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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS SINCE 1966 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.COM | VOLUME 43; ISSUE 1291 | OCT. 12, 2009

See A&E, page 17



See Opinions, page 21

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Comics 27

See **MADE IN L.A.**, page 8



Director Almudena Carracedo spoke at the screening and signed autographs afterwards.



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Loc Nguyen (right), sophomore, biology and Miika Liisanantti (left), senior, business administration, are painting fabric squares in the MSC on Tuesday. Alpha Phi Omega hosted "Project Linus" which offered UM-St. Louis students the opportunity to paint the squares. Later the squares will be stitched together to create a quilt for terminally ill children.

See **ACCIDENT**, page 8

SUN.



The Current

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1291

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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
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Fewer tickets in 2009 effect of several-year effort

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

As *The Current* reported in a previous issue, the University of Missouri-St. Louis has "cracked down" on giving tickets to members of the University's community who were violating parking and transportation rules. Yet, according to the office of Parking and Transportation at UM-St. Louis, the number of tickets that have been given out so far this year has been dramatically less than in previous years.

Leonidas Gutierrez, manager of parking operations, explained that when he first joined the University's staff in 2003, the number of people who parked illegally was much greater than it is at present. Gutierrez also said that there were fewer available parking spaces on campus. Gutierrez said that since 2003, he and the Parking and Transportation office have

been working to free up more parking space on campus for those who purchase the correct permits and do not violate parking rules. Gutierrez said that to accomplish this, many measures have been taken: some streets were converted to one way streets in order to free up on-street parking, new parking garages were added, and there was an increase in parking tickets.

Gutierrez explained that in order to accomplish the goal of getting everyone to follow the parking and transportation rules, Parking and Transportation initially increased the amount of tickets issued. Now however it is "caught up," and fewer tickets are being given out since more and more students, faculty and staff are purchasing the appropriate permits and not parking illegally.

Gutierrez said that in comparison to other years, UM-St. Louis has had to issue fewer parking tickets so far in

2009. In 2008 there was an average of 867 tickets given out each month, but in 2009 the average has been closer to 238 per month. Rosas said that in areas where Parking and Transportation ticketed 30-40 cars per hour, they are now only ticketing one or two.

One of the areas of parking violations that has been reduced to zero is the amount of tickets that are issued for counterfeit parking permits. This is largely due to the change in making parking permits out of mylar, a material that is very hard to replicate. In previous years, counterfeit permits would occasionally be found, but there have been no reports of a counterfeit permit in the last two years. If any car is found with a counterfeit ticket, the owner will receive a \$250 fine and the car will be booted which requires a \$25 fee for removal.

Matt Bono, chief justice

of the student court, said that fewer tickets are issued when students follow the rules of Parking and Transportation. Bono said that he understands it is frustrating for students who receive tickets, but that if they understood why the ticket was issued they may be more understanding.

"It is my philosophy, and that of Parking and Transportation, that the more people know about parking rules and regulations, the less likely they are to get tickets or continue to get tickets," Bono said.

"That is why when we notify people of their appeal decision, we will include a sentence about why the ticket was issued and why the appeal was either accepted or denied."

Bono also noted in a Student Government meeting that the number of people who have appealed their tickets has also been greatly reduced.

UM System to evaluate P-20 taskforce

► JOHN DUNN
Staff Writer

Gary Forsee, president of the University of Missouri System, has set out plans for the coming year detailing areas of improvement. One of his programs is the "P-20 task force."

The P-20 hopes to achieve a higher level of graduates from high school entering higher education, and address issues of student achievement.

Dan Lowry, co-director of the UM Partnership for Educational Renewal, spoke of the program on a podcast released by the UM System.

"The P-20 taskforce is a deliberate focus from kindergarten level all the way up through 12th grade," Lowry said. "You can call it a pipeline. We want every student to realize their full potential

as an individual."

According to Lowry, Missouri is behind the national average of high school students entering higher education—57 percent versus figures higher than 60 percent. Only 20.9 percent of Missouri 12th grade students will enter college and graduate within six years.

Male students in particular are performing statistically lower in higher education, establishing a gulf in the male-to-female student ratio. A four-to-six percent increase in male students by 2017 would offset the decline in college attendance that is predicted at present.

Surveys into the UM System's freshman population reveal figures that suggest students entering the UM System are not prepared for collegiate education. Eleven percent of incoming students

require remedial coursework to meet reading standards, while the math level is higher at 22% of students.

"Those are not statistics that we're proud of in any way," Lowry said. Identifying the principle concern for the taskforce is to raise the level of preparation for college education, which in turn will raise graduate figures.

"Lack of parent involvement and money is the top concern to them, as well low expectations of teachers," Jay Goff, vice provost and dean of enrollment management at Missouri University of Science and Technology, said. "They felt [the students] didn't have the skills for higher education."

Matt Ruggles, graduate, business, explained that he feels the problem of how students can afford a higher education has always been an

issue.

"Thinking back to when I was in high school, I know that money concerns were the most important factor in whether I attended college or not," Ruggles said. "I think it's great that universities are addressing the issue of funds and making it easier to get financial aid."

Another important P-20 initiative is to communicate state-wide with other universities to identify the methods of student development that have worked for them.

This is in an effort to bridge the regional gap between Missouri universities, as well as to widen the programs that work in the UM System to include the rest of the state.

The president hopes to announce system-wide recommendations by November into December of this year.

Chemistry research pulls in grant

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**
Staff Writer

After three years of work and a 57-page proposal to the National Institute for Health, University of Missouri-St. Louis's Keith Stine, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and Alexei Demchenko, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, have received a \$1.1 million grant to continue their studies on the "Development and Application of Surface-Tethered Iterative Carbohydrate Synthesis."

The two previously received a grant from NIH in 2006, which was used to prove their theory that complex carbohydrates could be constructed on the surface of nanomaterials. This project required expertise in two distinct fields: nanomaterials and synthetic organic chemistry, which are filled by Stine

and Demchenko, respectively.

Prior to their study, the majority of scientists used bead polymerization to create molecular structures. This was done by building off of the surface of a highly porous material, which allowed the formations to bind to minute holes on the surface of this material. This was then dipped into reagents that construct certain molecular formations. Demchenko wanted a simpler method for this synthesis, so he approached Stine, who proposed the use of porous gold. Stine said that porous gold is a white gold and is often used for jewelry. It is called "porous gold" or "white gold" because it is less than 50 percent gold, Stine said.

"It's an alloy, and when treated with acid we create some kind of highly porous material that doesn't look like

a sponge, but it does when you look through a microscope," Stine said. "Once we create this sponge-like material, we increase the surface area by seven thousand times ... With the highly porous material, each of these pores can be filled. It allows ... for carrying out synthesis of relatively large quantities on a relatively small support."

These gold plates, about the size of a dime, are then staked onto fabricated Teflon shelves forming a stick. This stick is then placed into reactive agents and by repeating this process, complex sugars can be created.

"This is a new type of chemical approach, as we believe, to synthesis because we don't need to mix reagents, we don't need to extract them, we don't need to purify them," Demchenko said,

See **GRANT**, page 25

UMSL wins award from IRS

► **ANNA MARIE CURRAN**
News Editor

The Internal Revenue Service has recently given the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis an award for "Outstanding Community Service in the category of Sustained Superior Performance." The award that the VITA program received was one of seven that the IRS gave to individual Beta Alpha Psi chapters around the world.

According to the program's website the VITA program, "provides free tax preparation for low income, disabled, and elderly members" of the community. VITA is a nationwide program, and students who volunteer to help receive training on basic tax preparation prior to the tax season. At UM-St. Louis, the faculty advisor for the VITA program is Leslie Vaughan.

The program extends to

people who live in both the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The program is cosponsored by UM-St. Louis chapter of Beta Alpha Psi—the Gamma Psi Chapter—UM-St. Louis' accounting department, the GECC Tax Coalition, and the IRS.

The VITA program was started at UM-St. Louis in 1973 by Dean Emery Turner and Lindell Phillip Chew. Chew explained that the idea for the program spurred from a meeting between three officers of Beta Alpha Psi and himself. Chew said that he feels programs like this are important because they provide students experience with "community service, experiential learning and brand equity."

The program has had over 1600 students participate since it was created. This year the program has had about 50 students participate. In a news release posted on the UM-St. Louis website, Chew

said that one of the greatest strengths of the program is the high number of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to it.

"The strength of our program is a core of dedicated coordinators and certified volunteers," Chew said. "Through the program, our volunteers are able to give back to the community. It gives them the opportunity to help those who otherwise would not have the means to prepare their returns."

Chew also said that the VITA program has had the "highest volume of returns" for the region. VITA has had over 2,100 tax returns filed over the last two tax seasons. The program also received an award in 1996 from Chancellor Touhill for the "top student-based community-service program." According to Chew, the VITA program was featured in the UM-St. Louis magazine and her "community address" as well.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND MEDIA STUDIES
PRESENTS

HOPE IS IN SESSION

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIO

BY STEPHEN ADLY GURGUS

\$1 WEDNESDAYS
\$3 THURSDAYS

OCTOBER 15-17 / 21-24, 7:30 PM
TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, LEE THEATER

NOTE: CONTAINS ADULT LANGUAGE

Call or visit Touhill for fix, \$10 general admission, \$5 w/ UMSL ID
312-516-4949 or touhill.org

www.umslo.edu
www.touhill.org



Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Jennifer Meahan

Dave Letterman was recently caught in an affair with one of his interns. What do you think of the scandal?



Kevin Ross
Junior
Social Work

"Every time I believe that I cannot get shocked, society finds a way to meet its quota. It's weird how society accepts this behavior."



Nicole Shellum
Junior
PSU

"In my opinion he should be immediately terminated or at least demoted. Everyone makes mistakes, but through his actions it is very obvious this was not a mistake."



Annie Steiner
Junior
Undecided

"I think it's ridiculous that people will try to exploit celebrities as much as possible. It just seems people just want to make money. They don't care if they ruin someone's life to get there."



John White
Senior
Fine Arts

"He is an idiot."

VERBATIM

"I was startled by a paparazzo, who I quite understandably mistook for a zombie."

-Woody Harrelson



"It's like looking into a mirror...after you've done a ton of coke off it."

-Stephen Colbert
comparing himself to Glenn Beck

"Why do we have automatic citizenship upon birth? We're the only country in the world that has it."

-Glenn Beck

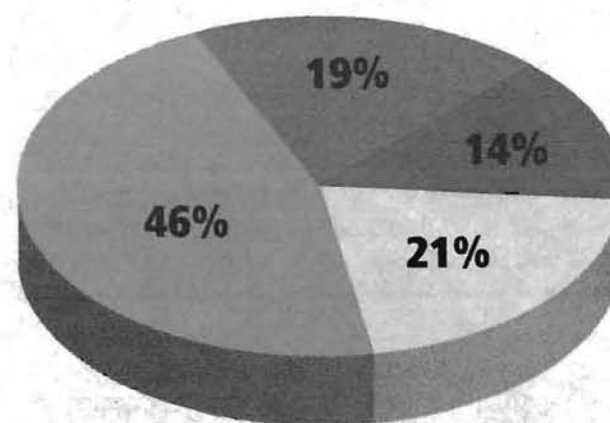


"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

-Nelson Mandela

POLL

How do you feel about the Olympics not being in Chicago?



- Indifferent. I don't watch the Olympics.
- Bummed. I was hoping to go up and see some of it.
- Kinda Glad. South America deserved this one.
- Totally Stoked. Hosting the Olympics are something St. Louis still has over Chicago!

This week:

How do you feel about the Obama getting the Nobel Peace Prize?

Answer at
www.thecurrentonline.com

CRIMELINE

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Stealing Under \$500.00 / 3 Arrests - MSC Bookstore

At about 2:50 PM the UMSL Police were notified by an employee of the bookstore that three people in the bookstore were acting very suspicious and appeared to be trying to steal items. The employee followed the subjects from the bookstore and gave a description of them to the dispatcher. The responding officers located the three subjects on the patio area of the Millennium Student Center. All three were detained and during the investigation, textbooks stolen from the bookstore were in fact found under the shirt of one of the individuals. That subject admitted to the theft and was placed under arrest for stealing. All three suspects were arrested and transported back to the Police Station. The two suspects with warrants were fingerprinted and photographed and released to the other Police Agencies. The suspect that admitted to stealing was also fingerprinted and photographed, and subsequently released. One of the two subjects is an UMSL Student. This matter is being sent to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys Office for review of the Criminal charges.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Burglary 1st Degree - University Meadows Apartments

Between 4:00 PM and 4:30 PM person(s) unknown entered an unlocked apartment and stole 2 Dell Laptop computers. Two of the residents in this apartment went outside to meet other team members in preparation for practice. They went back about 30 minutes later and discovered that their two computers had been stolen. A resident was at home during this burglary, however was asleep in an adjacent bedroom and did not hear or see anything. The victims advised that they had left the front door unlocked, because other people were going to be coming in and out, and they would not be away very long. There are no suspects.

Thursday, Oct. 8

Property Damage - University Meadows Apartments

The victim reported that sometime between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM on 10-07-09 person(s) unknown did damage to his vehicle. The victim's vehicle was parked on the parking lot. The driver's side door lock and door handle assembly had been damaged in an apparent attempt to enter the vehicle. The lock was punched completely out, however the vehicle was not entered and nothing from the inside was stolen. There are no suspects in this incident.

Report any suspicious activity to the UMSL Campus Police at 314-516-5155.

Business/Tech

Recognized St. Charles company provides 100% recycle solution for computers

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**
Staff Writer

Behind the sliding doors of what was once a Target store in St. Charles, the half-off specials and brightly colored advertisements have been replaced by shelves and pallets of refurbished computers, printers, monitors, modems and an assortment of salvageable computer parts at discount prices. This makes the St. Charles headquarter Electronic Personal Computing a heavenly site for computer geeks with small pocket books.

Founded in 1984, EPC initially sought to sell computers to insurance companies as a in the wake of

IBM's first PC. Over the past 25 years, the company has changed. Surviving unpredictable economic situations and an ever-changing environment in the technology industry, they now operate as a refurbishing and recycling business in a variety of technologies, mainly computers and their components.

"In the mid-late '90s we saw that we were primarily doing resale of new computers," Dan Fuller, founder and president of EPC, said.

After finding that they could not compete with the blooming computer industry, EPC started operating strictly in the refurbishing business. This meant finding a source for materials, which they

found in the computer cycles that corporations go through.

This led to partnering with CSI-Leasing, a St. Louis company that specializes in equipment leasing who eventually bought them out.

"We built everything we had surrounding accepting the lease returns," and then, "getting [the computers] ready for sale and selling them," Fuller said. The first company they approached was GE Commercial Finance, which was closing a data center, but simply taking the usable materials off of GE's hands, then refurbishing and reselling them was not an option.

"They said 'If you are going to handle our technol-

ogy, you have to meet certain guidelines and one of them is end of life recycling,'" Fuller said.

"We had to close the loop. We not only could buy their old technology but we had to take care of anything that wasn't sellable and make sure it didn't get dumped offshore—make sure it didn't get dumped in a landfill."

As a result, EPC started to construct a process of 100% recycling to provide companies a solution for complying with environmental laws.

If the equipment they receive from a company cannot be resold, they are stripped down to their individual parts and recycled.

All the materials are then

packaged together to be sold to companies that reuse them. Everything from the metal and plastic off internal components to the packaging and software that comes with the computers is recycled.

EPC recently received a new machine, funded by a grant from the Solid Waste District, which compacts the Styrofoam packing that the computers come in, thus saving it from going in the trash and landfills.

As the information age progressed, sensitivity to the information stored on computers as they were put out of service became a concern to EPC's corporate customers. Due to increasing anxieties over privacy issues, compa-

nies getting rid of old computers needed more-guaranteed solutions that their information would be safely disposed of.

So, EPC adjusted again and began offering a detailed tracking system and mobile hard drive shredders that travel around the country to destroy hard drives right in front of the customer's eyes.

EPC's green business model won them the St. Louis Business Journal's Heroes of the Planet Award for 2008 and the City of St. Charles' 2009 Employer of the Year award. Their retail location is located at 3941 Harry S Truman Blvd, St. Charles, MO 63301 and they can be found on the web at epcusa.com

Witricity's approach signals long overdue move towards the future of power



Zachary James Kraft

We are the culture of the future, technology rules our world and electricity is the life-blood that keeps our information and communication alive.

Now think of that power as free flowing and ubiquitous: everywhere from homes to parking lots.

A seemingly far-off fantastical wish, but electricity itself is about to become wireless.

No strings attached, batteries included, and no instructions required. One may

ask your one's self: isn't this too good to be true? Wrong.

The invention of wirelessly transferring electricity is no new idea.

As a largely complex process and history, the details will not be discussed in full here because of time constraints so here is the short version.

In 1820 Andre-Mari Ampere described Ampere's law of electrical current to the ability of creating magnetic fields.

Later Michael Faraday published the electromagnetic spectrum, and then half a century later Nikola Tesla invents a Hertz-wave RF power transmitter that can wirelessly power lights at his Fifth Avenue laboratory in New York.

This method is referred to as Resonant Inductive Coupling; a means of transferring electricity across distances wirelessly. Simply incredible,

yet also simply, ignored.

Now fast forward to the present and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's department of physics, led by Professor Marin Soljačić, where they developed the theoretical basis of a novel method for wireless electric power transfer in 2005, and validated their theories experimentally in 2007.

Currently the MIT collaboration is a commercially viable venture dubbed, Witricity (www.witricity.com). Witricity is one of the few companies today building wireless add-ons for mobile devices phones, MP3 players as well as televisions lights and even electric cars.

