University of Missouri, St. Louis
IRL @ UMSL

Current (2010s) Student Newspapers

1-25-2010

Current, January 25, 2010

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: http://irl.umsl.edu/current2010s

Recommended Citation
University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, January 25, 2010" (2010). *Current (2010s)*. 2.
http://irl.umsl.edu/current2010s/2

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at IRL @ UMSL. It has been accepted for inclusion in Current (2010s) by an authorized administrator of IRL @ UMSL. For more information, please contact marvinh@umsl.edu.

The Current

JAN. 25, 2010

VOL. 43;

ISSUE 1300

2,254 PACK THE STANDS FOR UNVEILING OF NEW MASCOT

BY ANTHONY PADGETT • ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

At the annual "Pack the Stands" event Thursday, a UPS worker wheeled out a large black box marked 'UPS' to center court during half time. Over a microphone, he then stated that a signature was needed to deliver the package. Curtis Coonrod, vice-provost for Student Affairs, answered the request, walking to center court amidst waving and screaming fans. 2,254 alumni and current students filled the Mark Twain building for the event in anticipation for the unveiling of the new University of Missouri-St. Louis mascot.

Chancellor Thomas George also walked out to center court for the mascot's unveiling. He later said that he "couldn't be more pleased" with the number of people that turned out. It was the biggest crowd yet this year to attend a home game for either team. Throughout the night, both the women's and men's basketball teams played against St. Joseph's.

In addition to a new mascot, UM-St. Louis also introduced their brand new seven-member cheerleading squad for the event. Both the new cheerleading squad and the unveiled mascot walked around the stands and mingled with fans.

Yet it was the mascot's unveiling that assisted in literally "packing" the stands. After the UPS box was wheeled out, much of the crowd stood up from their seats in anticipation. With all eyes on the package, something began to break out of it. Red fists with gold nails first punched through the sides of the box and then ripped up the front before emerging. What did emerge was a red Triton with golden eyes, fins and palms.

Since 1966, UM-St. Louis sports teams were known as the "Rivermen," but due to the name's exclusion of women athletes, it was changed to the Tritons in 2007. After the name change, tridents were displayed on all university merchandise, but the university still did not have a physical mascot to represent the name or symbol; that is, until Thursday.

In ancient Greek mythology, Triton was sea messenger born of Poseidon and Amphitrite, the god and goddess of the sea. Today at UM-St. Louis, the Triton is an amphibious red creature who shakes its tail at sports games and bares no resemblance to the mythical Triton.

After the unveiling of the mascot, Chancellor George said that he thinks it is "terrific."

"It captures everything that we are about here, and I think that makes it exciting because it's not the same old, same old," George said. "When you say, 'Triton,' people always ask what it is… We are one of the very few universities with the Triton as our mascot."

See **MASCOT**, page 2

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

WHAT'S INSIDE

Women's Basketball ▸5

The Lovely Bones ▸9

Bayonetta review ▸11

The Fur Debate ▸16

The Current
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1300

EDITORIAL
Editor-in-Chief....Jessica Keil
Managing Editor....Matthew Hill
News Editor....Anna Marie Curran
Features Editor....Sequita Bean
Business/Tech Editor....Andy Phipps
Sports Editor....Cedric Williams
Assistant Sports Editor....Anthony Padgett
A&E Editor....Cate Marquis
Asst. A&E Editor....Joe Schaffner
Opinions Editor....Andrew Seal
Copy Editors....Stacy Beckenholdt, Rebecca Nuckolls
Proofreader....Chera Meyer
Staff Writers....Aaron Holdmeyer, Matthew B. Henry, Jen O'Hara, Kevin Korinek, Chris Stewart

DESIGN
Design Editor....Gene Doyel
Photo Editor....Michelle Kaufman
Assistant Photo Editor....Jennifer Meahan
Page Designers....Zachary James Kraft, Phil Freeman
Staff Photographers....Ahmad Aljuryyed, Erin Sturguess, Riki Tanaka
Web Editor....Zachary James Kraft
Illustrators....Paul Maguire, Cody Perkins

BUSINESS
Business Manager....Dan Pryor
Advertising Director....Dan Pryor
Distribution Manager....Erin Sturguess
Training Director....Andy Phipps
Adviser....Charlotte Petty

www.thecurrentonline.com

MCMA

The Current is the student newspaper at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, printing weekly through the fall and spring semesters on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions, and restrictions apply. *The Current,* financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of *The Current* and/or its policies. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of *The Current* and may not be reprinted, reused, or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of *The Current*.

The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. *The Current* edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

CONTACT US

Address	388 MSC, 1 University Blvd Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom	314-516-5174
Business/Advertising	314-516-5316
Fax	314-516-6811
E-mail (General)	thecurrent@umsl.edu
E-mail (Advertising)	thecurrentads@umsl.edu
E-mail (Employment Inquiries)	thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
E-mail (Tips)	thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Twitter	umslcurrent

TOP STORY

NEW MASCOT UNVEILED AT PACK THE STANDS

Mark Masella, junior, accounting, recently transferred to UM-St. Louis and said that he is pleased with school spirit here, as well as with the new mascot.

"I was very impressed," Masella said. "There was a lot of school spirit [at the game], which I didn't think UMSL had, but they definitely do now. I come from a big SCC school and I was excited to see what UMSL had to offer."

Some students however were still confused by the mascot, even after it was unveiled.

"Even after seeing the new mascot I'm still not sure what a Triton is," Robert Morgan, junior, general studies, said.

GraceMarie Ritter, president of SGA, assisted in the design phase of the mascot and gave insight on the thought process involved.

"If we had pursued the idea of King Triton, we would have looked similar to other mascots like Trojans, Warriors etc," Ritter said. "[The mascot] is different and that seems to be where most of the confusion of students, faculty, and staff is coming from."

However the new UM-St. Louis mascot, like it or not, is here to stay. And although the new mascot has not been given a name yet, a contest will be held later this year to do just that.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Fans start to fill in the seats during Pack The Stands Night on Thursday in the Mark Twain Building.

Ameren discusses 18% rate increase

▶ **CHRIS STEWART**
Staff Writer

Last July, St. Louis' electric utility provider Ameren UE requested permission to increase their rates enough to collect $402 million extra in annual revenue. Such an increase would translate to 18% additional charges to actual customers—approximately $15 monthly or $180 yearly for the "average household."

The request was officially submitted last year to the Missouri Public Service Commission, a group headed by five commissioners who receive multi-angled, non-partisan advice from a staff of some 200-odd lawyers, economists and other professionals. The PSC has eleven months to decide on the merits of any given proposal, and with their June deadline approaching, Ameren has begun a series of Town Hall meetings in order to give the public their side of the story.

These meetings have been preceded by canvassers passing out information in protest of the rate hike. The canvassers arrived at UM-St. Louis earlier this week, looking for sign-ups and handing out flyers at the second-floor entrance to the Millennium Student Center. Wednesday night in the Century Rooms, Ameren hosted their fourth meeting.

"It's absolutely the integral part of the Public Service Commission to get this input," Tim Fox, Communications Executive for Ameren UE, said.

"It's been interesting to see the different questions and overall tones at each different meeting we've done. Up here in North County, for instance, there were some issues [with] blackouts a couple of years ago, so some of those issues are probably on people's minds."

The question and answer portion of the meeting was fairly mannered, and the 30 minutes allotted to open Q&A allowed for four or five topics to be addressed. This is partly because the set of people responding (from Ameren and from the independent PSC) gave different angles on each question or comment, and partly because by their very nature, many of the topics brought up led to complicated economic or logistical explanations.

The final question in the opening Q&A time was the only point at which the meeting approached the vitriol that many associate with town hall meetings based on last fall's spiteful forums on health care.

"How do we know there isn't disaster lurking and we won't have to bail you out come next spring?" an audience member asked.

Ameren's spokespeople's method for dealing with the protesting canvassers in the hallway (where Ameren had a table of pamphlets on how to conserve energy as well as information on their requested rate increase) was, overall, to simply ignore them.

See **AMEREN**, page 3

WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
36	34	40	23	24	28	37
25	27	21	14	15	19	28

Student fee increases approved by SGA

▶ **JESSICA KEIL**
Editor-in-Chief

The first Student Government Association meeting of the spring semester concluded the student fee increase discussion that began at the end of last year.

The assembly voted to approve all four of the proposed fee increases.

Although the assembly does not have the authority to make the final decision on the increases, their recommendation was sent to the chancellor and the provost, who will determine the verdict.

At the last SGA meeting of the fall 2009 semester, the president of SGA, GraceMarie Ritter, said that the chancellor will take the assembly's recommendation "very seriously," so he is expected to also approve the fee increases.

The fee increases will not affect the entire student body—only students in certain colleges or courses at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. It should be noted that the SGA assembly did not approve the fees without bringing up their questions and concerns to the deans who proposed the fees.

Ritter was impressed by the response from the assembly members who contributed to the conversation and researched the fee proposals in order to make an informed vote during the meeting.

"Too many times, apathy by a small group of students affects the rest of the student body," Ritter said. "I was impressed by the assembly's full discussion and debate of the fees."

One concern expressed during the meeting was that the student body was not well enough informed about the proposed fee increases. Another concern was whether or not the developmental advising fee for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Fine Arts and Communication would actually help retain students or further their career after college.

"As you can imagine, some of my colleagues are wondering the same thing," Dean Ron Yasbin said. "Is this going to work?"

Yasbin assured the assembly that the progress of the developmental advising program will be closely monitored, and later cut, if it proved a failure. However, he also said that developmental advising is used at many Ivy League universities, as well as in the Pierre Laclede Honors College on campus, and it is not expected to fail.

Unlike the developmental advising fees, the other approved fees will not apply to entire colleges, but instead to specific courses offered in the College of Nursing and the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Students taking the courses will pay a fee for the added expense to offer the course, such as for theater and dance courses, or the STD program in the nursing college.

Discussion and voting for the fees comprised the majority of the SGA meeting, taking approximately an hour. After, organization representatives announced upcoming events, such as the Black Student Nurses Association's upcoming bottled water drive for victims of the Haitian earthquake.

Additionally, the vice president of SGA, Greg Meyer, mentioned that students can file to run for the top spots in SGA on Feb. 11, and filing will close on March 5. Also, Dan Rosner, SGA comptroller, announced that student budgets for the next school year will not be decided until April, and that about $960,000 was requested.

CORRECTIONS

On page 23, "Super Mario Bros. 4 is a must-buy for any Wii owner" was incorrectly attributed to Aaron Holdmeyer. Anthony Padgett was the author of the article.

1300

The Current **celebrates our 1300th issue!**

Thanks to all the readers and past staff members for 44 years of *The Current*!

UM-St. Louis begins new pay system

▶ **JEN O'HARA**
Staff Writer

On November 29, 2009, University of Missouri-St. Louis put the time and labor payment method into practice. This new time and labor method allows both UM-St Louis student employees and faculty employees to report their work hours online through the human resources link. This method also allows entries for absences and requests for time off.

The method requires entering the human resource link through the UM-St Louis website, clicking the time and labor option, entering an employee's school identification number, and typing in the amount of hours and time worked at an employee's job. Employers then must review and accept the time sheet to be processed.

Over 33,000 employees in the UM System use the time and labor system. UM-Columbia began using the structure in May 2009.

By November 2009, the remaining 50% of those not using the system at Columbia made the switch, in addition to the St. Louis, Rolla and Kansas City campuses.

Several advantages come from using the time and labor method online. Besides benefiting in the ecological aspect, it also makes the lives of university workers and employers easier.

"Time and labor ensures consistent business practices and creates savings for the university and convenience for employees," Errol Benson, assistant director of human resources, administration, said.

See **PAY SYSTEM**, page 25

AMEREN, from page 2

To help quell the public's indignation over the prospect of a large corporation significantly raising rates in a way that will directly carry over to people's monthly bills, Ameren gave an opening brief before opening up to questions. In closing this statement, the speaker reassured attendees that Ameren's rates have always been the lowest in Missouri, lower than Kansas City Power and Light's and all other utilities. Even after this hike, the spokesman said, this will still be true.

loveline
with dr. drew

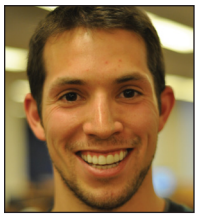
February 10, 2010, 7:30pm
Touhill Performing Arts Center
Students: $5 w/valid UMSL ID (max. 2 tickets)
General Admission: $18
Tickets Available @ the Touhill Ticket Office (314) 516-4949 www.touhill.org

For more information contact the University Program Board (314) 516-5531 or the Office of Student Life (314) 516-5291

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Michelle Kaufman

At last week's basketball game, our new school mascot was revealed.
What do you think of UM-St. Louis's new mascot?

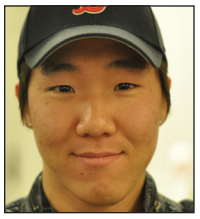


"Looks like a gnarly thunder lizard!"

Adam Henderson
Biology
Junior

"I cannot recognize what kind of animal it is, otherwise it is lovely in my eyes."

Rao Fu
Accounting
Junior



"I can't describe it but it definitely looks better than the trident.'"

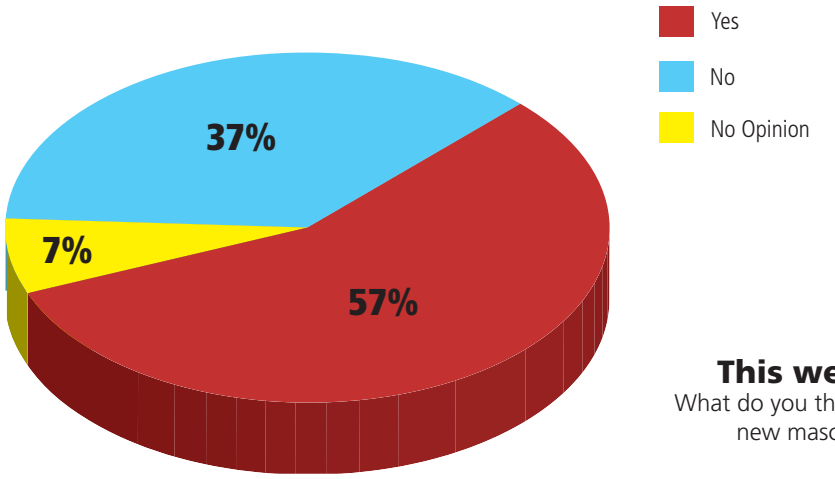
Yunho Kim
Biology
Sophomore

"The head is too big. The eyes look too mean; gotta make the entire appearance more smiley and fun!"

Stephan Tiratsuyan
Business & Finance
Senior

POLL

Do you consider money given to politcial candidates to be a form of free speech protected by the First Ammendment?

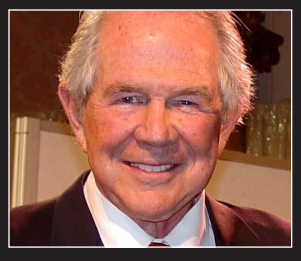


Gallup.com

This week:
What do you think of the new mascot?

Answer at
www.thecurrentonline.com

VERBATIM



"They were under the heel of the French. You know, Napoleon, or whatever. They got together and swore a pact to the devil."

-Pat Robertson

"It would be difficult to come home after a long day and moan about the leading actress if she is your wife."

