

# Fontbanner

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## Convocation Speech Draws Fire, Praise Among Students

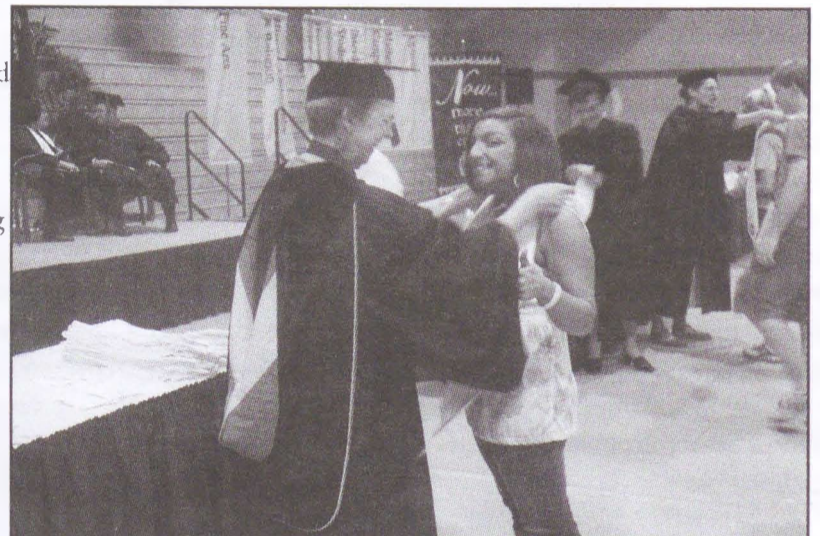
by Megan Myers,  
Copy Editor

It began as any convocation ceremony would, with hundreds of faculty members robed in long black gowns slowly sauntering through the Dunham Student Activity Center, a la "March of the Penguins." As the morning's pageantry proceeded, the student section of the audience looked tired and restless. The demeanor of the crowd changed, however, during the keynote speech of Drew University professor and theologian, Dr. Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz. Speaking on the importance of making morally sound choices, Isasi-Diaz used the War in Iraq to illustrate her point, creating a stir on campus that lasted long after the day's festivities were over. The former political refugee and missionary, who was living in Manhattan during 9/11, recounted how she had been moved by a poster in

Union Square in the wake of the tragedy. Containing a photograph of a young man who had died in the collapse of the World Trade Center, Isasi-Diaz said the poster's caption read, "Not in my son's name." Praising the anti-war values of the mother who had created the sign, Isasi-Diaz cited President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and World Bank President and former U.S. Deputy of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, as having "the values of war, death, and destruction" for their roles in the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Isasi-Diaz went on to say that "War and destruction, bombing others, no matter who they are, is not the road to peace." Many students were impressed by her remarks that

morning. Freshman Rechelle Hatley says she found the

nature was inappropriate. "It offended me, to be honest.



Above, Freshman Erin McGuire at the 2008 Convocation ceremony

Photo by Megan Myers

speech to be "beautiful, moving and extremely interesting," but also notes how members of the audience seemed taken aback by the speaker's mention of the war in Iraq. "The look on people's faces was like, 'Uh oh! She went there!' but I think it really hit home," says Hatley. Some students, however, felt that the message's political

It was kind of just this big government bash, and I was really surprised that she was chosen to represent the school," says sophomore James Murphy. Still, other students chose to focus more on the speech's less

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## Breaking News: Students to be 'Fashionably Homeless'

by Courtney Schofield,  
Reporter

Generally speaking, the homeless do not carry Prada bags. However, come early winter, staff and students might begin to notice a few of their fellow Fontbonnians rather distraught as they wander around in designer golden stilettos looking for something very specific—a place to call home.

to Gary Zack, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, will begin in October and last for fourteen months until its completion just in time for the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester. The construction will force out several classes that will be relatively easy to displace. However, the HES department fashion lab will pose a larger relocation issue because of the exclusive needs that their permanent location fulfills in a way that a temporary classroom could not.



This spike in homelessness will be due to the construction of the Science Building that, according

Luckily and surprisingly, the compact campus is not without its hidden extra spaces for times like these. St. Joseph's Hall is the home to roughly 124 students, and will soon be the

school day foster home to the fashion lab. Unfortunately, the aforementioned extra space is not uniformly considered "extra," due to its present occupation as the South Lobby of St. Joseph's Hall where recreational and functional amenities can found such as a ping-pong table, a foosball table, a pool table, an ice machine, a few sitting apparatuses and a not-so-functional or recreational kitchenette. Assistant Director of Residential Life, Leslie Johnson, admits that some aspects of the project are still a bit of an enigma, such as where exactly all of the aforementioned things will go, but most things have been decided. "The ping-pong table's relocation is still in decision, but the pool table will be moved to the front lobby, and the foosball table will move [off

campus] to Cotta Hall. The kitchenette will stay."

The construction on St. Joseph's will begin this fall and will be completed in time for the lab to comfortably move into the hall just as the science building construction begins and the fall semester ends. The primarily freshmen residential hall will officially begin to house classes in the Spring. Zack says the construction will be "uncomplicated," and its only objective is to, "segregate classroom activity from traffic [so as to] create an environment to learn." The construction will mostly consist of putting up some walls, and "will be returned to the South lobby after the completion of the Science building."

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# A Very Cultured Sister Returns 'Home'

by Rachel Hanson, Reporter

"When you go to a foreign country for any amount of time, you are changed. You carry it with you. It changes the way you relate to people and your own culture," says Sister Patricia of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet and the new Spanish Professor at Fontbonne University. As Sister Patricia passes you on campus, she is the first to greet you with an enthusiastic "Hola!" and a bright smile. This is first-nature to her and comes from her many years of living in a culture unlike that of North America. Only two short months ago, Sister Patricia returned to the United States after twenty-eight years of teaching in Peru. Upon returning home, she was surprised to find herself back at the University, the very place she began her education and mission with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet.

Forty-six years ago, a young Sister Patricia Vanden Bergh walked onto the Fontbonne College campus, which was very different from the University where students walk today. No male students wandered the corridors or lounged in the meadow. The library, which she considers "new," didn't exist. It was simply a field overlooking the dormitories of Washington University. The Dunham Student Activity Center was simply the gym, but did have its own swimming pool. She lived in what is now the Fine Arts Building along with all the other Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet. Upon her return this summer, she was most surprised by the installation of the

Black Box Theatre, a location where their chapel had once stood. The chapel's stained-glass windows remain but are only visible from the outside of the building. While she was a student, Sister Patricia most enjoyed her professors and classes, especially Biology, and using the swimming pool in the afternoons. Her major was Latin, but the degree she received was a NCATE degree, which allowed her to teach in any state without other accreditation. Sister Patricia specifically remembers her graduation ceremony in the gorgeous Doerr Chapel, where all the Sisters received their diplomas.

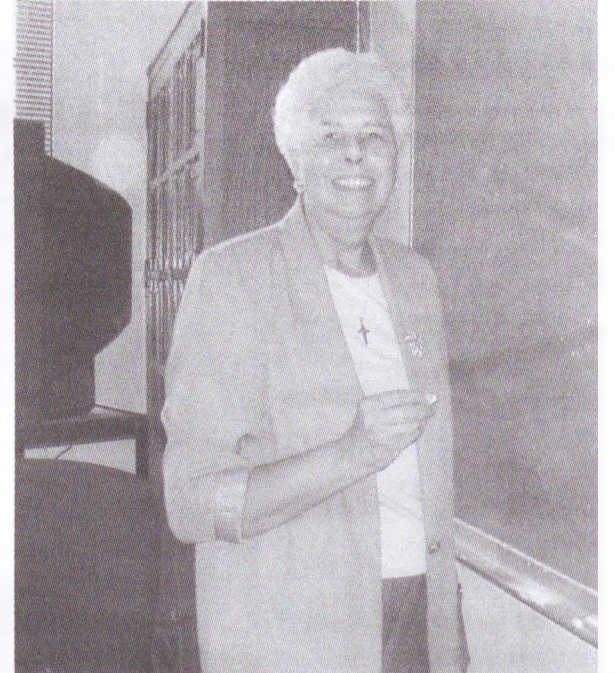
Before being sent to Peru, Sister Patricia gathered experience teaching across the United States. She first taught Latin at Saint Francis Desailles High School in Denver, Colorado. She was then transferred to Augusta, Georgia and then Muscogee, Oklahoma, and did parish work throughout Texas for two years. Her first overseas assignment put her in a Peruvian convent where the sisters only spoke Spanish. Enrolled in an intensive three month language course, Sister Patricia was forced to learn Spanish. She succeeded and thrived in the new environment around her. Throughout her teaching career in Peru, her classes varied with the school and region in which she lived. She "taught a smattering of all... English, Religion, Geography, Civics, Philosophy and Logic."

From the rural mountainous regions in the west to the city of Lima, her mission took her to many parts of

Peru. To her, Peru is very multicultural. One of her most memorable missions was teaching the poor, indigenous Peruvians who lived secluded in the mountains. The schools were called the Cristo Rey "Faith and Joy" Schools and were advertised as "the school that begins when the pavement ends." These schools were designed to bring education to the less fortunate and to rural areas. These schools can also be found in poverty-stricken areas around the United States, especially in Spanish-speaking areas. The closest one is in Kansas City (more information can be found at [www.cristoreynetwork.org](http://www.cristoreynetwork.org)). At her school in Peru, the students did not speak simply Spanish, but a mix of Spanish and Aymara, a Native American language, and practiced a mix of popular religion that placed emphasis on honoring the dead, lighting candles, and practicing certain ceremonies. Sister Patricia led mass and most distinctly recalls "sitting on the ground on a decorated cloth, blessing each other with incense and honoring Mother Earth."

