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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

March 5, 2007

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1210

THIS WEEK

News at Noon Series Kicks Off

The Current and The New York Times will host "News and Noon" this Wednesday, March 7 in 314 MSC. Deborah Cohen will speak about immigration from noon until 1 p.m.

INSIDE

Bright Flight scholarships to receive more funding

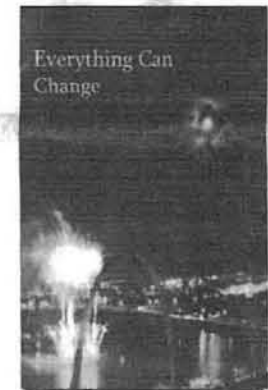
See page 3



'Scissorhands' comes to the Fox

The show will be at the Fox through March 11.

See page 8



Literature on Campus

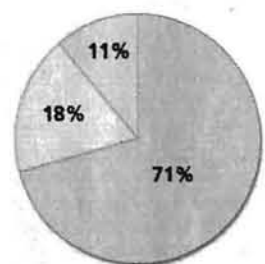
The Current takes a look at the many different outlets for a wide range of writers on campus.

See page 6

ON THE WEB

The Current

Web poll results: Which team will finish with a better record, softball or baseball?



- Baseball
- Softball
- Hardball with Chris Matthews on MSNBC

This week's question
What would you do with Coach Brady's \$1.5 million?

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UMSL appeal denied in Brady case

However, insurance companies push legislation to avoid similar cases in the future

By PAUL HACKBARTH

Design Editor

The Missouri Supreme Court refused to hear UM-St. Louis' appeal in Baseball Coach Jim Brady's age discrimination and retaliation case Tuesday.

"I was just ... ecstatic," Brady said. "It's equivalent to when you see the final out of a game."

Brady's final settlement amounts to more than \$1.5 million, which includes nearly a quarter-million dollars in interest. Of that, Athletics Director Pat

Dolan must pay \$100,000.

Brady will also receive back pay in a salary he would have received if he were full time instead of part time between 2002 and 2005, plus medical benefits, which were cut during his term as head baseball coach.

Brady found out Tuesday afternoon when his lawyer, Jerome Dobson, left a voicemail on his phone. As Brady went to call Dobson back, Bryan Burwell, sports columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, called to tell him the news.

"I can honestly say I've seen this through to its fruition and it really val-

Quick Read

Sen. John Loudin (R-Ballwin) is sponsoring Senate Bill 532, which would change the criteria for suing public institutions for discrimination under the Missouri human rights law. Head Baseball Coach Jim Brady sued the University for violating the law in 1998.

idates my perseverance," Brady said.

The statement released by the court states, "The University's application for transfer from the Court of Appeals has been denied," according to Dobson.

Athletics Director Pat Dolan referred comments to Bob Samples, director of media, marketing and printing services at UM-St. Louis, who referred questions to UM spokesman Scott Charton.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Charton said University system lawyers had received the decision and were reviewing it. He had no further comment as of Friday.

"I think this means the case is over, that it's the end of the road," Dobson said.

See BRADY, page 10

Rails takes over as chair of election committee

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association accepted the appointment of Brian Rails, senior, business administration, as the new Election Committee chair March 2.

"Taz resigned," Kelcy Siddall, senior, economics, and newly appointed Vice President of SGA said. "Brian Rails is assuming the Chair position."

Nick Koechig, senior, political science and president of SGA appointed Rails to take the position after the resignation of Tanzeena "Taz" Hossain, senior, psychology.

"Tanzeena resigned because of other commitments, she was really busy this semester," Koechig said.

The appointment of the elections committee had been delayed earlier in the semester.

"I need to get everything organized with the timeline because it's off," Rails said. "I have to get it running the way it needs to even though we're not on schedule."

Hossain was not available for comment.

The Election Committee, chaired by Rails,

also includes: Janice Koziatek, senior, nursing; Adam Richter, junior, studio art; D'Andre Braddix, senior, criminal justice; Tegan Viggers, senior, communication; and Traci Clark, senior, nursing.

"I'm excited, it's a good group of people and I think it will get done right," Richter said.

Rails addressed the assembly on asking them to avoid coming to him about past problems with the elections, because it was out of his hands.

"Any discrepancy that happened, I'm not in control of," Rails said. "Nick appointed me, I think, because I showed a special interest in the elections. I want as many people to run as possible."

The job of the Election Committee is to recommend certain rules and procedures for the elections to follow, which the assembly would approve.

"I want them to be aware of the rules, I want to go into depth over the rules with the candidates so they know what they can and can't do," Rails said. "My ultimate goal is to have no complaints of rule violation. The candidates should know the rules before they begin office."

An in-depth rules reading will take place on Friday, March 23, where candidates must attend.

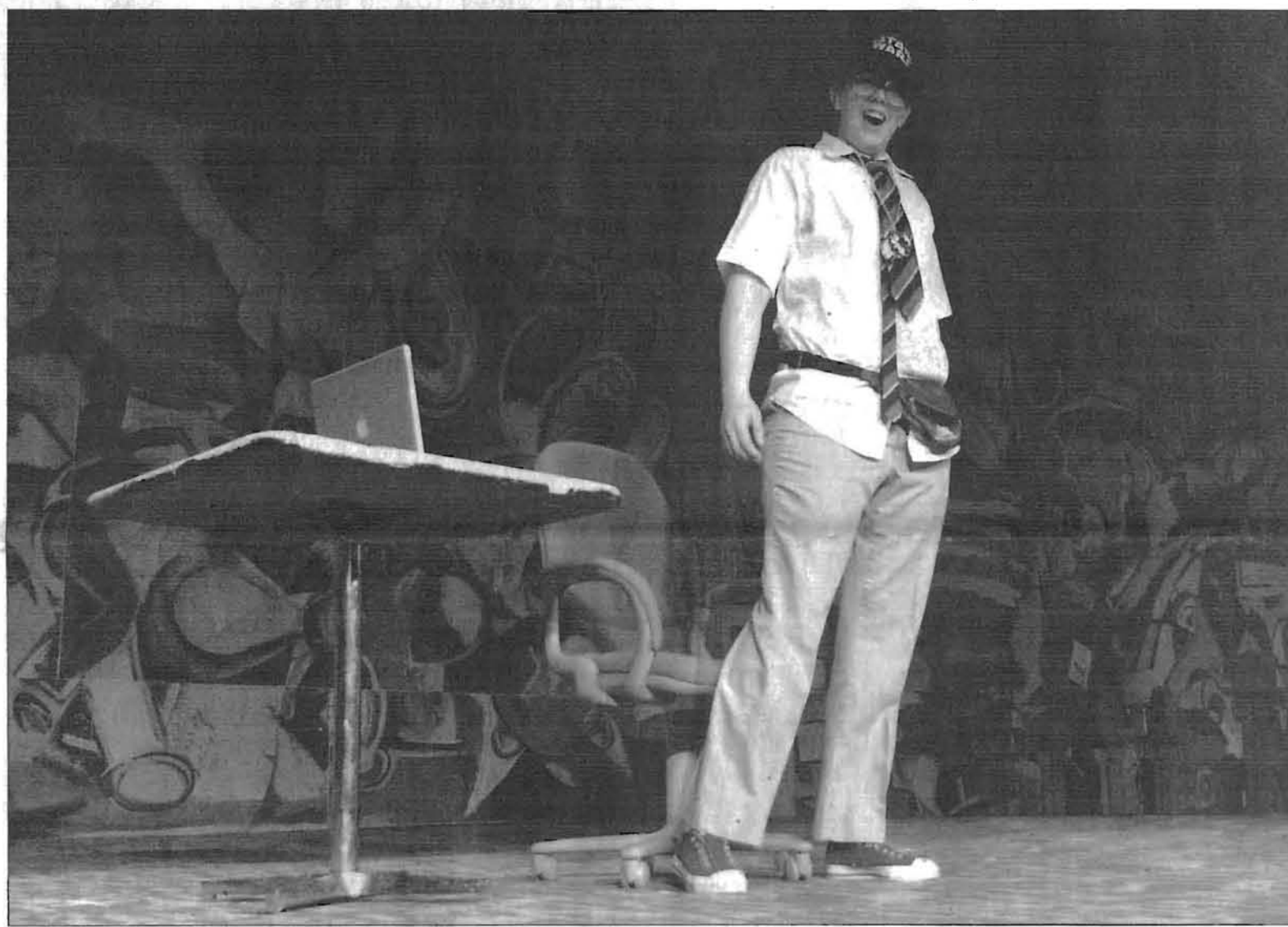


Brian Rails

Quick Read

SGA President Nick Koechig appointed Brian Rails the new election committee chair after Tanzeena Hossain resigned. Hossain quit because of other commitments, Koechig said.

'WHITE AND NERDY' AT THE RHA DRAG SHOW



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Grace Ritter as Justin Sane is just so "white and nerdy" during Mr. and Mrs. RHA on Wednesday, Feb 28. Justin Sane won second place in the pageant.

AT MR. AND MRS. RHA PAGEANT

DUDE LOOKS LIKE A LADY

AND THE LADIES DRESS UP TO LOOK LIKE DUDES

STORY BY SARAH O'BRIEN • ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Residential Life held its annual drag show, Mr. & Ms. RHA, last Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House.

UM-St. Louis graduate, Tyler Cross, who is now a professional drag queen, hosted the show. Cross performed as Siren with a mix of comedy and lip-synced numbers for the entertainment of those who attended the event.

The event included a drag show competition during which men and women tried their hands at acting like the opposite sex.

However, the drag queens, men performing as women, outnumbered the drag kings, women performing as men.

The performers were required to do "two sets," one being called the "talent" portion of

The Current

online.com

Visit www.thecurrentonline.com for a photo gallery of this year's Mr. and Mrs. RHA pageant.

the contest and the other part was a question and answer session.

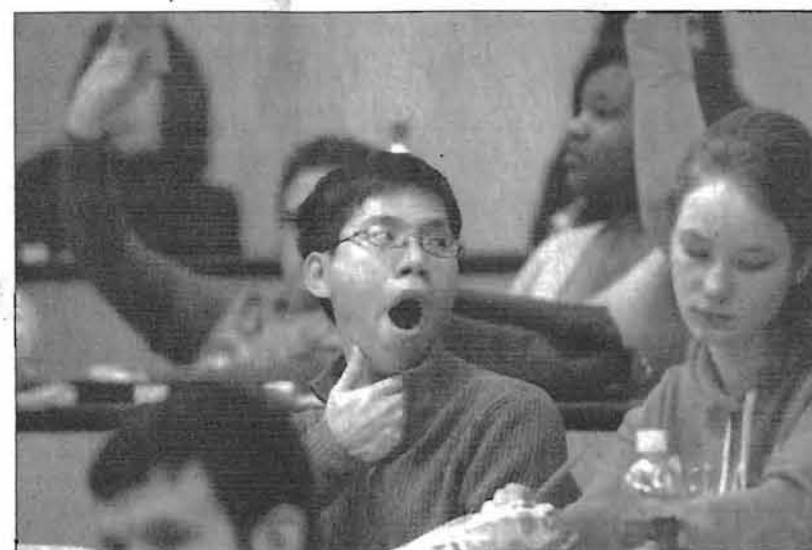
The questions were provided by members of the Residential Hall Association.

See DRAG SHOW, page 10

SGA proposes resolution for residents' parking woes on south campus

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Guodong Zhang, representative for Beta Alpha Psi yawns during the two-hour long SGA meeting March 2. The meeting covered items such as vice-chair elections, SGA budget, and a resolution thanking Elson Floyd for his term as UM system president.

Quick Read

The SGA assembly discussed a resolution to ease student residents' parking issues on South Campus, including more 'resident only' parking next to dorms and more reasonable prices for parking passes.

"Parking fees are essentially already covered in what they pay to live in the Meadows," Goers said.

The resolution stated that many residents were unhappy with the current parking pass system that the University offered. An additional request of the residents was for more "resident only" parking next to the dormitories.

The parking problem on South Campus arises from too many programs in one building, according to the resolution.

The nursing program, as well as the Pierre Laclede Honors College, call Provincial House and Marillac Hall

home, creating inconvenient parking for the residents living in Provincial House and Oak Hall.

The SGA resolved to "recommend that the University works with residents in an effort to change and improve the current parking pass system."

This resolution to better student parking was passed with only two abstentions from vote.

The SGA assembly also passed a second resolution to thank Elson Floyd, President of the UM system, for his "tireless" assistance to the students of the University of Missouri.

Floyd has been the president since January 2002. Earlier this year, he announced that he would be accepting a position as the 10th president of Washington State University, and leaving the UM system at the end of the 2006-2007 academic year.

See SGA, page 10

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

MONDAY, FEB. 26

STOLEN AUTO - NEAR DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY BUILDING LOT JJ

The victim reported that his silver 2006 Scion two-door was stolen sometime between Friday night and Monday morning. The victim said he thinks he parked it in the lot in front of the building. The vehicle was entered into the regional computer system as stolen.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - PARKING LOT K

The victim reported a new dent in the side of a vehicle. It appears that after a high school basketball game at the Mark Twain gym, numerous small fights erupted in the parking lots. The damage was most likely caused by fans from the opposing team. No injuries or other damage were reported.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

TRESPASSING- OLD NORMANDY HOSPITAL

Two campus officers were checking on the interior of the abandoned building when they heard a person walking in the hallway. The officers located the person hiding in an electrical room closet. The subject was ordered out and arrested for trespassing. The suspect indicated he was there to remove "scrap" from the building. The subject was given a summons for trespassing and released pending notification by the court.

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

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

The Rivermen won the Division II Great Plains Collegiate Inline Hockey League Regional Championship Tournament on Sunday night against Truman State.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, MARCH 5

Celebrate Social Justice Month

Social Justice Month kicks off with Hunger Awareness Week at the Information Table in the Millennium Student Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be a soup line in the Nosh from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Purchase a meal of soup and bread for \$2 today and Tuesday, March 6. Proceeds will go to prevent hunger worldwide. Call (314) 385-3455 for more details.

Monday Noon Series

Faculty from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will read poems that celebrate various forms of poetry from around the world at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5699 for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

Art Students 'Check Out'

Seventeen art students will hold an exhibit called "Check Out" from 7 to 9 p.m. at Gallery FAB, 201 Fine Arts Building. They will display their work together for the last time before graduation through March 15. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Refreshments and music by The Province will be provided opening night. Call 5997 for more information and normal gallery hours.

Distinguished Speaker Series

Cynthia Brinkley, president of AT&T will speak at 5:30 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Her lecture is part of the Distinguished Speaker Series and will focus on women in business. A reception will follow at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 5446.

Foreign Language Films

Two foreign films will be screened today to celebrate Foreign Language Week, which runs March 5 to 9. "La Doubleure" (French) will be shown at 12:30 p.m. in 210 Lucas Hall. "Electra" (Greek) will be shown at 3 p.m. in 100 Lucas Hall. The films are subtitled in English. The celebration will culminate with a Foreign Language Cultural Fair at 3 p.m. March 9 in 527 Clark Hall. Go to the Foreign Languages & Literatures homepage for more information.