-Paul Bettany
on acting with Jennifer Connelly

"I'm not telling David to take his family home. I'm just not sure why he came to America in the first place."

-Mark Wahlberg
on David Beckham

"I grew up in Hawaii, which as we all know, is the hotbed of hockey."

-Dwayne Johnson
on why he's never played hockey

WE NEED YOU!*

*to be our new Assistant Design Editor

Please send your resume to
thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu

Sports

AHMAD ALJURYYED/ THE CURRENT

Triton forward Kelly Mitchell, junior, communications dribbles to make a shot. University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team won the game over Saint Joseph's College Thursday night at the Mark Twain Center.

Three big wins

Women surpass last season's win total

▶ **MATHEW B. HENRY**
Staff Writer

While students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis left for places located all over this rock we call earth, the student-athletes on the women's basketball team stayed in town to work out, practice and play basketball games.

Now we are back and our season with them resumed last week with three GLVC contests at home on the Chuck Smith Court.

First up was Bellarmine and then St. Joseph on Thursday which, was also 'Pack the Stands' night, along with the unveiling of the new Triton mascot. They closed out the week with a Saturday contest against the University of Illinois-Springfield.

Well after the end of the University of Illinois-Springfield game on Saturday, the only items missing were brooms and hats on the court as the Tritons defeated all their foes. UM-St. Louis defeated Bellarmine by 22 points, St. Joseph by 16 points and UIS by 15 points.

Opening the Bellarmine contest with a 9-0 run in the first 1:45 seconds, the Tritions showed they came prepared to play … and they never looked back.

When the first half ended, the Tritons were up by a score of 45-21.

UM-St. Louis standouts in the first half were Kristi [The Captain] White, senior, accounting, with 12 points and five assists; and Lindsey [Lefty] Ransome, senior, communications, who manufactured eight points and three rebounds.

A real standout during the entire contest was KeAmber [The Nurse] Vaughn, sophomore, nursing, who had five field goals, was six-for-eight from the free throw stripe, and pulled down six rebounds.

During the contest, the Tritons at one point held a 30-point advantage and the game ended with UM-St. Louis winning 75-53.

Next up was St Joseph's on Pack the Stands Night with the unveiling of the new Triton mascot, and with all of that hoop-la the Tritons did not let the crowd down.

The Tritons worked the boards, the paint and the perimeter with precision and had St. Joseph's on their heels the entire game.

Standouts in another dominating performance where Caitlin [6-foot-3-inch] Moody, sophomore, physical education, with a new career high of 29 points and five boards to boot, and Kelly Mitchell, junior, communications, who had 13 points and six boards.

The contest ended with the Tritons winning 81-65.

Enter the University of Illinois-Springfield into the Mark Twain Building and onto the Chuck Smith Court and then exit the University of Illinois-Springfield. The Tritons dispatched them by a score of 81-67.

During this closeout to their hat trick of a week, the Tritons lead by as much as 22 points and held a double-digit lead almost the entire game.

Two standouts in this contest where: [The Captain] White, who had 17 points and [Lefty] Ransome with 14 points (nine of them from outside the three point arc), along with eight rebounds and six assists.

The Tritons came into the week with a record of six wins and 10 losses and left the week with a record of nine wins and 10 losses. Last season their total number of wins was seven. Can anyone say 'O-le'?

Next up for the Tritons are two more home contests next week with GLVC opponents. Thursday they have a game against Drury at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday brings in Rockhurst for a 1 p.m. tipoff.

AHMAD ALJURYYED / THE CURRENT
Senior Elishia Seals excites the crowd during halftime.

New Cheerleading Squad debuts

They've got spirit, yes they do; They've got spirit, how 'bout you?

▶ **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

With all the hoopla for the men's and women's basketball teams, and the unveiling of the new Triton mascot on Pack the Stands Night last Thursday at the Mark Twain Building, many fans might not have known that another University of Missouri-St. Louis team was also set to make its debut in front of the fans that night.

Once the UM-St. Louis fans found their seats, it couldn't have taken long for them to figure out what that new team was. There were seven ultra-loud, ultra-excited special UM-St. Louis fans in particular that left no question as to who they were rooting for on Thursday.

Those special fans were the members of UM-St. Louis' new cheerleading squad.

The university has never had cheerleaders before, but thanks to the hard work of the students on the squad and the vision of athletics director Lori Flanagan, UM-St. Louis now has its own recognized pep squad.

"This has been really exciting for me and the girls on the team," Sandra Ray, UM-St. Louis' cheerleading advisor, said. "The girls worked so hard to get ready for tonight; I'm just happy to see everything go so well."

According to Ray, the idea for a UM-St. Louis cheerleading squad is one athletic director Flanagan had for a while, but it wasn't until last August that they were able to set the wheels in motion to put together a team.

It began with flyers and posters Ray put up mostly by herself around campus to let everyone know the department was looking for potential team members.

Ray also put together a week-long cheerleading workshop for anyone interested in trying out.

Tryouts were held back in November, and according to Ray, more than 25 girls showed up hoping to make an impression and be selected for the team.

After several days of tryouts, a committee headed by Ray and cheer choreographer, Jeremy Sims, got together and chose the eight best performers to be the first members of UM-St. Louis' first ever cheerleading squad.

It should be noted that only seven team members performed on Thursday. The eighth member was unable to attend the game, but Ray said she hopes she will be able to perform at future UM-St. Louis games.

The seven members of the squad who did make their UM-St. Louis cheerleading debuts are: Jasmyne, a freshman majoring in elementary education; Sharon, a junior majoring in nursing with a minor in pyschology; Kelsey, a junior majoring in physical education; Elishia, a senior, who will graduate in May with a degree in photography and a minor in art history; Toni, a junior majoring in secondary education with an emphasis in history; Nikki, a freshman majoring in political science; and Heather, a sophomore majoring in special education.

"They're all such talented girls," Ray said. "They all worked so hard to get ready for tonight. They've had less than six weeks to work, but they've done everything they can to get ready, even practicing during winter break, and I think tonight went really good."

Judging by the reaction to the new cheerleaders by UM-St. Louis fans at Thursday's games, Ray's assessment might have been a little modest because it seemed most fans agreed that the new cheerleaders are a terrific success.

"I thought they were outstanding," Nathan Assata, a Triton fan attending Thursday's games, said. "They really got the fans pumped up. They really looked good in their uniforms. They're a bunch of really cute girls. They were way better than the mascot."

The UM-St. Louis cheerleaders plan to perform at each of the remaining men's and women's home basketball games this season, including this week's basketball games on Thursday and Saturday at the Mark Twain Building.

STAT BOX

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Conf (W-L)	Div (W-L)
Southern Indiana	8-0	4-0
Kentucky Wesleyan	8-2	2-2
Bellarmine	6-4	2-2
Indianapolis	4-6	1-3
Northern Kentucky	3-7	1-3
Drury	8-1	2-0
Rockhurst	8-3	2-1
Missouri-St. Louis	4-6	1-1
Missouri S&T	2-9	1-2
Maryville	0-10	0-2
Quincy	7-2	2-0
Saint Joseph's	5-5	2-0
Illinois-Springfield	5-6	2-1
Lewis	4-6	0-2
UW-Parkside	3-8	0-3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Conf (W-L)	Div (W-L)
Indianapolis	10-0	4-0
Southern Indiana	6-2	3-1
Northern Kentucky	7-3	2-2
Bellarmine	4-6	1-3
Kentucky Wesleyan	3-7	0-4
Drury	8-1	2-0
Missouri-St. Louis	5-5	1-1
Missouri S&T	5-6	1-2
Maryville	3-7	2-0
Rockhurst	2-9	0-3
North		
UW-Parkside	9-2	3-0
Lewis	6-4	2-0
Quincy	4-5	0-2
Saint Joseph's	3-7	1-1
Illinois-Springfield	0-11	0-3

Students read The Current.
Athletes read The Current.
Teachers read The Current.
Nerds read The Current.
Jocks read The Current.
Children read The Current.
Old people read The Current.
Professors read The Current.
Scientists read The Current.
Doctors read The Current.
Librarians read The Current.
Writers read The Current.

Do you?

Big week, a big flop

Men's basketball suffers three straight losses

▶ **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

What was supposed to be a big week of fun and excitement for the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team proved to be a week of frustration and missed opportunities, as the Tritons lost three straight home contests, including last Thursday's "Pack the Stands Night" game against St. Joseph's.

"You gotta play together, play hard, play smart, and play tough. Those are the four things we talk about," UM-St. Louis men's basketball coach Chris Pilz said. "And in all those games, we did a little bit of those things, but this time of the year you've got to do it for 40 minutes, and we just didn't."

The week began with a staggering 23-point loss to Bellarmine University last Monday. The Knights were the NCAA Division II preseason No. 1 team in the country, and they looked every bit like it against the Tritons, building a 30-plus point lead before eventually winning the game by a 71-48 score.

Then on Pack the Stands Night last Thursday, with an announced crowd of 2,254, the highest attendance for a UM-St. Louis home game in more than a decade, the Tritons started slow, managed to rally back, but were eventually defeated by St. Joseph's 73-59.

It was truly a disappointing showing for UM-St. Louis, which desperately wanted to put on a good show for its biggest home game of the season.

The week came to a final maddening close on Saturday, when the Tritons suffered a 70-68 loss to UIS.

In that game, the Prairie Stars led by 20 points with 7:43 remaining, but UM-St. Louis put up a furious rally to get back within two points with 18 seconds remaining when Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, hit two free throws to make the score 70-68.

After UIS inbounded the ball, the Tritons fouled UIS' Derrick Tribble, forcing him to shoot free throws that could have sealed the game. Instead, Tribble missed and UM-St. Louis' Adam Kaatman, senior, accounting, pulled down the rebound and passed the ball to Beasley, who raced upcourt looking for a chance to tie the game.

As the clock wound down, Beasley made his move and took a short shot in the lane with several UIS defenders around him. The shot caromed off the rim and floated in the air for anyone to grab it.

Somehow with all those arms and bodies around, it was UM-St. Louis' Jeremy Brown, senior, physical education, who grabbed the rebound with 2.3 seconds left and got fouled by a UIS defender, giving the Tritons a chance to tie the game and send it to overtime.

Unfortunately though, Brown's first free throw attempt was short.

That meant he had to intentionally miss the second attempt and hope one of his teammates could get the rebound and score before the clock ran out. But UIS' Brandon Farmer grabbed the ball first and held on as the clock ran out.

"We thought this week was going to be a real positive for us," Pilz said. "Instead, we came away without even one win. But it's a long season, we'll get back to practice and see if we can't get better."

The Tritons will have to get better real quick because their two opponents at the Mark Twain this week have been two of the best teams in the GLVC this season. On Thursday, UM-St. Louis will host a 15-3 Drury University squad that was ranked No. 19 in last week's NCAA Division II national poll.

Then on Saturday, the Tritons will host a 13-7 Rockhurst University team, which features 2009 GLVC Men's Basketball Player of the Year, Aaron Hill.

But if the Tritons can get those two wins, they'll be back on track to pick up a favorable slot in the GLVC Postseason Championship Tournament, which was the team's No. 1 goal heading into the season.

Thursday's game will tipoff at 7:30 p.m., while Saturday's contest is scheduled for a 3 p.m. start.

YOUR AD HERE
THECURRENTADS@UMSL.EDU

ADMIT IT, IT'D BE SWEET IF YOUR AD WAS HERE

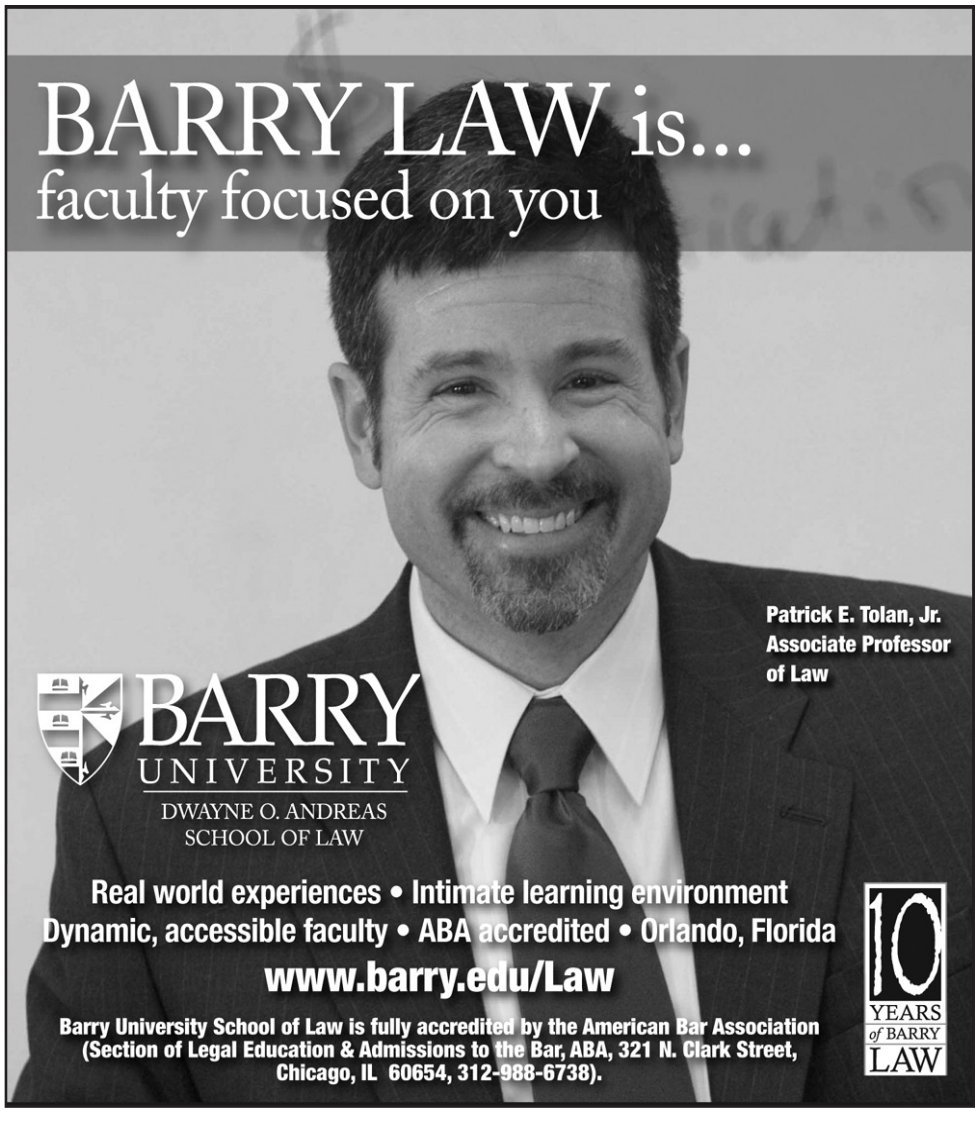
$5,000 - $45,000 PAID. EGG DONOROS for up to 9 donations. +Expenses. Non-smokers, ages 19-29, SAT>1100/ACT>24/ GPA>3.0

Reply to: info@eggdonorcenter.com

EMPLOYMENT!!!! SECRET SHOPPER NEEDED? You will earn $400 being a mystery shopper. Your employment package will include funds for the shopping, a training assignment which will be sent to you after you receive payment for the assignment. Contact Mr. Mark Brown for more information about this job.

mbrownholdings002@live.com

Can you read this?
Cool. Now go to TheCurrentOnline.com



Women's basketball has won 9 of 12

Triton women can get back to .500

▶ **MATHEW B. HENRY**
Staff Writer

Even though her team started the year with a dismal 1-7 record, University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor never once stopped believing that her Tritons could be one of the best teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference this season.

