

4-7-2008

## Current, April 07, 2008

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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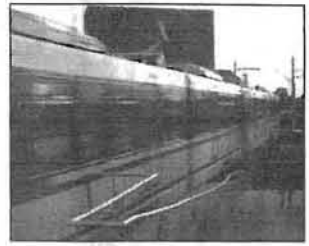
# The Current

April 7, 2008

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1246

INSIDE



**Students get chance to vote on Metro fee**

A referendum during SGA elections April 14-18 will allow all students to vote for a fee to pay for Metro passes.

See NEWS, page 3



**Keeping his 'Eye on UMSL'**

Check out *The Current's* interview with August Jennewein, the campus's official photographer.

See FEATURES, page 6



**'Spring to Dance' will debut at Touhill PAC**

See A&E, page 8

**Softball goes 3-1 during homestand**

The Tritons softball team sweeps a doubleheader against Wisconsin-Parkside, and goes 1-1 versus Lewis.

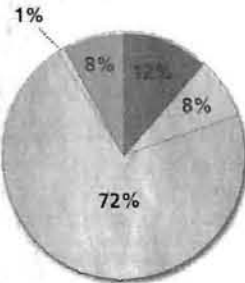
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ON THE WEB

**The Current**  
online.com

**Web poll results:**

Where would be your ideal place to spend Spring Break?



- Around St. Louis
- Home to visit parents
- The nearest beach
- Work
- Back in classes

**This week's question:** How do you commute to UM-St. Louis?

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## Senate approves vote for student curator

By RYAN SCHERR  
News Editor

The Missouri state Senate passed SB 873 on Thursday to give the student representative on the University of Missouri Board of Curators a vote.

The student representative currently can give input on matters but does not have the ability to vote.

"As a non-voting member, the student representative is sometimes unintentionally excluded from the board's decision-making process," said Tony Luetkemeyer, current stu-

dent representative on the Board of Curators. "Allowing the student representative to cast a vote ensures that student opinion will always be considered when the Board makes its decisions."

The bylaws of the Board of Curators currently stipulates that the board must consist of nine voting members, each member coming from one of Missouri's nine congressional districts.

The bill says that should Missouri lose a congressional district in the 2010 census, the ninth voting member of the Board of Curators would

**Quick Read**

Senate Bill 389 will give the student representative to the Board of Curators a vote, assuming Missouri drops a congressional district in the 2010 census.

be a student.

Jessica Witte, assistant legislative director for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, said it is "pretty much a given that Missouri will lose a congressional district, which is why [ASUM] went this route."

According to Witte, students currently pay 42 percent of the UM operating budget.

She said that "as students pay nearly half the operating budget, [they] deserve a voice as a vote." Luetkemeyer also agrees.

"Given the drastic increases in the cost of higher education it only makes sense that students, who are now the largest contributors to the university's budget, would have an equal chance to shape university policy," Luetkemeyer said.

See STUDENT CURATOR, page 13

**The student curator . . .**

- A non-voting student representative to the University of Missouri Board of Curators was added in 1984.
- The position rotates every two years among the four UM campuses.
- The current student curator is Tony Luetkemeyer from the UM-Columbia campus.

**A CLOSER LOOK** A SPECIAL FIVE-PART IN-DEPTH SERIES TO ANSWER THE QUESTION:

## Can UM-St. Louis athletics achieve Division-I status?

**PART ONE OF FIVE:** Will UMSL see its Triton football team in the Fiesta Bowl? Perhaps, someday.

By TOM SCHNABLE  
Assistant Sports Editor

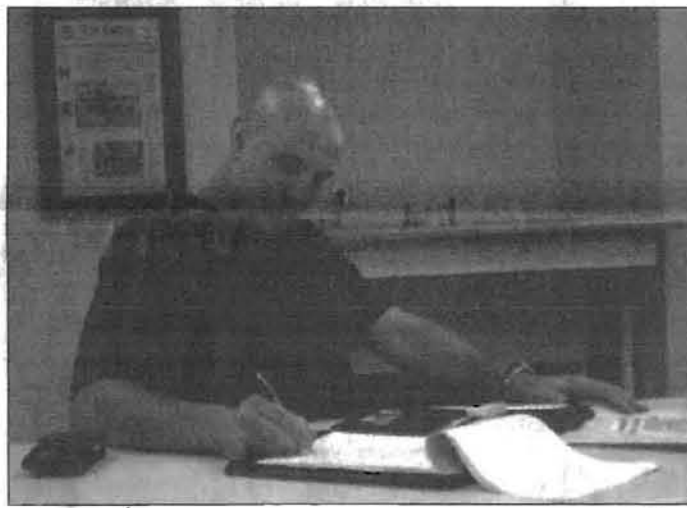
When I first heard the news of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville's intent to make the move to Division-I sports, I did not put much thought into it. I knew UM-St. Louis sports teams lacked the success of SIUE, so I never really thought too much about the obvious question that comes to mind.

It was more than a year ago now that former Editor-in-Chief of *The Current* Adam Wiseman first asked the question that got me thinking all of this time, "If SIUE can make the jump to D-I, why not us?"

With that, I thought it would be an interesting hypothetical question to answer.

I say hypothetical because it has become clear to me through interviews with people like Athletics Director John Garvilla and my own research that not only is UM-St. Louis content with its position in Division-II and the Great Lakes Valley Conference, it would be impossible for the school to make such a move. At least for the next four years.

A moratorium went into effect last



File Photo

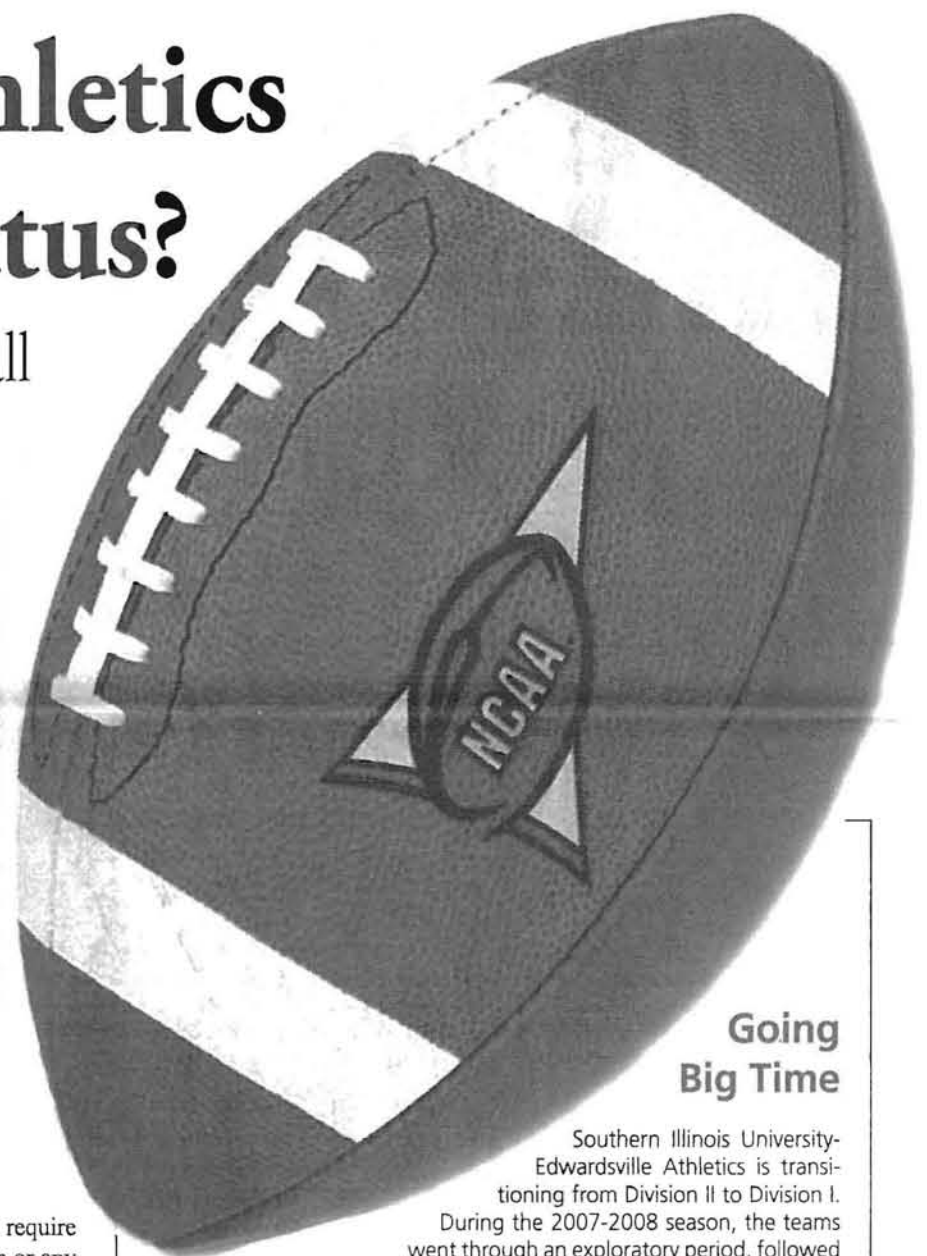
"Some might say you should have football, but it's not essential," Athletics Director John Garvilla said. "You look at Gonzaga, they don't have football. SIUE doesn't have football either, so yes, it can be done easily. It's actually a lot cheaper, too."

August that prohibits schools from D-II or D-III, which have not begun the Division-I application process, from entering the top level of collegiate sports. That is one of the reasons SIUE decided to make the move when it did.

However, just because it is not possible does not make it any less interesting of a subject. Over the next month, I will discuss such issues as

whether a move to D-I would require the addition of a football team or any other sports by UM-St. Louis, the state of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, the financial cost and impact a move would have on the campus, as well as needed upgrades to current facilities and the building of new ones.

See FOOTBALL TEAM, page 13



**Going Big Time**

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Athletics is transitioning from Division II to Division I. During the 2007-2008 season, the teams went through an exploratory period, followed by a multi-year transition in "reclassification status" in which SIUE must comply with all NCAA Division I rules and legislation. The process began with the submission of a Division I application to the NCAA in May 2007 and will conclude in 2012.



ON THE BACK: CHECK OUT PART TWO OF FIVE: "THE HOUSE OF CARDS: CONFERENCES" AND COME BACK NEXT WEEK FOR PART THREE

## Criminology department ranked fourth in the nation

By CRAIG BESAND  
Staff Writer

The March 28 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the UM-St. Louis Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice fourth in the nation.

The doctoral program was ranked in the "America's Best Graduate Schools 2009" issue.

"The *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are reputational, based on a survey of leaders in criminology and criminal justice education," said Richard Wright, criminology and criminal justice department chairman.

The program has been gaining the attention of other universities, field experts and federal research agencies since its establishment in 1996.

UM-St. Louis' program followed programs at the University of New York at Albany, University of Cin-

cinnati and the University of Maryland in College Park.

The Criminology and Criminal Justice Department has also gained international notoriety in the field for the outstanding research conducted.

"Every major textbook in criminology prominently features research conducted by members of UM-St. Louis' Criminology and Criminal Justice Department," Wright said.

Individual recipients of this doctoral degree are in high demand in both criminal justice agencies and universities. The job market is relatively prodigious. It is also competitive.

"Our Ph.D graduates do extremely well on the job market. Alums can be found working in universities across the nation and in leadership positions at various criminal justice agencies, including the St. Louis Police Department," Wright

said. "History tells us that people long have been fascinated with crime."

"Lawbreaking is a serious social problem that all societies must grapple with. That reality creates employment opportunities," Wright said.

This stipulation for more qualified doctoral graduates has led to the rapid expansion and increasing popularity of the UM-St. Louis Criminology Department. The kind of research concluded by post-graduate students can offer a hands-on approach to certain issues in criminology.

Doctoral student Scott Jacques was an undergrad at the University of Georgia and came to UM-St. Louis for a post-graduate degree.

"[The] professors here have long been involved in recruiting and interviewing active offenders [for research purposes]," Jacques said.

The type of research is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, studying the causes and ef-

fects of crime. Jacques is currently working on a comparison study of middle class drug dealers from the suburbs of Atlanta and lower class drug dealers from St. Louis.

"The best thing an organization can give you is the chance to succeed. The Criminology and Criminal Justice Department gives you that chance," Jacques said.

Doctoral students of the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department also compete for dissertation grants from the National Institute of Justice and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. These grants give doctoral students a chance to conduct research and dissertations.

"You have a combination of inherent interest and meaningful jobs that allow that interest to be indulged," Wright said. "Certainly this accounts for much of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department's popularity."

**Quick Read**

UM-St. Louis' own Criminology and Criminal Justice Department was ranked fourth behind University of New York at Albany, University of Cincinnati and the University of Maryland in College Park.

Stay Current with this week's weather	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	Weather predictions taken from www.weather.com
	Hi/Low: 66/50 Precip: 20%	Hi/Low: 62/42 Precip: 80%	Hi/Low: 59/46 Precip: 20%	Hi/Low: 65/53 Precip: 80%	Hi/Low: 53/34 Precip: 10%	Hi/Low: 51/37 Precip: 0%	Hi/Low: 57/43 Precip: 10%	

# CAMPUS CRIMELINE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

STEALING OVER \$500 -  
UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

At 1:45 p.m., the victim placed his backpack in the cubby container in the front of the store and when he returned five minutes later the backpack was stolen. The backpack contained the victim's laptop and two textbooks. There are no suspects in this incident.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

TRESPASSING -  
OAK HALL

At 9:30 a.m., a visitor on campus was causing a disturbance at Oak Hall, and was told that he could not be in the building. The police stopped this person and after obtaining the necessary information released the person with a trespass warning. No criminal charges will be filed in this incident.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

BURGLARY -  
OAK HALL

Sometime between 1:50 p.m. and 4 p.m., person(s) unknown entered the residence and stole the victim's laptop. The resident left her bedroom door unlocked and partially open, and the main door to the dormitories was left propped open. There are no suspects in this incident.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

BURGLARY -  
UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

Sometime over the spring break weekend two different victims reported that a laptop was stolen out of their bedrooms. Both victims live in the same apartment with separate bedrooms. In both cases there were no signs of forced entry into the front door or each bedroom door. There are no suspects in either incident.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

DRUG VIOLATION -  
UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

While doing an inspection of an apartment, the staff found a water pipe used to smoke marijuana. The pipe was seized and a report was taken by the police. This matter will be referred to Student Affairs for the drug paraphernalia possession and student code of conduct violations.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

PROPERTY DAMAGE -  
NORMANDY RESIDENCE HALL

Sometime in the last few days, person(s) unknown broke a window to the building. The window is near the vending machine area. Marbles were located in between the panes of glass. It is believed that someone shot the marble from the outside through the first window. There are no suspects in this incident.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

PROPERTY DAMAGE -  
NORMANDY RESIDENCE HALL

Sometime in the last few days, person(s) unknown broke a window to the building. The window is near the vending machine area. Marbles were located in between the panes of glass. It is believed that someone shot the marble from the outside through the first window. There are no suspects in this incident.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

ROBBERY / ASSAULT -  
PARKING LOT XX

At approximately 9:30 a.m., the victim approached her vehicle which was parked behind the Child Care Center on Lot XX on South Campus, and observed a subject in her car.

The suspect and the victim got into a verbal altercation claiming he owned the vehicle. As the suspect continued to argue, he struck the victim in the face twice with his fist and ran off.

The suspect was last seen in the University Meadows Complex after jumping the fence. The suspect apparently attempted to steal the victim's car as the ignition and exterior passenger side door lock was damaged.

The suspect is described as a black male, 20 to 35-years-of-age, 5'7"-5'8", thin build, with a dreadlock hair style. He was last seen wearing a white hooded jacket or shirt with a red and green pattern on it. Also the suspect was wearing a white do-rag on his head. Items of evidence were recovered from the scene, which were left by the suspect. The evidence is being analyzed to try and locate the suspect.

*The UM-St. Louis Police Department is open 24 hours a day. If you see anyone that looks suspicious or out of place you are encouraged to call the UM-St. Louis Police at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.*

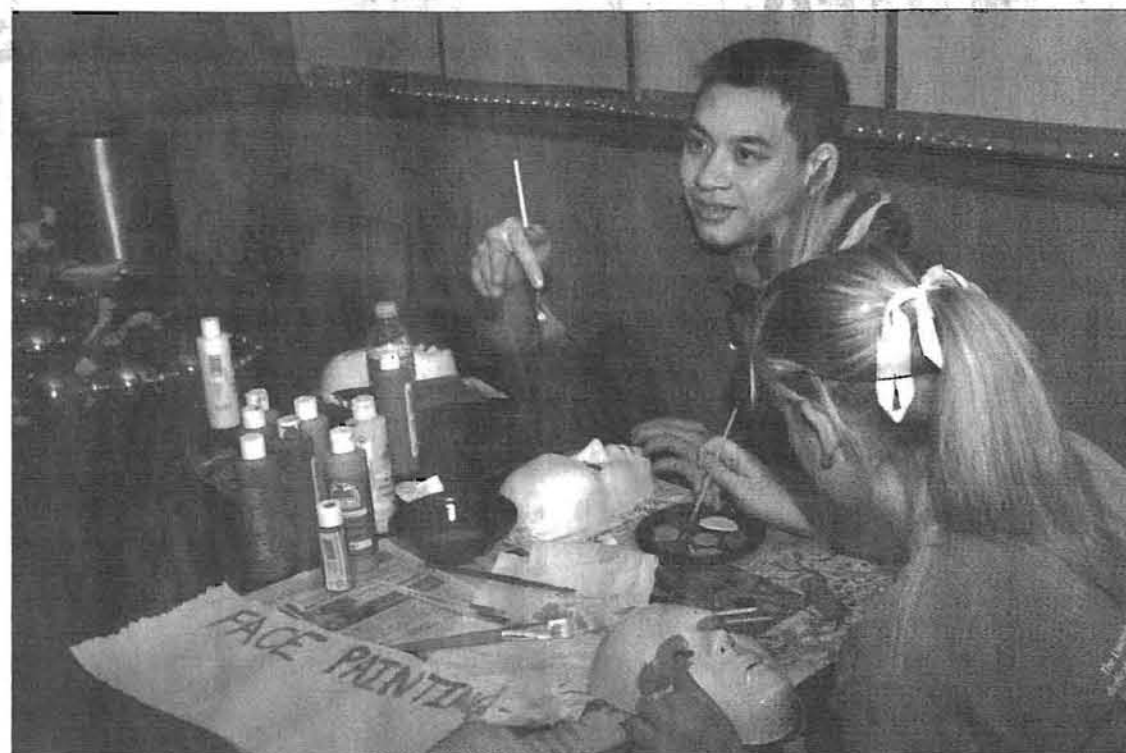
*Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police.*

# CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do no regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any

corrections that need to be made. To report any corrections that need to be made, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by e-mail at [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu).

# HAVING A BALL



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Ethan Chou, sophomore, criminology and Hilary Britt, freshman, pre-pharmacy, decorate masks at the 2008 Masquerade Ball Friday in the MSC Century Rooms. All proceeds from the event are being donated to Relay for Life which begins this Friday.

# What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

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

MONDAY, APRIL 7

## Delta Omega Alpha

Delta Omega Alpha Informational Session. April 7 at 5:30 p.m. in MSC Room 314. We are proud to announce a co-ed fraternity made specifically for non-traditional UMSL students. If you are interested in learning more about Delta Omega Alpha, come to the informational session. For more information contact Scott at [gsth3@umsl.edu](mailto:gsth3@umsl.edu).

## LanguageCorps Session

LanguageCorps will be holding an information session about their programs teaching English overseas. 3:30 p.m. in 278 MSC. For more information call 5111.