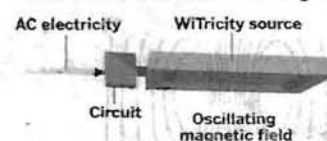
Now as remarkable as this tech may be; what is more remarkable is that it has not been reported widely by mainstream news.

Even at retail venues such as home improvement or electronics stores where it

Wireless electricity

Witricity is commercializing technology developed at MIT that sends power through the air to run devices like laptops, DVD players, cellphones, and other common electronics.

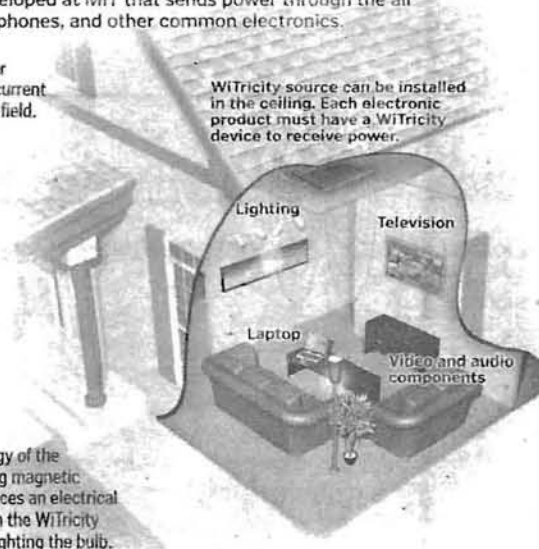
- 1 Circuit converts standard AC electricity to a higher frequency and feeds it to a Witricity source. The current inside the source induces an oscillating magnetic field.



- 2 The Witricity device to be powered is tuned to the same frequency as the source, and, in a process called "resonant magnetic coupling," power is transferred from the source to the device.

Witricity device

- 3 The energy of the oscillating magnetic field induces an electrical current in the Witricity device, lighting the bulb.



COURTESY / WWW.WITRICITIES.COM

is in their interest to know about and provide the latest technology; questions regarding Witricity are still met with raised eyebrows and confusion.

Now this might not be

alarming, as it is hard to see average corporate chain stores change their mode of operations quickly, or even at all.

As consumers and producers of information we as stu-

dents should push forward amazing advances as such.

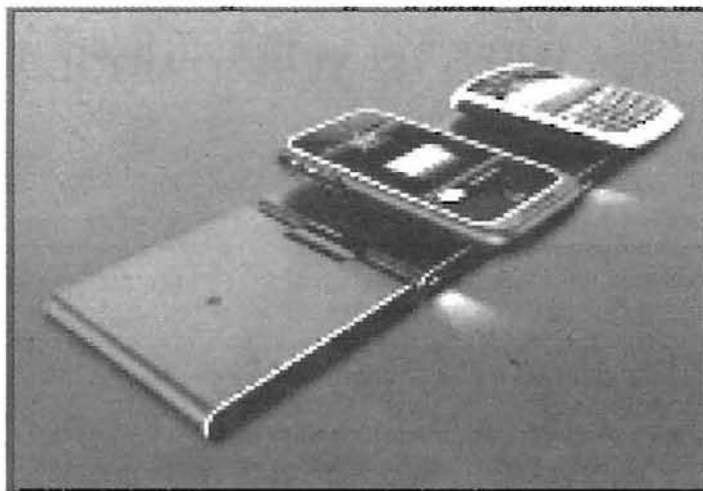
Of course technology of this magnitude will bring a wave of social change.

See **WITRICITY**, page 12

Six new gadgets, gizmos, and techno-toys

1) Powermat

Wireless technology may be old news when it comes to internet access and remote controls, but the Powermat is the first commercially available wireless charger for many portable electronic devices. The mat attaches magnetically to receivers matched to the devices you wish to charge and then: voila, say goodbye to power chords and wall sockets. There are both Home&Office Mats and Portable Mats available.



COURTESY / WWW.POWERMAT.COM

2) Electric motorcycle

Electric cars will hopefully become available eventually, but until then, revel in the fully operational electric motorcycle. While Honda and other major manufacturers are promising soon-approaching models, Zero, a small Santa Cruz, Calif. based company, has stepped up and unveiled a full line of bikes. Whether it is dirt bikes or street bikes, Zero has revolutionary machines that are charged at any standard socket and produce 1/100th the nitrous oxides of a gas-powered bike.



COURTESY / WWW.ZEROMOTOCYCLES.COM

3) LP to iPod turntable

The ION iProfile now makes it possible to quickly and conveniently store your favorite vinyl to your iPod. No longer is a middleman device like a computer necessary.

Only for sale in UK locations for now, the device is perfect for the collector of rarities who loves having their favorite tunes on original vinyl but wants to ensure that they will always have them.

The piece's design pays no dues to the retro aspect of the unit's use.



COURTESY / WWW.IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM

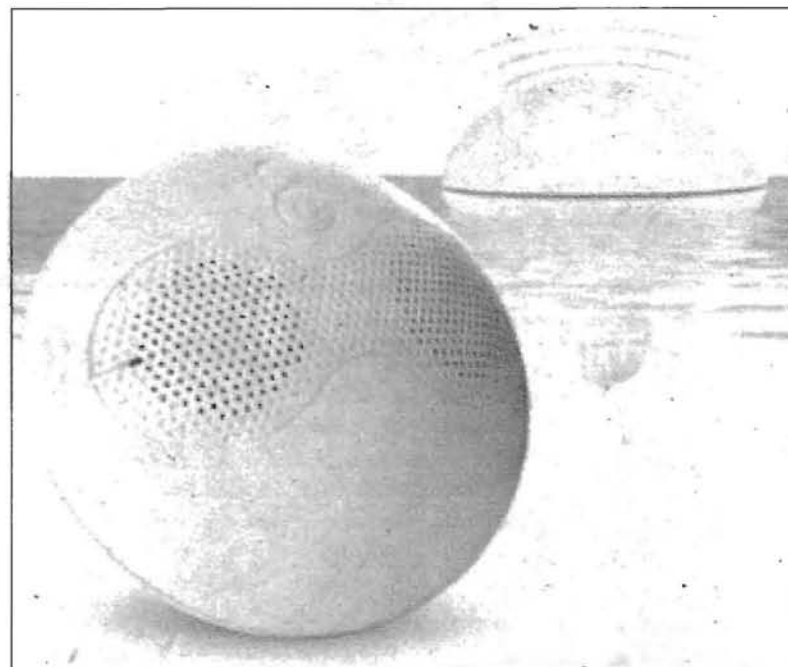
4) Wireless floating speakers

Have an iPod? How about four AA batteries? Perhaps a jacuzzi?

If you answered yes to these questions, there is a must-have product for you just, er, floating around out there.

A small transmitter allows the waterproof device to interact with a device up to 150 feet away.

Unencumbered by chords or plugs, you can enjoy full jacuzzi-listening pleasure.

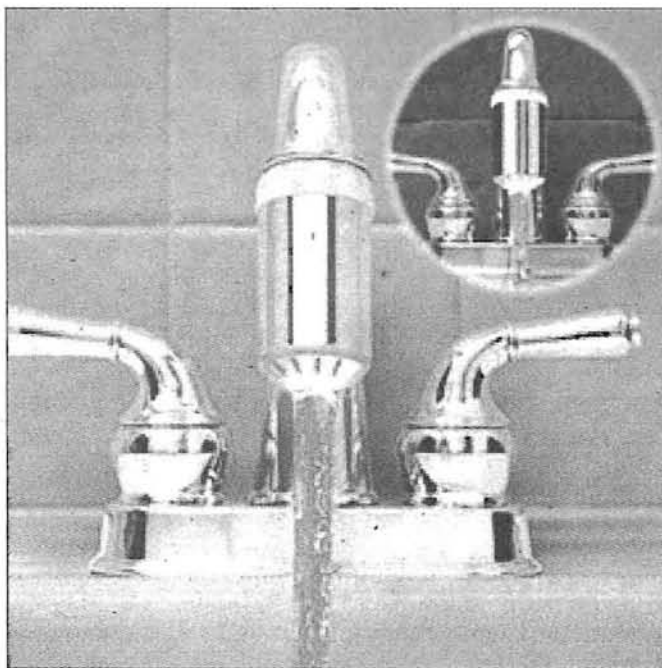


COURTESY / WWW.IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM

5) Heat sensing glow tap

This nifty little domestic enhancer actually has a fairly practical use- it will stop the young, elderly, or just generally absent-minded from scalding themselves.

It is also particularly useful with mixer-style faucets (as shown). But more than



COURTESY / WWW.IATESTBUY.COM

anything, it is just kind of cool. Speaking of cool, the device attaches a pressure and temperature ac-

tivated LED devices that turn the water streams glowing blue when it is cold, cool, or even room

temperature, and glowing red when the water rises above 31 degrees celsius.

6) Interactive shirts

A small battery pack and a shirt can be much more than just a shirt thanks to a new line of uber-geeky apparel.

One popular model (shown right) features a blue-wave wireless detector that, yes, lights up a number of bars in accordance with the available wireless signal.

Another, the electric drumset model (shown left) produces the sounds of each drum piece when tapped. Yet



COURTESY / WWW.THINKGEEK.

another shows audioequalizer bars that react the the sound lev-

els in a room, rising and falling to the beat of the music.

Captains of Industry: Frank Cusumano reports St. Louis

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

Originally from West County, Frank Cusumano graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1994 with a B.A. in mass communication.

Cusumano currently works at KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis' local NBC affiliate where he is the sports anchor and co-host of "Sports Plus."

The Current: How did you end up selecting University of Missouri-St. Louis for continuing your education after high school?

Frank Cusumano: Well I went on a basketball scholarship, you know, my father also told me "if you go to UMSL, you'll have a chance

to intern at big time stations, as opposed to going to schools in small, little dumpy college towns where you wouldn't really get exposed to major media markets."

TC: So, attending UM-St. Louis opened up a lot of internship options for you?

FC: It did. You know, you go to class, you go to practice, you go to your internship, you study and you go to sleep.

TC: What was your experience at UM-St. Louis like?

FC: It was very enjoyable. I played basketball there, and worked on the school newspaper [The Current] and the campus radio station, so it was good. Really good. I had great teachers at UMSL,

Dr. Murray [Dr. Mike Murray] was one of my favorites. He helped get me ready for what I eventually ended up doing. He taught broadcasting classes.

TC: It sounds like you were involved with a lot of different projects and groups on campus, between playing basketball, working at The Current and working on the campus radio station. Was it difficult for you to juggle academics with all of the other activities you were involved in?

FC: I also interned at KMOX and KSDK, so I always felt that the more you had to do, the more you did. It kept me busy for four years, no doubt about it. I think that being able to you

know, work on a radio station on campus and write for the paper, and intern at these big stations got me ready for what I'm doing right now. No question about it.

TC: When you first began at UM-St. Louis, did you envision that after graduation you would have the job you have now, or did you have something else in mind?

FC: I think when I was seven years old I had an idea that I was [going to] do news casting. I always knew I was [going to] do television and radio supports...that's what I always knew I wanted to do, and that's what I always knew I was going to do.

TC: Do you have any advice for students aspiring to land a

job position similar to yours?

FC: To really get your hands in everything, you know. Get internships, work at every, you know, local newspaper, local radio sta-

tion, put as many hours in as you possibly can. Forgo sleep, because the work you do at a young age will pay off at a later age.



Frank Cusumano at work at Channel 5 KSDK. Mr. Cusumano graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in mass communication.

Invasion of Japanese robots

► ANDY PHIPPS/SARAH HILL
Asst. Business/Tech Editor

On Thursday, October 15th, Japanese robots will invade UM-St. Louis.

The Japan-America Society, in association with the Japanese External Trade Organization and the Regional Chamber and Growth Association will host an exhibition on campus featuring recent advances in Japanese robotic technology and two experts who have helped develop them.

The event will feature PARO, a robot seal designed to provide therapeutic benefits for the disabled.

PARO's inventor, Dr. Takanori Shibata, is an Engineer and Senior Research Scientist at the Japanese National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. Dr. Shibata will be discussing the therapeutic benefits of PARO and demonstrating the robot's capabilities.

The PARO acts as a mood lifter, utilized in assisted living centers, nursing homes,

for companionship. Depression is common among the ill and disabled and PARO robots are designed to counteract the symptoms.

"The interaction is very helpful to feel friendship, that they are not alone," Dr. Chikako Usui, President of the UM-St. Louis Japan American Society and Associate Professor of Sociology said.

Along with Dr. Shibata, Yasushi Sumitani, of the Chicago, Ill.-based Japanese External Trade Organization will discuss the trends regarding service robots in industry, the latest innovations in technology and ideas currently in development.

The exhibition is part of the Japan American Society's ongoing efforts to bring discussion of Japanese issues to the campus. Monthly programs have covered economic issues, technological advancements, and social interaction between Japan and America.

Incorporating anthropology into robotics research helps to identify the differ-

ences in cultural perceptions of robots in Japan and the United States. Dr. Chikako said, "Japanese people embrace robots; they are not frightened. In movies, humans and robots are friends." This is dissimilar to some American representations, such as the Terminator.

The reception begins at 5:30. A fruit plate, cookies, tea, coffee, and soda will be provided for those who attend. Children are welcome.

Whether or not UM-St. Louis will hold another Japan Robot night depends entirely on the turn out.



ILLUSTRATION BY
ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

THE GREAT LECTURE SERIES

presented by UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
COLLEGE OF NURSING
UMSL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
UMSL EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

5:30 p.m.- Program
6:30 p.m.- Reception

Millennium Student Center,
Century Room

on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis

JEFFREY S. BROOKS, D.P.M.

Topic: "Profession, Passion, Invention"

Dr. Jeffrey S. Brooks is a leader in the field of podiatric medicine. He is a practitioner, a professor, an administrator, a publisher and an inventor. He is a licensed, board certified podiatrist in the fields of surgery and orthopedics.

He has licensed intellectual properties and developed products with the following companies: Nike, Johnson and Johnson Biomedical Division and Payless ShoeSource.

Dr. Brooks is founder of Life and Limb, a not-for-profit organization to aid in the funding of health care for the indigent and founder of From the Heart and to the Sole, an organization providing shoes to the underprivileged and disaster relief areas around the world.

He has been awarded several patents, including Dr. Brooks Insole, Dr. Brooks Insole/Outsole and Pseudo Plantar Insole. He also has numerous trademarks used worldwide.



This event is FREE and open to the public. For more information call (314) 516-5446.

Check us out on the Web. Now.

TheCurrentOnline.com

Google's Wave makes a splash

► **ANDREW SEAL**
Opinions Editor

For years, communicating with others online has been done through early '90s technology: instant messaging, e-mail, and chat rooms.

Developers Stephanie Hannon and Lars and Jens Rasmussen at Google asked: why not combine these methods and create a new technology for a new Internet age? The result was Google Wave.

Revealed in May at the Google I/O Web Developer conference, Wave is a "personal communication and collaboration tool," according to a video on wave.google.com. It is a Web-based service, like Google's Documents and Gmail services. Yet, a wave is more than a conversation or a document; it also incorporates "text, photos, videos, maps, and more."

Waves are shared between people and anyone involved in the wave can reply anywhere in the message and edit its content, like a Google Document done in real time; but everything in Wave is

live. Anybody can see what you type when you type it, like an instant message.

Wave users would have faster conversations and see edits as they happen.

A playback feature would even allow users to rewind the wave in order to see who said or edited something and when. Waves can also be published as a standalone entity, allowing them to be indexed by a search engine.

According to Google, the service is supported by a number of extensions which provide things like full spell and grammar check, as well as "automated translation between 40 languages."

On September 30, 2009, the public was able to get its first taste of Wave when Google released 100,000 invites to the public. While still young in its development cycle, Google Wave has already shown that it has some unique and appealing uses.

"Wave could be used to change news gathering," Mark Milian of the Los Angeles Times said. This could allow for greater collaborative reporting, complete with

live editing and shared interview notes. When it is fully opened up to the public, Milian thinks it could usher in a new era of communication and collaboration.

Wave's current abilities are, "just a sliver of what [Google] intends it to be eventually." According to an in-depth article on techcrunch.com, Wave could revolutionize the way bloggers connect with their audiences. A blogger could post an open wave and allow visitors to join in the blog and all of the conversations and information would be put into the original wave post.

Google's communication revolution is not quite ready yet, as Wave is being actively worked on and is not available for wide release. For instance,

Wave's primary crash message is a quote from the TV series "Firefly": "Curse your sudden but inevitable betrayal!"

Until the kinks are worked out, it looks as though the future of the Internet may have a way to go before it becomes a reality.

Melting organic memory

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**
Staff Writer

Those in the market for a flash drive will find limited options at the University of Missouri-St. Louis bookstore. While the products available are fully capable of suiting the needs of students, they are a bit old fashioned compared to Samsung Electronics and other companies utilizing the new technology of phase change memory, also known as PRAM.

PRAM is a glass-like substance made of a mixture of germanium, antimony and tellurium. The unique trait of this combination is that its electrical resistance varies according to its physical state. Tiny heaters in the mixture determine the physical state of the glass by melting it. This changes its physical properties and creates ones and zeros, the base components of binary code, which is how data is stored on computers.

These physical states mimic the basic concept of traditional flash memory, which uses tiny switches that represent binary data based on whether a circuit is open

or closed. Advances by Intel and STMicroelectronics have been able to stabilize the glass in multiple states. This has allowed the possible memory capacity of PRAM-based devices to double in capacity.

Samsung is preparing to mass-market this technology and on June 23 announced a partnership with Numonyx, a company that produces semiconductors specifically for flash drives. The goal of the partnership is to develop flash drives that utilize PRAM technology.

They said PRAM is "a next generation memory technology that will help enable makers of feature-rich handsets and mobile applications, embedded systems and high-end computing devices to meet the increasing performance and power demands for platforms loaded with content and data."

