the way I wish. If I buy a new VCR, I can choose to use it or not use it. The VCR police are not going to break down my door and take me away for not watching "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" every night.

Just a little food for thought there, people.



JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Each year, it seems to me, I get that one professor who is anal retentive about attendance—that one professor who tells the class if we miss three classes, we fail. Our only recourse is if we have a doctor's note or a funeral announcement. I'm sorry, but if I am up late the night before doing homework for THEIR class, then I might just have to skip so I can sleep in. I mean seriously, why is it that professors are so touchy about this? Do they really think their class is that great? If I want to skip a class I paid for, then I am going to skip.

The "real world"

My fellow students. I bring news of the Other Side. I have been to the aforementioned "real world" and returned. Heed not the admonitions of your professors and family.

As a student, you have undoubtedly heard, "Well, when you're in the real world, you'll have to..." ad nauseum. This statement has been used to defend every eccentric demand of instructors since time immemorial. Though I hate to debunk a classic myth or toy with tradition, I do believe in full disclosure. I also believe that patronizing students is a poor way to spur on academic success, no matter how well intentioned.

First, let us acknowledge one area where they are, alas, wholly correct: i.e. "When you're in the real world, you will have to be punctual/reliable."

If you have been on the receiving end of this jewel of insight, you have only yourself to blame. It most likely accompanied your missing a class, exam or assignment and your guilty face bobbing in sincere agreement. You screwed up; you knew it, and you played the penitent. Outside of this situation, however, I assume you already realize future employers are less understanding when you miss work or deadlines. If not, stop here and return to high school. You're not ready to live unsupervised.

For the rest of you, let's review what you will not find in the "real world."

After-hours group projects. The essential "group project" intended to give you experience "working with others" is both painful and unrealistic. Granted, you may have to work in teams or complete special assignments for your employer, but these generally take place during work hours, with people who are familiar to you and

who have similar backgrounds and schedules. Your employer will pay for materials required. Almost sounds like fun compared to what you're used to, doesn't it?

Time management. They may tell you that your work, attendance or understanding of a topic would be enhanced if only you learned to manage your time better or to schedule your activities. This is, repeat after me, "very important in the real world." For those of you panicking over your disorganized life, keep in mind that most people do not have a work schedule that ranges from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and changes drastically every four months. Nor do they answer to five or six bosses equally or take home such a quantity of work each night. If you are managing to hold a "real" job in addition to your classes, I applaud you. In my experience, most people only aim for one job after graduation and manage two at best.

Your personal life. You have probably been chastised for allowing your personal life to impact the quality of your work. Conscientious student that you are, you surely recognize most of your excuses as just that—excuses. However, whining aside, your strange existence does warrant some consideration. Unless you plan to join the military or become a missionary, I doubt you will subject yourself to communal housing in the future, you will not be so reliant on varying loans for your existence, and hopefully, your significant other will be free of the above complications as well.

Do keep in mind that your instructors mean well. Though you may smile knowingly when they warn of the rigors of the "real world," be gentle with them. You see, they do not live there either, and academia can be a strange and inhospitable place indeed.



NICHOLE LECLAIR
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

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

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

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at TheCurrentOnline.com

EDITORIAL BOARD

- JASON GRANGER**
- NICHOLE LECLAIR**
- STANFORD GRIFFITH**
- KATE DROLET**
- BECKY ROSNER**

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

LETTERS

MAIL
The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX
(314) 516-6811

E-MAIL
info@thecurrentonline.com

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

Under Current
by Lishu Qu
Staff Photographer



Sarah Paluga
Psychology, Junior

"You caught me off guard, but I like that it has a large student body, with all different kinds of people and that the tuition is affordable."



Cory Schroeder
Criminology, graduate student

"It's really convenient and accessible. I work full time and the classes are scheduled at a convenient time. It's also pretty laid-back compared to some other universities."



Yahya Alrashdi, Computer Science, Junior

"The quality of the professors and instructors. They are very knowledgeable and I have learned a lot from this school."



Jerry Siegel, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Information Technology

"I love the atmosphere and the setting. It's a beautiful place to work."

Red, red wine

It might just save your life



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

First, they said it was good for your heart. Now it seems red wine can prolong life.

But before you run out and chug a bottle of Pinot Noir, you have to get the bad news. The researchers used yeast, not people, in their life extension study so further testing is required. The other cautionary news is that it is not the alcohol in the wine that may be good for you—alcohol has serious health drawbacks—but other compounds from the grape. So beer won't work, but grape juice will.

The compound that researchers tested was resveratrol, one of a group of compounds called polyphenols. Resveratrol extended the lifespan of yeast a whopping 70 percent. Unfortunately, for you to reach the same level of resveratrol, you would have to drink red wine around the clock, which is rather hard on the liver.

So maybe red wine drinkers really do live longer and not just because of good genes. Studies of human life spans have noted longer life spans in populations that traditionally are red wine drinkers, like the French or the Italians. Other studies have observed the effect of resveratrol in fruit flies and studies in mice are on the way. Resveratrol acts by increasing the activity of an enzyme called Sir2. Sir2 stabilizes DNA, therefore extending life span.

Previous studies had indicated that, at least in small animals, a low calorie diet extended life, but how this effect was achieved was unclear. A study by researchers at MIT and published in

Nature in 2000 focused on Sir2, a protein known to extend life in yeast. One of the things that other researchers had considered in looking at the life extension effects of low calorie intake was the slower metabolic rate of the organism. The metabolic reactions in the cells—its cellular respiration—create byproducts that are harmful to the cell, such as oxygen radicals and other reactive compounds. Many scientists thought that a slower metabolism was beneficial simply because it created fewer of these harmful compounds. That might be a factor, but the MIT study found something else.

Sir2 is a substance that packages DNA, part of the DNA and protein combination that is called chromatin, the stuff of chromosomes. The action of Sir2, it appears, is to keep parts of the chromosome, presumably harmful parts, wrapped up and inactive. This activity is called silencing. Sir2 requires energy for this activity, and it appears that when metabolic rates are slow, there is more energy available for Sir2, since it isn't all used up in metabolic reactions. So available energy is the key to Sir2 activity levels.

Besides resveratrol, other polyphenols have been tested in humans and have been found to protect against heart disease or osteoporosis. These compounds are found in tea, fruits and vegetables. In yeast, seventeen substances have been identified that have a beneficial effect on longevity.

The research on polyphenols is good news for all of us hoping to live a long healthy life, but there are still plenty of mysteries about lifespan. Many researchers have noted that while people might be healthier and living longer, maximum lifespan, as a whole, is not increasing. However, there appears to be groups of people who have a genetic advantage that confers long life.

While populations of long-lived people can be identified, the "nature versus nurture" question about why they live so long is not so easily answered, since some studies of individual genes seem to give inconsistent results. However, a group of scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Germany came up with a unique approach to the problem. Rather than look at single genes in people over 100 years of age, they development a method to look at gene interactions.

Every human gene occurs in pairs

(alleles) to control a trait, and the interaction between the pairs of genes determines how the trait is expressed. For some traits, one of the pair is expressed and the other is silent, (white or red flowers, depending on which is the dominant version of the gene) while in other traits, the two copies produce a combined effect (pink flowers). Sometimes a single trait is controlled by a series of gene pairs (like for height). Gene interaction occurs when one gene pair influences the expression of another gene pair. While this is a basic principle of genetics, it is a complex question in an experiment, and it has not been much studied in longevity. If long life is caused by gene interactions, studies of single genes would give differing results based on the combinations of genes found in the different groups studied.

The Max Planck study uses a statistical approach to study the question of gene interaction in long life but is hampered by the small sample size. There are only so many centenarians, but, interestingly, people over 100 are surprisingly healthy. Now that the human genome has been sequenced, studies are underway to find areas of the chromosomes that control various traits. An area of human chromosome 4 has been found by researchers at Harvard Medical School that is very similar in a large group of centenarians, which indicates it may contain genes linked to long life.

While the odds are that a combination of genes and environment will hold the key to increasing human lifespan, the whole issue was unexpected by previous generations. Once we expected medical research to help defeat disease and extend life that way. The discovery that lifespan and general health are controlled by genes, maybe even the same genes, raises unexpected ethical questions about who will benefit, questions that will have to be addressed in the future. Who would have thought that the killer diseases of the past, like small pox and tuberculosis, would be concerns again, while we may be on the track to finding the key to lifespan itself? Genes and gene expression, as influenced by other genes or environment, are at the heart of the lifespan puzzle, just as they are for cancer and other diseases.

The finding about red wine gives new meaning to the expression "a toast to your health." Drink up.

The best album that you've never heard

This week: The Eagles' 'Desperado'

BY JASON GRANGER
Editor-in-Chief

Concept albums are something of a novelty nowadays. At one point, concept albums were all the rage. For about 15 years, any major band just HAD to do a concept album. Starting with The Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" going through The Who's "Tommy" and all the way up to Pink Floyd's "The Wall," concept albums were immensely popular. Nowadays, they are somewhat scoffed at (see Tom Petty's "The Last D.J." and Neil Young's "Greendale" for proof. Both great albums, both ignored by consumers).

The Eagles, one of the biggest bands of the 1970s tried their hand at a concept album, 1973's "Desperado," and came away with one of the finest examples of why concept albums are great. An album based around cowboys and their lives, "Desperado" is often overshadowed by some of The Eagles other albums like "One of these Nights," "The Long Run" and especially "Hotel California."

"Desperado" allowed The Eagles to explore more of a country-rock outlet. That is not to say this is a country album, quite the opposite. It just has more lap guitar and banjo than other Eagles albums.

The album starts with one of its best tracks, the historical "Doolin Dalton." This song is about the Doolin Dalton boys in Coffeetown, Okla. Don Henley and Glen Frey share vocals on this number, and sometimes, it is hard to tell the two apart. "Doolin Dalton" is a poignant reflection of the life of men forced to fight on the open plain. Indeed, this is

actually a very sad song.

Sadness is an overriding theme of this album. Take for example the title track, the enormously popular "Desperado." This is a song about a man who has lost everything; indeed, he has lost things he never even had via his choices in life. Penned by Don Henley and sung by the same man, it is a

that is a flat out rocker, the Glen Frey number "Outlaw Man." Ordinarily, Frey represented the country conscience of The Eagles, but he would let his hair down every now and again and surprise listeners with heavy guitars and loud drums. The best part of this song is the vocal cord-shredding end, which also acts as the bridge of the song. Frey shouts to a fictitious woman "Some men call me 'Able' /

Some men call me 'Cain' / Some men call me 'sinner,' Lord / Some men call me 'saint' / Some say there's a Jesus / Some men say there ain't / When you got no life to lose / Then there's nothin' left to gain / Outlaw man!"

The best song on the album happens to be a combo of two previous tracks we have discussed. "Doolin Dalton/Desperado Reprise" is one of the most emotional songs ever recorded.

It is right up there with "For No One" by The Beatles and "Whiter Shade of Pale" by Procol Harem. At

one point, Henley sings "Go down Bill Doolin, don't you wonder why / Sooner or later we all have to die? / Sooner or later, that's a stone-cold fact/Four men ride out and only three ride back." Henley then goes into "Desperado" mode, after a somber banjo intro, Henley sings "The queen of diamonds let you down / She was just an empty fable / The queen of hearts you say you never met / Your twisted fate has found you out / And it's finally turned the tables / Stand your dreams and paid you with regret. The lesson taught here is simple. Don't go for the beautiful girl if she won't really love you. Go for the one who WILL love you. It's a theme that is pervasive throughout, and one we all could use a refresher on now and again.



bitter-sweet song that pretty much everyone has heard (except, evidently, the proofreader of this newspaper). Take for example this line: "Don't you draw the queen of diamonds boy / She'll beat you if she's able / You know the queen of heart is always your best bet." Perhaps the best line of any song in the 1970s outside anything written by a former Beatle appears in this song. "Desperado, why don't you come to your senses? / Come down from your fences, open the gate / It may be rainin', but there's a rainbow above you / You better let somebody love you, before it's too late."

There is one song on this album

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Parking problems persist

Parking @ UMSL sucks! I've been parking at UMSL a total of three weeks and have come to the horrible conclusion that if I don't leave two hours before my classes start I'll never be on time! Last Wednesday my Writing in the Sciences class started at 11am. I left my house (15 minutes from campus) at 9:45am. I drove around campus for an hour searching for a spot. I usually park in the South

garage, but when I arrived it was full. Everyone else seemed to be getting a spot and I got upset. I then resorted to following students to their cars (to take their spots when they left). Every student I followed stayed in their car for a long time, so I would drive away and the next person in line would get the spot. I ended up parking by the soccer field and being 15 minutes late for class. I had excellent parking karma

until I came to UMSL. Now the parking gods are out to get me. I would like to know how the University plans on making the parking situation a better one, besides the new garage which is pretty far from where I need to park.

Lin Roberts
UM-St. Louis student

MOVIE LISTINGS



Do you read The Current?

If you are reading this, then you must.

Let us know where you read it!

FEATURES

EDITOR

KATE DROLET
Features Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

Disability services helps out special-needs students

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Associate

Guide dogs, interpreters and other aids blend in with the students of UM-St. Louis.

The University embraces a diverse population, including individuals with disabilities.

UM-St. Louis, along with the other three universities in the UM System, provides an equal quality of education for every student.

The Disability Access Services is a program that assists students with different special needs.