Performance: "Beethoven"

The Arianna String Quartet will perform "Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets" at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and free for students. Call 4507 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Hunger Banquet

In observance of Social Justice Month, the Catholic Newman Center will hold a Hunger Banquet at 12:30 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B at the Millennium Student Center. The banquet will be set up so that participants can experience the unequal distribution of wealth in the world. A free meal will be provided. An informational table will be set up from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center. Call Tracy at (314) 385-3455 to register for the banquet.

University Jazz Combo to Perform at Touhill

The University Jazz Combo will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. They will play music by Thelonious Monk, Joe Henderson, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Tom Harrell, Herbie Hancock and others. This concert is free and open to the public. Call 4235 for more information.

Debate: Iraq War, Foreign Policy

Political scientists J. Martin Rochester and Frederic S. Pearson will face off in a debate titled "An Assessment of the Iraq War and the Bush Foreign Policy: Point and Counterpoint," at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room C at the Millennium Student Center. The debate is free and open to the public. Call 7299 for more information.

News at Noon Series

News at Noon is a new forum for faculty and students to discuss current events. Deborah Cohen, assistant professor of history and a fellow in the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at UMSL, will discuss "Immigration" from noon to 1 p.m. in 314 Millennium Student Center. Pizza will be provided. The program is free and open to students. Call 5692 for more information.

Computer science colloquium

Ronald P. Loui, professor of computer science at Washington University in St. Louis, will discuss "Streaming AI and hardware-based document classification" at 2:30 p.m. in 302 Computer Center Building. Refreshments will be served at 2 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Call 6355 for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Hold 'Em for Hunger Tournament

Texas Hold 'Em for Hunger Tournament will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Pilot House at the Millennium Student Center. A \$10 donation is suggested for admission. Proceeds go to prevent worldwide hunger. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

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

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



File Photo

Social Justice Month kicks off with Hunger Awareness Week at the information table in the Millennium Student Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Gallery Visio Exhibit

Gallery Visio will present "UMSL Women on the Move 2007," an exhibition of artwork by UM-St. Louis women students, staff and alumni from 4 to 7 p.m. It will run through April 13 and is free and open to the public. Call 7922 for more information and normal gallery hours.

Auditions: hip hop, African dance

The Department of Theater and Dance will hold auditions for a new dance group that will perform hip hop, step, and African dance from noon to 3 p.m. in the Pilot House at the Millennium Student Center. Beginning and experienced dancers are welcome. For more information, email raedkc@umsl.edu

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Team Trivia Night

Team Trivia Night to benefit the John Perry Staff Association Scholarship Fund at UM-St. Louis will be at 7 p.m. at Wild Acres Park, 10400 Midland Blvd. in Overland. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. Call 6013 for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

'UMSL Day'

"UMSL Day" will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Millennium Student Center. This will be an open house for prospective students and families. Call (888) GO-2-UMSL for more information.

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Search for New President

The University of Missouri Board of Curators will conduct six public forums around the state in March to discuss its search for the institution's next president. The first will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. J.C. Penney Building, Room 126.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

2007 Trailblazer Ceremony

"Generations of Women Moving History Forward," the 2007 Trailblazer ceremony will be at 1 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the Millennium Student Center. This event is free and open to the public. Call 5695 for more information.

The Current
and
The New York Times
present
News at Noon

In an effort to create a forum to discuss current events from multiple perspectives in a focused, informative, deliberate manner. These discussions will focus on the responsibility each of us has to be informed citizens, highlighting the press and its role in democracy. In order to increase out of class interactions between faculty and students

Discussion Topic: Immigration
With Deborah Cohen
This Wednesday in the MSC, room 314

The Current

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

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Newsroom | 314-516-5174
Advertising | 314-516-5316
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Email | thecurrent@umsl.edu

Mail | 388 MSC
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

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AFFILIATIONS



Efforts underway to restore funding to Stadler-Benton complex

By JASON GRANGER

News Editor

An OMNIBUS bill has been introduced at the Missouri legislature, in an effort to restore funding to buildings cut out of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority loan sell-off.

The buildings cut, including Benton-Stadler Hall at UM-St. Louis, are buildings that could possibly house stem cell research in the future.

The proposed sale of the MOHELA loans, which is endorsed by Gov. Matt Blunt, would provide \$350 million for building projects to all the state universities and community colleges.

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George said the funds are desperately needed to renovate Benton-Stadler Hall, which houses the University's science department.

"The situation is, it's probably our oldest academic building on campus," George said. "It needs electrical work

and other renovations." George said the issues in Benton-Stadler have gotten so severe, it is to the point that UM-St. Louis is having trouble competing for science students.

"A number of high school teaching labs are getting better," George said. "And they are better than ours."

George said part of the problem is the issue has become partisan, with more Republicans supporting reinstating the funding than Democrats.

"Some people opposed to the sale

are against it because they don't want to see any restrictions at all," George said.

The legal wrangling dealing with the sale of the loan has impeded the progress of other building projects at the other state universities as well. At UM-Columbia, a life sciences building had to be scrapped due to pressure from Missouri pro-life groups.

The building will now house a cancer treatment center and medical teaching facility. Blunt has gone on record saying the life sciences building

would have had a more beneficial impact on Missouri's economy.

Missouri Right to Life President Pam Fichter has said the group opposes any plan that would provide funding to buildings that fund "life destroying research."

Despite the outside pressures, George is confident the funding will get passed.

"Obviously, I'm partial [to the sale of the loans] because I want the money to renovate Benton-Stadler," George said. "I am optimistic and ever hopeful

about funding for Benton-Stadler."

The OMNIBUS bill will go before the State House and Senate later in the year, and could be on the governor's desk by the end of the school year.

Opponents of stem cell research were pleased by legislative language excluding buildings that could house embryonic stem cell research from receiving the money. Fichter has said in the past that Missouri Right to Life will continue to fight to keep public institutions from performing the research.

Two bills would allow student curator vote

Legislation comes as next student curator is chosen to replace Kerford

By PAUL HACKBARTH

Design Editor

The search is on to replace student curator Maria Kerford from UM-St. Louis.

Her term expires soon and two bills trying to give future student curators a vote are winding through the Missouri Legislature.

Senate Bill 106, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Graham (D-Columbia) and House Bill 613, sponsored by Rep. Bryan Pratt (R-Blue Springs) have been heard in their respective committees.

Ted Farnen, chief of staff for Graham, said Graham "feels it's important for students to have a voice in certain things," Farnen said. "Take the example of tuition. Every year, it's an increased cost, and [Graham]he feels a student representative should get one vote on tuition."

The House version of the student curator vote bill, which may be voted on in committee as early as March 6, has had influence from the student lobbyist group, Associated Students of the University of Missouri.

Megan Block, legislative director for ASUM, said the group has testified at hearings and met committee members.

"We had one intern help draft the bill with Pratt, which includes the plan for the rotation," Block said.

The intern, Craig Stevenson, from Columbia, helped design the bill and explained how things would work if



Maria Kerford, student representative to the Board of Curators, speaks during the SGA Meeting Friday in the SGA chambers.

Carrie Fastika • Associated Press Editor

the student curator received a vote.

"The student will serve two years in one congressional district, then rotate to another congressional district's physical voting seat," Stevenson said. "However, the rotation between the four UM campuses does not change and that will continue."

The student representative would replace a curator from one of the nine congressional districts in the state, meaning when one student curator's term is up, the next student curator chosen from a different campus or

different congressional district would take the place of a "regular" outgoing curator from that congressional district.

Instead of the Missouri governor appointing three new regular curators, the governor would appoint a student curator and two other regular curators.

In addition to helping draft the bill, Block said Stevenson "took the initiative and created a Facebook group, which after about two days, had over 200 members." The group, "Students For A Vote on our

Governing Boards," now has more than 300 members.

Using Facebook, a social networking Web site popular with many students, was an innovative form of lobbying, Stevenson said.

"Senator Graham and Representative Pratt recommended we get public input to be included about allowing a vote for the student on the governing board. They asked, 'how do we know what we're doing is what the students want us to do?'"

See CURATOR VOTE, page 10

Bright Flight recipients could receive more in scholarships next year

By JASON GRANGER

News Editor

New legislation in Jefferson City is aiming to increase funding to the Bright Flight scholarship program.

House Bill 1428 proposes to double the scholarship money to \$4,000 per year. Presently, students who score in the top three percentile of those taking the ACT or SAT college aptitude tests are eligible for a \$2,000 per year scholarship, which is renewable provided the student maintains a 2.0 grade point average while in college, according to the Missouri Department of High Education Web site.

Rep. Edward Robb, R-Columbia, proposed the increase and said he hopes this year the bill increase will be passed.

Robb said last year, many bills aimed at increasing financial aid failed, but there is reason for optimism this year.

"The response to the bill has been optimistic," Robb said. "I want to increase it primarily because it hasn't been increased since 1991."

Nick Koechig, SGA President, agrees with Robb and believes it should have been increased years ago.

"It definitely needs to be

increased," Koechig said. "It's been a number of years since the last increase."

Robb said when the bill was first proposed, the \$2,000 figure was sufficient for student needs.

"When it was first proposed, the scholarship would have covered tuition, books and a portion of room and board at UM-Columbia," Robb said. "Now, obviously, that is not the case. The objective is to get it increased to match the cost of living index, or at least cover tuition costs."

The scholarship increase would not only help the students, Robb said, but the state as well.

"There's a lot of empirical evidence that shows people will migrate back to where they went to school," Robb said. "I think everyone is positive about trying to provide additional funds to Missouri students."

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri have taken on the issue and are lobbying at the state capital to try and get the measure passed.

David Dodd, UM-St. Louis ASUM board member, said the lobbying group has always supported the Bright Flight scholarship.


See BRIGHT FLIGHT, page 10


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Thursday, March 8, 2007

10am to 3pm

UMSL MSC Century Rooms



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10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mark Twain Building

To pre-register and for the list of employers attending the fair, please visit:
www.umsl.edu/career

Admission is free only for current UM-St. Louis students and alumni who pre-register by Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Admission for non-UM-St. Louis job seekers and UM-St. Louis students and alumni who do not pre-register is \$5.00 at the door.

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OUR OPINION

Brady case may be the last of its kind

Legislation could bring an end to lawsuits, and lower the risk to insurance companies

Last Tuesday's decision by the Missouri Supreme Court to deny UM-St. Louis' appeal in Head Baseball coach Jim Brady's age discrimination and retaliation case marked the third strike, so to speak, against the University in its futile attempt to overturn the courts' decisions.

The \$1.5 million settlement the courts finally agreed upon as the amount Brady would receive will come from a lot of different pockets.

First, named defendants Pat Dolan, athletics director, and Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services, will pay \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

Taxpayers will dip into their wallets and purses to pay interest accumulated on the settlement.

However, an unseen organization in this whole ordeal will also be paying into the settlement. That source is the insurance companies that represent the University of Missouri.

Now those same insurance companies representing public institutions like UM-St. Louis are pushing Missouri legislators toward changing the same law that Brady initially sued UM-St. Louis for.

In February, Sen. John Loudin (R-Ballwin) introduced Senate Bill 532, which would change "the causation

standard, which is the basis for a discriminatory employment practice under Missouri's human rights law."

The proposed bill raises a lot of what ifs, including what if this bill would have passed at the time Brady initially sued the University in 1998 for age discrimination and retaliation? Would the outcome have been different? Would Brady have even been able to sue the University?

The modifications to the law would change violations for discrimination from the unfair treatment based on age, race or gender to undesirable actions motivated by that type of treatment.

If this were the case when Brady sued, and the trial judge could have accepted Schuster's defense that the reason for cutting Brady's full-time status to part-time was "budget cuts," Brady's argument might not have held up in court.

According to the bill's summary, "employers may escape liability if they prove they would have taken the same action absent the discriminatory motivating factor."

The bill would also no longer include "persons directly acting in the interest of an employer" in the definition of an employer, this would have remove Schuster and Dolan as defen-

dants in the case.

The summary goes onto say, "the act bars punitive and exemplary damage awards against public entities for human rights violations." Translation: the University would not have had to pay Brady as much as the \$1.5 million settlement agreed to.

In defense of the bill, Loudin argues the Missouri Human Rights Law as it is written now poses too much of a risk for insurance companies representing places like UM-St. Louis.

On the other hand, as the law is written currently, it protects the individual from an institution if it discriminates against its employee.

So, who is the Missouri legislature looking out for? The average worker or the big-time University.

Brady's perseverance throughout the initial trial and the appeals shows a prime example of what the lawmakers who wrote the Missouri human rights law set out to do in the first place for employees across the state.

What the University did to Brady was wrong. As your mother told you when you were younger, sometimes you have to pay for your mistakes, and no Missouri piece of legislation should change that age-old piece of advice.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Both sides of change

Does anyone remember freshmen day? Freshmen day, which was the day where it was all out war against freshmen and free licks for all of the upperclassmen. I do. I remember it as a freshman and as an upperclassman.



BY MYRON MCNEILL
Opinions Editor

I remember shelling out and taking licks, all in fun. For those who do not

remember, I am sure it is because they were too busy being in love and overlooking the war as they passed us up, leaving the lunchroom headed to fifth hour, hoping to get a kiss from their boyfriend or girlfriend. You know, the typical high-school stuff like gum under seats and the smelly locker rooms from mandatory gym classes. Oh yeah, and assemblies, which were usually my time to "shine" (act really silly).

How did I get to this, you ask? What is all this talk of high school? I recently experienced two situations that took me back to high school, which was almost close to a decade ago.

One was my Modern Drama teacher exclaiming that "life changes" and art reflects this. This point hammered home as I thought and reflected on how life has changed since prom and break ups of 1998.

The second epiphany came when I asked a question to fellow student in another one of my classes. No, it was not will you be mine, circle yes or no. It was the magical "can I borrow a

piece of paper" question. He and I chuckled at this, not having heard the phrase in so long.

You know, college seems to be about having everything, always being right ... every day, every time and not every now and then. No, I was not ill prepared, I did not want to walk across the

room in front of the professor to get a piece of paper, and it was just convenient to ask him. Not to mention, walk in front of the professor during lecture ... that was taboo in the all of the schools I went to back then. I hate to sound old school, but my professor is right, "times are changing and the way we think and do things are affected by this change."

I can remember when chirps, blurps, songs and other noises didn't sporadically sound off during class. Another no-no! Now, we have cell phones, blurps and ringtones.

Wow, the most we had in high school was a pager and not everyone had this. I didn't. I remember hearing the slang, "beep me 911" or "hit me on the hip" and others wearing the clip end of a beeper out. Now the gadget age is king. People look at you crazy, as if the norm is to know about gadgets like MP3 players, iPods and notebook laptops.

See HIGH SCHOOL page 14

STAFF VIEWPOINT

I can't get no interaction, I try and I try

I left a class and ran to the Fine Arts Building to quickly go through the building and find someone I knew.

I was simply looking for a partner to join me for lunch, when it dawned on me that I recognized all of my fellow students, but knew none of them.

I put a few things in context -- UM-St. Louis is a commuter school, the administration offers a fair amount of programs and I am not the most straightforward when it comes to introducing myself to someone I do not share a class with.

It also occurred to me, however, that in the arts program we are not required to critique or officially interact with students outside of the program.

Most students are in their formative years while attending our school. Imagine how much your work could progress if it was critiqued by graphic artists, painters, photographers and printmakers.

Imagine how that could impact this public school. Our program could easily progress past more expensive private schools.