Two of the benefits of utilizing PRAM in mobile devices include its ability to read and write data at faster rates than conventional methods and its possible longevity.

"Because PRAM can rewrite data without having to first erase data previously

accumulated, it is effectively 30 times faster than conventional flash memory. Incredibly durable, PRAM is also expected to have at least 10 times the life span of flash memory," Samsung, in a 2006 press release on the technology, said.

The only potential problem that could arise for PRAM is the fluctuations in temperature needed to change or erase data. For instance, the chalcogenide glass needs to be heated to 1112 degrees Fahrenheit in order for data to be written or erased from it.

Still, Samsung and Numonyx are working to make this new type of memory commercially accessible as soon as possible. "Common specifications between the two companies will be completed this year, with both companies expecting to have compliant devices available next year," Samsung said.

If both companies make good on their promises, it is possible that sometime in the year 2010 UM-St. Louis students could utilize this new technology to store those precious term papers.

MADE IN L.A., from page 1

Neither the director nor the producer could resist the allure of their subjects.

"I basically started falling in love with the women, with their sense of humor, with their humanity and their courage," Carracedo said.

The film tells the stories of three Latina women and their struggles as undocumented workers in the sweatshops of Los Angeles' fashion district. The women unite with other

workers to protest the major manufacturers that pay them less than minimum-wage salaries, demanding compensation and equal rights and their lives change as a result.

"It's about their personal transformation in the context of immigration, sweatshops and their empowerment as women," Carracedo said.

Carracedo and Bahar have traveled internationally with their film for the past

two years, accompanying it to 12 film festivals. In addition, *Made In L.A.* has won 13 awards including a 2008 Emmy Award for Outstanding Continuous Coverage of a News Story-Long Form.

The screening was followed by a question and answer period that lasted over an hour and allowed the students who attended to question the director and producer about their experiences.

The event was sponsored by a myriad group of campus organizations, from Amnesty International, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, Center for Humanities, Anthropology and Languages and the Center for Character and Citizenship. The screening was also presented in conjunction with outside organizations, such as the St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America.

"The movie shows the incredible strength that people have, under great odds to struggle against a major company," Marilyn Lorenz, program coordinator for the IFCLA said.

"If everyone walked into every store they visited and asked, 'is this fairly traded? I wonder what kind of wages they received,' we would have a revolution. We just buy things, we don't think," she

said. Expectations for the screening were high for the film's director.

"I just hope that the students and the people who come really leave with a bigger sense of humanity about immigrant issues," Carracedo said. "[I hope] that they leave thinking that they are part of the solution and participate in the dialogue."

ACCIDENT, from page 1

Though the accident was minor, the awareness and decisiveness of students at the incident was a display of genuine concern for the health of their peers. Sergeant McEwen expressed his gratitude for the calls.

The UM-St. Louis police

department was quick to act in this instance and issued the help that was necessary, McEwen said.

"It looked like there were three [police] cars there. The guy was on a stretcher. Traffic was slowed and the area was cleared," witness Edwin But-

ler, sophomore, liberal arts, said.

The driver's vision was impaired by both the bushes that border the intersection and the glare from the sun that affects drivers in the morning, campus police said. The driver was upset at hav-

ing failed to see the student and, subsequently, hitting her.

No tickets or summons were issued and that police officers on the scene found no fault in the driver, McEwen said.

Pedestrians have the right

of way to step in front of cars while on the University Boulevard crosswalk. However, students should still be especially cautious when crossing the street even when they have the right of way, McEwen said.

"When I'm out walking

and come to an intersection, even if I have the right of way I make the assumption that every car doesn't see me," McEwen said. "And obviously, when driving I make sure to follow traffic laws and pay attention to what's going on around me."

Sports

Women's golf earns a historic finish

► **MARK WEBBER**
Staff Writer

This season's University of Missouri-St. Louis Triton Invitational was one for the ages as the UM-St. Louis women's golf team stampeded to a remarkable first place victory.

Coach James Earle called the performance the greatest in the history of UM-St. Louis women's golf.

After the first day featured a stunning 316 scored performance by the Tritons that put them in second place, the team came back the second day and slammed the door on the competition with a magnificent 313.

That was more than good enough for first place as they beat tied second-place finishers University of Southern Indiana and William Woods University by three strokes.

The event took place on Oct. 5 and 6 at Gateway Golf Links in Madison, Ill., with the St. Louis skyline looming in the background. The atmosphere, fueled by a championship feel, was filled with excitement.

"The competition was very strong," coach Earle said. "After day one there were eight teams within 10 strokes of the lead. That is very uncommon to have so many great teams in one field. And any time you can beat the No. 7 team in the nation (University of Southern Indiana), you know you have done something special."

Shweta Galande, freshman, psychology, led UM-St. Louis by earning medalist honors. Her 149 score was the best out of any individual in the tournament.

"Shweta's performance was amazing. Especially her last nine holes of competition. Shweta birdied three of her last seven holes and finished stronger than any other player in the field. Her determination to post a low score carried her all the way to the medalist honors. This is just the first of many tournament victories in Shweta's career," coach Earle said.

While Galande's performance was remarkable, she was only one of three Tritons to finish in the top 10. Clara Vila, junior, psychology, tied for fourth place with a 153 score and Amie Koerner, senior, early childhood education, earned an eighth-place finish with a 154.

"Clara Vila continues to play amazing," coach Earle said. "No one has been more steady than Clara. She is very comfortable in playing with and beating the top players in the nation."

Coach Earle also pointed out that Koerner is clearly back into the form that made her UM-St. Louis's first NCAA selection ever.

"She is hitting the ball longer than ever and I think is the best driver of the golf ball in the conference," coach Earle said. "There is no doubt that she is going to go low in

the spring and cap off what has been a UMSL Sports Hall of Fame worthy career."

Galande, Vila, and Koerner shared similar success last week. The difference this week may have actually come from two freshmen who came through in the clutch.

Chelsea Kellogg, freshman, nursing, and Brittany Rogers, freshman, accounting, finished with much better second day totals than first day that likely pushed the Tritons over the top.

Coach Earle does not seem too surprised at how his team has progressively improved to become the team that dominated at UM-St. Louis Triton Invitational.

"The team keeps improving because of three things," Earle said, "talent, hard work and the determination to become the best possible team we can. I think we will finish the season in the top 20 in the nation. Right now we are 22nd."

While the UM-St. Louis Triton Invitational was certainly one to remember, their coach believes there is plenty more to come.

"I could not be more proud of how this team has improved since the first tournament," Earle said. "We are not even close to playing our best yet. I think we are going to shock some teams in the spring and do something really special."

Tritons weather overtime

► **ANTHONY PADGETT**
Asst. Sports Editor

A massive storm front engulfed the St. Louis area last week and edged St. Louis closer to its first frost. From Wednesday until Friday, the rain never ceased and forced both the women's and men's soccer teams at the University of Missouri-St. Louis to make changes to their schedules.

The women were supposed to play two home games this week at Don Dallas Field, but both were postponed. The game on Wednesday against Washington University was pushed back to Nov. 4.

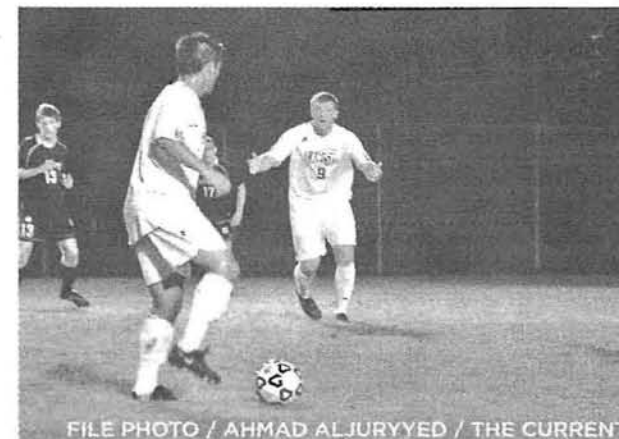
The other home game, against Maryville, was changed to Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. at Don Dallas.

The men were also scheduled to play Maryville at Don Dallas last Friday, but had their match moved up to 1 p.m. and moved to a neutral site: St. Louis Scott Gallagher Complex in Maryland Heights.

Maryville entered the game ranked 14th in the GLVC and had yet to win a game this season. The weather conditions were quite miserable with nothing but dark clouds, temperatures in the upper 40s, and cold winds.

A number of fans watched the match from the comfort of their cars as the parking lot was located right next to the field.

Maryville would score the first goal of the game at the 11:44 mark from Max Lub-



FILE PHOTO / AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT
Jack McKenna, junior, forward in a game earlier this season.

lin. The Tritons would not be denied their vital fifth win of the year so easily. At the 35th minute, Ryan South, senior, scored his first goal of the year off a head ball from Ryan Vines', senior, business administration, corner kick. The game went into halftime tied at 1-1. Those fans that did brave the elements dashed for their cars to warm up during halftime.

In the second half, Maryville would regain the lead 2-1 after Erik Roediger scored. Less than one minute later, UM-St. Louis marched down the field and tied the game, thanks to Jack McKenna, junior, who scored his third goal of the season unassisted off of a rebound.

Fans that had been sitting in their cars got out to have a better view as the game went into overtime. It would take the Tritons less than five minutes to take the lead for the first time and win the game 3-2.

Five minutes into the first overtime, Maryville's goalie, Michael Flately, picked up

the ball outside of the goalie box due to pressure giving the Tritons a free kick just outside of the box.

Chris Clarkin, senior, took the free kick which Johnny O'Mara, sophomore, headed into the goal, keeping the Tritons playoff hopes alive. The victory snapped the Tritons three-game losing streak. It was the fifth overtime game for the team, which is now 2-1-2 in overtime games on the year.

After the match, Dan King, ninth year head coach of the Tritons, attributed the win to the "never say never" attitude of the team. "(That is the) personality of the team, [we] never gave up—we don't quit," King said.

On Monday, the Tritons will travel to Fayette, Iowa to play Upper Iowa at 1 p.m. After that, the team will return home to Don Dallas to play its final home stand of the season. On Friday at 7:30 p.m., they will play Southern Indiana. Then on Sunday, the Tritons will play Kentucky Wesleyan, at 2:30 p.m.

www.thecurrentonline.com

UPCOMING GAMES

MEN'S SOCCER

Oct. 16 SOUTHERN INDIANA* DON DALLAS FIELD 7:30 pm
Oct. 18 KENTUCKY WESLEYAN DONDALLAS FIELD 2:30 pm

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Oct. 13 MARYVILLE DON DALLAS FIELD 6:00 pm
Oct. 16 SOUTHERN INDIANA* DON DALLAS FIELD 5:00 pm

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 16 & 17 at GLIAC-GLVC Crossover Tournament Lansing, Mich. TBA
Oct. 20 at Missouri S&T* Rolla, MO. 7:00 pm

MEN'S GOLF

Oct. 12-13 at Lewis Fall Classic (Prairie Bluff GC) Lockport, Ill.

Coach Taylors' looks for turn around

► MARK WEBBER
Staff Writer

While the Tritons Women's Basketball season is about a month away from the regular season, Coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor is prepping the team for what she hopes to be a big year.

In her third year as head coach of women's basketball at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Coach Taylor expects to see an improved team from her previous seasons here.

"We will be better overall at every position," Curliss-Taylor said. "We have more depth at every spot."

In the first two seasons since Coach Taylor came to rebuild the program UM-St. Louis women's basketball has a record of 14-41. Last year's team, which was marked by a plague of injuries, finished 7-21.

"My overall experience [at UM-St. Louis] has been good, yet challenging," Coach Taylor said. "Challenging in that when I got here, we had a long way to go to get where we need to be. Good, because we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The team is catching on and working harder than ever."

She believes that having the patience to get through losing seasons is difficult.

However, she has learned that despite all of the obstacles she has faced at UM-St. Louis, the teams have stuck together and will start seeing the results of working hard and pressing forward.

Curliss-Taylor, originally from Oklahoma City, Okla., played collegiately at the NCAA Division I level at Oral Roberts University before transferring and coaching at University of Oklahoma. There she spent two seasons as a student-assistant coach, while the team went 25-8 and advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

Her success didn't stop there. For two seasons as an assistant coach at Washburn University, the team went 53-11. Afterward, Coach Taylor took a head coaching position at East Texas Baptist. Her four-year tenure there earned a 57-48 record that included a 40-14 record in the last two seasons.

Coach Taylor's overall record is 71-89 in six seasons as a head coach. Despite almost half of her losses coming at UM-St. Louis, she believes her past experiences and history will help in turning things around here.

"The experiences I had as a player, as a student assistant at Oklahoma [and] the success at East Texas and Washburn taught me what it takes to win," Curliss-Taylor

said. "That is what I teach as a coach."

Coach Taylor understands the hard work that it takes to turn a team around, but believes it has its benefits.

"It is more rewarding when you work for something and get success than when you don't give it your all," Curliss-Taylor said. "You can really appreciate winning when you feel that you have truly put in the time and dedication to get that win. The team realizes that now."

Coach Taylor admits her frustrations, but is excited about what she sees.

"They can now walk onto the court and know that they have worked hard and deserve to win," She said. "For the first time since I took this job, I can truly say that I enjoy this team. I think I can trust them and they can trust me in decisions we make as a team. I want our seniors to have a special year and walk away after their final game and be proud to be a Triton."

The Tritons women's basketball team is expected to play exciting basketball.

"Our games will be fast paced with tough defense and fast breaks," Coach Taylor said. "We have fun players to watch and hope that everyone will come out and support us and help make UMSL Women's Basketball a powerhouse in this area."

CEDDIE SAYS...

Wanted: Hoop dreamers

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Ceddie says... Life is all about taking your best shot when opportunities present themselves.

I believe in that. That's my life credo. I believe we should all *always* go for it, even if there's only the slightest chance of actually reaching our goal.

That is why I was so excited to hear about University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball coach Chris Pilz's decision to go forward with walk-on tryouts at the Mark Twain Building this Friday, Oct. 16.

I love it when regular guys get offered a shot, and Coach Pilz has decided to give any male UM-St. Louis student who believes he has got game a chance to prove it and possibly join the Tritons this season.

That means any of you that still have hoop dreams, whether they are from your high school glory days or your time as a star at the YMCA recreation league, or even from as far back as your youth league days, if you think you can play, Coach Pilz wants to see you Friday at the Mark Twain.

The walk-on workout will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Friday.

That's what time the team practices, and according to Coach Pilz, any guy wanting to join the team should be willing to "get out of bed and come practice that early."

Unlike other schools, UM-St. Louis won't charge a fee to participate (at Mizzou, they charged all the hopefuls \$35 just to get in the door). The only requirements are that you be a full-time student, that you have proof of insurance, and that you have taken a physical in the last six months.

All anyone interested has to do to sign up for Friday's tryout is contact assistant coach Steven Gum. His email address is gums@umsl.edu and his office number is 314-516-6734. Gum will be running the walk-on workout, along with veteran assistant coach Chico Jones, while Coach Pilz will be on hand observing.

Any of you who are thinking about trying this should know that you are not as big a longshot as others might think. There has been a couple of times during Pilz's tenure that a walk-on made the team. Just last year, forward Alex Jackson made the team as a walk-on, and actually became a starter by the time the season began.

So it is possible. It has

been done before. And Pilz is dead serious when he says he believes there might be a player on this campus no one knows about that can help the team this year.

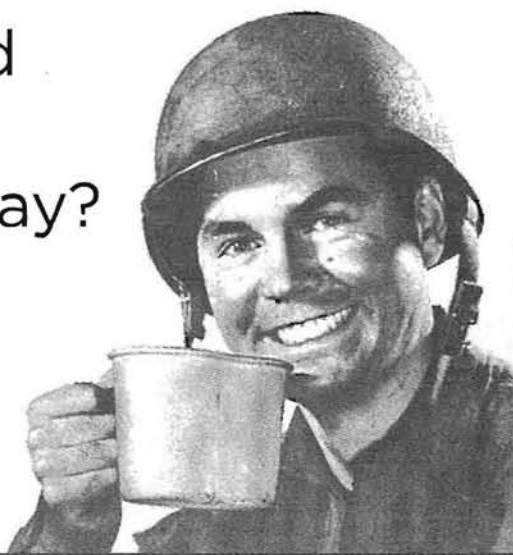
I've talked with Coach Pilz a couple of times and I know that he is very excited about his squad this year. But the Great Lakes Valley Conference just happens to be the toughest Division II men's basketball league in the country.

Last year, nine teams finished the year with winning records. No other conference had more than six. Six GLVC teams made the NCAA Tournament. No other league had more than four. It's a hard league to win in.

So Coach Pilz is hoping to find somebody, maybe a couple of somebodies, that are willing to do "whatever is necessary" to help the Tritons reach their goal of making it to the postseason tournament this year, after they narrowly missed last year.

I am going to be there Friday cheering on every one of you that shows up, because in my mind, the only thing better than going for it myself is rooting for other regular guys like me to do well when someone passes them a chance and says "take your best shot."

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WITRICITY, from page 5

One that college students which most likely will be the first generation to become accustomed to it on a daily basis.