Sister Patricia came home to the Fontbonne Community, bringing with her not only her expertise in the Spanish language but also some other aspects of the Peruvian culture. While the community has just recently begun to buy their eco-friendly re-usable grocery sacks, Sister Patricia is already

prepared. In Peru, everyone brings his or her own burlap sack to the market. She would go daily to the market and buy fruits and vegetables from local



Above, Sister Patricia

Photo by Rachel Hanson

farmers, carrying her purchases home in her burlap sack. She also brought back a new respect for interpersonal communications. Greetings are one of the most important forms of Spanish interaction, and she says it is necessary and polite to greet every person. So as Sister Patricia strolls across the campus, she naturally greets and acknowledges others. Her warm smile and a friendly "Hola" brings not just a touch of Peruvian culture, but an opportunity for all of us to share a smile and positive word to our fellow community members. Welcome home, Sister Patricia.

## "Convocation" cont'd from p.1

controversial points. Junior Alex Kuntzman, in response to Isasi-Diaz' question, "What meaning are you going to give to this school year?" says he hopes to "be more open-minded and 'gain more of a world-view' over the course of the year. The 2008 Academic Convocation began at 10:15 am on Wednesday, August 27, with an invocation read by Student Government President, junior Andrew Dusanowsky. The University's Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Nancy Blattner, then welcomed the crowd of students, faculty, administrators, and special guests from the St. Louis Jewish community who were gathered in the gym of the DSAC. Blattner also introduced the ceremony's guest speakers, Isasi-Diaz, and Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Batya Abramson-Goldstein. Abramson-Goldstein became the first recipient of the

University's "Jason Sommer Dedicated Semester Award" for her efforts in making last year's inaugural dedicated semester, themed, "Judaism and Its Cultures," a success. The award was named in honor of Dr. Sommer, who designed the concept of the dedicated semester and worked throughout the past academic year to ensure its realization. In her acceptance speech, Abramson-Goldstein hailed the project as a "glorious concept" and "a wonderful and creative way to enhance understanding of Judaism on campus," and called the partnership that had developed between the University and the local Jewish community a "powerful statement." After Isasi-Diaz delivered her keynote address, University President Dennis Golden invited staff, students and faculty members to stand and pledge their support for the University's commitment to higher education. Both Isasi-Diaz

and Abramson-Goldstein were then presented with custom-made stolls embellished with the University's seal to commemorate the event, as did all students attending the convocation for their first time. Students who had received a stoll in previous years were given a pin to mark the occasion. The ceremony was concluded with a few closing remarks from Vice President Blattner, and a benediction by Campus Ministry Director, Tony Mravle. As students exited the DSAC after the convocation, they were presented with 'passports.' At the end of the academic year, two students with passports will be selected in a drawing to travel to Ireland. A mass was held at 11:30 am in the Doerr Chapel in Ryan Hall, with a "Welcome Back" barbeque on the Eleanor Halloran Ferry Plaza afterwards for everyone on campus. Katherine Hackman of the office of academic affairs has been coordinating the annual event for the past six years.

She says she had two goals in mind when planning for this year's ceremony began back in January. "We wanted to bring unity to the school and make everyone on campus feel like they are a welcome part of a community. In previous years, the students were not even invited. It's come a long way from what it used to be," says Hackman. Over 1,000 people attended this year, 690 of which were students.

## Questions? Comments? Story ideas?

call the *Fontbanner* staff at  
314-889-4550

# “Lost Boy of Sudan” Brings Inspiration, Unexpected Humor to University

by Krista Brown, Editor-in-Chief

The ending of Benjamin Ajak's story of survival—his coming to America to start a new life—is a happy one. The story of his fight for survival in Africa, though, is not quite as happy.

This story, along with those of his two cousins, Benson and Alephonsion Deng, comes in the form of “They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky,” a book co-authored by the three “Lost

in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, and the struggles he faced against the constant threat of lions, crocodiles, starvation and enemy fire.

He also spoke about finally being accepted as a refugee by the United States and how, originally, he was scheduled to fly into John F. Kennedy International airport on September 11, 2001, when he saw the World Trade Center buildings burning from his seat in the plane. Even upon his arrival to what Ajak considered to be his “new world,” turmoil and violence seemed to follow him. After the 9/11 events, Ajak spent two weeks in Canada, and finally made his way to San Diego to meet up with his two cousins.

One thing discovered by the University staff and students who met

Ajak was that being forced to grow up at such a young age, without the

“He seemed like such a lighthearted person, which surprised me,” says junior and SGA President Andy Dusanowsky. “He laughed about

you cannot get your education. I chose the first; learning was my food. You must know that your education is the key to your future.”

The choice that Ajak made has allowed him many opportunities, including the chance to live in the United States. He wanted to convey the importance of education to his audience, and many think that he was successful in doing so.

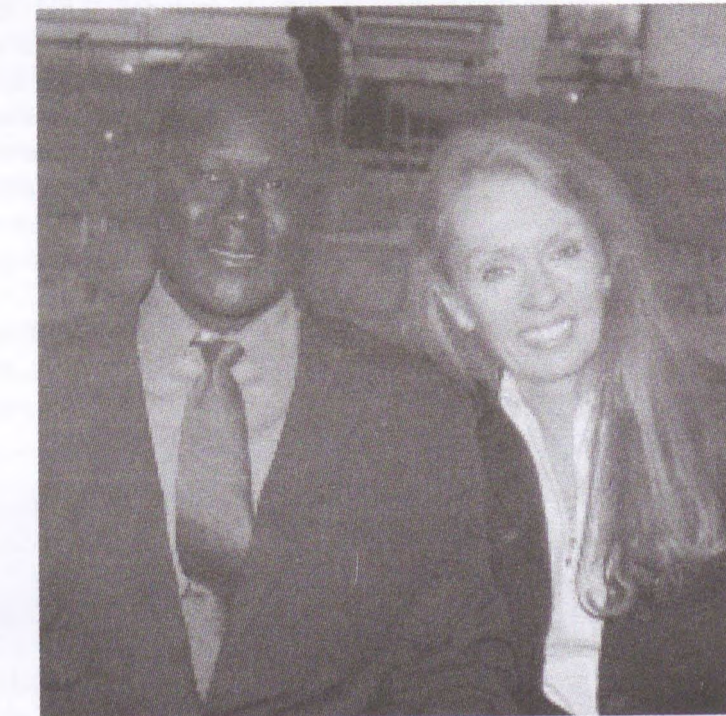
One freshman that read Ajak's book and was

present during his visit says, “I never really thought about how easy it is for us to get an education. I mean, college is expensive, but it's nothing like what Benjamin had to go through in Africa. He lived off of hardly any food at all just to be able to learn.”

“In the U.S., we are so incredibly blessed to have an education provided for us,” says Director of Campus Ministry Tony Mravle. “I think Benjamin was very inspiring when he talked about the importance of education and when he encouraged the students to realize—and appreciate—this importance.”

Ajak also spoke about his life in the U.S. and of his passion to help bring peace to his homeland. During the SGA luncheon, he shared stories about life as a trucker, how he has visited all but one of the 50 states (“I want to go to Hawaii!”) and how his favorite state, so far, has been Wyoming (“It is very flat, and very beautiful. It reminds me of Sudan”).

Ajak let his humor shine through, once again, while answering one of the last questions before his departure from the University: “Benjamin, what is your favorite thing about America?” Pointing to his plate of pasta and grilled chicken, he gave a huge grin, patted his stomach, and asked, “You see this food?”



Benjamin Ajak with Judy Bernstein

Photo courtesy of “Writing to Heal”

everything and he was

continuously cracking jokes.”

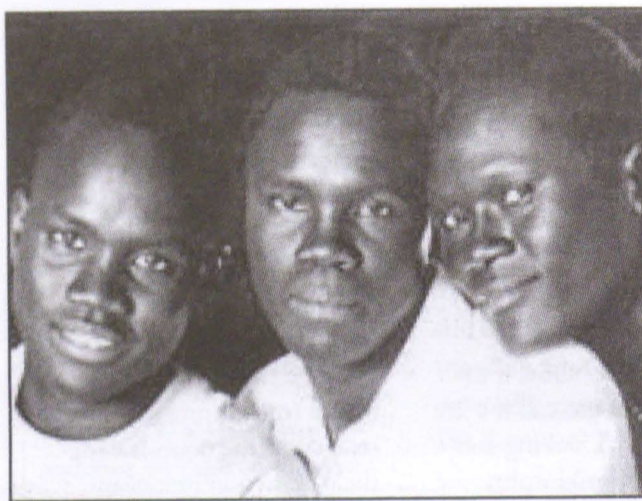
Despite his cheerful nature, though, Ajak does not avoid the serious topics that arise when he talks about his childhood (or lack thereof) and his experience as a Lost Boy.

“In 1987, at the age of five, I lost my childhood,” says Ajak. “There were so many threats—everywhere we look, some threat on our lives. We got our courage from asking each other, ‘what are you going to be tomorrow when you survive today?’ We thought of tomorrow, of the future. That's how we got our courage.”

One emphasis he puts on his experience, especially, is his outlook on education.

