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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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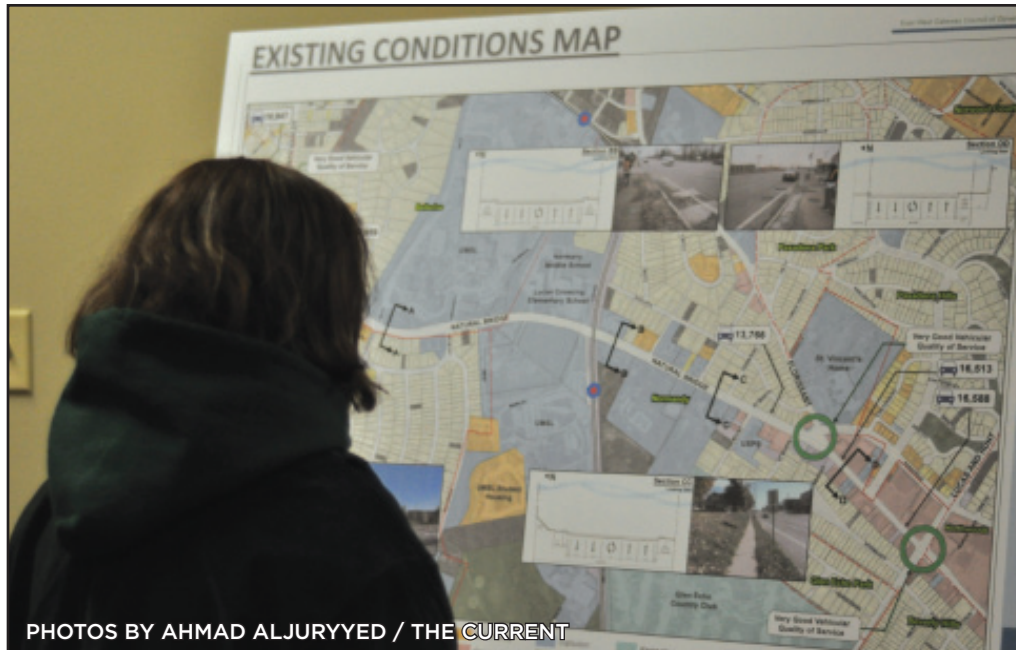
MARCH 15, 2010

VOL. 43;

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NATURAL BRIDGE RENOVATIONS

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO BENEFIT CAMPUS - BY SAMUEL ABRAHA



PHOTOS BY AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

When traveling on Natural Bridge Rd. from 170 to Lucas and Hunt Rd. it is easy to notice the lack of economic development and the unfriendly pedestrian atmosphere. Residents and community leaders have decided the worsening situation has to be fixed.

The East-West Gateway Council of Governments along with the Missouri Department of Transportation have teamed up to rejuvenate to Natural Bridge Road. The design phase got underway last Thursday, March 6, as part of a project titled the 'Great Streets Initiative.'

"The main goal of this meeting is to get feedback from the public as to the vision, the goals, and the objectives for the corridor that is Natural Bridge from 170 to Lucas and Hunt Road," Paul Wojciechowski, Project

Manager to the Natural Bridge Great Streets project, said.

Wojciechowski was the main speaker at the meeting held in the JC Penny building auditorium.

The meeting was attended by many local residents and stakeholders in the project. Also available were informational display boards each with its own topic related to the projects various plans.

"One of the principal goals of the project is to bring economic development to make it a more viable and active place," Wojciechowski said.

There are also plans to make Natural Bridge a multi roadway that could better accommodate pedestrians by installing jogging paths, bike lanes and making it easier for

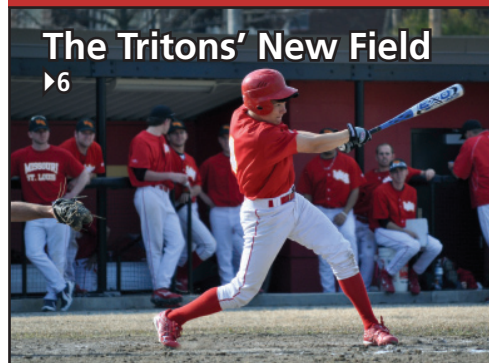
those who use transit or drive. Another aspect includes making the area more environmentally sustainable by greening up the corridor, planting trees and reducing litter, all with the vision of making the area more environment sensitive.

"The Natural Bridge Great Streets project will really be an asset for all communities along Natural bridge and Lucas and Hunt to 170," said Wojciechowski.

MORE ON PAGE 2

Paul Wojciechowski (Right), Project Manager at CH2M HILL, giving a speech about the Great Streets project.

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The Current
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1307

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FROM PAGE 1

“The University of Missouri St. Louis is a primary institution on the corridor and it will really open a lot of opportunities for students traveling either by foot, by bike, or by car on Natural Bridge,” Mary Grace Lewandowski, transportation planner for East-West Gateway, said.
Also present at the meeting were leaders of UM-St. Louis including the chancellor and assistant to the provost.

A couple of years ago UM-St. Louis submitted a grant to the East-West Gateway Council of Government who held a competition in which 40 communities participated each hoping to have their own selected for funding, only four streets were then chosen, Natural Bridge was one.
“The idea is to develop a campus town sort of like the ‘loop’, so it would be the beginning of activity that would

appeal to our students and our community, and we think that will give the campus a more vibrant student life and a better economic base,” Betty Van Uum, assistant to provost and public affairs and economic development said.
The total project cost is estimated to be \$12-\$16 million but none of the money will come from university funding says Van Uum. The funding instead will be drawn from transportation.

The War on Parking may continue on

► JESSICA KEIL
Editor in Chief

Although the “War on Parking” series was originally intended to be two parts, it is necessary to correct some misinformation in the top story last week. After *The Current* was released last week, James Krueger, vice chancellor for Managerial and Technological Services, and Curt Coonrod, vice provost for Student Affairs, noticed that Leo Gutierrez’s statements about the parking prices were incorrect. Gutierrez is the manager of Parking Operations, and he stated that Parking and Transportation does not set the price of parking at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. This is true. However, it is not the student curator who sets the prices, as Gutierrez said, according to Coonrod and Krueger.
“The parking fees are set by the chancellor; the student

curator has nothing to do with this,” Krueger said.
After correcting this, Krueger also took the time to respond to students’ concerns about the price of parking being too high.
“We understand that the student fee is high. I’m not going to discount that,” Krueger said.
Krueger explained that Parking and Transportation, like the Millennium Student Center or Residential Life, operates as an auxiliary enterprise.
Parking and Transportation does not set out to make a profit—though Krueger said it would not be inappropriate to do so—but instead sets an ultimate goal to “break even.”
According to Krueger, it can be more difficult to break even for the UM-St. Louis campus than for other campuses.
“For our campus, [break-

ing even] is somewhat more challenging because we own our own roads,” Krueger said.
Essentially, the money made from parking passes and tickets is used to maintain and build garages, surface parking lots and roads. More specifically, Krueger said that 40 percent of their revenue goes to pay for the most recent three “big garages.”
“Probably the largest expense in Parking and Transportation is what’s called ‘debt service’ on the bonds on the three big garages,” Krueger said. “When we built those three garages, we issued 30-year bonds. So over time, parking fees had to increase as we added each of those garages to help pay for the debt services on the garages.”
Krueger was not the only one who had something to say about parking. Coonrod commented on the idea of employing a flat parking rate at UM-St. Louis instead

of basing the price off credit hours.
“With a flat rate, some might be helped, and a lot might be hurt,” Coonrod said. “If you have a flat rate of, let’s say, 200 dollars, and someone’s taking 3 credit hours, a flat rate does not help them. Our average credit hour load is about 11 credit hours. If we were to do a flat rate fee, what would you use to determine that flat rate? If you use the average, there are students who would end up paying a lot more.”
According to Coonrod, it is doubtful that UM-St. Louis will charge a flat rate for parking any time soon, and according to Krueger, the parking fee itself (\$18 per credit hour) probably will not be decreased any time soon either.
And until something changes, *The Current* is not doing any more reporting on parking.



FILE PHOTO / THE CURRENT

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AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT
Dr. Ken Goldstein, a professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin, speaks about the 2010 election cycle.

Visiting expert says Democrats may lose seats

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
News Editor

The Democratic Party may see their majority in Congress diminished in the upcoming midterm election, according to Dr. Ken Goldstein, a political consultant for several television news organizations and professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Goldstein visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis last Wednesday to give a presentation about what to expect in this year's midterm elections. According to Goldstein, the Democrats, who currently enjoy a large majority in both houses of Congress, can expect to see losses in this year's midterm elections somewhere between what the majority party experienced in the 1982 and 1994 elections.

"It's clearly not going to be one of these years when one party wins a few, and the other party wins a few, and you sort of break even ... If it's a 1994, the democrats could lose the house... Or is

it a year like 1982, where the democrats have fairly significant losses, but have a pretty big cushion and they are able to weather those losses," Goldstein said.

The common outlier in midterm congressional elections is the absence of a presidential candidate. As a result, the balance of power in Congress is largely decided by elections fought out in individual districts all around the country.

"These are all going to be individual races decided by turnout, loyalty and independent votes. But national factors can have an effect," Goldstein said.

These national factors would be health care reform and the economy, and Goldstein already sees them as emerging factors that will make an impact on voters when they go to the polls to vote this November.

"Things are shaping up for there to be some pretty strong national forces in this midterm election year," Goldstein said.

Overall, Goldstein projected that the Democrats will lose approximately 30 seats in the House of Representatives and hang on to their majority in the Senate. He cited party identification, which has declined for democrats and increased for republicans as a factor along with an increase in independent voters, which according to Goldstein now make up four out of ten likely voters. In addition, recent special elections have shown that these independent voters are trending toward republican candidates. The presentation, which was sponsored by the Alumni Association and the UM-St. Louis political science department, was attended by students, alumni and professors.

Reaction to Goldstein's presentation was mixed.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the university, both the faculty and the students, to hear from someone like professor Goldstein, who is a national expert on campaigns and elections in the United

States. It's great to see events like this on campus," David Kimball, professor of political science at UM-St. Louis, said.