## Kickball Tournament

Deadline for registration for the Co-ed Kickball Tournament ends today. The Tournament will be held April 9 and 10 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Teams consist of six players, two of which must be female. Team and individual entries are accepted. For more information call 5326.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

## Political Science Academy Meeting

The next meeting for the Political Science Academy will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Professor Dave Robertson. The speaker will be Professor Glassman, director of the Center for International Studies at UM-St. Louis. Glassman will be discussing "China on the Eve of the Beijing Olympics: Approaching Great Power Status." Food and beverages will be provided and a maps to the even are available in 347 SSB. For more information call (314) 495-1971.

## MyView Student Inquiry

Users will learn how to navigate and find student information in MyView and how to print class rosters. 107 SCB from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

## Brown Bag Discussion

Panel discussion, "The Role of Immigrants in Community Building," three speakers. Noon in 78 J.C. Penney Conference Center. For more information visit <http://www.umsl.edu/cpp/brownbag/april08a.html>

## Immigrant Panel Discussion

Join the discussion on the impact immigrants are having in community-building efforts in St. Louis. Speakers will be Father Tom Wyrsh, who has been instrumental in the formation of the Southside Bosnian Services Collaborative, and Dr. Uma Segal, professor of social work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Noon to 1 p.m. in the JC Penney Conference Center For more information call 6775.

## Program Planning in the MSC

Working with Chartwells and Building Operations. Helping to make your program great. 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the SGA Chambers.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

## Executive Lunch Series

Conversation and Lunch with executives from St. Louis' major corporations including Boeing, Express Scripts, Charter Communications, Commercebank, and Edward Jones. 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. in JC Penney Building Hawthorne A and B. For more information call 4749.

## MyView Student Inquiry

Users will learn how to navigate and find student information in MyView and how to print class rosters. 107 SCB from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## Professionals of Color in Corporate America

State Farm Claim Managers and Agency Representatives will address specific issues raised by the University. Questions to be submitted through the Office of Multi-Cultural Relations or at <http://www.umsl.edu/~mcras/mcraa.html>. 3:30 until 5:30 in the MSC Century Room C.

## Osteopathic Medical School Fair

Students are invited to meet with admissions representatives from colleges of osteopathic medicine. The fair will begin with a presentation about osteopathic medical education and finish with an open session where students can speak with admission representatives. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the JC Penney Conference Center. For more information e-mail Grace Derda at [derda@umsl.edu](mailto:derda@umsl.edu)

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

## MFA Reading

A Reading by graduating MFA fiction writers and poets Lara Schrage, Rewa Choueri, Corinna Estep, Katie Spillman, and Jim Goodman. 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in the Lee Theater of the Touhill PAC. For more information call 5590.

## Relay for Life

Benefiting the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life will be held near the MSC lakes from 7 p.m. on April 11 until 7 a.m. April 12. For more information visit <http://www.umslrelay.com>.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

## Observatory Open House

The Richard D. Schwartz Observatory on South Campus will be holding an open house at 8 p.m. The open house will feature views of Mars, Saturn, Beehive Star Cluster and Star M35. For more information call 5706.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

## Monday Noon Series

Award-winning author Tony D'souza reads from his new novel, The Konkans, a tale of adultery and crime set in India's Catholic Konkani community. 12:15 p.m. in the JC Penney Conference Center. For more information call 5699.

## Announcements

**New Course Announcement.** The History Department will be offering a new course HIST 2999: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL METHODS beginning Fall 2008. This course will benefit Freshman, Sophomores and Transfer students who are History Majors.

**The Student Senate Organization is now accepting applications** for the 2008-2009 academic year. If you want to take part in the governing process at UMSL, apply to be a Senator. The link to the application is now available at <http://www.umsl.edu/~sso/elections/uasso.html>.

**Zeta Tau Alpha will be hosting a "Best Chest Contest"** to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness and Education. All male students are eligible to participate. Submit a picture of your chest (no face) to [rjmydb@umsl.edu](mailto:rjmydb@umsl.edu) or put it in the Zeta Tau Alpha mailbox in the Office of Student Life by Saturday, April 12, 2008.

# The Current

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

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

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## AFFILIATIONS



Catch us every Monday

The Current

# SGA sends Metro referendum to studentwide vote

By RYAN SCHERR  
News Editor

The Student Government Association voted Friday to send a referendum to students that would create a fee to subsidize a MetroLink pass for UM-St. Louis students.

The referendum will be voted on by UM-St. Louis students during the SGA elections April 14-18.

If passed, the University would assess a fee not to exceed \$2 per credit hour. However, the fee would not be \$2 from the start.

As MetroLink raises rates on a near yearly basis, the University would raise the fee also.

"MetroLink raises rates 4 to 5 percent every year. [The \$2 fee] is built into there for inflation," said Bryan Goers, SGA president. "That way we don't have to keep coming back to referendums to change the fee. We can just [assess] it like normal student fees."

Currently, students already pay a

50-cent-per-credit-hour fee toward a MetroLink pass. Students must then pay an extra \$60 if they wish to have the pass.

If the referendum passes, the 50-cent fee would be applied toward the new fee. Students would also not have to pay extra money if they wish to have the MetroLink pass.

Under the new referendum, students do not have to be a certain age or be taking a specific amount of hours to obtain a MetroLink pass.

Currently, students must be under the age of 23 and be enrolled full-time to be eligible for the student MetroLink pass.

Since the University will subsidize about 20 percent of the cost of the program if the fee passes, according to SGA, for the new fee, "the actual average cost to students will be approximately \$15."

If passed, the fee would not go into effect until the summer 2009 semester because the Board of Curators must also approve the referen-

dum. "The Board of Curators will not vote on it until a year from today [April 4]. Because we do our referendums at this time, it is always going to be a year delay until they vote on it," Goers said.

In other news, Amanda Ward, SGA representative for the Flames Dance Team, was elected as the new vice chair of SGA, replacing Shelley Price, who stepped down from the position.

Ward ran against Ryan Gamble, SGA representative for Campus Crusade for Christ.

Ward will serve as vice chair for the remainder of the school year. According to Cadence Rippetto, SGA vice president, the new vice chair would help Rippetto plan any student body relations activities and events.

"[The new vice chair would help with] the planning and inauguration ceremony for the new SGA leadership and any other things that I need help getting done with running the

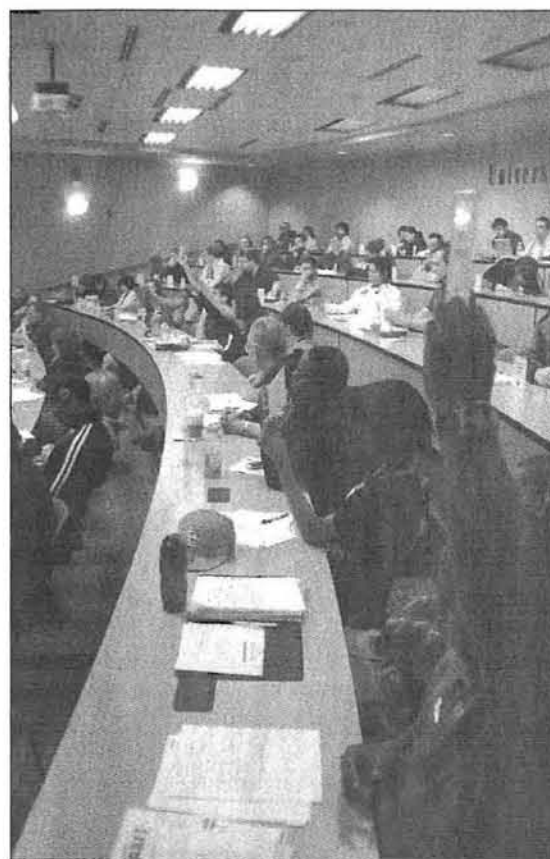
elections," Rippetto said. In addition, should SGA chair Louis McGee not be able to attend the final SGA meeting of the year, Ward would chair the meeting.

Also at the meeting, Janice Koziatek, co-chair of Relay for Life, spoke about Relay for Life, which is this Friday, April 11. Koziatek encouraged all organizations that do not have teams to come and support all who are involved in Relay for Life.

"Our event is phenomenal. I have been to several other colleges' [Relays] and that do not even compare to what UM-St. Louis puts on," Koziatek said. "I continue to be more and more impressed at what our campus is pulling off."

SGA Comptroller Katie Moore was not present for Friday's meeting, so her report was given by Rippetto.

In the report, Moore said that organizational budgets would be e-mailed to each organization April 7 and 8.



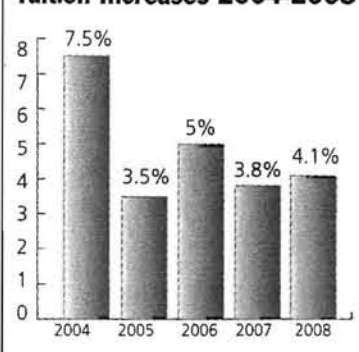
Student representatives at Friday's SGA meeting voted to fill the vice chair position after Shelley Price resigned. Amanda Ward, representative of the UMSL Flames Dance Team, will take over the spot for the rest of the year.

Dustin Lucas • Staff Photographer

# Curators approve 4.1% tuition hike, discuss enrollment trends

By PAUL HACKBARTH  
Editor-in-Chief

Tuition Increases 2004-2008



Tuition is not the only thing increasing throughout the University of Missouri system. Enrollment has risen, according to reports from admissions offices from the four UM campuses at the Board of Curators meeting Thursday and Friday in Rolla. However, there is one exception: UM-St. Louis.

The effects of Senate Bill 389, which places a cap on how much the costs of a college education can increase, were put to the test, as the board unanimously approved a 4.1 percent increase in tuition starting this summer.

This is the same increase as set by the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation and cost of living increase. Compared to the last two previous years, tuition has increased 3.8 percent in 2008 and 5 percent in 2007.

Base tuition for an undergraduate student living in Missouri and enrolled in 15 credit hours would increase to \$7,368 from \$7,077, a difference of about \$291 or more a year,

or a \$9.70-per-credit-hour increase.

Student Government Association President Bryan Goers said this will cause the cost of inflation, higher faculty salaries to be competitive in the job market and a drop in state funding affect tuition.

"We are just now back to level that we should have been in 2000, and with other costs going up because of inflation, we're still behind. In fact, Missouri is about 47th or 48th in nation in terms of amount of funding from the state," Goers said.

The curators also approved increase in student fees for the coming academic year. At UM-St. Louis, students will pay \$12.72 per credit

Student Fee Rates for all four UM campuses				
	Present Rates	Proposed Increase	Proposed Rates	Percent Increase
<b>Regular Session</b>				
UMC Undergraduate (fall)	\$335.18	\$13.59	\$348.77	4.1%
UMC Graduate (fall)	\$318.74	\$12.54	\$331.28	3.9%
UMKC	\$259.00	\$10.24	\$269.24	4%
Missouri S&T Undergraduate	\$377.20	\$5	\$382.20	1.3%
Missouri S&T Graduate	\$370.40	\$5.10	\$375.50	1.4%
UMSL	\$417.96	\$12.72	\$430.68	3%

hour in student fees next year after the SGA assembly approved the fee increases at its December 2007 meeting.

Undergraduate student fees for the Millennium Student Center, Athletics, Health Services and Infrastructure will all increase next year at rates ranging from 2.9 percent to 5.3 percent depending on the fee. None of these fees were increased in 2007.

"Nothing has changed since the students approved them," Goers said.

In addition, no increases were approved for course fees in the School of Education and the College of Nursing for the bachelor's program

at UM-St. Louis.

During discussion of tuition and fee increases, Curator Warren Erdman asked for more information regarding how students from low-and-middle-income families would pay tuition even with financial aid.

"He said middle-income families were the most burdened by tuition increase," Goers said.

According to board documents, full-time Missouri resident undergraduate students at the University of Missouri on average received about \$3,952 in grants in 2006.

As long as grant aid increases at the same rate, in 2009, grant aid would equal about \$4,642, leaving

the student to pay a remainder of about \$2,726.

## Enrollment trends

In addition to tuition trends, the board heard reports regarding enrollment tendencies at the four campuses. "Enrollment has increased," Goers said. "The UM system has increased more student-wise than any other major university in Missouri."

Between fall 2000 and fall 2007, an increase of 8,775 students have enrolled in the UM system. While there is an overall increase, each campus has grown in student population, except for UM-St. Louis. With a total headcount of 12,322 for fall 2007, that total is a decrease of 68 students from fall 2000. Looking at undergraduate enrollment, UM-St. Louis has seen a decline of 503 students since fall 2000.

Steve Graham, UM system interim vice president for Academic Affairs, said a decrease in the number of high school graduates in the Midwest, an increased number of high school graduates starting their university career at community colleges and heavier reliance on student

loans affect enrollment.

A majority of transfer students at UM-St. Louis come from St. Louis and St. Charles Community Colleges, whereas most freshmen at UM-St. Louis come from Hazelwood and St. Louis high school systems.

UM-St. Louis also led the number of students who were admitted with exceptions to the UM system's criteria for admissions. Students in this category may not meet the criteria but may have the possibility to successfully complete a baccalaureate degree.

Half of all the first-time, degree-seeking, full-time freshmen enrolled in fall 2007 met the standard admissions, while the other half admitted with exceptions, compared to admission exception rates of 31 percent at UM-Kansas City and 19 percent at both Missouri University of Science and Technology and UM-Columbia.

According to the presentation, at UM-St. Louis, 40 percent of the students did not meet criteria because of a lack of high school core courses (mostly in math) and another 35 percent did not meet the criteria of the combined score of the sum of the high school and ACT percentile ranks.

# Bill would favor more Access Missouri grants to high-income students

By TIM VOLKERT  
Staff Writer

An increase in the allocated funds for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program will reward more higher-income families - those with an average annual income of \$125,000.

Gov. Matt Blunt recommended in a March 5 press release that the Access Missouri scholarship program be increased from its current \$72 million to roughly \$100 million, citing the 38,000 students who received awards through the fund in the 2007-2008 academic years.

Yet the Department of Higher Education "projected that \$86 million would have been enough to fully fund scholarships for needy families."

The \$28 million increase will allow roughly 9,950 additional students from affluent families to benefit.

Some of the families now eligible earn around \$225,000, which critics claim contradicts the original motive for the program as being "needs-based."

Much of the difference in income for eligible students comes from those choosing to attend more expensive institutions, according to some Missouri legislators close to the discussion of the appropriations bill in Jefferson City. They say that more assistance will be given to those at more costly universities.

State Sen. John Loudon, R-St. Louis, prefers a fixed dollar amount when it comes to awards, regardless of income or choice of school.

"If you want to pay the difference at a higher cost school, that's on you," Loudon said. He also said that the government's responsibility should be to help with the cost of higher education, and should not be defining "winners and losers" in terms of income.

State Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, would rather have a "sliding scale" in terms of aid given, in which needier students were given preference over wealthier families, as well as a larger amount of aid.

"I'd like to see [awards] based on income, rather than the cost of attendance," Smith said.

Access Missouri was established by HB 1865 in August 2006 and was sponsored by retired House Rep. Carl Bearden, R-St. Charles.

The maximum award available was \$1,000. The maximum award now has been increased to \$2,150 for four-year public universities and \$4,600 for private universities.

The increase was incorporated into the budget for the Department of Higher Education in HB 2003 and is effective from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

The award will again be available to full-time students who have turned in a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 1 of this year and have an expected family contribution of \$12,000 or less, as figured by the FAFSA form.

The bill is currently scheduled for a hearing before the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday.

For more information, go to <http://www.house.state.mo.us/bill-tracking/bills081/bills/HB2003.htm>

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Chancellor Thomas George named citizen of the year

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas F. George received the 2008 Citizen of the Year award from the North County Chamber of Commerce on March 27.

According to Kedra Tolson, Media Relations manager, George received the award "because of his volunteer work with the Chamber."

"He [was involved] in a number of their events and also [received the award] because of his work in bringing Express Scripts to North County and to the UM-St. Louis campus," she added.

### UMSL graduate student honored for presentation

Sean Seyer, graduate student, history, was one of six chosen to receive awards at the Midwest Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta, an international history honor society.

The conference, held March 13 and 14 at Park University in Parkville, Mo., honored Seyer for his presentation, "An Empire Policy Must Be Formed: The Development of British Imperial Air Routes in the Interwar Period."

His paper covered the period between World War I and World War II. Seyer wrote the paper for history professor John R. Gillingham, professor of history.

### Missouri House passes Textbook Transparency Act

The Missouri House of Representatives unanimously passed HB 2048, the Textbook Transparency Act, on Wednesday in Jefferson City.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Jake Zimmerman, D-St. Louis, will require publishers to inform professors of the price of text-



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Chancellor Thomas George talks with Jean Montgomery, chairwoman of the North County Chamber of Commerce, prior to receiving his award for being named 2008 citizen of the year. Montgomery is also an alumna of UM-St. Louis, class of 1973.

books when choosing them for their classes.

The bill will also require workbooks and CDs to be unbundled and sold separately from primary textbooks. The bill also stipulates that any unused financial aid can be applied toward the purchase of textbooks.

UM-St. Louis already allows students to buy textbooks with financial aid.

The bill still must be approved by the Missouri State Senate and Gov. Matt Blunt before it becomes law.

### ITS warns of phishing scam with Central Bank e-mails

On March 21, a UM-St. Louis-wide e-mail was sent out warning students, faculty, and staff of a phishing scam.

Many campus e-mail accounts received e-mails with the subject line: "Your profile has been locked."

Another e-mail asks the receiver to take part in a survey in order to receive a \$25 credit to your bank account. The e-mail appears to come from Central Bank.

Information Technology Services and Center for Teaching and Learning officials warn users who receive these messages to not reply to the e-mail or click the link contained in the e-mail and to please delete the e-mail.

Receivers of the e-mail and other questionable e-mails can forward them to [abuse@umsl.edu](mailto:abuse@umsl.edu).

### Transportation Studies releases study on shuttles

The Student Government Association assembly heard a presenta-

tion about the UM-St. Louis shuttle bus service at the meeting on Friday.

The presentation, given by Esha Christie, graduate research assistant in the Center for Transportation Studies, explained the results of a study conducted by the center on the inefficiencies of the shuttle bus service.

Christie cited "unstable scheduling, inefficient routing, unavailability of online information and failure to consider other factors" such as bus stop and hourly demand as reasons why the shuttle service should be improved.

"Many students have told us that the buses are not on time," said Christie. "Unstable scheduling has made them really uncomfortable in especially in winter or summer and in rainy seasons."

OPINION

OUR OPINION



File Photo

## Vote yes on Metro pass

With Metro passes being one of the most debated topics during the 2006-2007 school year, what would this year be without another Metro Pass financing option?

Over the last few years, Metro passes have gone from being "free" for students to costing \$45 and finally resting at the price they are now, \$60. Between these times, there was even thought that the Metro pass would be eliminated completely.

Now, a viable solution is around the corner with a proposed referendum from the Student Government Association.

The newest solution for the pass is a fee recommended by the SGA student fee review committee. This fee would be increased from the current \$.50 fee per credit hour that students pay for the Metro Pass program, which is part of the infrastructure fee.

The fee would add up to \$1.50 per credit hour for up to 12 hours during the fall and spring semesters and six hours during the summer semester.

These passes would then be available to all UM-St. Louis students regardless of age or enrollment hours. Metro currently offers one semester passes at \$125, but the student must be under the age of 23 and enrolled full-time.

The current UM-St. Louis Metro pass plan allows persons of any age to buy a pass, but is limited to students with a full-time status.

On the down side, while students can vote for the fee in two weeks, students will have to wait almost a year for the fee to go into affect.

If the fee passes, it would not go into affect until summer 2009 since the Board of Curators just reviewed approved student fees and will not look at student fees again until a year from now.