Students with special needs may have a visible disability, such as blindness. They might also have an attention deficit disorder, reading and writing issues or other invisible handicaps.

The services that are provided include visually accessible textbooks, note-takers and translators. Disability Access Services also provides individuals who can accompany a disabled student to class and describe certain course material to them. Disability Access can assist students with handicaps in making arrangements with professors to take exams outside of the classroom.

see SPECIAL NEEDS, page 7

RHA welcomes students

Residents welcomed with events

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

UM-St. Louis residents began moving in on Aug. 15. The arrival of the 342 students was marked by moving boxes, tearful goodbyes and a bevy of activities.

"We've had a lot more programming this year [than last year]," said Amanda Swaller, programming director of the Residence Hall Association. "Since the freshmen moved in early, we wanted to keep them from being bored."

Planning for the opening events began one month before the actual arrival of residents.

RHA, along with the Welcome Week committee, planned more than 35 events for the first two weeks of school.

The Freaky Freshman Fishbowl Friday mixer took place on Aug. 15. Freshman residents socialized and played games in the Villa North Lounge.

At midnight on Aug. 15, students gathered in front of Provincial House for the mysteriously advertised "Rendezvous." Residents trekked to North Campus and found a bonfire outside of the Millennium Student Center.

"We'd like to make this a tradition," Swaller said.

Returning and new students danced the night away on Aug. 16 at the Superdiscorocknrollafolkfunkpunka event.

"There were so many new people that they got a real chance to get to know fellow residents in a laid back atmosphere [at the dance]. There was no pressure. It was a good time," said Maria Curtis, junior, English.

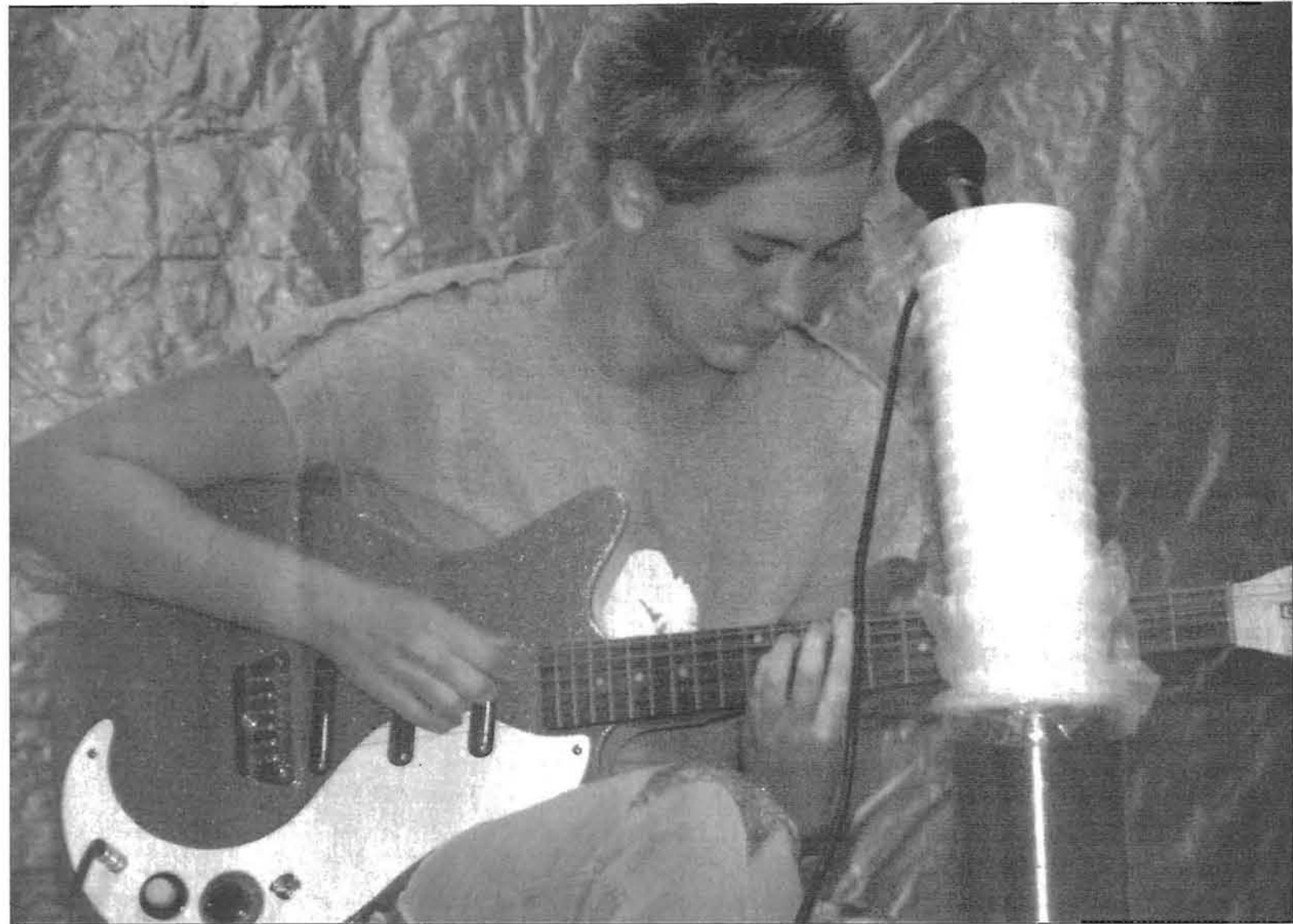
TKO DJ provided the music in Bellerive Hall's Jitters Lounge.

"We've tried a lot of new things this year. We didn't sponsor any dances last year," said Swaller.

On Aug. 18, students met with fellow residents for a meal in The Nosh. After lunch, they boarded the MetroLink for a "Tour de St. Louis" led by resident assistants Jhanah Haynes-Mark, Sara Choate, Paul Huggins, Kate Drolet, Randy Sommers and resident Laurie Bainter.

The group stopped at the St. Louis Arch first. Both those familiar and new to the city marveled at the landmark and the extensive history museum underneath.

Once they finished touring the Arch,



Kate Drolet/The Current

Kat Wheeler, junior performs at a Residence Hall Association sponsored open microphone night at Jitters, a cafe in Bellerive residence hall on Monday, August 25.

residents rode the MetroLink to the Central West End. After a short walk in the intense heat, all enjoyed ice cream and refreshments at Coffee Cartel, one of the Central West End's most popular hangouts.

Some residents went on to the Delmar Loop while others opted to ride back to campus.

Many students joined in the MTV Beach Party in the University Meadows on Aug. 22. Party-goers ate hotdogs, hamburgers and an assortment of munchies and participated in the limbo and dance contests.

Though the event was not sponsored by RHA, residents had the opportunity

to mingle with other members of the UM-St. Louis community. Those who attended the beach party also met MTV's "Road Rules: Semester at Sea's" Veronica Portillo and "The Real World: Chicago's" Theo Gann.

Students took a break from the record-breaking August heat at the Jam-n-Glam Hollywood pool party and barbecue. Normandie pool was decorated with a paradise-meets-the-silver-screen theme. A walk of fame led up to the pool where leis and rubber ducks floated in the water and tiki torches burned from the fence. Residents soaked up the sun and swam all afternoon.

On Aug. 25, students gathered in Bellerive's Jitters Lounge for the Caffeine Destiny Entertainment Slam. Those with talent and courage took the stage and performed at the open mic night.

Other RHA-sponsored events included a free trip to the Funny Bone comedy club, an afternoon at the City Museum, a Hall Wars competition, a Rec Sports day, a Fear Factor competition, a Residential Life birthday blowout, a scavenger hunt, a rave in the Provincial House catacombs, a breakfast buffet catered by Charwells, a movie and game night in Seton Hall and a drive-in movie night featuring

"Animal House" and "Van Wilder."

Residential Life held a town hall meeting on Aug. 18, giving students a chance to voice their opinions and ask questions.

RHA also held their first meeting on Aug. 19. Residents were encouraged to participate in RHA and the organization's various activities.

For more information concerning the Residence Hall Association, call 516-4255 or visit their office located in Seton Hall in the old second floor lounge. Office hours are Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. and Monday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Recovering addict speaks out against 'X'

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Former "X" addict Lynn Smith mimics the way she might have reacted under the influence of the drug ecstasy, pretending that she is utterly fascinated by the sensation of drinking water. On Thursday night in the Pilot House, Smith spoke to students about her struggle to overcome addiction and cautioned students to be aware of the risks that "X" poses.

Can you come get me?"

This event landed her in a psychiatric unit for thirteen days. The first few days she thought her doctors were drug dealers trying to convince her to take more ecstasy pills. She had not slept in days, and eventually gave in with the help of sleeping pills. Eventually Smith woke up to reality and realized the "bitter, bitter truth."

When she was released, she was unable to return to her life in New York and was forced to move back to Pennsylvania.

Smith felt desperately alone after her experience and wanted to know if there were more people who had gone through the same thing. Her curiosity spawned an Internet search. Her search led her to a part of the MTV website that asked for people's experiences with ecstasy. She sent her story in and a week later, cameras were at her house.

The end of Smith's talk sounded a bit like a self-help book. "All of us have potential," she said. "And this sounds so corny, but you can be high on life."

Phrases like this are brushed off easily, but something about Smith's enthusiasm made the crowd believe her. During a question-and-answer session, one person told Smith that her story was truly moving. The student applauded Smith's courage and determination for sharing her experience.

Jhanah Haynes-Mark, junior, psychology, enjoyed the event. "I'm glad I went because there was a lot about ecstasy I didn't know. [Smith] was a phenomenal speaker. I'm going to retain what she said for a long time," she said.

The MTV documentary began Smith's career teaching others about the truth of ecstasy. Her amazing speaking skills and ability to add comic relief to such a serious topic have taken her to schools and prisons all around the country.

"It was nice to hear the information from a first-hand point of view. You don't often hear it from that point of view. Usually you just get random information," said Justin Kimble, junior, criminology.

Smith is in the process of writing a book that is due for publication next year. Her story and email address can be found on the Partnership for a Drug Free America website at drugfreeamerica.org.

No needles required. No snorting or inhaling necessary. It comes in the form of a tiny pill, usually with a cute picture on it, like a smiley face, a Smurf or a Nike swoosh. It wreaks havoc on a person's body while giving him or her a sense of intense euphoria.

Hundreds of thousands of people are affected by ecstasy all over the country. Some think that ecstasy doesn't pose any serious risks. The truth is that this drug can cause many health problems including memory loss and chronic depression.

Lynn Smith came to speak at the Pilot House to discuss her battle with ecstasy.

The presentation began with clips of her story from an MTV documentary on ecstasy. In the video, Smith said that her addiction to the drug "just happened" and that she felt like her life was becoming a big blur. Electronic photographs showed the damage that ecstasy had done to Smith's brain. The image looked much like Swiss cheese. The holes were areas that had been severely affected by the drug.

When the clips ended, a petite but confident young woman stood up and began sharing her experiences. Smith started by talking about life growing up in a small town in Pennsylvania. "It was like wet cement drying around my feet," she explained. She wanted to escape the boredom of her town to seek out opportunities elsewhere.

When Smith was nineteen she decided to move to New York City to attend acting school. This is where she met the drug that would change her life.

Smith used some of her acting skills to show the audience what her first encounter with ecstasy was like. Her first time with the drug was a euphoric experience that made Lynn feel connected to the world. "That's when the love affair began," she said.

The "affair" lasted five months. One evening, she had a mental and physical breakdown. Her heart raced and she began hallucinating. At her urgent request, Smith's boyfriend called her mom. Smith remembers saying, "Mom, I'm dead and in hell.

RHA provides weekend food

BY KATE DROLET
Features Editor

After countless trips to Save-a-Lot, Ramen potlucks and a chorus of growling stomachs each weekend, the University is finally giving residents a chance at weekend food service.

John Klein, acting director of Residential Life, has been working with the department and Chartwells to get weekend food service.

Chartwells will cater a weekend brunch on Sept. 13 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The brunch buffet will be held in Provincial House. In order for the event to take place, 75 students must attend. Those wishing to be there must sign up by Wed., Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. Once a student commits to the event, his meal plan account will be charged, regardless of whether or not he shows up.

"I cannot tell you how excited I am about this," said Klein. While getting the word out and students to sign up may be a challenge, Klein feels confident that the endeavor will be successful.

In previous years, residents have been at the mercy of The Nosh's hours. While each room in the residence halls includes a microwave and

mini-refrigerator, students face many problems concerning keeping food.

Most students do not consume milk, bread, fruit, vegetables and other perishable food items quickly enough to prevent spoiling. Almost all of the residential floors in Provincial House have kitchens equipped with ovens, stoves and sinks. Normandie Hall does not have any ovens in the building, putting residents at an even bigger disadvantage.

Students without any transportation or extra money usually cook on weekends. Those with a ride venture out to one of the fast food restaurants on Natural Bridge Road when weekend cravings catch up.

"It's not fair that we pay this much money to live here and starve on the weekends. It's about time that Chartwells is finally coming through," said Laurie Bainter, sophomore, international business.

If the brunch on Sept. 13 is successful, Residential Life and Chartwells plan to make weekend food service a regular occurrence. For more information, visit the Residential Life office located in the Honors College or call 516-6877. Residents can sign up for the event at the Residential Life link on MyGateway.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Bob Bursik, curators' professor of criminology, talks with a reporter in the editorial office of the criminology department on Wednesday morning.