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Help us do it live. Send events and ideas to
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

STAT BOX

MEN'S SOCCER

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)	Overall (W-L-T)
Drury	9-0-0	12-0-0
N. Kentucky	7-2-0	10-2-1
Lewis	7-3-0	8-3-1
UW-Parkside	5-2-2	9-2-2
Bellarmine	6-3-0	8-3-1
Rockhurst	6-3-0	8-5-0
Missouri S&T	5-3-1	5-4-1
Quincy	5-3-1	6-5-2
Missouri-St. Louis	4-4-2	5-5-2
Saint Joseph's	3-4-2	6-5-2
Indianapolis	3-5-1	5-5-2
Southern Indiana	3-7-0	3-8-1
Ky. Wesleyan	1-8-1	4-10-1
Maryville	0-8-1	0-11-1
Ill. Springfield	0-9-1	1-10-1

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)	Overall (W-L-T)
N. Kentucky	8-2	11-2-0
Bellarmine	8-2	10-2-0
Drury	8-2	11-3-0
Indianapolis	8-2	11-3-0
Quincy	8-2	10-4-0
UW-Parkside	6-3-1	7-3-2
Rockhurst	5-4-1	6-6-1
S. Indiana	5-5-1	6-7-2
Missouri S&T	5-5-0	5-6-1
Maryville	4-4-1	5-6-1
UM-St. Louis	2-6-1	2-7-1
Ky. Wesleyan	2-6-1	2-8-1
Lewis	2-8-1	3-9-2
Saint Joseph's	1-9-0	2-11
Ill. Springfield	0-11-0	2-11

VOLLEYBALL

Team	GLVC (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Lewis	8-0	18-3
Indianapolis	7-1	22-1
UM-St. Louis	6-2	15-7
N. Kentucky	6-2	15-7
Rockhurst	5-3	12-10
St. Joseph's	5-3	11-11
Drury	4-4	12-8
Bellarmine	4-4	7-6
S. Indiana	4-4	10-10
Missouri S&T	4-5	8-17
UW-Parkside	3-5	15-8
Quincy	3-5	4-15
Ill. Springfield	1-7	7-13
Maryville	1-8	2-14
Ky. Wesleyan	0-8	1-17

Tough as nails: volleyball's title

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Ask most sports fans to define toughness, and you are most likely to hear amazing stories about heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali or the tall tales of Bears line-backer Dick Burkus.

You might get told about the time Michael Jordan played in the NBA Finals with the flu, or when Jack Youngblood played the entire playoffs with a broken leg.

What you are not likely to hear about is a 5'7, 120-pound volleyball pixie from Brownsburg, Ind., who has been doing her thing all season long for the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons.

But anyone who has seen her play can attest to this fact. Carolyn Holstein is completely redefining what toughness is with her play as the starting libero for the Tritons.

"She's absolutely fearless," UM-St. Louis head volleyball coach Trent Jones said. "She'll sacrifice her body to go get a ball. She doesn't care if she gets bumps and bruises if she can get a touch, and that's one of the most important things for that position."

The libero in volleyball is a defensive position, and most teams pick their best defensive player to play the position.

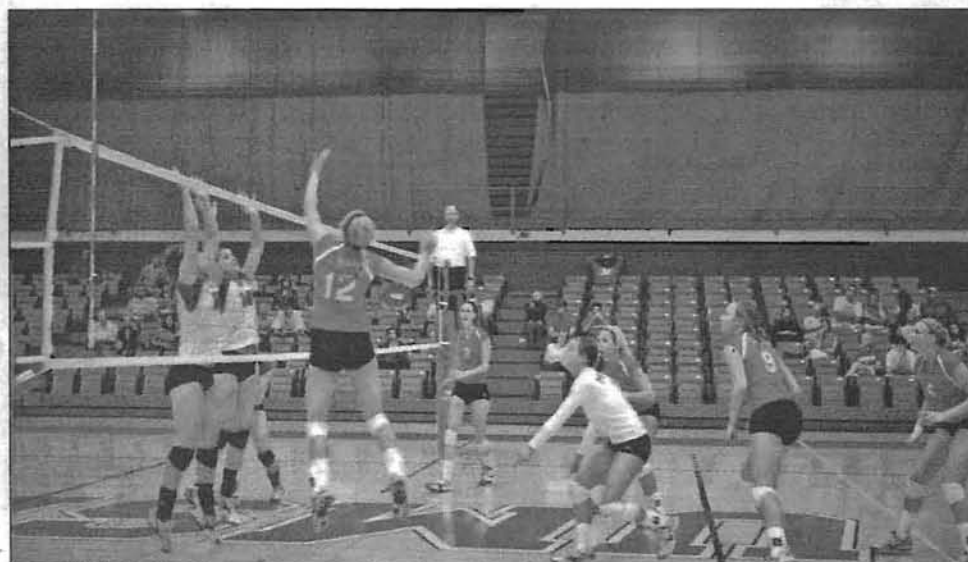
She gets to wear a different color jersey than everyone

else, and she is allowed to sub in and out more often, and for more players than anyone else on the team.

The logic behind the libero position is to have your best defensive player stay in the back row as much as she can so that she is always in position to prevent the opponent's best hitters from putting away their spike attempts.

In volleyball, a successful spike attempt is called a 'kill.' It's the libero's job to keep that potential kill from hitting the ground. Her job is to keep the point alive, and if she manages to pull it off she gets credit for a 'dig.'

See NAILS, page 25



FILE PHOTO / MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

Elizabeth Cook, junior, outside hitter, takes the front line of action during a home game.

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Features

DRAG SHOW

A funk' good time

► **CHRIS STEWART**
Asst. Design Editor

PRIZM's annual Drag Show had a problem, but it is the best problem to have had. It is one of the University of Missouri-St. Louis's most popular events and because of this, it lost its beloved venue in the Pilot House. This year's show took place in the MSC Century Rooms Thursday night.

"We were actually breaking the fire codes in the Pilot House because so many people were coming, but we're glad to have the Century Rooms—this is a great space, great venue," Ryan Ordway, senior, media studies, said.

Ordway is a member of PRIZM, UM-St. Louis' queer/straight alliance. PRIZM was assisted by a half-dozen student volunteers this year who ran tables, ushered audience members in, and helped out performers throughout the show. The tables offered T-shirts at discount rates for students, and a colorful array of free condoms and lubricant. The T-shirts were emblazoned with this year's theme: "I'm a Funkin' Queen."

The evening's emcee was Dieta Pepsi. Miss Pepsi, ever the entertainer, was at her usual full-throttle as she broke the



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Alexis Principle flips her long locks as she performs at the 6th Annual Drag Show, put on by Prizm Thursday in the Century Rooms in the MSC.

ice with a barrage of R-rated humor.

"Who here is scared of cross dressers?" Pepsi purred at the audience, a few of whose members soon gleefully pointed out their squeamish friends. Pepsi then approached them, and needless to say, let them face their fear up close and personal. Subtlety, as Pepsi made clear, was not the goal of the evening when she announced: "We want people on the highway to hear us!"

The event was co-sponsored by RHA (The Residence Halls Association), the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) Resource Center, SGA (Student Government Association), Alpha Phi Omega, the University Bookstore, and UM-St. Louis' Encore Dance group. Missing this year was traditional co-sponsor University Program Board.

The opener was Tabby Cat, a tall brunette whose look hearkened to the bad girl image of Joan Jett, Pat Benetar, and other female rockers, whose music Tabby Cat danced to. Next was the evening's sole drag king, Ryder, who adopted a scrappy pool hall junky look as he strutted to pop punk numbers. Third was UM-St. Louis' own Siren, a class of 2006 graduate who also won Mr. & Mrs. RHA, a smaller, informal, students-only drag show. Finally, newcomer Alexis Principle performed, adding a hip-hop flare to the evening.

"It went better than expected," Jillian Richardson, vice president of PRIZM, said after the show, as audience members milled about having their pictures taken, thanking performers, and scooping up the last of the T-shirts and condoms.

"We were on our toes—we wanted to vamp it up, make sure it doesn't look too conference room-y," Richardson said.

The new location did not change the vibrancy of the performance, the general naughty fun atmosphere and the buzz of students getting to experience the diverse pleasure of our campus and city.



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Performer and former UM-St. Louis student Siren accepts money from an UMSL student at the drag show. The show was put on by Prizm and celebrates National Coming Out week.

ANIME AT UMSL

Cartoons explore Japanese culture

► **BRIDGET RYDER**
Staff Writer

An academic symposium on cartoons may seem like a paradox.

Last Saturday, October 3, the Center for International Studies and the Japan American Student Association sponsored "Anime at UMSL: Postmodern Japan comes to St. Louis" on campus. The symposium explored aspects of Japanese culture surrounding the popular form of Japanese animation known as anime.

Anime are Japanese cartoons distinguished by their triangular faces, large eyes and small mouths. Anime has reached great popularity not only in the Asian world, but in the United States and other western countries as well.

At "Anime at UMSL: Postmodern Japan comes to St. Louis," Christopher Born, a lecturer in the Honors College at UM-St. Louis, discussed the subculture surrounding anime in his presentation "Third Order Simulcra and the Otaku 'moe' Phenomenon."

"The Otaku are the fans of anime," Born said, "[and are] generally characterized as the prototypical nerds or geeks."

They are usually men—though there are also a certain percentage of women among the Otaku subculture—ranging in age from their late teens to middle forties.

Born said that the enthusiasm of some Otaku for anime goes beyond mere adolescent obsession to a

2D complex. A 2D complex is an emotional feeling of love for an animated character.

Born compared the development of a 2D complex to eating Jolly Ranchers. Eating a lot of fruit-flavored Jolly Ranchers could make one eventually prefer Jolly Ranchers to real fruit.

The fact that the candy may be more easily accessible and cheaper than fruit only makes replacing fruit with candy that much easier.

The same thing happens with a 2D complex.

After looking at so many idealized, stylized images of feminine anime characters, some men prefer the image to the reality.

Born showed pictures of a man who wore a body pillow hanging from his neck with an image of a female cartoon character printed on it. He took his pillow on dates.

Born said the problem with 2D complexes is that these men seem unable to achieve self-actualization, cling to the images of childhood, and are unable to engage in mature, adult relationships with women.

Should this phenomenon continue to grow, Born concluded, it will make it difficult for Japanese society to move forward.

La'Ondril Brown, senior, French, attended the symposium. He has seen friends develop a 2D complex.

"People watch anime and get lost in the fantasy," Brown said.

See **CARTOONS**, page 22

Students with Talent

► **JOHN DUNN**
Staff Writer

Angel Husher won the Artistic Vision Showcase talent show for her rendition of Beyoncé's "At Last" at the Pilot House on Friday night. The show was the first of its kind to be held by the School of Optometry.

Proceeds from the show's ticket sales will be put toward the Missouri public school system's eye care program, which sponsors eyeglasses for those who cannot afford them.

The show also hoped to raise awareness of the National Optometric Association, with a focus on minority involvement in the profession. Overall, the show was a light-hearted affair, featuring friendly competition between the participants.

"I'm not that concerned with winning, I just think that it's a great friendly atmo-

sphere and a good opportunity to perform," Jake Hayward, freshman, optometry, said.

Hayward was the first contestant to perform, singing a song he wrote himself.

Most of the seats in the Pilot House were filled, with around 80 people in attendance.

Nicole Pogue, organizer of the event and part of the National Optometric Association, is optimistic for the future of similar events and for the charity money raised by the talent show.

"We're hoping to raise at least 300 dollars from the ticket sales," Pogue said. Husher, the winning participant, boosted the total by donating her \$200 prize.

"It's something we definitely want to repeat in the future, hopefully with an even bigger attendance," Pogue said.

Pogue said that participa-



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

The band Riverton performed "Looking Forward" in Artistic Vision Talent Showcase in the Pilot House last Friday.

tion is open to every University of Missouri-St. Louis student as well as staff and faculty.

There were a wide range of entries, and most tried to celebrate science and the profession, such as Natalie Crothers's optometric interpretation of Fergie's "Glam-

orous," complete with a lab coat and oversized spectacles. Even Bryan Hoke's Poi spinning was a feast of LEDs.

Second prize of \$125 went to Hanna Kim, who played rock and roll on her violin, while the third place prize of \$75 went to the comic duo "9pm" who captured

the apathy of student life with "Dumb," their take on Linkin Park's "Numb."

One contestant, Juhina Naheen, showed off her unique talent to spell anything backwards, with audience members shouting out difficult words for her to spell.

Her name, ironically, was misspelled on the set-list leaflet distributed to attendants.

Eric Jerde, master of ceremonies, kept involvement high. Throughout the night, Jerde also encouraged further charitable donations from the crowd in quiz rounds and raffle draws.

UM-St. Louis Peer Mentors are here to help our students succeed

► **JOE SCHAFFNER**
Staff Writer

Working toward a degree is a task often laden with confusion. Which classes are pertinent to a degree? How to succeed in classes? How to enjoy a rich student life? These are all questions that may need addressing.

Add to this the fact that the University of Missouri-St. Louis has a large transfer-student base (over 75% in 2008), the confusion can be heightened for many by virtue of unacknowledged

credits and the new atmosphere. Often this can lead to "transfer shock."

That is where guidance counselors come in. UM-St. Louis has taken this service to the next level, employing qualified, involved and enthusiastic students within the Office of Transfer Services to fulfill this role as Peer Mentors.

The office is located at the Center for Student Success in the Millennium Student Center.

Peer Mentors work closely with the Wellness Resource

Center to provide encouragement and support for students at an approachable level. Their employees and volunteers are all transfer students who have faced similar challenges.

"We too are transfer students and have successfully transitioned into UMSL after attending other institutions; we understand the transition process and its difficulties, especially transfer shock," Scott Tapp, senior, peer mentor said.

Their work is focused on the recruitment of transfer

students and the retention of their interest in academia upon arriving at UM-St. Louis.

"At UMSL we have a plethora of resources available to assist students in achieving their degree," Tapp said. "Often times, students do not know they exist or are unsure of how to get the assistance. Our most common job is assisting students in finding these resources, and second to that is advocating for transfer and non-traditional students."

Getting acclimated to a

new campus and the variety of student organizations that it offers can be a daunting task. Peer mentoring can help consolidate and filter the array of choices for students.

They are there to help and are anxious to help find a social network befitting the predispositions and interests of students.

An involved group itself, Peer Mentors sponsored the "Final Stress Blow-off" in conjunction with the Center for Student Success last winter in the Millennium Student Center.

The event featured various activities designed to help relieve the anxiety and stress that comes with final exams, including a punching bag to hit and bubble wrap to pop. "Final Stress Blow-off" was an immense success and is scheduled to take place at the end of this semester.

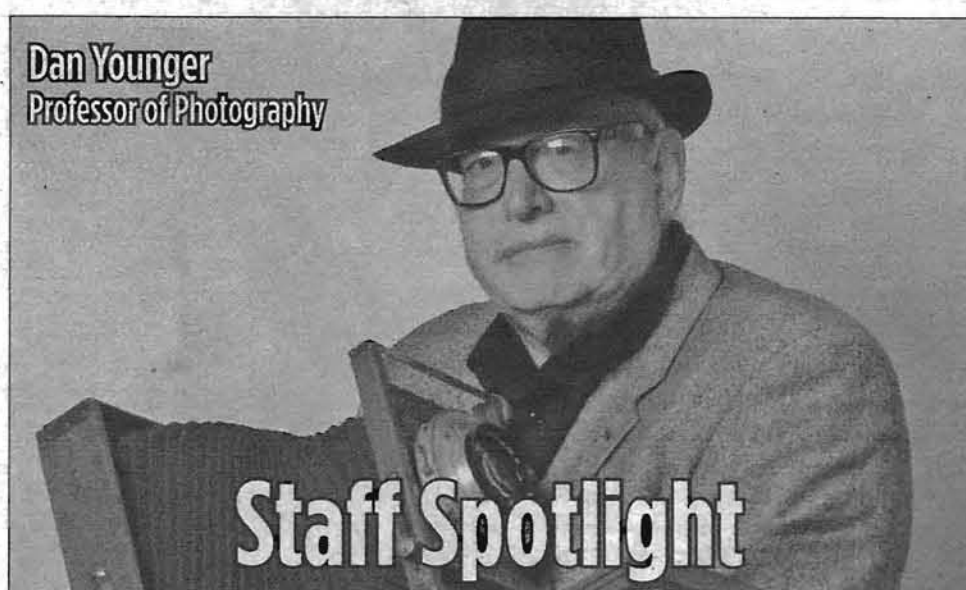
Students interested in getting a Peer Mentor or volunteering as one are encouraged to contact Peer Mentors by phone at (314) 516-5176, email at askamentor@umsl.edu, or go to the Center for Student Success (225 MSC).

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Dan Younger
Professor of Photography



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

► **SARAH HILL**
Staff Writer

A photographer, former director of the Art department, and instructor of Illustration and Photography, Dan Younger spends his time teaching and researching both in and out of his studio.

The Current: How did you get involved with the University of Missouri-St. Louis?

Dan Younger: As I tell my students, UMSL was the school I flunked out of. A campus big shot at the time told me that I was not nor would I ever be college material. Maybe he was right about the first part, but he wasn't right about the second. After getting my M.A. and M.F.A., I started the B.F.A. program with Tom Patton and Ken Anderson in 1996. When they needed a director for the department, they looked to me because I was well rounded.

TC: What goals do you have for the art students at UM-St. Louis?

DY: I don't personally believe intelligence lies only in math and English. A lot of our students are more talented in art than they are in math and English, but that

does not mean that they are not as smart as other students. Our programs allow a student to have two thirds of his or her education outside of math and English. We are offering students alternative intelligences.

TC: What do you like about photography over other art forms?

DY: Photographers deal in reality. Most people will at some point in their life take a picture, so why not have it be a good one? Where do you learn how to make it a good one? In art, rules must be broken—rules about what is good and what is bad in art, in the search for what is your art. If a kid who has never taken a picture in his life comes into my class and I ask him to take a picture of a stool, by the first week we have a recognizable picture of that stool. Then we have 15 weeks to figure out why it was done... what he wanted to do. If he were to draw the stool, it would take weeks before finding out why.

TC: You are currently working on a documentary. What is its focus and what are the motivations behind its creation?

DY: It is a still-photo show and a documentary on my

old high school. I will be talking further about the documentary during the Monday Noon series on November 2.

TC: What do you have to say about art in the world today?