“I began my education in 1996 by writing

letters and numbers with my finger in the sand,” says Ajak. “I learned very quickly that there were two choices in the refugee camp: get your education and survive on the little bit of food you get once a day, or find a way to earn your income and food for survival. But if you choose the second,



Boys of Sudan” From left: Benson and Alephonsion Deng and Benjamin Ajak  
Judy Bernstein.

During the summer before the fall 2008 semester, incoming freshmen, FOCUS leaders, Resident Assistants, faculty & staff and members of the Student Government Association all read this remarkable, inspiring book as part of the “Goals for World Change” Dedicated Semester.

In September, these readers were again inspired by a 2-day campus visit by Ajak and Bernstein. His visit to the University included two presentations in the library's Lewis Room and a private lunch with members of the SGA.

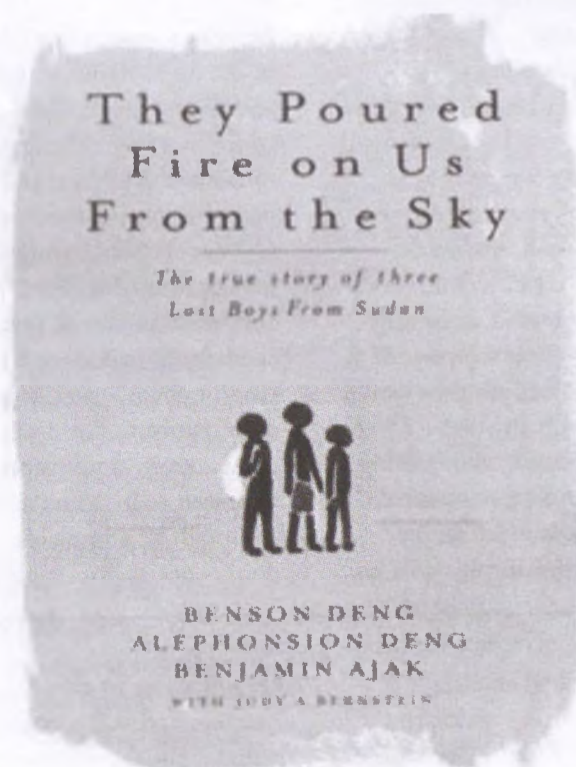
“I really liked the 60 Minutes video that was shown at the presentation. It gave a short overview of what he went through and what is still going on over there,” says senior and Fontbonne Activities Board President Sara Hermann.

“I appreciated his honesty when answering questions from the audience,” says junior Mary Gould. “And I think that honesty also came through in his book—he didn't sugar coat anything, it was raw but very truthful.”

Ajak spoke to students about his experiences, including that of becoming an orphan and fleeing his home at the age of five, living

guidance or protection from parents, has certainly not stopped him from becoming an optimistic person with a surprisingly positive outlook on life.

“At the SGA lunch, we really got to see how down-to-earth and just really happy he was,” says Hermann.



# Canvassing, Political Argument Consumes Campus

## Agree to Disagree; Obama vs. McCain

By Jane Armbruster,  
Features Editor

As one of the most historical presidential elections unfolds in front of a change-focused America, members of a younger generation choose sides, defend their values, and wage educated war on the opposition. The heart of this battle, which takes place on University frontlines inside the now fortress-like walls of Medaille Residential Hall, is being led by two passionate sophomores: Derrell Jamison and Jamey Murphy.

At first glance, these politically minded individuals are typical college sophomores, dressed in comfortable clothes suitable for the day's weather, laptops at the ready, book bags in hand. But it only takes a mere phrase, a single question, and one look at their Medaille dorm room doors to realize these students have an overwhelming obsession: political debate. Accompanied by buffers/moderators/friends – fellow sophomores Everett Jackson and Tom Stevenson – Jamison and Murphy joined together to healthily promote and defend their candidate's platforms.

When choosing a candidate to support, Jamison, a fervent Barack Obama backer, expresses a strong but simple sentiment. "I'm looking for the candidate that can change my mother's life," he says. Although brief, this message carries much emotional weight for Jamison. The government continuously tells his mother, who has endured six heart attacks, three strokes, and suffers from glaucoma,

that she fails to qualify for disability even though she is practically unable to work. With little income, his mother receives limited aid, including food stamps, which Jamison says is only a fraction of what she needs to survive. Recently, when his mother sought

candidate promising change, on more issues than one. The War in Iraq is possibly one of the biggest issues on the minds of American voters and the world over...Jamison included. "I feel Obama's extraction plan is excellent," he says. Jamison believes

a slow removal of American troops from Middle Eastern battlefields is what is best for them and us. "I believe Senator Biden, as Vice President, won't let him just cut and run," he says.

Jamey Murphy, an avid McCain supporter, has a dissimilar stance on the war. "I feel that the United States has the right to defend their treaties, which they had with Iraq after the first Gulf War," he says. Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, dismissed United Nations inspectors, revealed the existence and strength of

potential weapons of mass destruction, and hoped to intimidate the United States, says Murphy. And to skeptics that claim Bush used destructive weapons as an excuse for warfare, Murphy sends a straightforward message. "If President Bush wanted a reason, and really wanted to find weapons of mass destruction, they would have been planted there," he says. "Then the whole thing would have been 'justified.'" And as far as McCain is concerned, Murphy feels his

duty is simple: to listen to General Patrias and other ground forces in order to decide the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq.

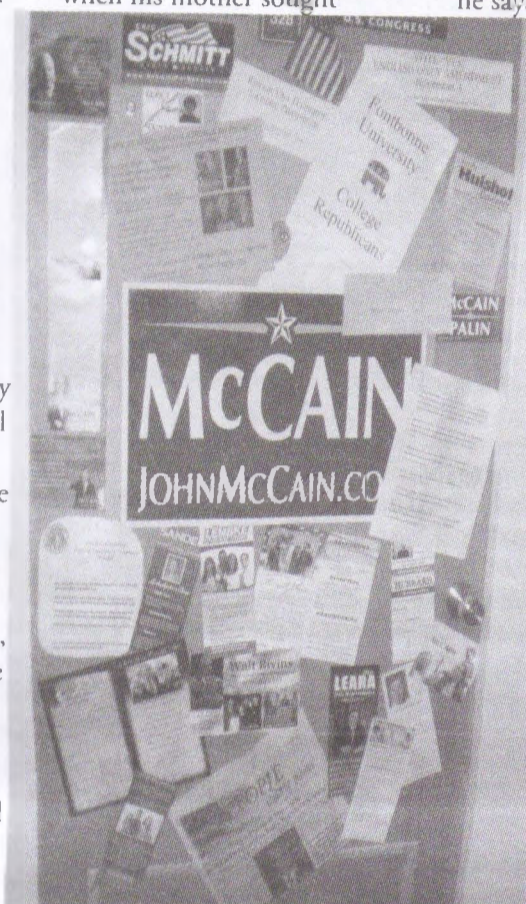
Murphy, a self-acclaimed conservative, asserts his beliefs concerning other important issues on the minds of both Democrats and Republicans. Abortion has been a major matter in this country for many years, and although legally accepted, war still rages concerning its possible religious and ethical flaws. Both Murphy and Jamison classify themselves as pro-life, and condemn the act of abortion, but more specifically partial birth abortion, which Senator Obama defends as every woman's right. "This means they can abort the fetus and simply allow it to die. They refuse to call it a life even though it's kicking and screaming," says Murphy.

These two outspoken students not only express these views verbally, but visually. This constant debate extends to Medaille Hall's residential floors, where political canvassing continues to become a trend. Passersby on Murphy's level, when taking in the usual sights, sounds and smells, are met with an additional spectacle. A collage of red and blue banners, pamphlets, advertisements and newspaper clippings, all in support of McCain, Palin and various other Republican candidates, including Jane Cunningham, cover Murphy's door. Jamison, however, takes a more argumentative approach to his visual aids. Although he admits his door is not as noticeable as

Murphy's, Jamison proudly posts texts showing McCain's voting record and his questionable responses to certain issues, including state healthcare reform, welfare extension, and federal college funding.

Unfortunately, the results of this canvassing have been far from civil. At a time when Jamison was out of his room, an anonymous vandal desecrated his Obama dedication. "A person spit on one of my posters and X'd out another," says Jamison. Unfortunately, he feels the incident carried extreme prejudice. "It was racist," he says, "it was basically horrible." Murphy's door was similarly destroyed, when, every day for the first two weeks, a passing student would tear his pro-Republican images off the door, leaving the destruction in a heap on the Medaille hall carpet. Reposting his collage became a daily routine for Murphy. Interestingly, nameless vandalism is not the only consequence of the political flagging. Early morning physical altercations, fueled by the party images, erupted from students' political passion.

Fights, canvassing and vandalism may portray the seriousness and political strife consuming the residential floors of Medaille Hall; however, Murphy and Jamison refuse to let things get too personal. Murphy says, "Derrell and I are actually really good friends."



Above: Jamey Murphy's door in Medaille  
Photo by Jane Armbruster

assistance, he says, "they told her because I was 18, they were going to give her ten dollars worth of food stamps a month. Ten dollars. Does that buy food for a month?"