When I think about great periods of contemporary art, I look back on the Bauhaus and Greenwich Village, two very formative places to look for insight into many things we currently

create.

Artists were interacting all over the place. Musicians, painters, photographers and great thinkers all worked under one roof. They involved themselves in bettering not only their work, but the work of their partners and the entire art world.

I do not want to sound like I am placing blame or targeting anyone, in fact what I witnessed Friday night at Fort Gondo was one of the most uplifting and stimulating shows I have been to. All my peers' work was displayed, allowing for me to talk to some fellow artist about where they were going and how they were getting there. I would love to see more shows of student work, more excitement and conversa-

tion about art. I would also like to see UM-St. Louis excel as a community of thinkers.

So what now? What needs to change in the program to allow for more interaction? I think students, as artists, need to pressure our professors for more interactive critiques. Students working on a senior thesis should take a look at the work of juniors. The juniors in turn need to backtrack to the entrance classes and find out what those students are creating. Find out how your fellow student processes their work and ask how you can aid or direct them.

I also think this should not be retroactive. How about open critiques? Where all disciplines, art majors or not, can discuss art.

Let's say a graphics student wants a photograph involved in their work. The student has then seen photographers and they will have the ability to go to someone whose work could fuel their own.

I think creating an open forum for artists to discuss their work with anyone who wants to get involved will create a better community and make this University a more likely college choice for art students. Everyone's work will be stronger all around.



BY TOM BREMER
Staff Writer

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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.

CONTACT US

Mail:
One University Blvd.
Room 388 MSC
St. Louis, MO 63121

Email:
thecurrent@umsl.edu

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- The price of college
- Missouri Human Rights Law
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UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

What is the best invention of all time?



Brent Hambrick
Junior
Music and Business

"Turtles In Time for Super Nintendo because Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is the shit."



Caroline Erickson
Freshman
Public Administration

"The printing press, because it allowed for the spread of knowledge around the world."



Stan Brock
Junior
Business Administration

"My PDA, because I use it for everything from watching TV to browsing the Internet."



Lori Walsh
Junior
Psychology

"Satellite TV, because it keeps my daughter busy while I'm studying."



Eric Schwenke
Junior
Communications

"Ninjas, because they're ninjas."

STAFF VIEWPOINT

College is not expensive

Ok, so the headline seems to be generally untrue and may be misleading. College is generally not so cheap and students are constantly complaining about the high price of education and the high tuition prices that continue to rise each year.

Parking is pretty outrageously priced. Textbooks, dare I mention the high sale price

and penny buy-back prices, are part of some crazy monopoly that has to be getting someone rich. When you think about school and the cost to attend, cheap is usually not a word that comes to mind.

I was recently thinking about some free or less expensive things on campus and wanted to highlight some good deals I've found. I too complain about tuition and book prices, but the price of these things doesn't seem to matter as much when one thinks of the priceless commodity of a good education and means to future advancement.

The first of the campus good deals is the much discussed Metro pass. It was great when it was free and the \$45 a semester is still a good deal. I'm not sure this deal will stick around with low pass sales, so this good deal may be a thing of the past. Maybe if students were not so quick to pay huge amounts of cash for parking, the Metro pass would still be popular, but I don't see that happening.

I know it's important to have a car and be able to get around, but if more people would drive less and give our wonderful newer means of public transportation a chance, we could save money while cutting down on pollution

and doing our part to help save the earth.

The Metro pass isn't just for travel to and from school. Cardinals fans could also use this benefit for going to games this spring. For the \$45 pass, a lot of extra cash could be saved by parking at a station and riding to Busch Stadium. After travel to 3 to 5 games in the early baseball season, one would have saved enough easily to validate the \$45 pass price.

Another good deal on campus is the great facilities at the Mark Twain building. Instead of paying for that posh health club, students and faculty can use the recreational facilities like the gym or pool for free.

The University also offers many interesting classes for free or cheap. My personal experience has been with Aikido classes for \$10 per 8 week session of classes. One can take Aikido or Tai Chi for this price, which breaks down to a bit under 50 cents a class.

Compared to the fee one would pay at a martial arts school, this is one heck of a deal.

These are just a couple examples for the campus community of the many resources offered. Countless others are available, such as free computing classes (in-class and online), workshops and seminars offered by Career Services and many events free or discounted to students and faculty.

So yes, a college education can be quite expensive. But for the inquisitive person looking to save money and use available resources that come cheap, the UM-St. Louis campus has a lot to offer.



BY TOBIAS KNOLL
Proofreader

SCIENCE COLUMN

Milk drinking and human evolution linked

Mom told you to drink your milk, but are you still following Mom's advice?

Many grown-up kids drink milk. Women are often encouraged to drink milk to prevent osteoporosis. Milk is the image of healthy in our society.

With such a positive health image, you may be surprised to read that researchers have found that the ability to digest milk came rather late in human evolution.

Some people never drink milk, and not just because they don't like the taste. Milk and cheese are not part of the diets of many Asian countries. Chinese people I know think the idea of drinking milk is disgusting.

Beyond the cultural differences, some people cannot drink milk, because they lack the gene to produce the enzyme lactase to digest it.

People, like other mammals, are able to digest the milk sugar lactose as infants. In most mammals, the gene that produces the enzyme lactase is shut off after weaning. In peo-

ple who are lactose tolerant, their bodies continue to produce lactase into adulthood. People who are able to digest lactose in adulthood have a genetic trait called lactase persistence. A nucleotide switch in their DNA keeps lactase production going into adulthood.

The enzyme lactase, which is produced by cells in the small intestine, breaks down the milk sugar lactose into the simple sugars glucose and galactose, which are absorbed in the bloodstream.

Those who lack the gene for lactase are unable to digest lactose, which is then broken down in the digestive system by intestinal microbes, which produces uncomfortable symptoms like bloating, gas

and cramps. However, those who cannot drink milk often can digest yogurt or cheese, both of which contain less lactose.

The ability to digest milk is common among Europeans and those of European descent. Ninety percent of northern Europeans have it but it is less common in southern Europe. It is also found in Africans and Middle Eastern populations. Eighty percent of African Americans have the gene to digest milk, about the same as in southern Europe. It is mostly absent among Asians and Native Americans.

Previous research revealed that the trait was once largely absent in

humans and that it evolved rather recently. It is thought to have arose with dairy farming in Europe and, separately, in Africa. Dairy farming arose in Europe about 9,000 years ago, but debate has focused on which came first - the ability to digest milk sugar or dairy farming?

To address that question, Mark Thomas of University College London in the U.K. and Joachim Burger of Mainz University in Germany led research teams that examined the DNA of nine Neolithic skeletons from five different European archeological sites in northeast, central and southeast Europe. Eight of the skeletons were from 5,800 B.C. to 5,200 B.C. and one was from around 1800 B.C. The study was published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

See MILK, page 14



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Metro passes come in handy for students

As a future graduate student, I will be affected should the MetroPass program be discontinued.

I currently save about 30 miles each time I take the MetroLink instead of driving. I can also relax on the train and finish homework during the ride.

The MetroPass comes in handy when I go to a baseball game or to Union Station and is good anytime during the semester.

Sadly, if the MetroPass program is discontinued, I will be unable to do those activities at my leisure.

Humbly, I must say that if the MetroPass is discontinued, I will still have my car as a means of transportation.

Students who do not have cars, however, depend on the MetroLink to get them to school. For students who do not live on campus, the MetroPass

makes getting to school each day much cheaper. Without it, students can expect to pay at least \$4 per day for the cost of riding the MetroLink.

Right now, one of the biggest reasons the MetroPass program may be discontinued is because not enough students are buying the passes.

Well, why? Why wouldn't students choose to save gas and time by taking advantage of the pass?

Perhaps one reason is lack of security at UM-St. Louis stations. For those who take night classes, it can be jarring to stand alone at a station with

no security. If guards patrolled each stop, people might feel more confident about waiting for the next train.

Another reason the program isn't working may be timing. The 2007 winter semester sold fewer passes than the Fall 2006 semester.

However, the winter semester starts when it's bitter cold outside. No one wants to wait for the train when the wind chill is below zero.

Maybe as the semester continues and it warms up outside, more passes will be sold.

The Fall 2006 semester was also the first year the Shrewsbury line opened. With it came confusion. It is possible UM-St. Louis students chose to drive to school rather than deal with the confusion of remembering which train to catch or which station to transfer from.

This was temporary, and should be calculated when discussing sales of passes.

Whatever the reasons may be, word needs to spread about how beneficial the MetroPass program is. It saves gas. It provides time to do homework. It gives leisurely access to off-campus activities like the ballgame (and you don't have to pay for parking downtown).

The MetroPass program is good for UM-St. Louis students, and it's in danger of being discontinued.



BY EMILY OGLE
Staff Writer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MOHELA

I never thought I would see the day where I was on the same side of an issue as Missouri Right to Life. I, too, oppose the sale of MOHELA assets. However, my opposition is based on thwarting this "Robin Hood in reverse" scheme to fund collegiate construction projects.

MOHELA was founded to provide loans for students, like me, who are not poor enough for grants but not wealthy enough to afford to pay an ever-rising tuition bill out of pocket. Instead of funding new buildings on the back of the poorest students, we should be pressuring the Missouri State Legislature to increase funding for all public higher education institutions.

Suzanne Jackson
Sophomore
Secondary Education

Theater Review

While I did not see the performance in question, I can only assume that Ms. O'Brien has absolutely no theater background. I read her review of the production with mouth agape, wondering if she had done any research on Greek or Chinese theater. Had she done so, she might have known that the "chorus performers on front and center stage" who "seemed to have skipped out on acting class" were, I suspect, portraying a very traditional Greek Chorus. Might the lead performers "stomping around on stage in makeup" have been fashioned after traditional Chinese Opera, in which elaborate makeup and the allusion of action create character? Perhaps Ms. O'Brien should become more informed about a particular art form before reviewing it so harshly. She does state that she is unfamiliar with opera in her closing paragraph. It appears that *The Current* would do better to keep their assistant news editor away from stories involving appreciation of a sophisticated art form.

Anastasia Luetetteck
Graduate Student
English

Journalism?

Silly me, prior to coming to UM-SL I thought it was the job of a campus newspaper to expose pertinent issues and then investigate them to provide a clear picture to the community as to what is happening around them. *The Current* has proven me wrong time and time again though. Now I know it is your job to simply parrot the administration, use web searches as your unique form of investigative journalism, and cut and paste from press releases to fill stories. That is true college journalism, I guess. The latest example of your special journalism can be seen in your front page story on the resignation of women's basketball coach Lee Buchanan. So, his leaving the school has nothing to do with the ongoing investigation regarding possible misconduct? If you are to be believed, the coach resigned "just because" and the athletic department is happy because it is fun to hire new people. OK cool. That sounds great. A 1000 word non-story as your headline and multiple grammatical errors in nearly every issue. I guess I now know the real purpose of campus journalism.

Tyson Humble
Graduate Student
History

Desk Assistant

I am very happy that Residential Life has decided to hire Desk Assistants to monitor the entrance ways into buildings after hours.

However, I am disappointed that it took a series of thefts and other miscellaneous incidents for the office to reinstate a program that was cast aside over a year ago.

The concept of a Desk Assistant is nothing new. I worked as a desk clerk for Residential Life during the 2003-2004 school year, and had to perform duties that were similar to the ones that these new Desk Assistants have been assigned.

See LETTERS, page 14

Looking for the end of the Rainbow?



Follow the internet road to www.BuyOz.com

Bellerive launch shows 'Everything Can Change'



Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Author Whitney Terrell speaks about the new Bellerive publication "Everything Can Change" at the launch party in the Provincial House Feb. 23. The book is selling for six dollars and features stories, poems and photographs published by the Pierre LaCade Honors College.

By AMY RECKTENWALD

Features Editor

The UM-St. Louis Honors College launched its seventh edition of "Bellerive: Everything Can Change," on Feb. 23, in the Provincial House.

The event started with book sales in the hall for \$6 each or \$10 for two. Refreshments were served and Whitney Terrell, writer-in-residence at UMKC, was the guest speaker.

Terrell's message addressed the suitability of the title to the contents of this year's edition of "Bellerive."

"It seemed increasingly apt as I looked through the issue," said Terrell. "Many of these stories seem to catch their characters in flux. Change in the popular American vernacular is a great thing. A serious writer realizes change is ambiguous."

According to Nancy Gleason, associate dean and director of writing of the honors college, "The publication is a publication of creative writings -- poetry, short fiction, and essays -- as well as art and photography. It is compiled by collecting submissions until June 1 from students, staff and faculty."

Shannon Pendleton, the layout committee consultant for "Bellerive," said that the submission timing is done in the spring semester for several reasons: not competing with "Litmag" for submissions in the same time frame, more publicity given to submissions by making the launch date the first day and time to catalogue the submission packets for the fall semester.

According to Pendleton, the submission packets are "free of any identifying marks, so the submissions are in fact chosen using a blind reading and voting process."

She explained that this process eliminates favoritism. An option to "pass" on voting is available to the students if they know the identity of the author or if it is their own work.

Selections are made by honors students enrolled in Gleason's fall fine and performing arts class, "Bellerive." The class splits into committees once the selections are made, forwarding the project towards publication.

One committee notifies writers if their submissions were accepted or not. The editing committee contact authors and work with them to make any needed editorial changes.

Final forms are turned over to the layout committee which decides the overall appearance of the book and the order of the selections. The committee then presents layouts to the class for voting. The class also votes on art submissions and cover art. The title is then chosen.

Pendleton said, "This year's title, 'Everything Can Change,' came from a comment during a class discussion of possible covers." She also said that choosing a title can be difficult "because we are not limited to an overall theme, choosing a title that is too restrictive or too abstract or too bland."

Once the final proofs are finished, the layout and cover are decided, the project is sent to Whitehall Printing in Florida.

See BELLERIVE, page 14



Quick Facts:

- This year marks the seventh edition of the Bellerive publication.
- Bellerive is a French word meaning "beautiful river," and is derived from the street name Bellerive Drive on campus.
- Bellerive came into existence in 2001 when a group of students approached Nancy Gleason about starting a publication after Litmag folded.

Can I please have your autograph? Book signings at bookstore offer opportunity to meet, mingle with local authors, writers

By ANDREW TONNER

Staff Writer

Several times a year, the UM-St. Louis bookstore hosts authors at book signings. Those in attendance have the opportunity to meet the authors, mingle and socialize, purchase the promoted book and have the author sign their copy.

Two receptions have recently taken place on campus. Skip Yowell, the author of "The Hippie's Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other Mountains," made an appearance on Feb. 15.

Yowell, one of the founders of JanSport outdoor sporting equipment, has received national attention from television and newspapers on his success. His book covered his personal and professional accomplishments.

On Feb. 20, Edna Gravenhorst presented her work, "Ay Mijo, Why Do You Want to Be an Engineer?" Gravenhorst, a local author, released her new book as a part of a series about the stories of Hispanic men and women who overcame incredible odds to realize their dreams.

This most recent edition tells the true story of twelve Latino men and their aspirations of becoming successful engineers. As part of the function,

three engineers featured in her book flew into St. Louis to talk about their particular experiences.