DY: It has come to a point in which contemporary art has led people to discount it as a field. Critics say that it has proven itself to be impotent. A lot of artists pick something goofy and weird. I want to teach my students how to find their own art and train to have more consideration for the viewer. You have to think about the viewer as the completion of your piece.

We're mutations in the aesthetic gene pool. Not all mutation is progressive, but eventually one kid might have an aesthetic discovery. Then society is like "oh yeah," and moves over towards that idea.

We should teach everyone to find their own art. They have to get rid of all other approved and disapproved ideas about what makes art good or bad.

Do it. I can't say it will be a success—it may be a failure, but it is left for society to sort out. Someone will be the flash we need to pull society together. It needs to be better.

Felon shares his DUI story



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

► **SEQUITA BEAN**
Asst. Features Editor

"How many people have ever driven a car while they were intoxicated?" Mark Sterner asked the crowd of University of Missouri St. Louis students on Wednesday night in the JC Penney auditorium. In the room of about 125 students, only a few bravely raised their hands.

Sterner's next question, "How many people have ever killed their three best friends while driving a car intoxicated?" silenced the audience, and only one hand was raised—his.

During Spring Break 1994, Sterner and four of his friends rented a Lincoln Town Car for their week-long stay in Sanibel, Florida. Each night, while four guys partied, one person would refrain from drinking to be the designated driver back to their rented condominium. That night, the group decided the least drunk person would drive which ended up being Sterner.

Sterner showed a ten minute video chronicling the last night of their Spring Break. The audience roared with laughter watching Sterner and his friends take shots, crack jokes, and dance off-beat to reggae music. The room suddenly

fell silent when photos of the 200 yard-long accident scene appeared at the end of the video.

Just two miles from their condo, Sterner swerved off the road into a tree. The crash crumbled the rented Town Car, crushing one of the passengers. Three others, including Sterner, were catapulted 40 yards from the vehicle into the woods, and the fifth passenger suffered minor physical injuries.

Three people died at the scene, and Sterner was taken to the hospital with severe injuries, including nine broken ribs. He slipped in and out of comas for two weeks and when he finally awoke, he was greeted by Sanibel police officers who charged him with three counts of manslaughter. His mug shot was taken from his hospital bed.

Sterner's blood alcohol level was 1.7, while his friend's were 2.2. Although he was the least drunk of the four, his was twice the legal limit. He served three years in prison.

After his presentation Sterner packed up and offered to answer questions in the hallway. There was no preaching to the choir, instead he allowed students to hear his story and make their own decisions.

"I thought the presentation was good and eye opening," Megan Walker, senior, accounting said. Walker said that she always drives herself when going out to parties and won't drink. "I don't rely on other people to make that kind of decision for me," she said.

Another student, Amber Sparkling, senior, education said that drinking and driving is not worth the risk. "I would call a cab or spend the night if I'm over a friends house," she said.

Alcohol related accidents involving 18 to 24 year olds accounted for 31% of all deaths in the United States in 2008.

In Missouri, the number of traffic fatalities involving drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.8% and above was 310 in 2008, and 53 people were killed in Missouri where one driver had a blood alcohol concentration between 0.1% and 0.7% according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Drunk driving in Missouri costs a \$500 fine, plus six months in jail, and a 30 day license suspension, followed by a 60 day driving suspension on the first offence. The second offence costs \$1,000 in fines, plus a year in jail, and a five year license suspension.

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Arts & Entertainment

'Scribblenauts' game ingenious, yet lacking

Who would win in a battle between the dread elder god Cthulhu and God?

In "Scribblenauts," God is the clear victor. Between God and a vampire, though, God ends up as a zombie, and the only thing that can kill him then is Cthulhu.

It's a vicious cycle, you see.

Perhaps that is the best way to describe "Scribblenauts," the new Nintendo DS game from developer 5th Cell. There is no doubt that it is a ground-breaking game, but it has its fair share of problems. Each problem, in turn, begets another problem.

The game revolves around the player's ability to write down anything and see it appear before their eyes. Of course, brand names, copyrighted creations or anything rude or of a sexual nature obviously won't work, but nearly anything and everything else will.

Want to see who wins in a fight between a T-Rex

and a Velociraptor? Just like in Jurassic Park, the T-Rex wins. Funny story: the king of dinosaurs can also beat Cthulhu.

Part of the allure of "Scribblenauts" is simply writing down things to see how they react to one another. Write down "bomb" and you get a classic, black, round bomb with a fuse. Light that fuse with "fire" and watch the bomb explode.

In fact, some players may never even get into the actual game. Since the menu is interactive, they may only get that far before watching a bear and a shark fight to the death (the bear wins, naturally).

And that is one of "Scribblenauts'" greatest weaknesses: the game itself. The gameplay revolves around collecting each level's "starite." The idea is for the player to write their own solution to the level's problem. Sometimes an objective

is given and specific objects have to be used to solve the level.

What makes "Scribblenauts" so special is its positively colossal vocabulary. Nearly anything you can think up can be written down and turned into an item in the game.

However, therein is the problem: despite the massive library, not all of the words are particularly handy. I cannot ever think of a situation where I would need to actually use Cthulhu in the game aside from my own sick, twisted amusement.

The game has virtually no story. You get the main character's name (Maxwell) but that is just about it. The only compelling reason to keep playing is that completing each level nets Maxwell "ollars" with which he can purchase new areas and different avatars.

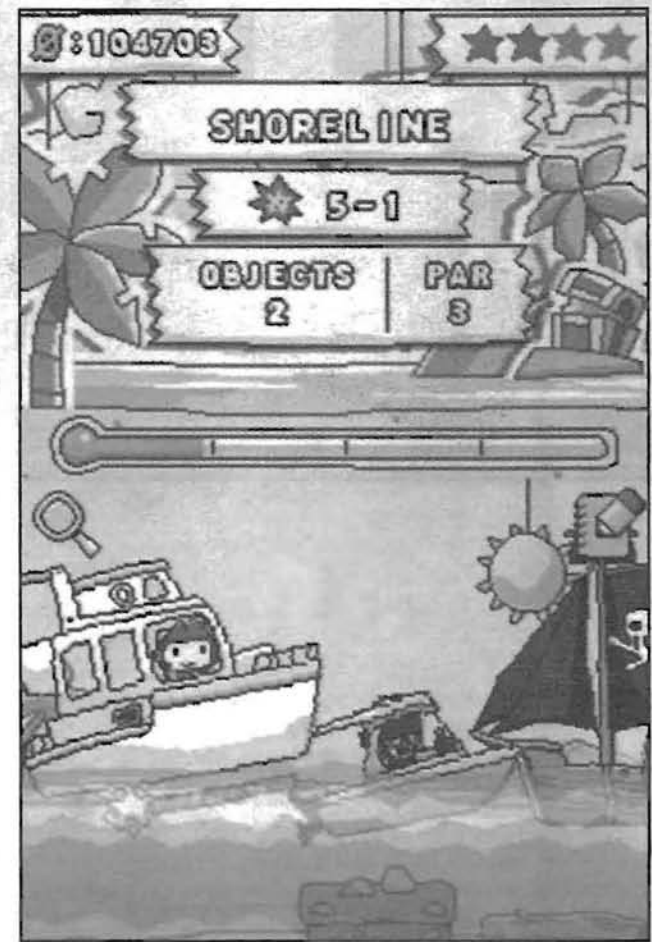
The lack of story is not the only problem in "Scrib-

blenauts." The game's controls are just plain wonky. The stylus controls Maxwell, while the d-pad controls the game's camera, instead of the other way around.

The controls are hard to get used to, particularly because the camera has a tendency to snap back to Maxwell.

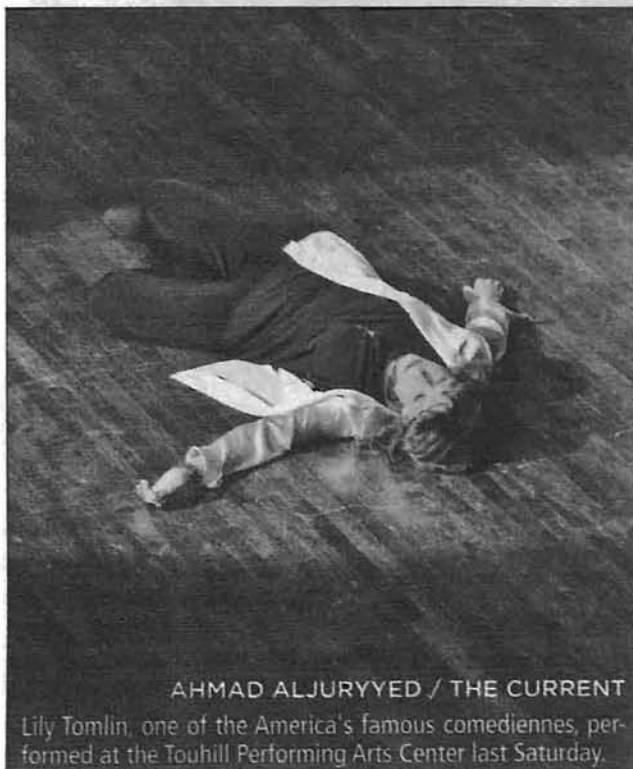
You could be watching your latest creation (Cthulhu versus Shoggoth, the ultimate in Lovecraftian throwdowns, where Cthulhu wins yet again), yet if you try to move Maxwell closer to the action, the camera will move to his current location which is a safe distance away from the interstellar carnage. Sigh.

5th Cell has touted "Scribblenauts" as a prime example of "emergent" gameplay. The idea is all about letting the player play the game their way, and "Scribblenauts" does just that. It is just a shame that poor control decisions and the lack of an in-



COURTESY / 5TH CELL

triguing story take away from the experience. That does not make it a bad game, not at all—it is just not as great as it could have been. **B-**—Andrew Seal



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Lily Tomlin, one of the America's famous comedienne, performed at the Touhill Performing Arts Center last Saturday.

Tomlin takes Touhill crowd for colorful spin

Last Saturday night, Oct. 3, at 8 p.m., the Touhill presented "An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin." The audience fell into silent anticipation of Tomlin's oncoming arrival onstage. Once the stage opened to Tomlin, the crowd stood up to welcome her with cheers.

She pranced onto the stage and immediately met the crowd's joyous uproar with gratitude. Her chair, table and two water bottles were the extent of the decorations on the dimly lit stage. Clad in a white silk shirt and black pants, Tomlin provided a colorful personality to the audience while presenting a slew of her well-known "Laugh-In" characters ranging from Edith Ann to Ernestine, and Trudy to Judith Beasley, while also touching on a six-year-old version of herself.

Throughout the show, Tomlin covered various issues such as gay marriage,

racism, sexism and even ageism with comedic observations and interpretations. Transitioning back and forth to Trudy, a character from "A Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe," Tomlin cleverly expressed these controversial ideas to the audience.

"An Evening with Classic Lily Tomlin" truly began with a comedic crack at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons. Tomlin noted the change from the former Rivermen and Riverwomen and provided the audience with a quote from the UM-St. Louis top naming committee regarding the "unwieldy" (i.e. hard to handle due to size, weight or complexity) gender issues associated with the old name. Erupting laughter greeted her definition of "Triton," when she noted its masculine nature as a god of the sea and son of Poseidon.

Tomlin also explained her worries to

the audience. She expressed concerns that if not for commercials, people would go to the store and stand there, never knowing what to buy. It was during this that the technical difficulties—which continued throughout the remainder of the show—appeared. With her mic phasing in and out, later falling off, and a confused pianist, Tomlin's show could have easily ridden a path downhill.

Instead, the technical and musical difficulties—which only removed one skit from her performance—gave Tomlin an easier way to win the audience's approval. Her responses to each occurrence, the choice to resort to her humor and understanding rather than negativity, helped to make these difficulties seem almost nonexistent.

See TOMLIN, page 20



Zombieland
Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg
Columbia Pictures, R

COURTESY / SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

"Zombieland" has zombies, zombies everywhere—and plenty of laughs too.

While the comedy "Zombieland" does not quite match "Shawn of the Dead" in the laugh quotient, it has plenty of guffaws.

Structured like a parody, it follows the usual zombie horror-film outline of the resourceful lone survivor in a devastated land of the living dead, who turns out to not be all alone after all.

In this case, the resourceful survivor is Jesse Eisenberg in his usual awkward-virgin mode.

The nameless survivor—a student at University of Texas at Austin—has outlasted those around him, he tells us in voice-over narration, because he is basically a loner anyway, with no friends and no girlfriend. That and because of his rules. Rule one: cardio, so you can outrun those shambling zombies. He has a long list of other rules, which pop up as graphics on screen. He also has a long list of phobias, which he credits with making him super-cautious and therefore harder to kill—a clever reversal of the steely hero.

But now that he is alone he kind of misses people, even his parents, with whom he was never close. So he sets out to go home to Columbus,

Ohio, hoping they might still be alive. On the road he encounters another survivor, a zombie-hunter deluxe—a nutcase with a serious yen for Twinkies, played by Woody Harrelson, in full-out hilarious mode. This is the kind of comic role Harrelson does so well and he does not disappoint.

Harrelson is headed for Tallahassee but agrees to give the student a ride part way. After these two reluctantly pair up, they eventually come across a sister team (Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin, the young star of "Little Miss Sunshine"). However, these two have their own survival skills in a pleasantly surprising twist.

Rather than exchange names in this broken landscape, they call each other by city names—Columbus (Eisenberg), Tallahassee (Harrelson), Wichita (Stone) and Little Rock (Breslin)—places they are headed towards or away from.

Like every wasteland-themed horror flick, someone has an idea about where there might be a zombie-free zone, or where an enclave of other survivors are holed up. In this case, absurdly, it is a Coney Island style amusement park near Hollywood. Think carnies and demon clowns.

The film plays with the

stock-in-trade plots of zombie and horror flicks, generally with hilarious results. This kind of story is just made for Harrelson, but a nice bit by Bill Murray is the film's topper. Amber Heard also plays an early victim in a flashback, with an enamored, hopeful Eisenberg.

The emphasis is on comedy, not frights. Although there are suspenseful twists, the zombies behave as they should and there is plenty of movie gore, plus gunfire—with bigger and bigger guns—and stuff blowing up. Mostly, it is tongue-in-cheek silliness and has enough fun with the genre to keep everyone gorily entertained.

The effects are good, the situations are clever enough to amuse while familiarity within the genre is being lampooned, but do not look for any deeper social commentary here as "Zombieland" is strictly fun and games.

The pace is brisk and the film jaunts from one comic zombie-filled encounter and shoot-out to another, dodging the lumbering undead while littering the landscape with twisted bodies and twisted jokes.

"Zombieland" is simply the place for gory fun. No "Shawn of the Dead" but good enough entertainment.

B—Cate Marquis

Couples Retreat

Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman
Universal Pictures, PG-13

Divorce can be an ugly, ugly thing. When the union of two people goes downhill, the resulting fallout damages not only the people involved but their family and friends as well. It goes without saying that divorce is to be avoided at all costs. Anything that can be done to prevent it should.

That is the basic premise behind "Couples Retreat." The film revolves around four couples: Dave (Vince Vaughn) and Ronnie (Malin Akerman); Jason (Jason Bateman) and Cynthia (Kristen Bell) who are fruitlessly trying to conceive a child; Joey (Jon Favreau) and Lucy (Kristin Davis) who hate each other and are married in name only; and Shane (Faizon Love) and the much-younger Trudy (Kali Hawk).

Jason and Cynthia calmly announce to their friends that they are going to get a divorce. That is unless they do something drastic, like try an exotic couples retreat

that focuses exclusively on repairing broken marriages.

The other three couples are miffed at first, but Jason assures them that the six of them can all have fun in the sun while he and Cynthia work on their marriage.

After a little late-night convincing, Jason gets Dave to agree to go and the others follow Dave's lead.

Once on the island, they discover to their dismay that they have to participate in the couples' skill-building exercises or be forced to return home.

Vaughn and Favreau have reunited once again, and though this movie is heads-and-shoulders above some of their previous films, this is no "Swingers."

Vaughn turns in the same performance that he seems to for all the films he is in: the jaded know-it-all. For many flicks this would be a handicap, but he and Favreau co-wrote the script, so he is perfectly suited to the movie.

The men's performances are easily the best of the movie, though again, perhaps that is because Vaughn

and Favreau wrote their own characters. Of the women, Bell turns in an admirable job as a logical, organized housewife who really just wants to forget her marriage and fertility troubles to party.

Akerman is decent as Vaughn's other half, and she and Vaughn have a real on-screen chemistry that makes their marriage believable. Davis, on the other hand (someone get that woman a burger, quickly!), appears quite emaciated during the soon-to-be-infamous yoga scene.

There are a lot of touching and poignant moments in the film that really make the viewer reflect on marriage and the process of being with someone for the rest of your life. Luckily, the heavy stuff is broken up into manageable chunks.

Sadly though, the characters reconcile with each other and improve their marriages (even Dave and Ronnie's, who they thought did not need improving) by the end of the film.

See COUPLES, page 20

Also in Theaters

Toy Story. With a third installment announced and impending, the good folks at Disney Pixar have re-released their collaborative debut to theaters for a special run. The first feature-length film entirely in CGIs, "Toy Story" still has a good look, good jokes, good songs and a great villain in Syd, the sadist teenager whose comeuppance will bring a smile to the face of even the most hardened Lynch fans out there. In 3-D and shown as a double feature with "Toy Story 2" in many theaters. **B+**—*The Current's Secret Movie Insider.*

Whip It. Ellen Page, hyper-lovable star of "Juno" warms audiences' hearts again in this heart-warming joyfest about a lackluster lass who finds her inner pizzazz in roller derby. Drew "bubblegum" Barrymore directs this winning little gem sure to blah blah blah. **B-**—*The Current's Secret Movie Insider.*

Pandorum. The latest in the string of films inspired by Russian sci-fi masterpiece "Solaris", all of which so far have reminded audience's of the fact that "Solaris" was the best in the genre. Well "Sunshine" was good, but then again, who saw "Sunshine?" **C+**—*The Current's Secret Movie Insider.*

Love Happens. It's obnoxious when people assume that they actually know anything about celebrities, but I'm going to go ahead and guess that both Jennifer Aniston and Arron Eckhart are smart enough to know not to do a movie like "Love Happens." The first sign of a bad project is when its poster/cover is interchangeable with a dozen other films of the same genre. The second sign is when it's called "Love Happens." **C-**—*The Current's Secret Movie Insider.*

"Phantom" still owns the shadows of the heart

Watching live theater is an experience unlike any other.