Others in attendance, while pleased that such an acclaimed and experienced expert as Goldstein would visit campus to give a presentation, disagreed with his outlook or were disappointed that he did not provide a greater depth of information.

"I don't think it's going to be as 'bad, doom and gloom' as he said, but then again I'm always optimistic and I always hope for the best. I just don't see it; I just don't see [democrats] winning big. But it's not going to be as bad as he said," Brad Miller, junior, political science, said.

"It was cool to have a star show up, but I sort of expected more ... For someone who is on TV all the time, who seems to be on the inside track, he didn't really know any more than what I hear on NPR," Laura Wiedlocher, doctoral student in political science, said.

Program provides affordable access to college for middle class students

► **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

A report by The Middle Class Task Force overseen by Vice President Joe Biden cites the University of Missouri-St. Louis as an example of how the Obama administration wants to make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable to the middle class.

Biden visited the campus last spring along with his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, a professor at a Virginia community college, Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan and other senior Missouri lawmakers.

"He had a chance to see everything that was going on here at UMSL with respect to access for the middle class,"

Thomas F. George, UM-St. Louis Chancellor, said.

UM-St. Louis hosts a variety of programs beneficial to the advancement of the middle class.

"We have four or five locations at community colleges at which students can take a four-year degree program through UMSL, while still attending their college," George said. "We plan to integrate a program with Southwestern Illinois College. We are working on a similar program with St. Louis Community College, to introduce nano-medicine courses."

"We also give scholarships to outstanding college students from community

colleges, which makes the transfer easier," Glen Cope, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said. "The program George mentioned at St. Louis Community College currently offers three majors equivalent to UMSL's. We are signing a new articulation program through our College of Nursing to make it possible to take their courses at St. Louis Community College."

All of these programs are meant to make post-secondary education both affordable. Another focus of the programs is to guarantee affordability is gained and quality is maintained.

"One of our philosophies at UMSL is that 20% of new

fees and tuition should instantly go into scholarship accounts," Curt Coonrod, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, said.

"This makes it easier to provide scholarships to students. The Advanced Credit Program, for instance, is a good way for students who are in high school to receive college credit at a reduced cost, get a flavor for college-level courses, and a jumpstart on their college career, by having college credits prior to graduating high school."

The program Coonrod spoke of functions by extending a hand to high schools around the state. At participating high schools, certain courses will be offered that

have optional fees.

Should students choose to pay the fees, their grades in these courses will be translated into credit hours at UM-St. Louis.

UM-St. Louis' efforts are recognized by students as well, who provided positive feedback on UM-St. Louis' operation and costs.

"On a scale of one to 10, I'd say UMSL is a seven on an affordability scale, 10 being the best," Kelsey Sloan, freshman, nursing, said. "I don't receive any scholarships, but then I didn't apply. I originally chose UMSL because I got a spot in the nursing program, and I loved the dorms, which are affordable as well."

"UMSL's better than a lot

of schools," Jacob Koniak, freshman, business administration, said. The quality of education is good for the price. I got a couple of Honors College scholarships, and a couple for minorities."

"I feel UMSL's cost is pretty moderate," Nathan Bowman, sophomore, psychology, said. "Educational quality here is astounding."

One thing I will say is that Financial Aid doesn't take into consideration whether parents will actually help when providing scholarships. The availability for non-need-based students is low."

With plans to expand their services, UM-St. Louis may continue to support the middle class for years to

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Riki Tanaka

UM-St. Louis has a very diverse faculty of professors.
What do you think of the diversity in our faculty?



Jino Abraham
Senior
International Business

"Diversity of our faculty helps students in a big way. It helps the students to know how teachers perceive things in a different way, as it varies from country to country."



Jason Hawkin
Sophomore
Art

"I feel the diversity of faculty at the school is great!"



Wei Yow Chua
Sophomore
International Business

"I think different diversity is kind of important for school. You see more diverse people on campus, you may know more different culture."

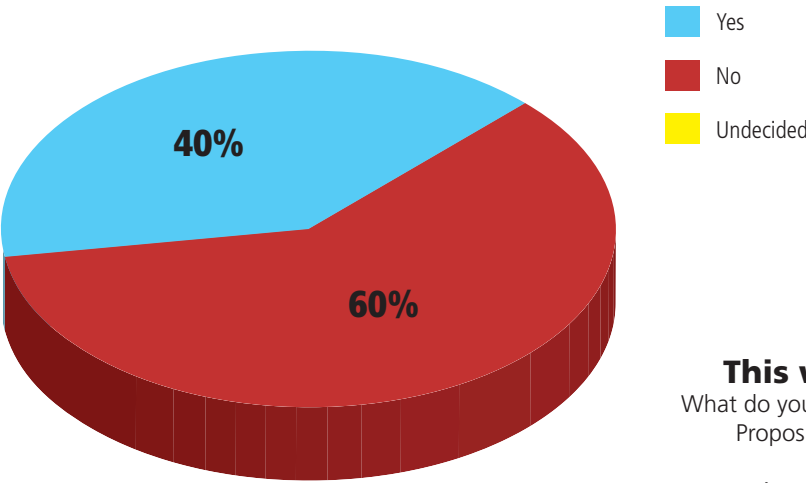


Meghan McCarthy
Junior
International Business

"I can only recall having had a few handful of teachers who were not caucasian, actually. As far as diversity goes, I feel that the more, the better!"

POLL

Should children of illegal immigrants be granted in-state tuition?



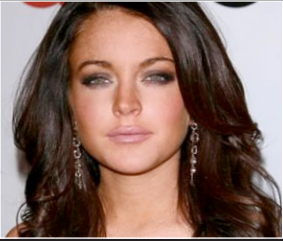
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VERBATIM


"I'd run a bath and fallen asleep on the floor and the bath had overflowed. When I woke up, I was so scared."
*-Linsey Lohan
on using the sleeping drug Ambien*






"My vice is to hang out with my friends and talk about absolutely nothing of importance whatsoever and act like a complete idiot because I've got to filter out a lot."
-Leonardo DiCaprio


"Ask anybody on the street which actors starred in the 'Ocean's' movies, and they'll tell you it was George and Brad."
*-Matt Damon
on Ocean's 11*





"I would like to thank the Academy for showing that it can be about the performance and not the politics."
*-Mo'Nique
on her Academy Award for Precious*

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OPENS NATIONWIDE MARCH 26

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OPENS NATIONWIDE MARCH 26TH

News at Noon discussion tackles race, employment, incarceration

► **CHRIS STEWART**
Staff Writer

At Wednesday's "News at Noon: Incarceration, Race and Employment," Beth Heubner, professor of criminology and criminal justice, got a chance to address a topic that she says keeps her up at night.

In 1987, there were between 500,000 and 600,000 Americans in prison.

Current national incarceration numbers are well above 2 million. A significant number of these prisoners will, at some point, return to society and seek employment, but study after study shows that

employers are wary of hiring a prospective employee who is an ex-convict. Such selective practices are even more common, according to studies, if the ex-convict is black.

The primary study source of this information is a shocking 2003 research piece published in the American Journal of Sociology.

According to that study's findings, a white applicant with a criminal record is more likely to get a call back than a black employee without a record.

"This topic got me into criminology," Heubner said. "This topic keeps me up at night."

The students, faculty, and alumni attending Wednesday's News at Noon seemed equally surprised to hear some of the statistics that Heubner quoted.

Chart after chart drilled home the point that America's relationship with her incarcerated has drastically changed over recent decades and seems to be out of control.

"We have more people in prison than the next 26 countries combined," Heubner said.

The round-table discussion format of News at Noon (the collaborative program series put on by *The Current*

and *The New York Times*) was more somber than in recent weeks.

Attendees interacted with Heubner, though the air was quieter than at other News at Noon engagements, some of which have seen fairly fiery debates arise.

Peggy Cohen, who is, among other things, director of University of Missouri-St. Louis' Center for Teaching and Learning, brought her perspective to the discussion.

"What are parents and educators doing, or not doing?" Cohen asked.

This led to the most animated discussion of the program as the eternal debate of

where the lines between poverty, education, and criminality are drawn, and whether they have any connection whatsoever.

In the end, regardless of any real, imagined, or provable causality, incarceration levels in the U.S. are off the charts.

In recent years, changes in sentencing have a lot to do with the reason why.

And Heubner is a self-proclaimed proponent of smarter sentencing.

"Your chances of going to prison for weapons or drugs has about quadrupled," Heubner said.

And if you are someone

who has fallen to these chances, been imprisoned and returned to society, things are harder for you than ever, as a poor job market means longstanding demons of racial discrimination.

All in all, the situation adds up to an unaddressed national issue—one among many that is likely to continue to fester.

Angenette Wallace, an alumna who attended this News at Noon and vocally participated, encapsulated much of the spirit of the discussion.

"It's like our dirty little secret in America," Wallace said.

Mental health program arrives at UMSL

► **MICHAEL FREDERICK**
Staff Writer

The number two cause of death among young people is suicide, according to the American Psychological Association.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Health Wellness and Counseling Services have started a new program called Ask, Listen, Refer to help identify students exhibiting harmful tendencies and prevent suicide.

"Ask, Listen, Refer is a statewide program developed through Missouri Foundation for Health to help educate campus communities to the suicide warning signs," James Linsin, Counseling Psychologist and Coordinator of Outreach Health, Wellness, and Counseling, said.

"The majority of people who commit suicide haven't been matched up with counseling," Linsin said. According to Linsin, two of the major suicidal signs among college and university students are academic failure and financial constraints towards education.

"With the economic cli-

mate and health care debate insurance companies often do not cover talking therapies," Dr. Angela Reiresen, and adolescent and childhood psychiatrist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, said. "Our clinic tries, if necessary, to combine talking therapies with drug therapies," Reiresen, said. "We understand at our clinic that these therapies are expensive, but we also work with parents and patients about payments." With a co-pay the average cost of a psychiatrist visit is \$75. With psychotherapy though, according to Dr. Reiresen, can be much more expensive because insurance companies often do not cover such talking therapies.