And even though UM-St. Louis still has a long way to go to be considered one of the league's best teams, the Tritons certainly rank as one of the GLVC's hottest teams thanks to a remarkable turnaround in which the team has won 9 of its last 12 games and finds itself one win away from reaching the .500 mark for the first time this late in the season since 2006.

"We have been playing well lately," Curliss-Taylor said. "This season has been a roller coaster ride, but you can see very clearly that the team is getting better."

Almost anything is better than how the Tritons looked at the beginning of the season, when they lost seven of their first eight games, mostly by lopsided scores. But some of that early losing could be attributed to the "murderer's row"-type schedule UM-St. Louis played at the start of the year, with only a few home games and several contests against nationally-ranked opponents.

It's the kind of start that would crush the heart and spirit of most teams, but Curliss-Taylor said, rather than give in to that, her Tritons decided to fight harder to overcome it.

"That was a really dark time for everyone involved," Curliss-Taylor said. "And maybe our teams in the past would've fallen apart. But this team has better leadership and better focus, from the starting five to the bottom five, that everyone just keeps striving

The Tritons were probably at their best this past week, when they won three straight games at home over GLVC foes Bellarmine, St. Joseph's and Illinois-Springfield. The Bellarmine win is the one that had people talking though.

The Knights came into that game with an 11-6 record and had won seven of its last eight against UM-St. Louis. But the Tritons dominated Bellarmine from the start, played what was probably their best game during Curliss-Taylor's three years as coach, and won the game by 22 points.

"That was easily the best defense we've played since I've been here," Curliss-Taylor said.

The Tritons then followed that win up with a 16-point victory over St. Joseph's and a 14-point triumph over UIS. Now the team is just one win away from no longer having to see a losing record next to its name when it checks the GLVC standings.

"It'll be nice to get to .500, but we don't even really talk about that as a goal," Curliss-Taylor said. "I don't want to just be .500. I want to be undefeated. We want to win them all."

That first step in going undefeated someday is eventually having a team that has a winning record. The Tritons will take their shot at having a winning record this week when they'll host games against 16-4 Drury University on Thursday and 6-12 Rockhurst University on Saturday.

"This is a big week for us," Curliss-Taylor said. "But it's not the ultimate goal to just be .500. Our main goal is to make the postseason. I really want that for our seniors, who deserve to experience that for the first time in their careers, after going through so much (losing) the previous three years."

Thursday's game against Drury will tip off at 5:30 p.m., while the Saturday contest against Rockhurst will begin at 1 p.m.

Aww. You're reading The Current.
Your parents would be so proud of you.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

Deaven Omohundro ran the court for the win against Illinois-Springfield Saturday, Jan 23.

A&E

WEBSITE REVIEW

Dining out doesn't have to break the bank

It is said that during tough financial times, the first thing people change is how often they go out. This includes spending time with friends bowling, going to the movies, attending cultural events and dining out.However, taking a break from the daily grind can be good for the soul, so what can the income-challenged do?

According to Restaurant.com's free website, their purpose is to be a "community matchmaker [by] introducing great restaurants to great people," and they do this by allowing local restaurants to advertise on the site while offering gift certificates that diners can purchase at huge discounts.

The site is user-friendly and offers different options, such as searching for a restaurant by zip code, state or city.

A list of participating restaurants will open up, and you can peruse as-is or sort the restaurants by the average price of an entree, alphabetically or by newest restaurants first.

No matter your preference, each is listed with basic information: photo of the restaurant, address, available gift certificates, restrictions, links to the menu and the restaurant's website.

Registration is free and oh-so-simple: just enter your email address and a password.

Generally, there are specific dollar amounts available, such as $10, $25, $50 and even $100 gift certificates, the cost of each being $4, $10, $20 and $40 respectively.

Restaurants choose which certificates they want to make available, and set a limit on how many they will offer each month.

See **RESTAURANT.COM**, page 10

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

Tooth Fairy. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson needs money, and is willing to do anything to get it. *Anything.* Shoes shined? He'll do it. Car washed? Extra sudsy, please? He's on it. **D** *–Chris Stewart.*

Extraordinary Measures. Harrison Ford is a curmudgeonly but brilliant doctor who follows his own set of rules and just wants to be left alone. Too bad for him Brandan Frasier is a desparate young blah blah who has a sick son/daughter/goldfish. To get them the help they need, Frasier is willing to go to...great lengths. You're either the kind of person who has the non-fiction memoir this is based on by their bedside and tears up just at the trailer, or you're not. **C** *–Chris Stewart.*

Legion. Dudes are like "who are you" and then dude's mouth totally expands. Friggin' creepy. Wanna go see it, maybe on Tuesday? **C-** *–Chris Stewart.*

COURTESY / PARAMOUNT

Saoirse Ronain narrates her own story from the afterlife in Peter Jackson's "The Lovely Bones."

Lovely imagery and broken storytelling

"The Lovely Bones" has director Peter Jackson's usual lush landscapes and beautiful imagery in other-worldly afterlife sequences, but they mostly serve to break the pace of the narrative in the back-on-earth story, providing more frustrating distraction than enlightenment.

"The Lovely Bones," based on the bestseller of the same name, tells of the aftermath, and afterlife, of a murdered 14-year-old girl. As her family struggles to cope with their loss and puzzles over the mystery of her murder, the girl herself watches them from a beautiful but strange afterlife world.

"The Lovely Bones" is an ambitious if not an entirely successful film. The two-worlds device is part of the novel, and one suspects that those who read the book will find those breaks in storytelling less distracting. But those who have not may be frustrated by how the narrative stops periodically for visually-lovely interludes in the fantastical afterlife world.

Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan) narrates her own story from the afterlife, watching her grieving family as well as her killer from a fantastical world. We know from the beginning that Susie is murdered and even quickly learn who the killer is, unlike her agonized family.

The film begins with her life before the early '70s tragedy. Susie lives in quiet, seemingly-safe suburbia with her parents, (Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz), younger sister Lindsey (Rose McIver) and little brother Buckley (Christian Thomas Ashdale), with occasional visits from her hard-drinking, flamboyant Grandma Lynn (Susan Sarandon).

Susie dabbles in photography, hangs out with friends and has a crush on a boy named Ray (Reece Ritchie). Her safe-seeming world also includes neighbor Mr. Harvey (Stanley Tucci) and a strange girl named Ruth (Carolyn Dando).

The film handles the crime itself with taste and a minimum of blood, offering just enough to make clear what has happened, while capturing all the tension and fear—no small feat. After the crime, the film moves on two tracks, alternating between Susie's surreal, visually elaborate afterlife world and what is happening back on earth.

Susie is torn between feelings of revenge and wanting to let her family move on with their lives. Before her death, Susie was on the verge of first romance and that unfinished part of her life haunts her.

The afterlife world sequences are imaginative and breathtakingly beautiful, with a fair sampling of gorgeous landscapes and seashores, with strange and wondrous things at every turn. But as creative as those romps in another world are, they still break the dramatic flow of the more emotionally-involving story of the family after the murder. They feel more like unneeded distractions, no matter how pretty and fantastic.

However, one cannot fault the acting. The gifted young Irish actress Saoirse Ronan, who was nominated for an Oscar for her striking role in "Atonement," is skillful and luminous in the lead role.

Stanley Tucci, as blond, bespectacled Mr. Harvey, already has garnered several awards nominations for his compelling, creepy performance. Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz also do fine work, but Susan Sarandon is the scene-stealer, providing comic relief as the unconventional grandmother, dolled-up in high heels, cocktail in hand and ever-present cigarette, even while doing the laundry.

"The Lovely Bones" is a kind of love-it-or-hate-it film, although it is visually beautiful and technically well-made. Adapting a bestseller for the screen has pitfalls, but this transformation appears successful. Fans of the book seem invariable to enjoy it, while those who have not read the book are more likely to be irritated by its intermittent narrative. **B-** *–Cate Marquis*

RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

Yamamoto used origami and other props to illustrate the stories, memories, and folk tales she told.

Japanese performer brings music and mime to Touhill

▶ **CHRIS STEWART**
Staff Writer

The show at the Touhill Performing Arts Center was billed as "Kuniko: Magical Mask Mime and Music of Japan," but a far more accurate description is found under Yamamoto's photograph in the show's pamphlet where the caption states, simply, "Kuniko Yamamoto, Storyteller."

The university's Center for International Studies Performing Arts Series sponsored "Kuniko Yamamoto: Magical Mask Mime Music of Japan" at the Blanche M. Touhill's Lee Theater for two performances, Friday, January 22 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, January 23 at 2 p.m.

Perhaps simple storytelling does not market as well as the promise of magic, a disheartening notion considering that the heart of the performance is the captivating appeal of its stories.

Yamamoto has been performing on an international circuit for years since studying both in Japan and America in the 1980s. She is multi-talented, nimble and practiced.

Music does play a part in the show, as Yamamoto weaves in several instruments, as does mime and magic Yamamoto's marriage to internationally acclaimed magician Jon LeClair has enhanced the magic portion of the show, but these are all supporting features of the performance.

The one continuous and fundamental thread is Yamamoto's personality. She is whimsical, warm and a little bit odd in an altogether appealing way. She is also very funny, disarmingly so. Her traditional clothing and instruments combined with American notions about traditional Japan and the formal setting of the splendid Touhill theater do not prepare an audience to hear an opening bit about American accents.

Yamamoto riffed comedienne-esquely about the difficulty of learning a language that differs in every region of America, and then pointed out Tokyo's prim and proper Japanese dialect as compared to her native Osaka. Finally she had the audience interact, trying out her humorously exaggerated version on an Osaka "hello."

Later in the show, she requested that the lights be turned up and challenged the audience to a round of "White Fox," something along the lines of "Rock Paper Scissors" to set up a folk tale involving the fox, a mask of whom Yamamoto then wore as she agilely acted out the character.

Yamamoto is a skilled storyteller in the classical sense; she does dramatic, hyperbolic voices, is broadly expressive with her face and body, and offers tales of basic morality, drama, and emotion.

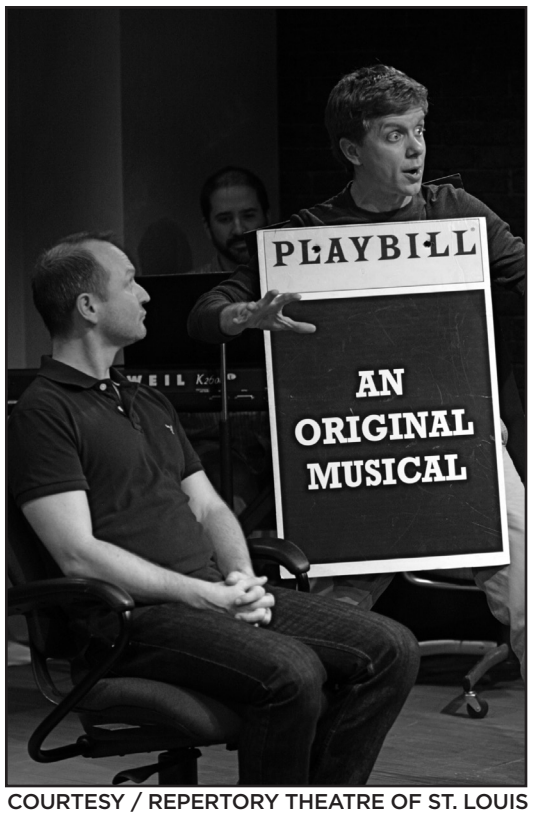
Her spread of onstage props (origami, a Chinese string instrument, masks, magic items) were all used throughout the show, infused into the stories, most of which were only a few minutes long.

[title of show] is unlikely name of Rep's funny musical

Where do all those musicals filling St. Louis stages come from anyway? [title of show], the new musical comedy at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' Studio, gives one answer.

This odd but very funny musical comedy is about two guys scribbling away in a tiny New York apartment trying to create a whole new musical in just three weeks. With nothing better to do, two under-employed friends decided to enter a musical in a new theater festival, even though they have not even written it yet. Start the clock, and the comedy.

See **[JUMP]**, page 27



COURTESY / REPERTORY THEATRE OF ST. LOUIS

Two unlikely regular guys turned amateur playwrights struggle with hilarious results in the St. Louis Repertory Theater's quirkly [title of show]

RESTAURANT.COM, from page 9

To use the certificate, a minimum dollar amount of food must be ordered, for example, $50 of food and non-alcoholic beverages have to be ordered before the $25 discount can be applied.

There are other restrictions set by each restaurant, such as when it can be used (dinner only, Sunday-Thursday only, etc.), what should be ordered (minimum 4 entrees, no happy hour specials, etc.), and if a gratuity will added (usually 18% before the discount).

When you register with Restaurant.com, select the option to have special offers sent to your email. On a weekly basis, discount codes for 50-80% off will be sent to users. You just cannot beat that. The 80% discount is the greatest discount, so purchase several at once; the site will save your purchases until you are ready to print them, so there is no chance of losing them.

If there is a special person you would like to take out, do not be shy about using the gift certificates. Let the person know that you want to treat him or her to a unique dining experience, and although your struggling-student budget does not normally allow such extravagance, you have found a way to make it work. A person of substance will admire your ability to stretch a dollar (who would not want more for less?).

Using Restaurant.com to try fabulous food at lesser-known area restaurants can refresh an overworked mind and warm the soul, so take the money you were going to use for the frozen-to-fryer chain-restaurant grub and discover what good food really is.

B+ *–Stacy Beckenholdt*

Health coverage made easy.

We offer health coverage for:

- Individuals without Group Coverage
- Independent Contractors
- Dependents and Students
- COBRA/Alternative
- Self-Employed
- Small Businesses

Solutions with choices are easy, just call
David Jackson
314-923-5531 or 800-541-4254
www.davejackson-insurance.com
David.Jackson@anthem.com

David Jackson
Authorized Agent

In Missouri (excluding 30 counties in the Kansas City area): Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name for RightCHOICE® Managed Care, Inc. (RIT), Healthy Alliance® Life Insurance Company (HALIC), and HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates administer non-HMO benefits underwritten by HALIC and HMO benefits underwritten by HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates only provide administrative services for self-funded plans and do not underwrite benefits. Life and Disability products underwritten by Anthem Life Insurance Company. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ®ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Anthem.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Sleek. Deadly. Sexy.

Deadly curves define 'Bayonetta' game

COURTESY / SEGA

Breasts. Boobies. Jubbly-wubblies. Great bouncing sweater-dwellers.

Did that get your attention? Did it seem a little over the top? Excellent. You are ready for "Bayonetta," the over-the-top, over-sexed action game from Platinum Games.

"Bayonetta" can be summed up in three words: butts, breasts, and berettas. This game, quite frankly, is absolutely ridiculous—and that is a good thing.

From its opening scene, "Bayonetta" is a non-stop action thrill ride. The main character, the titular Bayonetta, is a deadly femme-fatale witch with an ax to grind. And grind she does, be it up against a pole, up against an enemy or while using her weapons.