A portion of the proceeds from sales on Gravenhorst's book will go towards a scholarship program for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

On March 14, the College of Education will host Marvin Berkowitz, author of "Parenting for Good: Real World Advice," and UM-St. Louis alumna Carletta Washington, author of "Education Reform: The Role and Responsibility of Schools, Parents, Students and Community."

The reception will be held at Marillac Hall in South Campus for students and peers of the College of Education. The signing will be from 4 to 6 p.m.

Book signings at UM-St. Louis begin when an interested author is willing to come to campus, usually either at the request of the university or when the author wishes to be hosted prior to the release of their new book.

Visits are typically set up several weeks or months in advance. Aside from scheduling the appropriate time for an author to be hosted, the bookstore purchases numerous copies of the author's work that are available for visitors to purchase.

See BOOKS, page 12



Matthew Hill • Staff Photographer

Edna Campos Gravenhorst made an appearance at the campus bookstore Feb. 20, where she signed copies of her latest childrens book "Ay, Mijo! Why do you want to be an engineer?"

AUTHOR PROFILES

Lack of Jewish mythology led Prof. Schwartz to create his own

By SOO SOURIVONGSA

Staff Writer

Howard Schwartz, UM-St. Louis English professor and 2005 National Jewish Book Award recipient, specializes in Jewish folklore and mythology.

In the late 1970s, Schwartz met with Hebrew University professor Dov Noy, the founder of the study of Jewish folklore, in Israel. Schwartz was inspired to write a book of Jewish fairy tales after his discovery of the story "Elijah's Violin" in Noy's archive of orally collected folktales.

"I take a story in raw condition and try to find multiple versions of it, and then I combine them so to make it whole. Then I put it in a smooth modern literary language so that it is accessible to modern readers," Schwartz said.

"Elijah's Violin" was published in 1983 and recognized by the New York Public Library as one of the "One Hundred Best Children's Books."

"I got a tremendous response to that book. I went to a conference and hundreds of people came up to me because they were so pleased with that book," he said.

Schwartz's obsession with Jewish

mythology began in the fourth grade.

"We were studying Greek mythology and all these other mythologies and I noticed that there was no Jewish mythology," Schwartz said. "I asked my teacher why we didn't include Jewish mythology and she quickly said that there was none."

"Being a bit of an obsessive type, I asked this question every single year all through grade school and high school and I always got the same answer that there was no Jewish mythology," he said.

It was not until his college years that Schwartz began his exploration for Jewish mythology. While taking courses in religion and mythology, Schwartz noticed that the greatest scholars of mythology did not examine Jewish mythology.

"Carl Jung, Joseph Campbell and Mircea Eliade were studying all the world's mythologies but they didn't consider the mythology right under their noses. So I launched into a 12 year project," Schwartz said.

With dozens of published works, Schwartz considers "Tree of Souls" to be his greatest accomplishment.

See SCHWARTZ, page 12

Dalton is UMStL's author in residence

By ANDREW TONNER

Staff Writer

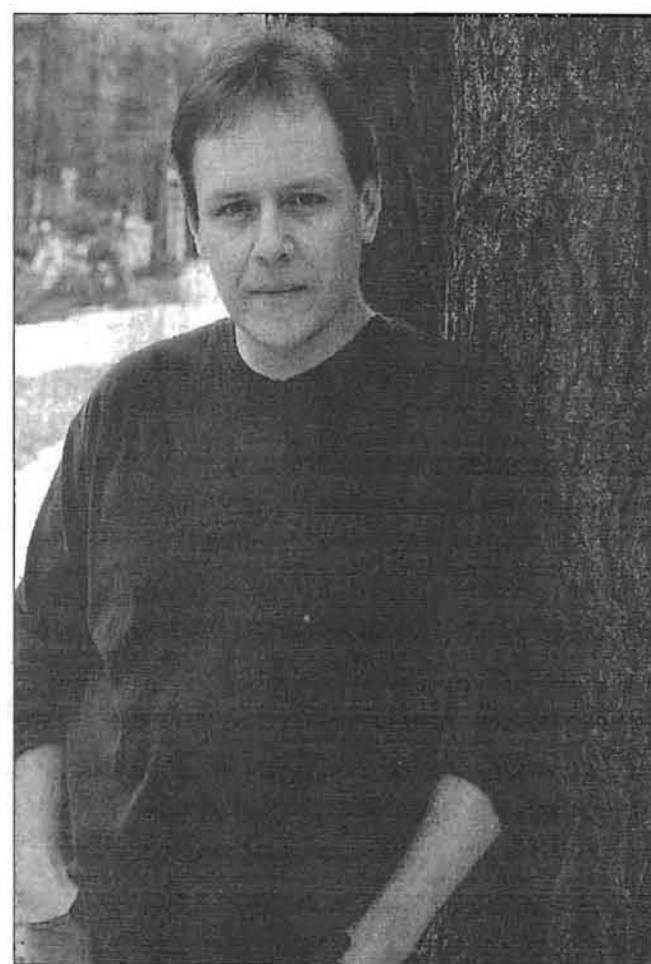
Although numerous writers reside at UM-St. Louis, only a few have used their creative aspects and resources to make their own works of literature.

John Dalton, an assistant professor of English at UM-St. Louis, is one such resident author on campus, with his book titled "Heaven Lake."

"Heaven Lake" is a story about a young American's quest across China in search of love and revelation. Dalton wrote the story based on actual events he saw and experienced while visiting Taiwan during the late 1980s.

Dalton came up with the idea for his novel a few years after he graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1987 and moved to Taiwan to teach English as a second language. During this time, China and Taiwan were having major political differences, but the proverbial "iron wall" was beginning to come down between the two countries. One evening, Dalton and a few of his local friends went out for the night, when they met up with a businessman who had recently visited China. While he was over on the mainland for the set up of a factory, the man met a woman who he described as the most beautiful woman in China.

They wished to get married, but because the two country's governments were in a state of cold war, that kind of proposition was impossible. The government believed that if they waited a couple of years, then marrying the woman and returning to Taiwan might be feasible.



John Dalton, English professor, is author of "Heaven Lake," published in April 2004.

See JOHN DALTON, page 10

TOP 10

Writing Courses at UM-St. Louis

1. News Writing
2. Features Writing
3. Workshop in Poetry
4. Workshop in Fiction
5. Script Writing
6. Writing for Public Relations
7. Business Writing
8. Technical Writing
9. Editing Litmag
10. Practical Criticism

If you have an idea for the next top ten list or any suggestions of what you would like to see us cover in our Features section, please send your ideas to us:

thecurrent@umsl.edu

ON CAMPUS

March 7: There will be an open house at Barnes the Ward E. Barnes Library on the South Campus from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will feature tours, door prizes and refreshments. Call 4322 for more information.

March 5: In honor of National Foreign Language Week, faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will read poems and celebrate the infinite variability of poetic forms around the globe. Languages presented include Latin, Ancient and Modern Greek, French, Basque and Japanese. Call 5699 for more information.

April 16: Look for the annual edition of UM-St. Louis' "Lit Mag" in *The Current*. It will be full of students' poems, stories and photographs.

CLASS SPOTLIGHT

Behind the scenes of creating Litmag

Students sift through literary submissions during 'Editing Litmag' class

By Emily Ogle

Staff Writer

Most English classes consist of lectures and readings from textbooks. English 4895, Editing "Litmag," however, takes on a different approach.

According to Jaime Wood, who teaches the class, a typical day in her classroom is spent meeting in groups and discussing packets of submissions and scoring each one.

"I was expecting a usual classroom experience," said Shannon McManis, senior, English. "It's not at all. It's more like a writing workshop, at the end of which we can publish the best work."

The Editing "Litmag" class sifts through over 100 submissions to determine the best in four categories of literature: poetry, fiction; non-fiction and photography, a new category. These submissions will be collected to form "Litmag," due out in April.

According to Wood, the students of the class will whittle about 100 poetry submissions down to 15 to 30. 30 to 40 fiction stories will be narrowed down to three to five published entries. Only one or two non-

fiction entries will be published. Whether or not an entry makes it into the magazine "is all dependent on space and the quality of the submissions as a whole," said Wood.

So just how do the students of Editing "Litmag" determine what makes it into each issue? Students are asked by Wood to keep in mind what makes a submission good.

Wood asks them, "Why you like it? Why is it good?" Students need to be critical of the submissions and look for the ones that have deeper meaning and more in-depth quality.

Students in the class do not just review submissions. They also learn about advertising and publication.

"The experience of putting together a literary journal is excellent," McManis said. "It helps to keep us objective and organized." Students can put the class in their résumés to demonstrate editing and publishing experience.

At the beginning of the semester, flyers and emails are sent out to remind UM-St. Louis students about the deadline, which usually falls in February. After the deadline, the selection process and planning begins.

The students discuss what the format and layouts for the next issue will be.

"We've been collecting fonts," said Wood. "I know it might seem odd, but it makes a huge difference." The class looks at previous issues of



Elizabeth Gearhart • Illustrator

"Litmag," pinpointing what was good or bad about the issues and integrating those points into their upcoming issue.

The selection process is kept anonymous. According to Wood, none of the students know who the submissions are. Some of the students in the class have submitted entries, but are asked to keep quiet when their entry is discussed.

The students can remain objective in their selections in this manner. When the issue is released, the

names of the authors are printed.

This year's issue is set to be released as an insert in the April 16 issue of *The Current*. Thus far, the class has been discussing format, layout and selections.

"From here on out though, it'll be down to the nitty-gritty of editing and formatting the magazine for printing," said McManis.

And then, it is party time. To celebrate the publication of the magazine, a launch party is tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2-4 p.m., at

the Alumni Center.

"Students who've been published in Litmag read from their work," said John Dalton, a professor in the English Department who used to teach Editing "Litmag."

According to Dalton, attendees typically consist of "contributors to 'Litmag,' family, friends and the 'Litmag' students," but all are welcome to partake in the festivities and free food.

See LITMAG, page 10

Writing certificate opens up job opportunities

By Emily Ogle

Staff Writer

Students at UM-St. Louis have the option of earning a Writing Certificate while in school, which can open up many job opportunities after graduation.

According to Jeanne Allison, Writing Certificate coordinator, the Writing Certificate can catch the attention of would-be employers in any field.

"Employers in all disciplines are concerned about writing," she said. "You need to be articulate."

Writing Certificate pursuers currently consist mostly of Communications and English majors. However, "we would like to see representation in all majors - writing is so important," Allison said.

Internships often require a lot of writing. For instance, interns at a national park have to write their own curriculums. Having a Writing Certificate gives them a lot of practice.

According to the Writing Certificate flyer, which lists the requirements for the certificate, the Writing Certificate internships can give real-life experience in compa-

nies such as Elsevier Publishing, "St. Louis Magazine," St. Louis Science Center and many more companies.

All UM-St. Louis students are required to have a junior level writing class.

"I try to make it around to each class to inform the students about the Writing Certificate," said Allison.

Some students wait to take their junior level writing class, at which point it is too late to pursue the Writing Certificate before they graduate. According to Allison, however, students can get their Writing Certificate after they graduate, which most students are not aware of.

According to Allison, there are different emphases within the Writing Certificate. Science students, for example, can pursue a Writing Certificate with a technical writing emphasis. Courses like Technical Writing, Writing in the Sciences and Business Writing help prepare science majors for their careers.

Creative writing students can use the Writing Certificate with a creative writing emphasis to build a portfolio while pursuing a master's in Fine Arts.

"They have to have a body of work," Allison said. Several courses emphasize creative writing, such as

Poetry Writing and Short Story Writing. The course Editing "Litmag" offers publishing experience, and there are courses dealing specifically with Fine Arts and Performing Arts.

Communication majors can use the Writing Certificate to gain experience for their own careers. News Writing, Features Writing and Reporting are all courses that can help a would-be journalist learn what he or she needs to know to get a job with a newspaper after graduation.

Broadcast Writing and Reporting and Writing for Public Relations would be two more good courses for Communication majors.

English majors can take Practical Criticism: Writing About Literature to help fine-tune their analysis skills for their literature classes. The Editing course is an upper-level grammar course that could help an English major get a job in editing later on.

"Anyone looking to write at a magazine should take Editing," mentioned Allison. Courses like Poetry Writing and Short Story Writing could give a writer some perspective when reading literature.

See CERTIFICATE, page 10

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THEATER REVIEW

'Edward Scissorhands' enchants Fox Theatre

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

The first surprising thing about the Dance St. Louis presentation "Edward Scissorhands" at the Fox is that, like classical ballet, it has no dialog. No words are spoken, although a few appear on a screen at the beginning.

The second surprising thing is how well the story works as a dance, and that you do not really need the words, if you have a basic sense of the story.

Of course, most people coming to see the hit dance adaptation of "Edward Scissorhands" have seen the Tim Burton film with Johnny Depp. Fondness for the film might be a big reason to see this new adaptation.

While the dance version is wordless like ballet, the dance style is modern, more like a musical, with a strong "West Side Story" feel. A dance version of Burton's movie "Edward Scissorhands" may not seem like an easy transformation but the production is wonderful and fully captures the appeal of the original material, while adding a new layer of entertainment.

"Edward Scissorhands" is entrancing from the moment the curtain rises, with a wonderful dance re-interpretation of Burton's mix of Frankenstein and fairy-tales, with a blending of "Beauty and the Beast" with teenage angst in suburbia. Most of the Danny Elfman score, which gives such charm to the film, is preserved by Terry Davis' arrangement and scoring.

The outline of the story is the same but some parts have been altered. The inventor still dies, leaving his creation Edward unfinished but the how and why are different. Edward still comes down from the castle to join suburbia but how that happens is different, too. Some scenes are missing and some characters are expanded. Still, the essence of the story, and its appeal, are intact.

'Edward Scissorhands'

★★★★★

When: Feb. 27 through March 11

Where: Fox Theatre



Photo Courtesy Fox Theatre

Richard Winsor played the role of Edward Scissorhands at the Fox on opening night. The show runs through March 11.

Cast members alternate nights throughout the production's run at the Fox. On opening night, the performance reviewed, the part of Edward was danced wondrously by Richard Winsor, with wide-eyed charm and athletic grace. At times, he seemed to soar through the air, in amazing leaps that contrasted with his charmingly shy, hesitant demeanor.

All the dances, both the solos and the ensemble pieces, are strikingly beautiful and remarkably athletic. One of the evening's centerpieces was fantasy sequence, in which a daydreaming

Edward sheds his scissor hands and dances with Kim (Hannah Vassallo), among a dancing troupe of topiary figures come to life. The effect is simply magical and the dancing was superb.

The costumes and sets by Lez Brotherton are breathtakingly beautiful, the perfect blend of fantasy and gothic. A gauzy curtain of snowflakes and stars is the backdrop as an old lady dances on stage to introduce the show, the older version of the story's Kim (danced by Madelaine Brennan on opening night), retaining the film's flashback framing device.

In this version, Edward is encased in woven brown leather, like an old-fashioned football, rather than the Goth black leather and shiny buckles of the movie. The other dancers in the candy-colored suburbia wear a mix of '50s, '60s and '70s attire, with the occasional modern reference. Throughout the evening, the swirl of lush costumes added to the fun and enchantment of this excellent production.