The UM-St. Louis Health and Wellness Center offers through the Ask, Listen, Refer, program and other programs free of charge to UM-St. Louis students. "The problem is, e-mails that are sent out are often deleted," Linsin said. "We're trying a lot of different ways to get the word out. I recently put on a presentation to Student Government Association and we're going to have a performance by the Campus Inter-

active Theatre Group about campus suicide."

Linsin also explained that Ask, Listen, Refer, is attempting to prevent suicide, violence and other issues on college campus, especially the stigma associated with suicide and depression. "This program is attempting to remove the stigmas associated with depression and suicide," Linsin said. James Linsin received his doctoral degree in psychology from the University of Tennessee- Knoxville. "Suicide and depression is an epidemic among young people. Many who feel hopeless think that it is the only answer," Linsin said. "This program attempts to curb stigmas of depression."

Some of the major signs of depression and suicidal thoughts or tendencies, according to Linsin and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, are giving away prized possessions, actions of self harm, and depression lasting more than two weeks.

According to Alan Byrd, UM-St. Louis Director of Admissions, there are no statistics on dropout rates relating to mental health issues.



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Sports



A home of our own *Tritons gallant return back to their roots*

4 Drew Standefer, freshman, nursing, tried to break through the game flow on Wednesday afternoon at the new UM-St. Louis Baseball field. UM-St. Louis lost against Missouri Western 13-3. The next game will be against Kentucky Wesleyan on Saturday afternoon. RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

► **ASHLEY ATKINS**
Staff Writer

On Wednesday afternoon, March 10, the Tritons baseball team hosted their first home game in five years at the new stadium located on the south campus, an opening that both fans and team have anxiously awaited.

It all started when Express Scripts bought about half of the land where the previous baseball field was located.

"In the negotiating process, someone dropped the ball when it came to the relocation of the University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball field, unfortunately this process took five years to fix," Jim Brady, University of Missouri-St. Louis head baseball coach, said.

The team was forced to await the building of a proper stadium, which was set to open in the spring of 2009, but due to weather problems and unapproved construction could not be used.

"We had severe drainage problems and the water was not draining off the field properly," Brady said.

This caused the water to settle in the perimeter of the grass area and around home plate. As a result, problems started to occur with the dirt, sand and top soil mix, causing the players to slip.

"We have a responsibility to our student athletes to put them in a safe environment and last spring the facility was not

completed to where it was safe," Lori Flanagan, UM-St. Louis athletics director, said. "Adjustments were made for the team and coaches to go off campus and play."

Some of these adjustments involved the use of the field at SIU-Edwardsville, the Gateway Grizzlies ballpark in Sauget, Ill., moving home games to the schools of UM-St. Louis' opponents and holding practices inside the Mark Twain Building.

"Not having a facility to practice in restricts the athlete's ability to reach his full potential," Brady said.

While the left over space from the old field was also an optional practice sight, it was agreed that the space was not of decent size for practice.

Eventually, on a sunny afternoon, the use of the stadium became reality. As the Tritons and their opponents, the Missouri Western Griffons, performed their warm-up drills on the field, their guests found themselves acquainted with their new surroundings at the first UM-St. Louis home game.

"The stadium seating is much better than community college stadiums," Kayla Schriefer, junior, psychology, said.

Kathleen Sullivan Brown, professor in the college of education, appreciated the convenience in the stadium's location.

"I am a faculty member and I can look right over here at the field," Brown said. "We were waiting for this for a long time."

It turns out this five-year wait for a home stadium has had

just as much of an impact on Triton fans as it has had on the team.

"I am dating one of the players so it is nice to not have to drive so far to see him," Anne Prenger, sophomore, nursing, said.

While the Tritons did not receive the outcome they wanted for their first game in the new home stadium, they still succeeded in the hearts of others.

Carolyn Jones, a UM-St. Louis alum and mother of Missouri Western player Nathan Jones, gave off nothing but positive energy towards the Tritons.

"I think their team has great potential and will have a good season this year, and I think that the new baseball field looks great," Jones said.

As for head coach Brady, the team as a whole is a success in how they have handled their setbacks.

"I give them all the credit in the world for persevering and trying to overcome the obstacles that they have attempted to hurdle," Brady said.

The Tritons baseball game Wednesday afternoon was more than just a game—it was a long awaited re-establishment of roots.

"There is no question, it has been a long time coming and I hope for it to be a re-birth of the winning tradition that we established when we had our own home field," Brady said. "Even in baseball, there is no place like home."

UM-St. Louis soccer teams add new recruits

Signings include several juco blue-chippers, all eligible to play next season

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis athletics department recently announced the signing of several new student-athletes for both its men's and women's soccer programs.

The Triton men, who went 9-7-2 in 2009, and made their first trip to the postseason since 2006, added seven new players to their program, while the UM-St. Louis women's team, which went 4-11-1 last year, added eight new players to its squad.

The seven men's players include four high school signees and three junior college transfers: Robbie Baird (Columbia Rock Bridge), Dennis Bayens (Rockwood Summit), Chad Haymart (Jefferson City), Doug Ruzicka (Parkway North), Almin Sabotic (Meramec CC), David Schwer (Lewis & Clark CC), and Gino Valenti (Lewis & Clark CC).

They have all signed official national letters of intent and will be eligible to play for UM-St. Louis next season.

"I am very excited about this group of individuals that we have signed and about bringing them to UMSL," Dan King, men's head coach said in a statement released by the department.

"They all represent what our coaching staff likes in a student-athlete and they all have the skills and talent to help take us to the next level in the Great Lakes Valley Conference."

Although each of the new signees seems capable of giving a tremendous lift to the program, the two blue chip signings in this class are the juco transfers Sabotic and Schwer. Both were named regional player of the year and second-team All-Americans during their juco careers.

Sabotic, who scored 13 goals as a freshman at Meramec, was the Region 16 Player of the Year and a second-team All-American last year, after scoring 15 goals and dishing out 10 assists for the Magic.

Schwer was the Region 24 Player of the Year and a second-team All-American, his freshman year at Lewis & Clark, after tallying 23 goals and 19 assists. Last year, he had 10 goals and nine assists for the Trailblazers.

The eight new student-athletes joining the UM-St. Louis women's soccer program next season include one Division-I transfer, three high school signees, and four community college transfers all from the same school.

The new signees are Kaylee Neutzling (Lewis & Clark CC), Kelly Muesenfechter (Lewis & Clark CC), Jessica Randazzo (Lewis & Clark CC), Bridget Belli (Lewis & Clark CC), Jaime Morton (Michigan), Lindsay Marciniak (Bayside), April Goodman (Plano), and Suzy Ryan (Hazelwood West).

The Muesenfechter name is well-known around UM-St. Louis soccer. Dad Dan was an All-American player for UM-St. Louis and is a member of the UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame. Brother Danny and sister Krisie are also former Triton

players.

But Kelly Muesenfechter brings her own standout reputation to campus next season. She was a NSCAA and NJCAA All-American her freshman year at Lewis & Clark, after scoring 35 goals and 21 assists for a team that won the NJCAA Division-I national championship in 2008.

"Kelly is the latest in a long-line of talented Muesenfechter soccer players at UMSL," Bobby Lessentine, women's head coach, said in another statement. "She is a hard-working, unselfish and very talented forward who makes those around her look better. I look forward to watching her continue her family legacy."

Her teammate that year, Nuetzling was even better though. She was twice selected NSCAA National Player of the Year and twice selected to both the NSCAA and NJCAA All-American teams after leading Lewis & Clark in scoring both her freshman and sophomore years.

Nuetzling, who attended Edwardsville High, finished her community college career with 85 goals and 24 assists in just 44 games.

"Kaylee is a highly decorated forward, who has a knack for scoring goals," Lessentine said. "She should step in right away and make a very positive influence on the scoreboard for us this fall."

The 2010 UM-St. Louis men's and women's soccer seasons will begin in August.

Third time is not the charm

For the third straight year no UMSL basketball players on the All-Conference Team

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The Great Lakes Valley Conference recently announced its 2009-2010 men's and women's basketball all-conference teams, and for the third straight year no University of Missouri-St. Louis player was picked for either team.

The players chosen for the men's All-GLVC team include first team selections Jamar Smith (Southern Indiana), Billy Baptist (Quincy), Aaron Hill (Rockhurst), David Palmer (Northern Kentucky) and Desmond Stephens (Kentucky Wesleyan).

Smith was also named the league's Men's Player of the Year after leading his team to a 24-3 record and leading the league in scoring and three-point shooting. Smith's name has also been mentioned among pro scouts as a player that might get picked in this June's NBA Draft.

On the women's side, first team All-GLVC members include Samantha Meissel (Indianapolis), Jessica Canary (Indianapolis), Lindsay Ballweg (Drury), Casse Morgan (Northern Kentucky) and Jennifer Turpel (Lewis).

Meissel was the choice for Women's Player of the Year after leading her team to a 29-3 regular season record. She also led the GLVC in scoring this season.

The GLVC also selected a five-member all-conference second team, and a 10-member honorable mention team for both the men's and women's leagues. Among the 20 male and 20 female players chosen for all-conference honors this season, none came from UM-St. Louis.

The last UM-St. Louis player to be named to the all-GLVC squad was men's player Brett Ledbetter in 2007 who was picked as an honorable mention. Jennifer Martin, a second-team selection in 2006, was the last UM-St. Louis women's player picked for the all-conference team.

This year, final vote totals were not released, but there were several Triton players it seemed that should have at least received consideration. On the men's side, guard Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, business, led the Tritons in scoring and ranked 13th in the league, at 14.9 points/game. He also ranked fifth in the league at 4.7 assists per game.

One aspect of his game that may have kept Beasley from earning all-conference honors was his shooting percentage. He finished the year as a 38 percent shooter from the floor, the lowest among starting point guards in the league and a far cry from the near 55 percent he shot in UM-St. Louis' first 10 games of the year.

For the women, forward Hailee Deckard, sophomore, secondary education, battled injuries all season, but still managed to lead UM-St. Louis in scoring and rebounding with 11.4 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

It was the injuries though to her back and knee that appeared to keep Deckard from putting up the type of numbers she seemed destined for at the beginning of the season—numbers that would have certainly earned her an all-conference slot.