Clad in a revealing sleek, black leather catsuit, Bayonetta is the epitome of deadly and sexy. Even her curves (of which there are many) are deadly. She struts around like a supermodel, using her dual pistols and dual stiletto guns to deal out reckoning.

Yes, dual stiletto guns. Her very high-heels are weapons.

The game takes place in a world very similar to ours, yet is closer to both Heaven and Hell (called "Paradiso" and "Inferno" in-game) than we are. Bayonetta, a dark Umbra Witch, has a vendetta against the heavenly host of Paradiso and its earthly counterparts, the Lumen Sages.

Why she feels the need to disembowel angels and rip off their wings is another matter entirely, one I will not spoil here. But suffice to say, her journey to vindication and remembrance is one hell of an experience, and a well-written story that will keep you guessing.

"Bayonetta's" gameplay seems oddly familiar at first, playing surprisingly similar to the "Devil May Cry" series of games. But really, it is no surprise: Hideki Kamiya, the creator of the DMC series, also created "Bayonetta."

Kamiya's mastery of the genre is plain to see. "Bayonetta's" controls are smooth as silk, which makes controlling the game almost a thing of beauty in motion. It is muscle memory and twitch gaming at its finest, all of which is refined down and translated on-screen to an exquisite bouquet of gory, dismembering death.

Combos are effortless and dodging is a breeze. "Bayonetta" features its own brand of bullet-time called "Witch Time." Successful dodges activate a few precious seconds of this mode, drastically slowing down enemies and allowing for some truly spectacular combos.

Adding to the brilliantly fierce action are "Bayonetta's" finishing moves. Whether it is her smaller-scale "Torture Attacks" (think spike-filled Iron Maidens and a cruel Guillotine), or her larger scale finishers, Bayonetta's naked violence is gratuitous.

Speaking of naked, the sleek, black "leather" catsuit she wears is not actually leather—what covers her body is actually her long black tresses.

Upon command, her long flowing locks slide off her body (a few remaining strands covering her delicate areas, of course) and turn into demonic monstrosities, among them a dragon, a spider and a centipede-like abomination.

The gigantic finishers are needed because of the sheer size of the bosses that Bayonetta must face over the course of the game. These colossal titans require fast reflexes and strategy to defeat.

As in any game with a strong female lead, there is a huge question for "Bayonetta:" With all its over-the-top sexiness and strong sexual overtones, is the game exploitative in any way? Quite to the contrary, "Bayonetta" is very much an empowering female authority figure. She does not use her sexuality to further her own ends. Instead, she kicks copious amounts of ass and simply does it while applying her lipstick.

Which, I might add, is also a weapon.

B- *–Andrew Seal*

Mic the People, for the People

Off Broadway Charity Open-Mic

▶ **JOE SCHAFFNER**
Asst. A&E Writer

Every Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m., Off Broadway is home to one of the most influential open-mics in St. Louis.

The likes of Mark Granier, Dave Hagerty and Rob Jones gather to sing their favorite songs and take a look at the fresh talent in St. Louis.

On January 17, there was a little extra thrown in. "Mic the People, For the People" hosted the open-mic as an event benefiting local charity organizations Tapestry of Community Offerings and Community Arts and Media Project .

"Mic the People, For the People" is a major project of Self-Sufficient St. Louis, a non-profit organization working to create social justice and sustainable living in St. Louis.

"Mic the People" encourages musicians and artists to tell them about charities they are interested in raising money for, and then holds an open-mic to help raise funds for those charities.

"The philosophy is that musicians and artists should always have a way to use their craft to support causes they believe in and their community," Langen Neubacher, Mic the People, For the People event organizer, said.

Both TOCO and CAMP are charity organizations devoted to progressive causes.

CAMP representative Lyndsey Scott got involved with the open-mic herself by calling up an audience member to beatbox while she rapped about her organization's efforts:

"When I come to CAMP, pinky swear, I'm gonna act right, I'm gonna give my best self, I'm gonna learn to give life, to give light."

Though her lyrics were penetrating and universal, Scott continued with a more straightforward and detailed speech about CAMP's efforts.

"At the Community Arts and Media Project, our intention is to hold space for community and to let it arise in dynamic ways: to learn how to take care of each other's needs, to be a voice for equality and sustainability in the neighborhood that is really excited about changing, but is also bringing in a lot of resources that aren't extending to people who've been living in the neighborhood for a long time; we ask how we can be authentic with each other."

See **MIC**, page 25

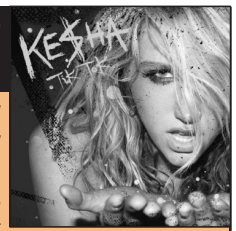
SWEET JAMS

This week's top 5 iTunes downloads as reviewed by The Current*'s Chris Stewart*

1 'Today was a Fairytale' Taylor Swift

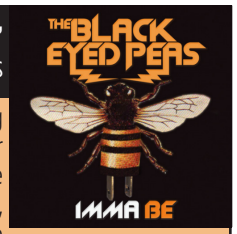
Pros: your little sister isn't listening to Ke$ha or Lady GaGa when she's listening to this. Cons: Taylor Swift keeps writing the same song over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over again.

2 'Tik Tok' Ke$ha



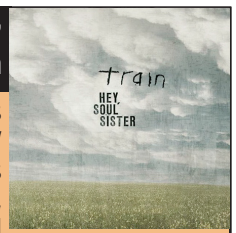
Oh how the mighty have fallen. How do you like second place Ke$ha? Does it sting? Does defeat taste like they say it does? I don't know. I've never been on the iTunes charts. So take that, you cheap peddler of overproduced brat-pop.

3 'Imma Be' Black Eyed Peas



Imma be strangling someone if I hear this song one more time. A repetative, familiarly-mixed ode to being the best and staying on top and what have you. "Imma be up in the club, doin' whatever I like!" WIll.I.AM declares. No one's trying to stop you, buddy.

4 'Hey, Soul Sister' Train



This song, with its simple guitar/piano/drum/bass set up is timeless. Meaning, it could have sucked in any decade. Lord is it awful and corny and sugary and stupid and boring. Also, it's called "Hey, Soul Sister." Really, Train? Really?

5 'Bad Romance' Lady GaGa

Well if you're ballsy enough to repeat your own "name" in your song, then I guess you can pretty much do whatever you want. So, um, I'm just gonna quietly shuffle out of the room here and pretend like this whole little "GaGa" thing never happened.

NGA: THE NATION'S EYES

At the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) a picture is worth more than a thousand words, IT SAVES LIVES. NGA produces imagery and map-based intelligence to national security and defense leaders to keep the nation safe, protect troops, support crises and disaster relief, and ensure safety of navigation.

Our mission relies on the talents and skills of our diverse workforce. We offer opportunities for work/life balance, career advancement, competitive salaries, and so much more!

NGA Invitational Hiring Event in St. Louis

Apply NOW through Feb 5th via **www.nga.mil/careers**. Entry to mid level professionals will be considered for the following positions:

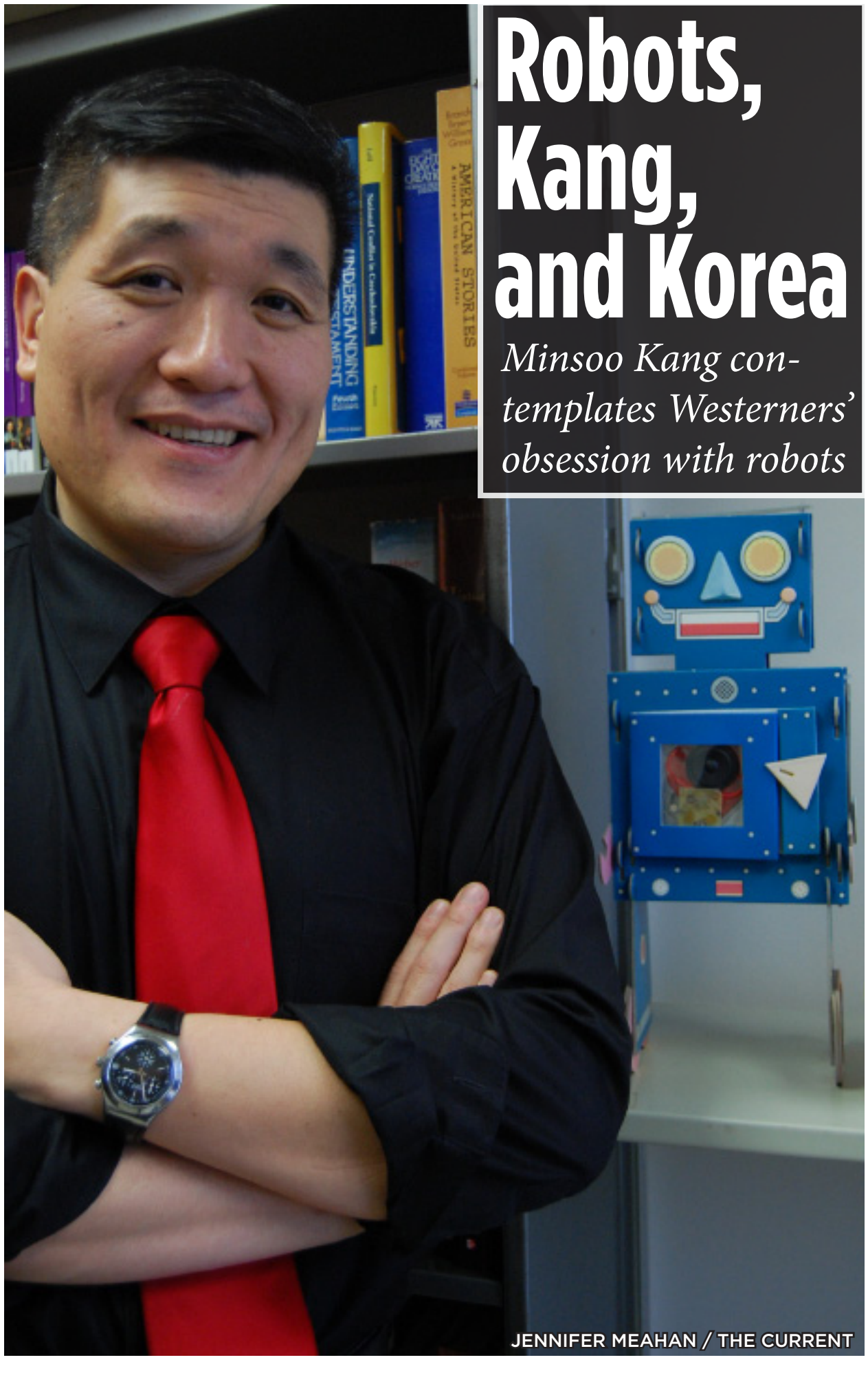
Imagery Analysts • Geospatial Analysts • Imagery Scientists • and more…

Positions are mainly in the Washington, DC and St. Louis metro areas. For more details, review the Hiring Event vacancy announcement at **www.nga.mil/careers**.

US Citizenship Required
Equal Opportunity Employer

Features

FACULTY PROFILE



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Robots, Kang, and Korea

Minsoo Kang contemplates Westerners' obsession with robots

▶ **AARON HOLDMEYER**
Staff Writer

As an accomplished author and historian, Minsoo Kang, University of Missouri-St. Louis professor of history, brings a diverse background into his classroom every semester. Later this fall Kang's new book, "Sublime Dreams of Living Machines" will be published.

The Current: Briefly, can you explain how you got to UM-St. Louis from Korea?

Dr. Minsoo Kang: My father was a diplomat for the Korean government so I ended up growing up in half a dozen countries. I first came to the U.S. in the early 1980's to attend high school and eventually went on to do my Ph.D. in European history at UCLA. After I finished the degree I got a job offer from UMSL, which is how I ended up here.

TC: Having published short stories and actual historical works, what is the main difference when writing in these two different genres?

MK: It is a great pleasure for me to be able to alternate between writing history and writing fiction.

In history, I love the process of trying to write a coherent narrative or presenting a plausible thesis based on documentary evidence.

But sometimes I want to tell stories without the constraints of historical facts, so I turn to fiction where I can allow my imagination to roam freely.

After I spend some time indulging in that, however, I long to return to the pleasurable rigor of historical research, so I go back to the field of my training.

Because I see myself as essentially a story teller, I would not be content having to tell only historical stories.

TC: This fall your book "Sublime Dreams of Living Machines" will be published. What do you want to accomplish with this book and why?

MK: The book is my attempt to understand why Western culture has been so obsessed with the notion of artificial versions of humanity—as automata, robots and cyborgs.

I start by presenting a theory of why the robot is such an interesting and disturbing object for people to behold, and then I trace how such emotional reactions were articulated from the time of the Ancient Greeks to the modern era.

Readers might be surprised that the ancients not only wrote stories about artificial humans and animals in fantastic tales, but they also built rudimentary versions of them.

They were especially popular during the eighteenth century when engineers built little human figures that could play musical instruments, and one particularly celebrated one of a duck that could move around, eat food and even execrate.

I also look at how this history continues to be played out in contemporary culture—for instance, in movies like "The Terminator" and "The Matrix." It is essentially a work of cultural and intellectual history, but I think a lot of people outside of the historical profession will be interested in reading it.

TC: Are you currently working or planning to write anything new?

MK: I am working on a history book about an old Korean novel about a heroic rebel named Hong Gildong who is our equivalent of Robin Hood.

The story itself is a fascinating one about an illegitimate son of a nobleman who goes forth to take from the rich and give to the poor, but there is also a complex history of when the work was written and the role it has played in modern Korean culture.

I have also done some research on the history of the mad-scientist figure in European literature of the 18th and 19th centuries and hope to publish something on it in the near future.

The Life Review Project

Graduate students build relationships with senior citizens through unique new project

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

▸**SEQUITA BEAN**
Features Editor

The Life Review Project began in 2007 as a new graduate course at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The three credit hour class, Interviewing Older Adults and Life Review (GER 6130), trains graduate students on interviewing older adults, life review and video production. Older adults volunteer to be interviewed and recorded by the students and are asked questions about their lives, including their education, career and retirement. The videos are then edited and given to the participant as a keepsake. Clips are made from each interview, added to the UM-System video library and used to teach graduate students in the gerontology program.

"We all reminisce about our life experience, and the difference here is that Life Review is an intentional 'looking back' at one's whole life story," Dr. Tom Meuser, founder and project coordinator for the Life Review Project, said. "As we get older and we begin to prepare for the end of life, whether we're doing it intentionally, unconsciously, or less so, we are starting to tie up loose ends [and] put our lives in perspective. Older adults in our society today are often not given an opportunity to share their wisdom and to tell their stories."

To volunteer for the project, the senior must be aged 60 or older and be able to hear well enough that they can participate in an interview. The interview is recorded in a brand new video studio located in the lower level of Bellerive Hall on South Campus.

For the student and the senior, the benefits of the Life Review Project are abundant.

"For me, as a student, you learn a lot about how to listen to people and communicate with other generations, and just to listen to their stories and learn anything that they'll share with you," Liz Yates, graduate, gerontology, said. "And for the participants themselves, it's sort of a way for them to reflect on their lives, and look back and see all that they've accomplished, and reminisce about anything that they've had struggles with, and to learn from that to grow, and also to get a sense of renewal about the next phase of their lives, and what they [want to] do as they get older."