While more student fees may leave a dirty taste in the mouths of many, students are already paying for the pass within the current infrastructure fee. Would it hurt to pay a little more?

With support of this fee, the administration would subsidize about 20 percent of the Metro pass program.

Let us think of some of the benefits of this fee.

With the shutdown of Highway 40, the Metro is a great alternative for getting to and from campus. Using mass public transportation instead of driving would aid in the university's commitment of "going green." Help keep the environment healthy.

With gas prices on the rise, and no knowledge of where they will

be in 2009, it makes sense to pay, at most, \$24 per semester for the pass. People spend more than that every week to fill up their economy sized car's gas tank.

If you were taking 12 credit hours, to park on campus it would cost you \$216 at \$18 per credit for a parking pass. Which would you rather pay, \$216 or \$24?

Your financial aid could cover the \$24, which would be included in the student fee section of tuition instead of paying for a pass separately. Now that sounds like a deal to us

The Metro pass is not only an ideal way to get to and from school, but you can also take advantage of the other great places along the Metro-Link.

Students needing to go any place that is not within walking distance of a Metro stop, can use their Metro passes on Metro buses to get those places farther away.

Parking for sporting events is on average \$7 per car. Parking near the stadium for four Cardinals Games would cost \$28, which is more than a Metro pass would cost if this fee were approved.

Vote yes on the referendum to approve a new fee for the Metro passes during the SGA elections April 14 through April 18 online.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

## Opponents have run out of excuses with student curator bill

The student representative to the Board of Curators is one step closer to receiving a vote with a bill that passed in the Missouri Senate last week.

Senate Bill 873 got approval from the full Senate on Thursday, the closest the bill has come to fruition since 2005, when the Missouri House of Representatives voted in favor of a similar bill by a vote of 117-32.

So close, yet so far away. Now, all that is left is for the House to vote the bill out of committee and receive final approval from the full Missouri House of Representatives.

That is quite a hurdle to overcome, with Gayle Kingery, chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, who has been cited as not favoring the bill.

However, hurdles are nothing new for students lobbying in support of this bill. Students have faced several obstacles to get this far, but the excuses and reasons not to give the student curator a vote can no longer be used. Opponents have run out of ideas.

In the past, curators and legislators have reasoned that students could not possibly be qualified to vote on the board.

However, the student curator goes through a tougher interview and selection process than the other curators, including a rigorous application process in addition to an interview with the campus's student government, the Intercampus Student Council and then must be approved by the governor.

The average ages of the student curators who have served in the past 15 years is 23 and most have held jobs and have the education experience to handle the position. and all have done so confidently.

In the past, curators, namely, have been against these types of bills because they see giving a vote to the student curator to be a conflict of interest.

However, history has shown that curators never have voted on a single faculty member and most of the faculty issues are voted on at a campus level. Another point about a vote is that of Representatives voted in favor of a similar bill by a vote of 117-32.

students can abstain just as a curator would if the vote directly involved them or their work.

Curators in the past were also against the bill because they worried that giving a vote to the student would remove a vote from the other curators.

The way the bill reads now, a curator would be dropped from the board anyway as long as a congressional district is dropped based on the 2010 census. It is the census, not the student, that can be blamed for taking a curator away.

Right now, the student curator can have a say in matters such as tuition and student fees. They can even sit in on closed meetings, but with all of that, a student's input can still be ignored. A vote would correct that.

To curators and legislators, it may just be one vote on one board but for students, that vote is about giving a voice to the nearly 63,000 students in the UM system, who will be affected.

Students are forced to pay more tuition with the state's declining investment in higher education, so now is a better time than ever to give our student representative on the Board of Curators a vote.

So what can you, the average student, do? Write your local representative and tell them to vote for Senate Bill 873. Go to <http://www.house.state.mo.us> to find your local representative.



By PAUL HACKBARTH  
Editor-in-Chief

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

As a forum for public expression on campus, *The Current* welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from students, faculty, staff members and others concerned with issues relevant to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

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

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

Letters and commentaries will also be printed online at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

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STAFF VIEWPOINT

## Washers are the perfect solution to get students involved

Mirthday, intramurals, Casino Night, Hidden Valley Ski Trip, Bowling Leagues, and even a Table Tennis Tournament are some examples of activities UM-St. Louis students can participate in throughout the year.

Although numerous attempts are made to help students become more involved in school activities, most UM-St. Louis students continue to ignore these opportunities.

So why do students pass up a chance to do something new, exciting, and maybe even different?

Do students lack the interest, the time, or perhaps a combination of the two? Maybe they are not aware of such activities taking place.

UM-St. Louis students do not realize the tremendous benefits that could be derived from participating in on-campus activities, which act as a breeding ground for meeting new people.

These new people could be great individuals to spend time with. They could be a connection to a future job, a future best friend, or even a significant other.

So if the current activities are not sparking an increase in extracurricular

participation, what could?

According to Zeshan Gohar, senior, biology, "If UMStL were to give money to the students, every student would probably get more involved with the school activities. I mean I would for money."

Since UM-St. Louis will not likely be paying its students any time soon, other factors must be contemplated. A great deal of consideration must be given to the fact that UM-St. Louis is predominantly a commuter school.

Many UM-St. Louis students likely have employment commitments that prevent them from enjoying the "typical" college lifestyle, which includes filling up free time with extracurricular activities.

In the four years of my undergraduate career, I found that the best time to sneak in a few minutes of fun was in between classes. Whether it was 45 minutes or four hours, my friends and I would toss the football around outside the Library, or play paper football on a table in the basement of SSB.

As the fresh air of spring blows its way into the region, I suggest the introduction of a new activity that UM-



By BEN GILLHAM  
Staff Writer

St. Louis students can easily partake in and an activity many Missourians are quite familiar with Washers.

Washers may be the perfect solution to increasing UM-St. Louis students' involvement in school activities. It is simple to learn and can be played in between classes, no matter how much or how little time you may have.

The International Association of Washer Players (IAWP) states that washers is a game "in which individuals or teams compete against one

another in an effort to be the first to reach a winning score of 11, 17 or 21 points."

The game consists of two washer pits located opposite one another, each with a recessed cup. Contestants stand in one pit and throw washers toward the cup in the other pit. The object is to land in the cup, or nearest the cup, to score."

Since many UM-St. Louis students are native Missouri citizens, many students already know how to play the game. For anyone who is not familiar with the game, they can easily learn by watching or by having a fellow student teach them.

The game's ability to be played in a short time period increases its likelihood of success on the UM-St. Louis campus, where most students have a limited amount of extracurricular time.

Although UM-St. Louis landscapers may disagree with my idea for the placement of the washers sites near the lakes outside of the MSC, as well as in front of the Library, I believe that their placement is crucial.

Positioning the game in the middle of heavily walked areas will act as

an explicit sign of students interacting with one another in a fun, friendly manner.

This explicit sign could influence the commuters to become more involved, while it could also help prospective UM-St. Louis students catch a glimpse of the fun activities offered here.

Even though the majority of UM-St. Louis students should take pride in their ability to multi-task between school and work, they also need to realize that they are only in college once. They must take advantage of the opportunity to meet so many different people in the University atmosphere.

So what are your thoughts on this proposal? Do you see the game of washers successfully increasing student interaction at UM-St. Louis?

Chloé Gray-Le Coz, 2009, MBA, said, "I think a sand volleyball court would be a good idea to get students together more."

Perhaps you have your own idea that could alleviate the lack of student interaction. Please voice it to school administrators or blog about it on *The Current's* Web site.

## UNDERCURRENT

By Danny Reise • Asst. Photo Editor

### What do you think of the new MyView sign-up system?

What do you think? Send your own response to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) or talk about it in our online forums at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)



John Nichols  
Junior Business

"I think it will be very helpful and way more convenient. The last registering program was too tenacious."



Brie Brewer  
Freshman Theatre and Dance

"I don't really know what it is. Is it like MySpace?"



Ethan Chou  
Sophomore Criminology

"It was my first week of using MyView. It's kind of confusing and should be more user-friendly. They should just use Facebook."



Ryan Gamel  
Senior International Business

"It seems slightly redundant. Most of these services are already available elsewhere."



Justin Riddler  
Junior Theatre and Dance

"Looks like it's more compacted than just asking all my advisors and dealing with financial aid and the cashiers."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Funding for the UM System

In the March 17th article "Bill excludes extra funding for campus", the reporter correctly states that one way for Chancellor George to address the equity gap is to increase funding from the State of Missouri.

However, he fails to note two more very important methods of fixing the underfunding problem.

The first would be to raise tuition. Unfortunately for him and the students, the state legislature strictly prohibits the University from undertaking an increase in tuition more than the increase in cost of living.

While offering "cheap" tuition might appear to be a benefit for students attending UMSL, it is in fact a detriment.

If students decide they want a better, or different and more costly service from the University, they would normally offer to pay more.

Instead, they must get permission from the legislature and fight for funds over a much more politically powerful institution in Columbia.

This is obviously inefficient, ineffective, and unfair to the UM-St. Louis students.

The second method for the Chancellor to fix the problem is to reduce costs.

This might actually be what stu-

dents want. However, once again the failure to match a payer (the people of Missouri) with the beneficiary (the students) distorts the true desires of the student body.

Benjamin Mason  
Graduate Student  
Economics

Affirmative Action in University admissions

I would like to correct a statement you made in your March 17, 2008 editorial, "Curator's Involvement in affirmative action..."

The editorial claims that when students are not admitted to UM-St. Louis based on their test scores and high school class rank, they can appeal to the campus admissions committee, which, "...considers certain circumstances, such as gender and race."

Although I have not served on that committee for the past two years, I previously served on that committee for approximately 20 years, and chaired the committee most of that time.

During those years, I cannot remember a single instance where the

committee discussed an applicant's race or gender as a consideration in our decisions.

I do not know whether race or gender played any role in the minds of committee members when they voted on applicants, but they certainly were not explicit considerations, and to the best of my recollection, were never verbalized.

Because of this, I honestly do not believe admissions decisions at UMSL would be affected at all by any proposed anti-affirmative action law.

However, it could affect enrollment in other ways, such as through restrictions on affirmative action recruiting or minority-designated financial aid.

Equating the UM-St. Louis admission process to the processes used at Berkeley's Law School in the 1990's (or to the University of Michigan, which was one of the recent test cases) is not valid.

Those schools used explicit point systems, which assigned points for race, as well as other factors; UM-St. Louis does not use such a system

Joseph Martinch  
Professor of  
Operations Management  
College of Business  
Administration

SCIENCE COLUMN

Finding suggests human ancestors were in Europe

DNA research showed that the earliest human migrated out of Africa. It is generally thought by scientists that modern humans emerged from Africa starting about 50,000 years ago, and spread throughout Europe, Asia and Australia.

But it had been thought that humans arrived relatively late in Europe, and there has been considerable controversy about when humans arrived in Europe.

New findings indicate that man may have reached Europe much earlier.

A small piece of jawbone found in a cave at Atapuerca in northern Spain is the oldest known fossil of a human ancestor in Europe. The fossil was found with stone tools and animal bones.

It may be as old as 1.3 million years, 500,000 years older than the next oldest find.

That earlier find was declared a new species and was named Homo antecessor, or Pioneer Man, a possible common ancestor to both modern humans and Neanderthals. This new find is thought to be the same species



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Science Columnist

in Europe. The new find has similarities to bones found in the Caucasus Mountains region, which were dated to up to 1.8 million years old.

Many scientists believe that human spread from Africa into Europe through the Middle East, and not across the Strait of Gibraltar, a viewpoint this find seems to support.

The researchers felt that their discovery indicated that humans colonized and remained Europe much earlier than thought and that their spread had been more rapid than thought.

Other scientists seem to agree about the dating of the site but are more cautious about some of the team's conclusions about the continuity of human occupation of Europe, based on the small bone fragment.

Genetic studies indicate modern humans are not descended from Neanderthals but the species are "cousins," sharing a common ancestor. But where was that common ancestor?

This new discovery may help make Pioneer Man a candidate for that role, as the age of the bone helps boost the possibility.

but an earlier version.

The discovery was reported in the scientific journal *Nature*. The jawbone fragment was found by a research team led by Eudald Carbonell, director of the Catalan Institute of Human Paleo-Ecology and Social Evolution.

It had been thought that humans migrating out of Africa colonized Europe in waves, with earlier waves dying out. The new find indicates that earlier waves may have persisted

What's your opinion?

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

- Metro Passes
- Giving the Student Curator a vote
- Student involvement

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

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Comment in our online forums


**THE ANDALAFTE MATHEMATICAL COMPETITION**  
**Wednesday April 16 at 1:00pm 214 Clark Hall**

This competition is open to any UMSL undergraduate. Register by **Friday April 11**. Applications can be obtained from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in 310 CCB (or from R. Dotzel in 329 CCB)

**To Register:**  
 Stop by 329 CCB or go online @ [www.umsl.edu/~mathcs/](http://www.umsl.edu/~mathcs/) (you may either register online or download the application form).  
**First prize will be as much as \$1000, other prizes commensurate.**

Direct all inquiries to R. Dotzel in 329 CCB (516-6337).

**Math & Science UMSL Department**



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# Big Brothers asks students to volunteer

By **JESSICA KEIL**  
Features Editor

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri is an organization which pairs dependable and willing adults ("Bigs") with excited and willing children ("Littles") in order to form one-on-one mentor relationships and in turn generate a positive influence on a child's life.

The 90-year-old organization currently serves more than 2,100 children, and is now looking to UM-St. Louis students to get involved and donate their time to a child in need.

"We are looking to recruit students for both our community and school-based programs" said Erin Merrill, the recruit support specialist for Big

Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri.

According to the volunteer information Merrill passed out at the UM-St. Louis Civic Engagement Day last Friday, the "community-based program" requires that Bigs and Littles spend their time together enjoying activities throughout the community.

A Big meets with their little at least twice a month for a few hours in order to do this. Similarly, the "school-based program" requires Bigs to meet with their Littles on a reoccurring basis, or, more accurately, once a week for around an hour and a half.

They are required to do so outside of a designated and supervised location such as the child's school.

Merrill believes that UM-St. Louis

students are perfect candidates for becoming a Big Brother or Sister to a child needing a positive role model in her or his life.

"We are working to develop a partnership with UMSL, and we think this will be good [for recruitment] because UMSL is a commuter school, so at least we know students here can drive and are staying in the area," she said.

Candace Brown, of AmeriCorps VISTA, said that some UM-St. Louis students believe that volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri can be time consuming.

"I've heard every excuse in the book," Brown said. "But mostly what I hear from UMSL students is that their job prevents them from having

enough time to become a Big Brother or Sister, which can be a problem for students especially at a commuter school."

Merrill's volunteer information also addresses the issue of the time commitment that a Big Brother or Big Sister will make to become a part of the organization.

It says "...we strive to make the experience as flexible and convenient as possible for our volunteers" and acknowledges the seriousness of the decision to become a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Brown understands this as well and is focused on making sure that students at UM-St. Louis know exactly what being a Big Brother or Big Sister to a child will mean for every

aspect of their lives.

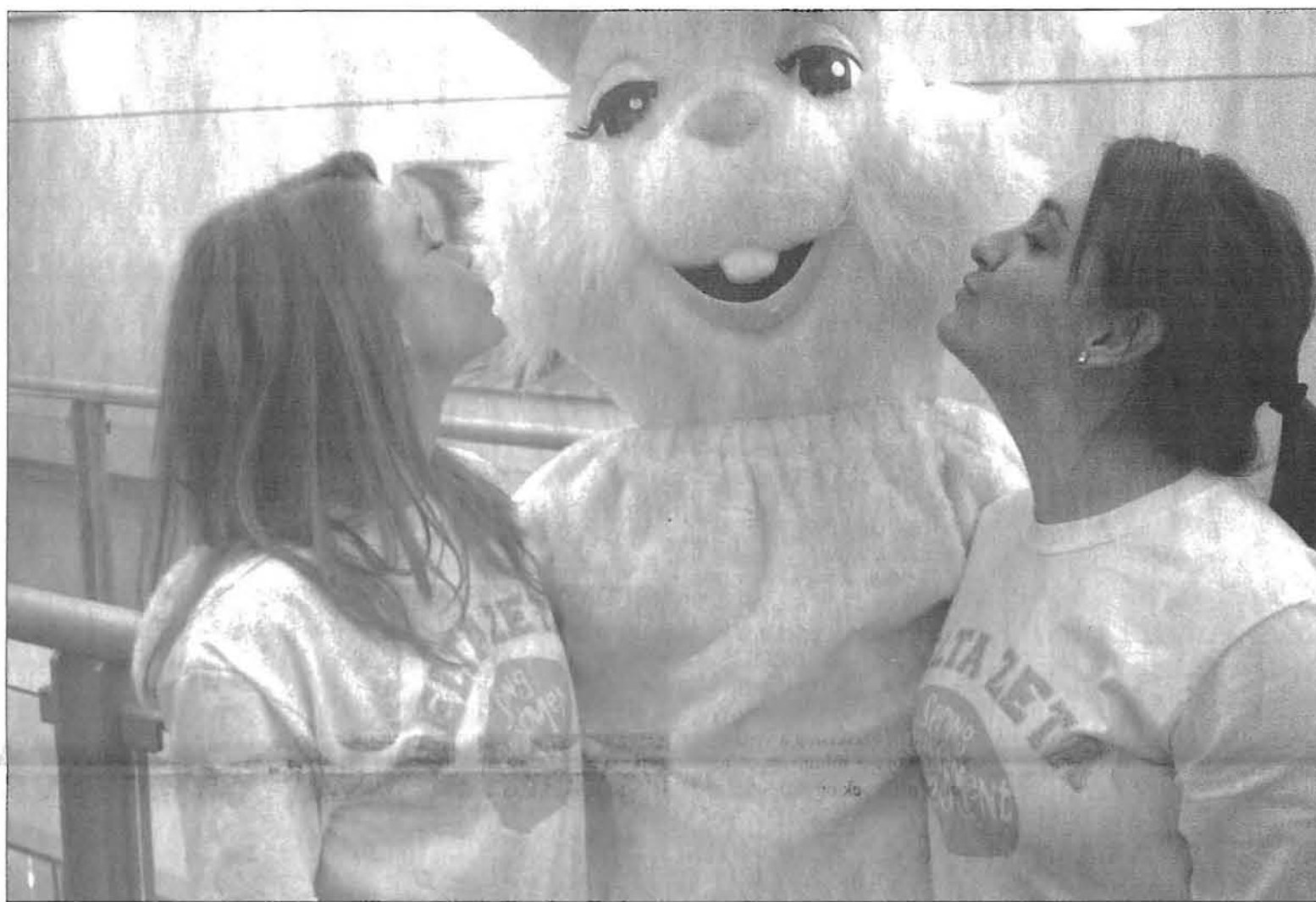
In fact, she has already held an informational session on Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri in order to explain the organization fully and to recruit UM-St. Louis students.

Her past informational yielded the organization seven new UM-St. Louis student volunteers, and she plans on holding another before the Spring semester ends.

"We just really want to recruit as many people as possible," Brown said.

To become a Big Brother or Big Sister, or for more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, go to <http://www.bbbsemo.org> or e-mail Candace Brown at [browncan@umsl.edu](mailto:browncan@umsl.edu).

## FIND SOME BUNNY TO LOVE



Delta Zeta members Lauren Mergenthaer, freshman, nursing (LEFT), and Erin Denap, freshman, nursing, show their love for the Easter Bunny on March 20 in the Millennium Student Center. Robbie Haupt dressed up as the Easter Bunny for the event.

Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

## Arabic class offers fresh perspective on culture

By **JESSICA KEIL**  
Features Editor

Unbeknownst to many students, UM-St. Louis has a secret weapon that even SLU does not possess.

Recently, Arabic classes have been added to the school's roster, and could not have come at a more appropriate time.