The buzz before the show begins, the empathy felt for the characters fluttering about close by, and the orchestra conductor wielding his baton all culminate in a personal experience that is reminiscent to being part of the show, rather than just viewing it.

"The Phantom of the Opera" at the Fox Theater takes such sentiment to the nth degree.

The Phantom of the Opera is a musical set in a grand theater in the late 19th century.

The "Fabulous" Fox is a grand theater renovated to look as it did in the early 20th century. Seeing "Phantom" at the Fox is like taking a step back in time, back to the artful extravagance of Paris near the turn of the century.

The set direction for the show helps achieve this magic, offering the stunning opening image of a broken chandelier coming back to life with the pop and flash

of a small firework and then slowly rising from the stage floor to suspend itself over the audience.

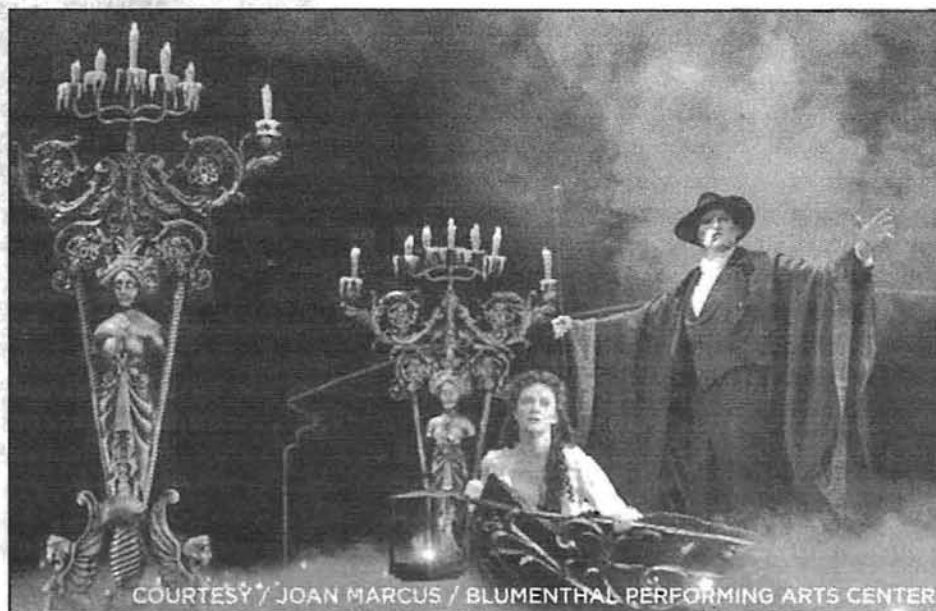
Also part of the aesthetic feast: the proscenium arch attached to the Fox's original arch for the Phantom of the Opera (Tim Martin Gleason) to lord over the perceived and literal audiences, maniacally laughing from above while inexplicably crashing the 1,000 lb chandelier to end the first act.

Such production achieves an eerie effect; even after the lights come on to announce intermission, the Fox has transformed into the haunted Paris Opera House, with the elusive Opera Ghost potentially hiding around every corner.

The second act is no different.

Using surround sound, the phantom speaks sinisterly to the Opera House guests, seeming to be everywhere at once, shocking audience members when his voice is heard in their right ear and then, seconds later, in their left.

However, not all of



COURTESY / JOAN MARCUS / BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

"Phantom" is spine-tingling excitement culminating in fireworks and booming sound effects.

There are several scenes in the play that are gentle, heartwarming, and even heartbreaking.

"All I Ask of You," sung by soprano Christine Daae (Trista Moldovan) and Raoul, Vicomte de Chagny, (Sean MacLaughlin) needs no special effects for the soothing voices and lyrics to delight the senses.

In fact, the final scene of

the play "Beyond the Lake" is the quietest in the show, yet is cacophonous in emotion. The scene transfixes watery eyes to the stage using nothing more than music-box notes and the fallen-from-grace quivering final lyrics from the phantom.

It comes as no surprise that Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical based on "Le Fantôme de l'Opéra" by Gaston Leroux is the longest running show in Broadway's history and has grossed an estimated \$5 billion world-

wide—considering the near-perfection of the script and score.

"Phantom" casts and crews today need only perform the show as it was intended for it to magically entrance the audience. Suffice it to say, the 36-member ensemble and The Cameron Mackintosh/Really Useful Theatre Company, Inc. pulls this off at the Fox.

The show will run until October 25, with performances every day except Monday. **A**—*Jessica Keil*

Interview with "Phantom" star actress, Trista Moldovan

► JESSICA KEIL
Editor-in-Chief

Trista Moldovan plays the ingenue soprano Christine Daae in the stage production of "Phantom" at the Fox Theater. Moldovan grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music. Recently, she worked with Julie Andrews in "Simeon's Gift," and has a history in musical theater working off-Broadway in "Me and My Girl," "Paul Revere," and "Faces of War." Her resume also includes performances in regional shows such as "Gypsy," "Carousel" and "Les Misérables." Moldovan has

also appeared on the soap opera's "All My Children," "The Guiding Light" and "As the World Turns."

TC: *What's it like touring the country with Phantom?*

Trista Moldovan: I love traveling and seeing parts of America I wouldn't normally see, like St. Louis. I love St. Louis, it's such a great city, and I'd never have seen it otherwise.

TC: *Have you had a chance to sightsee?*

TM: Not yet, but in the next few weeks I hope to get to Forest Park, the City Museum and some of these places I'm hearing about. The Lemp Mansion?

TC: *What's it like being part of a show as well-known and beloved as Phantom?*

TM: Phantom was a huge influence on me growing up ... sort of what got me into musical theater. I grew up in Cleveland and saw it whenever it came through ... it's very special to me.

TC: *Have you seen the most recent movie?*

TM: I watched a bit of the movie and then stopped ... it was so different, it's not really comparable, so no, I haven't seen it. I didn't really like what I did see.

TC: *Well, thinking about the show, I was wondering if you could let me in*

on how you guys pulled off some of Phantom's incredible special effects?

TM: (laughing) Well I'm contractually obliged to say that's just the magic of theater.

TC: *Got it. You may not be able to talk about this then, but has anything ever gone wrong?*

TM: A couple of times we've had to stop because the chandelier malfunctioned.

TC: *Oh wow, what did you guys do?*

TM: Yeah, you have to work around it. The audience has been good sports, they all clap when it starts working ... they understand these things happen with

live theater.

TC: How many times have you performed Phantom?

TM: I've been with the show for about a year. Let's see ... I counted up the performances a couple of weeks ago, it was, I think, 315 performances; and I'm planning on staying with the show another year and a half.

TC: *How do you keep your energy up with that many shows?*

TM: Well, there are always understudies and everyone performs a little differently, so that keeps things interesting.

See PHANTOM, page 20

ITUNES TOP 10 DOWNLOADED SONGS



01 3

The Singles Collection
Britney Spears

02 Party in the USA

Party in the USA
Miley Cyrus

03 Whatcha Say

Whatcha Say
Jason DeRulo

04 Fireflies

Ocean Eyes
Owl City

05 Down

Down
Jay Sean

06 Paparazzia

The Fame
Lady GaGa

07 I Gotta Feeling

The E.N.D.
Black Eyed Peas

08 One Less Lonely Girl

One Less Lonely Girl
Justin Bieber

09 Replay

Replay
Lyz

10 It's My Life

It's My Life
Glee Cast

What's your favorite album?
Let us know:
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

New Harbach opera 'O Pioneers!' brings prairie themes to Touhill

Turn-of-the-century Nebraska came to life at the Touhill Performing Arts Center with the world premiere of "O Pioneers!" on Friday.

Part of the "Women in the Arts" program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, "O Pioneers!" was composed by Barbara Harbach, professor of music at UM-St. Louis. Though a world-renowned performer and composer, this is Harbach's first opera.

The curtain opened to reveal the green and brown prairie of Nebraska, the setting of the Willa Cather novel on which the opera "O Pioneers!" is based. It is the story of two strong women, Marie and Alexandra, both daughters of pioneers who carved farms and towns out of the Nebraskan wilderness. True to the goals of "Women

in the Arts," the opera's development of the two main characters and insight into their inner struggle, combined with acting that plied the depth of both characters, brought the show to life.

Ann Hoyt, critically-acclaimed New York opera singer, was every bit the young, free spirited, beautiful Bohemian Marie. Hoyt moved easily and lightly about the stage dancing and laughing, yet her facial expression and tones of voice, ranging from serious to satirical, showed the more-than-girlish sentiments of Marie's heart. Her long, dark, curly hair and dresses that added gypsy flair to the period costuming completed the effect.

Alexandra, a middle-aged woman who has turned her deceased father's failing farm

into a thriving business, was played by Gina Galati, St. Louis native and founder of New Opera St. Louis. Galati used calm, measured movements and a deep, even tone of voice that well expressed Alexandra's straight-laced, level-headed exterior, while also developing the passionate and maternal side.

Marie and Alexandra's romantic interests, Emil and Carl, were played by Tommy Wazelle and Robert Boldin respectively. Wazelle, playing opposite his fiancé Hoyt, is also from New York. Wazelle portrayed a bland, almost stilted Emil and did not seem to be able to bring his character to life as well as Hoyt.

While it improved throughout the performance, his voice was a little weak and overpowered by the music at



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

'O Pioneers!' made its world-premiere last Friday at Touhill A-B Hall. It's a new opera, based on Willa Cather's novel of tragedy, transformation and redemption.

the beginning of the performance. Boldin, who most recently played Damon in "Acis and Galatea" at the Chicago Cultural Center, did a great job with his role as Alexandra's long-lost but recently

returned, somewhat laconic, childhood sweetheart.

"O Pioneers!" also had its muse in the character of Ivar, the town sage.

While his narrator/muse role and lines couched in na-

ture-themed allegories added depth to the opera, David Dillard, of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, did not do the part justice.

See O PIONEERS, page 25

TOMLIN, from page 17

At one point, Tomlin took a drink and proceeded to pour water onto the floor, stomping around to splash it across the stage.

This was her introduction to Edith Ann. To be more convincing as Edith Ann, Tomlin walked towards

the front of the stage and plopped onto the stage floor. While sitting, she announced that she would now answer questions.

For a few minutes, Tomlin entertained silly questions about animals and ice cream.

"An Evening with Classic

Lily Tomlin" ended with a few more serious questions and answers.

Upon concluding the show, the crowd rose to applaud her presence as it had in the beginning, confirming the success of her performance. **A** —Sarah Hill

COUPLES, from page 18

There does not appear to be a whole lot of character growth, but then again it is not that deep of a movie.

The film is stocked with plenty of gags, both vocal and (sadly) physical.

A particular scene involving masturbation was not

particularly funny, just embarrassing, both for the actor involved and the audience.

It seemed more suited to something out of a teen comedy than an adult romantic comedy.

However, if are looking for a fun weekend film to

watch with your loved one or a group of friends, look no further.

"Couples Retreat" is a funny, enjoyable film that, despite its random comedic misses, does not disappoint with the funny. **B** —Andrew Seal

PHANTOM, from page 19

Also, Sean [Raoul] and Tim [the phantom] are amazing actors and we always have a lot of fun.

TC: Do you still ever have little problems like missed cues?

TM: Oh yeah, it happens. Even though we've done 300

performances, you have to be on your toes.

TC: Do you have any advice for young actors, aspiring students?

TM: Well, it's definitely a difficult career, but don't let anyone tell you it's impossible. If you love what you do,

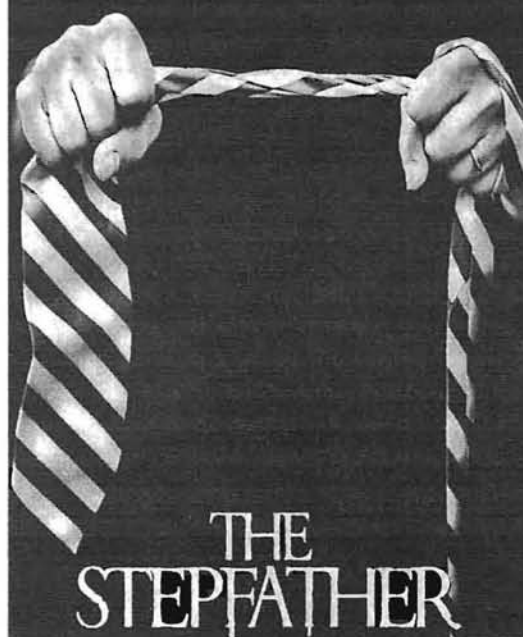
it's not impossible. I mean, if you want to do film, L.A. is the place to be, and New York for stage, sure, but St. Louis, Cleveland ... have a lot of great regional theaters.

TC: Is that what you did?

TM: Yeah I did a lot of regional theater.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR FAMILY IS?

Daddy's home.



In Theaters OCTOBER 16



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Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Employees of all promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible. One admit-two pass per person. The film is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence, disturbing images, mature thematic material and brief sensuality.

Opinions

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.
Signed opinions articles reflect the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of *The Current*.

Misunderstood process, misdirected anger

Friday morning, President Obama woke to learn that he had joined the ranks of only three other U.S. presidents, by winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Many, including Obama's staff, were surprised. It was reported that even the reporters present during the announcement audibly gasped.

Almost instantaneously, the backlash began. Michael Steele, the oft-mocked chair of the Republican National Committee, commented in a fundraising letter that Obama won the award "for awesomeness."

He followed that it shows "how meaningless a once honorable and respected award has become." Rush Limbaugh called Obama's award a "greater embarrassment" than losing the Olympics. Erick Erickson of RedState suggested that Obama won the award to fill a Nobel Peace Prize "affirmative action quota."

Many more questioned whether Obama deserved the prestigious award, given that the nomination deadline was mere days after Obama had

been inaugurated.

Others might point out that Obama has concretely achieved very little during his tenure thus far, and therefore should not have received the award until much later.

The Current feels that while Obama does indeed need to show some results on a number of issues (health care, the economy, the Iraq war and LGBT rights to name a few), Obama has succeeded in changing the tone in international politics. Gone now are the days of Bush-era unilateralism, with Obama increasingly seeking to bring other nations into the fold.

While Obama's time in the presidency has been short, and his accomplishments few at this point, the detractors fail to realize the historical context of the Nobel Prize. The Associated Press released "Common misconceptions about the Nobel Peace Prize" on Friday, which said that "[m]ore often, the prize is awarded to encourage those who receive it to see the effort through, sometimes at critical moments," rather than "...only after they have

proven successful."

The Nobel committee itself cited the reason for the award as Obama's effort to engage other nations in dialogue to solve the challenging issues facing the world, especially nuclear nonproliferation.

While we accept Obama's receipt of the award, we now suggest humbly that he must earn it.

Obama made a multitude of lofty promises during his campaign for the presidency, and now that he has the stamp of the Nobel committee, he should make good with them.

But most importantly, *The Current* feels that too many are using this award to criticize Obama. We lament that one of the most prestigious awards in the world has become merely another opportunity to detract from Obama.

The simple fact is that neither the American public nor Obama control the Nobel committee or its actions. Obama did not nominate himself (self-nominations are not allowed), and the Ameri-

can public does not hold referendums on who receives the prize.

Thus, despite what Americans think about Obama's merit and despite what Obama thinks about his own merit, Obama is now a Nobel laureate. The Nobel committee has made its decision, and the matter is closed.

The Current must wonder why Obama's detractors chose this as fodder for criticism?

After months of socialist witch-hunts, misguided concerns about death panels and rumor of the elusive Kenyan birth certificate, we wonder if they simply ran out of other things to criticize him for?

It seems that the level of political discourse has fallen so far that the opponents of Obama are refusing to see anything for which to complement him, considering that he is even criticized on the basis of winning the Nobel Prize.

Simply put, Obama won a very high honor without begging or even asking for it, so congratulate him and move on.



PHIL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT

PRIZM's Drag Show allows us to represent our actual, diverse campus

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis we have over 120 organizations to fit every student's interest.

Whether you are into math, movies, opera or politics, there is something for you to join at UM-St. Louis.

It is good to have all of these organizations, too. Most people want to belong to something, right?

Having a variety of different organizations gives our students options and makes finding other like-minded people easy.

UM-St. Louis the largest university by enrollment in the St. Louis area.

With over 15,500 students from every walk of life, our student organizations represent us.

Most importantly, they celebrate what UM-St. Louis is known best for: diversity.

Diversity is what makes us different from our other St. Louis area university counterparts.

This is not to say that other area universities are not diverse, but UM-St. Louis

has been historically more lax when it comes to supporting causes.

This support has occurred regardless of how politically correct or controversial.

Believe it or not, there are still universities around the U.S. (most all of them Catholic) still banning *The Vagina Monologues*, a play that the Center for Women and Gender Studies here at UM-St. Louis puts on every February.

This past Thursday, our campus enjoyed the entertainment of PRIZM's annual

drag show, a show that was so popular, the organization had to switch venues from the Pilot House to the Millennium Student Center's Century Room just to fit its audience.