Another benefit students gain from participating in the Life Review Project is dispelling any negative stereotypes associated with the elderly and aging. "Just because you get older doesn't mean you're not able to do anything. I think that by hearing these stories by these amazing people, you can understand that life doesn't stop before you retire. Life goes on, and you can hear that through these stories," Yates said.

"If you don't have strong relationships with persons in their 70s or 80s, if you don't have living grandparents, it can be easy to develop stereotypes about aging," Meuser said. "So by talking to people about their life story, you realize, 'They're just like me, they're just older.' That is the real benefit."

Since its initiation in 2007, the Interviewing Older Adults and Life Review class has only been offered over the summer, but along the way it has grown into a sponsored project within gerontology in the School of Social Work. And with the new recording studio, students are able to interview participants year-round.

UM-St. Louis students are strongly encouraged to get the elders in their lives involved in the project. "Wouldn't you love to have your grandma's life history on video for the future? Wouldn't you love to have your grandfather's? Invite your grandma to UMSL to tell her life story! That would be great!" Meuser said.

"And they're getting a free video out of it, too!" added Yates.

BETTER BOWLING NAME:

COBRA or LAZER?

Discuss as long as you want. Only U.S. Cellular® has Free Incoming Calls, Texts and Pix from anyone at any time. So nearly half the time on the phone is free.

getusc.com

U.S. Cellular
believe in something better™

Free Incoming claim based on combined voice, Text and Pix usage by typical U.S. Cellular customers. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. ©2009 U.S. Cellular.

THE RUNWAY

THE GREAT FUR DEBATE

▶ SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

Since 1980, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, better known as PETA, has been protesting fashion week in every major city due to designers' use of fur in their shows.

Protesters throw red paint on people wearing furs, cause scenes and get arrested, all for the sake of "animal rights."

Thinking of animals is nice, but this on-going battle between fur-wearing-supporters and PETA is ridiculous and getting out of control.

My first thought is: "Do these people get arrested for throwing paint all over someone else's personal property?"

The quick answer is—rarely.

By the time police are summoned the offenders are long gone, only to be hit with a fine against the organization.

It is no more right for PETA to throw paint on people wearing fur than it is for me to throw paint on the legions of people who wear those horrible, ugly Crocs and UGG boots seen every day around campus.

Personally, I hate when people wear fur.

Even in the faux form, it is just gaudy. It doesn't look good, and it is hard to pull it off without looking really tacky.

There are some furry looks that are nice, but something about wearing the protective layer of any living, or used-to-be living creature creeps me out.

Despite this, I am not opposed to killing animals for their fur.

The animals that are legal to kill for fur are far from being extinct, and it helps with population control.

For example, mink and chinchilla are rodents.

A female chinchilla can reproduce up to three times a year with up to two babies per cycle. That is a lot of chinchillas!

Are we really upset there are less rodents because of fur production?

Killing endangered species (i.e., polar bears, chimpanzees, Siberian tigers, etc.) for their fur is a different story, but for population control, sanitization and health, there should neither be a problem nor a protest on getting rid of overpopulated rodents.

Which brings me to my biggest problem with PETA: their supporters are willing to assault people wearing fur on the streets for animal rights, but pay no attention to the children in sweatshops overseas to make the cotton t-shirts that line their backs.

What about underpaid and overworked immigrants picking the tasty vegetables they eat everyday?

How about fighting for women's rights that barely exist in some Islamic nations, and blood diamonds in Sierra Leone?

Let's protest this silly, senseless and outrageously expensive war and the lack of affordable health care in our own country.

Instead of protesting and causing a scene for animal rights, how about we raise hell about how ridiculous it is that in 2010, homosexuals still don't have the same basic human rights they should.

Let freedom ring!

Yes, it is true that I am insinuating that human rights are more important than animal rights, and that goes for endangered species as well.

Sorry to say, but the world will not stop spinning if there were no more polar bears.

As much as I hate fur as clothing on anyone for fashion reasons, the only thing that I will protest if I saw someone head-to-toe in mink is the fact that they look tacky.

Sequita Bean

I'll rethink my entire stance on this when I see snakes picketing other snakes about eating rats.

Sequita Bean is Features Editor for The Current.

Solidair Coffee Shop & Hookah Lounge

Offering Mediterranean and American Food

Located at 8947 Natural Bridge before I-170 on the right 63121

Telephone 314-426-7070

Happy Hours Monday – Thursday 2-5 only $8.99 regular price $11.99

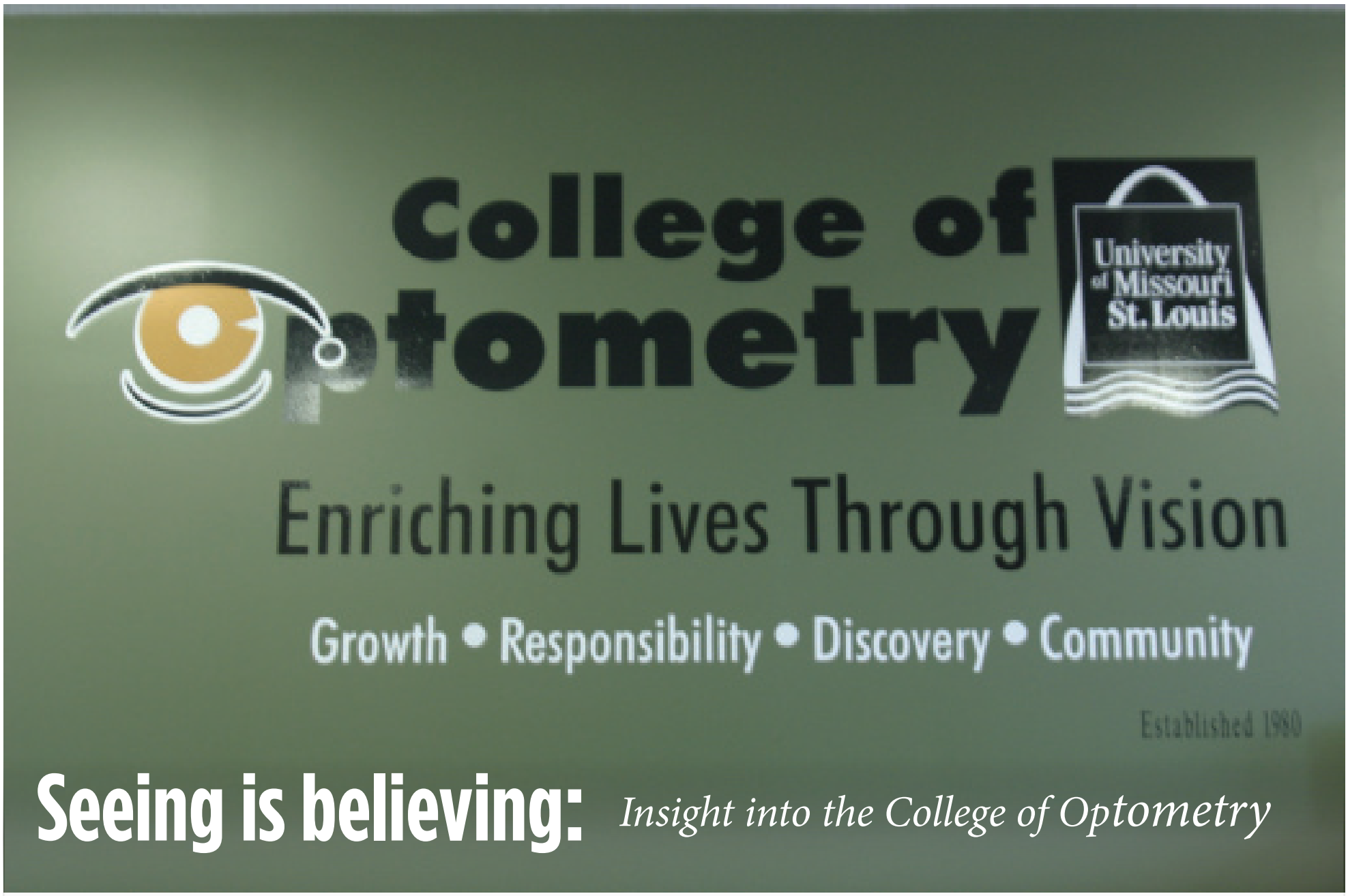
Fridays free taste from 2-5

Free Wi-Fi and international channels, sporting events on all TV's, Specials for UMSL students, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and hookah parties on Friday and Saturday

Dine in and Take out Available

Buy one sandwich get one half off with this coupon (exp. 2/25/10	Buy one regular coffee get one free with this coupon (exp. 2/25/10)	Hookah $9.99 and refill with $3.99 with this coupon (exp. 2/25/10)

Science/Health



Seeing is believing: *Insight into the College of Optometry*

▶**JEN O'HARA**
Staff Writer

Buried on the south side of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, near the education majors, the technology and learning center, and student housing, sits the location for the future eye care professionals.

The College of Optometry opened its doors to the university in June 1980. The idea for opening an optometry school was a 13-year-long process lead by Jerry Franzel, and it included studies on the need for an optometry school, campus expansion and funding for the program.

With only 20 optometry colleges in the U.S., an optometry college on campus offers a unique opportunity for UM-St. Louis students. The class size and programs offered also set the college apart from others.

"Well, I think where we stand out is our class size. We're well below the average class size of other schools and colleges ... The average class size is somewhere between 60 and 70; we [have] 44. Our externship rotations are consistently judged to be a highlight of the program, unique," Dr. Larry Davis, dean of the optometry college, said.

The externship rotations involve students participating in practice outside of school.

"One of the outstanding things that our students like is during their fourth year, which is their last year of school, they have the opportunity to go on six 8-week externship rotations. So they go to six different sites throughout their last year, and they can be a contact lens specialty site, it could be ocular disease specialty site … [it could be] all these different sites," Dr. Julie DeKinder, clinical assistant professor, said.

The school also holds high regards for their national board scores, a series of tests that must be passed to become an optometrist. Besides the school's scores steadily increasing overall through the years, one student recently received the highest score in the nation.

Besides maintaining a reputation for its school, the college also offers service to students on campus and the public. The Center of Eyecare provides college-operated services on the UM-St. Louis campus, as well as four other sites throughout the city of St. Louis, including one in St. Charles and one in East St. Louis. The centers provide options such as primary care, rehabilitative optometry and contact lens specialists.

For the general public, the cost for attending the facility on campus averages about $60, which is almost half of what an average optometrist outside of the campus community would charge.

Included in tuition fees, students attending UM-St. Louis receive a free eye exam every year.

As part of the program, optometry students meet with patients under a doctor's supervision.

"Working in the clinic entails seeing patients with the students … So the students actually pick up the patients, they do the exam on them, and then they come and talk to us about what they found, what they think is going on," DeKinder said. "We lead them in the right direction and talk to them, help them with contact lenses, or decide what tests they need to run, and then we always go in and see the patient as well [to] double check the result."

The school is celebrating their 30th anniversary this summer.

NOW HIRING:

LADIES & GENTS OF RIVER CITY

COMPETITIVE SALARIES.
GENEROUS BENEFITS.
UNLIMITED POTENTIAL.

An equal opportunity employer
and a drug-free workplace.

YOU'RE PERSONABLE, TALENTED AND FUN. SHOULDN'T YOU GET PAID FOR THAT?

We're looking for servers, bartenders and cocktail waitresses, with outgoing personalities, to be the Ladies and Gents of River City. It's a tough job, but someone's got to look great and have fun doing it. These Ladies and Gents will also represent River City at VIP and local events, like Mardi Gras. Enjoy attractive benefits, including medical coverage, discounted gym memberships and even tuition reimbursement.

Visit **jobsatrivercity.com** for details and to apply. Or visit our Employment Center at 8643 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63111. **314.735.1200**

FRIENDSHIP CAPITAL
RIVERCITY
CASINO
SOUTH COUNTY
OF THE WORLD

©2010 Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. Pending licensure by the Missouri Gaming Commission.
Persons who are on the Missouri Disassociated Persons List are not eligible for jobs on the casino floor. Gambling Problem? Call 1.888.BETSOFF.

Asian carp invade Lake Michigan as Missouri continues to fight

▶ANDY PHIPPS
Health/Science Editor

An alien species has steadily made its way into American waters for over a decade. This invader has the ability to swim upstream, propagate quickly and use its ever-growing numbers to destroy the natural order of any ecosystem that they enter. Until now, there seemed to be no way to stop them, and fears grew worse last week as they laid claim to Lake Michigan, the nation's largest freshwater body.

This alien species is hardly from another world; it is an invasive species commonly known Asian carp, which is a blanket term for eight species of carp that were introduced to American waterways in the 1990s.

Since being introduced to American rivers, Asian carp have increased dramatically and spread from the Mississippi River basin further north into the Missouri River and now into the Great Lakes. Wherever they have gone, the fish have consumed many of the resources in native waterways used by native species, putting entire ecosystems at risk.

Since 2002, the state of Illinois and the Army Corps of Engineers fought to keep the fish from spreading further into the Great Lakes through the use of an electric fence placed in the waterways that lead from the Mississippi River system into the Great Lakes.

As evidence increased that the fish were getting past the barrier, the state of Michigan filed a federal lawsuit demanding that Illinois stop the advance of the carp by closing a lock in a shipping canal that led into Lake Michigan, the New York Times said on Jan. 12.

> "There's not many markets for them … People aren't going to fish for them, because there isn't a profit."
>
> – Banek

Illinois fought against the injunction, citing possible economic impact. Last Friday, the Chicago Tribune said that DNA of a species of Asian carp had been found in Lake Michigan. The announcement was made only hours after the U.S. Supreme court refused to hear the injunction against Illinois filed by Michigan.

In Missouri, the non-native species has presented an ever-growing problem. The most common species of Asian carp in Missouri waterways is silver carp. There have been recent indications that their population is on the rise in the Missouri River, according to Tim Banek, invasive species coordinator with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

In addition to having an impact on the ecosystem they invade, Banek also cited their ability to jump out of the water at the sound of a boat motor as a safety hazard to those recreationally using Missouri waterways.

"They are a hazard … People have gotten broken jaws, broken arms," Banek said.

Missouri has been actively trying to find solutions to thin out the growing population of the fish in our waterways, but with little success. As a bottom feeder, the fish cannot be caught by traditional angling methods and has to be harvested with a net, something that was restricted to civilian fishermen. Another drawback was a Missouri law that demanded the release of any fish that leapt into a boat or onto shore, something common with Asian carp.

However, the Department of Conservation has changed their regulations and as of March 1, it will be legal to use dip nets and to keep Asian carp that jump into a boat or onto shore.

It is questionable whether fishermen, both amateur and professional, will bother to actively harvest the bony, hard-to-prepare fish. From a professional standpoint, Banek said, "There's not many markets for them … People aren't going to fish for them, because there isn't a profit."

The science of education

Professor Harris presented Prestigious Outstanding Science Educator Award

▶ AARON HOLDMEYER
Staff Writer

Harold Harris, UM-St. Louis professor of chemistry and education, was recently bestowed with the Prestigious Outstanding Science Educator Award from the Academy of Science of St. Louis. Having taught at UM-St. Louis since 1970, Harris provided *The Current* with his views on the shifting landscape of science education as well as his thoughts on this award.