Four semesters ago, Laura El Hage Chehade came to UM-St. Louis and became the first (and so far only) professor to offer to teach Arabic on campus. From her first year teaching to her second, the amount of students who took her class doubled and El Hage Chehade is hopeful that this number will continue to increase.

"I think it is very important to offer languages at UMSL like Arabic or Chinese," El Hage Chehade said. "By learning the more exotic languages it gives [students] a skill that most people don't have...and it opens a lot of doors."

In the United States there has been a growing demand in the workplace for women and men who speak Arabic, which is part of what El Hage Chehade means when she says that learning Arabic opens doors for students. In fact, El Hage Chehade mentioned that a former student of hers was actually given a job merely because she had taken Arabic in the past.

"There are so many things you can do if you learn Arabic" El Hage Chehade said. "If you are an international business major you could think about going to Dubai where both Macy's and Anheuser Bush are expanding their companies."

"Also, the FBI and CIA are always hiring if you speak Arabic, and I would recommend learning the language to all students with criminal justice and political science majors as well."

Yet El Hage Chehade would not hesitate to recommend taking Arabic to students other majors besides criminal justice, political science, and international business. She believes that learning Arabic can benefit all areas of study at UM-St. Louis.

"Even those with a love for literature would benefit from learning the language," El Hage Chehade said. "There is so much beautiful literature written in Arabic which has never been translated and certainly should be."

Actually, many of the students currently taking El Hage Chehade's Arabic 1002 class have significantly different reasons for deciding to study the language.

Nour Aihyari, senior, biochemistry/biotechnology, has parents overseas and took the class in order to communicate better in the Arab world.

Nate Wilson, junior, political science, did so to gain new perspective about Arab speaking people.

Jesse Weaver, freshman, undeclared, said "I studied Arabic in the military, and I wanted to continue with it here."

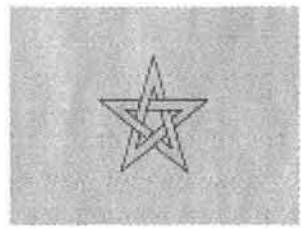
See **ARABIC**, page 13

### TOP TEN

#### Countries that speak Arabic or an Arabic dialect

10. Qatar - Home to TV station Al Jazeera, which is famous across the world for its controversial reporting.

9. Lebanon - The official symbol of the country is the cedar tree.



8. (ABOVE) Morocco - The cities of Ceuta and Melilla are actually Spanish territories.

7. Yemen - The average wedding feast last for 21 days.

6. Sudan - The largest country in Africa.

5. Syria - Celebrates Evacuation Day on Apr. 17, which is the day the last French troops were removed in 1946.

4. Jordan - Friday is the official day of rest.

3. Egypt - Egyptians call the country Misr. The full name of the country in Arabic is Junhuriyah Misr al-Arabiyah.

2. Saudi Arabia - Home of the Prophet Mohammad.

1. United Arab Emirates - Dubai is the chief port.

### Through the lens of August Jennewein

## Campus photographer captures 'essence,' not image

By **CRAIG BESAND**  
Staff Writer

Campus photographer August Jennewein captures the raw visuals of UM-St. Louis in his online weekly photo site "Eye on UMSL."

Jennewein provides a unique look at parts of UM-St. Louis campus that some students, staff and faculty never see.

His photography was on display last January at the Gallery Visio in the Nosh.

Before becoming the campus photographer at UM-St. Louis, Jennewein moved from Missouri to Los Angeles for a career as a screenwriter; however, his first passion has always been photography.

To Jennewein, the difference between life in Missouri compared to that in Los Angeles could be like comparing apples to oranges.

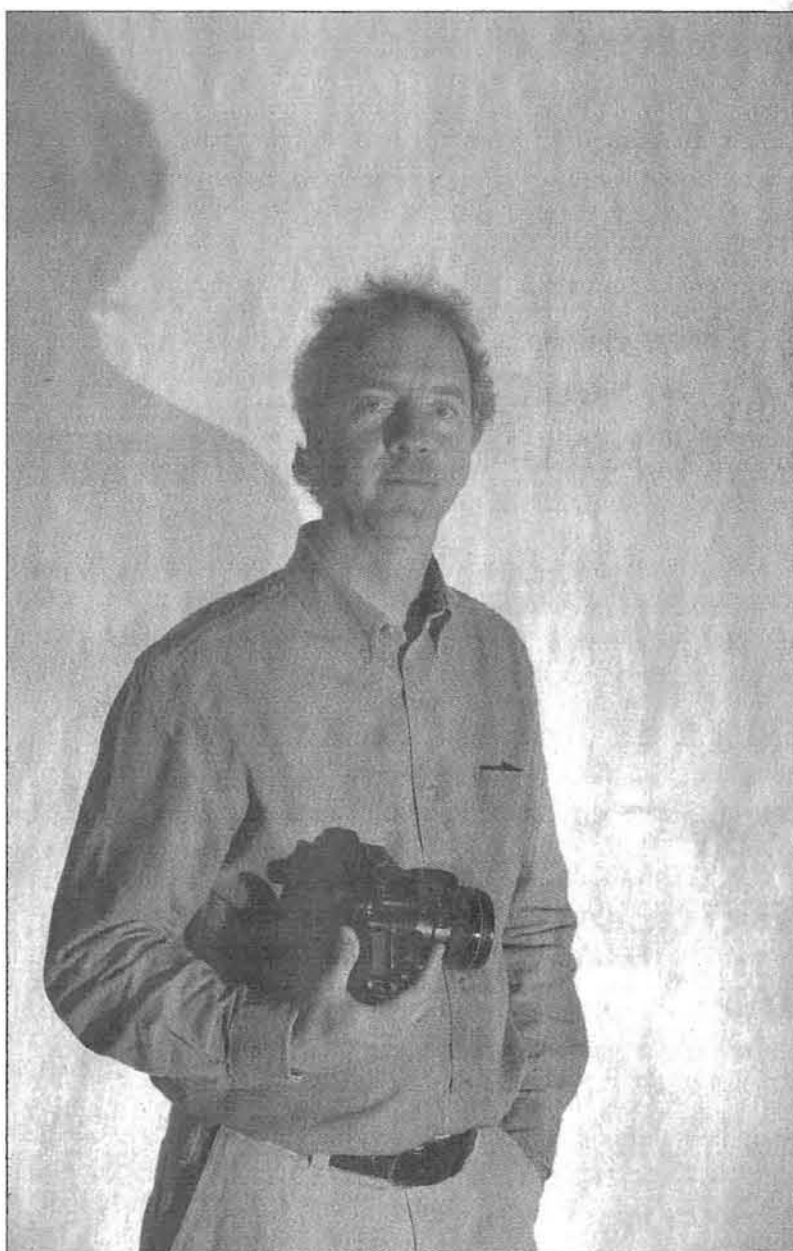
"L.A. is the microcosm of the world; the world is represented out there. What's great about it is that there are all these cultures sharing a relatively small space," Jennewein explained.

"Because of the huge population [in L.A.], there is also much more competition, [while] St. Louis provides an urban setting with less of a 'me' attitude. What's also nice about St. Louis is that family is important," he said.

Jennewein's fondness for photography was renewed during the process of writing and taking photographs for his book, "Slow Down: a Journey of Words and Photographs."

Not only did it make him want to take up photography as a profession, but it also brought him back to Missouri, where it was published.

After his book was released, Jen-



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

August Jennewein, UM-St. Louis's campus photographer, takes photos for "Eye on UMSL," a Web site through UM-St. Louis, where he captures an image of a highlight on campus each week.

Jennewein was asked to do a freelance photography project for UM-St. Louis.

"I've heard of UMSL being de-

scribed as a 'cement campus,' but I thought it was beautiful," he said.

When the project was finished, the Department of Creative Services

decided that the University needed a photographer to create a visual profile of the campus.

"In today's world, images are the new currency," Jennewein said.

When comparing photographing for UM-St. Louis with commercial projects, Jennewein said, "It's more diverse, everyday is different. There's this organic energy. You have students and faculty from all over the world. The environment is more engaging."

Some of his favorite things to photograph could be described as everyday life at UM-St. Louis, such as his photographs of students in the quad or student center.

Other photos of his include vantage points around campus that many people take for granted.

Jennewein particularly emphasizes the natural beauty of a campus that is rarely looked at.

"It's important to look and listen. As a photographer, I listen with my eyes," Jennewein stated.

One factor that makes his photography interesting is that every shot he takes is almost completely unaltered. In the age of the digital camera, where "photoshopping" is so common, people forget that the image they are seeing could quite possibly be an illusion.

Jennewein believes that, "We're losing sight of that line, the integrity of the image."

Photography can be artistic as well as informative. August Jennewein successfully captures the essence of life at UM-St. Louis with his camera.

"I'm not trying to create the image for UMSL. I'm just trying to share what we are to everybody."

Jennewein's photography and "Eye on UMSL" can be seen at [www.augustjennewein.com](http://www.augustjennewein.com).

# SGA campaign season kicks off

By **CARRIE FASISKA**  
Managing Editor

March 31 marked the beginning of Student Government Association election campaigning.

GraceMarie Ritter, Themon Ryan, Jessica Cowan, Dorian Hall and Peter Talluto will be roaming the halls and spreading the word that they are running in the 2008 SGA election.

Lone presidential candidate Ritter is running on the Fresh Outlook slate with vice president hopeful Jessica Cowan.

Fresh Outlook hopes to reach a wide range of students at UM-St. Louis with flyers, posters, chalking, candy, a Facebook group and their own Web site: <http://www.freshoutlook08.com>.

"We would like to make a difference next year and we have goals in mind to accomplish if elected. We are trying to grab students' attention to student government as a whole, hoping they want to become more involved," said Ritter.

Ryan is running for vice president under the R.I.C.E Campaign. Responsibility, Integrity, Cooperation and Excitement are what Ryan hopes to bring to SGA. Ryan also has a Facebook group.

Running for comptroller, Hall calls his campaign "We Can Make it Better." He plans to use fliers and has a Facebook group as well, but also plans to get personal.

"I think word of mouth will be the most successful for me because a lot of people know my face and if I match the name with the face and tell them why I am running, I will have a great response," Hall said.

Another comptroller hopeful, Talluto is making use of Facebook groups and is printing a wide variety of flyers to try and reach everyone he can.

"The message I am trying to send to voters is that I am experienced, I am able to mobilize many people to help me get work done, and the obvious message every candidate is trying to send to the voters: that they are the best person for the job," Talluto

said. Candidates are not allowed to spend more than \$1,200 per slate and \$1,000 for each candidate running without a slate.

They cannot receive any donations and they must give a report of their expenses to the Election Committee before the end of voting week.

Campaigning may not take place within 10 feet of any official polling place which includes any official University computer lab and any other location deemed necessary by the elections committee.

Voting for SGA Elections will begin on Monday April 14 and end Friday March 18.

Ballots will be posted on the SGA Web site and voters must login with their MyGateway ID and password.

The election committee and *The Current* will be holding a SGA debate at noon on Thursday, April 10. Students are welcome to come to the debate to hear what the candidates have to say and to ask questions to those running for SGA.

## SGA Executive Responsibilities

### SGA President

- Presiding Chair of the Executive Committee of the Student Government Association Assembly
- Interview and hire staff for the Student Government Association Offices.
- Serve as a non-voting member of the Assembly, with the exception of exercising a veto.
- Student Government Association Liaison to the Chancellor and University Assembly.
- Represent UM-St.Louis at meetings of the UM Board of Curators, Inter-Campus Student Council (ISC), and Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM), when necessary.
- Report matters concerning the office of the President to the Student Government Association Assembly.
- Work a minimum of ten hours per week on the duties of the office.

### SGA Vice President

- Assume the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence.
- Coordinator of all Student Government Association and Assembly committees and special boards.
- Serve as a member of the Inter-Campus Student Council (ISC), and Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM), when necessary.
- Serve as a non-voting member of the Assembly, with the exception of exercising a veto.
- Shall work a minimum of ten hours per week on the duties of the office.

List compiled from the current SGA Constitution. This list is not all inclusive. To view the full list of responsibilities visit the SGA Web site at <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/sga>.

### SGA Comptroller

- Administer the funds of the office of the Student Government Association, and when a Treasurer's signature is required for SGA business, the comptroller shall sign as Treasurer of the SGA.
- Shall draft, in consultation with the SGA President, for approval by the assembly, the SGA budget request for the succeeding fiscal year.
- Serve as Chair of the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC).
- Interview candidates for placement on the SABC
- Insure Student Activity Funding is used as designated by organizations receiving funding from the SABC.
- Serve as a non-voting member of the Assembly, with the exception of exercising a veto.
- Shall work a minimum of ten hours per week on the duties of the office.

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## BE AWARE & BE SAFE

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**Relay For Life of the University of Missouri - Saint Louis**  
**April 11-12, 2008 • 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**At the MSC Lakes**

Teams should arrive by noon on Friday to pick their campsites.

Also, please show your support at Bank Night on Thursday, April 10 at 4:30 p.m. in the SGA Chambers.



[umslrelay.com](http://umslrelay.com) [relayforlife@umsl.edu](mailto:relayforlife@umsl.edu)

# The Current

It will bowl you over.



# A&E

**MOVIE OPENINGS**

**OPENING FRIDAY, APRIL 11**  
(subject to change)

**STREET KINGS**

Keanu Reeves, Forest Whitaker and Hugh Laurie in a gritty drama about a cop seeking to clear his name from an implication in another murder. Director David Ayer wrote the screenplay for cop drama "Training Day."

**PROM NIGHT**

Horror film about teens stalked on the night of their prom. It has the same name as an older film but is not actually a remake, reportedly more thriller than gore fest. Stars Brittany Snow.

**SMART PEOPLE**

Sarah Jessica Parker, Dennis Quaid, Thomas Haden Church and Ellen Page star in a dysfunctional family comedy. At the Plaza Frontenac Theater

**BOARDING GATE**

Multinational underworld thriller, with kinky stuff, chases and murder, with Michael Madsen and sexy leading lady Asia Argento. In English French and Cantonese. At the Tivoli Theater

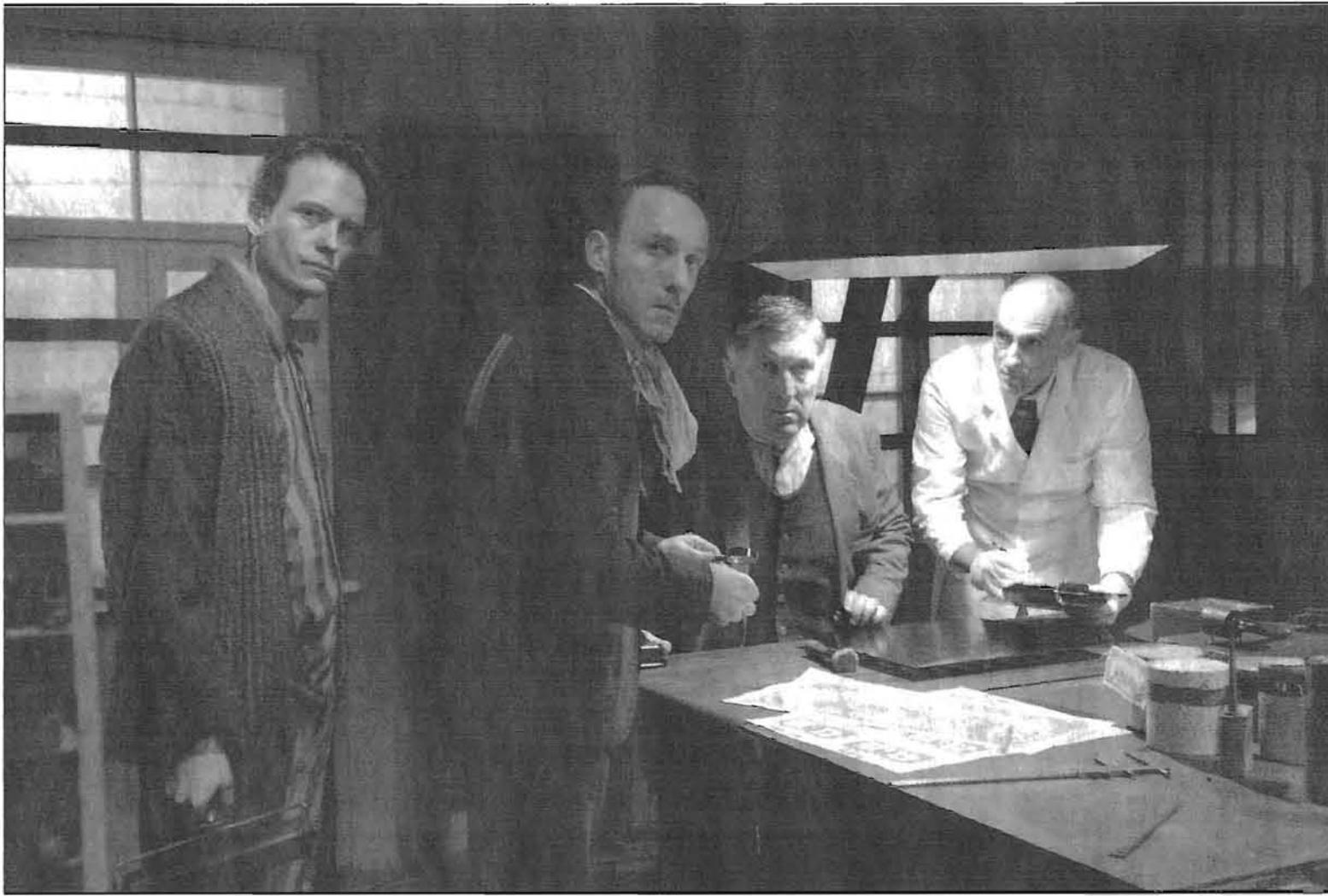
**TOP ITUNES**

**DOWNLOADS**



1. 4 Minutes (feat. Justin Timberlake) - Madonna
2. Bleeding Love - Leona Lewis
3. Touch My Body - Mariah Carey
4. Lollipop - Lil Wayne
5. No Air - Jordin Sparks & Chris Brown
6. Love in this Club - Usher
7. Sexy Can I (feat. Yung Berg) - Ray J
8. See You Again - Miley Cyrus
9. Stop and Stare - OneRepublic
10. Beat It (feat. John Mayer) - Fall Out Boy

**MOVIE REVIEW**



Counterfeiting team Adolf (August Diehl), Solomon (Karl Markovics), Atze (Veit Stübner) and Dr. Klinger (August Zirner) in the biggest counterfeiting scam of all time. The film won the 2008 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film and is directed by Stefan Ruzowitsky.

## 'Counterfeiters' tells of Nazi scam

By CATE MARQUIS  
AGE Editor

In WWII, the Nazis hatched a plan to use concentration camp inmates to counterfeit Allied currency, the largest counterfeiting operation in history. Ironically, the operation was headed by a master counterfeiter who happened to be Jewish.

This true story is the basis for the Oscar-winning Austrian drama "The Counterfeiters," which recently made its local debut at Plaza Frontenac Cinema. "The Counterfeiters," in German, Russian, English and Hebrew, with English subtitles, deservedly won the 2008 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

Like several recent films about the Holocaust, "The Counterfeiters" is a survivor's tale but it is fraught with moral gray areas in the choice between personal survival and aiding the enemy. The powerful drama explores these moral nuances, in its carefully constructed unfolding of events, where the right choice is not always so clear. The film also features a strong, dramatically subtle performance in the lead role of the master counterfeiter, Salomon "Sally" Sorowitsch, played with great restraint by actor Karl Markovics. The film has moral complexity but it also has great humanity, with a

central character whose cynical attitude is worn away by contact with the people who share his experiences.