Periodically throughout the evening, Edward strikes Johnny Depp-like poses that all fans of the film will recognize. In some cases, all the char-

acters' gestures in particular scenes of the film are recreated by the cast, such as when Kim dances while Edward's ice sculpting showers her with snow or Edward cuts suburban seductress Joyce's (Mikah Smillie) hair, which just makes them so much more fun.

Mathew Bourne choreographed and directed the piece, and also created the concept for this dance version of "Edward Scissorhands." The production has been a sell-out hit in Bourne's native Britain and is now on a U.S. tour. It appears on stage at the Fox through March 11.

A&E ON CAMPUS

Mar. 5: Monday Noon Series: 'Poetry of Foreign Language.' Readings of poetry from around the world, for National Foreign Language, 12:15 p.m. at 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Light refreshments. Free.

Mar. 6: 'Check out' graphic design exhibit at Gallery FAB. Art exhibit featuring graphic design work by UMSL students, thru March 16, Gallery FAB at the Fine Arts Building. Opening reception 7 to 9 p.m. Free.

Mar. 7: University Jazz Combo concert at Touhill. Jazz combo will perform music by Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and others, 7:30 p.m., at Touhill Lee Theater. Free.

Mar. 9-10: Shen Wei dance at Touhill. Dance St. Louis presents acclaimed cutting-edge choreographer Shen Wei, with a combination of Asian traditions and modern American influenced dance, at 8 p.m. at Touhill

Mar. 9: 'UMSL Women on the Move 2007' art exhibit at Gallery Visio. Fifth annual exhibit will feature works by UMSL women staff, students and alumni, plus historical documents belonging to St. Louis writer Kate Chopin, author of the 1899 novel "The Awakening," thru April 13 at Gallery Visio in MSC. Opening reception for artists is from 4 to 7 p.m. Free.

TOP TUNES

DOWNLOADS

1. This Is Why I'm Hot (Edited)- Mims

2. Girlfriend- Avril Lavigne

3. Break It Off- Rihanna & Sean Paul

4. This Ain't a Scene, it's an Arms Race- Fall Out Boy

5. Don't Matter- Akon

6. Cupid's Chokehold (Featuring Patrick Stump)- Nelly Furtado



7. The Sweet Escape- Gwen Stefani

8. Not Ready to Make Nice- Dixie Chicks

9. What Goes Around.../... Comes Around Interlude- Justin Timberlake

10. It's Not Over- Daughtry

CD REVIEW



Photo Courtesy Comeback Kid

'Broadcasting...' fails to get the message out

BY TOM BREMER

Staff Writer

For those of you who haven't been introduced to Comeback Kid, think of Sick of It All, Descendents or Terror. Take the best qualities of all of these bands, shake it around, add a touch of social consciousness and you have Comeback Kid.

"Broadcasting..." which was released on Feb. 20 on Victory Records, is the first album Comeback Kid has done without their long-time singer Scott Wade, and the difference shows.

Traditionally the first song line of CBK's albums are sung by the entire band ("Where have you gone?" - Turn it Around - "Your time is up!" - Wake the Dead).

This is sadly missing from their new album. Andrew Neufeld, Comeback Kid's new singer, adds some desirable qualities to CBK but also some that would be better off left alone.

On their previous two albums, there has been very little screaming which has become something every song includes here. There were always a lot of very strong group vocals on Comeback's first two albums but this is also something not as prevalent on "Broadcasting..."

Positive things? The album fea-

tures many solid songs.

Despite the changes, their musical capabilities have grown, and the "pop song" that every album seems to have stays fairly true to CBK's style.

"Broadcasting..." which was recorded by Bill Stevens, who has worked with both Descendents and Black Flag, has great sound and a very high production values, which can be seen best in the title track "Broadcasting..." "Give'r" (a song obviously influenced by Descendents), and "One Left Satisfied."

Andrew Neufeld's lyrics on "One Left Satisfied" tell a story of greed, consumption, and the distrust both of those things can bring. "There was desire that burned/ And when the dust had blow away/ There was a whisper of gold ... Those involved gathered around/ But they weren't satisfied/ Someone here must be holding out."

The song is the only one featured in the album with classic CBK styling, vocals, group vocals, and musicianship, and probably my favorite song

on the album.

Victory Records has said that Comeback Kid will be one of their flagship bands in the coming years, which could be a reason this album is fairly different from their other releases.

One does not want to speculate about the "Number 1 independent label in America" but sounds tend to change once bands have signed to the ever-popular Victory Records.

Victory does however come through with the promise that Comeback Kid will be doing a lot of touring this year.

CBK is currently touring Japan, the UK, and Australia, then returning home with a headlining U.S. Tour. Seeing Comeback Kid live is an experience all on its own.

I was floored to find out they were coming to the Creepy Crawl on March 28, after listening to the album a few times I am slightly worried. Will they play old material live? Will the singer be as difficult to process live? Will the energy be the same?

After all is said and done, I would recommend both of Comeback Kid's previous albums, before this new one.

If you already own "Turn It Around" and "Wake The Dead," it's always nice to have the collection but don't plan on listening to it for more than a couple of weeks.

A&E ON CAMPUS

Open Mic Night leaves little room for improvement

BY RACHAEL YAMNITZ

Staff Writer

No matter the skill level, whether they were novices, seasoned performers or experienced poets that had never done a live reading, all the participants at the Poetry Showcase and Open Mic took to the stage and put on an amazing show.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, the Women's Resources Center and Prizm, the event on March 2 was lacking in support early on.

At 7 p.m., the Pilot House felt about as full as the stands at UM-St. Louis sporting events. By the time the showcase began, however, about 30 to 40 people were clustered around the stage. It had the feel of an inviting coffee house.

Even though the showcase started about a half hour later than it was scheduled to, it was well worth the wait. Host Nailah Diallo kicked off the evening with a brief overview of the history of Women's History Month. She then started the open mic portion with a reading of her poem "Beautiful".

The crowd was a little stiff, not knowing what exactly was in store, but Diallo's performance warmed them not only to her but to the stage. It was a commanding performance by a gifted artist.

The atmosphere created by Diallo's performance was one of openness because of the confidence Diallo exuded as she spoke words filled with passion and empowerment. She finished the poem with the lines, "Behold it is the universe, and it is the only thing greater than yourself."

It seemed to take any pressure off performers because she did not set the bar. She instead opened the door for expression and sharing. The open mic performers that followed her continued to display the passion that infuses poetry as an expression of the spirit, emotion and soul of the writer.

The featured performer Liquid Moon, who is also known as LiquidXun, took the show to another level. Her energy filtered through the room as she ran a lap or so around the stage.

The tall, lanky six-foot figure

focused the attention of the spectators. When she spoke, her words flowed freely. Maybe it was the laps jogged around the stage before beginning that loosened things up, but more likely the words flowed because of their sincerity.

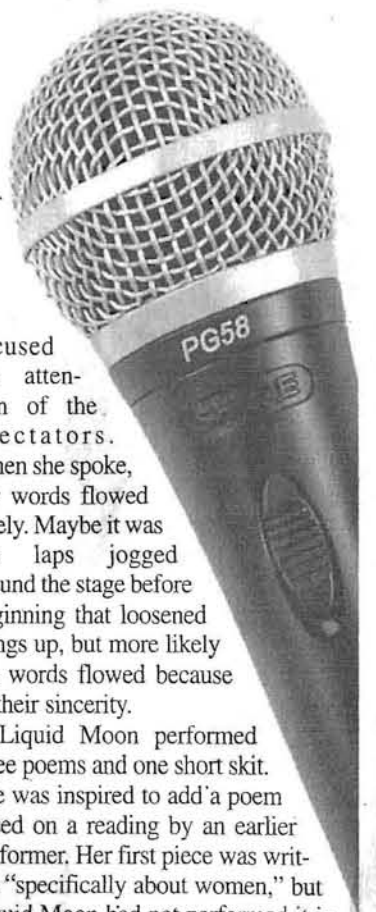
Liquid Moon performed three poems and one short skit. She was inspired to add a poem based on a reading by an earlier performer. Her first piece was written "specifically about women," but Liquid Moon had not performed it in six years.

The performance had no rust on it, as the poem had more of a hip-hop feel to it from the beginning lines, "Hey yo, let me drop the joint, let me get right to the point. Upon the minds of the enlightened I will anoint, the truth about our womanhood, the struggle of our personhood..."

To audience member Tilnise Scott, the showcase "was so refreshing. The novices were great." Scott has attended several poetry performances, but said that the UM-St. Louis showcase stood apart from some of the other shows. She said that it was "nice that people were truly expressing instead of just performing."

The night was filled with reality, and not some dressed up version of reality. The performers spoke truthfully about themselves and life. This is something that does not always happen.

As Liquid Moon said right before opening up her performance, "You gotta like set your stage you know, and own it and use as much of it as possible." All the performers did just that.



MOVIE REVIEW



Sebastian Koch plays Georg Dreyman and Martina Gedeck plays Christa-Maria Sieland in 'Lives of Others.'

Photos Courtesy www.rotcintomatoes.com

Oscar-winning 'Lives of Others' takes peek inside the minds of secret police

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

"The Lives of Others," the German-language drama that just won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film, is both a gripping human drama and a taut, white-knuckled psychological thriller. Suspenseful, riveting, timeless and timely, "The Lives of Others" is essential cinema viewing.

While it nosed-out the better-known "Pan's Labyrinth" for the Academy Award, both are outstanding films, among the best produced last year. "The Lives of Others" just opened this week at the Plaza Frontenac Cinema but this outstanding film about the former East Germany's secret police is not to be missed and, hopefully, will soon be as popular as the better-known dark fantasy.

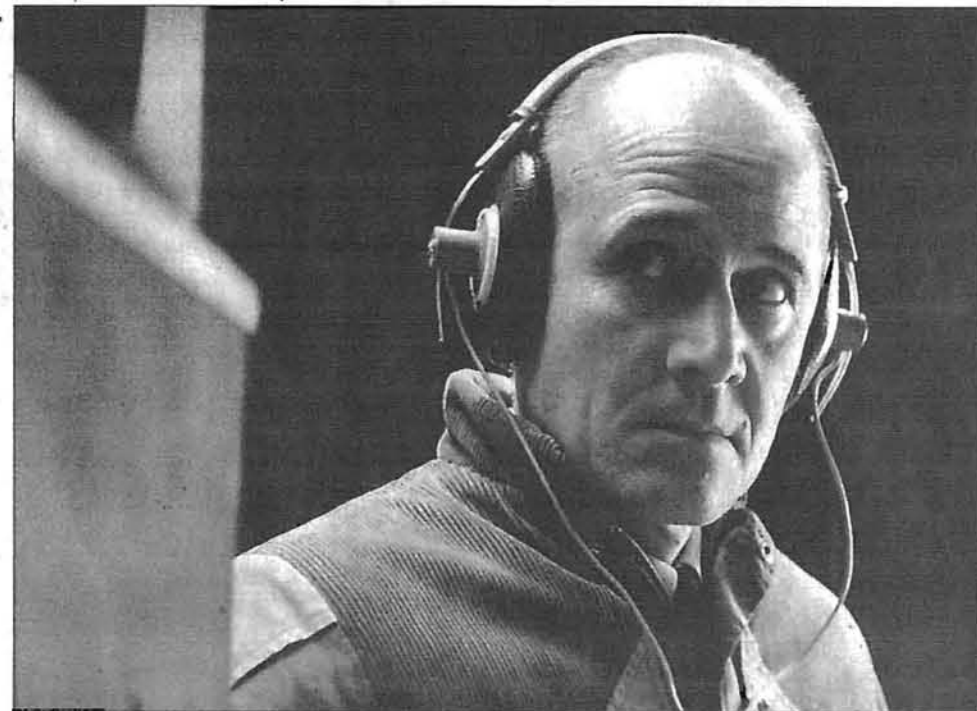
This film concerns the gradual disillusionment of an officer in the East German secret police, the Stasi, as he becomes absorbed in the lives of the artists on which he is spying. This cat-and-mouse thriller focuses on successful East German playwright Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch) and Capt. Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Muhe), the Stasi officer assigned to spy on him.

The historical but fictional story takes place in East Berlin in 1984, five years before the fall of the Wall. At the time, there is no sign of the coming fall of the Berlin Wall, only the pervasive East German state. The Stasi were much-feared and used a network of thousands of informants to carry out their goal to "know everything about the lives of others." Anyone who acted or spoke too freely became their targets, especially artists.

Dreyman is noted for his loyalty to the communist East German state but is put under surveillance anyway. Wiesler, a top Stasi interrogator, is a true believer, a humorless, exacting man who lives for the State and his ideology.

While Wiesler is an unwavering ideologue, not all around him in government are. The order to spy on Dreyman has more to do with the Minister's interest in his beautiful, star actress girlfriend Christa-Maria Sieland (Martina Gedeck), than real suspicions about Dreyman's loyalty.

Over time, events begin to change both Dreyman and Wiesler, especially



'Lives of Others' recently won an Oscar for best foreign film at the Academy Awards Sunday, Feb. 25. The film is currently playing at the Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

after Dreyman's theater director friend Albert Jerska (Volkmar Kleinert) commits suicide after years of black-listing. Listening in to the intimate details of Dreyman's life with Christa-Maria, their parties, their friends, their conversations, their music, their love-making, leads the Stasi officer to re-evaluate his own life.

Interestingly, in the years after the Berlin Wall fell, most of the films about East Germany have been comedies, often with a sweetly nostalgic twinge. This is the first German film to deal with the reality of living with the Stasi's pervasive presence, the oppressiveness of the totalitarian government, and the effects of government spying on its own people.

Muhe is astounding as the emotionless Wiesler, who speaks volumes with his eyes as he guides the audience through the film's emotional, political and moral transformations. This remarkable performance is the heart of the film in many ways, and it is reason alone to see the film.

Other acting performances are also strong, particularly Gedeck as

Christa-Maria, who finds herself trapped in an emotionally devastating conflict. Koch is also affecting as the playwright who can no longer stay silent.

Real events and real-life connections infuse the film with some of its power. Muhe was a renowned theater star in East Berlin before the Wall came down. After the Berlin Wall fell and re-unification, the Stasi files became available to former residents of East German who wished to see them.

When Muhe requested his files, he discovered not only that he had been under surveillance but also that his own wife was a Stasi informant, something he had never suspected. Muhe did not reveal this bit of personal information to the film's director until shooting started.

Writer/director Florian von Donnersmarck did extensive research on the Stasi prior to filming. His well-written script is full of twists and heart-stopping surprises, as well as moving, gripping drama. A first-time director, von Donnersmarck has created a masterful film and shows an unerring touch in pacing and building both suspense and emotional power.

Von Donnersmarck himself had personal connections with the subject of the film. His family was originally from East Germany, and although he grew up in the West, he remembers

childhood visits to East Berlin, where tensions were sometimes palpable.

It is not just the first-rate acting and the gripping script that give this film its power, but its relentless attention to details and historical accuracy. Many of the props are the genuine thing.

The machines that steam open 600 envelopes a minutes were the real ones, borrowed from historical collections. The disturbing technique of collecting a "scent sample," to be used by tracking dogs, by preserving a cushion on which a suspect sat during interrogation was a real technique of the Stasi secret police, confirmed by ex-Stasi themselves.

The photography and music also lend power to the film. The film's use of washed-out colors to recreate their world helps create the atmosphere of oppression, and is aided by the haunting score.