Fellow Triton guard Kristi White, senior, accounting, who played her last game when UM-St. Louis lost to Indianapolis in the second round of the GLVC Championship Tournament, was another player who could have received all-conference consideration.

White was second on the team in scoring at 10.9 points per game and finished her career as a Triton as the school's all-time leader in three-point shooting percentage, while ranking fifth in all-time three-pointers made and sixth in all-time assists.

Zupan tells tale of tragedy and triumph

With hard work there are no boundaries to disability

► **ASHLEY ATKINS**
Staff Writer

The Oscar nominated documentary "Murderball" follows the U.S. Quad rugby team from the 2002 Paralympic games in Sweden to the 2004 games in Athens, giving an inside look at the players lives. Last Thursday, University of Missouri-St. Louis students gathered in the Millennium Student Center to sit in on a conversation with 2008 U.S. team Gold Paralympian, and documentary star Mark Zupan, who has been living as a quadriplegic for 17 years.

The crowd in attendance was present for various reasons. For one audience member, the film had inspired him to pick up the sport. "Right after I got hurt, I saw the film and I checked out a team in St. Louis," Mike Schamburg, graduate, criminal justice, said.

Another guest was present for an educational purpose. "I am actually not familiar with him at all, but I am in a class right now where it is a requirement to go out into the community and go to events that involve the special need," Olivia Monroe, sophomore, elementary, said. "One of my uncles does wheelchair basketball, so this is interesting."

Without hesitation, Zupan humored the audience with his dilemma in clothing choice. Apparently, he honored our crowd by wearing pants as oppose to his usual pair of shorts.

He began telling the audience of October 14, 1993, the day that changed his life forever. After his soccer team had just won a game in South Florida, he and his friend went to a bar to celebrate. Intoxicated, his friend drove off in his pick up truck with Zu-

pan lying in the back, got in a collision, and Zupan's body was flung into a canal where he clung to a branch paralyzed for around 13 hours. The man who found him could only see the top of his head and arm.

"Imagine being 18 and having the burden of breaking your friend's neck," Zupan said.

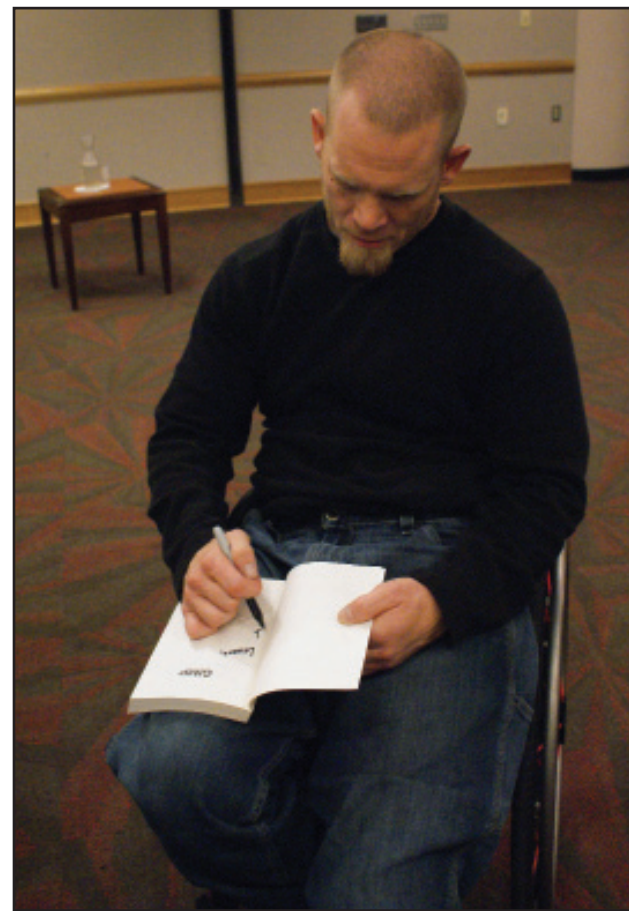
He reflected back to his time in the hospital: sponge baths with his male nurse, his first day out in a wheelchair on Halloween with cat woman, and the man at Gap who thought he was pretending. He believed that after three months in rehab, the worst day was coming out of rehab. For him, traveling was no longer from point A to B.

When he enrolled in Georgia Tech for engineering is when he got involved with rugby. He became a part of the U.S team in 1997. Even-

tually, the creators of "Murderball" found their team; the film succeeded at Sundance and turned them into celebrities

When asked about future plans after Rugby, which may be coming up soon, he already had a plan in action. "I will be working on making 'Zupan Can,' a good television show," he said. "Zupan Can" is a television show he is working on with MTV.

Till this day, Zupan has no regrets about his injury because he believes that it, along with his family's support, is what made him the man he is today. If the incident never happened he would have never gone to the Olympics, attended the Academy Awards, or met the celebrities that he has. His advice to the younger generation living with impairment: "Dream big, follow your dreams. Do not let anyone keep you from



JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

On Thursday, Mark Zupan, the star of the documentary "Murderball," spoke to students in the MSC Century Rooms at 7 p.m.

doing your dream."

Zupan closed the event conversing among the stu-

dents and signing autographs.

He really was just an ordinary guy, with an amazing story.

Supporting those who supported the country

Student Life soon to welcome veterans organization

► **JEN O' HARA**
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis currently has over 120 clubs and organizations in its domain. They are about to open their little 120+ club family to one more.

The university plans on instituting an organization based around and for the veterans of the school. The idea began with Anna Beck and Benjamin Miller, who wanted to create the club to recognize and give social support to veterans that attend UM-St. Louis. Both had served in the U.S. Army for four and six years, respectively. They started the idea separately, but merged together as a team to complement what each had started.

"Basically, what we're trying to do is have a social network of veterans that served in com-

bat arms. Basically, just get together because we all have a shared common bond," Beck, senior, business administration, said.

Another goal of the club involves altruistic affairs.

"Mainly, the reason I wanted to start this organization was also to give back to the organizations like the USO (United Service Organization), Veterans Foreign War American Legion, and possibly the VA," Miller, sophomore, secondary education, said.

The Veterans Student Organization (VSO) already has plans for the future, including a trivia night fundraiser at Hot Shots where the proceeds of the event will be donated to the USO. The club also has set some short and long term goals.

"Short term, each semester, we do want to

give back to the community, like, you know, with the USO trivia night, and do another couple fundraisers possibly. We do want to do stuff with UMSL, you know, with the Relay for Life and Mirthday and stuff like that," Beck said.

"Long term, we do want to have, like Miz-zou, from what I understand, they have their own veterans building for all veterans. They have this program set up where as soon as you enroll in school and you're a veteran [you are taken care of]. That's what we'd like to do, but you know getting everything started this semester, it's still hazy on that," Beck said.

Although the organization is not authorized quite yet, unofficial meetings have taken place for the past month and a half. The group now has a total of 34 members, with an aver-

age ranging from 10-15 that attend meetings regularly. A diverse range of the military are involved, including that of rangers, 82nd Airborne, and Army Special Operations.

The VSO already encompasses a cabinet, including Beck as the president and Miller as vice-president. Also on the board are Joseph Gomez, SGA correspondent, Jason Mazdra, treasurer, and Jeff Aiken, secretary.

"I think it's a pretty unique idea," Jessie Bridges, administrative associate, criminology department, said. "I actually think there should be something extra special when you see a veteran, if you're on campus going through services and you're in line, I think we need to stop and say 'Hey, you. Come up here, we can take care of you' because they take care of us, let us take care of you."



2010 CHINA NIGHT

Dancer Meng-Meng Zhao, Pi Pa played by Xiao-Yi Wang, Zheng played by Si-Yuan Li, Xiao played by Chi Chen and the piano played by Hong-Yun Liu, perform during China Night on Friday.

A Folk dance performed by Qian Yang, Ying Chen, Min Mai, Si-Yuan Li, during the 2010 China Night at the JC Penny building on Friday.

Folk D

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Love beyond the grave

Ballet—that most poised and particular of art forms—depends entirely on the story that it is matched with. With the right narrative, ballet can walk the fine line between the moving and the melodramatic, tempering all of its content with the necessarily surreal nature of the art. “Giselle,” a haunting (pun intended) German ballet, opened at The Touhill Performing Arts center Saturday night, and was performed by The Alexandra Ballet company.

“Giselle” takes place in a small village and focuses on a story of betrayal, lost innocence and love beyond the grave. The story is split neatly into two acts: the first in the realm of reality (or as close as ballet gets) and the second in a spiritually blended landscape.

Though there are only two sets, their atmosphere and detail are crucial to establishing the tone of the production. Onstage in the Anheuser-Busch auditorium, the

Alexandra Ballet’s sets were splendid, from the first act’s florid, watercolor-like, bright-sky village setting, to the second act’s ghostly graveyard, complete with craggy trees and graves.

“Giselle” follows the tragic story of its titular heroine and the men who seek her affection, all while her village celebrates her impending crowning as Harvest Queen. Shorter, intimate duet pieces brought levity to the dark story as Giselle and her lover Albrecht flirted, pantomiming the tentative, shy, endearing routines of young love.

These pieces contrasted with slower celebratory dances involving the entire village and its harvest rituals. As tensions between Giselle, Albrecht, other potential suitors and a smattering of royal intrigue build, the young girl’s weak physical nature is overwhelmed and the first act concludes with her tragic death.

This opening act crescendoed to a spectacularly melo-

dramatic finale, executed by the Alexandra’s principal players with bravura and soul.

Ballet is, of course, an art of the body, and faces are taken for granted, but in scenes like the end of “Giselle’s” first act, they are absolutely critical. The excellent work by the Alexandra Ballet’s leads imbued these thrilling, swirling moments with true emotion.

Such emotional investment was more and more important as the story shifted into its ghostly second act, in which Albrecht and Giselle fought to be together even as she was inducted into the “Wilis,” banshee-like spirits of girls who died before their marriage and now seek vengeance on young men.