Another hot button issue for Jamison involves an additional aspect of federal funding. "I like his education plan," he says of Obama. "He will raise the amount of loans that students get. A plan that was proposed to Congress and that Senator McCain voted 'no' on." Jamison is looking for a

security risks that may affect the Hall when it opens its doors to non-residents is an important issue. Of course, the University is several steps ahead on thought and planning, and Hickman has an answer for worried students: "Security issues will be handled similar to the way they are handled in Medaille. Key card access will be installed on all [of St. Joseph's] floors and in the elevator. The door to the building will only

be opened when class is in session, during which time, only the ground floor will be accessible." Admittedly, though, during the time of construction certain risks exist merely from the nature of the ordeal. One risk Hickman addresses is one associated with the workers who will be near or in the building. "Who is in the building and why?" asks Hickman.

Currently, many students

are not aware of the changes nearing, and will probably remain, largely, unaffected as they quickly adapt to the minor change. For others, though, particularly the Fashion Merchandising students, this will serve as a significant transition and will call for adaptation as they strut into their new home. If nothing else, the Fashion students have one thing to look forward to, they will no longer have to walk up the

stairs in their four and a half inch golden stilettos.



"Fashionably Homeless" cont'd from p. 1

Though new to students, the determination to tweak St. Joseph's usage is not new to the campus's plans. Carla Hickman, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, says, "A lot of thought has gone into this—it's been a conversation piece for two years, and every building has been looked at. The school is being very creative."

While the campus is, by and large, a safe one, the potential

## Coming Full Circle; Dr. Jasna Meyer Returns to University

by Jane Armbruster,  
Features Editor

As students dreaded and prepared for the first full day of this semester's classes, another returning student was excitedly awaiting the day's events. But this former undergraduate was not fearing future exams or anxiously anticipating her new professors' arrivals, she was returning to teach. Dr. Jasna Meyer, a graduate of the University class of 1989, has returned as the new full time faculty member of the English and Communication Department—a move she says gives her the sentiment of “coming full circle,” and back where she always wanted to be.

Meyer, a St. Louis native and past resident of Clayton, has led what some may call a double life. Although born in St. Louis, the now intercultural communications expert has spent much of her worldly existence traveling between two nations with her family. Her mother, a native Croatian and poet, and father, an American Communications educator, gave their daughter a chance few people receive: the opportunity to call two countries home. Meyer completed her first extended trip to Croatia in elementary school, which she remembers as a time of local education, friends, connecting with her mother's large extended family, and learning the language and values if its people.

After lengthy trips back and forth between Split, her mother's native Croatian city, and St. Louis, where she eventually attended Clayton High School, Meyer was ready to begin her undergraduate study. At this time, she still had an urge to continue traveling and entered college with an organized wanderlust. After attending the University of Zagreb in Croatia during her freshman year, Meyer returned to the U.S. as a sophomore to continue her

higher education at St. Louis Community College, where her father was Dean. With the need to once again discover a new place outside St. Louis, she attended Fontbonne's sister school in Los Angeles, California, Mount St. Mary's College, during her junior and senior year.

Sprinkled between this lengthy listing of transfers, Meyer attended the University for two nonconsecutive semesters, one at the beginning of her junior year in college and her final undergraduate semester as a senior. Although in competition with several other schools, the University still left its mark on the traveling scholar. “I have especially great memories of Dr. Sommer's ‘Fire and Ice,’ which was a special topics class from Robert Frost's poetry, and we put this to life with a production at the end,” says Meyer, who categorizes this as her best University experience and remembers her instructor fondly. In addition to poetic academia, she recalls other memorable experiences within her English major. Sr. Margaret Camper, a former University professor, taught Meyer's undergraduate fiction to film class, a course that she still remembers enjoying. “It was wonderful, I would be so excited to go,” she says. “We would read the novel and then we'd see the movie in the Lewis Room of the library, where we now have faculty meetings.” This change in perspective was anticipated, but still affects Meyer profoundly. “It's such an unusual experience because everything is so familiar, yet new,” she says.

Changes to the University campus continue to affect Meyer throughout her daily routine. With memories of easy parking, the Fine Arts building, now entitled East, and loitering with classmates in the ‘Caf,’ which was formerly near the swimming pool, she cannot help but remember what is lost. “Part of my memory

here is having conversations in buildings which no longer exist,” she says.

Destruction and construction aside, Meyer still feels a sense of home when walking through University halls. Although she appreciates the lack of renovation on the East building's third floor, which reminds her of school days as a student, the most welcoming factor exists in the kind words of former professors and new colleagues. Though the semester began a few short weeks ago, she greatly appreciates the welcoming attitudes of professors Heather Norton, Lisa Ampleman, and Cheryl Baugh, with whom she has formed new friendships. She also believes, “It's nice that some of the same people are here, like Dr. Sommer.” She says, “It's the people that make the place.”

And those people are excited about Meyer's arrival. Dr. Heather Norton, Communications Professor and Head of the University's Communications Program, looks forward to Meyer's ability to expand the program. “I anticipate that she will bring new expertise and a fresh perspective to the department,” says Norton. “She is a seasoned teacher who supports her classroom work with an interesting research program. Her training and expertise are different than that of the faculty that she joins in the department, so students will have a broader exposure to the field of communication studies now that she is here.”

Meyer, as an intercultural communication expert, hopes to bring her experience and research into her curriculum and possibly the course schedule. Her research background involves Croatian versus European American conversational analysis, examining the structure of their talk, storytelling in natural conversation, linguistic analysis, and

cont'd on p. 10

## University Shows Students That ‘Every 1 Counts’

by Krista Brown,  
Editor-in-Chief

This semester, incoming freshmen were greeted by enthusiastic faculty & staff wearing bright yellow t-shirts and purple buttons featuring a logo that read, “Every 1 Counts.”

They were also encouraged to find their name on a “fruit face” poster that was hidden somewhere on campus and that

would provide them the name of their “Griffin Guru.”

These are just two of the dozen or so initiatives that have been launched by the brand-new student retention initiative, co-chaired by Vice President & Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Nancy Blattner, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Peggy Musen, and Vice President for Student Affairs, Randi Wilson.

“In June, a group of faculty and staff came together to begin this project,” says Blattner. “Many of them were hesitant at first, but we saw a complete transformation—everyone quickly became excited to take part in the program and brought back a lot of energy with them to the campus.”

There are over 90 members of the faculty and staff involved in the program, and Blattner, Musen, and Wilson say that everyone who was approached said yes to the opportunity. The co-chairs say that kicking off this semester was just the beginning of what the program wants to accomplish—but that it was a very, very important beginning.

“The first impression of the University and the campus is extremely critical,” says

Musen. “Statistics show that students decide whether or not to stay at a school within the first three days of classes. We wanted to make an impact that early, and follow through with what Fontbonne says it is—welcoming.”



Retention Initiative Program Co-Chairs  
Wilson, Blattner and Musen

Photo by Krista Brown

One of the ways the program helped to welcome the students was with the prior-mentioned “Griffin Guru” initiative.

“The gurus each act as an immediate resource on campus for the students,” says Wilson. “Someone they can go to at any time; a friendly face to touch base with. It's about building real relationships.”

While the co-chairs acknowledge that “it may take a couple of years to see significant, very noticeable improvement,” they also believe that “even a tiny bit of improvement in getting students to stay for the full four years is great.”

Blattner, Wilson and Musen also say that the program is aimed primarily, although not exclusively, at the incoming freshmen, but that they are “looking at all types of students, not just the typically “high-risk” ones,” says Musen.

“What this is all about is simply helping the students out, making them feel welcome, and letting them know that here, at Fontbonne, every one does count,” says Blattner. “We're very excited about the potential in this program.”



# Sports

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## Spotlight: Cross Country's Rachel Hanson

by Sam Waites, Sports Editor

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." Legendary Oregon University Track star Steve Pre Fontaine once said this about his ambitions as an athlete. His words strike a similar comparison with University Cross Country and Track star Rachel Hanson, who began her sophomore season at Washington University's annual Early Bird Invitational. Hanson will look to take her collegiate career to the next level after a heartbreaking finale last season in which she finished just shy of a trip to the Division III National Championships. Hanson might deem the year a failure if she isn't in Hanover, Indiana on November 22nd—this year's location for the National Championships.

Last season, Hanson was the toast of the town in the realms of SLIAC Cross Country. This freshman phenomenon, formerly recruited and offered scholarships at Division I schools including Memphis University, UAB, and Kentucky University, quickly established herself as All-Conference and the class of the league. Hanson became the first runner of either gender to earn the distinction of being named "Newcomer of the year" and the conference's "Most Valuable Runner." After seeing Hanson run, the casual spectator is in awe of this native Californian's poise and athletic capabilities. Complete domination of the opposition makes you wonder why Hanson isn't at a larger, Division I school where competition is stronger. "I'm at Fontbonne because I didn't want athletics and other distractions to overwhelm my life," says Hanson. "If I had gone to Memphis (University) that would have been the case, plus school is more important anyway." Third year Coach Dave Almany realizes how much talent his star runner has and is ecstatic to have the opportunity to be involved in something truly special. "Rachael was a big time

recruit. I'm not surprised at all she has been this successful. She could have gone a lot of places, our selling point was that she could come here and be a leader right away." After much contemplation, Hanson took Almany up on his offer.

Hanson has already declared her major in Communications, where she hopes to get a job in the field of magazine publications. Hanson also acknowledges the fact that she is an avid outdoors person. Her Facebook profile boasts that she can "go camping without a tent." Already looking ahead to next summer, Hanson plans on hiking the treacherous hills of the Appalachian Mountains, a feat that will make running anywhere else look like a walk in the park.

To help her prepare for the upcoming season, Hanson worked and trained in the high altitude of North Carolina's Appalachian mountains, as an instructor for high school runners, not far from where the maternal side of her family is from.