When the affable but coolly controlled nightclub owner Salomon "Sally" Sorowitsch (Karl Markovics), is arrested by the Nazi police in late 1930s Germany, it is for trying to counterfeit American dollars, not for being Jewish. The bohemian Sorowitsch is largely indifferent to his Jewish heritage, cynically remarking that the Jews are persecuted because "they don't know how to adapt." Sally is very good at adapting, a likeable rogue with a dry wit, who slips past most trouble.

The Nazis are another matter. They ship him off to a labor camp with other criminals, where Sorowitsch witnesses and endures Nazi brutality. Fatalistic in his view of events, he chooses to focus on self-preservation and starts looking for an opportunity to better his personal lot. Above all else, Sorowitsch is a survivor.

When the Nazis decide to produce counterfeit British and American currency, with the goal of undermining the economic stability of the Allies, they naturally want the master counterfeiter in charge. They transfer him to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp to head up "Operation Bernhard," to be the biggest counterfeit



Solomon and Die Rothaarige (Dolores Chaplin) in 'The Counterfeiters.' The movie is based on a book by the real Adolf Burger.

money scam of all times. The operation's director, Sturmbannführer Herzog (David Striesow), assembles a collection of printers, forgers, papermakers, engravers and bankers to work under Sorowitsch in the counterfeiting operation. All the team members understand the penalties for failure to both cooperate and achieve the Nazis' goals, while facing the dilemma of helping the Nazi war effort.

Among those on the counterfeiting team are master printer and communist activist Adolf Burger (August Diehl), physician Dr. Klinger (August Zirner) and young Russian art student Kolya Karloff (Sebastian Urzendowsky). Burger is a young idealist who published a communist newspaper before he and his beautiful young bride were sent to Auschwitz. For young Kolya, everyone

develops a protective fondness, particularly fellow Russian and former art student Sorowitsch.

Superb acting ensures that the powerful drama avoids melodramatic pitfalls. The director studiously avoids clichéd characters. Each is fresh and human in their complexity. The dramatic center of the film largely hinges on Sorowitsch. Sally is a flinty character, with a fatalistic and ironic sense of humor, played brilliantly by Markovics. The counterfeiter is an unlikely well of humanity yet clearly admired by the other inmates for his leadership. Markovics deftly underplays his character, with a rugged face that hardly moves, making the times Markovics' character struggles with some of those difficult choices all the more affecting.

See COUNTERFEITERS, page 9

**RESTAURANT REVIEW**

## Royal eats offered at Crown Candy Kitchen

By ANGIE SPENCER  
Proofreader

Hidden in a part of town that to many screams "Danger! Danger, Will Robinson," is a soda fountain-meets-diner establishment by the name of Crown Candy Kitchen.

Since 1913 (when it was opened by Harry Karandzieff and his best friend Pete Jugaloff), this small business has been dishing out some of the best malts, shakes and diner food one could ever taste.

While the location in Old North St. Louis might make some wary, do not let the rough looking surroundings deter a trip. The food is more than worth it.

The ham and cheese sandwich is chocked full of exactly that...ham and cheese. The sandwich is at least two inches tall and the perfect consistency of delicious cheese and delectable ham make it a delight. Along with the sandwich come chips and a pickle. Hope you are hungry.

If bacon is a staple of your diet, order the BLT. If the ham and cheese is chock full of its ingredients, then the BLT is piled high with thick, cooked-to-perfection bacon. There is more bacon on this sandwich than you could dream would find its way on to a piece of bread. Chips and a pickle come with this also.

The chili alone is worth the trip. Cooked without beans, it is some of the heartiest, most filling chili. You expect restaurant chili and what you get is a better than homemade bowl of perfectly seasoned, incredibly flavorful chili.

If chocolate or strawberry or vanilla or really anything sweet is more your style, enjoy a rich malt or shake. If you would rather not have the cold and just have the chocolate, there is a display case showing off all of the delectable sweets the kitchen makes in-house as well.

Think you can drink five malts or shakes in 30 minutes? Take the challenge. If you succeed, the drinks are on the house and you get your name inscribed on a plaque. If you do not, then you have to pay for them.

See KITCHEN, page 9

**Crown Candy Kitchen**

★★★★★

Located at 1401 St. Louis Avenue in St. Louis city

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**Hours:**  
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10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
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11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## Dance St Louis, Touhill announce 'Spring To Dance' fest

By CATE MARQUIS  
AGE Editor

Want to impress your significant other? Take her to the dance. Dance St. Louis and the Touhill have just the ticket for you.

Dance St. Louis, the area's premier presenter of dance, and the Touhill Performing Arts Center announced the new "Spring To Dance Festival" on the Touhill's Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall stage last Tuesday, April 1, at a 10 a.m. press conference.

The new annual festival of dance will take place over the Memorial Day weekend, May 22-24 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Live performance, whether theater or dance, is a marvelous experience, but the higher price compared to a movie means many younger people rarely, if ever, go to live performances, not matter how enjoyable. Often, they do not even know what they are missing.

Dance St. Louis and the Touhill PAC have the solution with the Spring To Dance Festival, a remarkable new annual three-day program

that offers world-class dance performances for little more than the price of a movie ticket.

Spring To Dance Festival was inspired by an event in New York. One New York dance company concerned that price was keeping people from developing a taste for dance launched a program where you could get a ticket for a world-class dance performance for \$10, less than the price of a movie tickets in New York. They called the program "Fall For Dance."

Now Dance St. Louis is bringing the same idea to the Touhill PAC, with the Spring To Dance Festival. The yearly festival of dance will bring dance troupes from around the world to perform here. Each night's program will be different.

Spring To Dance Festival is all about the number three. During the three-day Spring To Dance Festival, over 30 dance companies from around the world will participate.

The price is \$30 for three days, just \$10 a night, which makes it a true bargain.

Every evening of the festival is a triple bill of events. Doors will open

at 5 p.m. for demonstrations, and information booths from local arts and education organizations in the Touhill lobby.

Starting at 6 p.m., the Touhill's smaller Lee Theater will feature performances by outstanding region dance troupes.

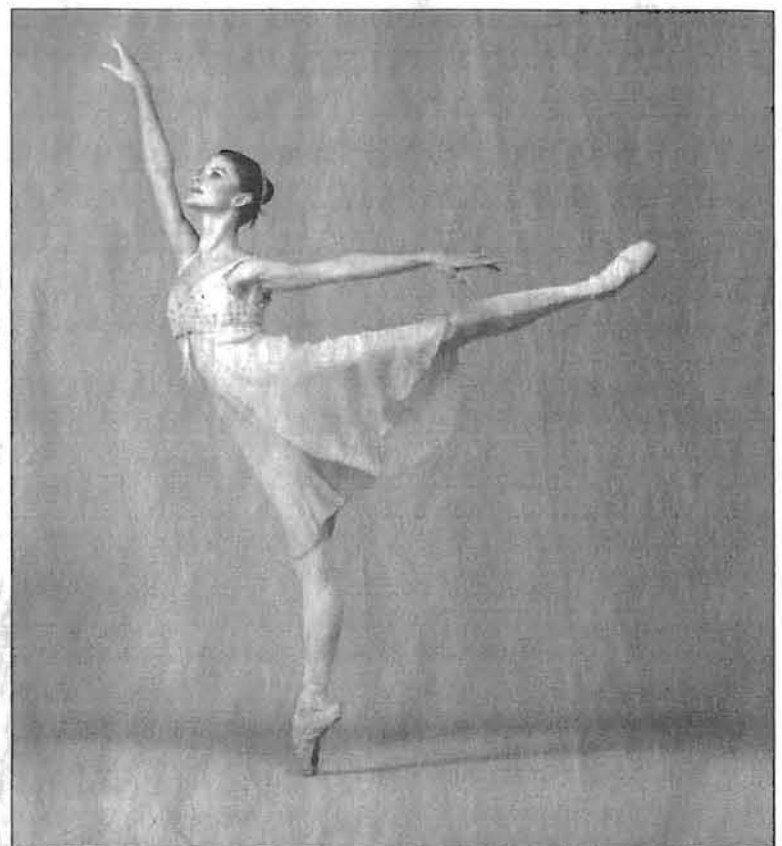
At 8 p.m., it is the evening's main event, featuring a world-renowned dance troupe in the Touhill's big A-B Performance Hall.

You can find a complete list of the featured dance troupes, as well as information about each of them, at the Dance St. Louis website at <http://springtodance.com/>, if you click on Spring To Dance.

Spring To Dance Festival will be another first for the area. World-acclaimed stars will be featured along with the best rising young troupes from the Midwest region.

Dance styles will range from flamenco and tap to ballet and jazz. There will be cutting-edge contemporary and cross-cultural fusions as well.

See DANCE, page 9



Deborah-Dawn Kettentanz of the Joffrey Ballet will be part of the Spring To Dance Festival 2008 at the Touhill. The festival runs from May 22-24 and is sponsored by Dance STL and will feature over 30 dance companies from throughout the midwest.

**COUNTERFEITERS**, from page 8

It is a brilliant performance. Other actors likewise turn in strong performances. August Diehl is affecting as the idealistic Burger, a foil for Sorowitsch's practicality and survival instincts. Burger is willing to sacrifice himself, as well as others, for the greater good but August Diehl keeps the character sympathetic rather than melodramatic. Likewise, August Zimer, as the physician who soothingly misdirects the Nazis in order to save the lives of some of the prisoner, creates a vivid character. Sebastian Urzendowsky as young Kolya, admiring Sorowitsch like a father, creates believable, multi-layered character. Actor David Striesow's Nazi leader Herzog seems a pleasant, almost reasonable person on the surface but there is an oily opportunism underneath.

Writer/director Stefan Ruzowitzky has created a story that mirrors the morally complexity of the real, filled with characters that are more than the one-dimensionally heroic figures one might expect in a story of Holocaust survivors. They are real people,

with human shortcomings, and their flawed humanity only sharpens the story. Ruzowitzky, who co-wrote the screenplay from the book by the real Adolf Burger, wisely restricts what the audience sees to the viewpoint of the inmates in the counterfeiting compound. The counterfeiting crew is kept isolated from the rest of the camp, getting better food, real beds and an exercise yard. They hear faintly what goes on beyond the high fence that circles their compound but they, and we in the audience, see only the sky above and their work area. In their marginal comfort, the prisoners share stories of other camps and speculate on what might be happening.

Every shot in the film is from the point of view of the prisoners. The film is shot in shades of grey, underlining the doubts and moral grey areas where they tread, balanced between cooperating enough to stay alive and failing to aid the Nazi war effort.

Ironies are also everywhere in the

film. The counterfeiters work to the strains of light operetta, a historically accurate detail. As the work crew is assembled, a group of bankers object to being forced to work for a criminal like Sorowitsch, citing that they are honest, moral men who should not be forced to work with scum, much to the amusement of both the Nazis in charge and Sorowitsch himself. Arriving new crew members are given regular men's suits to replace their prison uniforms but shudder to find other people's name sewn into them. Sorowitsch dons his suit without blinking but adds an ascot he fashions from a rag, perhaps in part to irritate the Nazi guards. Yet, the issue of "survivors guilt" is also raised.

While "The Counterfeiters" is not the one definitive Holocaust film by any means, it is yet another survivors' tale well told, and each tale retold ensures remembrance of something that should not be forgotten. As a film experience, the well-made, powerful and very human drama "The Counterfeiters" is well worth the effort.

**KITCHEN**, from page 8

Do not expect the waitresses to write down your order like in most other restaurants, because they will not do it. Your entire order is memorized and comes out exactly how you ordered it. When they have to do this with over a dozen tables, it is a pretty impressive feat.

Crown Candy Kitchen is like a home away from home. When you walk in, you feel most welcomed, despite the usual crowd and small interior (It seats around 50 people at a time). The environment is friendly because the low booth walls allow you to talk to the people sitting next

to you, and talk they will.

To drive this point home, on the day of this review, there were six Army Reserve members eating at the restaurant. They gave their credit cards to the waitress who then returned with them moments afterward with no receipts. It turns out that two older women in the restaurant had paid for their entire bill. They both wanted to remain anonymous but the waitress and the Army Reserve members would not have it. A little while later, each and every one of them came up to personally thank the women.

As a sign of appreciation, the restaurant gave the women complimentary candy caramel apples.

Located at 1401 St. Louis Avenue, the restaurant is open Monday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. until 10 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.crowncandykitchen.net>.

A word of warning though, go earlier rather than later in the day, especially during Easter/Lent/Christmas because the line will be out the door and around the corner.

**DANCE**, from page 8

The organizer of Spring To Dance, Dance St. Louis, is not a dance company but a dance presenting organization that has brought the best in dance, from ballet to modern, to St. Louis for over 40 years.

The organization was formed with the idea of bringing the best in dance to St. Louis, and their dance offerings include the full spectrum of dance, from classical ballet, contemporary ballet, and modern dance to ethnic, ballroom, tap, jazz, and hip-

hop. The dancers include renowned classic troupes and cutting-edge artists.

Among the dancers and dance troupes they have brought to the area are STOMP, American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Riverdance, Martha Graham Dance Company, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Tap Dogs and Pilobolus.

The dance programs are preceded by an informative talk on dance and the organization also works with

community groups and schools to promote interest in dance.

Dance St. Louis' next program, the last of their regular season, will be the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, on April 11 and 12 at the Fox Theater.

Once, Dance St. Louis presented their programs almost exclusively at the Fox Theater, but in recent years, they have more often brought their wonderful dance program to the beautiful Touhill PAC.

**'08  
Vote**  
for SGA elections  
**MONDAY thru FRIDAY**  
**April 14th - 18th**  
*also, don't forget the*  
**CANDIDATE DEBATE!**  
hosted by the current and sga  
**April 10th at NOON**  
in the SGA Chambers  
to vote visit the student life website!

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**CAMPUS RECREATION- SPRING 2008**

<p><b>Wallyball Triples</b> Date: April 21 Time: Mon 6:45-9pm Place: Mark Twain RB Courts Sign Up by: Thurs 4/17 Division: Mens, Co-Ed Format: One Night Tourney 3:3</p>	<p><b>Kickball</b> Date: April 9 &amp; 10 Time: Wed/Thurs 2-5pm Place: Mark Twain Rec Field Sign Up by: Mon 4/7 Division: Co-Ed Format: 2-Day Tourney 6:6</p>	<p><b>Volleyball</b> Date: April 14 Time: Mon 6:45-9pm Place: Mark Twain Gym Sign Up by: Thurs 4/10 Division: Mens, Womens Format: One Night Tourney 6:6</p>
<p><b>Softball BBQ</b> Date: April 19 Time: Sat 12-5pm Place: Softball Field Sign Up by: Thurs 4/10 Division: Co-Ed Format: Tournament &amp; BBQ - Freel</p>	<p><b>Mirthday Volleyball</b> Date: April 16 Time: Wed 11am-3pm Place: MSC Birthday Sign Up by: Mon 4/14 Division: Open Format: Play for Fun &amp; Free T-Shirt!</p>	

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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Ally DeFosset

The junior fireballer carried the Tritons this weekend, hurling two dazzling complete game wins and saving another. Her shut-out against #21 Lewis was her eighth win of the year. She has now struck out 128 batters and walked only 39 in 104.1 innings this year, with an opponents' average of .182.

UPCOMING GAMES

**Softball**  
April 9  
at Missouri S&T (dh)  
2 p.m.

April 12-13  
at Central Missouri Tournament

**Baseball**  
April 11  
at Missouri S&T  
3 p.m.

April 12  
at Missouri S&T (dh)  
1 p.m.

April 13  
at Missouri S&T  
1 p.m.

**Women's Tennis**  
April 11  
at Indianapolis  
2 p.m.

April 12  
at Northern Kentucky  
10 a.m.

**Men's Tennis**  
April 11  
at Indianapolis  
2 p.m.

April 12  
at Northern Kentucky  
10 a.m.

Softball



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

UM-St. Louis catcher Casey Dierkes attempts to score on Kelly Essner's double in the third inning of Saturday's first game against Wisconsin-Parkside University. Dierkes was called out on the play, but the Tritons ended up winning the game 2-1 and completed the doubleheader sweep against the Rangers later in the afternoon.

Tritons hit the right pitch during homestand

UMSL hands Lewis its first conference loss

By LAGUAN FUSE  
Sports Editor

UM-St. Louis senior Allyson DeFosset pitched a complete game shut-out against nationally ranked Lewis on Sunday.

The Tritons handed the Flyers their first conference loss of the season as they picked up the 2-0 win. DeFosset gave up only four hits in the game and recorded eight strikeouts against the Flyers.

"It is pretty big to give them [Lewis] their first conference loss," DeFosset said. "That is what we wanted to do. We feel like we are on a roll now, it was pretty nerve racking but we came out on top."

The Tritons got on board in the bottom of the third inning when Kelly Essner hit a two-run single. Megan Brussman and Jessica Keim scored the runs in the inning for the Tritons.

The Flyers came close to tying the game in the top of the second when Kelly Dianis hit a double to center to centerfield. Carissa Castonzo represented the tying run for Lewis. Castonzo was out on a fly to center and Dianis was tagged out at second.

"We just faced their number one pitcher, so now we can relax a little bit," DeFosset said. "It feels better to win the first game and go into the second game with momentum."

With the win, the Tritons not only handed Lewis their first conference loss, but the win was the fourth straight for the Tritons, their longest winning streak of the season.

"After yesterday, it [the season] took a turn for the good," DeFosset said. "We were bumpy here and there, not hitting very well, but I think we are heading on the right track now. I think we are going to cruise from here."

The Tritons were unable to cruise to five straight wins as the Flyers broke the winning streak of UM-St. Louis with a 5-2 win.

The Tritons got on board in the first inning when Megan Riggs scored on a single by Ja Cee Ellis. The Flyers came back in the third inning with two runs in the third before UM-St. Louis was able to score again.

Dana Essner scored on a hit to third by Ellis. Lewis came back with a two-run homer in the sixth and added another run in the seventh for the 5-2 win.

Crystal Koehler started the game for UM-St. Louis and gave up two runs on five hits. DeFosset picked up the loss in the game for the Tritons as she pitched three innings and gave up five hits.

The Tritons are now 6-6 in the GLVC and 13-17 overall. The Flyers are 24-10 overall and 9-1 in the conference.

The next game for the Tritons will be an away double-header against Missouri S&T on April 9.

The next home games for UM-St. Louis will be a non-conference doubleheader on April 15, against Hillsdale College. GLVC play will resume at home on April 17, when the Tritons face off against Quincy.

Team sweeps doubleheader against Rangers

By LAGUAN FUSE  
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis softball team swept Wisconsin-Parkside on April 5. The Tritons won both games 2-1 and started a three-game winning streak. UM-St. Louis improved to a 12-16 overall record on the season after the wins.

The scheduled home-opener for the Tritons was moved to Lindenwood University due to field conditions, but the Tritons did not let that stop them from playing.

The Tritons entered the game 3-5 in the GLVC, but the team brought that record to 5-5 after the victories in the doubleheader. Allyson DeFosset pitched the complete game for the Tritons and gave up only one unearned run on two hits. DeFosset faced 26 batters in the game and struck out eight.

Meagan Shimkus pitched the complete game for Wisconsin-Parkside and gave up two runs, one unearned, on 10 hits. Shimkus faced 36 batters and walked four in the game and struck out four.