Just clowning around

Bursik's circus life helps in studies

BY SAMARA HAMILTON
Staff Writer

Bob Bursik loves his work. In his opinion, what he does is fun, not difficult. Bursik, a curators' professor with the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, has taught at UM-St. Louis since the fall of 1996.

"I was thrilled," he said, about having been asked to teach at UM-St. Louis. "UMSL is a great place to teach. I like the students here because they don't take themselves for granted. It's a privilege to teach students like that."

Bursik regularly teaches the introductory course for criminology and has also taught the statistical analysis in criminology and criminal justice and communities and crime.

"[What I teach] depends on what the department needs at the time," he said. Currently, he mainly focuses on teaching and advising graduate stu-

dents.

Irina Moskalets, junior, biology, was impressed with Bursik's teaching style.

"He likes to challenge you," Moskalets said. "He was talking about stereotypes, like about people with piercings or tattoos, and he picked up his sleeve at the same time. [Since Bursik is tattooed,] the whole class just burst, and laughed," she said.

Bursik's early career in criminology started with his experience in the circus, which he joined during his second year in college.

"I was on the sideshow crew," he explained. "I would stand in as the Torture King ate fire, swallowed swords, pounded nails in my head," he said, rattling off his adventures. He also "sawed women in half and ate light bulbs, the whole deal."

Why the leap to criminology?
"People who travel the circuses are

not always top-shelf people. [It] got me real interested in deviance," he said.

Bursik's experience in the circus proved to be useful when he studied at Rutgers in New Jersey. Skid row alcoholism became his focus while earning a bachelor's degree in sociology.

"[I] moved into the Bowery in New York City. Bowery's [is] right by Wall Street so [during] lunchtime, a bunch of rich folks are walking around. Around lunchtime," he explained, "I could stand on a corner, pound nails into my head for a buck. I made a fortune."

On the basis of his achievement in the skid row study, Bursik was invited to study at the University of Chicago. There he received his master's degree and eventually a doctorate in sociology. Bursik's studies of sociology in Chicago expanded his interests "to the notion of crime itself."

A host of honors have been granted

to Professor Bursik, including his present position as editor of *Criminology*, the flagship journal of the American Society of Criminology.

"That's not just entrusted to anybody. The editor of a journal such as that ... shapes the future of the whole discipline," said Richard Wright, a fellow criminology professor at UM-St. Louis. Wright, who has known Bursik since he started in the criminology department, says that Bursik's work has "brought a lot of recognition to our department and has helped to achieve international recognition."

When Bursik's editorship of *Criminology* ends in November, he plans to focus his energies on research.

"He decided he wanted to have more time for his own research," Wright said.

see BOB BURSİK, page 12

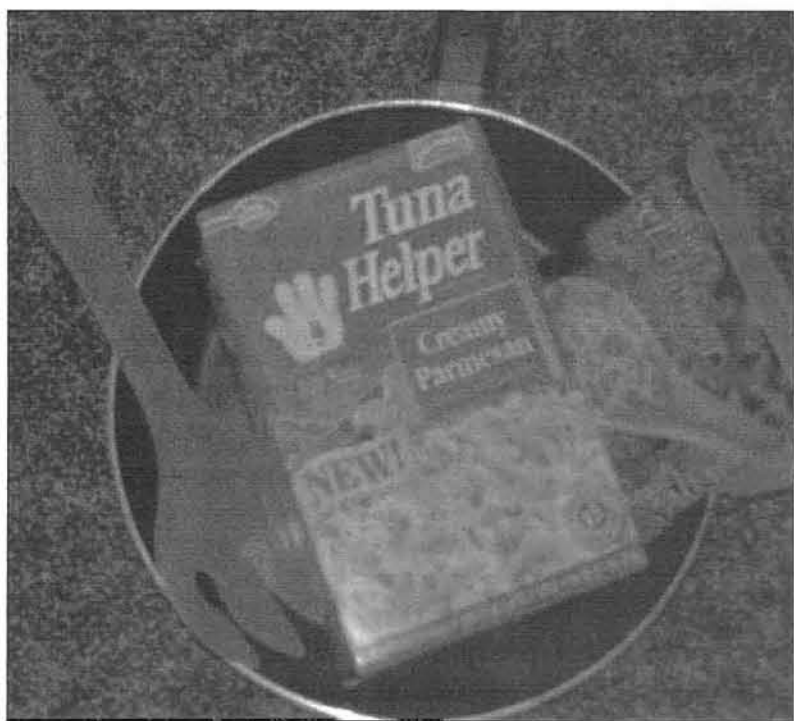


Photo illustration Kate Drolet/The Current

Some students have to resort to boxed food to make it through the weekends. In an attempt to curb this trend, the Residence Hall Association is offering a weekend brunch so students do not have to rely on junk food or just not eating on the weekends.

You've Got News

Get The Current in
your Inbox

Register now on our website and automatically receive an Email Edition of the paper with every new issue.

Headline News • College Sports • Campus Calendar
Local Weather • Daily Horoscope

It's the best way to stay informed... and it's free.

www.thecurrentonline.com



Questions, concerns, opinions?

Come and share them with the
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
"Curt Coonrod"

Tuesday, September 16th
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

315 Millennium Student Center

call Student Life @ 5291 to register



Soccer falls in season opener

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The 2003 soccer team kicked off their season Wednesday night against Lindenwood University, a team ranked in the top ten of the NAIA. UM-St. Louis held the highly ranked Lions for the first ten minutes; unfortunately, the Rivermen couldn't hold off Lindenwood, and they started off their season with a loss. However, they hope to use the experience to put some wins under their belt.

"We all hope to just learn from what we did wrong to help us improve," said senior defenseman Jason Barclay. "We have a lot of new guys on the team, and this was our first time to really work together. It's going to take us a few games to learn the coach's system and how we're all going to work together."

The coaching staff was disappointed with the performance against

Lindenwood. Head coach Dan King felt that there needed to be tighter marking and more intensity but was proud of the Rivermen for not giving up throughout the game even when they were down.

"They need to learn to play together. It's going to take a few games to find ourselves and bring the new players into the game," King said.

Newly selected team captains, senior goalkeeper Campbell McLaurin and sophomore midfielder Jeff Menke, reflected on the team's performance.

"Our biggest weakness was bad communication. We didn't talk a lot and it took us a while to settle in," McLaurin said.

Menke replied, "We have a lot of new people on the team and only had one preseason game to warm up with."

"We'll get more confidence as we become more comfortable playing with each other. We play to win and should fare very well in the conference," McLaurin responded.

The UM-St. Louis soccer team

consists mainly of Missouri high school graduates; however, they played the Lions who had only eight of their 33 members from the United States. They were from such countries as Uruguay, Ecuador, Scotland and Italy.

"We were just outplayed by a better team. We just didn't quite play to our potential," junior forward Mark Malloy stated. "We just need some more experience so we can get used to the game situation."

The team's strong will and hard work shows their commitment and drive to fare well in the conference. They plan to take their loss as a way to improve and move on to their game against Missouri Valley on Monday, Sept. 8.

"We want to put last night behind us. We were really impressed with the turnout at the game and hope to see the same at the home game on Monday against Missouri Valley," sophomore midfielder Scott Wittenborn reflected.

Coach King plans on improving the



Brian Reitz, a defender for the Rivermen, kicks the ball down the field in the first half at Lindenwood.

team chemistry in order to keep the record at only one loss. The coaching staff and team are optimistic about their upcoming games and would love to see the stands full at their home game on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7.

Tennis takes positives from alumni match, but fall to QU

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The fourth annual alumni match started the women's tennis team off on a good foot with a feeling of fun and camaraderie. However, as the week progressed, the team fell short to Quincy to kick off their 2003 season.

The alumni weekend consisted of 12 returning players from as far back as 1971. The 2003 team faced off against the former players to bring back some memories as well as warm up for their match that was held the following Tuesday.

The women's team matched up with the Lady Hawks at Quincy on Sept. 2. Some players found the draining two-hour drive an attribute that weighed into why the team lost.

"It was a really tough team to play after driving two hours. We just tried to pick on the weakest players," sophomore Stephanie Bladen said. Bladen and Neringa Bandzeviciute brought the team back from an 8-6 loss in the first two doubles matches with a 9-7 win.

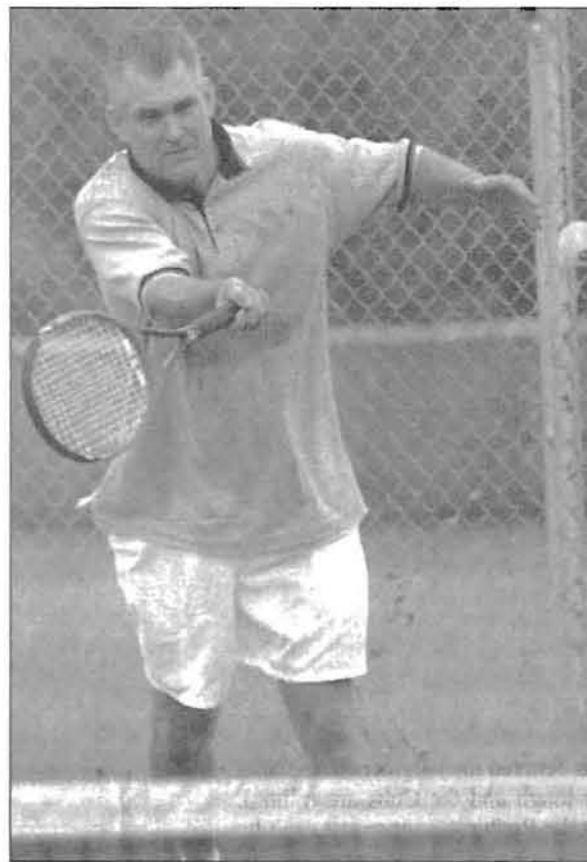
The team divided the six matches in singles play. Krissy Howard defeated Kerry Romani (QU) 6-1 and 6-1. Katie Duffy and Chrissy Duffy won both of their matches against the Lady Hawks to bring the Riverwomen closer to victory.

"We should have won," junior Lauren Daugherty said. "We expected to win the first game against Quincy. We need to win one or two of the doubles matches. We were just really unsure of ourselves and had a rusty match," said coach Rick Gyllenborg.

The squad faces up against rival SIU-E Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. Their first home game is sure to be a head to head battle between the two teams.

"Our match against Edwardsville is sure to be a dog fight," Gyllenborg stated.

The 2003 women's tennis team is focused on overcoming the recent loss and defeating their upcoming teams in order to finish in good ranking in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UMSL Alumnus Tom January answers his opponent with this forehand reply during the Tennis Alumni Day last Saturday. January, who represented UMSL in Tennis from 1971-74, is the first ever tennis athlete to be inducted into UMSL Sports Hall of Fame.

R-Women soccer drops hard fought opener

BY STEVE HARRELL
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team kicked off the regular season on Friday, Aug. 29 with a 3-1 loss to the Ashland Eagles at Don Dallas Memorial Field. Ashland was a tough opponent to open UM-St. Louis' season, as they qualified for the NCAA Tournament a year ago.

Ashland got things going early in the first half, as Maria Manzo scored the first goal of the year off of a corner kick. Manzo had a solid game, getting off nine shots, seven of which were on net. Manzo's goal came in the ninth minute.

Manzo and Ashland didn't stop there. In the 24th minute, Manzo set up teammate Jen Berardinelli. Berardinelli's goal was a header and was one of her two shots on goal.

As the clock began to tick down, UM-St. Louis' Mary Kate McDermott cut the lead in half, giving the Riverwomen renewed hope. McDermott found the back of the net in the 79th minute.

With time running out on UM-St. Louis, Ashland's Caitlyn Carducci put the final dagger in the heart of the Riverwomen as she scored off a deflection with less than three minutes left in the game. All three of Ashland's goals came off corner kicks.

On Labor Day, the Riverwomen fell to 0-2 with a 3-2 loss to Ferris State in Chicago. Playing in the rain for the second time, UM-St. Louis again got off to a slow start and trailed 2-0 at halftime.

In the 75th minute, Megan Tragesser scored her first goal of the

year with help from Sonya Hauan. 84 seconds later, Tragesser scored the equalizer unassisted, sending the UM-St. Louis bench into celebration.

The excitement didn't last forever, though, as Ferris State scored the game-winner in the 88th minute. Once again, the Riverwomen had dug themselves in a hole too deep to get out of.

"We played a nightmare first half," said Riverwomen head coach Beth Goetz. "We played well in the second half, but we had to play catch-up."

That's not a situation any team wants to be in, especially in less than ideal conditions.

There were many similarities between the two games for UM-St. Louis. "We struggled in the first half of both games," stated Goetz. "We need to learn to be ready to play. The talent is there, we just need to be mentally prepared for 90 minutes."

Of the six goals the Riverwomen have allowed this year, all but one of them has come off of a corner kick.

On the offensive side of the ball, UM-St. Louis scored a respectable three goals in two games, but Coach Goetz isn't pleased with the play of her offense.

"We're struggling on the attack; we're not penetrating the 18 (yard box)," she said. "That's how you score a lot of goals."

One aspect, or player, that Coach Goetz is pleased with is JUCO transfer Brandy Lucero. Lucero, a forward from Mesa, Arizona, came to UM-St. Louis via Scottsdale Community College.