The sharp transition into this territory subconsciously sinks the audience deeper into the eerie love story, performed with virginal sensuality and artistic perfection. **A-**—Chris Stewart

Alexandra Ballet presents “Giselle” at the Touhill on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

LEANNA BALES / THE CURRENT

Jonsí says ‘Go’

Sigur Ros’ last album finally saw the Icelandic band sing a bit in English. The title of the song in question, “All Alright,” was even steeped in American colloquialism. This was a development that catapulted the band into more commercial recognition, but also appalled fans of the band’s singer Jonsí Birgisson’s patented whale song vocal style, which until that point had been sung exclusively in the gibberish language “hope-landish.”

Realistically, of course, the album should not have been that divisive. Jonsí’s vocals were still, as always, merely textural additions to the soaring strings and bright sound that Sigur Ros had cultivated. Additionally, regardless of what

language they are sung in, ephemeral vocals will probably never cross into the mainstream. There was little to no stylistic change, aside from making the vocal tracks more accessible to an English-speaking audience.

However, Jonsí’s solo record “Go” (due for release April 5) is a continuation of this English and commercial accessibility, and some critics of these matters might decide that the singer’s selling-out process has come full-circle. This would be stupid. The Talking Heads put out a lot of great music once they steered themselves in a more dance-rock direction. More recently, Against Me! put out a masterpiece of well-produced punk with their 2007 release, “New Wave.” Of course, Sigur Ros was never really lo-fi. In fact, their music was melodramatic, achieving spectacular heights of produc-

tion value. So the question is whether or not the English vocals add anything to the music.

The English in “Go” just seems to confirm the suspicion that has existed about Sigur Ros all along. The lyrics, when distinguishable, are supremely melodramatic additions to supremely melodramatic music. “Boy Lilikoi,” the album’s pre-release track, proudly proclaims “use your life, the world goes and flutters by.” Other songs tend to recall or pine for a more open and ideal existence as well. As far as selling out is concerned, the more prominent percussion on this record as compared to other Sigur Ros albums would probably be a more appropriate starting point for discussion than the understandable vocals.

See JONSÍ, page 17

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

Alice in Wonderland. Tim “Never quite as good as I could be” Burton finally got his hands on Alice “Never quite adapted for film as well as I could be” in Wonderland. The result? Florid, transportative and ends with an unnecessary bang. **B-**—Chris Stewart.

She’s Out Of My League. Romantic comedy revolving around an average-looking slacker serendipitously ending up with a fragrant centerfold. Jean-Luc Godard once said that the history of film is the history of boys photographing girls. Somehow it has morphed into “boys photographing hot girls getting with average boys like them.” If Freud weren’t on a secret Rainbow Island with Jimmy Hoffa, Amelia Earhart and Elvis, he would be rolling in his grave. **C-**—Chris Stewart.

Touhill uses its illusion(ist)

There are certain professions that people take for granted. Whether you call them magicians, illusionists, mentalists, mystifiers or charlatans, those who pursue the professional art and discipline of illusion are often brought up only as the butt of jokes or in whimsical reference. Mike Super, winner of NBC's 2007 series "Phenomenon," recalled a memory from elementary school while warming up the Touhill audience for another illusion on Saturday.

"My teacher was asking everybody what they want to be when they grow up, and I said 'magician,' to which she replied, 'Mike, that's not a real job,'" Super said. If another boy could be an astronaut, the young Super wondered, why couldn't he be a magician?

It was Super's mother who assured him that he could be a magician if he wanted to. He ended the show with a poignant tribute to his mother, a moment that capped a night which had deftly moved from thrillingly theatrical to pointedly funny. For the most part, this unexpected infusion of humor into a magic show was effective. However, Super,

while personable and charming, wisely knows that his true forte is illusion. And this skill, which led Super to defeat nine other forerunners in the world of mystifying in front of judges Criss Angel and Uri Geller, was on full and incredible display at Super's Touhill performance.

The current information and image-saturated generation is rarely awed. With bite-sized video clips of every wonder imaginable at its finger tips, this generation is rather numb to the age-old art of magic. Yet even the most hardened, seen-it-all skeptic would be amazed at the sights that Super unveiled on stage in the splendid Anheuser-Busch auditorium.

Timeless magic staples were on full display: audience volunteers were made to float, put in impossibly small boxes, and run through with swords. But Super also brought his own flavor to the field. Among his personally created routines was a particularly impressive "voodoo" riff, in which Super made a blindfolded volunteer "feel" what he did to a doll from a distance, even revealing ashy burn marks on their hands after he sets the doll's



COURTESY OF MIKE SUPER

hands alight.

It is incredible stuff that simultaneously stimulates our desire to be amazed by miracles and also to figure out the secret behind these illusions. Short of the physical experience of the show, it is hard to communicate the spectacle. Super took great pains to show every angle of every prop. He struck swords on the ground so the audience could hear their steel and see their solid dimensions. He spun around the board the volunteer would levitate on. And while she was floating, he ran his hands under and around the platform she floated

on to show that there is nothing propping it up or suspending it from the ceiling. The overall effect was one that disarmed and enchanted.

The set was simple but colorful. Playful and bombastic musical choices added a dramatic but still tongue-in-cheek layer to the performance.

Super himself constantly walked the line of reassuring the audience that illusions were only that, while displaying a passion for pulling off tricks that seemed like they could not possibly be anything but real. **B**—Chris Stewart

Black Water Rising self-titled album offers MySpace metal

At first glance, the artwork on the front of Black Water Rising's self-titled debut album looks dark and ominous.

In the center is the skull of a bull of some sort, with long horns, long hair, cables and motorcycle exhaust pipes all bursting out of the sides of it.

At the top of the snout, between the eyes of the skull, rages a fire that burns from blue at the bottom to yellow and orange at the top, nearly leaping off the case.

Black Water Rising is a four-piece band that hails from Brooklyn, N.Y. Upon first listening to the album, the listener immediately realizes that these guys can rock, hard. Which makes sense, considering their MySpace page indicates their genre of music to be hard rock and metal.

The songwriting in the band is very much politically oriented and also draws images of issues with society. Producer, guitarist, vocalist, chief songwriter and band leader

Rob Traynor delivers his vocals very raw and with a ton of angst. However, he often comes off sounding like another version of Chad Krueger from Nickelback. Highlights include the songs "Brother Go On" and "The River."

Lyrics like "Just a number and slave, from the womb to the grave" convey the message the group is delivering about the government. The group is not necessarily anti-establishment, just against the establishment America currently promotes.

An example comes from the song, "Brother Go On," whose lyrics read, "See the man with the current plan, well he don't understand the working man. He will claim he can feel your pain and he will promise gain but he's the only one gaining. I think it's time to dispose of the leaders we've chose[n], seems the enemy lies within."

The guitars generally deliver powerful, heavy riffs that lead into bursting, light-speed solos from both guitarists, Johnny Fattoruso

and Traynor. The guitar licks are metal in nature but have heavy laden roots in the grunge world, feeling very reminiscent of bands such as Alice in Chains. The guitarists seem to blend the styles together with ease, with highlights being "No Halos" and "Rise."

The bass is rather quiet and overshadowed by the heavy guitars, but can still be felt very well. Oddie McLaughlin, bassist, and Mike Meselsohn, drummer, form the rhythm section and provide some pretty hard-hitting grooves as the basis for many of the songs, the best of which being the opening track, "The Mirror."

The album is well worth the price if one is a fan of grunge, hard rock or American metal.

Compared to most of today's mainstream music, it is a relieving spark of ingenuity, an old sound with a new polish.

However, it does drag on a little at times and some of the songs start to sound alike after a few listens. **C+**—Patrick W. Canoy

What are you listening to right now?
Send us a tweet: @umslcurrent

SWEET JAMS

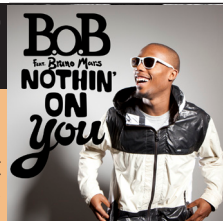
This week's top 5 iTunes downloads as reviewed by The Current's Chris Stewart

1 'Break Your Heart' Taio Cruz



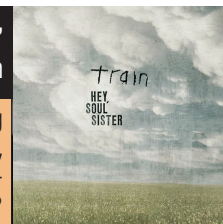
From the music video I gather that Mr. Cruz's life involves much more yachting with scantily-clad women than mine. By, like, 100%. As such, I feel unqualified to remark on his song, other than to say that I've already forgotten it.

2 'Nothin' on you' B. O. B.



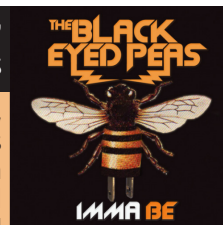
A good song. Simple and layed on a wide, smash-pan beat that reminds of how cluttered and busy recent hits in the genre have been. B.O.B., as a rapper, has a crisp, playful drawl, if not the most creative wordplay. It's catchy stuff and, at the end of the day, a sweet love song.

3 'Hey, Soul Sister' Train



Shouldn't this song be retired to use in, say, laundry detergent commercials? Mother winkingly frowns at playful children's muddy clothes before they all wash them to the upbeat, family-friendly sounds of Train?

4 'Imma Be' Black Eyed Peas



"Hey Fergie." "Yeah, Will.I.Am? What's Up?" "Not much Fergie. I don't feel like writing. Could we maybe just loop something, like, 800 times and sell that?" "Sure Will.I.Am. Let me just check with...that other guy that's in our band." That's how it happened. Promise.

5 'Need You Now' Lady Antebellum



Antebellum is a lovely word. "Pre-war" if you just break it down to the Greek roots. Also, on a totally unconnected note, no band should be legally allowed to be less interesting than the etymological origin of their name. Call the president of music and let's do this.

The Wonder Years leave nothing to wonder about

The Wonder Years is more than just a TV show, it is a band that is bringing life to a scene that most think is quickly dying off. With the release of The Wonder Years' latest album, "The Upsides," power pop is far being six feet under.

Released on Jan. 26, "The Upsides" sold over 1852 units in its first week and landed at No. 4 on the Billboard charts.

Mixing the musicality of Hit the Lights and the vocal abilities of Fireworks, The Wonder Years is the perfect combination of power pop and power punk that will have anyone dancing their butt off for the rest of the year.

But it surpasses the power pop/punk genre by far.

Love ballads, breakdowns and even ukuleles can all be

found on "The Upsides." Looking for a soundtrack to the last semester of school? "The Upsides" has it with "My Last Semester."