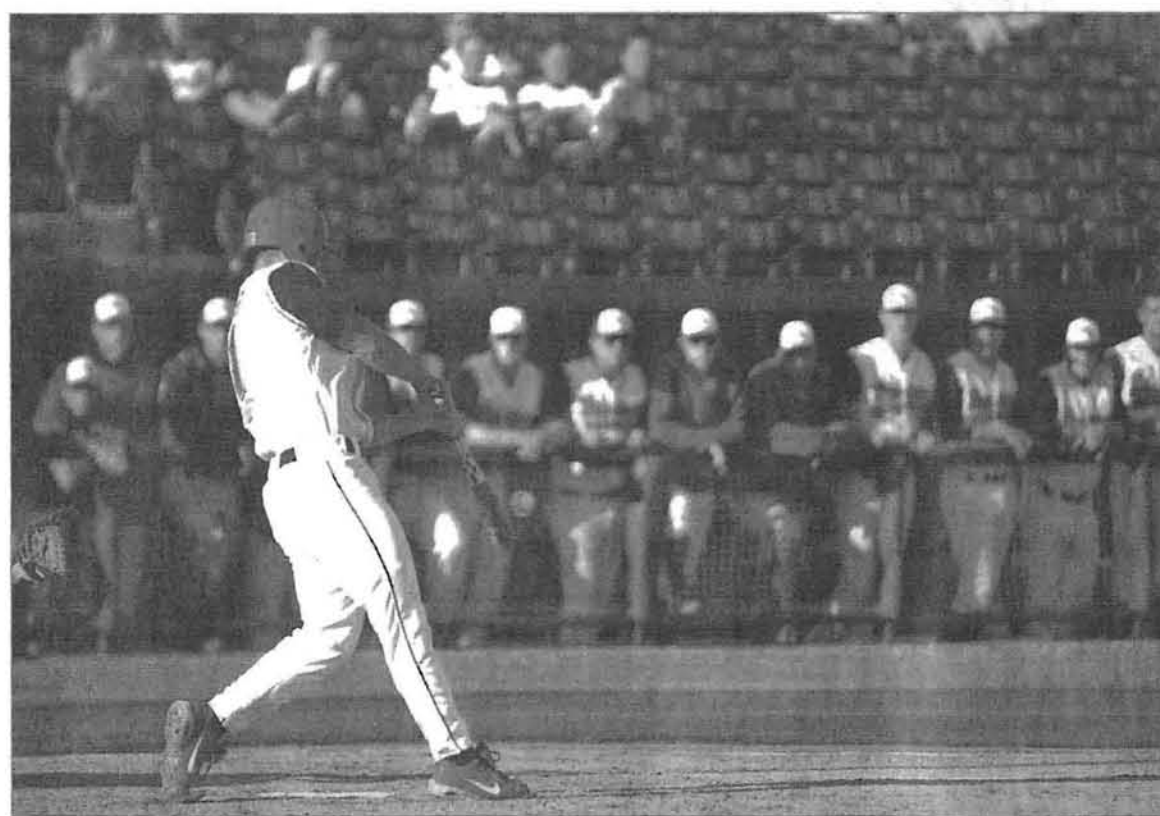
Wisconsin-Parkside got on board first when they scored on an error in the fourth inning. The Tritons were not able to get on the scoreboard until the sixth inning when Kelly Essner scored on a single by Jessica Keim.

See **SOFTBALL**, page 14



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

UM-St. Louis junior Allyson DeFosset pitched a complete game in Saturday's first game against Wisconsin-Parkside University. DeFosset allowed only one run and no walks in the Tritons' 2-1 win against the Rangers.



(ABOVE) Steve Porter, junior, outfielder, drove in a run during the Tritons' 2-0 lead in the first game of the doubleheader Saturday against SIU-Edwardsville.

(RIGHT) Brady Decker pitched a strong six innings during the Tritons' first game against SIU-Edwardsville on Saturday night.



Photos by: Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Baseball

Bats fall silent vs. SIUE

By TOM SCHNABLE  
Assistant Sports Editor

With the weather altering UM-St. Louis four-game home stand with SIU-Edwardsville, the Tritons were forced to play a doubleheader Saturday versus the Cougars before doing it again on Sunday. SIUE took both games of the twin tilt on Saturday, defeating the Tritons 10-5 in the first game and shutting them out 7-0 in the nightcap.

In the first match up, UM-St. Louis took a 2-0 lead in the bottom half of the first inning. Runs scored on RBI at-bats by senior John Kalb and junior Steve Porter.

The Tritons and Cougars exchanged runs in the second, with junior Andy Ford collecting the RBI for the home side, and UM-St. Louis held a 3-1 lead.

In the top of the third, SIUE touched up Triton starter Brady Decker for three runs on four hits and an error to grab a 4-3 lead. The Cougars made it 8-3 in the sixth, chasing Decker for senior Dan O'Heron, who failed to hold the SIUE bats down.

UM-St. Louis answered with two runs in the bottom of the ninth, but it was too little, too late, as SIUE won the opener.

As for the second game, SIUE jumped on the Tritons from the start,

taking a 1-0 lead in the top of the first.

The Cougars roughed up UM-St. Louis starter Linds Prestia in the fourth for two runs, and chased him early on in the fifth after adding another three to take a 6-0 lead.

SIUE added one more run, and the Triton bats remained silent all game, as the Cougars cruised to the victory in a seven-inning-shortened game.

In the two games, seniors Decker and Prestia combined for only 9.1 innings pitched, while allowing 17 hits and 14 runs (only 10 of which were earned.) At the same time, UM-St. Louis bats mustered up 11 hits (only four in the second game), five runs and struck out nine times.

The game times on Sunday, with the first pitch in the opener scheduled for 2 p.m., did not allow for the results to be posted in *The Current*.

With the two losses, the Tritons dropped to 11-15, 6-8 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which leaves UM-St. Louis in fourth-place in the Western Division. SIUE improved to 13-13 overall, and at 7-7, passed the Tritons into third in the division.

Unless the two teams meet in the GLVC tournament, Sunday's games were the last time UM-St. Louis and SIUE are scheduled to meet as conference rivals, with SIUE poised to make the jump to Division-I starting next year.

Golf

# UMSL linksters find the fairways

By **SCOTT LAVELOCK**  
Staff Writer

The Triton golf teams have both come out firing in recent weeks, with the women starting their season victoriously over Lindenwood in Florida, and the men showing strong improvement by finishing fourth out of eight teams at the Bellarmine Invite and fifth out of 11 at the Wisconsin-Parkside Invite.

Junior Sarah Cissell and freshman Ashley Stout tied for first individually with Lindenwood's Claudia Rojas in their meet, which took place March 27 at the World Golf Hall-of-Fame's Slammer & Squire Course in St. Augustine, near Daytona Beach.

Matt Winslow and Matt Thomas, both juniors, have headlined the men's squad. Winslow finished 10th at Bellarmine down in Louisville, and Thomas tied for ninth at the Parkside Invite, which was held in Columbus, Ind.

This comes after the men had a rough start, finishing ninth out of 10 in their first tournament, and head coach Dustin Ashby said the other schools have started to notice the Tritons' improvement.

"I regularly get comments from other coaches at our tournaments regarding the talent we have," Ashby said. "Others are taking notice that we are headed in the right direction and could break through and win a tournament any time at this stage."

UM-St. Louis got off to a slow start on day one of the Bellarmine Invite, held at the Persimmon Ridge Golf Club from March 24-25, but a strong second day allowed the Tritons to make up 12 shots on Findlay University to pull into a tie for fourth overall and finish only 22 total strokes behind Bellarmine for the championship.

The Knights were also in comeback mode on day two, which allowed them to make up a deficit against Lewis University, who had led after the first day.

Winslow's top finish for UM-St. Louis came after shooting a 78 on the first day and a 77 on day two. Freshman Tim Cochran and Ryan Penfield

also played well, both shooting an 81 and a 75 on respective days to finish 15<sup>th</sup>.

"Cochran and Penfield are turning some heads with their ability to make the transition from high school to college so well," Ashby said. "They are competing for Freshmen of the Year honors in the Great Lakes Valley Conference as a result of their strong play last fall and early this spring."

The team continued to improve the next week at the Otter Creek Golf Club, where Wisconsin-Parkside hosted its tournament from March 28-29. The Tritons finished just 13 strokes off the title behind Grand Valley State, who had to edge Indianapolis by a single shot.

Thomas, who shot a 71 and then a 78, led UM-St. Louis with the ninth place finish which is his best performance of the spring thus far. It is starting to show why the third-year player from Mehlville is ranked in the top 35 in the region.

"He has a legitimate chance for post season consideration if he continues to play well," Ashby said.

Penfield was once again solid, finishing 13<sup>th</sup>. Cochran was 21<sup>st</sup>, and sophomore Tim Swoboda finished 24<sup>th</sup> to continue the improvement of a youthful squad which has a six man line-up consisting of three juniors, a sophomore, and two freshmen.

"We're a young team, so I expect to see consistent improvement as they are exposed to more competition this spring," Ashby said.

The lady linksters from UM-St. Louis outlasted Lindenwood by 10 shots. Cissell and Stout were only 11 strokes over par with their scores of 83. Senior Erin Konkol finished in fifth with an 87, fellow senior Shannon Vallowe was one spot behind after shooting 89, and sophomore Leslie Fischer finished 7<sup>th</sup> with a 91.

Both teams were back in action this weekend. The women hosted the Gateway Ladies Collegiate Championships at the Gateway National Golf Links in Madison, Ill. on Friday and Saturday.

The men traveled to Highland Heights, Ky., where Northern Kentucky hosted the Spring Regional from Friday through Sunday.

STATS CORNER

**MEN'S TENNIS**

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Rockhurst	6-0	7-1
Drury	6-0	12-2
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>5-0</b>	<b>9-4</b>
Bellarmine	4-2	9-5
SIU-Edwardsville	3-3	8-7
Southern Indiana	3-3	6-9
Quincy	2-3	7-10
Northern KY	1-4	4-10
St. Joseph's	0-5	6-8
Indianapolis	0-5	2-11
Lewis	0-5	0-9

Upcoming matches

April 11 at Indianapolis 2 p.m.

April 12 at Northern KY 10 a.m.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Drury	6-0	13-2
Northern KY	4-1	9-2
Indianapolis	4-2	8-7
SIU-Edwardsville	4-2	8-7
Bellarmine	4-2	7-7
Quincy	3-3	11-6
Rockhurst	3-3	4-5
St. Joseph's	2-4	9-7
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>4-7</b>
Southern Indiana	2-4	2-10
KY Wesleyan	0-4	2-5
Lewis	0-5	0-9

Upcoming Matches

April 11 at Indianapolis 2 p.m.

April 12 at Northern KY 10 a.m.

**BASEBALL**

GLVC West Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Southern Indiana	13-2	22-11
SIU-Edwardsville	9-7	15-13
Drury	7-6	17-11
Rockhurst	6-9	13-19
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>11-17</b>
Missouri S&T	5-10	11-17
Quincy	5-11	11-18

Upcoming Games

April 11 at Missouri S&T 3 p.m.

April 12 at Missouri S&T (dh) 1 p.m.

April 13 at Missouri S&T 1 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**

GLVC Standings

Team	Conf. (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Lewis	9-1	24-10
Southern Indiana	10-4	23-15
Missouri S&T	10-4	19-14
Indianapolis	8-4	22-18
SIU Edwardsville	7-5	27-9
<b>UM-St. Louis</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>13-17</b>
Rockhurst	4-4	17-10
Quincy	4-6	19-11
UW-Parkside	3-5	16-11
Saint Joseph's	3-5	11-16
Northern KY	4-8	11-19
Bellarmine	4-8	13-27
Drury	3-9	12-25
KY Wesleyan	3-9	9-21

Upcoming Games

April 9 at Missouri S&T (dh) 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis

## Tritons pick up six wins in a row

By **SCOTT LAVELOCK**

Staff Writer

Just a few shorts weeks ago, things were not looking good for the UM-St. Louis men's tennis team. After seeing some tough competition against Western Illinois and Northwest Missouri State, the Tritons' record had fallen to 3-4. Six matches and six wins later, it is a completely different story.

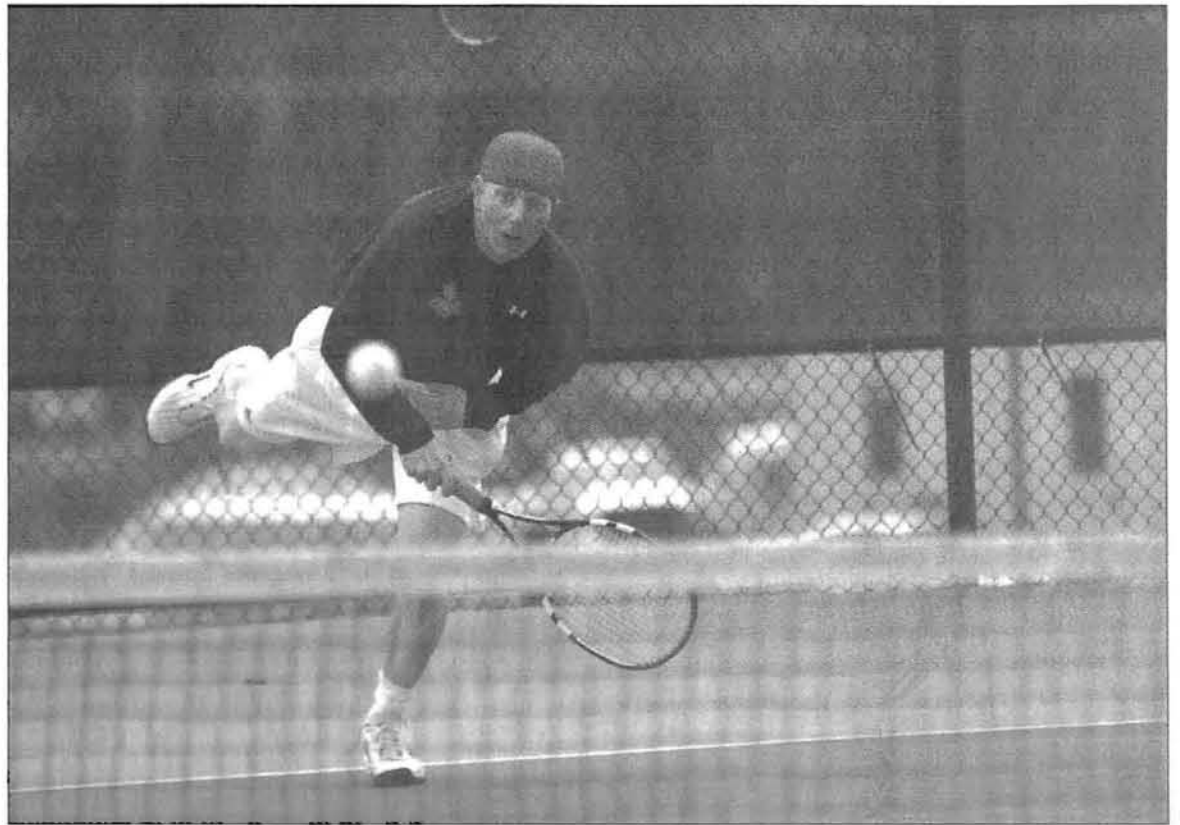
"As a team I think we have all started to improve and play up to our potential," senior captain Ryan Burgdorfer said.

Even better news is that five of those six consecutive wins have come in conference play, putting UM-St. Louis at the top of the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings along with Rockhurst and Drury.

"Rockhurst is a definite team to beat for us," Burgdorfer said. "We had a tough loss to them last year, but all the matches were really close. That match could have gone either way and we just let it go to them. We are going to try and remedy that this year."

Head coach Rick Gyllenberg agrees that the recent improvement of the team means this could be the year that the Tritons break through in those must win conference games.

"I am currently pleased with all of the men's doubles teams," Gyllenberg said. "And Andi Dimke and Andreas Chemas have really stepped it up in singles."



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Junior Peter Hantack helped the Tritons men's tennis team have a winning weekend.

The winning streak started after a tough 6-3 loss at Northwest Missouri State, currently ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation, on March 14.

Dimke, sophomore, came up with the only singles win for UM-St. Louis, a 6-4, 6-3 win over Jake Salisbury.

He and Boris Simic, senior, teamed up for a doubles win as well, as did the team of Chemas, sophomore, and junior Peter Hantack. The

Tritons could not rack up any other wins, however, as freshman Tim Bryant's ankle injury still kept him out of commission.

"We've had a few untimely injuries," Burgdorfer said. "That was a tough loss but overall the team played very well."

With Bryant back in action on March 20, things started going the Tritons way with a 9-0 road walloping of Maryville.

Each singles player and doubles team won again the next two days, with home victories over Lewis and St. Joseph's.

On March 25, the Red and Gold won a home match against Lewis & Clark Community College, but because it was against a two-year school, the match does not count in the team records.

See **MEN'S TENNIS**, page 14

Women's Tennis

## Despite injuries, team fights on, winning pair of GLVC matches

By **SCOTT LAVELOCK**

Staff Writer

With only six healthy players for much of the season and a spring that came late this year, the Triton women's tennis team has definitely had the cards stacked against it.

But now that the temperatures have warmed up enough to allow the team to practice regularly, and with sophomore Stacy Goodman making the return from her ACL injury, UM-St. Louis has been able to rack up a couple of key conference wins.

The first of those wins, on Mar. 21 against Lewis, came on the day that

Goodman made her return to doubles play.

"Now that we have Stacy back in the line up for doubles, and we have gotten those two wins, I feel like the team is getting more confident," said junior team captain Adriana Garcia.

That win over the Flyers was just what the doctor ordered for the ailing Tritons, who had suffered a pair of 9-0 losses in their previous two matches, a Mar. 10 home defeat against Missouri Southern and a Mar. 14 road loss to Northwest Missouri St.

Under .500 for the first time all year, the red and gold responded by defending the home court in the

Lewis match with a 5-4 win. Freshman Stephanie Thompson stepped up big, winning in both singles and doubles, both at the number one slot.

Thompson outlasted Erin Piechocinski 6-2, 7-5 in the singles match after she and Garcia defeated Piechocinski and Melanie Sandberg in doubles, 8-2.

"Stephanie Thompson and Adriana Garcia are playing very consistently," head coach Rick Gyllenberg said.

UM-St. Louis collected wins in the sixth singles and third doubles positions by default, leaving it up to one player to seal a Triton victory.

That player turned out to be sophomore Yuki Takashima, who came up with a big-time rally to beat Michelle Wright in the fifth singles slot.

Takashima lost the first set 2-6, but came back to win the second by the same score. The third set went down to the wire, but Takashima won it 7-6 by taking the tiebreaker 7-4.

The Tritons 1-0 record in conference play did not last long, however, as they lost the next day to St. Joseph's 5-4.

Thompson and Garcia once again snatched a doubles victory, as did the duo of Takashima and junior Molly Striler. Only two Tritons were able to

garner singles wins, though. Thompson won again, this time over Jordan Orner with both sets going 6-4.

Freshman Annie Gonzalez stepped up as well, beating Emily Theime 6-4, 7-5.

The women then lost 9-0 at Bellarmine on Mar. 28, but bounced

back the next day with a 7-2 win at Kentucky Wesleyan. Striler, Gonzalez, Takashima and Thompson each won in straight sets, with Thompson having to capture her first set in a tie-break.

See **WOMEN'S TENNIS**, page 14



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## Roller Hockey

# No. 2 nationally ranked Tritons prepare for tournament

By SCOTT LAVELOCK

Staff Writer

Carrying an 18-3 record with them, the UM-St. Louis inline hockey team is all set for the Division-I National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association Tournament in Colorado Springs beginning Wednesday.

The Tritons, ranked second in the nation behind Lindenwood, will try to duplicate the success they had in the Great Plains regional tournament when they claimed the championship with a shocking 6-4 win over Lindenwood.

The national champion will come from a field of 20 teams, divided into five pools of four teams. After each team has played all of the other

squads in their respective pool, they will move on to bracket play where the teams will be divided into two brackets of 10 teams each and be seeded based on their entire body of work throughout the season.

The top six teams in each bracket will receive a first round bye, so it will be important for the Tritons to have a good showing in pool play, even though their success throughout the regular season will probably be enough to carry them to a respectable seed.