The Current: Having taught at UM-St. Louis for 40 years, what has changed about teaching chemistry or the academic discipline of science in general?

Harold Harris: It is trivial to recognize that teachers of science have many more tools at their disposal than they did when I first started teaching. However, the science of teaching has benefited from research into how and why students learn, and what "learning" means. The most effective teaching acknowledges that students need to construct a conceptual model for a phenomenon that makes sense to them, and the model generally includes verbal, spatial and mathematical components, all of which must be developed through guided experiences. Knowledge that is truly learned is not easily forgotten. I have sometimes wondered what our educational system would be like if the examinations for courses were given one year after the class was over!

TC: What do you foresee the next 40 years bringing to the process of teaching science?

HH: Increasingly, teachers of science will be helping students to organize and make sense of a universe of materials available through a variety of media. It is easy for anyone today to obtain quick answers to almost any question, but real understanding of science requires meaningful experimentation and the time to develop facility with the tools of science. Science amounts to the application of reason to questions that we ask of nature. It takes time and effort to reason.

TC: How will this award affect the future of your teaching?

HH: It is wonderful to be recognized for my accomplishments in science education by the St. Louis Academy of Science, parallel with some outstanding scientists. I hope to be able to use this recognition to further the understanding of chemistry and physics in everyday experience by students and the general public.

TC: How did UM-St. Louis help you attain this award?

HH: In the early 1990s, I was encouraged to expand my responsibilities from purely scientific ones to include the guidance of students who wanted to become secondary teachers of chemistry or physics, and this included a second academic appointment in the College of Education. That has led me to the development of a Web resource of bibliographic information about textbooks; the writing of a monthly column, "Hal's Picks of the Month," about trade books in science; and editorship of a feature, "The Cost-Effective Teacher," all for the Journal of Chemical Education. I have also enjoyed collaboration with the St. Louis community of secondary teachers of chemistry and physics, and have worked on a number of projects to improve elementary and middle school science. The Award recognizes all of those activities.

Read the current online @ www.thecurrentonline.com

SOCIAL AWARENESS 101

When did good manners become old-fashioned?

The word "manners" can bring up images of ladies in hats and gloves speaking softly over lunch, of parents instructing children to remove their elbows from dinner tables, or an out-of-date older woman giving advice on the timeliness of sending thank-you cards.

While the word may be out of date, its social affects are not. The question is: when did it become uncool to practice good manners?

Unless your jaw is wired shut, there isn't any reason not to thank someone for an extended kindness, and professors and classmates do not need to be interrupted by your leaving or entering a room during class.

We share space with one another and are not invisible; therefore, what we do is seen by others and may even affect others.

In nearly every course I have taken, at least one student, upon arriving late, will walk directly in front of the lecturing professor without even the smallest utterance of an "excuse me." Many of these same students will get up during the middle of class to throw something away, walking in front of the professor twice in this oh-so-serious endeavor of theirs.

It would seem unnecessary to write this, but if you are one of these people … Stop! Stop it now! It is a clear sign of disrespect for your professor and your classmates to distract them. Yes, it is a distraction when you do this, and it is rude.

If you arrive late, sit near the door. If you must interrupt class to get to an open seat, excuse yourself and thank the students who have to move their coats and bags to make room for you.

Speaking of class time, another common distraction is cell phones ringing. Professors have become adept at talking right through the ring tones, but your classmates have momentarily lost focus on the lecture.

But, cell phones ring. Students are often busier than people with full-time jobs, rushing from class to class, and remembering to silence a phone is not a priority.

However, when your phone does ring, don't ignore it—we aren't, and we can't stop listening to it until it stops. So take it out and make it stop, quickly. Many phones have buttons on the side that, when pushed, will automatically silence the ring. Once you've done this, silence it, because guess what? The caller might try again, and thus we are back where we started.

Speaking of rushing around campus, thank the stranger in front of you who

Stacy Beckenholdt

is kind enough to hold open the door. If you are on a call or talking to a friend, smile or nod to acknowledge his or her kindness. If someone takes a moment to be polite to you, return the gesture.

Finally—and this is a pretty big one—watch what you say when in the company of others. As a member of a society, you have a responsibility to conduct yourself in such a way as not to interfere with other people who have no choice but to be within earshot of your conversation. Limit your use of foul language and save the details of your wild weekend for a more appropriate time.

If you find yourself struggling with any of these, repeat the following to yourself until the urge to be rude has dissipated: I am not the center of the universe, I am not the center of the universe, I am not the center of the universe …

Stacy Beckenholdt is a copy editor for The Current.

Have you had your cup of The Current today?

Can't stop me now

Google vs. China

Everyone loves Google. Much like Apple, Google is one of those few tech companies that rarely get any complaints.

And usually, those complaints are overshadowed by the technology that the company provides to us. Apple products are expensive as heck, but oh man—the iPhone! Google's AdSense puts ads into your Gmail session dynamically, but oh man—Gmail! Or Google Wave. Or the original Google search engine itself.

Turns out, there is one group of people that doesn't like Google: China. Or, to be more specific, the Chinese Politburo, the ruling group in China's communist government. To be fair, it's not just Google that China has a problem with, but more like the whole Internet. Unfiltered, raw Internet can be a dangerous thing: It could give your citizenry ideas, ideas of what it would be like to like in a non-totalitarian, non-Communist state.

This, of course, has to be avoided at all costs. People thinking for themselves is bad for China, or, again, bad for the Chinese Politburo. So, when Google opened the doors of Google.cn, it was forced to agree by the Politburo to censor some of its content.

The content included anything having to do with the following Chinese topics: Tiananmen Square, Tibet, Free Tibet, Dalai Lama, Taiwan, equality, democracy, dissident, revolution, freedom, justice, and finally, counter-revolution.

This was a small portion of the sites that China demanded Google block from its Google.cn search results. And for a wonder, the company whose only motto is "Don't be evil" acquiesced.

This is the China that broke Tibet in front of the world, and the world did nothing to stop it. This is the China of human rights abuses, from exporting deadly lead-painted toys and contaminated foodstuffs to outright torture of political prisoners.

This is the China that has thousands of so-called "political activists" locked away in dungeons without cause, and without basic rights like redress of grievances or even access to the legal system.

This is the China that tried to erect the "Great Firewall of China" in order to block its citizens from accessing certain "dangerous" sites on the Internet. Thankfully, even now Chinese hackers are finding their way around the filtering software and posting information on the terrible goings-on in Beijing.

Google gave into Politburo pressure and censored its own search engine. The U.S. Congress even had some pretty stiff words for Google, with the late Rep. Tom Lantos telling Google in February of 2006, "Instead of using [your] power and creativity to bring openness and free speech to China, [you] have caved in to Beijing's outrageous but predictable demands simply for the sake of profits," according to an

Andrew Seal

article on Eweek.com. Lantos ended his speech by saying: "Your abhorrent activities in China are a disgrace. I simply do not understand how your corporate leadership sleeps at night."

This was the norm for Google… until now.

After an attack on Google servers by what appeared to be Chinese hackers last week, Google announced that the kid gloves were off, and that they would stop censoring everything on the Google.cn search engine.

This means that by Chinese law, Google would no longer be able to do business in China, and would be forced to pack up its bags and leave, taking down Google.cn.

So. It appears as if the tech giant is finally standing up for itself.

But the looming question remains: Google didn't mind censoring itself for money as little as four years ago, so in the face of being forced to shut down a profitable Web site, will they cave again to Beijing?

I sure hope not.

Andrew Seal is Opinions Editor for The Current.

Check us out on the web.

TheCurrentOnline.com

HOTWIRE

▶ANDY PHIPPS
Science / Health Editor

Burger King to sell beer

If you thought skyrocketing rates of obesity linked to fast food consumption and the myriad health issues associated with both (heart disease, diabetes, et al.) were bad enough, get ready to add liver cirrhosis to that list.

Burger King announced this week that they would be opening a test store called the "Burger Bar" on Miami, Fla.'s South Beach. The location will serve up the customary Burger King fare, but with the option of getting a glass of cold suds with your meal in place of the traditional 24 oz. soda.

"Choking Games"

A study shows that childhood "choking games" more common than previously thought.

A study released this week by the Centers for Disease Control shows that many more adolescents than previously thought engage in so-called "choking games," in which they cut off their ability to breathe in order to become momentarily unconscious and feel a brief sensation of euphoria.

In the survey of 10,642 eighth-graders in Oregon, 30 percent of the sample group had heard of someone who had done it and 5.7 percent admitted that they actually had. Public health officials warned in their report about negative consequences of self-asphyxiation such as brain damage, neurological instability and death.

NASA introduces design for new flying suit

The National Space and Aeronautics Administration's Langley Research Center introduced a conceptual design that they are calling "Muffin," though it is hardly edible.

With a wingspan of 14.5 feet, with twin low-noise propellers run by electric motors and weighing in at 300 pounds without a pilot, the suit would serve as a self-contained flight module. A Muffin pilot would get the craft off of the ground by standing upright in the suit and piloting it upward like a helicopter. Muffin would then pitch over and be flown like an airplane, with the pilot lying on his or her stomach.

Hubble Telescope upgrades

Hubble Telescope upgrades will provide deeper glimpse into past.

Following their installation last summer, new optics and upgraded processing power in NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have allowed astronomers to look farther out into space and into the past to and observe remnants of light that were part of the Big Bang.

Among the objects observed are some of the oldest and most distant galaxies ever observed. Once-bright galaxies, in their prime some 600 to 800 million years ago and were 1/20 the size of our own Milky Way galaxy, show up in images as pinpoints of light. Astronomers familiar with the objects describe them as being early remnants of the seeds that formed larger galaxies like ours.

COURTESY OF NASA

EPA! EPA! EPA!

Senators challenge EPA over emissions regulations while UN calls for international action on climate change.

Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) and 35 other senators introduced a resolution to the Senate that would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing any regulations on greenhouse gas emissions. If passed, the resolution would restrict the EPA from being able to limit emissions under the Clean Air Act and levy fines against violators.

The United Nations also said this week that unless nations submit their proposals for reducing carbon emissions by a Jan. 31 deadline, the tentative agreement reached between world leaders in Copenhagen late last year would fail.

Opinions

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board:
Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Anna Marie Curran • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel
Anthony Padgett • Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal

The UM-St. Louis whatsit

For many universities, a mascot is a given—just part of the package deal. For students at University of Missouri-St. Louis, this was not the case until Thursday night at the annual "Pack the Stands" event. With great ceremony, the university revealed the identity of our new mascot. Most of the students were thrilled at the prospect of (finally) getting a mascot… and then were confused when a giant red lizard with suspicious resemblance to a hellbender burst out onto the court.

A hellbender, also known as a water-dog or a mud dog, among other names, is a salamander native to Missouri and known to live in the cool waters of Missouri streams. The hellbenders were a proposed candidate for UM-St. Louis' replacement to the Rivermen a few years back, when the university and students came to the decision that the Rivermen excluded the female population of UM-St. Louis. Nixed because of the word "hell" in its name, the hellbenders were banished from UM-St. Louis by queasy administrators concerned with the school's appearance. Now, however, it seems possible that the hellbenders have snuck back into the hallways, or at least the basketball courts, of UM-St. Louis as the new mascot.

While the hellbender seems a likely fit for the questionable species of the new mascot, many students had different theories, considering the mascot to have a closer likeness to a creature from Nintendo's "Pokemon" games, or perhaps a dragon or lizard. This response is unsurprising, especially considering the ambiguous appearance of the mascot. It seems like UM-St. Louis is becoming a university without a mascot that the student body can identify with, or even just identify.

The students of a university should be able to declare, without doubt, what their mascot is without question as to its species.

If a person looks at the mascot of most universities, it is easy to identify what the mascot is, species included. Why is it so impossible for UM-St. Louis to provide its students with a mascot who has a species they can at least recognize?

The creators of the UM-St. Louis new mascot, yet to be named, have said that the new mascot is the university's version of a triton. The Triton, a figure from ancient Greek mythology, seems to bear little resemblance to the university's creation. According to the ancient Greeks, the Triton was a merman sea-god who helped Poseidon rule over the sea with a conch-shell trumpet, and who could also be transformed into "tritones," which were satyr-like spirits that influenced people and events. Never did the Greeks mention anything about a Triton bearing resemblance to a lizard, Pokemon or a wingless dragon.

Overall, we are thrilled to have a new giant red mascot to parade down the courts at our basketball games (even if it does appear to belong on a Saturday morning cartoon or Sesame Street). We're just hoping that somebody fills us in soon on what it is. We'd like to have a defense when one of our rival schools starts chanting "The UMSL Pokemon" or "The fighting wingless dragons of UMSL" at the next away game.

PHIL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT

More money from corporations, more corruption in Congress

With this week's close decision by the Supreme Court to allow no-limit contributions from companies to politicians, an abrupt and unparalleled shift in the landscape of American politics and democracy in this country, has happened.

Arguments that this will be an advantage for middle-class American's to participate more easily in fundraising for their candidate, as made by Newt Ginrich, are simply without warrant.

This decision benefits only two groups of people; the special interest groups with deep pockets and the politicians they want to support.

Money and politics are not a good mixture.

Large sums of money breed corruption.

As Justice Kennedy wrote in the majority's opinion that "an independent expenditure is political speech," but must that include unlimited amounts from corporations? While Justice Kennedy's remark is true, giving organizations such as corporations and Unions the same right as a human being is making a too literal and unfounded interpretation of the Constitution.

This ruling will accomplish nothing more than to tip the balance, even more than it already is, towards those special interest groups with seemingly unlimited funds.

An unprecedented arms race of campaign donations will be unleashed for big businesses and the Unions they deal with. The victor in this new fundraising cold war will only be determined when their opponent can't afford to donate anymore.

This new era of unlimited donations will, sadly, further entrench the partisanship that is prevalent in Washington D.C.

Lobbyists for the larger special interests will be tripping over each other to get their clients' money to lawmakers inside the beltway.

So what does this mean for us? A skeptic would say that this ruling wouldn't actually change a thing.

Politicians have always shown that they are suspectical to the influence of organizations that donate heavily to them.

That obviously will never change; now the politicians will be making more money.

With all the talk in the Capitol about wanting to curb the extravagant bonuses to Wall Street executives, we at *The Current,* hope that these same lawmakers will keep this same fiscal restraint in mind for themselves. But it's these same lawmakers that stand to benefit the most out of this. So any new regulations that will put any substantial limit on contributions is unlikely to happen.

GUEST COMMENTARY

If you had the chance to save a life, would you?

If you had the chance to save a life, would you? For most of us, that may seem like an easy question to answer. The hard part can be recognizing when someone's life is in danger and then knowing how to respond—particularly if someone is thinking about suicide. We may hesitate because we don't want to say the wrong thing, we don't want to make the situation worse, or we may wonder if we've misinterpreted the other person's intentions.

But particularly on a college campus, the consequences of not helping can be devastating. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students. And it's estimated that 75% of people who attempt suicide give some signs of their intentions beforehand. These may include making references to death or suicide, expressing feelings of hopelessness, or giving away prized possessions. Those considering suicide may also show dramatic personality or behavior changes, lose interest in most activities, and/or express the belief that they have no options. Recognizing these warning signs in someone is an important first step in saving a life.