Every scene is beautiful shot and the pacing keeps tensions high. Composer Gabriel Yared's music is simply haunting, infusing every scene with the right mood of tension or longing. Yet, it is often Muhe's still face and haunted eyes that tell the story of the scenes.

The Oscar-winning "The Lives of Others" is a powerful, moving drama, and a reminder of a too-recent past and a cautionary tale about the corrosive effect on people's lives of governments that spy on their own people.

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Director discusses personal links in his harrowing of film

BY CATE MARQUIS
Film Critic

Writer/director Florian von Donnersmarck set his dramatic thriller about East German surveillance "Lives of Others" in 1984, not as a reference to George Orwell's novel about an oppressive government but because of his personal knowledge of East Germany at that time. Still, the setting is apt.

"Both my parents were from the east (in Germany), so we would sometimes visit them in the East. And living in West Berlin, we had to travel through East Germany to go anywhere in the West," said von Donnersmarck, in a recent interview at the Tivoli Theater.

The writer/director stopped in St. Louis on a publicity tour, before heading to the Los Angeles for the Oscars. His film "Lives of Others" won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Florian von Donnersmarck is a striking figure in person. He is about six foot, six inches tall, thin, with wild, wavy light-brown hair that seems to want to stick straight up. Although he is German, he speaks English with a flawless American accent.

"I lived in New York for about six years when I was growing up," he said. He was about eleven when he was living in West Berlin in 1984, which was an isolated island of democratic rule surrounded by the Soviet-dominated, communist German Democratic Republic (GDR), the official name of East Germany.

"I remember how when we went to visit relatives in the East (Germany), they would always be looking around, as if they were afraid to be seen with us," he said. "The idea that adults could be afraid like that seemed so surprising to us as children back then," he said referring to himself and his brother.

He said that it seemed as if the Stasi were the adults and adults he knew in the east were children. One incident particularly stuck in his memory. "One time when my mother was crossing the border, the guards stopped her and held her for hours, even strip-searching her."

The idea that someone could do that to my mother was astounding to me," he said, adding that his mother was visibly frightened after that incident, which had a profound effect on him, and taught him a lesson about totalitarian governments.

1984 was also a year when East Germany was particularly under Soviet influence and the year before Mikhail Gorbachev took power in the Soviet Union.

Von Donnersmarck noted that most German films about East Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany have been comedies, often with a sweetly nostalgic tone.

Von Donnersmarck thinks there is a danger in this nostalgic view of East Germany. He told of a German writer and theater director who recently asked his students if East Germany had been a dictatorship.

The students responded "no" and even expressed surprise at the question, even though that government itself acknowledged its totalitarian status in referring to itself by the Communist term "dictatorship of the proletariat."

Interestingly, "Lives of Others" has received a positive audience response in the former East Germany, where post-screening question-and-answer session have turned into tearful outpourings of personal tales of Stasi mistreatment, according to the director.

"Ulrich Muhe, Sebastian Koch and I toured the former GDR for two weeks when the film was released and we were deeply touched by people's reactions."

The idea for this film came to him while he was in film school. Listening to a Beethoven piano sonata, he suddenly remembered that he had heard once that Lenin had told his friend Maxim Gorky that Beethoven's "Appassionata" was his favorite piece of music but that he could not listen to it any more because it made him too inclined to avoid the violence revolution needed.

An image then suddenly sprung into von Donnersmarck's head, of "a man in a depressing room, with earphones on his head, expecting to hear words against his beloved ideology but instead hearing music so beautiful and powerful that he re-thinks that ideology."

"I knew I was on to something... (I) then sat down and wrote the story for "Lives Of Others" in less than three hours," said the director.

However, it took much longer to bring a finished script to the screen, as the writer/director felt that only meticulous research would give the film the power and truthfulness it needed.

While the characters in von Donnersmarck's film are fictional, the history is real and he felt that accuracy was essential.

The writer/director did extensive research. Artists were particularly the targets of the Stasi, and von Donnersmarck interviewed as many as he could find and read biographies and histories.

He also poured over Stasi records and interviewed ex-Stasi, some of whom still see nothing wrong with what they did, according to the director.

This is Florian von Donnersmarck's first feature film as director, although he has directed short films and did attend film school.

He also studies Russian language and literature at St. Petersburg and politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University.

While the film's characters are fictional, actor Ulrich Muhe's personal experiences under the Stasi were eerily close to the playwright, which Muhe's character is spying on.

Ulrich was a big star of East German theater. After re-unification, he asked to look at his Stasi files, which were open to anyone who had been a citizen of GDR.

He discovered that four members of his theater group had been spying on him. Most surprisingly, he also found out that his wife of six years, a famous actress of the East, was a Stasi informer and had been even before they married and throughout their marriage.

Now she is his ex-wife but they were still married at the time and he believed they had a good marriage. So he divorced her.

When people ask Ulrich how he prepared for the role (in "Lives of Others"), he always answers 'I remembered.'

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COMING SOON

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd!

JOHN DALTON, from page 6

The man did not want to wait for those laws to occur, so he offered Dalton or his friends \$10,000 to travel to the mainland to find the woman, marry her, bring her back to Taiwan, divorce her and turn her over to the businessman, because it was legal for an American, Canadian or European to marry a citizen of China.

Dalton believed that going through such an elaborate ordeal was not only

outrageous, but also very complicated and time consuming. However, he thought that such an idea would make an excellent plot for a novel, and thus it became the main premise for "Heaven Lake."

Once the main idea was set for the book, Dalton invented his characters to take the places of him and his friends so that the story could be carried out how he saw fit.

For many writers, the most complicated part of coming up with a book is going through publications. Writers usually have a long road to travel down, by either making multiple corrections to a single manuscript or by trying to pass completely different stories. For Dalton, this took seven years.

Dalton said, "I've never written a novel before and it's a very difficult undertaking. You make lots of mis-

takes - mistakes that cost you lots of time, and over time most people give up."

The book was finally sold in June of 2002, and was published a year and a half later in April 2004 and distributed later in book stores. "Heaven Lake" was nominated and won Barnes and Noble's Discover Great New Writers award for fiction in March 2004, and was promoted by the book-

store for an entire year afterward.

Prior to the release of his book, Dalton has written several short stories and has been working on writing a new novel over the past few years.

The new book was described as taking place at a summer camp for adults with mental disabilities in 1975. No working title on the new story is currently available.

Dalton said the act of writing was

often pleasurable and enjoyable, but deterrents and hardships made the undertaking a difficult journey.

Dalton teaches a variety of writing and English courses on campus, including a fiction workshop for graduate students of the Missouri Student Association, as well as a techniques class for the contemporary novel for people who wish to know how to write their own books.

HOT SHOT HOCKEY TEAM



Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Jake Shepard scores two goals while fighting off an injured hip against Washington University on Sunday night during the regional semi-finals. The Rivermen inline hockey team received the title of regional champs Sunday.

BRADY, from page 1

This may also be the end of the road for future cases similar to Brady's if the Missouri legislature approves legislation concerning whether a university can be sued for punitive damages under human rights violations.

Sen. John Loudin is sponsoring Senate Bill 532, which modifies the state's human rights law. The hearing is scheduled for March 5.

Loudin said the reason for the changes is because it presents a new insurance risk for employers. "Basically, the money is coming out of

schools and into attorneys' pockets," Loudin said.

Brady disagreed with the changes, saying those risks are not the intent of legislators who wrote the act.

Brady initially filed a charge of age discrimination with the Missouri Commission of Human Rights in May 1998.

According to the bill summary, SB532 changes the definition of discrimination in the human rights law from "unfair treatment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ances-

try, sex, age, disability or familial status" to "adverse actions motivated by" such factors.

The bill also removes "persons directly acting in the interest of an employer" from the definition, and "bars punitive and exemplary damage awards against public entities for human rights violations."

"They're saying it's all right to discriminate in the private sector, but not okay in the public sector. The law should be the same in both cases," he said.

The bill received a second read and was referred to the judiciary and civil & criminal jurisprudence committee Feb. 21.

As for the future of Brady's case, the University has one possible appeal, where the institution can ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, "but they probably have no interest in it," Dobson said.

The case will be returned to a trial court, Dobson said, to determine how much the University owes Brady for back pay and benefits.

Brady Lawsuit Timeline

1985: UMSL hires Brady as Rivermen head baseball coach	June 1999: UMSL fires Brady for a period of three months	April 2000: Brady files second charge of discrimination.	July 2002: Brady accepts part-time position of coach.	January 2005: St. Louis County Court awards Brady \$1.275 million	February 2007: Mo. Supreme Court tosses out University's appeal.
May 1998: Brady files first charge of discrimination under the Missouri Rights Human Law after Schuster sends goals that Brady and older coaches must reach or else they would be forced to resign.	Sept. 1999: Brady gets rehired as full-time coach.	June 2002: Schuster and Dolan inform Brady he will be cut to part-time with 50 percent pay reduction.	November 2006: Appellate Court Judge Nanette Baker rules against the University's appeal and approves a counter-appeal by Brady that University must pay legal fees.		

The Current

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THE CURRENT IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2007-2008

Editor-in-Chief

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- The applications need to be sent to Adam D. Wiseman in 388 MSC.
- Any questions can be emailed to adw42c@umsl.edu

All applicants will be invited to an interview in front of The Current staff. The interview will be facilitated by the current Editor-in-Chief.

After this process the applicants will be interviewed again by the Publications board. Then a decision will be made.

All applicants must have a 2.0 Cumulative GPA and must have completed 9 hours at UMSL.

The Current is an equal opportunity employer

LITMAG, from page 7

The launch party is an opportunity to get people to read "Litmag" and to inform them about entering their own work for the next issue.

Since submissions are anonymous to the editors during the selection process, "all submissions should include a cover page with contact information such as name, e-mail address and phone number," said Wood. The cover page would then be removed from the submission itself.

Wood also suggests that anyone interested in submitting to "Litmag"

read past issues to see what kind of writing has been published. The editors of "Litmag" are not looking for any particular style in any of the genres, so long as writers pay attention to language and content.

Wood mentioned that more photography and art submissions would be welcome.

Entries with a cover letter can be dropped off into a box next to the English Department office, or sent through e-mail to submit_2_LitMag@yahoo.com.

CERTIFICATE, from page 7

With majors like Anthropology, Psychology or Criminology, it can be difficult to discern how the Writing Certificate can help directly. A Special Topics class called Writing Autobiographies may be beneficial to Anthropology majors, but is only offered intermittently, Allison said.

Allison works with students of the Social Sciences to glean what their interests are while working out which courses would be best for them.

"I ask them what they are planning to do with their major. We

shape their certificate around that," she said.

Some students, however, do not have a lot of time for the Writing Certificate, mentioned Allison. Engineering majors, for instance, already have so many hours that they have to take, so taking five extra classes is not always feasible. However, as already mentioned, students can obtain their Writing Certificate after graduation.

Students interested in pursuing a Writing Certificate can contact Jeanne Allison at 516-5587 or allisonjea@umsl.edu.

CURATOR VOTE, from page 3

Several versions of the student curator vote bill have been around in the Missouri legislature for a while. Block said certain legislators and administrators "have stood in the way of passing it, saying the student doesn't have enough experience or it's a conflict of interest" in that students may vote on items affecting their professors.

UM curators passed a resolution in January 2006, announcing their opposition to the student representative having a vote.

In response to the opposition, Block said past student curators have shown the experience necessary. As for the conflict of interest argument, Block said, "most of the faculty issues are handled at the campus level and students can choose to abstain."

Kerford said she believes the bills do not make progress because legislators place them on the back burner.

"It's a small issue for most legisla-

tors. To them, it's one vote on one board but it's giving a voice to about 63,000 students in the UM system, who will be affected and that's not always seen by legislators."

Block added that student curators usually go through a more elaborate selection process than other curators.

When Kerford applied for student curator in April 2005, she was interviewed along with nine other candidates first by the student government president.

Then seven candidates were chosen for interviews by the 12 members of the Intercampus Student Council, which chose three candidates to be interviewed by an aide to Gov. Matt Blunt.

The Missouri Student Association at Columbia started accepting applications for student curator last month.

Kerford will talk about her position as student curator in a forum in Columbia March 16.

BRIGHT FLIGHT, from page 3

"You have to look at it in a couple of points of view," Dodd said. "The purpose of Bright Flight is to keep Missouri's students here. It is beneficial to the state in a number of ways."

ASUM has begun working in earnest on the issue, Dodd said, and both of ASUM's interns are lobbying in Jefferson City to get the measure passed.

"It's something we all agreed is beneficial," Dodd said.

The issue is one ASUM has long championed, Dodd said, and ASUM will continue its efforts to increase the scholarship amount.

"As far as ASUM is concerned, there are two things we work on proactively," Dodd said. "If we feel strongly about something, we are going to work for it. Then there are things we happen to hear about and find opportunities to support, or conversely, oppose."

SGA, from page 1

The SGA resolution wished Floyd well in his new position with the Washington State system, as well as any future endeavors.

In other business, Ted Gatlin, junior, political science, was nominated and then voted in by the assembly on

as the new vice chair, replacing Michelle Landeau, senior, history, who moved to the position of chair after the resignation of Thomas Helton as Vice President of SGA created open positions. Kelcy Siddall, the former chair, was named vice president.

DRAG SHOW, from page 1

The talent portion of the show was comprised predominately of lip sync and dance performances, and highlighted with an encore performance from the winners of last year's show, Brian Rails, senior, business administration, and Emily Ewings, junior, theater and dance.

The question and answer session that followed the performances required every contestant to have a wear a formal outfit different than the one in which they performed.