"Our round robin pool is absolutely brutal," team president James Lambert said. "It will be extremely difficult to come out of it unbeaten."

The Tritons' first match-up will be against Eastern Michigan (16-8-2) at

6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The Eagles feature controversial star player Jason Deskins, who at 29-years-old is a former professional ice hockey player that previously attended Miami (Ohio), where he was one of the top ice hockey players in the country.

UM-St. Louis should not have to deal with any ringers the following day, when they face off with Colorado State (15-3), the champions of the Rocky Mountain region, at 10 a.m.

The team will then look for revenge at 8:45 p.m. that night when they play Stony Brook (17-5-2), who beat UM-St. Louis in the national semifinals of the Division-II tournament last year en route to a championship win over St. Louis University.

Both the Tritons and Seawolves moved up to Division-I this year, though, and will be looking for a national title in their first season at that level.

UM-St. Louis goalie James Cash, graduate student, knows that in order for his team to succeed against this tough opposition, the Tritons will have to be able to control the tempo.

"By controlling the pace of the game, we will be able to play smart and minimize the amount of time that our opponent has the puck," Cash said. "Another key element is playing smart defense. Also, connecting our passes should create more scoring chances."

It will be a lot of hard work not only for the Tritons' Division-I

team, but also for their B Team. The NCRHA has a national tournament for the B Division as well, and the Tritons qualified for nationals with a record of 14-4-1.

They, too, will play Eastern Michigan (11-1-1) to start off pool play on Friday. The next day they will play Penn State (13-4-3) before finishing pool play Sunday against UC-Santa Barbara's Gold Squad (14-3-4).

As in Division-I, all teams in the B Division will advance to bracket play, where the 12 squads will be divided into two brackets of six teams each. The top two seeds in each bracket will get a bye. The Division-I championship game will be on Sunday afternoon, with the B Division title match coming the following day.

## Tritons Tourney Schedule

**Division I Opponents**  
Wednesday, April 9 - vs. Eastern Michigan (16-8-2)

Thursday, April 10 - vs. Colorado State (15-3)

Thursday, April 10 - vs. Stony Brook (17-5-2)

**B Team opponents**  
Friday, April 11 - vs. Eastern Michigan (11-1-1)

Saturday, April 11 - vs. Penn State (13-4-3)

Saturday, April 11 - vs. UC-Santa Barbara (14-3-4)

All games played in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Meet the Tritons Roller Hockey Team

The UM-St. Louis inline hockey teams, both the B and Division-I teams, have legitimate shots at taking home national titles this week, something that the varsity sports on campus have been unable to do recently. In fact, the last UM-St. Louis varsity teams to even make the national tournament in the NCAA were the men's tennis and baseball teams, who both made it in 2003. So who are these guys? Here is a look at some of the top players on the Tritons Division-I squad:



**Adam Clarke**  
Defenseman

At 6'0", 200 lbs., Adam Clarke, junior, is the team captain, who has already won two D-III national titles at SCC. Clarke is second on the team in goals with 17 and 23rd in the nation in assists with 22. He has scored at least one point in 32 consecutive games.



**Thomas Ames**  
Goalie

At 5'11", 195 lbs., Thomas Ames, graduate student, is a six-year player for UM-St. Louis and was a first-team All-American in 2004 when the Rivermen won the national title, which they defended the next year. In 2006, he led the nation in shutouts and winning percentage and broke regional records for goals against average and save percentage in a single season.



**James Cash**  
Goalie

At 5'10", 145 lbs., James Cash, graduate student, had 33 saves on 37 shots in the monumental regional tournament championship over Lindenwood, becoming the first goalie in four years to beat the Lions and was a first-team All-American in D-II at SLU last year. He recorded four shutouts this year.



**Doug Purk**  
Defenseman

At 5'9", 175 lbs., Doug Purk, senior, has come up huge time and time again in his five years at UM-St. Louis, with big goals in tournament action that have led to championships. Including post-season, he had 16 goals last year. In the final game against Lindenwood this year, he was hospitalized with a concussion, but made it back to the rink in time to see his team win the title.



**PJ Tallo**  
Forward

At 5'9", 160 lbs., PJ Tallo, freshman, is touted as one of the best players in St. Louis history. His wrist shot made him the leading scorer in Missouri high school history, and he scored his first collegiate goal just 12 seconds into the first game this year. He is second in the nation in assists with 37, and his 19 goals ranks him sixth in the Great Lakes region.



**Andy Meade**  
Defenseman

At 6'0", 205 lbs., Andy Meade, sophomore, is another SCC transfer and is a wall on defense with his physical play and also possesses a powerful slapshot. His goal gave UM-St. Louis the lead for good in the historic win over Lindenwood, adding to his 17 regular season goals.



**Aaron Schulz**  
Forward

At 5'9", 155 lbs., Aaron Schulz, sophomore, is known as "Dutch," and was sixth in the region in scoring last year at Missouri State, where he scored an overtime goal to beat eventual national runner-up SLU. This year, his smart and clutch play has led to 14 goals and 6 assists. Back in high school, he was second in the state in goals as a senior.



**Eric Thompson**  
Defenseman

At 5'11", 170 lbs., Eric Thompson, senior, was the "rookie" addition to the team, finishing the season with 23 goals in 24 games. His best offensive performance of the season was against Washington University on Nov. 4 with a hat trick in a back-and-forth to lead UM-St. Louis to an 8-6 victory.



**Blake Propp**  
Forward

At 5'7", 145 lbs., Blake Propp, sophomore, joined the team at mid-season, and his three hat tricks helped him rack up 16 goals and 11 assists in his first 11 games. He is ranked 11th in the region in goals despite playing only a little over half the year.



**Ben Lambert**  
Forward

At 5'7", 170 lbs., Ben Lambert, junior, is also a six-year player and a true leader on the team. He can cover one lap around the rink in 13.41 seconds, and his great speed has allowed him to notch 51 goals over the course of his career. Three of his 13 goals during the regular season this year were game-winners.



**Jason Shields**  
Forward

At 5'8", 165 lbs., Jason Shields, junior, moved to St. Louis after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The most physical player on the team, he has been known to drill goals from outside of 50 feet. Shields has notched a point in eight consecutive games at one point this year, finishing with a total of 11 goals.



**Jeremy Scott**  
Forward

At 5'10", 170 lbs., Jeremy Scott, junior, led the B team to the national championship two years ago at Lindenwood and finished 19th in the nation in goals. He scored 20 goals for UM-St. Louis last year and went on to score 11 more goals this season.

Compiled by Scott Lavelock

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STAFF VIEWPOINT

Opening Day does not belong overseas

If you have read my columns before, you may have noticed that I like this time of the year. One of the reasons is Opening Day of the Major League Baseball season.

It is a grand institution in our country. There is a reason why Thomas Boswell wrote a book called, "Why Time Begins on Opening Day." Or that George Vescey once said that it, "beats back the forces of darkness." Or that it has its own Wikipedia entry, which says that it signals, "a generational feeling of rebirth."

Opening Day has been beloved by fans since the first professional baseball team was established in Cincinnati back in the 1860s. That is not a typo. The *eighteen* sixties.

Cincinnati continued to play the first game of the Major League season for 114 years in a row, prompting one author to write that Red Sox fans consider Opening Day, "one small notch below Christmas."

This year, however, America's second Christmas was taken away from it when the Red Sox and A's opened the season in Tokyo several days before the rest of the league started its regular season games. Major League Baseball wants to expand its horizons and delve into an untapped reservoir of fan attendance and revenue.

I understand why the league wants to do everything it can to promote itself and make money. That is why the owners are in the business. But I think there comes a point when they have to be more concerned with what is in the best interest of the fans, the players and the game itself.

Part of the allure of Opening Day is that it signifies the end of exhibition play and the start of the real deal. That feeling disappeared this



By SCOTT LAVELOCK

Staff Writer

year. I talked to several people who were confused and did not even realize that those games counted in the standings.

Should that be the way the season gets underway, when the fans do not even realize which games count and which do not? And who can blame them? After all, both Boston and Oakland played several exhibition games after they started the regular season.

I think all of Mike Tyson's press conferences have made more sense than that.

The American fans, particularly those who have been so loyal to each of these teams, deserve better than that. Of course it is good for the Japanese fans to actually be able to see regular season games, but the promotion of the game to the American fans should be first and foremost, and part of the reason the game became so popular to them was the excitement of Opening Day.

It is the excitement of being in the seats for the first time in the sunshine of spring, the smell of the freshly cut grass, the taste of a good ole American hot dog at the ballpark.

Forgive me, but it just is not the

same tradition to have it in Japan, with the taste of wonton and sushi and the smell of the artificial turf in the din of the Tokyo Dome. I never thought to myself as a child, "Uh oh...Mom and Dad have had too much Sapporo and sake rice wine on Opening Day again."

Do not get me wrong. I appreciate the Japanese people and how much they follow the game, and I am not opposed to having exhibition games in Japan so that their fans can see their favorite teams and players.

But regular season games should not be played there, not only for the reasons already given, but also for the simple fact that it is unfair competitively for both teams. Having to travel halfway around the world and then be expected to win more games just a few days later puts those squads at quite a disadvantage.

Plus, the defending world champion Red Sox deserved the open the season in front of their home fans. They deserved to be honored for their achievement right off the bat. Their fans deserved to be able to call in sick to work and school, all to cheer on the team that they love.

In 1954, Wilson Sporting Equipment ran an ad in The Sporting News the day before Opening Day. In it, a bony school teacher leans over her desk with a yardstick and says to one of her students, "So Johnny, I see you plan to be sick tomorrow."

May we all be "sick" on Opening Day, and cheer our favorite teams to victory. Because, as hall-of-fame pitcher Early Wynn said, "You know that when you when that first one, you can't lose them all."

Let us please make sure, though, that those games get won and lost here in the good ole US of A.

ARABIC, from page 6

Interestingly, a former graduate of UM-St. Louis, Dawn Blaloch, came to campus from a Ph.D program at SLU just to take Arabic with Laura El Hage Chehade.

"Arabic is not offered right now at SLU" said Blaloch. "I came to UMSL to learn Arabic so I can later read a mathematical dissertation that is entirely in Arabic and has not yet been translated."

According to El Hage Chehade, students like Blaloch might expect to be able to read and write simple Modern Standard Arabic by the end of their first semester. By their second, students will move on to reading paragraphs.

"By the end of your fourth semester as an Arabic student," El Hage

Chehade said happily "you will be able to watch the news in Arabic and read simple news articles in Arabic as well."

This may be surprising to some, as it is common knowledge that Arabic is radically different from other languages such as German, French, or Spanish which are offered at UM-St. Louis. The fact that the language has a completely different script than the others, and is even read from right to left can be daunting to first time students.

El Hage Chehade however feels that Arabic is no more difficult than other languages offered on campus and takes precaution to never rush her students.

"I know that Arabic can be com-

pllicated because of its structure" El Hage Chehade admitted "but there is no reason that students should be afraid to take the course."

"Arabic is a viable language alternative to other foreign languages such as French or Spanish to take for your foreign language proficiency requirement here at UMSL. It is not only completely doable, but a really fun and rewarding experience," she said

Nate Wilson could not agree more with his teacher and said, "I have taken Spanish before and [learning a new language] is all about your mentality. You have to want to learn it and you have to take your time. Once you get the fundamentals down though, you will really begin to enjoy it."

SHORT FUSE

Street fighter turned MMA fighter: Is Kimbo Slice overrated?

I read an article online the other day where UFC fighter Chuck Liddell said that street/ MMA fighter Kimbo Slice is overrated. I really wanted to agree with Liddell, but after watching a few of Slice's fights, I think Liddell might be wrong.

Kimbo Slice, whose real name is Kevin Ferguson, has received a lot of hype on the internet and for those who have not seen any of his fights, all I can say is that Slice delivers a lot of heavy hits. A lot of heavy hits.

But does it take more than that for a fighter to become a MMA fighter? How would I know? All I do is watch it on TV and I can say that I want to see this guy on TV.

Slice has knock out power, but how would he do if the fight were taken to the ground? He would probably knock out his opponent.

In his MMA debut, Slice defeated Bo Cantrell in 19 seconds in the first round.

I think he only hit Cantrell three times before the ref stopped the fight. Slice's two other MMA matches went the same way, a quick knockout in the first round.

A really big difference, actually the main difference between street fights and MMA is rules. I think that it will be interesting to see how



By LAGUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

many points will be deducted over Slice's career for illegal hits to the back of the head.

As for Liddell, he also had a few choice comments about longtime UFC rival Tito Ortiz.

Ortiz will have his final UFC match against Lyoto Machida at UFC 84 and Liddell will not be one of the people missing Ortiz. I think that Liddell is just trying to take focus away from his match against Rashad Evans at UFC 85.

Evans has yet to lose a fight in the UFC and I do not think Evans will have to worry a spot on that record of his. The last time Liddell headlined a fight, he lost the much

anticipated match and oh yeah, his title. Liddell is looking to fight his way back to a title shot against Quinton "Rampage" Jackson. Whoever win the fight should be in line for a title shot.

But what does any of that have to do with Slice? Absolutely nothing. So why then is Liddell, a man who is trying to fight his way back to the top of the UFC Light Heavyweight division, worrying about if Slice, a street fighter turned pro, has too much hype on the internet?

Slice is a heavyweight and he and Liddell would not face each other in the cage. Most of the hype that Slice has received has been on the internet and according to Slice's website, he is 7-1 in street fights, all of which were unsanctioned. So once again, why is a former world champion concerned with a fighter who may or may not ever make it to the UFC?

I think that the "Iceman" Chuck Liddell may see that there is now a MMA fighter that throws knockout with almost every swing, and that is taking away from his fans.

Well Chuck, I just have to say this: your knockouts were great, but the clips I saw from Slice were simply phenomenal. So basically, stop hatin' Chuck!

FOOTBALL TEAM, from page 1

This past year, our sister school in Columbia achieved unprecedented success on the football field. Mizzou won the unofficial Big 12 "North" title, played in the conference championship game for the first time and competed in a New Years Day Bowl for the first time in over 30 years. All of that success equates to a huge cash flow for the school.

Opinions on whether UM-St. Louis would have to add a football team in order to successfully compete in Division-I differ greatly. A number of people think the school could go ahead without one, whereas others see it as a must.

"Some might say you should have football, but it's not essential," Garvilla said. "You look at Gonzaga, they don't have football. SIUE doesn't have football either, so yes, it can be done easily. It's actually a lot cheaper, too."

Garvilla added that with adding football to the list of sports offered comes a major risk versus reward factor. Schools like Mizzou, USC and Notre Dame make tremendous amounts of money on football,

while smaller Division-I schools have a much tougher time cashing in on the game.

Others think football is worth the risk. Women's basketball coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor spent two seasons as a student-assistant coach at traditional football-powerhouse Oklahoma.

Seeing what football meant for that campus, Curliss-Taylor would not mind that type of atmosphere here.

"I would say yes (to a football team)," she said, assuming UM-St. Louis made the jump to D-I. "You're going to attract a lot more, which is what you need to do, if you have a football program. There are schools where basketball is the main sport. I'm for that, but it's nice to have a football program in your school."

If football were to come to the UM-St. Louis campus, it would bring with it an influx of change. First, the school would have to build a field for it. Not just a place to play its games, but a facility for practice as well.

Also, the athletic department

would have to hire an entire staff just for the team, including coaches, trainers, additional athletic staff and many more assistants. What all of this means is more money and resources, which is an ongoing topic of conversation that will be discussed more later on in the series.

Whether or not football would be added to the athletic department, certain sports would have to be. According to NCAA rules, a Division-I school must have at least 14 sports it competes in, including seven women's and seven men's. Right now, there are six sports for women and only five for men.

According to Garvilla and long-time UM-St. Louis tennis coach Rick Gyllenberg, possible low-cost sporting options include track and field, bowling, men's volleyball and ice hockey.

Should UM-St. Louis decide to make the jump to Division-I sports, one of the most interesting questions that would need to be answered regards football.

No matter what decision the school came to, a few additional sports would have to be added.

STUDENT CURATOR, from page 1

The bill still must pass in the Missouri House of Representative and must be signed into law by Governor Matt Blunt before a voting student curator is a reality.

The bill is currently in the House Higher Education committee.

"I am confident the legislation will pass with overwhelming support if it is voted on by the full house. My only concern is that the legislation could get held up in committee," Luetkemeyer said.

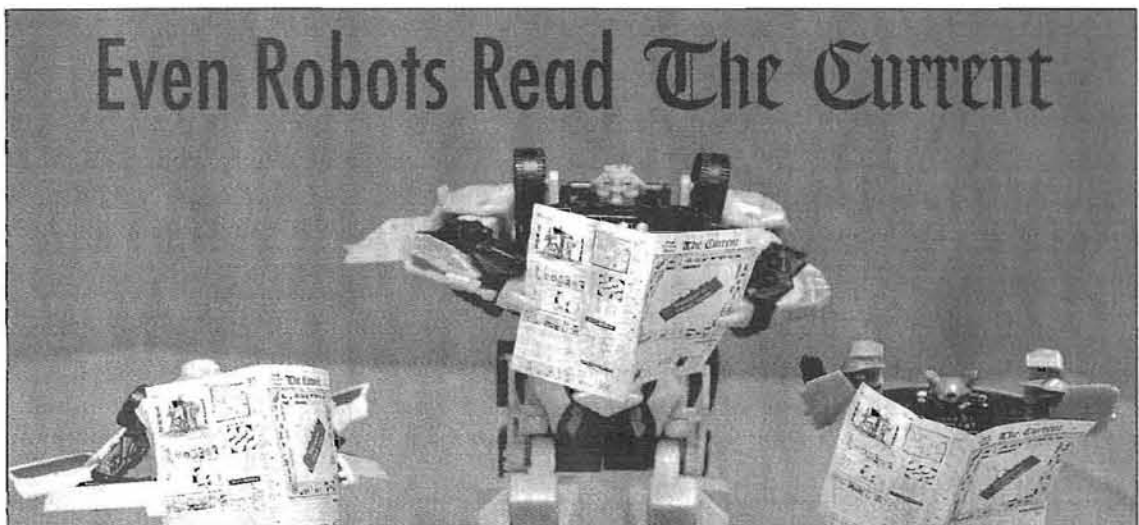
"It is my sincerest hope that Chairman Kingrey will allow the bill to be voted out of his committee," he said.

It is unknown at press time what action Gov. Blunt will take on the bill should it reach his desk.

Witte said ASUM is "confident in the support [they] have in the House." Should something happen and the bill does not pass, however, she said there are other avenues to explore.