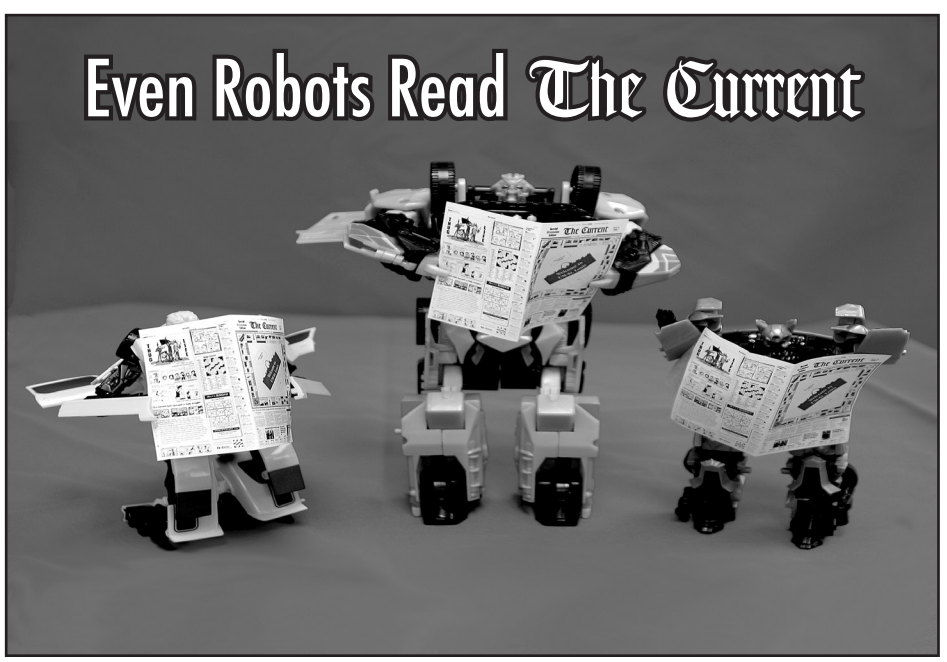
If a friend does show one or more of the warning signs, the next step is to ask directly if they've been thinking about suicide. It's important to know that doing so won't "give the person the idea." Chances are good that if you're concerned enough to ask about self-harm, the other person has already been thinking about it. And often, they may be relieved to have the chance to talk about it and glad that you cared enough to ask.

Once you discover that someone may be at risk of suicide, it's important to get them matched up with help as quickly as possible. One source of help on campus is Health, Wellness, & Counseling Services (131 MSC; 516-5711). Our counselors are trained to consult and assist in crisis situations. If you're concerned that someone may have already attempted suicide or may be about to do so, the University Police department (516-5155) is available 24/7 for emergency assistance.

There's a new website which has a lot more information about how to recognize and help someone who may be suicidal. At www.asklistenrefer.org/umsl, you can find a tutorial with practical suggestions for recognizing, listening to, and assisting persons in crisis. The information on the website is tailored to UM-St. Louis, and includes a number of helpful resources on campus and in the St. Louis community.

Remember—any of us can save a life. By taking the time to ask, listen, and refer, you could make all the difference for someone when they need help the most.

Jamie Linsin, Psy.D.
Psychologist and
Coordinator of Outreach
UMSL Health, Wellness, & Counseling Services



Where there's smoke, there's fire

Kevin Korinek

There is a line in Sofia Coppola's classic romance, "Lost in Translation," where the lay-about vixen Scarlett Johansson is chided by her photographer-boyfriend for smoking, saying, "It's so bad for you."

Well, he's right. We know that it is.

And she shrugs her response, which is probably one of the most honest and genuine responses ever articulated by a 20-something in a cinematic sequence: "I'll quit later."

Yes, those three little words. I'll. Quit. Later.

This is the phrase every smoker utters beneath their breath in their prime hours. The very notion that we can rebound from an intense junk fix at a time of our choosing, that we can become responsible citizens as soon as we're done enjoying cracking open that tall-boy every morning, that we can still go on building cars the way we want, that we don't have to recycle anything, and that we have all the time in the world to indulge in our vices before they destroy us completely.

It is the fallacy of youth, the voice of the inexperienced experiencer.

But time is a rough beast. For smokers, that time has been slouching toward UM-St. Louis and has officially arrived. "Later" has finally become "now."

Starting in Jan. 2010, UM-St. Louis will begin implementing regulations to become a "smoke-free" campus. Initially, smokers will be required to smoke 20 feet away from all building entrances. By 2014, the entire campus will be entirely smoke free. This is still a country for old men; they just can't smoke here.

I, personally, have only smoked for a few years and am currently locked in the Johansson phase of denial. However, I'm perplexed that some higher-up decided to make this issue one of necessity.

Granted, all freedoms must be observed, including our non-smoking brethren. The freedom, for example, to breathe clean air through the commons, or not to be blinded by a row of yellowed teeth parading through the hallways (although some of us could lose our addiction to coffee as well). But how is it that smoking has offended the students here? How does it endanger the lives of our faculty?

Smokers are already designated to smoke outside, where they can usually be seen huddled in groups, sending smoke signals to like-minded individuals. The smoke expunges from their darkened lungs, dances furiously into the air, and dissipates into pure memory. The campus stopped all smoking indoors in the early 90s and rightfully so. But smoking outside poses no serious threat to non-smokers.

Relax, UM-St. Louis board. Your children are safe. Why not try to protect us from serious evils: frat parties and popped-up collars on polo shirts, or Mariah Carey songs played on the student radio.

Cut us some slack. If you're going to take something away, at least replace it with something, like better food in The Nosh or cheaper text books. Or how about halting tuition increases or returning our gratuitous Metro passes?

You know, Obama is one of us. We know he sneaks out to the presidential limo for a quick fag on occasion. Would you force Barack Obama to smoke 20 feet away from all entrances? I don't think so. Don't make us write to him. He's our man-on-the-inside. Let us continue to smoke at our leisure, respectively, outdoors on campus. Give us liberty. Or give us cheaper tuition. And we'll decide to quit on our own; later.

Kevin Korinek is a staff writer at The Current.

Guess what?
Your ad could go in this paper!

SCIENCE MATTERS

Canada and Europe banned it; why won't we?

A chemical familiar to any molecular biology student has recently been in the news. The chemical is BPA, or bisphenol A. In the lab, bisphenol A was considered hazardous, a neurotoxin. It is a liquid used in preparing sequencing gels, but once the gel hardens it is considered safe to handle, although I always wondered about that when I was working in the lab.

A few years back, research on BPA started to turn up some potential health concerns, in part because the chemical is so pervasive. The safety of this chemical often used in some plastics was even the subject of a previous science column in *The Current.*

Based on the growing scientific evidence, Europe banned BPA and in 2008, the Canadians joined them in banning it, too. Last year, Minnesota banned it and four other states are considering similar action now, as is the U.S. Congress. The FDA has missed three deadlines to rule on its safety, although the National Toxicology Program, a government interagency program that conducts toxicological research, issued a report on it in 2008. That report said the substance raised "some concern for effects on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland in fetuses, infants and children at current human exposures." That may sound mild but "some concern" is actually the mid-point of their scale.

BPA is used in epoxy resins and to produce clear, hard plastic polycarbonate. It is found in the linings of canned goods, plastic baby bottles, water bottles and other food and beverage containers.

Although BPA has other uses, the food and beverage containers are of most concern.

BPA can leach into food and beverages, especially when the plastic is heated.

What does the science say about the risks? One reason for concern is that exposure to BPA is widespread. A 2003-2004 study by CDC "found detectable levels of BPA in 93% of 2517 urine samples from people six years and older," according to the National Institutes of Health website. Some studies in animals found effects in fetuses and newborns exposed to BPA.

Interestingly, BPA seems to be linked with many of the childhood health problems ascribed to other things, like vaccines. Some studies have even suggested links to childhood obesity and autism.

If other developed countries have already banned this chemical, why does our government seem reluctant? Isn't "better safe than sorry" reason enough to eliminate BPA from food containers?

The FDA seems to be weighing health risks against cost and inconvenience to the industry, but some companies are not waiting on the FDA. Sensing a public relations problem, if not lawsuits, down the road, some

Cate Marquis

companies are removing BPA from their products.

While the FDA mulls it over, you can take your own steps to avoid BPA. Since canned foods have liners with BPA, fresh or frozen foods are better.

You should never heat food in plastic. Glass containers are a safe alternative and you can store food in them too. Replace your plastic water bottle with a stainless steel one. For infants and small children, use glass bottles and a stainless steel sippy cup. Check toys for plastic type. The recycling numbers found on the bottom of different plastics can help. Items with BPA are marked number 7.

Some may take a "buyer beware" attitude, concluding that BPA might pose an "acceptable risk" to save industry a costly change, but "no proof it is dangerous" can exist along side "no proof it is safe," when data is lacking. While the FDA moves slowly, consumers beware, be informed and be proactive.

Cate Marquis is A&E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

If you know the news today, thank a journalist!

THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

We had known a lion; now we know a centerfold

Ted Kennedy was possibly the most accomplished of his three brothers.

As the raging liberal lion of the Senate, his 47-year career was a distinguished one that preserved the legacy of his family and carried it further than either of his late brothers could have ever dreamed. His life was the personification of civic responsibility and his devotion to public service set a standard to follow.

But after he faded away last year, after he was laid to rest at Arlington with Jack and Bobby, it became increasingly obvious that the examples these three giants of American politics set through their lives were being ignored.

This became obvious last week when Massachusetts voters went to the polls and elected Republican Scott Brown to replace Kennedy in the senate.

This puts the seat under Republican control for the first time in 57 years and comes as a shock after the state's overwhelming support of President Obama in the 2008 election.

The reason for this incredible political sea change can be seen in the numbers.

63 percent of voters in the special election said that they thought the country was heading in the wrong direction. This is incredibly telling as it means that, in a state that a little more than a year ago overwhelmingly voted for the most liberal member of the Senate to be president, people are now disillusioned with that president and the inability of a democratic congress to help him deliver his agenda.

The panicked democratic reaction to Brown's victory could not have been at all comforting to those voters. After losing their 60-vote supermajority in the Senate with his election, the immediate response was that the already-watered-down health care legislation was doomed. This reaction simply highlights what was wrong with it in the first place: Even though democrats hold an incredible majority in congress, they can not agree on what should be in the bill, let alone pass it.

This staggering indecision and infighting is what the voters in Massachusetts were fed up with when they went to the polls and elected Brown to the senate. And if the undercurrent of discontent can be so strong in what has traditionally been considered as a bastion of liberalism, then it can be safely assumed that the undercurrent runs much deeper elsewhere in this country.

But the unsaid problem is perhaps buried with the Kennedy brothers themselves, and the problem is the spirit missing behind this landmark legislation.

There is no inspiration to it, no push by anybody on the right or left that is truly seeking to do the right thing for the American people. There is just infighting and

Andy Phipps

political theater, an endless search for greater leverage over one another rather than an attempt at compromise, reconciliation and moving forward for the greater good of all Americans.

And until our elected leaders realize that this is not about them, but about all of us, this country will continue to head in the wrong direction. What the Kennedys taught us was that as elected officials, they had a sworn responsibility to do what was right for the American people.

But sadly, the Kennedy era is gone and buried. As much as his friends from both sides of the isle on Capitol Hill mourned and extolled him last fall, it is now glaringly obvious that they never got from him the simplest, most telling lesson he had to give: The direction of the country is an embarrassment, for sure, but they are the only people who can do anything about it.

And I hope they do.

Andy Phipps is Science/Health Editor and a columnist for The Current.

WE'RE ALWAYS THE FIRST ON THE SCENE!

(at UM-St. Louis)

(sometimes...)

Classifieds

Classified ads are **free** for students, faculty and staff. Other rates vary. To place an ad, please send your ad (40 words or less), your name, and student or employee number to thecurrent@umsl.edu, or call 516-5316.

100 ANNOUCEMENTS

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your announcements, including legal announcements, wedding announcements, lost & found items, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 to place your ad today!

200 TRANSPORTATION

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your transportation needs, including ads selling cars, trucks, vans, campers, boats, trailers, motorcycles and more. Call 314-516-5316 to place your ad today!

300 EMPLOYMENT

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your employment needs, including help wanted, sales positions, office positions, internships, child care wanted, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

400 FOR SALE

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your selling needs, including textbooks, clothes, pets, computers and much more! If you need to sell it, sell it here! Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

500 SERVICES

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for people advertising services, including home and lawn care, business services, roofing, siding, cleaning, tutoring, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad

600 RENTALS

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for people advertising services, including home and lawn care, business services, roofing, siding, cleaning, tutoring, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

700 MISCELLANEOUS

If you used Yaz or Yasmin Birth Control Pills between 2001 and the present time and developed blood clots or suffered a stroke or heart attack requiring hospitalization, you may be entitled to compensation. Call attorneys Anna Yakle & Charles Johnson, 1-800-535-5727

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for most anything at all. If your classified doesn't fit into the above categories, simply request an ad in the Miscellaneous Section. Some restrictions may apply. Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

ADVERTISEMENT

A Party Bus Is Coming to UMSL

I know, right!? Saint Louis transportation party bus is heading our way! The date is set for January 30th, 2010, that's THIS SATURDAY! Destination: The First Fire & Ice Chili Cook-off. The cook-off will be held at the Heart of Saint Charles Banquet Center, right HWY 70 and 5th Street. There is tons of chili to be eatin here folks, not to mention the three bands that are coming and surprise DJ and Dancers to bring the moves. Its going to get Crazy Fun!

Just by coming, you're eligible to win big prizes! Rumor has it, the ones that come early enough might just qualify to be one of the Famous 2010 Chili Judges. How awesome would be?! Now that you and your buddies are set on going you should probably know the times. The event starts at 11AM and goes to 4PM.

Ever want to see a Mayor in person? You're in luck, Mayor York will be at the event to kick it off, so don't be late!

The event is 12 Buck-A-Roos, but show your Flashy Student ID and get into this party for a measly 10 Bucks! Also, the budweiser horses will not be attending the event but they assured me they would drop off some very cold, delivate cargo for the inconvenience, and I sure hope they bring enough!

Lets recap here people! Party Bus Ride from School to the event, eat chili till the day is over, rock out to three live bands, see inspiring dancers, and party bus back = TOTAL AWESOMENESS. To get more information or purchase tickets to the event please visit: www.stlchili.com

GAS MASKS NOT INCLUDED

UMSL NORTH STATION
PARKING LOT
8298 Bellerive, Drive,
Normandy, MO 63121
10:45 AM to 4:30 PM
DRIVERS CELL PHONE:
314-537-2377

MIC, from page 11

The CAMP space, located at the Southeast corner of Cherokee and Minnesota, aside from holding worthwhile community events, now has a bike shop where volunteers repair neighborhood members' bikes free of charge.

The music was great and varied, as per usual at St. Louis open-mics. The fundraiser, however, was an even greater success. It was the organization's most profitable, taking in over $372 in donations.

"Mic the People, For the People" will be holding another fundraiser open-mic February 13 at Foam Coffee and Beer. It will be held in support of What's Up Magazine and The Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma and feature a performance by The Felons.

PAY SYSTEM, from page 3

"This shift away from paper-based reporting is anticipated to cost effectively streamline critical processes. Time and labor [reporting] reduces paper consumption and saves payroll processing time."