UM-St. Louis tried again for their first win last Friday night after The Current went to press. Their next home game is Sunday, September 14.

STEVE HARRELL

Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174

fax: 516-6811

Questions
or
Comments?

Send me an e-mail:
invincible_44@hotmail.com

WEB

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

UPCOMING

MEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 3

• at Lindenwood,
7 p.m.

Sept. 6

• vs. Benedictine
at UM-St. Louis,
3 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Aug. 29

• vs. Ashland,
at UM-St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Results at right

Sept. 1

• at Ferris State,
time t.b.a.

Sept. 5

• vs. Mercyhurst,
at UM-St. Louis, 2 p.m.

Sept. 7

• at Missouri-Rolla,
2 p.m.

Volleyball fares well at Quincy

BY GRETCHEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The Riverwomen volleyball team started their season on a good hit with a 3-1 record at the Quincy/McDonald's Invitational. They faced up against Saginaw Valley for their first game and took the win in three matches.

Gillian Falknor led the team with 13 kills over Saginaw Valley and commented that they worked very well together. "Even with the limited number of girls," Falknor said, "everyone

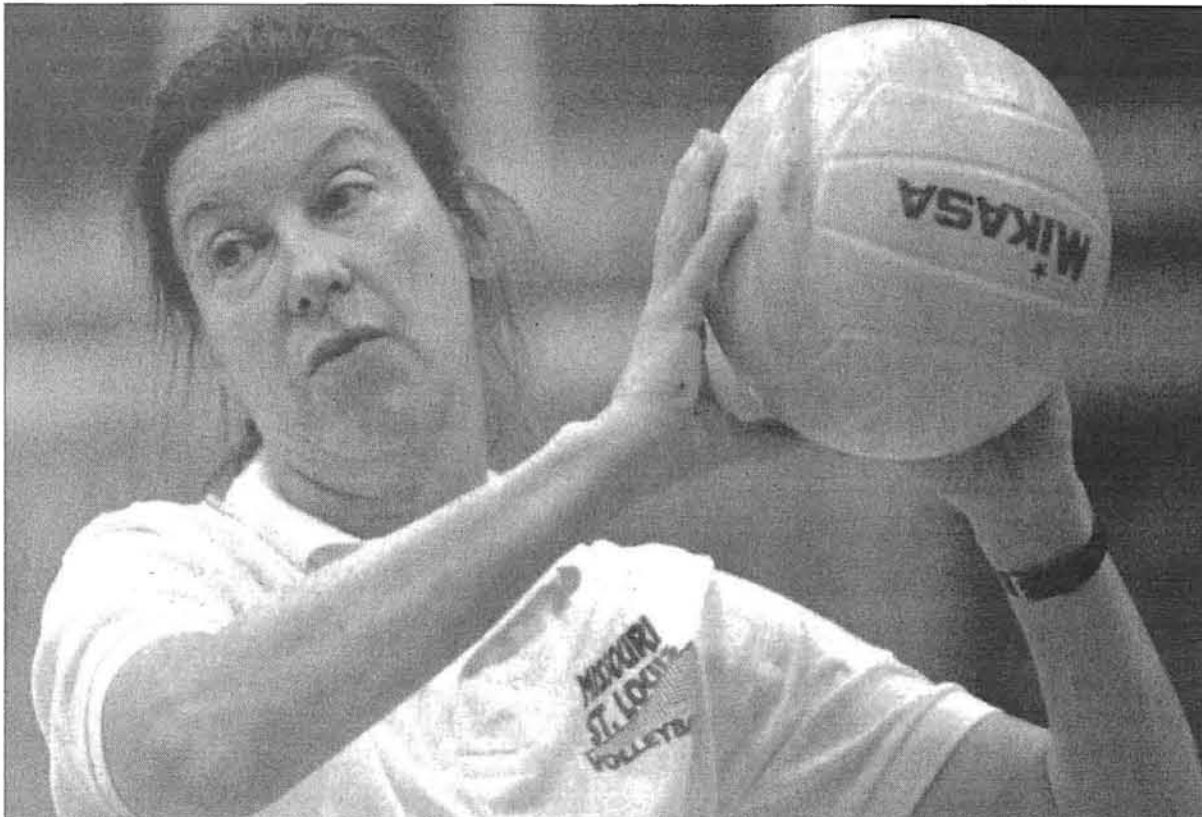
by Karen Creech with three. Daria Sak had 15 digs, and Stacey Pearl led the Riverwomen with 21 assists.

The Riverwomen then fell to South Dakota in the second match 30-28, 17-30, 30-28, 21-30, 15-5. The second game was a hard battle ending a 3-2 loss. UM-St. Louis was defeated in the first game before beating South Dakota in the next two. South Dakota then won the crucial fourth game as well as the toss up fifth game 15-5. Falknor and Nikki Pagels lead the team with 17 kills apiece, and Faulkner added 26 digs, as well as three total blocks and four service

10 kills a piece, and Stacey Pearl added to the Riverwomen victory with 22 assists. They took Lake Superior with a 30-25, 30-20, 30-17 victory.

They then faced Northwest Missouri State and took another win in five matches. Nikki Pagels led with 16 kills and 18 digs. Falknor added 13 kills and 15 digs to help her team take a victory over Northwest. Daria Sak added 23 digs to the Riverwomen's stats to keep UM-St. Louis victorious at the Quincy tournament.

Falknor reflected, "We all get along really well and communicate. We are focused on playing our best. We've



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Volleyball coach Denise Silvester has led the Riverwomen to a strong 3-1 start.

still pulled their weight."

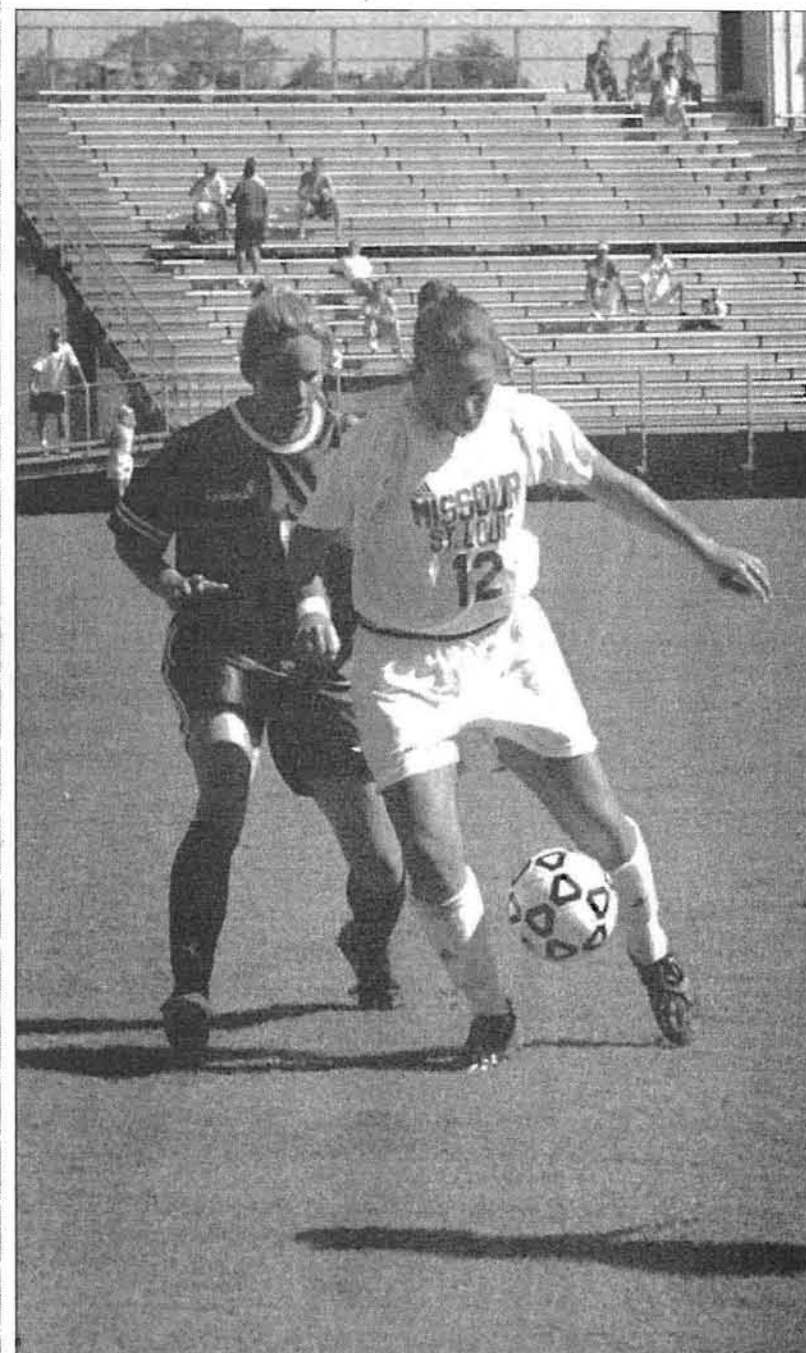
The team won 30-18, 30-18, 30-13, taking a victory in the school's first game of the season for any sport.

UM-St. Louis had 38 total kills as a team and had seven service aces, led

aces. Karen Creech added 12 kills along with Stacey Pearl's 29 assists and Daria Sak's 22 digs.

UM-St. Louis won their third match against Lake Superior in three games. Falknor and Creech led with

been working on serve receives and defense in practice for our next game on Sept. 19 at 7 at home against Southern Indiana. We are just focused on staying healthy and staying in good standing in the conference."



Kevin Ottley/The Current

UMSL forward Katie Huelsing shields the soccerball from Lady Lakers defender Julie Brickman. UMSL won the Friday afternoon encounter 4-2.

Handicapping the bobblehead division

Fans win in Central Division battle



BY STEVE HARRELL
Sports Editor

producing once again. Jeff Kent hasn't put up the numbers Houston had hoped, but he's still a very good player. And how about that Richard Hidalgo! Just a few months after getting shot in Venezuela, he comes back to baseball with a vengeance. He's currently hitting .304 with 22 homers and 73 RBI (as of Thursday).

Houston does have some intangibles as well. They have arguably the most confidence in the division, plus they have the edge in the season series against St. Louis, whom they play six more times this year.

Chicago, fresh off a successful

“
Let's talk offense.... Pujols, Edmonds and Rolen make up the toughest 3-4-5 guys ever. Throw in Drew, Vina, Edgar and others, and I don't see how these guys ever lose.
”

series against the Cards last week, undoubtedly has the best starting pitching in the Central (if not the entire majors). Whenever Shawn Estes is your number five starter, you're in pretty good shape. Throw in youngsters Kerry Wood and Mark Prior, along with surprise youngster Carlos Zambrano and fairly young (but proven veteran) Matt Clement, and that's what the old folks call a force to be reckoned with.

Although inconsistent at times, the Cubs bullpen is solid as well. Kyle Farnsworth has a nasty slider (when it's working), and Joe Borowski has come out of nowhere to become one of the league's better closers. Mark Guthrie has surprised a lot of people by posting an ERA under two, and Mike Remlinger is always consistent.

That brings us to the Cubbies hitting (or lack thereof). Of course

Sammy always produces, but the rest of the Cubs don't. The first basemen, Eric Karros and Hee Sop Choi, haven't played well at all this year (although Karros' numbers aren't too terrible). Aramis Ramirez and Kenny Lofton have been decent since coming over from Pittsburgh, but nothing special. It seems like the Cubs have a ton of semi-good players, but no one who can really carry the team (except for Sosa). This is a squad that should really be running away with the division, but they're not.

Chicago also lacks the intangibles. They haven't been to the post-season since 1998, and it's a town that's used to losing baseball games (and not just on the north side). The Cubs will need to dig deep in order to win this division.