Looking for the perfect summer song? "The Upsides" has it with "Logan Circle." Looking for cameos of other singers?

"The Upsides" has it with "All My Friends Are In Bar Bands."

Every single song on this album is amazing.

There is not a single one that needs to be skipped. Sarcastic lyrics, excellent musicianship, repeating elements and a maturing sound all make this album possibly the best thing that had come out in a long, long time.

Being the sophomore album of The Wonder Years, there is no slump with this

full-length album. The 12 songs will leave you tapping your feet and bobbing your head.

For a quick overview of the CD, try "Logan Circle," "Everything I Own Fits In This Backpack" and "Hey Thanks." The perfect song to bring in the spring, "Logan Circle" is fast paced and uplifting.

The song is based off of a fountain being turned on. While, for some reason, no one in the band can fully pronounce the word "fountain" ("foun-ain" is said almost 20 times throughout the song) it is definitely the strongest on the entire album.

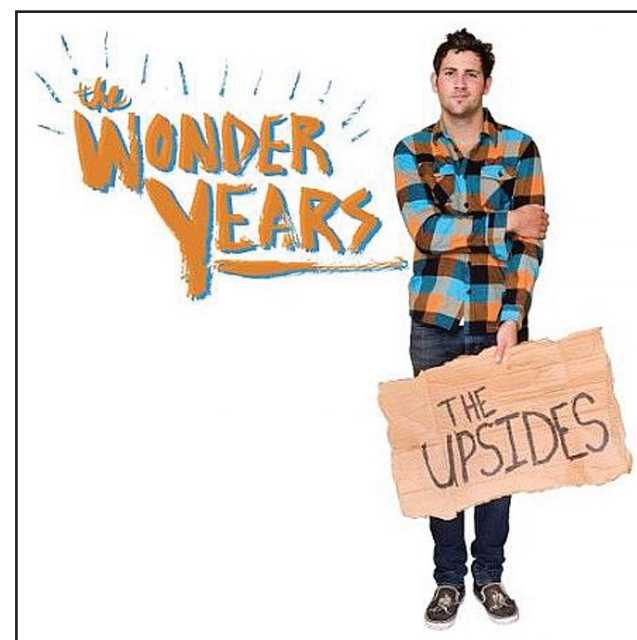
Next is "Everything I Own Fits In This Backpack." This tune combines the perfect amount of slow and fast. Fantastic guitar pieces blend

with the vocal abilities of Matt Brasch and create one heck of a catchy song. It even has a line bashing neighbors that listen to ICP. What more could you want?

"Hey Thanks" is the ukelele song mentioned earlier, but do not write it off just yet.

Aside from the uke, it combines brass instruments, female singing (which is not seen much in power-pop) and some amazing lyrics that will make even the most masculine guy say "awww." It starts off slow, mixes in some ska elements and then finishes with an insane amount of panache. But be careful, because it just might get its listeners to say "Hey Thanks" themselves.

All in all, this album belongs in everyone's collection.



This album is a solid A+, but only because it cannot score any higher. As soon as the first note plays on the first track, it is impossible not to be hooked.

The Wonder Years is sure to have wonderful things to

come in the future, including a tour with Set Your Goals.

Sadly, St. Louis is not a stop but for now we will be happy with one amazing addition to the discography of The Wonder Years. **A+**

—Janaca Scherer

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Prop A essential for region's future



FICTITIOUS ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL FREEMAN; ORIGINAL MAP BY METRO ST. LOUIS

Public transportation in St. Louis needs help. Metro cut bus routes, is not a practical option for many counties, shuts down too early and is, at times, dangerous. Issues with Metro leave many citizens with more questions than there are answers.

Here's one question: "Why does the MetroLink go all the way to Shiloh, but not to Florissant?" The answer here is simple: the citizens of Illinois paid for the construction. And actually, most of the problems that Metro has boil down to that pesky five letter word: "money."

Repeatedly, citizens in Missouri have snubbed Metro with tax initiatives, only to lament why Metro has not expanded to whatever community they happen to live in. In 2008, voters failed to pass Proposition M, a half-cent sales tax increase that would have allowed future expansion to more places. More MetroLink. More MetroBus routes. More often.

Many felt the pain of the route cuts after the failure of Proposition M a year and a half ago.

The MetroLink was less frequent, did not run as late, and many Me-

troBus routes were eliminated. Metro has since reinstated some its routes, but its service is still at a diminished level.

But Metro is trying again this year, this time using a different letter.

Proposition A is on the ballot in April and desperately needs voter support to ensure the future of public transit in St. Louis. Proposition A is essentially the same as 2008's Proposition M: a half-cent sales tax increase that would allow Metro to provide better, expanded service to the region.

The Current would like to encourage everyone to vote for Proposition A.

We feel that the main reason that people do not support a Metro expansion is because they do not want to pay for something they will not use.

While this is a fiscally sensible attitude, it fails to take into consideration the benefits and opportunities of expansion.

While MetroLink currently only goes from Lambert to Shiloh, Ill., and from Shrewsbury to Forest Park, expansion could provide ser-

vices to more residents. For example, many use the MetroLink to go to Cardinals games, wisely avoiding traffic in the process. But instead of having to drive to Shrewsbury or North Hanley or some other station, wouldn't it be nice if the stations were closer by?

This is the target of Proposition A. More stations, more trains, more buses and routes, and better service to more people. Not to mention the benefits of better traffic on the region's sprawling logjam of an interstate system, perpetually under construction at the expense of the taxpayer.

Many others have also had a bad taste in their mouths due to budgeting problems with Metro in the past; however with the new, better leadership on Metro's board, there is a better chance of continued success.

Although the public transit in St. Louis is not the best, at least we have it.

However, if Proposition A does not pass, Metro will have to continue its cutbacks and our public transportation will continue to get worse. If we do not pay for it, it will



FILE PHOTO / THE CURRENT

Are you there, God? It's me, Pledge of Allegiance.

Shangdi. Bahá. Bhagwan. Ahura Mazda. Xenu. Allah. Jehovah. God. Theists have many different names for the divine being, and many more different beliefs and sects on top of that.

Having a civil conversation about God is a feat in and of itself—almost a miracle, one could say. It is possible, however.

Try and talk about God's place in government though, and suddenly that conversation becomes even more contentious and quite impossible.

For years, there has been a dilemma about God's rightful place in government, particularly over the use of the word "God" in both the Pledge of Allegiance and on American currency.

Since 2002, one of the people leading the fight to take God out of the government has been atheist Michael Newdow. He sued his daughter's California school district in '02, arguing that "the wording violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution's 1st Amendment, which prohibits the enactment of any law or official policy in support of a religion," according to an article in the Los Angeles Times.

Last week, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed its controversial 2002 decision on the case. In '02, it ruled that the "one nation under God" bit in the pledge made it unconstitutional, due to the First Amendment's

Establishment Clause.

Now however, the court says that the line "doesn't violate a citizen's right to be free of state-mandated religion," according to the same LA Times article, because there is no federal law or mandate that requires students to recite the pledge or the religious mention in it.

Let's get down to the heart of the matter. If the founding fathers were so worried about keeping faith and government separate, then why does the Pledge of Allegiance even have "under God" in it in the first place?

The answer's simple: it was added in. The original Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy. It read: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The "under God" part was a proposed addition by Congress in 1954 and signed into law by then-President Eisenhower that same year. It is a common misconception that the words were added as a way to combat the USSR's so-called godless communism; it was not. Nor was it a way to use a so-called "divine right" to justify the U.S. becoming a global power, as some others have said.

The truth of the matter is that the words come from a part of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, where he said: "that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth



Andrew Seal

of freedom." Eisenhower, a newly born-again Presbyterian, was only too eager to add the words in.

The original decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2002 was that including "under God" in the Pledge constituted an unconstitutional endorsement of monotheistic practices. They were right, and should not have reversed their stance.

Our great country is made up of so many people of so many faiths (and no faiths). Sure, saying the Pledge of Allegiance is not required, nor is saying the "under God" part mandatory. But why even have "under God" in there in the first place?

There are many religions that recognize more than one deity. Plus, there are agnostics that believe in a higher power, even if they cannot place a name to it, and there are of course atheists like Newdow who do not believe in a supreme being.

They are all Americans, as much as those who do believe in God. Or Allah. Or yes, even Xenu.

Little evidence makes a big difference

Autism: As little as 10 years ago, the word was still fairly foreign. It can be compared to how knowledgeable people were about AIDS in the 1960s—the idea was out there, but not a lot was known on the subject. Now, just a decade later, the word pops out left and right from newspapers, magazines and television. Perhaps this is because autism affects 1 in 110 births—over 1.5 million Americans. There is comparatively little known about autism. It is now known that it is a neurological disorder, characterized by communication deficiency and social tasks difficulty. The biggest question in most everyone's minds is what causes it. Theories have been speculated throughout the years, such as environmental and biological. It is questioned whether or not autism is caused from things such as traumatic experiences or influences from things brought to the child from the world around them, or it is simply destined within our genes.

One of the more controversial theories that have arisen is that vaccines are the cause of autism. Statistically, one out of every four parents believes autism is produced from vaccines given to a child. Even the more famous of the population, including Jenny McCarthy and Senator John McCain, have been reported in saying they believe certain vaccines are the origin. This idea comes from 1998 absurdities out of a British medical journal. Dr. Andrew Wakefield claimed that the MMR vaccine, vaccinating against measles, mumps and rubella, was a primary source of autism. The theory behind this was that the mercury from this particular immunization was its basis.

In February, a panel of "special masters" called for a retraction of Wakefield's

claim in the journal. Apparently, there was very little evidence to support that vaccines, of any kind, are the cause of autism.

Let us head back to the 17th century where if women burned at the stake, they were then considered not to be witches. Or go back to last year, when killing off pigs would surely end the swine flu. A lack of knowledge and evidence among people sure makes a difference.

Because of Wakefield's "discovery," hundreds of thousands of people will no longer get their children the proper vaccinations they need. Since 1998, there has been a steady increase in measles, mumps and rubella, simply because several families are more scared of the chance that their children could develop autism. This is despite the fact that there are now hundreds more deaths caused by the diseases we were vaccinating against. There is a reason why we live longer these days than those did hundreds of years ago.