Supervisors also welcome the change in method. Jim Karslake, administrative associate in foreign language explained that it is much more "convenient."

"You can do your payroll from home. You can print your time sheet out from home. It makes processing the back ends easier, as far as for a student who's a time reporter" Karslake said. "Once you figure out the system, once you figure out how it works, it's fairly easy. I do paperwork all the time, and anything that cuts my workload down is all welcome."

Student employees, who generally tend to be more geared to electronics and technology, show positive reactions to inputting their time online.

"I prefer it that way," Krystle Morehouse, junior, theater and dance, said. "That way I know that my hours get in there, and then all my supervisor does is check that the hours are correct. It's easier to get into, and easier to find. I like things electronic, that way I know it gets done."

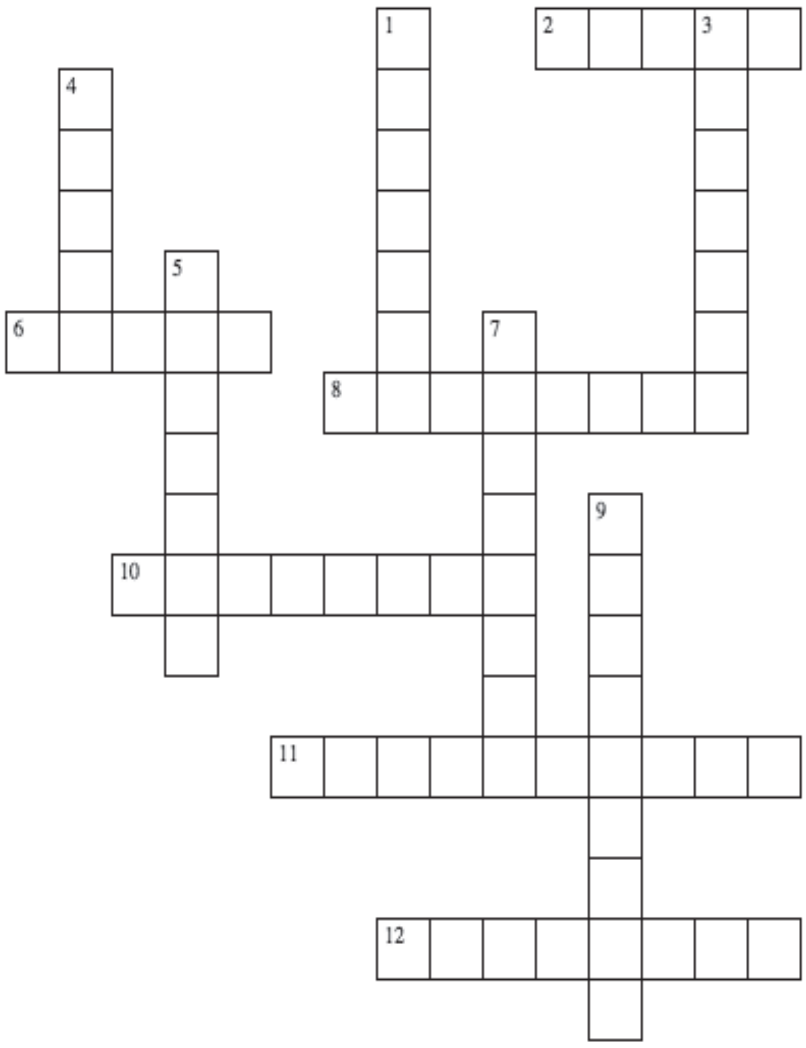
There are some disputes for online use, however. There are possible technical mishaps, such as site maintenance, computer glitches or confusion on site usage.

"It's actually quicker than just writing it down on the actual form, or whatnot," said Amber Armstrong, junior, biology. "But I do like that we did do the paper form of it because I like having a paper trail. Because I could like, keep track of it where I could visually see it. [You cannot do it online sometimes], cause it's down. That's the only problem that I have with that."

The time and labor method has been tested and will remain a step in the payroll process at UM-St. Louis long term.

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. Senator-elect who won this week's special election in Mass.
6. A major oil spill occurred on the coast of this state on Sunday.
8. Astronauts got this in space for the first time.
10. Island state that will be holding its first election since ending its decades-long civil war last year.
11. 16-year-old girl who'd been planning to circumnavigate the world alone.
12. He claimed responsibility for the attempted Christmas Day bombing.

DOWN

1. Talk show host whose last show (for now) was Friday.
3. 2009 was tied for being the second _____ on record.
4. McGraw-Hill and Hearst are in talks to provide content to this company's upcoming tablet computer.
5. This large retailer announced it will cut over 11,000 jobs.
7. Conformation hearings are ongoing for his reappointment to be Fed Chief.
9. Glaciers in this mountain range are not melting as quickly as previously reported.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★

(Medium)

Last week's answers

Last week's rating: Easy

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

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

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

This is a good week to make big decisions, as you're feeling especially alert and intuitive. Heed advice from friends and family, but in the end do what feels right for you.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Money will be a little tight at the beginning of the week, but by the middle any problems should have worked themselves out. This week will also find you drawing closer to a loved one.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The coming week will bring you lots of good luck as well as some deep insights into yourself, and at the end of the week you may find a little sparkle added to your love life.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

This week will provide plenty of time to kick back and relax, as a responsibility or other burden weighing on you is lifted. Celebrate now, because this weekend may be difficult.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 21)

Don't panic if you fall behind in your work this week, just focus on catching up as time allows. Things may seem bumpy now but life will even out very soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 - Sept. 23)

This week you'll be craving adventure, so go out on a limb with a creative project. You'll also find that friends will lend perspective to any financial issues you may be having.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

This may be a trying week for you, but once your work is done, you can spend all weekend playing. A friend may share some big news with you that calls for a celebration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Any plans you make will go smoothly this week, as will your efforts to catch up on work you've been neglecting. Reaching out to make new friends will help you find opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

You'll have a lot of opportunities to get ahead of the game this week. Definitely take them. Even if it seems like more work than you want, it will pay off pretty well in the end.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

Follow your intuition this week, and pay close attention to your dreams to better understand troubles you've been having or questions you need answers to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

A lively, creative week is in store for you. Spend time working on projects with friends and enjoying time together, but keep your plans flexible and be ready for anything.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

You've got a lot on your plate this week, and you may find it difficult to move ahead with anything. Cut out unnecessary plans and projects to make things a little simpler.

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the A's in the message, and so on. (Hint: F=B)

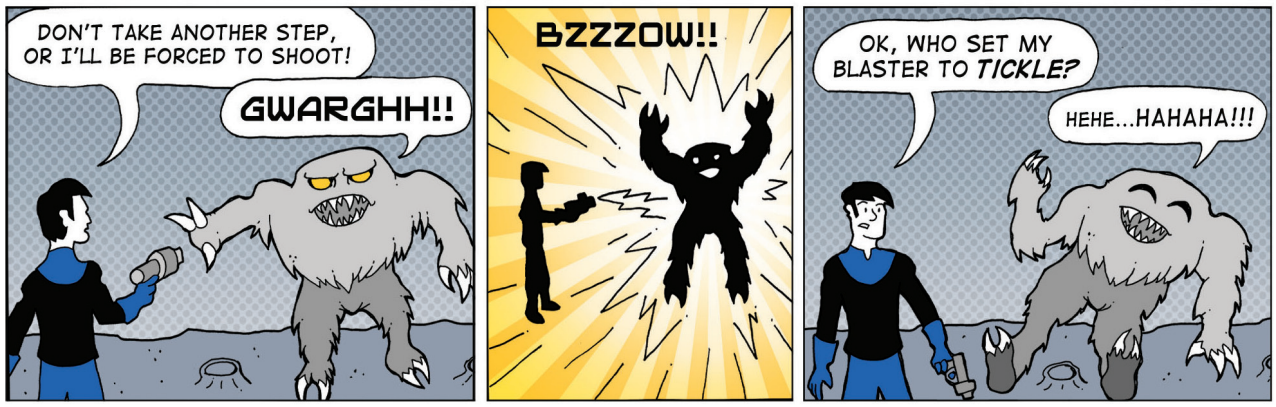
T'Z NIBZ RIMAKPEZ, T HITQM E KILGV,
EAH T AZ ABFBHW'S
JMAEKBI FLK WBLIJ.

The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current*'s office will receive a free Current T-shirt when we get more in.

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS

STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



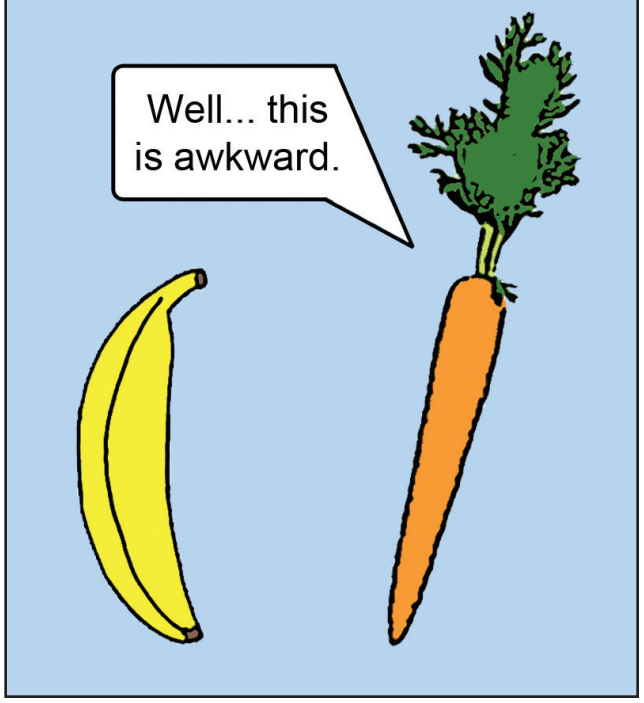
Awkward Abe
by Andy Phipps

1847: LINCOLN'S AFTERSCHOOL JOB

" For the last time, the quacamolito sauce is 50 Cents EXTRA!!!! "

YOUR COMIC HERE
thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu

Bananas #23 by Paul Maguire



[JUMP], from page 10

While Hunter Bell (Ben Nordstrom) wrestles with story ideas, with the aid of daydreams, Jeff Bowen (Benjamin Howes) mines old Broadway flops for ideas for music and lyrics.

To stage the play, they recruit a couple of actresses, Heidi Blickenstaff (Amy Justman), a Broadway chorus girl/understudy, and Susan Blackwell (Stephanie D'Abruzzo), a friend who is an ex-actress friend with an office job that eats up her time.

These four talk to each other, themselves, the audience, and sing and dance their creation as they create it.

Their musical is about two guys writing a musical in a tiny New York apartment, before a festival deadline, with the help of two actress friends.

Of course, the name of their new musical is [title of show]—because that is what it said on the festival's form. The authors of this production really are named Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen, and the play is the semi-biographical tale of their show. The story is the story of writing the play and getting it staged and beyond.

There is a kind of hall-of-mirrors, navel-gazing, inside-baseball aspect to this story-within-a-story, but what really makes it so funny is its sarcastic, silly, tongue-in-cheek playfulness.

The musical won a 2006 Obie Award Special Citation, a Broadway.com 2009 Audience Award for Favorite Ensemble Cast, and Hunter Bell, a Webster University alumnus, was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical.

The production of [title of show] has been extended to run through February 7 in the Rep's Studio performance space, in the lower level of the Loretto-Hilton Theater on the Webster University campus.

The Rep's website has information on prices for student tickets, discounted "rush" tickets and showtimes. **B+** *–Cate Marquis*

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. First-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

Monday, Jan. 25

Peer Academic Leaders (PALs) Orientation intended for Peer Academic Leaders, supplimental Instructors, and undergraduate tutors to prepare for their roles for the spring 2010 semester. Located in Center for Teaching & Learning, 519 Lucas Hall, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. For more information contact Carolyn Brown at 314-516-7131.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Workshop for Making a Smooth Transition Transfer students will be provided with the tools and knowledge necessary for a successful transition into UMSL as well as avoiding transfer shock. Students will be introduced to the campus community including academic, social, recreational, and professional development services. Located in 225 Millennium Student Center, Center for Student Success, from 1:00 PM to 1:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Celebration of the life of E. Desmond Lee A program celebrating Des Lee's life and many contributions to UMSL and the St. Louis community - from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the AB Hall - a reception will follow in the Grand Terrace Lobby. For more info contact Cindy at 314-516-5442.

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament One-night 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament with men's and women's divisions. Tournament champions win Campus Recreation t-shirts. Advance registration is necessary. Sign up in the Campus Recreation Office, 203MT. Entry deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 26. Located in Mark Twain Gym from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For more information contact Campus Recreation at 516-5326.

Campus Safety Walk The Student Government Association is hosting the first Campus Safety walk where students, administration, and faculty will walk in group and look for areas of improvement in lighting and grounds to make the campus safer. There will be hot chocolate served at the start of the event. Located in Museum Room in the Provincial House, on South Campus, from 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM. For more information contact Daniel at 314-516-7525.

Thursday, Jan. 28

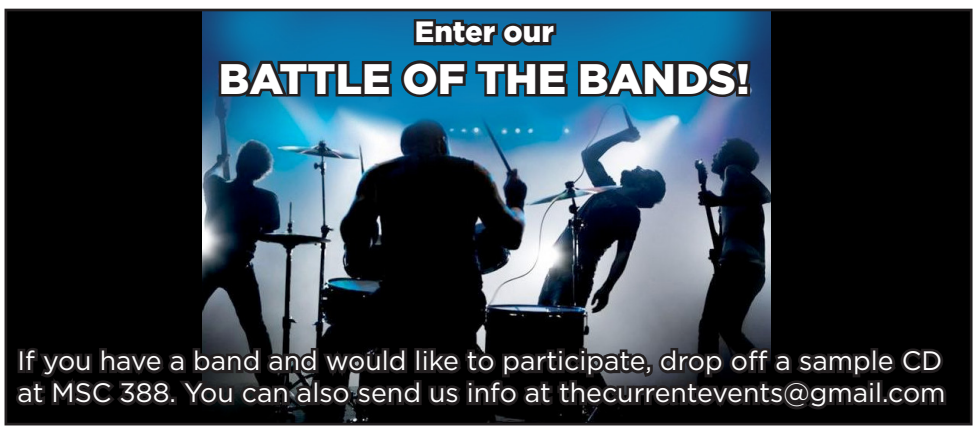
Online Courses: What you know might just get you an "A" This workshop is intended to give you a comprehensive look at online learning. We hope that it not only answers some questions about online courses, but that it also provides you with the academic tools necessary to succeed in this relatively new, and exciting, method of learning. Located in 225 Millennium Student Center, Center For Student Success, from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

The Insider: Interviewing Skills Workshop Discover interviewing success secrets from employers who make hiring decisions. This workshop features a representative from Enterprise. Registration required; visit https://fusion.umsl.edu/career/jobfair/select_date.cfm. Located in Career Services, 278 MSC, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For more info call 314-516-5111.

AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!
-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE The Current

MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

Gallery Visio's Art For AIDS special fundraiser exhibit features paintings and prints for sale by guest artists and students. 100% of all Gallery Visio's proceeds go to the Will Flores Fund, which assists children and families affected by the AIDS virus. The opening reception is Jan 21.



Read more event listings online at **www.thecurrentonline.com**