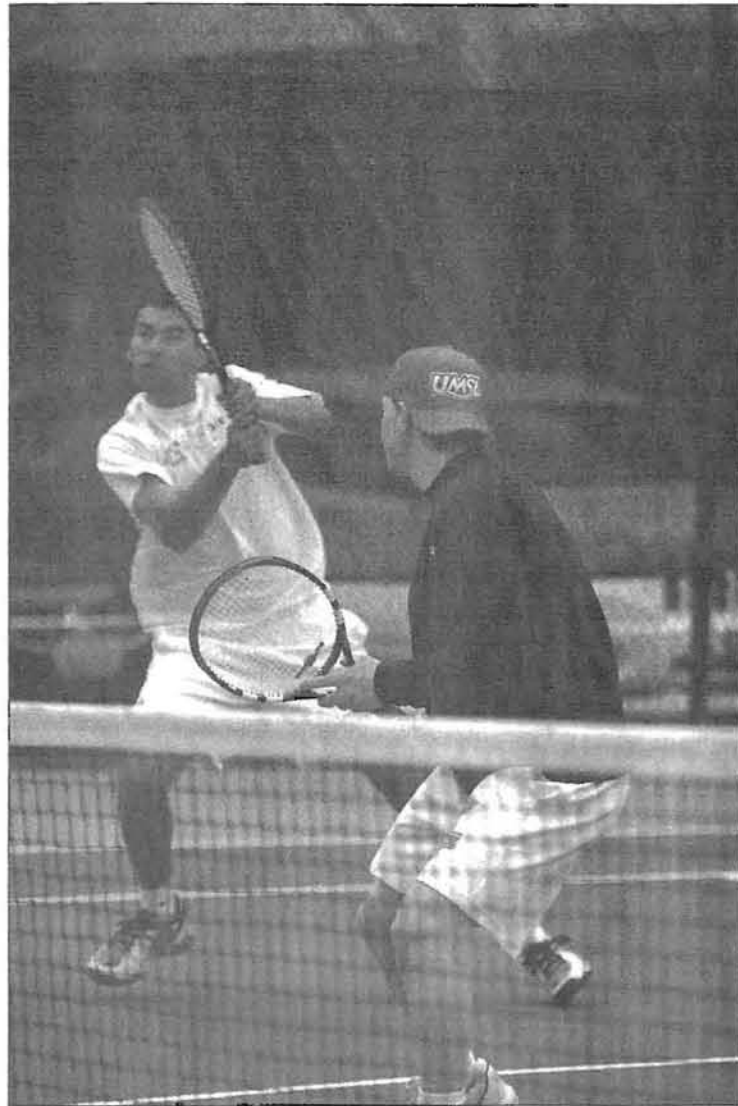
"If the bill does not pass or Missouri happens to not lose a congressional district, the concept is not lost," said Witte. "[Having a voting student Curator] is a concept that has been going on for 20 years."

If the bill does pass and Missouri does lose a congressional district, the first student curator would be appointed in January 2011 and that student would replace the existing nonvoting student representative on the board.



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Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Andre Chemas returns a volley from SIU-Edwardsville to end his doubles match and give UM-St. Louis a 3-0 lead moving into the singles matches.

**MEN'S TENNIS**, from page 11

Each player and doubles team did win, though, which does count in the individual records.

Three days later the Tritons were back into GLVC action at Bellarmine and escaped Louisville with a 5-4 victory. Each doubles team won, including an 8-0 win by Burgdorfer and freshman Daniel Anthony.

Dimke and Chemas were the only singles winners, and it was just enough.

"The important win was last week over Bellarmine," Burgdorfer said. "That was a close one but the matches we won were well played and well earned."

This weekend, UM-St. Louis rolled on with a pair of home conference wins over SIUE on Friday and Southern Indiana on Saturday, both by 6-3 margins.

The Tritons once again swept through SIUE in doubles, but this time got three singles wins.

Anthony beat Cole Garrison 6-

0, 6-2 at the number three position, Chemas trounced Mike Joly 6-0, 6-1 in the number five slot, and at the six position it was Hantack over Jordan Faulkenberg 6-1 in straight sets.

Against USI, Dimke pulled out a gutsy come-from-behind win in three sets at the one slot. At the four, five and six positions, Bryant, Chemas and Hantack won in straight sets, respectively.

The doubles teams of Dimke/Simic and Hantack/Chemas both won convincingly, the former winning 8-2 and the latter winning 8-1.

The men are now 9-0, 5-0 in GLVC play, with Rockhurst and Drury both at 6-0.

The Tritons are now ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the region, and will play a non-conference match against McKendree on Monday before returning to GLVC play over the weekend, when they hit the road to play Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky.

**SOFTBALL**, from page 10

Essner finished the game 2-3 and Keim's RBI was her only hit of the game.

UM-St. Louis won the game in the eighth innings when Shimkus walked Megan Brussman to bring in Essner for the winning run. The Tritons were able to out hit the Flyers 10-2 in the game.

In the second game of the double-header, the Rangers took the 1-0 lead in the fourth inning again. This time, Mandi Andrews hit a RBI double to right field to bring home Katrina Homa.

UM-St. Louis answered back in the fifth inning when Ja Cee Ellis hit a two-run homer to right center after Karey Kruse started the inning with a walk. The Tritons were unable to add to the lead in the inning and left three runners on base.

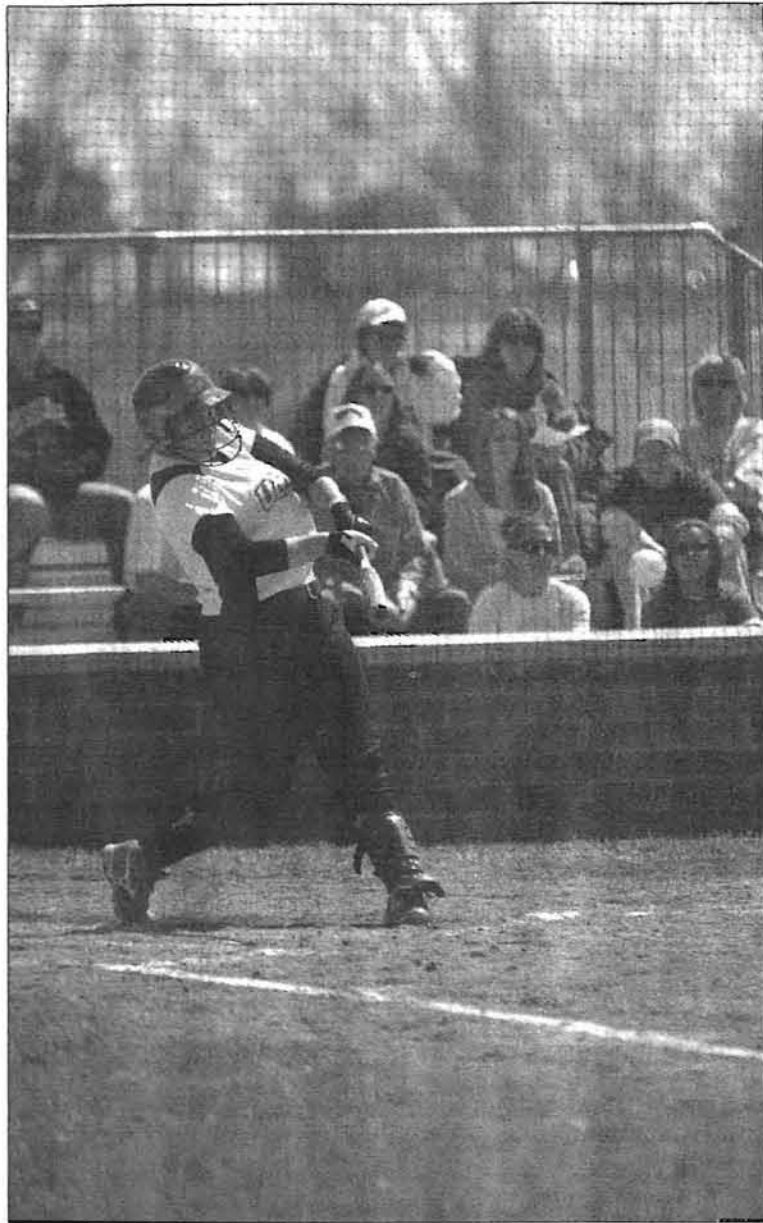
Kelley Essner started the game on the mound for UM-St. Louis and pitched four innings, giving up one earned run on five hits.

Essner struck out three batters in the game before Crystal Koehler was brought into the game for relief.

Koehler pitched 1.2 innings for the Tritons and picked up the win, giving up two hits, two walks and struck out one batter.

DeFosset was brought into the game and closed out the win for the Tritons, sitting down the last four batters and striking out one. DeFosset recorded her first save of the season.

Jessica Bryant picked up the loss for the Rangers as she pitched the complete game giving up two runs. Bryant gave up four hits in the game, three strikeouts and walked one batter.



Danny Reise • Assistant Photo Editor

Senior Casey Dierkes catcher makes contact in the Tritons' win over Wisconsin-Parkside Saturday.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**, from page 11

Garcia was triumphant as well, but had to pull it out of the fire after losing the first set.

She was strong in the final two sets, though, as well as in another doubles victory for her and Thompson.

Gonzalez and junior Sara Davidson won in doubles also, but the team of Striler/Takashima lost as the doubles line-up changes day-to-day with the status of Goodman's knee.

"It is hard for the girls to get used to playing with different partners in every match," Garcia said.

It was still a win for the team, though, keeping them within range of a conference tournament berth despite a 9-0 loss Friday to SIUE and an 8-1 loss Saturday to Southern Indiana.

The doubles team of Striler and Gonzalez provided the only victorious match for UM-St. Louis on Saturday, beating Emily Schum and Sam Hines 8-6.

Those losses dropped the red and gold record to 2-4 in conference, 4-7 overall. The Tritons sit in eighth place in the GLVC, but only one game out of sixth and two and a half games out of second.

"I feel like the pressure to win is getting bigger because it depends on these last matches if we make it to the conference tournament or not," Garcia said.

The women will have a non-conference tune-up on Monday at home against McKendree before those important GLVC matches start up again over the weekend.

Those will be at the Indianapolis Greyhounds on Friday, followed one day later with a road match against the Northern Kentucky Norse.

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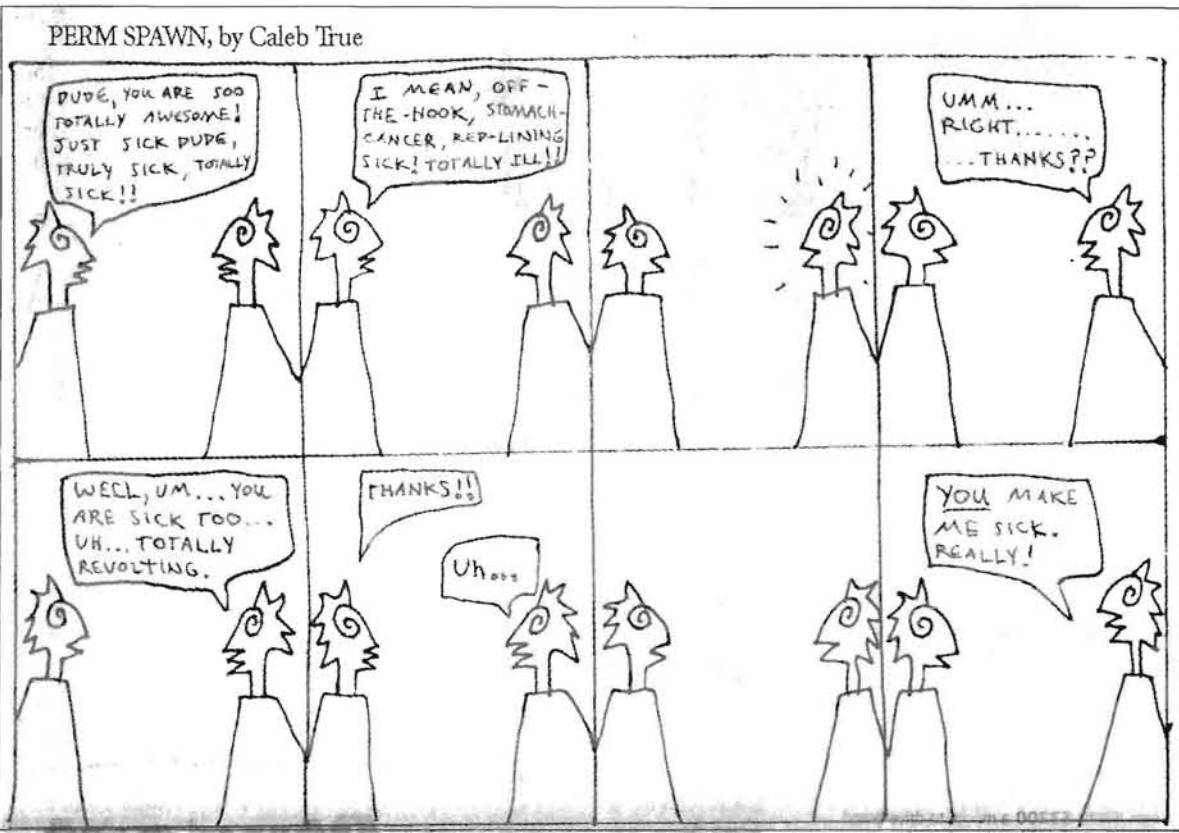
CURRENT CARTOONISTS



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart



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



"Perm Spawn" is drawn by Current cartoonist Caleb True



"Julie" is drawn by Current cartoonist Jonathan Kimer

SYNDICATED CARTOON



Good Luck to The Current members at the Missouri College Media Association Conference.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Cougar Charlie goes public about his long-standing battle with drugs.

King Crossword

ACROSS  
 1 Rotten  
 4 Sax range  
 8 Stare  
 12 Quarterback Manning  
 13 Frog's cousin  
 14 Responsibility  
 15 Move  
 17 Lairs  
 18 Blueprint  
 19 Knife eponym  
 20 Frizzy hairdos  
 22 Jet forth  
 24 Satiated  
 25 Waste  
 29 Clergyman's title (Abbr.)  
 30 Becomes rancid  
 31 Anger  
 32 Model  
 34 Largest of the seven  
 35 On the rocks  
 36 Put one over on  
 37 Doctrine  
 40 Lima's land  
 41 Hodgepodge  
 42 Send  
 46 Afflictions  
 47 Roughly  
 48 Unfrozen  
 49 Farewell  
 50 1/746 horsepower  
 51 "The 5,000 Fingers of -"

DOWN  
 1 Foundation  
 2 Frazier foe  
 3 Belie  
 4 Hold-up man?  
 5 Bank transaction  
 6 Middle X?  
 7 Praise in verse  
 8 Sink  
 9 Freshly  
 10 New Mexican tribe  
 11 Being, to Brutus

16 Stratagem  
 19 Arthur and Lillie  
 20 Farm measure  
 21 Show off the biceps  
 22 Team  
 23 Sound of contentment  
 25 Unrivaled  
 26 Called into question  
 27 Huron neighbor  
 28 Peruse  
 30 Animal protection org.

33 Champagne + O.J.  
 34 Emanation  
 36 Station  
 37 -yourself  
 38 Earthenware pot  
 39 Coated with gold  
 40 "Hey, you!"  
 42 DuPont rival  
 43 George's brother  
 44 Jam ingredient?  
 45 Shack

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

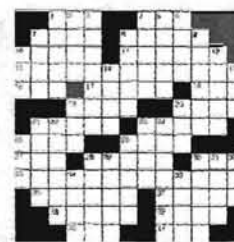
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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

The Current online.com



**ARIES**  
 (March 21 to April 19)  
 Rumors of a change in the workplace could make you a mite uneasy about going ahead with implementing your ideas. Best advice: Ignore the talk and proceed as planned.

**TAURUS**  
 (April 20 to May 20)  
 Everyone has an opinion on how to handle a recent business suggestion. Thank them for their advice. Then go ahead and follow your own fine instincts.

**GEMINI**  
 (May 21 to June 20)  
 While home is your main focus this week, new issues in the workplace need your attention as well. Take things step by step. Pressures ease in time for weekend fun.

**CANCER**  
 (June 21 to July 22)  
 Be less rigid when handling a relationship problem. You might believe you are in the right, but try to open your mind to the possibilities of facts you are currently not aware of.

**LEO**  
 (July 23 to Aug. 22)  
 Leos and Leonas run at a hectic pace throughout much of the week, but by the weekend, the Lions' Dens become a purrrfect place for you Fine Felines to relax.

**VIRGO**  
 (Aug. 23 Sept. 22)  
 Change is favored early in the week. This should make it easier for you to reassess your plans for handling a troubling professional relationship. Good luck.

**LIBRA**  
 (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)  
 A suggestion from a colleague could give your professional project that long-needed boost. Meanwhile, someone close to you still needs your emotional support.

**SCORPIO**  
 (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)  
 Before complying with a colleague's request, check to see that the action benefits all, not just one person's agenda. Continue firming up those travel plans.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)  
 Your social life is on the upswing, and the only problem is deciding which invitations to accept. Enjoy yourself before settling down for some serious work next week.

**CAPRICORN**  
 (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)  
 With your creative aspects on high, you might want to restart your work on that novel or painting you put aside. Your efforts will bring a surge in your self-esteem.

**AQUARIUS**  
 (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)  
 While you are generous with others, be sure you're not overlooking your own needs. Take time to assess your situation and make adjustments where necessary.

**PISCES**  
 (Feb. 19 to March 20)  
 Being applauded for your achievement is great, but watch out that you do not start acting like a star. It could lose your valuable support with your next project.

**BORN THIS WEEK:**  
 Your strong belief in justice, along with your leadership qualities, help you protect the rights of others.





## A CLOSER LOOK

A SPECIAL FIVE-PART IN-DEPTH SERIES TO ANSWER THE QUESTION:

# Can UM-St. Louis athletics achieve Division-I status?

PART TWO OF FIVE: The House of Cards: Conferences

By Tom Schnable

Assistant Sports Editor

In part one of the feature series, the topic of whether UM-St. Louis should add a football team if it went Division-I was discussed.

Whatever decision the school came to in that regard, the athletics department would have to add at least one sport for women and two sports for men in order to get to the NCAA-required 14 sports.

The second installment of the feature series deals with conferences, more specifically, the stability of conferences, conference affiliation at the D-I level and the overall state of the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Conference stability is like a house of cards. Remove one school from the conference, and the entire house can fall.

In 2004, the Atlantic Coast Conference decided to become more of a football powerhouse.

The ACC added Miami (Fla.) and Virginia Tech that same year, teams that had competed for national championships in the sport during the last five years. The following year, Boston College joined the conference.

Not only did this make the ACC a legitimate football conference, but also with 12 teams, it allowed for a conference championship game, and all of the money that comes with that.

In response, the Big East, where Miami, BC and Virginia Tech had

all previously competed, needed to add teams of its own. It added Cincinnati, Louisville and South Florida for football and basketball, and Marquette and DePaul for basketball purposes only, all teams that had played in Conference USA.

Now with 16 teams competing in basketball, but only eight in football, the Big East has positioned itself as a basketball juggernaut, while remaining on the brink of elite-football conferences.

In recent years, many people have called into question the Big East's credibility as a football conference because of the lack of quality teams at the bottom of the table.

"As you can see with the change in almost the entire Big East, it looked like there would be a break-up of that conference," Athletic Director John Garvilla said. "Schools went to the ACC, but then schools from Conference USA came in. It's a very dynamic industry."

The dominoes continued to fall, as Conference USA had to add teams, and before the dust settled conferences such as the Western Athletic, Mid-American, Sun Belt, Mountain West and Atlantic-10 (where St. Louis University plays) had all been dramatically altered.

With Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville's departure from the GLVC, some might worry whether that conference has the stability to remain intact. However, first-year women's basketball coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor does not share that fear.

"I think it's stable," Curliss-Taylor

said. "I know SIUE is moving out, and again I haven't been in the conference but a year now, but as with any conference, schools can move in and out.

Usually when someone leaves, someone else is ready to come in. It is just not happening immediately this next year."

As for SIUE, the athletics department there will have to decide what conference it wants to join soon. The alternative is to compete as an independent, something that is difficult unless you are a name school.

"You should go with a conference in mind," Garvilla said. "There are very few (schools) that can support an independent. Notre Dame can, but even in basketball they are in the Big East, and in other sports, they finally had to go into a conference. Between the travel and getting home games, it is very costly to stay independent. When you go, you have to have some conferences in mind."

Garvilla experienced both sides of the independent/affiliation debate at Troy University in Alabama, where the Trojans joined D-I as an independent before entering the Sun Belt conference.

Should UM-St. Louis enter the Division-I fray, it would most likely lack the name-recognition needed to compete as an independent.

And while conferences like the Big 12, A-10 and even the Missouri Valley would probably be out of its reach, the school could very easily find its niche in a mid-major conference somewhere.

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