The youngest of two, Hanson was born in Los Angeles County, but her family moved around a lot during her youth. A pinnacle event in her life occurred in 7th grade while living in Kentucky, when Hanson's father, Larry, introduced her to running, and she discovered a natural inclination towards the sport. Not long after, her family moved again, this time to the small Tennessee town of Clarksville, where during her freshman year of high school, Hanson began to excel for both the cross country and track teams. Remarkably, Hanson reached the Tennessee State Championships all four years of high school.

Much is to be said about the athletic influence that Hanson's father had in her life. Larry Hanson

grew up in L.A. and ran cross country, on scholarship for Columbia University. The inherent athletic ability she possesses essentially comes from her father, and she says that he taught her everything she knows about the sport.

Hanson is thrilled about the upcoming season and thinks she can help lead the team on another successful campaign. "We have a lot of strong leaders and we're all good friends who take initiative." Although the team is young, consisting of only one returning senior, Hanson has given a positive message to the incoming freshman. "I told them to just have fun and not to take themselves so seriously because this sport is about personal goals."

As for predictions, it is pretty clear what the individual goal Hanson has set for herself. "Getting to nationals would be a huge step for me," she says. Coach Almany agrees and thinks Hanson is up to the challenge. "As a team, we might need another year or two of recruiting. But for Rachel, there is a real possibility." It appears that the sky is the limit for Hanson, who will have two more years of eligibility at the end of the season. A trip to nationals in her sophomore year would only add to a long list of accomplishments.



Above, Rachel Hanson

## Field Hockey Females Test Competitive Waters

by Courtney Schofield, Reporter

The University has yet another thing to be proud of: they are now the home of the only Division III Women's Field Hockey team in the state of Missouri. The Athletic Department announced last November that Field Hockey, as of the fall 2008 season, would be added as the twenty-first University-sponsored sport.

Assistant Athletic Director Monica Potter, also the women's head lacrosse coach, heads the new team. She says that the field hockey team came about because, "with lacrosse, you can get a lot of dual-sport athletes." Because of this, Potter says, "Everyone except for one of our field hockey players also plays lacrosse." Workouts began August 19 and, according to Potter, consisted of, "a lot of conditioning, stick work, and agility. They were sore after the first day, or at least I was."

Sophomore Emily Spalding says of the workouts, "Potter does this thing called 'disguised conditioning.' She works the running into the drills instead of saying 'Ok guys, go run a mile.'" Spalding admits, "I like this strategy a lot."

While Potter is very enthusiastic and confident in her new team, she admits that the inexperienced team is going to have to tackle a whole new set of challenges in the same way that inexperience affects any new team. "A challenge," Potter says, "will be competing against established teams. We're a young team playing juniors and seniors. Our college experience isn't there yet." The team is hopeful, though, that their hard work will outweigh the team's lack of a former

college background. Potter is not worried about her girls disappointing: "We're a small team, but an athletic and competitive bunch with good speed and talent."

Since the team is, after all, a Missouri Division III first, the team's closest away game will be in Columbia against the



Junior Danielle Donze

University of Missouri's Club field hockey team. All other games will be played against "teams in Kentucky and Tennessee—there are a lot of teams in the Southern Athletic Conference," says Potter.

The Griffins Field Hockey team played their first game against Rhodes College, a team of 30 girls with a strong history of winning. Their second game was against Centre College in Danville, Tennessee, whom hosted both of the Griffins' games on their home field. While the University women did not win either of the competitions, all was not lost. Freshman Mary Alice Pierce says, "we all got to



know each other better and we bonded as a team."

Spalding agrees, "I think we bonded as a team and learned everyone's playing styles. We can now focus on working together as a team."



# Sports

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## Men's & Women's Soccer: First Look

by Jake King, Reporter

Everyone on campus is now moving full steam ahead into fall, including the University's sports teams. All of our fall athletes are set on having a winning season, and the men's and women's soccer teams are no exception. Both teams began practicing in the grueling heat of early August, in the hope of bringing the heat on the field this fall.

The men's team is pushing its limits with a calendar crammed full of games against very strong opponents. "This season is a full schedule and one of the hardest non-conference schedules among our peers," says sophomore Daniel Hoffmann. "We are up against some of the best teams, like Webster, Westminster, and Principia. We want to be ready to take these teams on."

Luckily, fans will not have to travel much to see it happen. "We have a few games on the road this year but several games at home, so we hope to have a lot of fan support," says Hoffmann.

The 2008 lineup is chiefly a young one, reinforced by a few returning leaders. Goalies/midfielders, Jess Jobe and D.J. Kaiping, goalie Shawn Bernacki, and defender/midfielder Mike Utley are all men who have a lot of experience on the field and will be great assets to the team this season. Shawn Bernacki will be making a return to the field in the next week or two after being sidelined with an injury before the season began. The team is anxiously waiting for him to heal, as are many of the fans.

There are also many promising freshmen on the roster this year. "All of

the freshmen are strong players," says Chris Adamson, sophomore. "We have been extremely impressed with their level of skill, maturity, and their knowledge of the game," says Adamson. Forward Greg Leber, midfielder Charlie Chafin, and defenders Dan Lourrie and Grant Osborne are "the ones to watch" this season.

Despite losing both of their opening games in Memphis, team members remain in high spirits, confident that they will be able to turn the season around soon. "We can't wait to get the season going and show these teams that we are here to play and we are here to stay," says Adamson.

The women's soccer team is making great strides this year, after winning their first two games in New York. "The New York trip was a great bonding

experience for the team and we played really well," says freshman Kaitlin Bramel.

There are many new faces on the team coming from area high schools. Forwards Kendra Schili and Tori Preiss, midfielders Kaitlin Bramel, Erin Price, Lauren McDonald, and defender Johanna Fleerd are all proving to be great additions.

There are also many returning players this season helping to set the pace for the newcomers. Sisters Dee and Erin Pipitone and Casey Hermann are continuing to make important contributions to the team this year.

Strong leadership is also helping to make the women's team successful. "The three captains, Kristen Ferguson, Kelly Webb, and Molly McFall, have done a really nice job with team bonding and connecting the freshmen

with the returning players," says Johanna Fleerd. "The season is off to a really good start, and the chemistry is definitely there," says Fleerd.

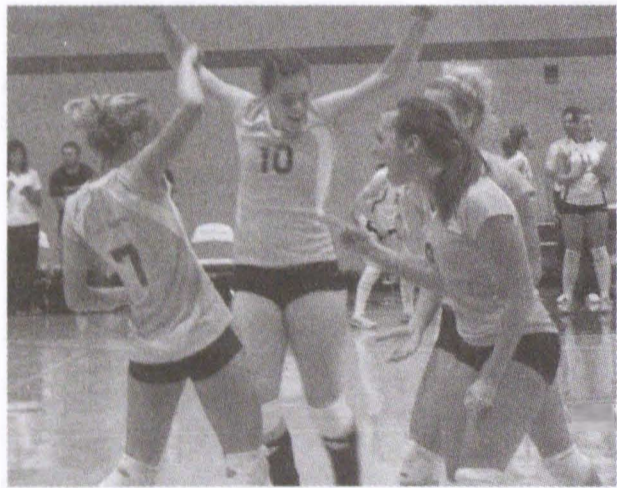
Like the men's team, the women have a packed schedule ahead of them and will be facing some of the best opponents in their district, like Webster and Principia. The team is up to the challenge, however, according to freshman Erin Price. "I feel that we have improved a lot from the beginning and will continue to improve. We have a good chance at being successful if we continue to work hard and give our best effort because everyone does have the talent and the drive," says Price.

Both teams need all the fan support they can get, so bring your lawn chair and Griffin spirit out to Clayton's Gay Field this fall.

## Lady Griffins Volleyball Looks to Step Up, Rebuild

By Dan Horn, Reporter

Last fall, the women's volleyball team, along with



their entourage of loyal fans, slowly shuffled out of the Webster University gymnasium. The Lady Griffins had lost to the 2007 Conference champs in four games. "It was disappointing. It had to be very difficult for the seniors," says senior Ellen Tobin. "We still achieved one of our main goals, and that was to go to the conference tournament and make some noise. It wasn't a complete let down." The team received a warm reception from their loyal fans, but it was no comfort. The team had very high expectations in 2007

and had fallen short to a very sound team, and they fully understood that 2008 would not be any easier.

This post season loss marked the end of a very solid college career of three seniors who provided a variety of valuable services to the club. This season, the Lady Griffins will have to cope with the loss of Rachel Schwoeppe's services as the team's setter, the solid tenacious, defensive skills of Ashley Dill, and the overpowering explosiveness behind Megan Ichord's kills. "I think that what we are losing in these three players is not only the skills they brought to the court, but the leadership each one of them brought to the team," says Coach Spinner. "This season will be a test for the younger players to see who

can step up and fill the shoes of those seniors this season."

Returning players who will be required to step up their game and contribute to the rebuilding are the lone senior, Ellen Tobin, juniors Alyssa Brocco and Megan Simon, as well as sophomores Kaitlyn Stephan, Kayla Voegel, and Carla Stoll. "As a returner, and a player who has been in this system for two and a half years, it is my obligation to remain positive and encouraging throughout this year. We are rebuilding, but this is also a year that we will have high expectations. We truly expect to win the conference," says Simon. "Having lost the players we did from last season, it is our role on this club to provide leadership and share our knowledge with the younger players," Simon adds.