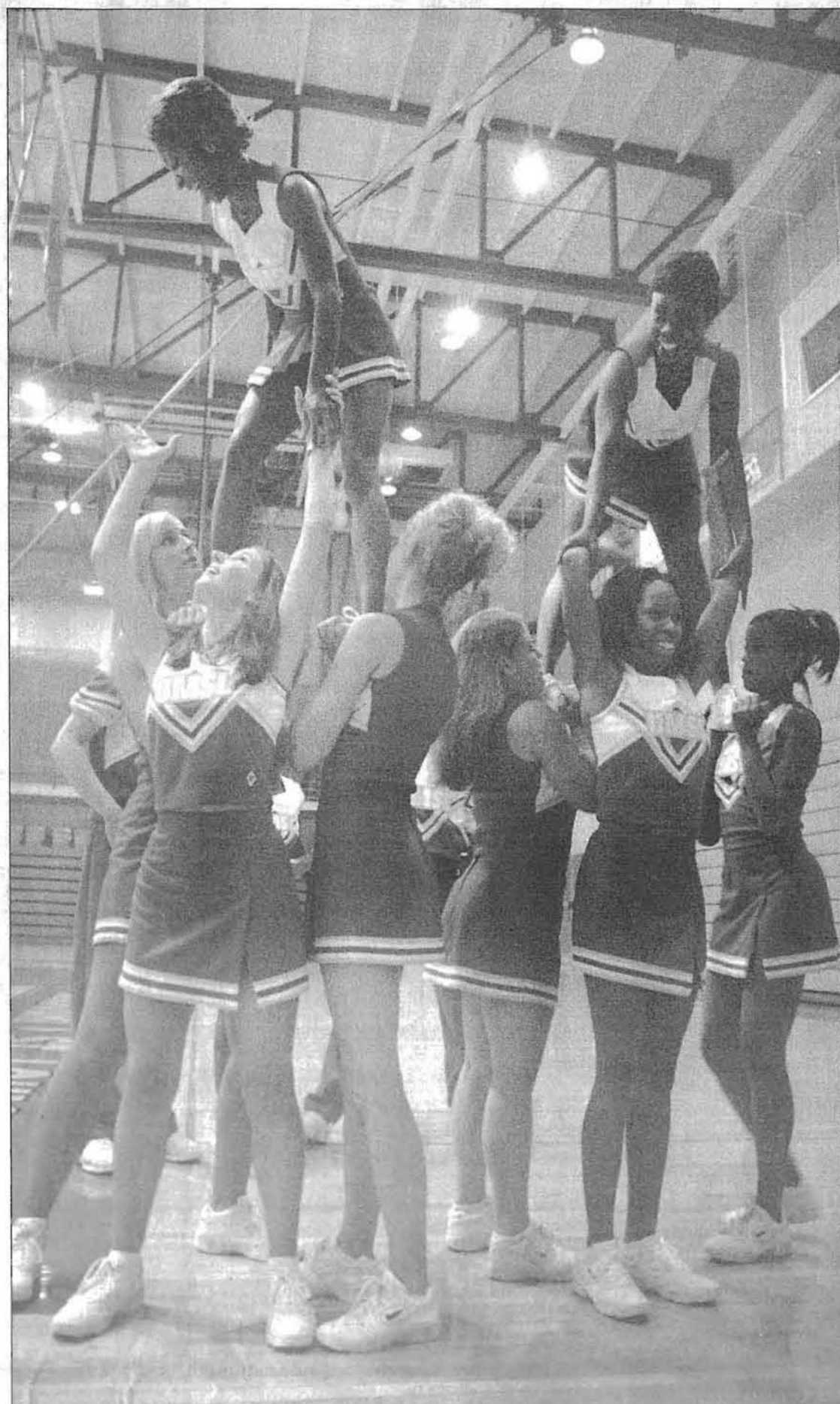
Now for St. Louis. Good God, where to begin? For the second straight year, injuries killed the Cardinals. Their staff has seen six guys with at least 12 starts, including Jeff Fassero's six. Sterling Hitchcock has been superb since joining the team and appears to be the new number five guy. Matty Mo is back after his arm trouble (and ankle trouble); and during his start against the Cubs, his curveball was breaking 12 to 6.

Everyone knows that the Cardinals bullpen is their problem. The 'pen flat out sucks. After Kiko Calero's injury, they were completely done for. Just imagine how solid they would be with him setting up Izzy! But enough about the Card's relievers; I'm getting depressed.

Let's talk offense. These guys are good. Pujols, Edmonds and Rolen make up the toughest 3-4-5 guys ever. Throw in Drew, Vina, Edgar and others, and I don't know how these guys ever lose (oh, right: the bullpen. I forgot).

Being the master prognosticator that I am (quit laughing), I'm going to make the call and go with the Redbirds in this one. Yeah, maybe my bias bettered my judgment (the Astros are tough and the Cubs are rolling), but the Redbirds offense just can't be stopped. Forget pitching: solid defense and a big bat will take the Cards to the top of the Central.

Building a pyramid of trust



Mike Sherwin/The Current

The UM-St. Louis Cheerleading squad practices carefully deconstructing a three-story pyramid formation during a practice session Friday at the Mark Twain Athletic Building.



You can read it anywhere!

Cust. Service/Retail Sales

ALL STUDENTS

\$13.75 base-appt.

No door to door canvassing or telemarketing. great resume experience.

\$13.75 base-appt

Flexible hours.

Scholarships available - conditions exist

For details call M-F 10 am-4pm: 314-991-2428

www.workforstudents.com

ask listen solve



Banking, borrowing, and buying pizza made easy.

Okay, let's be honest. Sure you're in college to study, but you're not going to spend every minute with your head in a book.

So, you'll need a way to get cash and keep track of how much you have left. You know, to keep your folks from going ballistic back home.

Here's good news. With a free student checking account from Commerce Bank, you have easy access to your funds at home, on or near campus, or online—anytime, day or night. Make deposits, transfer funds. And track withdrawals, too.

- FREE Checking
- Hundreds of Fee-Free ATMs*
- FREE Online
- Visa® Check Card Account Access
- Student Loans
Lender Code: 813979
Call 1-800-MONEY:101

Call, click, or come by Commerce today. We'll ask listen solve to see that your money's always close. And your pizzas can always be extra large.

College is tough. Commerce is easy.

314-746-3733

www.commercebank.com

call click come by

Commerce Bank
Member FDIC

*370 Commerce ATMs in Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois
ask listen solve and call click come by are trademarks of Commerce Bancshares, Inc. © 2003 COMMERCE BANCSHARES, INC.

A&E

EDITOR

CASEY SCHACHER
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

A&E Calendar

Movies

*Film openings are subject to change.

Week of
Sept. 9

Cabin Fever - Five college students go off to the woods after graduation for a good time. Little do they know a good time includes a flesh-eating bacteria. Bummer.

Matchstick Men - Nicholas Cage stars in this caper film. He plays an obsessive/compulsive con man whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of his teenage daughter.

Once Upon a Time in Mexico - The Third movie in the "E Mariachi/Desperado" series. Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek are joined by Johnny Depp and Willem DaFoe.

Dummy - Adrian Brody follows up his Oscar winner turn in "The Pianist" with this indie film about a man trying to find comfort in a ventriloquist's dummy.

Lost in Translation - Bill Murray continues to be one of the most underrated actors in Hollywood. Here he stars with Scarlett Johansson as two Americans who meet by chance in Tokyo and spend a weekend together.

Continuing

Dickie Roberts, Former Child Star - New David Spade comedy topped the weekend charts.

MOVIE REVIEW

Few laughs, little feeling

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

In "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star," you would think that David Spade found the perfect part. Spade certainly looks like a former child star, although he is not. His childish and sulking comic persona from his TV show "Just Shoot Me" fits right in with the idea of the forgotten star. While there are funny bits in this film, there are not enough of them to fill the whole movie, and when the story tries to turn a bit serious, it falls short.

Once the six-year-old star of a hit TV show called "The Glimmer Gang," the now thirty-five Dickie Roberts (David Spade) parks cars and longs to get back in the spotlight. When his TV show was cancelled, his stage mother took off with his savings, leaving Dickie with only memories of being a star and a bunch of other ex-child star friends (played by a number of real former child stars). Dickie almost hits bottom when Emmanuel Lewis beats him in a celebrity-boxing match, but then he hears that director Rob Reiner (playing himself) has a great part in a new film for him. Unluckily, even though the boy's agent (Jon Lovitz) wins him a meeting with Reiner, and Reiner agrees he looks right for the part, the director declines to cast him. It seems that the part requires him to be able to recall his childhood, something the little star missed out on. With the hope for another chance to audition,

Dickie sets out to recreate the childhood he never had. To do this, Dickie pays a car salesman Dad (Craig Bierko), a stay-at-home Mom (Mary McCormack), a son Sam (Scott Terra) and a daughter Sally (Jenna Boyd) to let him live with them as a child.

You would think there was enough potential, comic and dramatic, in the sad and absurd plight of former child stars. Certainly there has been an enduring interest in the American public for them. But the real tales of abuse and lost childhoods have as much potential for bad taste as for pathos. Generally, the film avoids both, despite being produced by Adam Sandler. Unfortunately, the movie proves pretty thin between its comic routines.

Don't get me wrong. I think David Spade's childish character on TV was funny, but he hasn't had much success in taking this to the big screen. This film is better than "Lost and Found," at least. Although it's Spade's movie, the film bears the unmistakable mark of Adam Sandler. There are funny sequences, mostly of the silly kind as you might expect from Spade. The many cameos by real former child stars throughout the film are a lot of fun and used to good comic effect. The bit where Dickie tries to help his "brother" meet the girl next door by singing a classic soul tune while they both walk around on stilts will bring laughs with its endearing charm. Although funny, the slapstick comedy seems a bit rough, and only a few bits show the typical meanness of Adam

Sandler's touch. Mostly, Spade's comedy is just childish and silly.

The movie is also weird. For example, Dad brings home a grown

man they have never met, a former child star who always wears gloves, and moves him into the bedroom shared by their two small children. OK, that will happen. Although probably supposed to be funny, the unspoken "Michael Jackson" reference feels simply creepy. The film consistently makes only the most superficial references to the kind of "issues" a child star might really have, preferring instead to just indicate that Dickie may have been spoiled by stardom, rather than really harmed by being exploited. When David Spade worked with his Saturday Night Live comedy pal, the late Chris Farley, he was far funnier than he has been in his partnerships with Adam Sandler. Sandler's style may not bring out the best in Spade's work. Also unusual, Spade never does any dramatic acting, not even the audition that the plot leads up to, which makes one wonder if the casting was as perfect as it sounded.

So, should you spend your money on this movie? Possibly, if you are a big fan of David Spade and also like Adam Sandler. The last comic bit as the credits roll is worth a look, as are a few other bits. Just don't expect too much from this thinnest of popcorn-munching entertainment, hardly the top choice for mindless amusement in the theatres right now. Interestingly, David Spade seems to always come up with his best stuff for the throw-aways at the end of the film. If only he would make a whole film with that same level of inspiration, it would be a funny movie indeed.



David Spade as Dickie Roberts and Alyssa Milano as Cyndi in **DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR**.

Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures

CD REVIEW

New pursuit of dead air time

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

The Weekend Players have successfully devised a plan to produce a long, drawn-out album that virtually no one should spend money on. Embedded in the philosophy that absolutely no instruments need to be used to produce great tunes, The Weekend Players have thrown out thirteen tracks of noisy fuzz into their newest release, "Pursuit of Happiness." The album will not only frighten your ears but also send you on a pursuit to find something else to listen to.

The mellow electronic sound of "Pursuit of Happiness" is boring and somewhat tedious to hear for too long. I think that the Players are aiming for an artistic techno-exhibition but have found nothing of the sort along the way. In fact, they claim to have blended "left-field jazz with underground dance," which in itself is wordy nonsense. I am not sure about

the album's true intentions, but it would make a great substitute for sleeping aids.

If the album pursues pleasure, then the lyrics have strayed far from the meaning and headed straight into a journey of depression. "The Best Days of Our Lives" talks about

tracks such as "Jericho" and "21st Century" speak about how much this leading lady needs another person in her life to fill in any gaps. This mundane spirit seems to be what drives The Weekend Players' songwriting.

I cannot say that the music behind the songs is terrible, but over-production has robbed it of its meaning. Rachel Foster, the lead vocalist, does have some talent in her vocal chords but directs them in the wrong way. The sound needs to be refined until it becomes more straightforward and less of a production. The Weekend Players are trying very hard to succeed in an area that may not be for them.

The Weekend Players have ridden electronic music off a tall cliff and still attempt to keep going. Their pursuit will likely end without acquiring a strong following or much recognition in the music industry. Between the lyrical dullness and annoyingly repetitive rhythm, it is safe to say that "Pursuit of Happiness" will spend its journey collecting dust on store shelves.



Photo courtesy Full Frequency Range Recordings
Rachel Foster, the lead vocalist for The Weekend Players.

acorns and jewelry, while a cryptic voice in the background whines about her thoughts. Many of the other

CD REVIEW

Newest name in 'Brit Rock'

BY AMY GONWA
Music Critic

Finally, an album that stares into the eyes of this world and rips out the meaning. "Heroes and Villains" is a twelve-track examination of the everyday air we all breathe in. The disc, Paloalto's second release into the airwaves, has a refined sound that has

pulls you so far away / Thinking how long will this last." Many of the other tracks are similar to "The World Outside" in terms of reflective lyrics. Most of the time Paloalto asks questions, only providing answers that are forward, such as in the track "Last Way Out of Here": "When all your walls are down / There is love." Paloalto clearly draws on musical

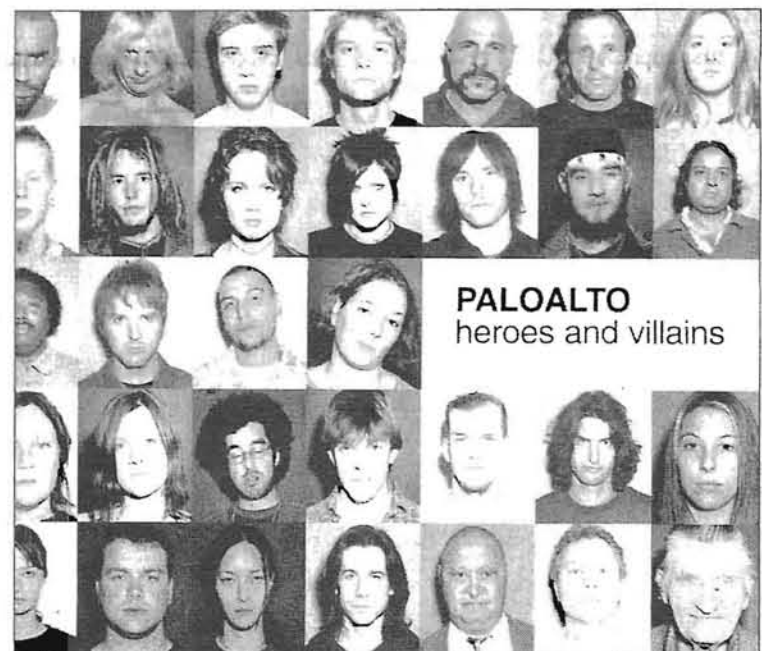


Photo courtesy Wrong Treats Music

gained much more approval since their debut.