The first place winner of this year's contest was Jonathan Squires, freshman, undeclared, who performed a duo, dressed as a duo,

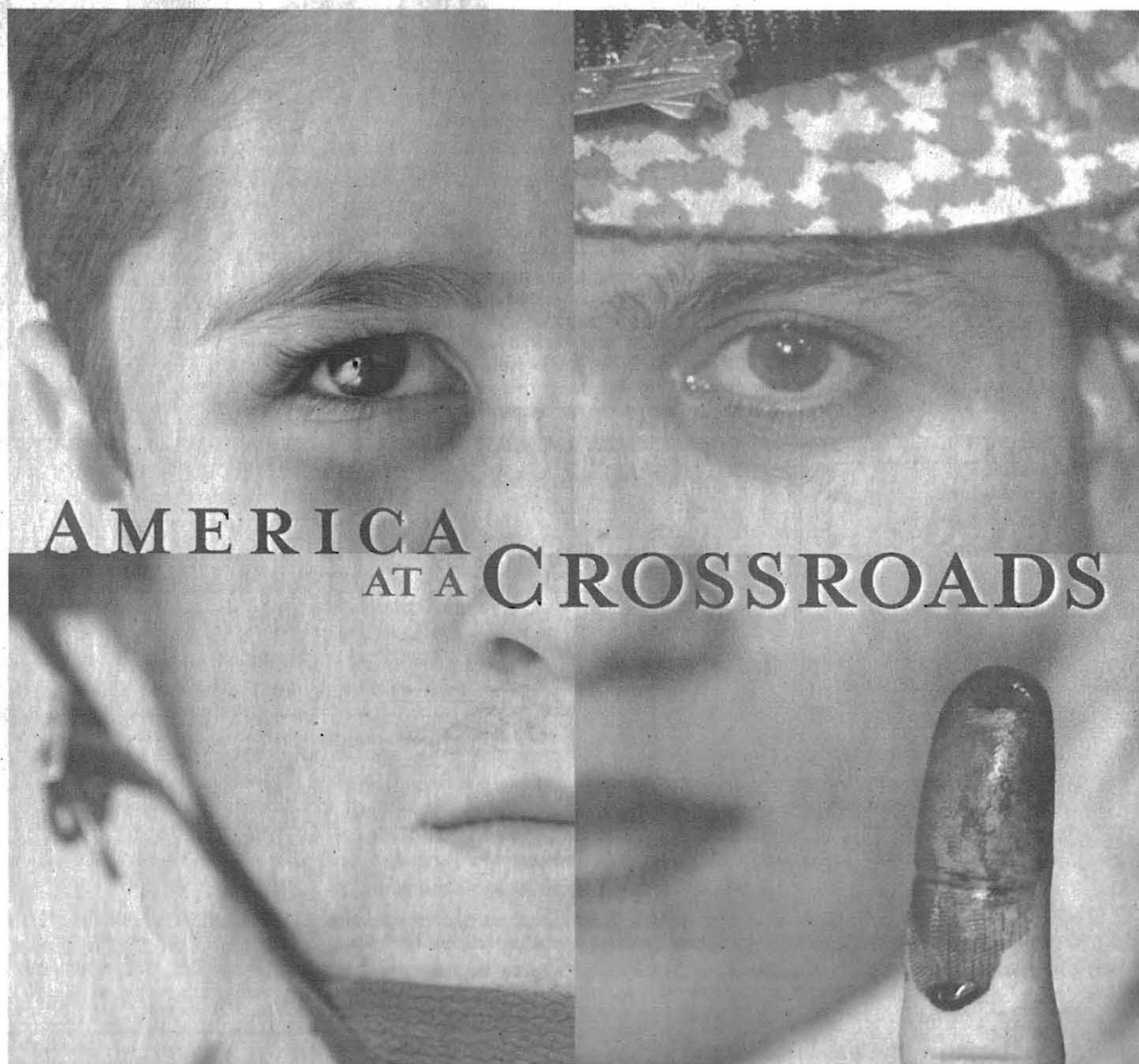
from the Moulin Rouge. Gracemarie Ritter, sophomore, biology, who performed weird Al Yankovich's "White and Nerdy," came in second place.

Winners were awarded ribbons and attendants of the free event were given t-shirts commemorating the theme of the night, "Get Stuffed".

The contestants were judged by a group of faculty, staff and students including John Klein, Director of Residential Life, Jamie Linsin, counseling services, and Student Government Association Comptroller Shanna Carpenter.

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The Current



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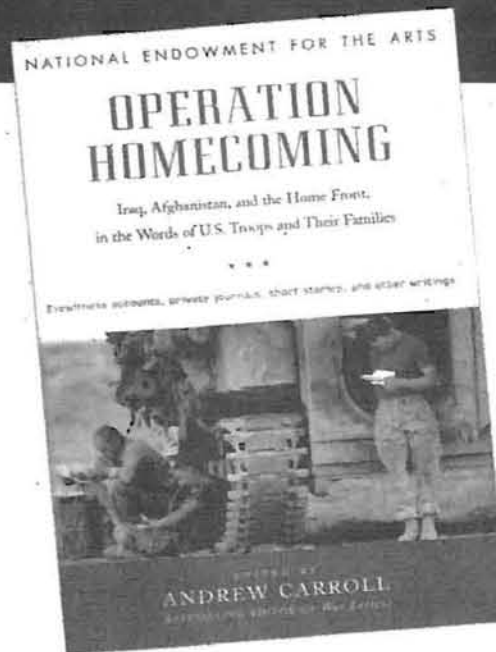
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SCHWARTZ, from page 6

"It's my proof that there is Jewish mythology," said Schwartz. "Tree of Souls" has 670 myths, sources and commentaries carefully arranged in ten categories.

"I went through the entire literature of Judaism, which is enormous. That's why it took 12 years. But I was able to make a very convincing case that there is a Jewish mythology," he said.

Despite previously winning the Jewish Book Award for two of his children's books, Schwartz is the most proud of his Jewish Book Award for "Tree of Souls."

"This was a very serious, scholarly adult book, so I was very happy. It was the award that meant the most," said Schwartz, who gained his sense of Jewish pride from his father.

"I feel like I'm a Jew by osmosis. My father had a very strong sense of being Jewish and I picked it up," he said.

"I've learned to explain material in an accessible manner and that I'm doing good work this way. It's something that I can feel good about," he said.

Schwartz says that religion has a lot of dimensions to it. "Most people believe that the only book in Jewish literature is The Bible and that's it," Schwartz said. "It turns out that there's an enormous library."

Schwartz said that it was not his original goal to specialize in Jewish literature.

"I didn't plan it. My goal was just to

be a good poet and a good writer of fiction. It just didn't turn out that way," he said.

Schwartz has been teaching in the English department at UM-St. Louis since 1970. A graduate of Washington University, he worked his way up from being a lecturer to a full-time professor through his publications.

Schwartz teaches English Literature, Jewish Literature and is involved in the Master of Fine Arts program. He also helped create the MFA program with David Carkeet. The MFA program is for graduates who want to earn the equivalent to a Ph.D. in creative writing.

In the MFA program, Schwartz teaches the poetry writing workshop and Magic Realist Fiction, which is a workshop and literature class.

"I divide my time between lit. courses and creative writing and between Western literature and Jewish literature," said Schwartz.

Schwartz is currently working on "Classic Jewish Folktales," a selection of his four collections of Jewish folktales which will be released in 2008.

"When I finish that, I'd like to go back to writing original short stories. I see that as the next phase," said Schwartz.

The best advice he can give to future writers is to take writing courses.

"The motto is: A writer writes," said Schwartz. "Being a writer is a very hard job. A lot of times, you're by yourself."

Books, from page 6

Much of the work behind the setting up and coordination of these special occasions comes from bookstore faculty member Mary Ann Corbett.

On the days when book signings take place, the event usually happens on campus that will provide adequate space for congregation. Book signings are typically held in the UM-St. Louis bookstore, but may be scheduled in other places like the Pilot House.

Anyone is welcome to attend book signings. Guests are welcome to partake in conversation with the authors, faculty members and among each other. Refreshments like food and drink are always provided, as well as

music and other activities.

"It's good PR for the store, brings people in and shows that we're not just about selling 'expensive textbooks.' We appreciate the campus community who attends these book events," said Gloria Schultz, Director of Auxiliary Services.

Books, novels and even comic books have been featured at gatherings. Many authors that engaged in the book signings have been local writers or writers who have been invited back to promote another book.

The bookstore will participate with several authors in an event called "The Big Read" in Clayton, Mo. this summer.

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CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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Trivia Night

Date: 2/22
Time: Wed 7p-10p
Place: Provincial House
Sign up by: 2/20
Division: Open

Skyzone Dodgeball

Date: 3/7
Time: Thurs 7:00-9pm
Place: Skyzone
Sign up by: 3/1
Division: Open

Weightlifting

Date: 3/8
Time: Thurs 1-4pm
Place: MT Weight Room
Sign up by: Just Be there
Division: M & W

Table Tennis

Date: 2/27
Time: Tues 6:30-9pm
Place: 221 Mark Twain
Sign up by: 2/22
Division: W & M

Basketball

Date: 3/8
Time: Thurs 6:30-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/1
Division: CoEd

Badminton

Date: 3/10
Time: Sat 10am-1pm
Place: MT Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: Open

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CURRENT CARTOONISTS

NUTN BUT THE FUNK Rudy Scoggins

"Caps Rock"



"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

SCONEBOROUGH
AMERICAN HISTORY

WITH PROFESSOR J. CHESHWORTH



CLARK TOTALLY TOOK LEWIS FLYING IN 1804!



THEIR EXPEDITION WAS CUT SHORT WHEN LEX LUTHOR THREW CLARK IN A POOL.



by E. Gearhart

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearhart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "Funny Do"

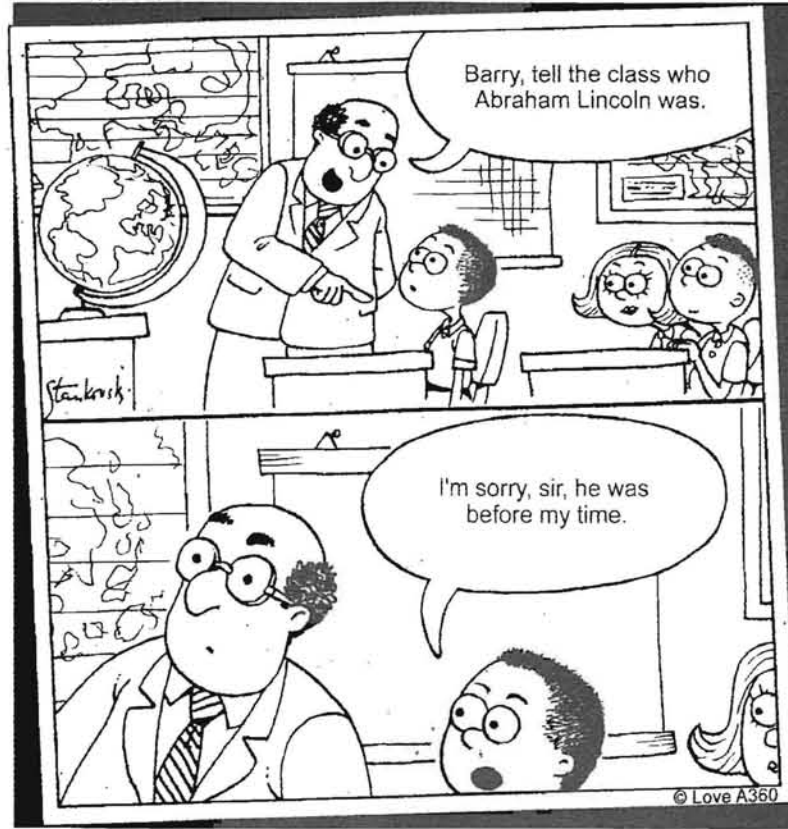


"Shakeia's Hair Salon" is drawn by Current cartoonist Sherry Holman

SYNDICATED CARTOON



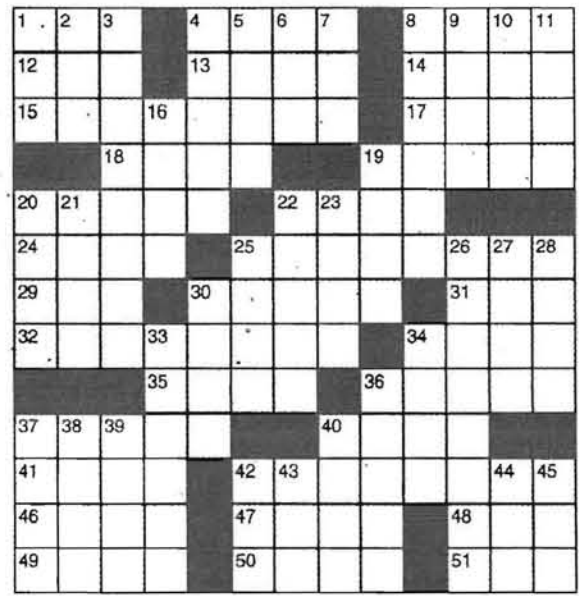
Snapshots at jasonlove.com



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ninny
- 4 La Scala solo
- 8 Chantilly, e.g.
- 12 Stern's opposite
- 13 Watson's partner
- 14 Emblem
- 15 Seafood picnic
- 17 Flex
- 18 Yuletide refrain
- 19 Reacts to yeast
- 20 Spread outward
- 22 Dressed
- 24 Remark re Yorick
- 25 Suggested
- 29 Tie up the phone
- 30 Intonation
- 31 Environment-friendly
- 32 Cold symptom
- 34 Injury
- 35 Guy
- 36 Resentment
- 37 Man of principle?
- 40 Stead
- 41 PC operator
- 42 Memento
- 46 Pealed
- 47 Relaxation
- 48 Suburb of Melbourne

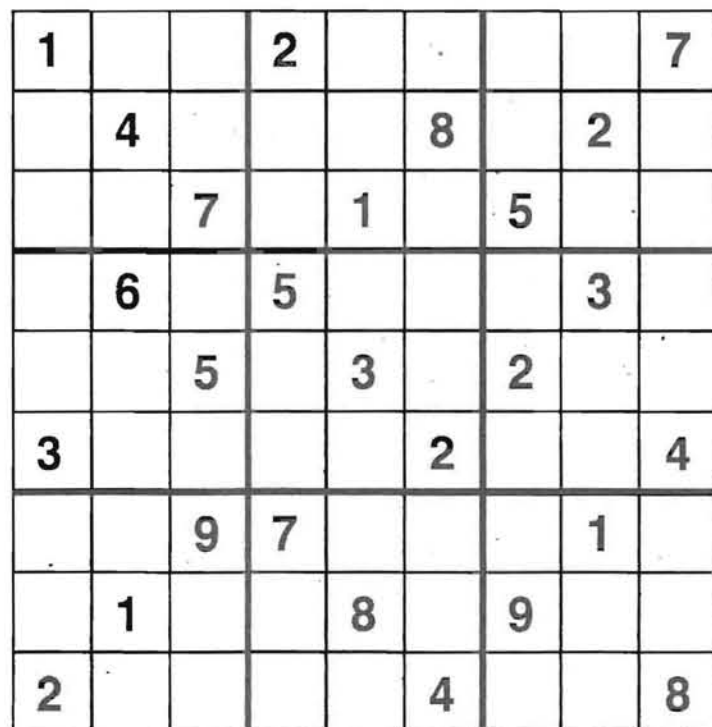


- 49 Discourteous
- 50 Screwy
- 51 Needle
- 9 Dogfight
- 10 Traffic pylon
- 11 Tackles'
- 16 Old birds of New Zealand
- 19 Engrossed
- 20 Emulates
- 21 Blueprint
- 22 Frasier's last name
- 23 Protracted
- 25 Dr. McGraw
- 26 Salt shaker?
- 27 Beige
- 28 Cupola
- 30 Despot
- 33 Pop out
- 34 Hastens
- 36 Organ parts
- 37 Kitten's comment
- 38 Birthright
- 39 See to
- 40 "- we forget"
- 42 Now he's
- 43 Barbie's friend
- 44 Indispensable
- 45 Ram's mate

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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.

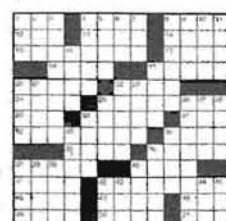
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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

The Current
online.com



MAXIMO PREDICTS

Horoscopes for March 5 - March 11

Aries
March 21-April 19

This week you will waste oxygen and take up precious space on the planet. Just like you always do.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

I don't think filling your wallet with Playdoh will help your situation. As a matter of fact, I know it won't because I can predict the future, duh.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

Phew, Oak Hall was safe from your flood of zit ooze. It is a good thing you decided to stay home last Wednesday.