However, the Lady Griffins will not be limited to finding leaders within their

returning players. This season, they will have the services of transfers Liz Johnson (Meramec), and Kelly Lindsay (Southwestern Illinois College). "Both players will be big contributors for our team this season. Because we are very young, their leadership and experience will definitely play a big part for us," says Coach Spinner. The club will also welcome two new freshmen players, Rachel



Junior Kelly Lindsay  
Photo by Claire Kallio

Beydler and Angel Newmann. Both should have a full year of experience under their belt as the team looks to regain what it lost in leadership and experience last fall.

"I understand that it may seem like we are a weaker team this year, having lost whom we did last year, but a positive about this year is that we have a more well-rounded team," says Tobin. "We have more versatile players, and anyone can be called upon to play any position at any time this season."

With the combination of up and coming returners, newcomers, and acquired transfers, the Lady Griffins, though rebuilding, are a force to be reckoned with in the SLIAC this fall. The team has already made post-season plans and feels that they are truly a contender. "Everyone on this team knows that we can still win this conference," says junior Alyssa Brocco. "Once we get going, other teams in this conference will be surprised at what lies in front of them."

The club is very optimistic and looking forward to this season, and the players and coaches have not lost sight of their goals of winning the conference and post-season tournament.

## Summer Lovin'...Makin' that Cash Three Students Share Stories About Their Unique Summer Jobs

by Alyssa Brocco, Reporter

Bar fights alongside Busch Stadium, grass stains and "order in the court" are all reminiscent summer memories for a select few University students. Fleeing school after that last exam, faster than the parking lot turns into a wild safari, sent most of the campus into the real world of working. Bored with the thoughts of working a 9-5, some students opted for the not-so-ordinary summer job that ended with a lasting experience and a taste of the diverse work force.

Rather than flipping burgers, sophomore Justin Ross flipped through pages of deeds and court cases. He was an intern, labeled the "circuit clerk" of St. Francis County, Arkansas. Ross has had this job for two summers now, boosting his résumé from a waiter to an official of the Arkansas courthouse. Ross previously worked at Bonanza, which is the equivalent to Ponderosa in St. Louis, when a friend walked in and questioned why he worked there. "She hooked me up with a contact name within the courthouse and I set up an immediate interview. Basically I was told I could start whenever I was available and I never looked back at the buffet again," says Ross. Stacking plates and sorting through the dessert bar did not compare to his new courthouse job, but

things would get just as messy. "World War III would break out anytime people would come in for divorce papers and claims for child support," says Ross shaking his head. The craziness really started when Ross was allowed to sit in during court cases. Ross says, "It was a lot different than just duty because I was able to form my own opinions both subjectively and objectively and could play with scenarios in my mind about the cases." One of the most memorable cases he recalls involved a young boy and his mother who were accusing an older man of rape. "It was remarkable to see the scandal unfold and the way attorneys can basically makes their witnesses jump through hooli-hoops right into the pit of their argument," Ross says. The accused man was proven innocent in the end, something that Ross will take with him forever. He plans on returning next summer in hopes to build more familiarity with the law. "I hope to use this experience in the future. I want to look at situations and see how I can change or help it and always fight for equality."

Flying north for the summer, senior Clare Anderson scored a job with the St. Louis Cardinals baseball club. This past summer was her rookie year as a Fredbird Girl. "I shot T-shirts and fan towels into

the crowds every three innings or so, danced around a sweaty person dressed in a bird suit, and battled with drunk people trying to read the teleprompter to win a prize," says Anderson, whose sister was in the promotion world as well as a former Ram's Cheerleader. "My sister helped for sure but my friend is dating Fred Bird," a smirking Anderson explains. Her daily routine consisted of scoping out the stadium and trying to sneak into the players' locker room. Anderson recalls her most memorable day at work which featured an all inclusive tour of Busch Stadium, a run around on the field, and ended in a meet and greet with the players. "I tried so hard to get a grass stain on my pants - just to be able to tell people where it was from... and I about fainted when I met all the players-especially Rick Ankiel." As if the players and surroundings were not distracting enough, Anderson found it incredibly hard to resist the hot dog and nacho bar. "Oh, and I am not the only one who is phased by cravings... I saw a player tip one of the laundry guys \$1,000 to get him some Jack in the Box. True story," says Anderson. While her interaction with the players was minimal, Anderson explains that it was "no big deal, I just work with the Cardinals." Whereas this job was fun for Anderson she

does not see herself making a future of it. She says, "if I could finagle a legitimate job with the Cardinals, I would jump right away at it... but being a Fredbird girl is just a promotion gig I did for fun."

Aside from capital punishment cases and web gem plays experienced by Ross and Anderson, senior Andrew Almany sums his job up by saying "I have seen some crazy stuff." Almany is a bouncer at Lush, a local twenty-one and up club. He acquired the job through a friend and since has made many more in return. "The best thing about my job is all the awesome people I have met. I've met Danity Kane, Murphy Lee, Larry Hughes, Ryan Howard, Evander Holyfield, Nelly and several Cardinals players." It seems like all play and no work but Almany can account for the occasional nights he has left work with a black eye. Almany says, "You would think as a bouncer you would see or be a part of a lot more fights but it wasn't that bad." Long nights at the club mean short mornings for Almany who had trouble waking up the next day. In the end it all seemed worth it as Almany recalls some memorable nights. "I introduced my friend Scott to Nelly one night... and I told Scott to just shake his hand, introduce himself and be done with it. Of course, he didn't

do that and tried to make small talk. It was funny!"

Of all the people Almany has met, he says that Evander Holyfield proved to be the nicest and most down to earth. "He was great with his fans...signed autographs all night and actually interacted with the people. It was funny though because I walked over and asked him if he wanted me to stand by his table for added security and he just looked at me smirked and I know he was thinking 'yeah, like I need your help'" Almany laughed. The job filled Almany's summer and has hopes of working throughout the school year as best he can but added "as soon as I am out of school I am done with the club scene."

The scene for these three is now back at the University for another school year. Ross has to trade deed paperwork in for a syllabus, Anderson's grass stains will come from the meadow, and Almany's sightings consist of friends he has not seen since last semester. Whether the start of school deems to be a drag in comparison to their summer jobs, the pursuit of education is appealing in order to attain a desirable job for their future. As the gavel rests quiet, the uniform is hung up, and its closing time at the bar, summer jobs are suspended and school is now in session.

## Activities Fair Trudges on Despite Being 'Dampened' by Rain

by Rachel Hanson, Copy Editor

This year's Activities Fair, the day of festivities dedicated to getting students involved, was originally to be held in the Meadow. However, when it began to rain, the fair was relocated to the gym. By 11 am, a majority of clubs & organizations were set up inside and patiently awaiting for students to arrive. Chris Gill played the role of DJ, selecting songs from a mysterious i-tunes account. The Music Club would play accompaniment to this, sporadically, with the bass

strumming of Jared Woods, sophomore. A strobe light pulsed from the newly formed laser tag club's table, which created an atmosphere perfect for the dance styling of Dance Marathon, led enthusiastically by junior Mary Gould. Candy was abundant and willingly offered to any student who dare wander in a specific table's direction.

Some in attendance were members of one, or many, clubs assigned to run tables at the fair. From SGA to FAB to FISH, the same group of experienced and inspired students raced from table

to table, ensuring each of their many clubs got equal service and promotion. These students not only set up, attended, cleaned up, and raced around, but also found energy to recruit new club members from a sparse group of students. Although numbers of students seemed low, their inspiration and dedication was high! Many clubs said to have increased numbers of interested students sign up than in previous years, despite the slow day. Jackie Raines, sophomore, was happy and surprised about

the turn out she had for the Griffin Girls Dance Team. "We had five girls on the team last year, so we expected about that to show up. But we signed sixteen girls!"

The largest portion of students to show up were freshmen inspired by their FOCUS leaders to get involved on campus. New to the University and eager to meet new people, clubs were a great way to interact with students of similar interests and hobbies. Kaitlin Titsworth, freshman, said she came to the activities fair "not only to make friends, but

also to get involved in my job field and to fully experience campus life at college." Academic organizations such as the Psychology Club, the History Club, and Student Human Environmental Sciences Association, all were present and serve to bring students from the same fields together for networking and career exploration.

Sophomore Jamey Murphy, who ran a table supporting the College Republicans, felt "the activities fair really expressed the culture of

*Con't on p. 10*

## FAB Spells B-I-N-G-O, Students Cash In

by Dan Horn, Ad Editor

With the sunshine blazing through the windows of the DSAC, students seemed to be walking on gold in search of glory in the form of BINGO, as each individual collected BINGO cards as he or she entered. At the front of the room were four FAB members sponsoring the event, as well as several prizes, including two Lexmark printers, as well as two I-pod shuffles. Everyone present knew that this particular event was one of great opportunity.

Within 10 minutes of arrival, Josh Estill struck gold. "N-40," the caller shouted, as Estill, a junior transfer from North Central College in Trenton, Missouri immediately stood up and swaggered his way towards the front of the room. Upon confirmation that his card was correct and accurate, Josh

became the proud winner of an i-pod shuffle. "Before 'N-40' was called, I had a feeling something good was about to happen because the squares on my board were in the formation of a cross," said Estill regarding his victory. He was not shy in showing his board to other contestants posted in his vicinity. "I did not hesitate to show some of the folks that were posted at my table the formation of a cross. In fact, I recall telling several people at the table that this was 'The Divine' BINGO card," added Estill.