"Heroes and Villains" carries on the tradition of British rock and adds a strong orchestral amplification. It turns out that the four young men of Paloalto did not originate from the U.K., but their music is spreading fast there. Now, Paloalto challenges America to check out their original but untouched British sound. Luckily for Paloalto, groups like Coldplay and Radiohead have paved the way for foreign rock within the U.S. boundaries.

The lyrical content of "Heroes and Villains" covers a wide span of topics and appeals to quite a diverse audience. Tones of innocence, anger and consequence ring out through the album. The first track, "The World Outside" is about when "Your gravity

movements from the past but have managed to produce a new, fresh sound. They are like U2 minus the adult contemporary style. Paloalto's tones are delightfully melodic and diversely symphonic, which gives them a great chance to gain some fame with "Heroes and Villains."

"Heroes and Villains" is one of those albums that contain a powerful sound but would also make great music if done with only an acoustic guitar. Paloalto has some meaningful messages to convey within their music if you are ready to hear them. The group prides themselves on the unpredictable and experimental live shows and is spending more time in the States to promote this. Paloalto will join Rooney on the Mississippi Nights stage on Sept. 12, as part of their fall tour, so make sure to be there.

BOOK REVIEW

French 'Friday Night' leads to brief encounter

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

"Friday Night," a new French film from rising woman director Claire Denis, tells its story of two strangers on a Friday night in Paris in a nearly wordless, naturalistic style. Yet despite the promise of something new, there is an unmistakable air of familiarity to the film. Haven't we seen this before?

Laure (Valerie Lemercier), a thirty-ish Parisian woman, is on her own for the night. Uneasy and distracted by the impending move into her boyfriend's, she fills her small car with labeled boxes and sets out to drive across town to have dinner with married friends, forgetting that a mass transit strike will turn the streets at rush hour into a parking lot. Soon, she's caught

in traffic gridlock and tunes into the radio. Encouraged by the announcer's suggestion to give a ride to a friend, she impulsively invites a stranger (Vincent Lindon) walking by to join her in the car to escape the cold rain outside.

This is a French film, so random encounters are more likely to turn into sex than violence, and sure enough, an unspoken attraction develops between the strangers. The film draws on the common fantasy men and women might have of a random encounter—a secret, guilt-free, safe one-night stand. The director takes this concept and makes it into a nearly wordless film. Even when the two of them talk, the dialogue seems inconsequential or merely practical. We learn none of their secrets, nothing about who they are. What we learn at the start of the story about the woman is all we get



Vincent Lindon and Valerie Lemercier star in **FRI-DAY NIGHT**, a French film.

and about the man, a middle-aged, somewhat attractive fellow named

Jean, we really learn nothing beyond his name. It is a meeting of bodies, not

BOOK REVIEW

Plight of the graphic novel

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

"Miss Remarkable" is a graphic novel of 224 pages. If you still read "graphic novel" as synonymous with

ing. A friend commented, "Remarkable" seemed like "just someone's diary." That would be a reasonable assessment if this "diary" wasn't able to stand as a shared diary for a myriad of people like her, me, and perhaps you. Earlier this year,

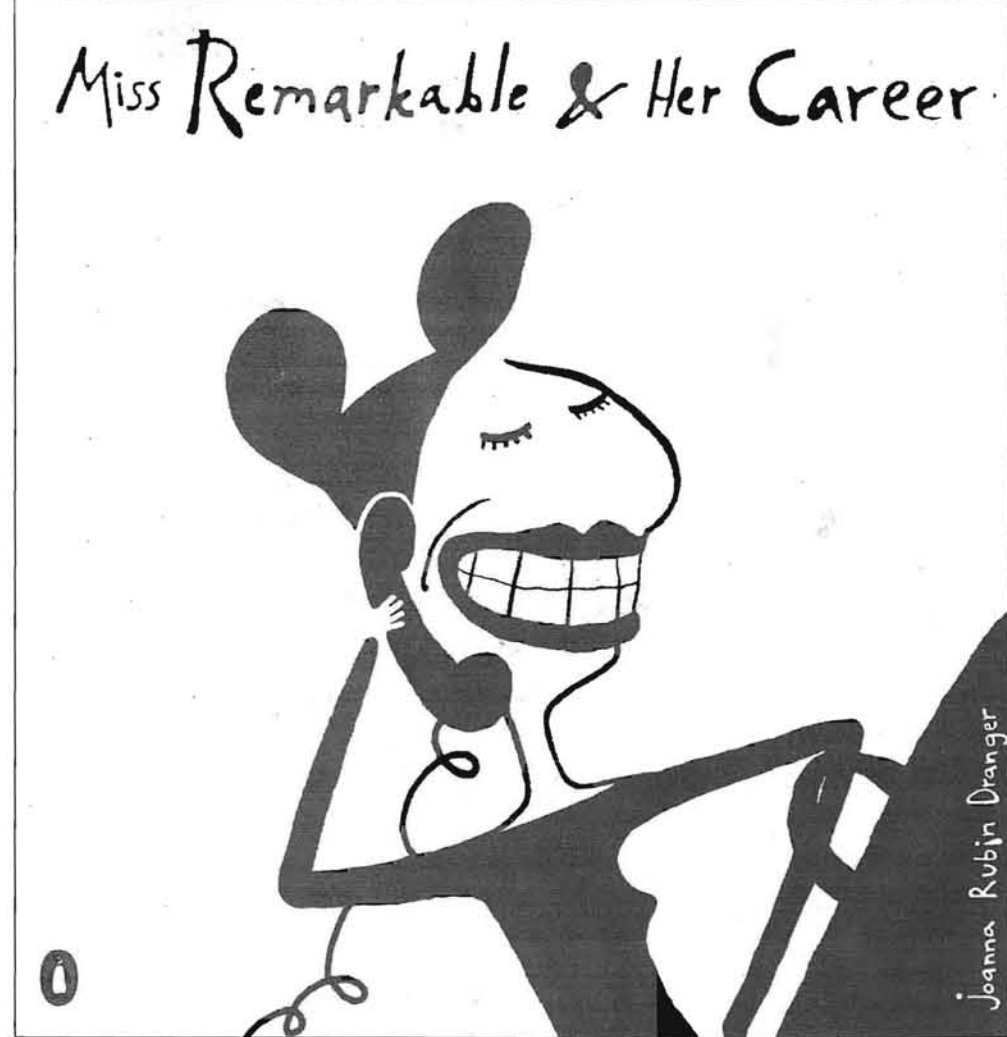
We all want to be remarkable in our own ways, and Miss Remarkable becomes remarkable when she relinquishes expectation. The Night Monster—a visual and actual personification of her anxiety, depression and failed expectation—is finally vanquished, but not until after a

familiar host of questions are asked and strategies tried by the heroine. If you've asked questions like, "What do I want to do with my life," "What am I good at," or "What is my purpose," you'll find at least conceptual ties with Miss Remarkable.

Another segment of the book that could have easily, and probably beneficially, been expanded was Miss Remarkable's relationship with her boyfriend. Romantic relationships are difficult at times—especially those

when one or both of the lovers are otherwise emotionally strained. Selfishness and self-searching can destroy these relationships. The rejected partner can become isolated, despite attempts to be supportive in such tough times. But "Remarkable" doesn't talk about these issues, as does "Regeneration."

Miss Remarkable will soon appear at your local bookseller, minus her Night Monster, and you may pick her up for your own at \$13. While Calvin & Hobbes is still funnier, and that female ninja simultaneously dismembering three gangsters is definitely more serious, they are both pretty entrenched outside the real (or relevant) world. "Remarkable" bundles emotion, albeit sometimes ambiguously, in its drawings and pointedly discusses the world in which many of us find ourselves living. If you want to identify your plight with a larger (massive, actually) group, Miss Remarkable is your girl. If, however, you're searching for answers, "Remarkable" may only serve to drop a little rain on an



"comic book," you are not alone. "Remarkable," longer than a typical comic book, is drawn in simple black and white. Further, when you thumb through the single-frame pages and admire the emotive and unrealistic renderings, you may also be inclined to discard "Remarkable" as unremarkable. After all, one of the many Calvin & Hobbes collections proves funnier and the local comic shop will provide for you a large rack of graphic novels that are, at least at first glance, more serious. Read "Remarkable" through, however, and first impressions blur, questions arise.

Miss Remarkable, the book's namesake, is a twenty-something in the creative/design industry. She has parents and an older sister to impress, friends to compete with, and a boyfriend to deal with. The load of personal expectation, and perceived or actual outside expectation, becomes a serious adversary when she realizes that she isn't particularly gifted at what she's currently doing. She crashes and tries her best to find a way back up to normalcy and mean-

"Regeneration: Telling Stories From Our Twenties" came out and told a story. Many twenty-somethings were raised to think that they could accomplish anything with hard work, that creativity and individuality were highly desirable, and that they were unique and worthwhile. The personal and psychological war that Miss Remarkable plays with herself is nothing unique. Many of us face this inner battle when we realize that the picture we were painted growing up ends up horribly inaccurate. "Regeneration" deals primarily with the mass of liberal arts graduates who entered the uninviting working world without ready-made places for unique historians, personable philosophers or talented anthropologists. Therefore, in that sense, "Remarkable" tells a story and details a struggle that many of us know all too well. Without books like "Remarkable," we toil on, internally crumbling with every new setback, still thinking that we are unique and have failed miserably and unexplainably in that path of life.

FILM, from page 10

But hasn't that been done before? Didn't "Last Tango" cover the same ground, in the pre-AIDS world? "Friday Night" is not emotional enough to be romantic and not graphic enough to be pornographic. So what's the point? The concept of random physical encounters has been done. Plus, the issue of the different world after AIDS must be considered. Even with a shot that refers to condom use, the images that may come to mind are all those films about the ravages of AIDS. Not a pretty picture, and especially after a sequence in which the stranger appears to have another sexual encounter in a restroom during their "date." What about the boyfriend she's moving in with?

covered before, perhaps the artistic technique of the film was intended to be the heart of the matter. The style is naturalistic, for the most part, with the lack of narrative dialogue especially noticeable. Yet, curiously, there are a few brief intervals when objects become animated, dancing around the room of their own accord. Are we to take the dancing lampshade to be a sly reference to that tango in Paris movie? Perhaps it hints to us that the whole encounter is a fantasy, taking place only in Laure's mind.

The appeal of this slow-moving film, escaped me. Director Claire Denis, who co-wrote the script, has done more interesting work in the past. She worked with Jim Jarmusch on "Down by Law" and Wim

Wenders on "Wings of Desire," and her own work includes the visual film "Beau Travail" that appeared at the St. Louis International Film Festival a few years back. Denis is a talented director, and the two actors are certainly capable, so maybe something here just didn't click for me. The film may appeal to some fans of French art films but seems unlikely to win many converts to the type. However, it is always worthy to try an artistic experiment in film, infinitely more laudable than producing the familiar sure thing. Perhaps a little more humor or a little more feeling could have lightened this Friday evening. To my eyes, this cinematic experiment doesn't quite make it, and I'll just look forward to her next film.

GAME REVIEW

'Woods' fun for some

BY PAUL CRUTCHER
Staff Writer

a flag by getting closest to the pin on any of roughly 20 available greens. "Tiger" is modified HORSE, where you target concentric bull's-eye rings on the same greens. These modes can become addictive.

Nevertheless, "Woods" also has some deterrents. Of these, the first you would likely encounter is the daunting proposal of conquering it. Like other EA games, there are elements of "Woods" that the player must complete to beat it that are excessive and/or irrelevant to the overt goals of the game. The tedious completion of these tasks mars the fun factor. For example, the Tiger Challenge can become difficult at a rate disproportionate to your available ability level. You inevitably reach a point where your next click of Power or Accuracy proves too expensive, and you are not strong enough to beat, say, Brad Faxon's ridiculous putting.

And for putting, "Woods" provides a marginal-at-best "Caddie Tip" when

you're on the green. The first 3-1 putt where the Caddie Tip states, "11in right, 1ft 3in short," will let you questioning your caddie's credentials. Follow the caddie, and you leave them all short.

Another poor game play element, the "game breaker" views, which thankfully can and should be disabled at the options screen, often obstruct your view of the golf shot entirely, becoming difficult to use your expensive ball spin when you can't see where the ball is going.

If you have a friend and a load of free time between you, "Woods" provides enough modes of play to provide competition to fill that time. Doing a good job of making a golf game makes golf more fun than on TV, a good-looking and fun game is a place where Tiger should feel in danger of missing any cuts or hacking it into the gallery. Golfers interested in trying it out would be better off visiting their local club: The real thing

Last week, when qualifying for the Deutsche Bank Championship, Tiger Woods was in danger of missing his first cut since turning pro. Nevertheless, Tiger is the number one golfer in the world, and that is precisely why he has his own video game...and has had for several years. I spent three weeks with the latest version, Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2003, and have the scoop on how Tiger translates into the world of the PlayStation2.