Cancer
June 22-July 22

Actually, I didn't use my powers to see that your ugly pants two weeks ago. All you ever wear are ugly pants. My powers do tell me it would be wise of you to go shopping for some new clothes on Friday.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

I see a bright-colored bird and magical fruity tastes in your future. That or I ate Fruit Loops for breakfast.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Saturday will be the perfect day for you to take a relaxing little trip. The rest of us would really enjoy the time when you're away.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

I predict you will shave your back hair this week, Libra ladies. And Libran fellas, you will help them and collect the hair to cover up that bald spot you deny exists on the back of your head.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You will meet a stranger tomorrow, by stranger I mean someone stranger than you. I didn't think such a person existed. You're so weird, how could someone be weirder than you?

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

I predict that as a result of last week's interplanetary interactions you will walk funny this week. You will also experience some major discomfort while you are in a seated position ... or while you are standing ... or while you are walking, etc.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You will put all of your effort into projects this week, and still fail miserably because you are a loser.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Every night this week you will walk in on me with your mom, don't even begin to think the kitchen is safe.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

Your parents Coddle you too much.

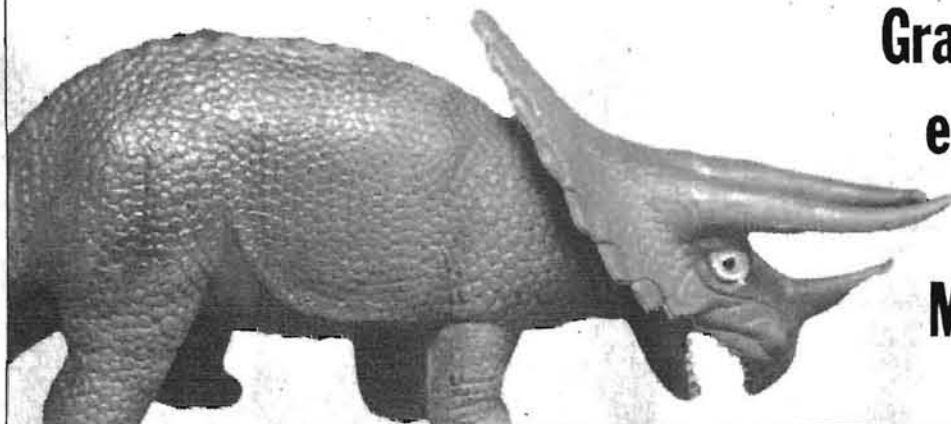
DISCLAIMER:

Maximo and all of his friends at Maximo Predicts would like to remind you to brush your dirty teeth and eat all of your vegetables. That way you can grow up to be big and strong like Maximo. Then, you can find him and beat the snot turtles out of him for being so obnoxious and stupid. You'll only be able to do this if you eat all of your vegetables and brush your dirty teeth.

Do you feel your news is a little prehistoric?

The Current

Get Current!
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High School, from page 4

She was right, time is changing. And obviously, change is good, bad, ok and inevitable.

Standards of behaviors, associations and ways of doing things deviate from norms of years past. Although, I can't forget the glory days of my youth and hop-skotch, double-dutch and jacks (for girls, of course).

Tag football, ghost man on third, Nintendo (the first one) and "21 tip outs" for us basketball players. No MP3 players, we had walkmans and CD headsets. I remember the library

was strictly card catalog. What was an online source to us then? Nothing, I do not remember online sources, because we didn't go online.

You are probably confused because you do not see MySpace, Facebook and all of those computer games and lifestyles mentioned.

The only computer game I can remember is Oregon Trail, and to meet people was to get out and face them prior to other engagements.

I guess I just can't forget some things as we change and become com-

puter/technology oriented. I am challenged by the new and how to uphold the old. I miss some of the engagements of the past.

God forbid you say some of the jokes we used to say or launch our rendition of "Freshmen day."

Again, times sure have changed. But, one thing hasn't changed. The one thing that won't change is our memories.

Sure, they may fade and get fuzzy as we age, nothing compares to the memory of how something used to be.

These flashbacks are events of momentary bliss of "the way back whens" and "good old days." Change is surely signature of the one truth, that if we all keep on living, we are sure to wind up on both sides of the equation.

There are those who marvel or rebel against the new and those who remember the way it was. I still hear the echoes of Billy Joel's song in my mind "These are the times to remember/ 'cause they will not last forever/ these are the days to hold on to/cause we won't although will want to..."

BELLERIVE, from page 6

A printed proof from the publisher is sent to Gleason for approval, which typically occurs over the winter break.

Meanwhile, the publicity committee works to create flyers and other advertising for the launch event. They are also responsible for refreshments and entertainment for the launch.

"I am, as always, amazed at the talent of the people who submitted," said Pendleton. "In the course of preparing a publication like this, there is a fair

amount of compromise. The students in the class come from a variety of backgrounds and academic majors."

"Bellerive" came into existence when the original "Litmag" folded, according to Pendleton. A handful of honors students who had been involved with "Litmag" approached Gleason about starting another publication.

Gleason said the name, "which is French for 'beautiful river,'" was derived from one of the streets near

where the honors college was located. Since the formation of "Bellerive," "Litmag" was reborn as a student organization, Litmag II, and the class Editing "Litmag."

"The fact that both 'Bellerive' and 'Litmag' continue to flourish only highlights the interest in and need for creative outlets geared toward undergraduate students at UMSL," said Pendleton.

"The aim of both publications and of the Litmag II student organization is to

foster a creative community of writers and artists here at UMSL and to provide that community with an outlet for their creativity while providing hands-on experience in the publication process to the students with their associated classes," she said.

Gleason said, "I believe that the book 'Bellerive' is very important to the Honors College and to our campus as an example of the creative spirit of so many of our students."

MILK, from page 5

The research indicates that the trait evolved recently and spread rapidly. This trait may be linked to the rise of dairy farming, which made the previously-rare trait useful.

The scientists found no evidence of the gene for adult lactose tolerance among their samples, which would mean that widespread lactose tolerance likely arose after the adoption of dairy farming. The ability to digest milk was an adaptive trait that appears to have spread rapidly.

In an article in Science Now online, researcher Mark Thomas said that a key point of the study was that the trait had been extremely rare 8,000 years ago but is common today, which showed strong natural selection for it.

Being able to drink milk had many survival benefits. Water was often contaminated with parasites, which made milk a healthier drink. Additionally, milk was available in a continuous supply year-round, unlike crop foods, that can have cycles of abundance or lack, with growing seasons and with boom or bust years. Milk is also a nutrient-rich food.

All of this added up to a huge survival advantage for those who could drink milk. With the spread of dairy farming, those with the gene were likely to leave more offspring than those without the gene.

The study suggests answers to other questions. One of these questions is which of two competing theories about the spread of dairy farming is correct. One hypothesis holds that Europeans were already able to digest lactose, and that this led them to adopt dairy farming.

The other one, the culture-historical hypothesis, suggests that dairy farming was adopted first by a small population that was lucky enough to already have the gene for lactase persistence, and that this group then spread their genes and their dairy culture to other areas in Europe. The researchers on this study felt that their results suggested that the cultural-historical hypothesis is the correct one.

The need still exists, however, for more studies to tease out all the answers to the questions about milk drinking and human evolution.

LETTERS, from page 5

While I'm sure workers like me were sometimes a nuisance for students who were bringing friends into the dormitory, the task for desk clerks was to be the eyes and ears for RAs who were doing rounds in the evenings.

We asked for identification for students who were bringing in guests, and had the students and his/her guests sign a ledger. Overnight guests were eventually required to fill out an extra form that they had to carry with them at all times.

Keeping a written record of how often students brought over guests helped prevent a lot of the problems that have occurred in the past year. As a desk clerk, I was able to let the RA on call know if a student had brought in many guests who seemed like they might have the potential to be disruptive.

I also became acquainted with guests that students would bring in on a fairly regular basis, which helped with the issue of strangers wandering around the dormitories.

When I wasn't on duty, I actually felt a lot safer knowing that there was someone staying up who was looking out for the residents as they slept.

The duties of desk clerks were assigned to RAs the following year, and I briefly worked as a desk clerk on the weekends until I decided to find another job.

The RAs that I know have been doing that portion of the job just as well, but they also have a multitude of other duties that they have to perform.

Assigning this task back to students is a step in the right direction; not only does it create another job opportunity for students on campus, but it alleviates the load of work that many RAs already have so that they can perform the other portions of their job more effectively.

Something that has bothered me, however, is the fact that desk clerks and RAs have been strangely absent since around the start of this semester.

I honestly can't put an exact time on when I noticed that desk clerks weren't stationed at the front desk of my dorm, but I know that they haven't been around for the past several weeks.

I have come back to my dorm past midnight or later on weekends and been greeted by an empty lobby.

While I welcome the return of desk clerks (now Desk Assistants), I wonder why a temporary security increase was not implemented sooner in the wake of so many problems occurring.

Furthermore, I'm also curious as to why there was a gap of time when there wasn't anyone watching the entrances to buildings at all.

The plans described in your February 26th issue of The Current are simply an enhanced version of an old system and not anything revolutionary for students who have been living in the dorms.

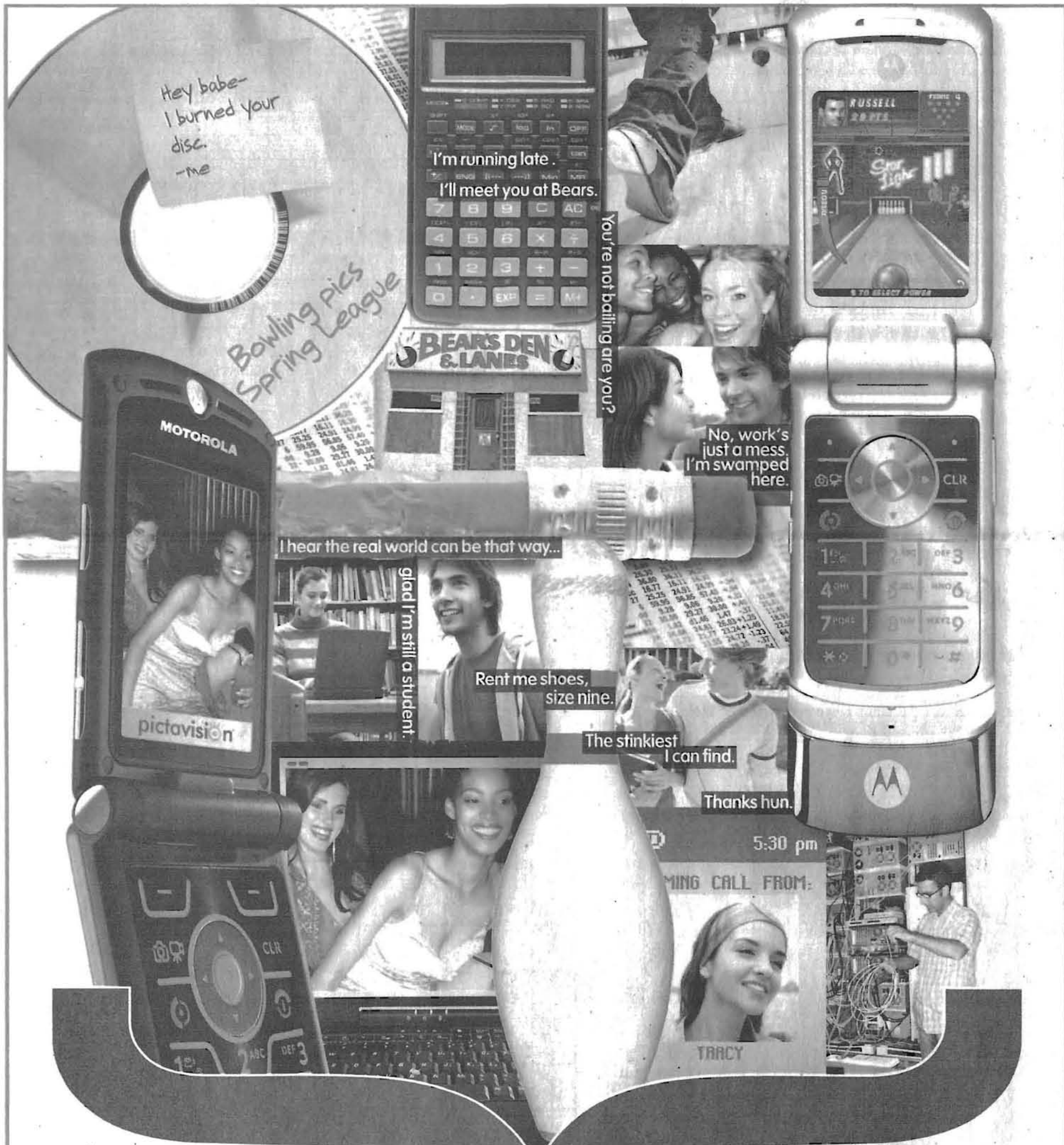
Why did it take bad things happening to reinstate a system that was previously working in some capacity?

As a final word, many of the security problems that have been occurring in the dorms may have also been prevented by students being more watchful of their surroundings.

The task of protecting our homes does not solely rest on the RAs and the incoming DAs.

I wholeheartedly agree that they are there to help foster a safe living environment for students, but if residents themselves are unwilling to report anything suspicious going on in their buildings, they may be inadvertently contributing to the problem.

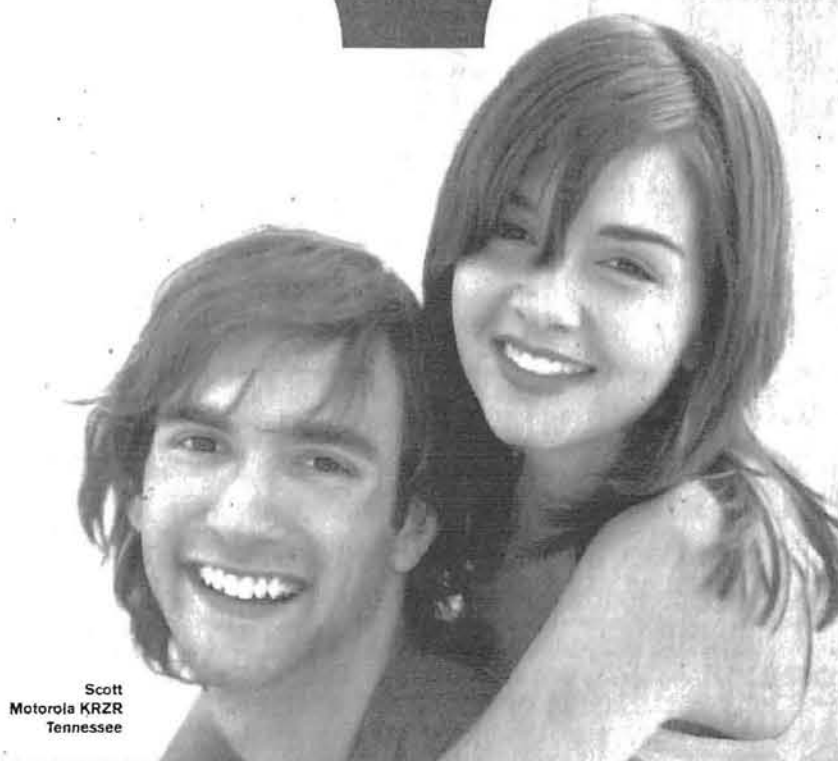
Veronica Henry Senior History



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