Most all Missouri universities have lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) student organizations, but there has yet to be a drag show on some of their campuses.

That alone speaks volumes about our administration's commitment to diversity and equality.

In this day and age, such

forward-thinking is uncommon.

It is good to know that the university is not stuck in its ways, nor do they let personal feelings get in the way of what is best for the student body as a whole.

UM-St. Louis does not force a certain type of thinking onto us students.

They allow us to make our own decisions and support what we want.

Unfortunately, that cannot be said about some higher learning institutions where

religion is at the forefront of education.

Our school may not be the most prestigious in the country, Missouri, or even the city of St. Louis, but our school represents a progressive America—an America that is diverse in terms of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and social class.

We ought to be proud that our school's administration allows organizations and supports events that reflect our student body rather than one standard viewpoint.

Viewpoints

Volunteering and personal motives don't mix

In some aspects, I tend to be naïve. That being said, I recently discovered that some people volunteer at organizations for no other purpose than to help or benefit themselves.

Kind of an oxymoron, right?

At one point in time, volunteering held no other reasoning behind it than that of altruistic intentions. That is, people volunteered simply to help. People would volunteer for sheer love of life, people, and all good, warm and fuzzy things.

Growing up primarily in the South, I grew accustomed to Southern etiquette. One of the many things a southerner should know is the idea of helping out your neighbor.

Where I grew up, we learned to water someone's plants when they were away, lend them a hammer, or help make meals for Mrs. Smith, an 85-year-old lady who broke her leg two weeks back.

After nine years of volunteering at an organization, I realized that not everyone felt or grew up the same way. Generally speaking, some people who volunteered did it for themselves more than others. Granted, in some aspects,

there is nothing wrong with helping others and getting some personal benefit from it as well. People volunteer for a number of reasons, such as making new friends, gaining job experience, or even for fun.

My personal annoyance lies with people who do not even enjoy volunteering. These are the people that volunteer because their school told them to, or people that only like to use volunteering for pick-up lines. Of course they like to "help animals" and "help the children."

Why even bother with volunteering if not interested? Instead of helping, disinterest creates a bigger problem. People become bitter and frustrated because those who need help are getting this help from those who have a lethargic or inconsiderate attitude.

There should be more volunteering going on in the world, but not at the risk of creating bigger problems.

Programs such as the A+ program or President Obama's volunteering for tuition allow students to volunteer to compensate for partial (if not all) college tuition costs. I applaud these pro-



Jen O'Hara

grams for the sole reason of introducing and encouraging volunteering to students who may have not thought they would like giving their time.

On the other hand, it can also create a road for students to take advantage of a situation. With that idea, it leads back to everyone being frustrated with the volunteering world as a whole.

Volunteering should not have to be something we as a society should be bribed with. This is called a job.

However, as time goes on, more and more people are "donating" their time and energy solely from hopes of reaping some sort of benefit.

What ever happened to helping out our fellow man?

Jen O'Hara is a staff writer for The Current.

Defining the Zeros

At the beginning of this century there was a contest held in the U.K. to come up with a name for this decade, with the winning submission being "The Zeros." Personally, when I think about that it seems like a very '90s thing to name the decade.

I can't imagine anyone referring to it that way. It begs the question: what is the zeitgeist of this current generation?

If the '80s were about the fusing of technology and fashion with heavy emphasis on hedonism and the '90s were slacker-chic, what mindset and worldview will the "Zeros" be associated with?

Popular culture is driven by the 15-to-25-year-old age-group who do most of the consuming and thus have a great effect on what is produced.

I think that "buried" is one word that comes to mind. Astonishingly rapid fracturing of personality has occurred thanks to new routes to self-definition.

In the '80s, your apartment, clothing, and CD collection was your Face-book. The new album or gadget you just bought was a status update in the truest sense. A new suit was a changed profile picture.

In the '90s, mainstream culture shied away from self-expression in general,

leaning towards a less-is-more apathy that curiously resulted in a split into either vapidly bright, but self-aware, apathy (Sugar Ray, Clueless, Aqua) or the nihilistically dark (Nine Inch Nails, Fight Club, Marilyn Manson) apathy.

Regardless, the point was to pretend you didn't care and to reject intellectualism regardless of the depth of expression you were trying to communicate.

It seems that in a possible subconscious reaction to the highly cliqued systems of the '80s and '90s (which were themselves reactions to the nebulous, vague free-everything culture of the '60s and '70s) the "Zeros" has made it popular to be part of every group.

This fracturing has affected all realms of life. The popularity of social activism that lasted through the past few decades after blooming some forty-odd years ago has taken a hit.

It seems that there has been a shift from people (not that there were an abundance, but there was always one in the group) who are passionate about one or two causes because of personal connection to it.

Now it is hip to care about any cause possible and hell, maybe even donate a dollar on Facebook



Chris Stewart

or join a group trying to gather a million members. True, every little bit helps, but it also builds a digital wall between us and the actual experiences of the very injustices and tragic situations that we're trying to change. Less and less people burn for a cause, but most people glow.

I don't reflect on these matters to bash the decade. A lot of good has come and I think that the dissolving of clique-based culture has allowed for the acceptance of many people.

Alternate lifestyles of all sorts—from sexual preferences to Japanimation obsession—have found spots at the cool kids' table.

That's something to cheer for, but let's hope that we don't hold on to the apathy and superficiality that plagued previous generations as we move on to shape the ... '10s.

Chris Stewart is Training Director for The Current.



**The Current:
you'll laugh...**



**You'll freak
out...**



**You'll get your swagger
on.**

CARTOONS, from page 13

Brown knows people who have developed 2D complexes.

Brown says that the hyper reality of anime becomes not just an intermittent escape from reality but an actual replacement of reality.

With the support of others, Brown has been able to

help friends trapped in their fantasy world come back to reality.

"We have to help them realize that the animated characters are a part of their life, but we are here, too," he said.

"Anime at UMSL: Post-modern Japan comes to

St. Louis" also featured an example of anime in the screening of "Paprika." The film is the story of Dr. Atsuko Chiba, a 29-year-old scientist with an alter ego named Paprika.

"I search out the more interesting anime. Paprika was definitely that," Brown said.

Transcending crappy life with the television: one man's search for intimacy

Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American poet who gazed reflectively into Walden Pond for days, looked past it to find something that could awaken a deeper meaning in his existence: transcendence.

It is also known as a freakish, obsessive-compulsive disorder that is hell-bent on creating an illusory babble out of our experiences and perceptions.

Enter the television, champion of erroneous staring.

It does not matter that we see through the facades, the tricks, the advertisements, and general fakery that we see in it.

We have come to expect it in our everyday lives and appreciate it for providing us with mirage at speeds only analog waves propelled against a screen of dots by chemical reaction can.

And in the comfort of our living rooms for goodness sake, coming out of a screen.

Academia often tries to make us forget why we enjoy

TV.

It is dismissed as a digital soma, no more useful for the betterment of ourselves than sucking on a thumb full of formula.

That we are above it, that we are better than it, that we do not need it.

But we aren't, we're not, and we do—at least, for now.

Pop culture is culture, though perhaps of an admittedly cheap variety.

It does as much for the country's economy as anything else, and even President Obama commented on Kanye West's outburst at the MTV Music Awards.

It gives us a vacation from our own horrible self-consciousness so that we can gawk hazily and, at best, scathingly into paradise.

We laugh longingly at Jim and Pam's perfect wedding

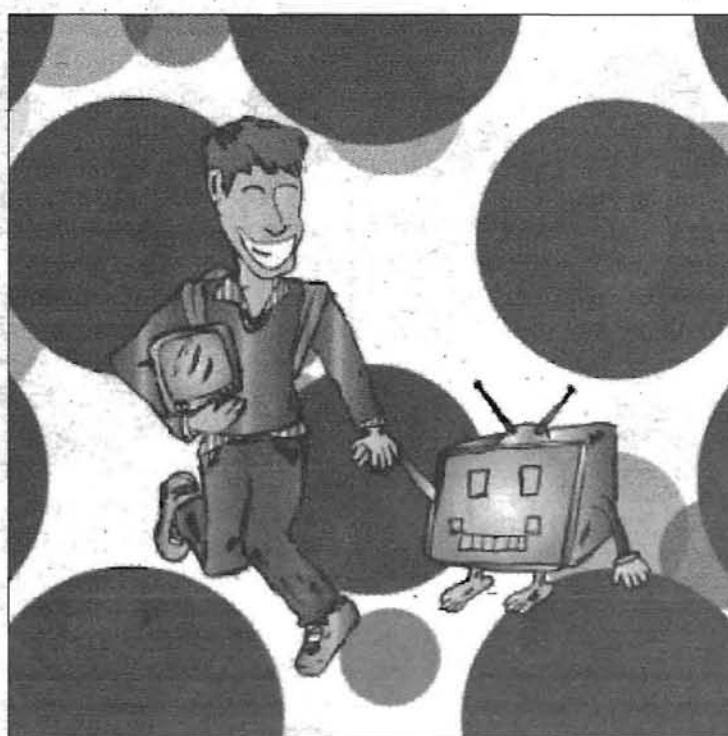


ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

on "The Office," cater to our mean side when Mac interrupts Sweet Dee with some "bad news guys" on "It's Always Sunny," and generally admire everything about the demigods and symbols that

we see on the screen so we can go and talk about them with others trapped in the same extrasensory adventure as we are.

There is no yawning allowed on TV, much in con-

trast to everyday real life.

People in front of a camera are respected for their ability to be alive, to play the game, to be attractive, active, and completely devoid of self-consciousness, and to be frighteningly in control of the pace of their speech and the minuscule movements of their eyebrows.

And yet, it is all still fake. It is a counterfeit signature of the man appearing on the other side of the sheet of glass designed to get you to think about exactly what he wants.

The point though, is to disregard this existential problem, and remember that we watch this thing for fun, most of the time.

A lizard is not actually selling car insurance, but we appreciate the idea being handed to us, and somehow we are actually anxious to listen to



Joe Schaffner

the commercial.

TV: The most ridiculed best friend most will ever have.

I have lived, loved, died, and laughed with so many characters from so many walks of life that are not only implausible for me, but downright science fiction.

So maybe it does not help us transcend our lives in the ultra-natural way that Emerson wanted.

I still don't mind. I really just appreciate the remarkably clever company.

Joe Schaffner is a staff writer for The Current.

Net neutrality will save the Internet

The Internet as we know it is in jeopardy. Internet service providers from around the country are lobbying in Washington to try and stifle your rights on the Internet.

If the ISPs get their way, the way the Web works will be changed forever.

Instead of people having equal access to everything, access to certain sites will be restricted. ISPs will determine what content gets to you the fastest and first, and they are more than willing to charge content providers for first access.

Now more than ever, the United States needs a Net Neutrality Law. Net neutrality is the idea that Internet users should be able to decide what they see and do on the Web.

Since its inception, this has been the way the Internet works. Telephone companies are not allowed to say who their customers can and cannot call or what they can say over the phone—why should the Internet be any different?

The ISPs have been quite clear and open about their "plans to build a tiered Internet with faster service for the select few companies willing or able to pay exorbitant tolls," <http://www.savetheinternet.com>, an online advocacy group for net neutrality, said.

If Congress does not do something to stop the ISPs, they will destroy the Internet as we know it, and worse, it will harm the economy.

If broadband companies controlled the fate of the In-

ternet, small business owners would never be able to get their ideas and Web sites off of the ground because they could never afford the price of entry.

"Net neutrality ensures that innovators can start small and dream big about being the next eBay or Google without facing insurmountable hurdles," SaveTheInternet.com said, and I could not agree more.

Of course, the ISPs are crying foul—that a net neutrality law would stifle their freedoms, restrict their companies and minimize their profits.

However, the way the Web is now is the way it has been since it began, and the broadband companies are doing quite well for themselves.

The only reason for this move is pure unmitigated greed for greater and greater profits.

A Net Neutrality Law would prevent ISPs from locking or degrading lawful traffic over their networks, and would make sure ISPs do not favor certain content or applications over others in the Internet connection they provide. How is this a bad thing?

The broadband companies cry that they have poured billions of dollars into building network infrastructure—and a neutrality law would mean that they would have little or no control over the kinds of information and technology that flows through their network. Net neutrality is not about stifling the rights of broadband companies. It

is about equal access to the Internet.

Opponents of net neutrality are coming out of the woodwork to aid the ISPs; two weeks ago, the Washington Post published an anti-net neutrality editorial.

Having an opinion on the matter is all well and good (indeed, I wrote this), but the Post is not being entirely open.

Cable One is a successful ISP that services 19 states, and it is an opponent of net neutrality. And who owns Cable One? The Washington Post Company, of course.

Not only is this a gross breach of journalistic integrity on the part of the Post, but it also shows how far the nation's Internet service provid-



Andrew Seal

ers are willing to go to spread their propaganda.

Fight back against the ISPs! Keep the information flowing. Help save the Internet: Contact Sen. Claire McCaskill or Sen. Kit Bond and tell them to support HR 3458, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2009.

Andrew Seal is Opinions Editor for The Current.

Columns

SCIENCE COLUMN

Science Center presents another SciFest



Cate Marquis

Last year, the St. Louis Science Center won the right to host the U.S. version of the wildly popular British-based Cheltenham Science Festival, an event dubbed "SciFest 08: International Science Festival."

This year, the St. Louis Science Center is back with "SciFest 09: International Science Festival."

SciFest 09 featured five days of science-related discussions and presentations with an emphasis on the fun of science and technology. The first day of the festival, Wednesday, Oct. 7, was devoted to programs for elementary school children, and the next two days offered programs for middle school and high school students.

These programs were best suited to the Science Center's everyday focus: middle school. The weekend belonged to programs for general audiences.

Among the offerings were presentations on brain science, a tour through the universe, the science of flirting, the physics of guitar, baseball and NASCAR and the science behind science fiction.

The weekend was capped off with a talk by Segway inventor Dean Kamen, which was especially appropriate given the Science Center's everyday commitment to the

Segway—the Science Center offers periodic Segway lessons, and SciFest can be toured by Segway.

SciFest 09 also included a SciFest Film Festival that featured a rotating schedule of eight OmniMax films.

All were educational, although only some of them were science and nature topics. Films included "Van Gogh: Brush With Genius" and "Walking on the Moon."

Controversial topics, like climate change, were noticeably absent, as were figures like Charles Darwin, born two hundred years ago this year. Things were quite different from the original version of this festival.

The themes of the 2009 Cheltenham Science Festival, which took place in June, were a celebration of Darwin's 200th birthday, Galileo and the International Year of Astronomy, and climate change.

This was meant to tie in with the U.N.'s Copenhagen Conference to discuss an international treaty to replace the expiring Kyoto Protocol.

If there was a theme to this year's SciFest, it was not immediately obvious beyond its general every-year mission to 'make science fun.'

The goals of the original Cheltenham Science Festival were to entertain but also challenge festival-goers, and offer deliberately controversial issues.

This year's Cheltenham Science Festival included an area for festival attendees to discuss topics presented at the festival.

While controversial topics were missing at SciFest 09, bias may not have been.

One featured discussion was "The Future of Energy," and while a wide-ranging dis-

cussion of that topic would have been welcome, the list of speakers reflected a potential for bias.

Speakers were from the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Institute for Renewable Fuels at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, AmerenUE, the Navy's Task Force on Energy, and Peabody Energy.

The moderator was Dr. Phil Needleman, former chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at Washington University School of Medicine and former head and chief scientist at Monsanto/Searle/Pharmacia. Corn-based ethanol, coal and nuclear power were well represented.

Solar, wind, geothermal, trash-to-energy and small hydropower were not.

The St. Louis Science Center's version of SciFest seemed much better at embracing the "fun" aspect than the festival's intent, which is to spark thought and discussion on the challenging and controversial topics.

In fact, this year's program looked remarkably similar to last year's.

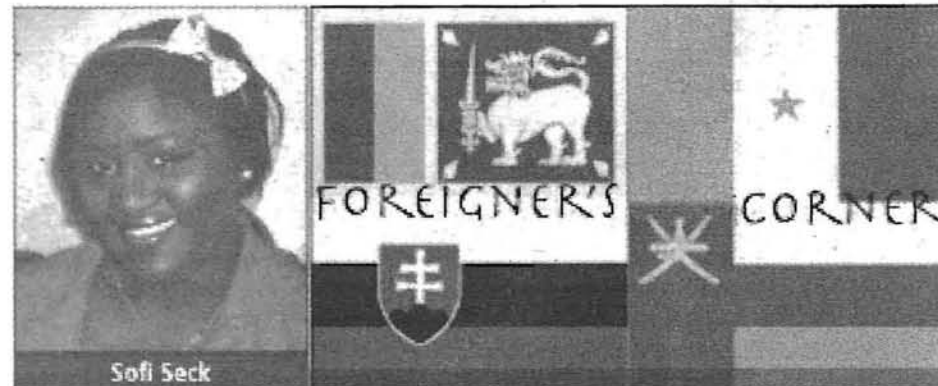
Disappointingly, Darwin, Galileo and climate change all went missing from SciFest 09.

The St. Louis Science Department has always seemed squeamish about controversy, shying away from presenting information on the scientific evidence for evolution and climate change, but it is especially sad to see this trend extended to SciFest.

This even after the good example shown by the original Science Festival.

Hopefully the Science Center will re-think this trend for next year.

Cate Marquis is A&E Editor for The Current.



Illegal immigration: let's talk about it

First, let's admit that illegal immigration, like most things, has both a positive and negative side. The negatives are plastered all over the news, so I will not discuss them.

I am going to talk about the positives of having illegal immigrants. Then, instead of all the "build a huge fence!" craziness, we can try to actually control illegal immigration to some degree.