"Woods" features 28 playable characters, including 15 authentic PGA tour members. Seven characters are available at the beginning of play, and the remaining players are unlocked through various means. Twelve full 18-hole courses are included, three of which are pure fantasy. The normal regiment of skins, match play and stroke play games finds company with a host of other playable modes. The Tiger Challenge represents the primary game mode, the place you'll likely find yourself most often in order to beat "Woods." In the Tiger Challenge, you guide the golfer you've designed in a series of match play events designed to earn you more money and unlock new characters. You use winnings to purchase performance upgrades for your golfer, which become increasingly more expensive the stronger your golfer becomes.

There are definitely some great things to be said about "Woods." The graphics, namely, are often stunning, including a full regiment of waves crashing and spraying, trees rocking against the wind and the dense, dark rough at St. Andrews. The game designers spent a great deal of time on the character models, too, which shows in the game. Each character has intricately modeled and distinct facial and body-type features, and each provides differing swing nuances.

The range of shot types also qualifies as a plus. Your golfer can do just about anything any golfer might: shank, fade, flop, punch, pull and the like. For the non-golfers out there, "Woods" eases you into things, so you don't need any golfing prerequisites before picking up the controller. And for those gamers who think the best gaming has a competitive structure, "Woods" has two modes which are great fun: Capture and Tiger. Capture is basically "capture the flag" on one of three golfing arenas. You "capture"

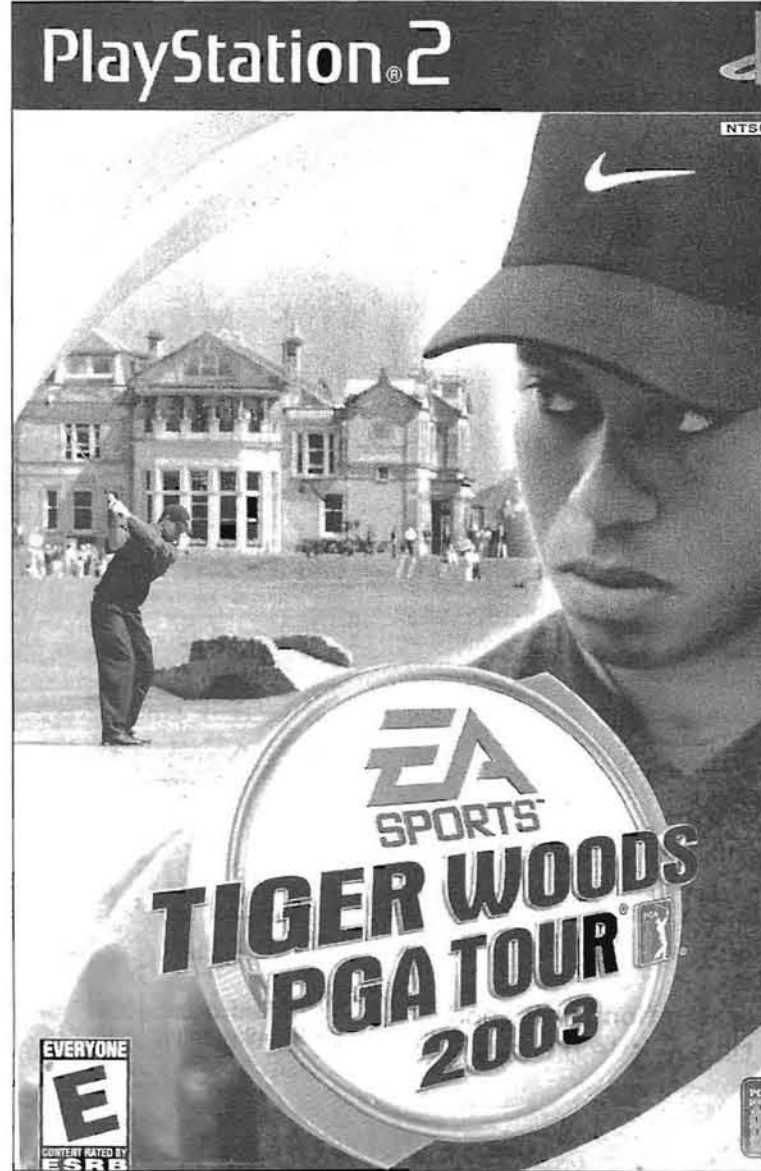
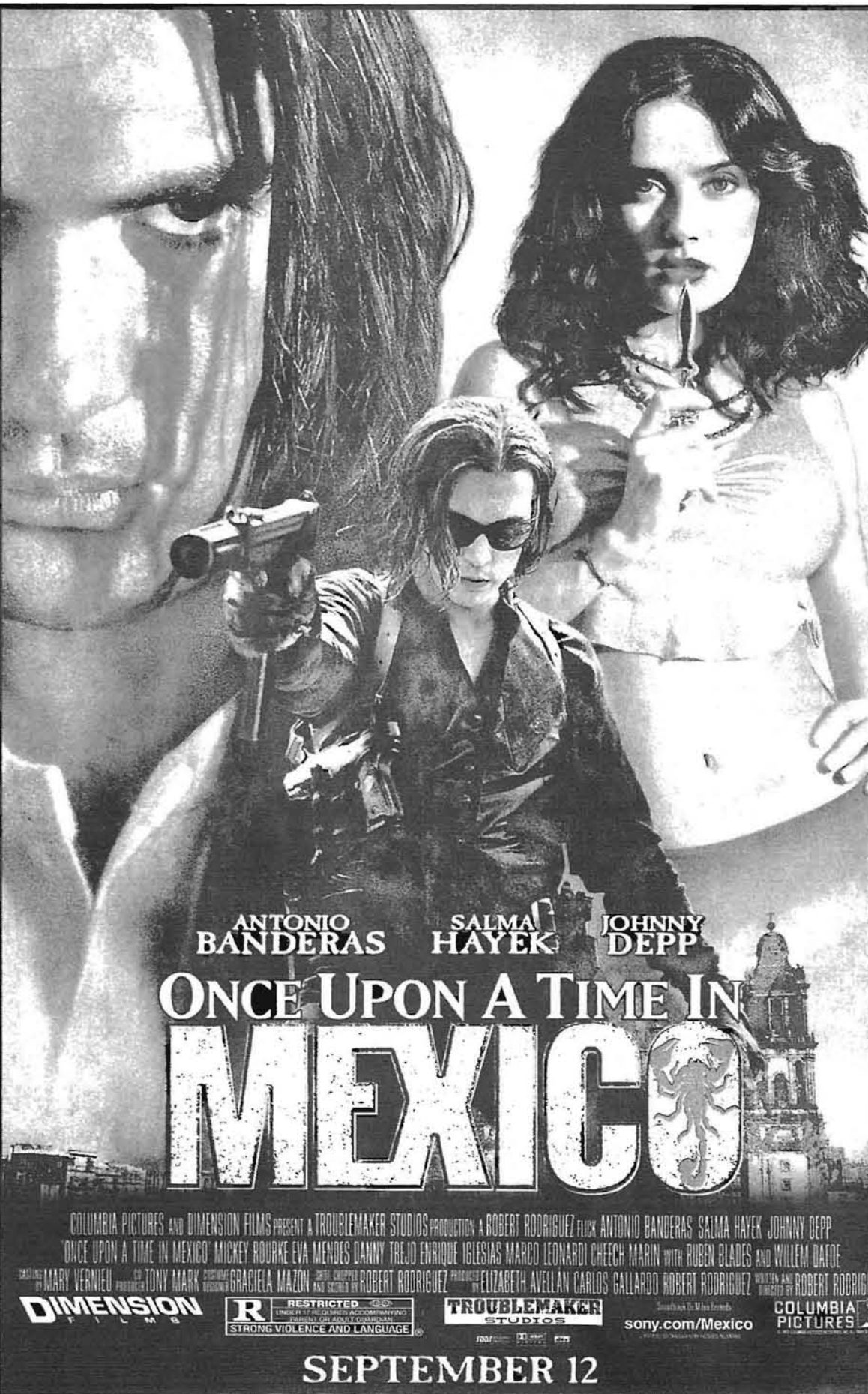


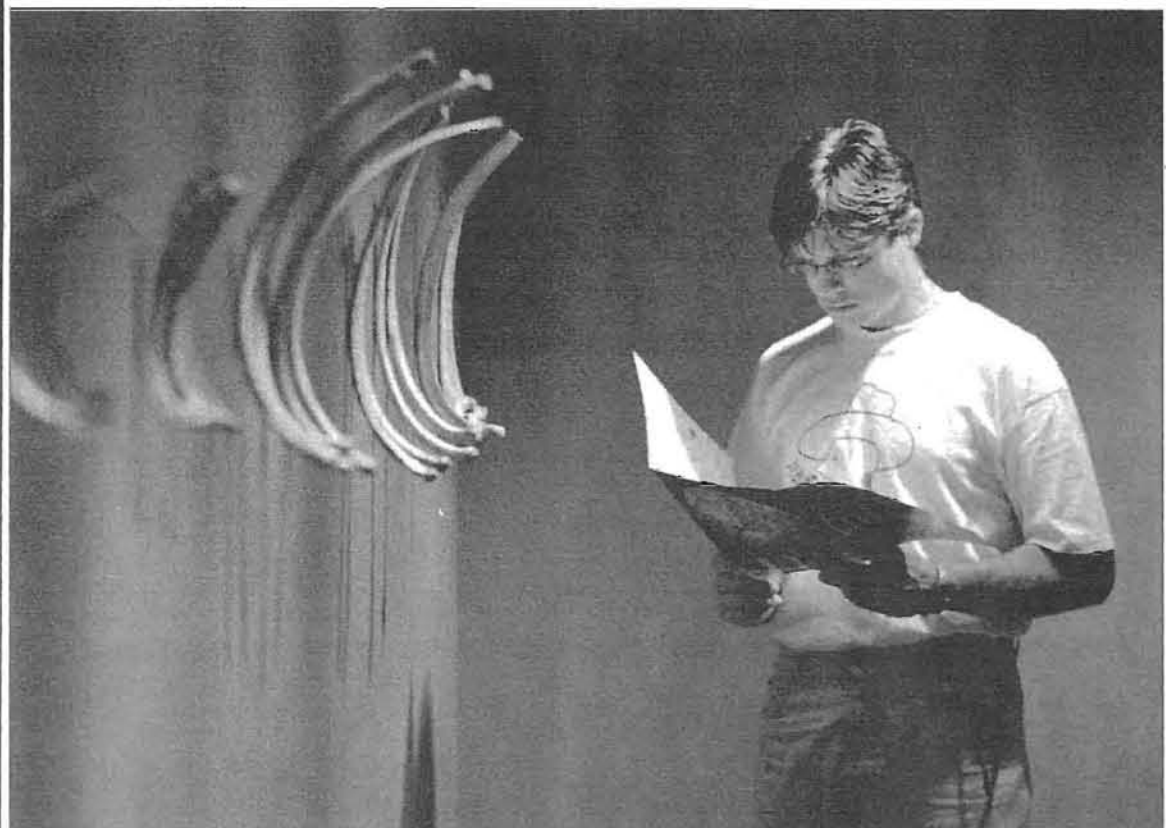
Photo courtesy Electronic Arts



Communications Director Needed

ASUM is looking for a student to work 10 hours per week. This position can be used for a practicum or internship. Duties include Public Relations and Advertising. Please submit resume and cover letter to 381 MSC.

Call 516-7306 for more information.



John Sebben, graduate student, biology drifts through "Sustenance," a new exhibit in Gallery 210, featuring works by Tracy Linder, during the artist's reception Aug. 28. Sebben said his motivation for the visit was "because I am a big fan of the artist that this artist copies."