Parents who do believe vaccinations are the cause are generally the ones who note that their children's attitudes change shortly after receiving vaccines. What people usually do not note is the fact that children who are diagnosed with autism are commonly diagnosed around the ages of three and four. This is the same time that all children are given vaccinations in the first place. According to WebMd, after the scare in the late '90s scientists began researching the correlation between children who were given vaccinations and those who were not, and found over 14 studies in multiple countries, that there was no significant change in the rate of autism. Meaning, there is no significant evidence to hold that the MMR vaccine does cause the disorder.



Jen O'Hara

This whole matter is, plainly put, ludicrous. While scientific studies on the cause of autism is wonderful, the bottom line is that all Wakefield accomplished was scaring a whole lot of the population for over 10 years. Wakefield, despite putting his article and theories in a noted distinguished journal, had next to no evidence beside his own speculations.

Rumored reports also have it that Wakefield "may have altered" data, after a \$1 million dollar persuasion. If true, hopefully that \$1 million settles his conscience of the deaths of thousands of children who lost their lives because people took his word and their children did not get proper immunization.

It is also ridiculous that our population in general takes what is said on the television, magazine, or by word of mouth and does not bother to do their own research. If people had taken time out and seen there was no clear evidence that autism is caused from the MMR vaccine, perhaps statistics would have had a dramatic difference.

The entire conflict was a mix of greed and confusion. Parents do whatever it takes to protect their children, and when most do not know about a condition such as autism, it is that much scarier. Thus, the blame is put somewhere. In the end, do not believe everything heard without proper grounds.

Read the Current

SCIENCE MATTERS

Why are electric cars all talk and no car?

Apart from Tesla's pricey sports car, you cannot go to a car dealer, or even visit a website, to buy a plug-in electric car in this country today.

A website promising a list of electric cars you can buy today in the U.S. turns up three cars: the Finland-made Fiska Karma, Toyota Prius (the plug-in version is not available in the U.S.) and the Chevy Volt, a car you cannot buy. Curiously, it does not list the American-made Tesla. Since General Motors put a plug-in electric car on the road in California in the 1990s (and the people who drove them loved them), what is the problem with selling electric cars in this country now?

This question was prompted by a recent news story, reporting that a Norwegian car company, Think, is planning a new manufacturing plant for its new electric sedan, the City, in Elkhart, Indiana, the former RV capital of the world. This European-based car manufacturer may do what American companies are too slow to do—use the car-manufacturing expertise and experienced workers in the Midwest to mass produce plug-in electric cars we can afford. Most maddening is GM, of course, is the one that put out that electric car in the 1990s.

GM talks endless about the electric Chevy Volt, as it has for at least five years. Yet, inexplicably, the car never appears on dealers' lots. GM seems to pretend there never was a plug-in electric car or that there is some technical barrier to their production. Yet those who saw the documentary "Who Killed the Electric Car" know that GM put out the EV in the '90s.

GM leased, rather than sold, the EV and at one point, took them all back (despite the wishes of leasers who wished to buy them) and then crushed them. Why not bring back the electric car? The official reason for discontinuing the EV was that it did not sell well. It may have been true in the SUV-loving '90s but times have changed.

There is a market out there, hungry for plug-in electric cars. While this excludes some potential car buyers—who reject the evidence for global warming or are not concerned about ever-rising oil prices or that our thirst for it keeps shoveling money to people in the Middle East who do not wish us well—that still leaves the rest of us, who would like to get off oil and go buy affordable electric cars.

We are just looking for a car manufacturer to take our money. Obviously, technology is not the problem. If GM could put the EV on the road with lightning speed in the '90s, what is the delay now? A new technology problem? Many people, even those who sell cars, seem to think electric cars lack power or can only travel at low speeds.

Wayne Garver, a University of Missouri-St. Louis physics instructor and staff member, can tell you that from first-hand knowledge. Garver regularly drives his plug-in electric car to campus. He converted an ordinary car to an electric one that runs on batteries, something that cost him in the \$5000 range, plus his work and some mechanical expertise. Of course, this is not something everyone could do but you can buy



Cate Marquis

conversion kits on the internet, even if you cannot buy the car. A quick glance at the stats for the Tesla, available online at www.teslamotors.com/performance/perf_specs.php, also clarifies this misconception. The two-seat Tesla Sport goes zero to 60 in 3.7 seconds, achieves top speeds of 125 and has a 236 mile range.

Their new sedan, Model S, due out in 2012, promises seating for 7, zero to 60 in 3.6 seconds and a 300-mile range. The issue is not technology but cost and economies of scale, like most green technology. The Tesla Sport is pricey but the new Model S will still cost about \$50,000, not a cheap car either. If electric cars go mass market, they would be affordable.

But maybe not as profitable as an SUV. It seems that GM only wants to pretend to sell the Volt, a marketing ploy to make the company look "green" while they really pour their money into marketing more profitable trucks.

Electric cars could be a boon to a sagging economy. Would we not rather see an American company in the lead to meet the public demand for plug-in electric cars?

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

THE RUNWAY 'Project Runway'

Season 7 is better than Season 6

"Project Runway" is the most popular design show on the tube these days. Everyone has an opinion, and after the disastrous snooze fest that was season 6, which was shot in Los Angeles, viewers have been dying for the old "Project Runway" that everyone knows and loves back in New York City.

Now they are back in New York, and many people have been holding their breath to see if season 7 can hold up to the excitement of seasons past. For the most part, season 7 has been interesting so far. The designers themselves have been entertaining enough to hold the audience. Notable cast members include Chinese designer Ping Wu, whose quirky design aesthetic both wowed and perplexed the judges, rock 'n roll designer and personal favorite Seth Aaron, and fan favorite Anthony Williams, whose jocular sense of humor and pageant-styled dresses has kept him in the competition as of late.

The challenges are still bizarre and impractical as ever, and mostly unfair. Like in episode 7, it was painful to watch the designers try to create something out of hardware supplies, and then get chewed out by the judges who thought their garments were unwearable. Jesse LeNoir, whose disastrous ensemble made his model look like a Hershey's Kiss mixed with a pillow, was unfairly

sent packing that night when it should have been Emilio Sosa, who decided last minute to make a trashy swimsuit out of what appeared to be washers and pink thread. The judges felt that Sosa was innovative for being the only one who made a swimsuit, when in reality he was going for a dress and ran out of materials. He also made his model look like a Malibu prostitute.

Another annoying challenge was in episode 6, when the designers had to design a garment for a child along with a cohesive look for the child's mother. The winner of the challenge was Seth Aaron, who seemingly was taking a play from Gwen Stefani's L.A.M.B. playbook with his well tailored black and white striped punk jacket for mom, and a cute little pink and black hooded jacket for the child. Amy Sarabi created quite the stir among the judges when she decided to create an ill-fitting orange, blue, brown and green pair of Hammer pants for the mom. The pants were the most daring, innovative and original thing on the runway, yet she was chewed out. Guest judge and designer Tory Burch baffled everyone when she suggested that orange and blue weren't complementary colors. Since when? Ultimately, it was Janeane who was told "auf wiedersehen" for making her child and mother models look like they just exited a



Sequita Bean

DEB clearance sale.

The eight remaining designers have all shown at New York Fashion Week this past month, including Ben Chmura, who was eliminated last week in episode 8. This tactic is a ploy to keep the media from outing which designers will be in the top 3 early, like they have during previous seasons. Based on the 8 remaining contestant's collections, either Amy Sarabi or Seth Aaron have it in the bag. True to herself, Amy's collection was bold, risky, and inspired by digital prints. Seth Aaron's collection was inspired by Russian military of the 1940s. His well tailored coats with their clean lines are inspired and will make any fashionable mouth drool.

The predictions may be wrong, but for now, it is a waiting game. Despite the outcome, season 7 has won back loyal PR viewers. Who is your favorite designer this season?

Let me know at www.the-current-online.com!



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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 thecurrentads@umsl.edu, or call (314) 516-5316.

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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!

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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!

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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!

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ACT>24/GPA>3.0

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Your
AD
could be
here!

JONSÍ, from page 11

That said, it is still generally easy to set aside any lingering disdain for sentimentality and the record industry in favor of simply embracing the beauty of the music. As stated, the production value of "Go," and all Sigur Ros records, is through the roof. Lead-off track "Go Do" features an exquisite vocal track, and though it is hard to discern any English in the lyrics, it is more rewarding to just let the layering and interweaving of flutes, strings and thumping rhythm swell in the air.

"Go" sounds like the soundtrack to a Disney movie or rather, the soundtrack to a collection of Disney montages, which is not a bad thing. Pretending the wind and string orchestrations are being played by woodland

critters is rewarding, albeit slightly hallucinogenic. But that is the point, right? Music is supposed to carry people into another realm of existence with its magical tones and sounds, and the joy with which Jonsí fills every single bar on this album shows that he is well aware of this notion.

This is a pretty good record. Fans of Sigur Ros or of "happy" music will certainly not be disappointed.

Though perhaps complexity and even coherence are not a calling card of Sigur Ros or of "Go," there is certainly no way to deny the epic grandeur and scale the music strives for. Also, the album art on "Go" is really cool.