Another lucky winner was sophomore Alan Dobson. After coming close several games only to fall short to other contestants who reached BINGO before him, Dobson's patience finally paid off as he completed a diagonal line, thus clinching a victory, and earning him a Lexmark color

printer. "I would have liked to have won an i-pod, but maybe I will be more motivated to do my homework now that I have a new printer," Dobson said. "I was fortunate to have won, but overall, it was all about being with my friends and everyone coming together for a large event," Dobson added. He later swapped his new printer for Estill's i-pod shuffle. Estill explained, "I already have an i-pod, but I don't have a printer, and with school starting, I figured it would be nice to have a printer at my house instead of having to come up to school to print assignments." Dobson's reaction was much more exciting. "It worked out great for both of us because I already have a printer, and the i-pod will make a great birthday present for my little brother. Both sides came out on top in this trade."

Of course all of the prize-winners went home happy, but the event was not without controversy. There was a point in the event that caused confusion among those participating. The FAB member who was acting as the 'caller' for the event ordered for everyone to clear his or her board following a BINGO. Not more than seconds later, the caller stated for contestants to leave his or her board as is. This caused much confusion as murmurs were audible throughout the mob. Many of the players became angry because not everyone had cleared their board, and for those who had already done as instructed

this created a disadvantage. "That pretty much ruined my chances of BINGO considering I was one square away when I cleared my card," said sophomore Jason Nikolaisen. The displeasure of many other of the participants was expressed in their murmurs and occasional shout-outs directed towards the front. "I thought the event went very well until the end when a lot of people's chances at winning were ruined by

a 'caller' mistake," added Nikolaisen.

Despite bumps in the road, this FAB lunch-time event was a winner for all.

Well, maybe not all.



## Dorm Sweet Dorm: Essentials for On-Campus Living

by Alyssa Brocco, Reporter

Without mom to do the laundry and dad to kill the spiders, the students brave it on their own. For residential students picking what stays at home and what goes with them is essential to sustain a happy, entertained life in the University dorms. The Joe dorm rooms are synonymous with cells, some suites in Medaille were transformed out of custodial closets, and the Southwest apartments come equipped with furniture acquired from a dentist's waiting room. To each their own - students have taken it upon themselves to add a little flare, a little luxury, and a little personality to these 8x9 rooms.

The number one, all-important chart topper for the ladies was clothes. "When I had to pack up for school, both my microwave and refrigerator were filled with all the clothes I could jam in there," sophomore Kaitlyn Stephan admitted. Thereafter on the list was a laptop, (tagged for Facebooking needs, not schoolwork) and a television.

The lady griffins stressed other vanity-conscious objects as crucial living supplies such as a full length mirror, hair straightener/dryer, and make-up. In between primping and channel surfing, candy or food squeezed their way onto the list accompanying other sources of comfort such as blankets and pretty bedding. "Chocolate and couch loafing is an integral part of our apartment in Southwest," says senior Amanda Harris. The girls also stressed the importance of decorating and cleanliness. Photos of friends and families were scattered around the females rooms alongside cards, colored pictures, and decorative accents. "I like to look around my room and see familiar faces... be reminded of memories," says a nostalgic Stephan. The last things on the list were a fully stocked shower caddy and cleaning supplies. "Definitely need my loofa... lotions, gels, and razors are all important as well," insists a cleanly and sweet smelling Harris. As far as cleaning supplies were concerned, "those Clorox wipes do wonders and you can never go wrong with a broom

and dust pan," Stephan says with an assuring nod.

And in another galaxy, far far away, the boys came up with their essentials. Number one on the male list was a television. Their sets also tended to be bigger and more technologically advanced. "ESPN, ESPN 2, ESPN Classic all look better on an LCD screen. High-def is a must as well," says 'Super senior' and sports fanatic Chad Fournie. The next and

possibly nerdiest on the list is some sort of gaming system. Whether it be a Playstation, an X-box, or a Nintendo Wii - "if you are a guy, you need to game," insists junior Andre Stevens. When the guys are all played out they turn to food, which is next on the list. "Not just food, but protein. Gotta pound the protein," says Fournie as jugs of GNC products are scattered around his room. As far as the male perspective on

decorating goes, girls are the answer. Whereas the ladies' rooms consisted of friends and family, the guys fill their walls with unfamiliar scantily clad women and either movie or band posters. "Sports Illustrated-Swim Suit edition is a top-read in my dorm room," says senior Justin Storandt. Bikinis and pretty faces is all these boys need to get through a rough day. A

*Cont'd on p. 10*

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• • •

And they'd like to meet you! Come to the bi-weekly meetings at noon on the 4th floor of Medaille.

Upcoming meetings are on:  
October 1, October 15, & October 29

SGA's current projects include:

- The all-new GRIFFIN GANG! The SGA saw a need for more school spirit at Fontbonne University, so they've met that need with this brand new student organization. Do you love sports? Can you be rowdy for your home team? If so, come to the next GG meeting on Monday, September 29 @ noon on the 4th floor of Medaille!
- A possible sand volleyball court ON CAMPUS!
- Helping Fontbonne GO GREEN! Look for Rachel's upcoming Fontbanner article that will include tips and tricks on how to be more environmentally friendly!

Got student issues? Tell us about them!

[sisga@fontbonne.edu](mailto:sisga@fontbonne.edu)

"Dr. Meyer" cont'd from p.5

the giving and receiving of compliments, she says. And as a teacher of cultural communication, public speaking, and interpersonal communication, she plans on incorporating as much of her studies as possible. Also, with her background, constant travel to the Balkans and projects interviewing Croatian war veterans, Meyer hopes to form a class and possibly a minor with Dr. Ben Moore, Associate English Professor and English and Communication Department Chair, as an extension of the current Bosnian Immigration course and genocide project.

Dr. Meyer came to the University from McDaniel College. She spent thirteen and half years at the Maryland school, while achieving tenure status. It was her first and only position following her lengthy, consecutive graduate study at the University of Missouri Columbia, where she received both her M.A. and Ph.D. But now that she has returned to her alma mater, Meyer reflects on the emotions involved. "There is just this beautiful continuity in my life now that things have gone this way and I've returned," she says. "Fontbonne was always my top choice."

"Activities" cont'd from p.8

Fontbonne. It was small, but very diverse in opinions." All colors, sizes, genders, and ages were involved in created a culturally diverse community. Fresh smiles and pom poms greeted students at the door of the Dunham Student Activities Center, from the tables of the Griffin Girls and the Cheerleading squad. Straights and Gays for Equality, Fontbonne University Step Team, and Resident Hall Association were all very successful in attracting fresh faces to their colorful and welcoming stations.

Though some tables lacked in decoration, many made up for it in candy! Starburst, Reese's, Laffy Taffy, gum, lollipops, Dum Dums, and all candies were strewn decadently in the eye-sight of all the hungry students. Touring the tables and receiving bags and handfuls of free goodies weren't the only perks for students who did attend; there was a raffle with a surprise prize from Chris Gill.

When asked why they didn't attend, there were many excuses made. One junior, who prefers to remain anonymous, said "it should have been better advertised

and organized, and it just didn't catch my attention that day." Kayla Voegel, sophomore, said she "simply didn't hear about it until it was already going on." The last minute change in location may have led to the large percentage of missing students, who simply didn't check their e-mail in time to tell where exactly it was going to be. Some students may have had class, or some students may have noticed and not given the activities fair a fighting chance.

Not only is a chance to be active in a college organization not enough, or candy galore, but prizes had to be given to draw students out of the dark and into the Activities Fair! Live music, a strobe light, dancing, and food just could not draw timid students into the gym. Why? Is this because an activity fair isn't active enough? Or are students interested in being active? Was it bad weather or advertising? Either way, just blame it on the rain.

"Dorm" cont'd from p.9

good read from now and then seemed to be important judging by the boys' stack of assorted tattered and worn magazines laying around the room. The guys were almost more conscious of shower supplies than the girls, piling axe on their shelves and other arrangements of unidentifiable "essential oils." "We are guys..we know we smell," says Storandt.

Between the sexes, there are several items that cross over. They both supply themselves with the essentials that will make them more appealing for the opposite sex, and a means of fulfilling leisure time. The focus of the girls' rooms seem to be general comfort versus the boys whose main concern seems to be entertainment. As far as it goes, guys will never understand why so many pairs of shoes are needed, why the girls need so many pillows, or why one needs cleaning supplies when there is an excess of paper towels around. And for the girls, an X-box is simply unnecessary, Sports Illustrated is highly over-rated, and that expensive LCD flat screen could have been a fatty shopping spree.