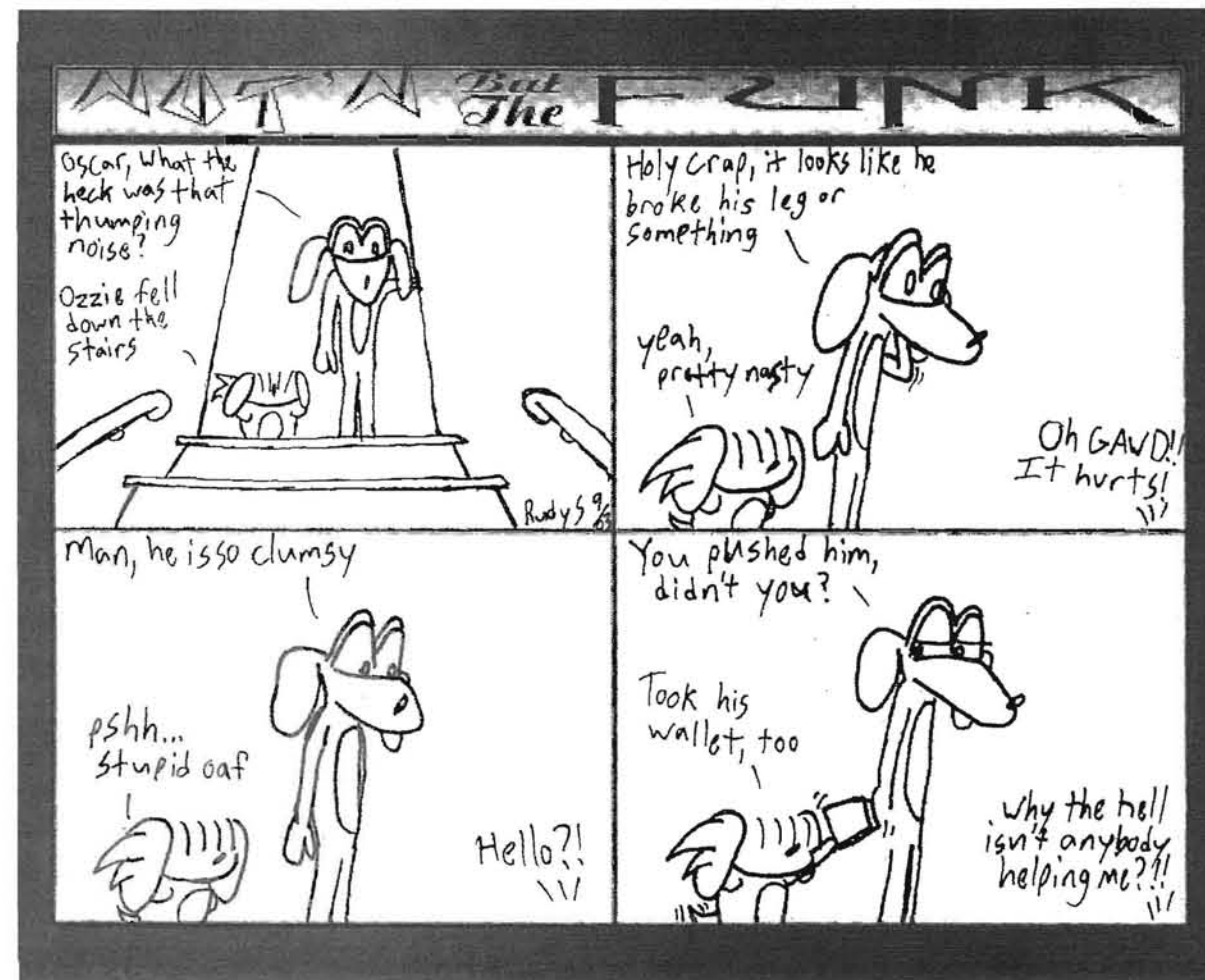
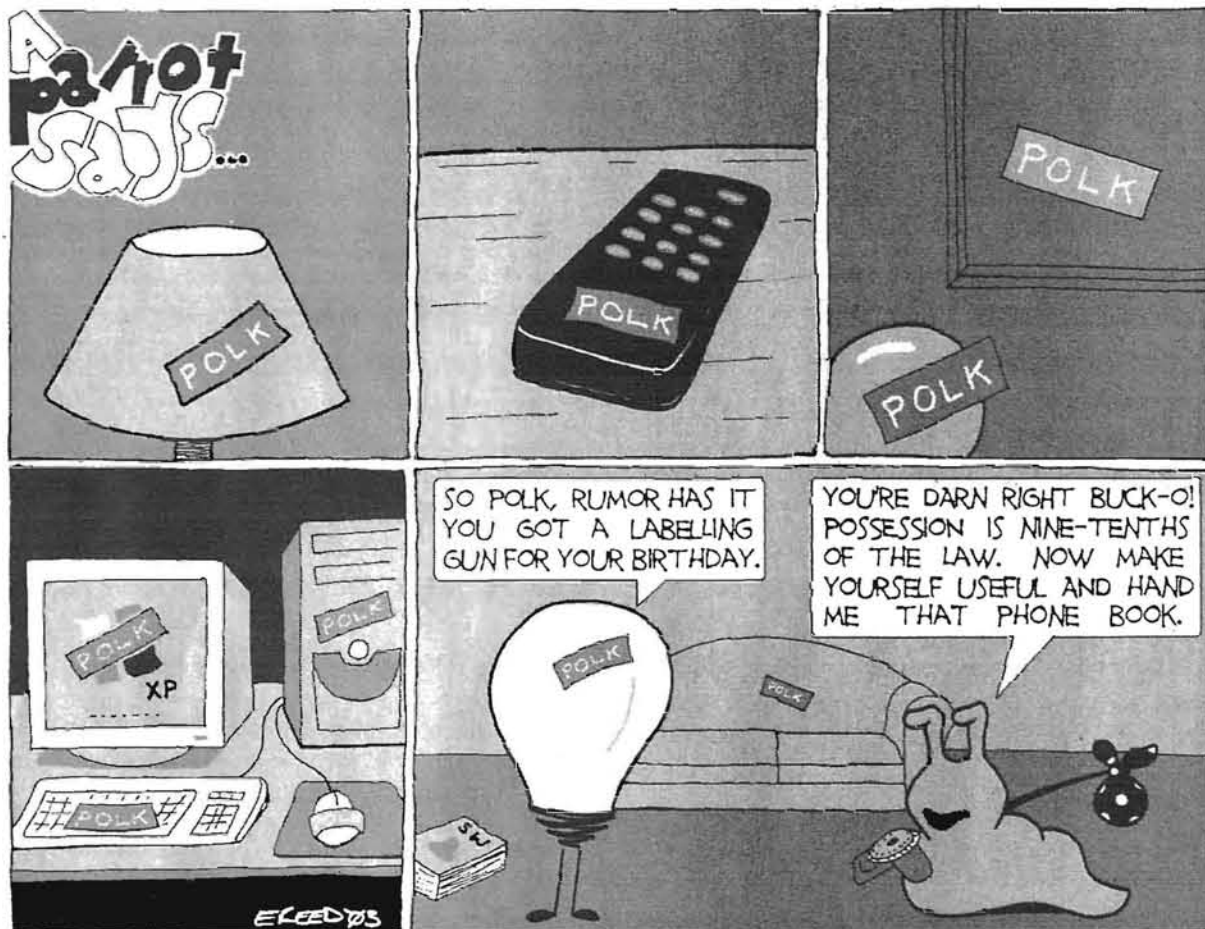
Gallery 210 opens new semester with esoteric exhibit

Sustenance



Photos by Mike Sherwin/The Current

Artist Tracy Linder talks about her work at the opening reception of "Sustenance." Linder, a Montana-based artist, works with a variety of materials including animal bones, raffi, polyester resin and fiberglass. "Sustenance" will continue at Gallery 210 (located on the second floor of Lucas Hall) until Sept. 27.



BOB BURSIK, from page 7

Bursik's interest in neighborhood research may continue as well. "The studies that I like the best are my neighborhood studies," he said. Bursik is the

co-author of "Neighborhoods and Crime: The Dimensions of Effective Community Control," which was published in 1993.

"I certainly did not make this place," Bursik said about UM-St. Louis' Department of Criminology. "I jumped on a train that was already barreling."

BUSINESS COLLEGE, from page 1

Third, UM-St. Louis has started a consortium with nine other business schools, which all offer help to each other on how they can improve their international business program.

The benefits of this rating to the University will be the recruitment of new individuals. When students are thinking of transferring from a junior college or high school students are looking for somewhere to attend college, this will be highly looked upon. Our international business program is the only one in the region on the

list," Ricks said.

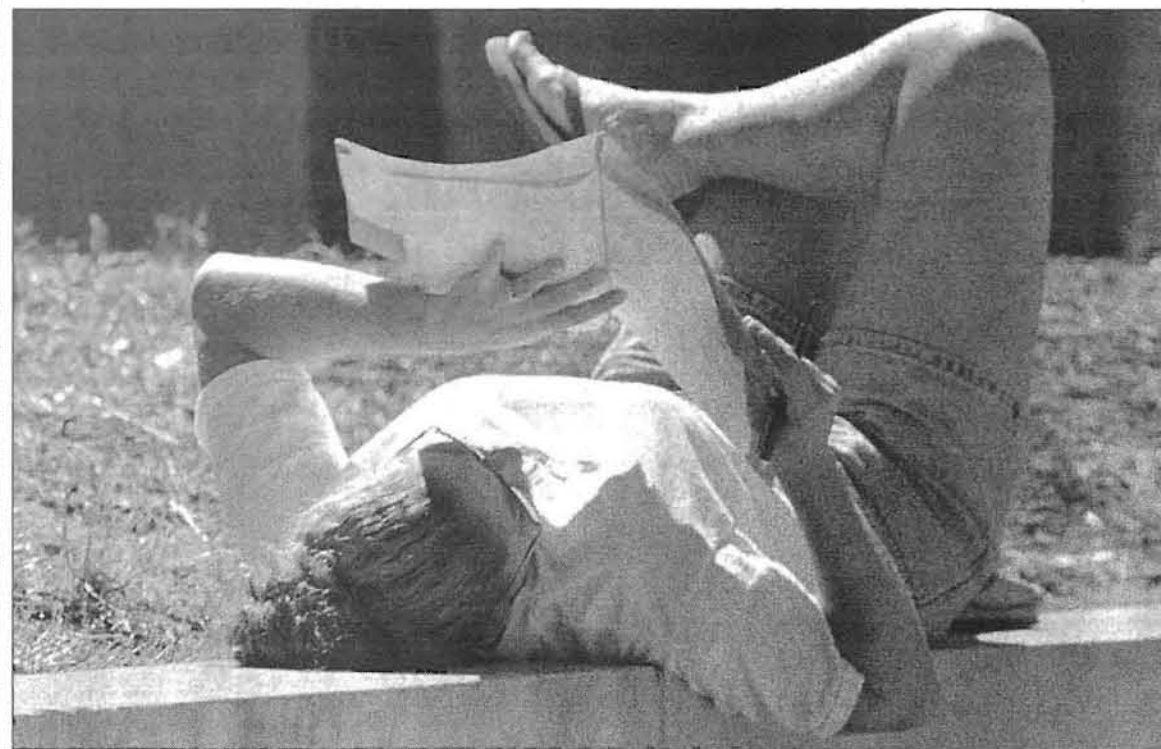
International business is training for working overseas and doing business exporting and trading internationally. More than 70 study abroad programs are available, and the program has many students from all around the world. American students have had the chance to intern overseas at such companies as General Motors and Japan Airlines.

Ricks said that one downfall to the rating is that he thinks that the campus should have placed higher on the

list. "I have mixed feelings actually. I think that we are better than 18th," Ricks said. "I'm happy that we're listed, and it's really good for UM-St. Louis, but I'm working to get an even better ranking for next year."

Talking about characteristics of good programs and what the department can do right will be the focus of the next year. They will also be offering programs to deans and administrators around the nation to discuss their programs, as well as UM-St. Louis' program.

Heat breaks, quad livens



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Brandi Burlbaw, junior, middle school education, takes advantage of the mild weather on Thursday morning to study on the north campus quad. Temperatures in the upper 70s gave a welcome break to the recent spate of intense heat and humidity

Look for another installment of "Beyond Natural Bridge" next week!

The Lucas & Hunt and Natural Bridge License Office is Now Open!

(Located at North Oaks Plaza #1F - Next Door to the Deal\$ Store)

Business Hours:

Monday & Tuesday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday and Friday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. to 12 noon
Sunday	Closed

Our Office Issues:

- License Plate Renewals
- Motor Vehicle Registration
- Missouri State ID's
- Driver's License Renewals
- Watercraft Registrations
- Motorcycle Registration

For Information Call 314.389.5300

Funds from this Office will support Operation Excel, Inc., a non for profit youth program and subsidiary of the Housing Authority of St. Louis County.

House for Sale or Lease Come Take a Look!



We want to sell or lease our lovingly renovated 4-bedrm, 2-bath Victorian home.

The house sits on a large landscaped lot, just minutes from the UM-St. Louis campus and two MetroLink stations.

- Wrap-around porch
- Brand new deck
- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 New bathrooms
- Jenn-Aire stove and vent
- Butler's pantry

- Marble countertop
- Updated plumbing and electricity
- Harwood floors
- Ornate staircase
- Fireplace
- Full walk-out basement

Call us to schedule a visit - Patrick or Angela Green - 385-7822
You'll be pleasantly surprised!

BLANCHE M. TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

KMOX and KEZK present
A Tribute to Gregory Hines
starring **SAVION GLOVER**
with comedian **GEORGE WALLACE**
8 p.m., Saturday, September 27

KMOX and KEZK present
SAINT LOUIS SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA, David Amado,
conductor, 2 p.m., Sunday, October 5

The "Politically Incorrect" **BILL MAHER**
7:30 p.m., Sunday, October 5

and coming soon

BALLET GRAN FOLKORICO
DE MEXICO, Sept. 19

Teatro Lirico d'Europa presents Mozart's
DON GIOVANNI in Italian with
orchestra and supertitles, Oct. 9

90.7/KWMU presents "**WHAD'YA**
KNOW?" with **MICHAEL FELDMAN**,
Oct. 11

Cole Porter's Tony Award-winning
KISS ME KATE, Oct. 18

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
JAZZ ENSEMBLE in concert, Oct. 23

MELISSA MANCHESTER AND
PAUL WILLIAMS, Oct. 28

Mezzo-Soprano **FREDERICA VON STADE**,
Nov. 1

ARIANNA STRING QUARTET, Nov. 2

Acclaimed pianist **GARRICK OHLSSON**,
Nov. 15

WINDHAM HILL WINTER SOLSTICE TOUR
featuring **WILL ACKERMAN**,
LIZ STORY & SAMITE, Nov. 21

Christmas with **THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER**,
Dec. 5

...and much more!

Call 314.516.4949, or toll-free
at 866.516.4949, for your season brochure
or to order tickets.

www.touhill.org