B+ —Joe Schaffner

Use your mouse better.

www.thecurrent-online.com



READ THE CURRENT

Appleseed Cast
live at
off Broadway
Sat. March 20

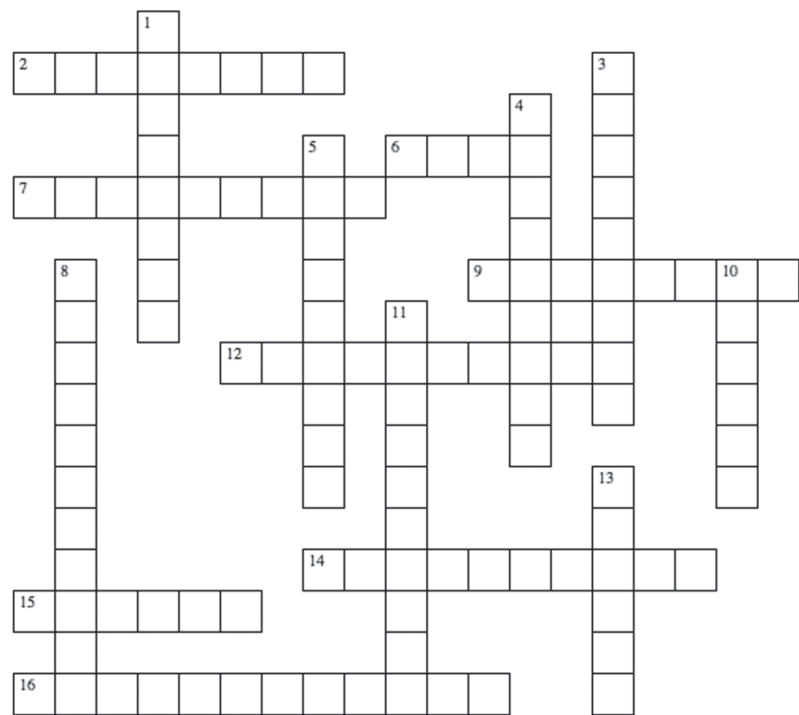
8:00 - \$10

offbroadwaystl.com

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

March Madness



ACROSS

- 2. Terrapins
- 6. Blue Devils
- 7. Badgers
- 9. Wildcats
- 12. Commodores
- 14. Panthers
- 15. Bears
- 16. Mountaineers

DOWN

- 1. Orangemen
- 3. Buckeyes
- 4. Lobos
- 5. Wildcats
- 8. Wildcats
- 10. Jayhawks
- 11. Hoyas
- 13. Boilermakers

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:




(Easy)

Last week's answers	9	3	5	6	8	2	7	1	4
	2	4	1	7	9	3	8	5	6
	7	6	8	4	1	5	2	3	9
	6	8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7
	1	5	2	9	4	7	6	8	3
	4	7	9	3	6	8	1	2	5
	3	2	6	8	5	9	4	7	1
	8	9	7	1	3	4	5	6	2
	5	1	4	2	7	6	3	9	8


Last week's rating:
Very hard

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


CURRENT HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)


The beginning of this week should be spent cautiously. Risks taken now won't pay off. Through the middle of the week, focus on working hard so you can play this weekend.

**TAURUS**
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)


The week might start off a bit rocky, with an acquaintance speaking ill of you to others. The best way to react is to play it cool and ignore the whole situation.

**GEMINI**
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

This week may find you feeling more expressive than usual. Now is a great time to clear up any misunderstandings as well as to convince others of your opinions.

**CANCER**
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)


An impulsive move will catch up to you this week, and the repercussions may not be pretty. Keep a level head early and work on getting past the trouble this might cause.

**LEO**
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

It's possible that an assignment at work or school will be difficult for you this week. Before you give up, seek help from someone you know has some experience in that area.

**VIRGO**
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

You may make an excellent first impression on someone early this week, but in order to keep their positive opinion you'll need to back it up by taking action.

**LIBRA**
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

People are looking to you to lead the way this week, so don't be afraid to share your ideas. It may be difficult to give your honest opinion to a friend, but be gentle and it should go well.

**SCORPIO**
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)


When events this week prove your intuition right, resist the urge to say, "I told you so!" Instead, keep looking for insight into the events surrounding you and put what you learn to use.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)


You're likely to be working ahead of schedule this week, but you'll need to slow down and take a break before you get so far along that you lose your bearings.

**CAPRICORN**
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

This week will bring success in many areas of your life, and even more so if you have a friend or two on your side. Right now is a great time to make big personal changes.

**AQUARIUS**
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Pay extra attention to any new people you meet this week. It's likely that one of them will be able to help you with a problem that's been plaguing you for quite a while.

**PISCES**
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

You may be feeling more talkative and outgoing than usual this week. Use it to your advantage and become more acquainted with people who can help you to achieve your goals.

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: G = B)

YBO BYZG CTC T PKBDL RTE, T OTJXZLC RTE
QYOTZ RL JBQZCY'O HKLEORL EYC NBQK
PQGM VQFDLC BY OBD BN FL.

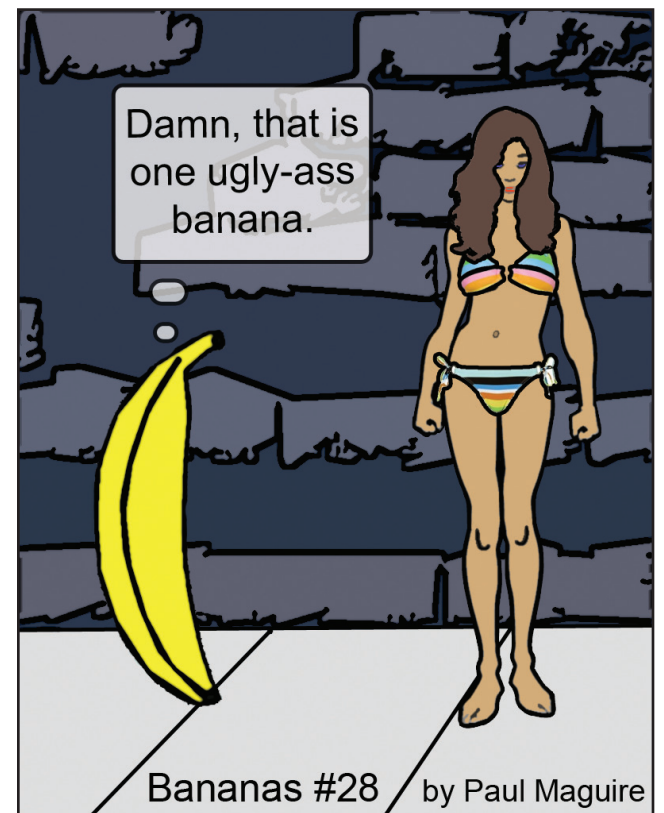
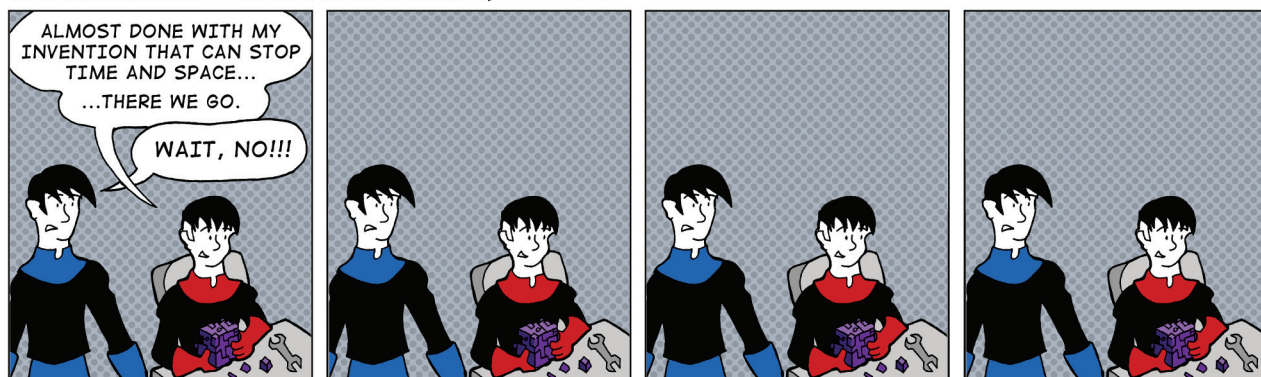
The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office at MSC 388 will receive a free T-shirt.

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



Awkward Abe

by Andy Phipps "The Lincoln sex tape"



**FILL SOME OF THIS
SPACE
WITH YOUR
COMIC!**

*(The Current is
looking for
cartoonists!
Drop by 388 MSC for more info)*

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, Mar. 15

That Darned S! on March 15, 2010 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM

Located at 207 SSB Open to all students. We'll offer clear explanations of plurals, possessives, and contractions and practice. For Information contact David Linzee at 516-5950

Student Life OPEN HOUSE on March 15, 2010 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM at 366 MSC

Help us showcase our vibrant Student Life to the campus community and to mingle with other student leaders, faculty, and staff. Complete your passport to involvement to be entered for prizes including Mirthday concert tickets (artist TBA) and St. Louis Cardinals tickets. Celebrate student leadership, involvement, and activities! Refreshments will be provided. For more information contact the Office of Student Life at 314-516-5291. For more Information contact Jaime Wacker at 516-4114

Tuesday, Mar. 16

Candy & Careers on March 16, 2010 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Located at The Nosh Open to everyone. Sweeten up your career! Visit our information table in the Nosh to learn more about the resources offered through Career Services & enjoy some free candy.

Messages from Beginning College Students to Faculty on March 16, 2010 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

at 589 Lucas Hall - CTL conference room Open to everyone. Join colleagues at this webinar to consider how the NSSE organization suggests campuses use their survey data. Stop by, no need to register. For Information Peggy Cohen at 516.4508

Wednesday, Mar. 17

News at Noon: Why the 2010 Census matters to your community on March 17, 2010 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Located at MSC - SGA Chambers Audience Open Why the 2010 Census matters to your community (including UMSL) David Kimball, Political Science, leads this discussion. Guests from Normandy City Hall will join in. For Information contact Peggy Cohen at 516.4508

Thursday, Mar. 18

Trailblazer Ceremony on March 18, 2010 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Located at MSC, Century Rooms B&C Open to everyone. This event honors the diverse accomplishment of women-staff, faculty, students, alumnae, and friends of the University. For more Information contact Cindy Wills at 314-516-5695.

Friday, Mar. 19

IC Short Course - File Transfer and CD Writing Basics on March 19, 2010 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Located at SSB 134, UMSL students only. This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of how to save and access your files on a PC or to a CD. Learn how to use several tools, storage devices and drives for creating storage spaces, folders and files that may be required for classes, your job or for your own computing purposes.



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Boxes are set up in the MSC Bridge asking for your old t-shirts. Sponsored by PASS, or Peers Advocating Smoke Free Solutions, these donations go to others in need. PASS educates others on the dangers of secondhand smoke and would like UM-St. Louis to become smoke-free.



**AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!**

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE The Current