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## Why St. Louis Doesn't Suck (Anymore)

by Courtney Schofield,  
Reporter

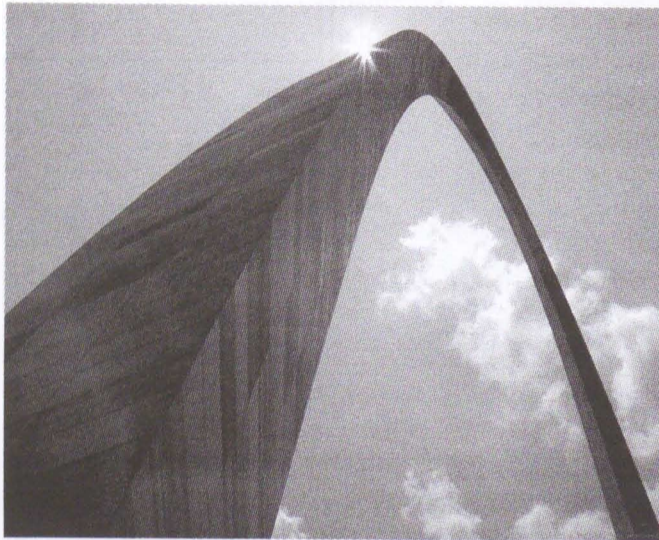
I have lived in the same house my entire life—a house in St. Louis County, off of Page Ave. and Interstate 170. Though the city line is, at most, five minutes from my house via Page, and Eleventh Street takes only fifteen minutes to reach via highway, my exposure to the city was always limited to Forest Park, the occasional sporting event, taking one of my foster brothers to his mom's house off of Arlington (which actually was a bit scary), and driving past the marvel of a dark, lonely, and kind of sinister, Gotham City-esque St. Louis city skyline to or from Illinois. Because I had so few encounters with the city in which I was almost a part of, I often felt like a tourist driving around and getting lost on the excess of one-way streets.

This summer, though, I began working downtown, on the corner of Tucker and Washington, with my friend and roommate, Stacey Ciolek. Ciolek, like me, has also lived in the same house her entire life, but her house is in South City, on Chippewa. Though our feelings of the city have grown quite similar, my feelings of the city (previous to my working

with her) were dramatically different. Living in the city, to me, was like having a badge of honor—a badge that declared fearlessness, and subtle savviness. While I have always liked the city, I was mystified by it and scared of it simultaneously. Ciolek admits a lot of unnecessary fear in those who live in the county. "They think that everyone has bars on their windows and doors, and that people just walk around shooting each other." She says, "I live in a nice neighborhood, but when I ask people from the county to come over, they would rather meet me somewhere else."

My job has introduced me to a lot of strange, estranged, and confused tourists. I met an old woman from New York City who was taking the Greyhound from there to somewhere else—possibly Denver. The bus had stopped in St. Louis for an hour break, and she made her way south onto Washington, and into the restaurant where I work to buy a beer. It was during the week, and people were getting off of work. I stood outside with her while she raved about how disappointing she

thought St. Louis was. She admitted that she hadn't seen much of it, but from the surplus of cars and the lack of people publicly commuting or walking, she thought the city was hardly a city at all. I can't say I blame her. In fact, I usually feel sorry for tourists who come here to spend their vacations. I



think St. Louis is a place that cannot be appreciated from the outside as well as it can be from the inside. I think St. Louis' main appeal is that I get to watch it come alive. I'm watching it take its first steps, learn to speak in cute sentences, and potty train. Soon enough, I'll get to watch it get on the school bus for its first day of kindergarten. It's quite exciting to a St. Louisan, but to a tourist, it's kind of like, "Hey, look at that unruly kid. Its parents should discipline it."

It isn't news that St. Louis is the home of a lot of crime. However, it might be news that in all of my late night/early morning ventures in the city, I have never been murdered (well, obviously). Nor have I been mugged, drugged, thugged, or hugged against my will. In fact, I have only been treated

with kindness—especially by the Red Bull Girls who have treated me to, probably, 15 Red Bulls (Thanks, girls).

That's not the only free thing I've been given. I've been given an entire city full of free stuff. St. Louis has more free attractions that anywhere I've ever been. We often ignore that these things exist, and we shouldn't. I probably don't have to list all of the free things, but I will anyway—The Art Museum, The History Museum, The Zoo, Forest Park, and The Science Center. We also have a series of music concerts every weekend during the summer called Live On the Levee (although, this year, it was Live Off the Levee since the Levee was drowning). This past summer, just a few of the acts that anyone could attend free of

charge were: Drake Bell, Joss Stone, Umphrey's McGee, Lonestar, One Republic, Boys II Men, and Rusted Root. After each show, fireworks would go off—not just one or two, but an entire satisfyingly explosive display. Because of all of the buildings, I could see only a fourth of each left-most firework from work, but I wasn't interested in explosives. More importantly, I was interested in seeing a community. I saw loft-tenants standing on the roofs with the rest of their neighbors watching them together. Even the bums got up from their benches, stood for a while, and just watched.

I think St. Louis gets a bad reputation because its citizens will not stand up for it. St. Louis has its share of problems, but I don't know of a city that doesn't. The city is stepping out of the ruins of its tragic past and it's coming alive again. St. Louis will probably never again be the premier fur-trading city it once was, and it will probably never be New York II, but it will be a city again; only if its residents stop bombarding themselves with insults and hits to the kneecaps, and start taking pride in an incredible spectacle of a inner-city miracle—bums and all.

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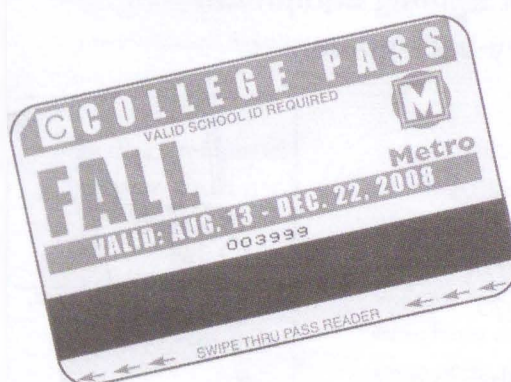


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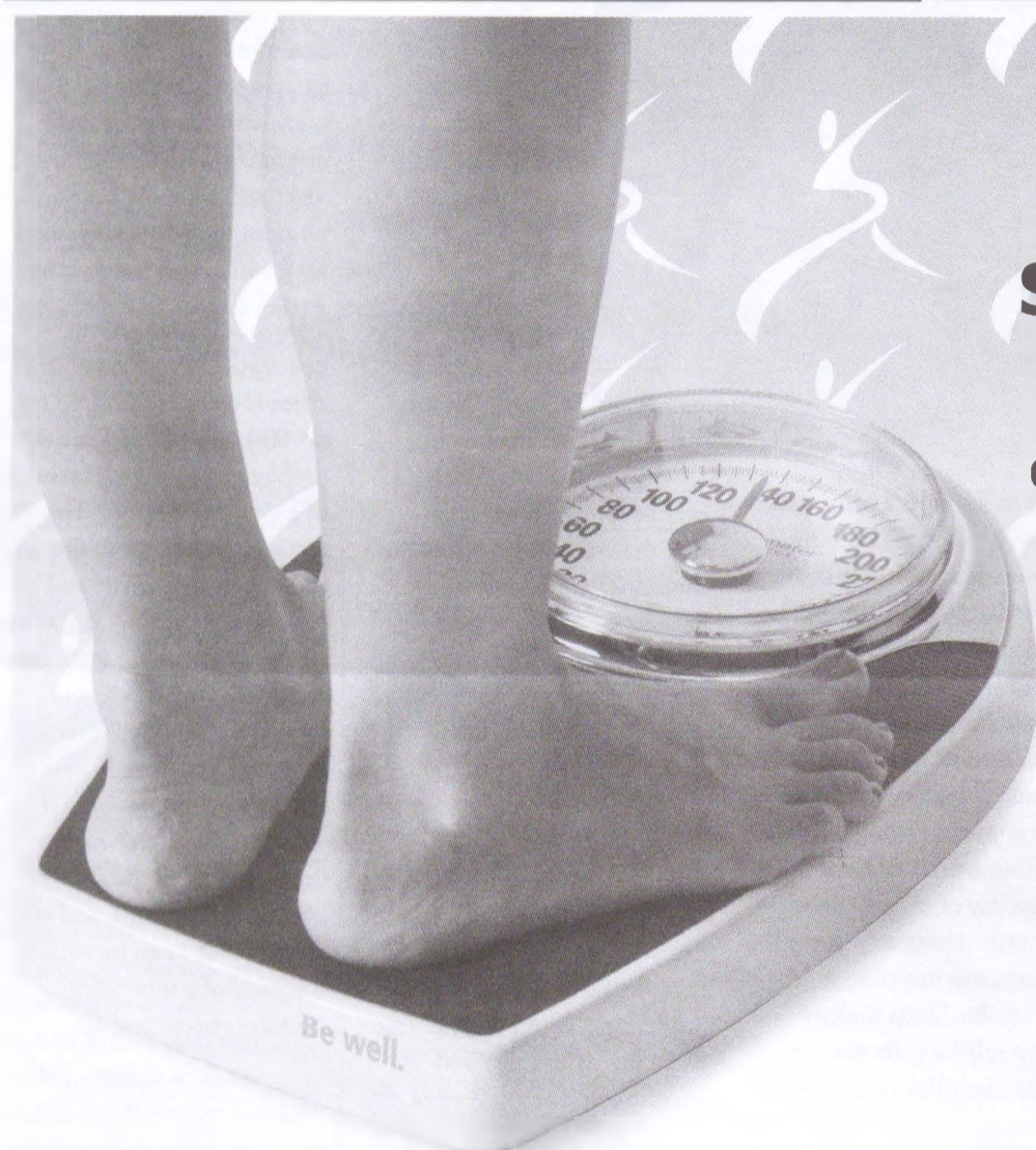
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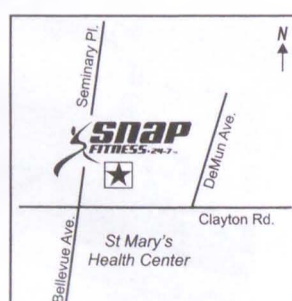
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