First, how can the U.S. decrease illegal immigration? Well, you can start by fining people who are caught hiring a significant amount of illegal immigrants. Then, so that it is not cost effective to hire illegals, fine the lawyer, dentist and even the soccer mom hiring the illegal immigrant gardener. This will make them less likely to hire illegal immigrants; and illegal immigrants less likely to make the journey.

Let's face it; a fence is not going to prevent desperate people when there is a job market waiting for them. If there is no money in it and too much of a risk, that WILL deter people.

But I think that support for the governments of those countries is what will most affect illegal immigration into the U.S.

I just find the idea of a fence to be incredibly insulting and degrading. These are not dogs that need to

be caged in, they are people trying to find a better way of life.

The problem is that illegal immigration in the U.S. is massive. More than 11 million illegal immigrants now live here and that number is quickly growing. The existence of so many immigrants is a testament to appeal of the U.S.

Even in industries with a high amount of illegal immigrant workers, the influence is not as great as many people think. If there were not illegal immigrants working in places like Miami, then the need for legal workers would increase, which would mean wages would rise.

But very quickly, workers from other parts of the country would move to those cities, and wages would go back down. The net impact on wage would be pretty small.

Illegal immigrants are not here to take anything away from Americans. Most of these people are victims of circumstance; they want nothing more than to work hard and provide for their families. And the process of getting a green card or worker's visa is incredibly hard and time consuming. These are people who do not have the time or money for lawyer's fees to do things the right way, which is the only

reason they are willing to live the way they do.

What would you be willing to do to provide for your family?

Would you work a job that no one wants, live in ridiculous conditions and face hatred from people you have never wronged?

For these immigrants, those are the prices they pay, but they do it to create a better chance for the people they love.

If there were no illegal immigrants available for these jobs, employers would possibly spend their money on new technology to replace workers with automation.

The economic impact of illegal immigration is far smaller than other trends in the economy, such as the growing use of automation in development or the expansion in global trade. Those two things have a much larger influence on income, prices and the health of the people of the U.S.

Honestly, we need to understand that illegal immigration will never stop completely. But is that really such a bad thing? And, like those who came before them, chances are illegal immigrants will help make this country better than they found it.

Sofi Seck is Photo Editor for The Current.

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CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS needed for UMSL Indoor Pool: Monday-Thursday 11:30AM-2:00PM. \$8.00/hour. Apply in the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain, 516-5326.

Test Proctors Wanted

Now hiring proctors for occasional TOEFL exams on campus. Earn \$50+ per exam for easy work in a comfortable environment. Experience with international students helpful. Contact us at stl@els.edu or 314-516-4625 for more details.

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700 MISCELLANEOUS

BOWLING ANYONE?

Join Campus Rec's BOWLING DOUBLES League (Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00PM, Sept 16-Oct. 21) at nearby North Oaks Bowl. Only \$2/week for 3 games. 2 people per team. Register in the Rec Office, 203MT, 516-5326.

Trivia Night to benefit the Sisters of the Good Shepherd,

Saturday, November 14th, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

St. Ann Church, 7530 Natural Bridge (half mile east of UMSL)

\$15 per person or \$150 table of ten

Cash prizes, giveaways, beer, soda and snacks included

Contact: Pat Williams 314-381-0120

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O PIONEERS, from page 25

His long, almost dreadlocked hair, bear feet, bushy beard and striped pants had the impression of homeless hippy. Dillard gave Ivar an overdone childishness.

"O Pioneers!" also featured a fourteen-person ensemble and a six-person dance company.

In all of their numbers, the ensemble was in perfect tune and very lively.

The dance company, how-

ever, was lackluster and, due to the staging and the height of the dancers, at times a distraction from the much better ensemble.

The performance built energy throughout, the characters becoming more complicated as their inner and outer struggles became more entangled by illicit love relationships, family feuds and eventually murder.

The contrasting tempera-

ments of Marie and Alexandra, a kind of sense-and-sensibility combination, provided changes in tone and a study in personality that made "O Pioneers!" more dramatic and interesting than perhaps would be thought possible on a Nebraska farm.

Despite minor aspects that could be improved upon, "O, Pioneers!" proves itself an opera worthy of the stage. **B+**
—Bridget Ryder

GRANT, from page 3

"By the time the synthesis is done, by just taking out this platform we already have a sugar, or any molecule, for that matter, already attached to it."

Stine said that carbohydrates, which are found on the surfaces of all cells, attach to proteins of the body and have numerous functions in human health that are still being investigated.

"[Carbohydrates] play a role in things like cancer, inflammation, immunity, virus infection and so there is a need to get a synthetically

pure sample of these different carbohydrates so you can study their biological interactions: which proteins they bind to and what their structures are," Stine said.

"So what we are doing is developing a method that uses little plates of a nanomaterial as a support for being able to prepare these carbohydrates stepwise, one sugar at a time. Building them up off the surface."

The money received from the grant will mainly be used to pay for the labor that goes into these processes, which

includes faculty, post-doctoral students and graduate students. Stine also said that the benefits "trickle down."

"The benefits also trickle down and help undergraduates get involved in research and learn about these areas," Stine said.

"When these grants are received, it doesn't just benefit the faculty, it also has major educational impact on chemistry students."

NAILS, from page 12

And this season, Holstein has been the best libero in the entire Great Lakes Valley Conference. She leads the league, by wide margins, in total digs (418) and average digs per set (5.5). The next-closest player in the conference is nearly 100 total digs and a whole dig-per-set behind.

"That's been a huge surprise," Holstein said. "I worked really hard and played as much as I could over the summer back home in Indiana. This year I knew I had to work hard to get my spot and keep my spot all

year. I knew I had to step up and be good [as a libero] for our team this year."

Holstein's defensive play is a key reason why UM-St. Louis is 15-7 overall and 6-2 in the GLVC this season. Opposing teams have noticed Holstein's efforts this season as well. She was named to the all-tournament team at the Central Missouri State Peggy Martin Challenge earlier this season, and was selected Outstanding Libero at the TownePlace Suites Classic in Ohio last month.

"She's just got the perfect demeanor to play that posi-

tion," Jones said.

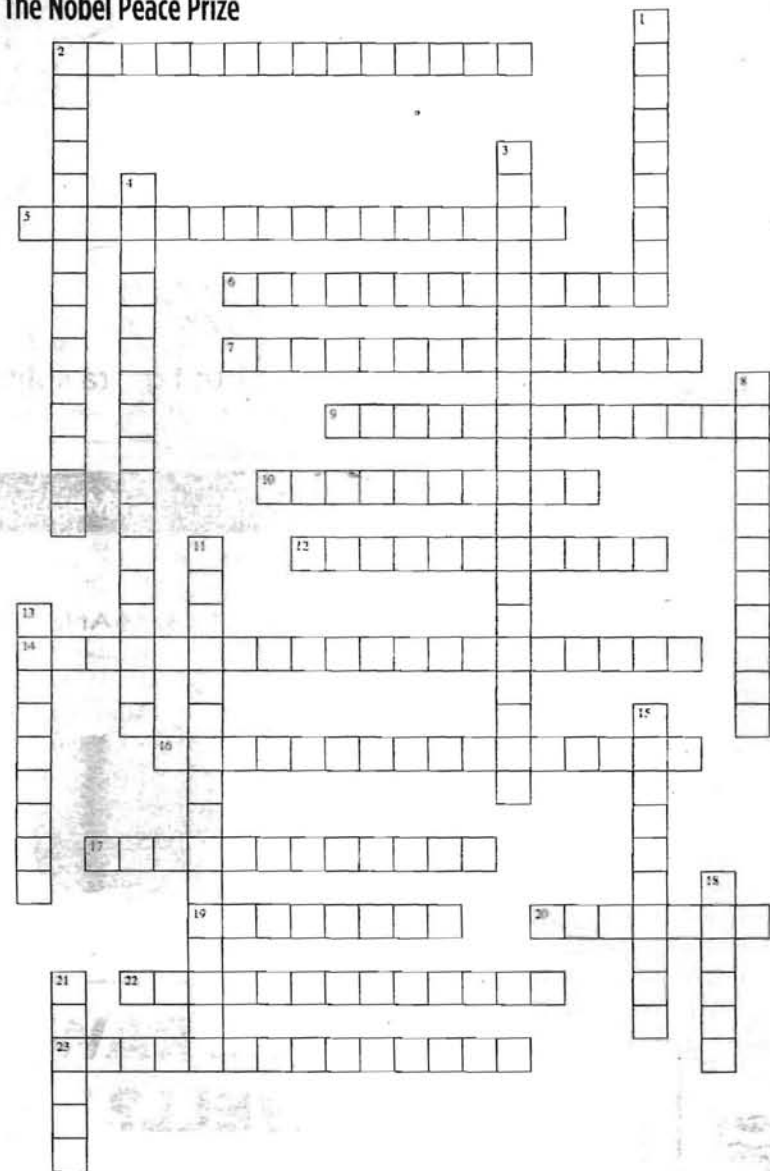
"She doesn't get frustrated. She's willing to throw her body around and do whatever she has to get to that ball, and the best part for us is [that] she's leading by the example she sets."

Holstein said it is not difficult to play that hard when you care about your teammates as much as she does.

"We all love each other," Holstein said. "We're really like family, like a big group of sisters. So I don't mind, none of us mind, sacrificing for each other because we all want to win."

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD by Matthew Hill
The Nobel Peace Prize



ACROSS

- 2. He never won the prize, despite being nominated 5 times
- 5. Was the president of the Soviet Union when he received the award
- 6. 2nd US President to receive the award
- 7. National Security Advisor for Nixon
- 9. General Secretary for the National League for Democracy in Myanmar
- 10. The author of "Night"
- 12. West German Chancellor
- 14. This UK organization won for 'protecting the human rights of prisoners of conscience' in 1977
- 16. The missionary surgeon who worked in Africa
- 17. Nun originally from Albania
- 19. International medical organization
- 20. Helped to end apartheid with Mandela
- 22. This country has the most laureates
- 23. Originator of the 'Plan' to feed Germany by airlift after WWII

DOWN

- 1. Ghanaian diplomat who served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 2. This former president of Finland received the award last year
- 3. The medical organization from Switzerland who won in 1999
- 4. First US President to be awarded
- 8. The 3rd US President to be awarded the prize and the only one who was not in office at the time
- 11. The African-American clergyman from Atlanta
- 13. For 'his struggle for the liberation of Tibet'
- 15. Was the founder of Solidarity
- 18. The Palestinian who was awarded with Rabin and Peres of Israel in 1994
- 21. Bill Clinton didn't get one, but he did

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

- Aries:** A difficult family situation may arise this week, but keep your chin up and try not to get involved in drama. The weekend will bring plenty of time to relax with friends.
- Taurus:** You've been feeling overly-emotional lately, and it's been wearing you out. Put aside your own troubles for a while to help a friend and restore balance in both of your lives.
- Gemini:** You thrive on change, and you'll find plenty in the next few days. The added variety will also bring a much-needed burst of energy to your week. Perhaps it's time to tackle a difficult project.
- Cancer:** There's a difficult decision in your future. Don't overthink it, but focus on making the wisest choice and remember that you don't owe an explanation to anyone but yourself.
- Leo:** Take charge this week. You're full of bright ideas right now, so don't be afraid to share them. You'll have more than a few people on your side, and you'll easily overcome any problems.
- Virgo:** A productive week lies ahead. You'll get a lot done, but actions you take now could affect your life in the long term, so proceed with caution and seek advice if you're feeling unsure.
- Libra:** Someone you consider a friend might not be acting in your interest this week. Cultivate an awareness of others' hidden motivations, but don't be overly suspicious.
- Scorpio:** Although it's against your nature, you may need to swallow your pride and request a favor sometime soon. If life gets rocky, don't be afraid to ask friends to help you out.
- Sagittarius:** Any cynical feelings at the beginning of the week are only temporary. By the weekend you'll be seeing the silver lining to every cloud. Share some of that wonderful optimism with friends.
- Capricorn:** You'll have a lot to do this week, but be prepared to drop it all at a moment's notice when an unexpected event arises. Be patient; your schedule will settle down soon.
- Aquarius:** Give serious thought to your goals and what's standing in the way of achieving them. Use your free time this week to come up with new ways to accomplish the things on your wishlist.
- Pisces:** Your life is feeling a little out of control these days, and now is the time to address that. Contemplate steps you might take to get things back on track and then take action.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:
★
(Easy)

Check back next week for solutions to the crossword and sudoku!

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

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 As in the message, and so on. (Hint: E=A)

NWP OZUWN KED CTSP WZQ CTHR
QLZN EOM KEMP KZQJWZPR TR TOP
AZOM

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!

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



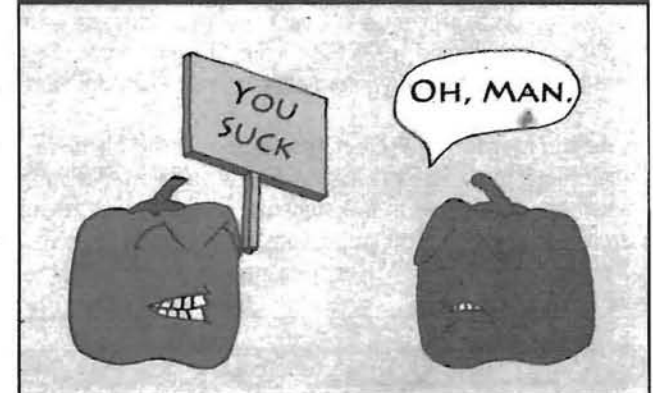
Bananas #15

By Paul Maguire



Peppers #3

by Paul Maguire



Good Guys by Phil Freeman



CAN YOU DRAW THIS WELL?

(or better?)

Apply to be a Current cartoonist!

Perks include:

- Your comic printed in *The Current*
- Pay for your comic

If interested, drop off an application with some samples of your comic at 388 MSC!

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, Oct. 12

Violin Making and Violins Geoffrey Seitz, who has been in the violin business in St. Louis for over 30 years, describes & demonstrates how violins are made and discusses violin history, facts, & myths. Located in the 222 J. C Penney Conference Center, from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

Smith Mentoring Project The purpose of this mentoring project is to help students meet their career goals after graduation. Executive fellows facilitate three sessions per program with small groups of three-to-five students. Students must attend all three sessions. Faculty gives credit for student participation. Located at UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium, 427 SSB, from 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM. For more information contact Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Communicating Effectively In College Are you sabotaging relationships with your professors? Do you fully participate in the classroom? Effective communication skills and participation are both critical in college. Understanding faculty expectations is a key to your success and intentional participation will yield great rewards. Learn how to facilitate effective communication with professors in a variety of situations and learn about the benefits of classroom participation. Located in 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success, from 2:00 AM to 2:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

Johnson Mentoring Project The purpose of this mentoring project is to help students meet their career goals after graduation. Executive fellows facilitate three sessions per program with small groups of three-to-five students. Students must attend all three sessions. Faculty gives credit for student participation. Located at UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium, 427 SSB, from 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM. For more information contact Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

News@Noon - Jaycee Dugard's Captivity and Road to Recovery Come enjoy free lunch and good discussion as Megan Schacht, Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Manager of Children's Advocacy Services, takes us into the psyche of today's victims. Located in MSC Century Room A, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. For more info contact Megan Hill at 314-516-4031.

UPB Lunch & Learn: Financial Planning Are books, commuting, and shopping emptying your pockets while in college? If your answer is the same as most it's YES!!! Please come learn about how to make the best out of the money you do have. U.P.B. is giving you free food, and a free speaker who will advise you on financial planning. We hope to see you there! Located at MSC Century Room C from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM. For more information contact Darren Nesbitt at 314-516-5531.

Thursday, Oct. 15

UPB General Meeting Want to have a voice on what events come to campus? Come to UPB general members meeting and have your voice heard. Located in the SGA Chamber, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For more information contact UPB at 314-516-5531.

Registration Deadline for Fall Hayride & Campfire The entry deadline for Campus Rec's Hayride. The event is next Friday night, Oct. 23 at Old Halls Ferry Stables. A campfire roast with hotdogs and s'mores is included. The cost is only \$5 for students and transportation is provided. For more info and to register, go online or visit the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain.

Japan Robot Night A longtime leader in the robotics industry, a different track of Japanese robotics has taken off - the phenomenon of service robots assisting humans. Robots - friendly, efficient, and interactive - will play a more significant role in Japan as human helpers. One example is PARO, a baby seal robot that interacts with people and makes them feel emotionally attached. Come meet PARO for yourself! Located in MSC, Century Room C, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. For more information contact Bob Ell at 314-516-7299.



CHERA MEYER / THE CURRENT

Artists celebrated El Dia de los Muertos last week in the FAB by displaying some of their artwork dedicated to the holiday celebrated by Latin Americans to remember their lost loved ones.

Friday, Oct. 16

"This is a Test...this is only a test" Tips and Strategies Do you prepare for tests only to find you completely blank out when the test is placed in front of you or that your grade did not meet your expectation? Learn tips about taking certain types of tests: Multiple choice, essay, true/false, etc. Get information to make your test preparation more productive and how to better manage test-taking jitters. Located in MSC 225 Center for Student Success, from 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

Home Soccer Game Home women's soccer game vs Southern Indiana. Join us at the Don Dallas Soccer Field and root for your Tritons! Game time is 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenberg at 314-526-7016.

Home Soccer Game Home men's soccer game vs Southern Indiana. Join us at the Don Dallas Soccer Field and root for your Tritons! Game time is 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenberg at 314-526-7016.

Sunday, Oct. 18

Home Soccer Game Home women's soccer game vs Kentucky Wesleyan. Join us at the Don Dallas Soccer Field and root for your Tritons! Game time is 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenberg at 314-526-7016.

Home Soccer Game Home men's soccer game vs Kentucky Wesleyan. Senior Day! Join us at the Don Dallas Soccer Field and root for your Tritons! Game time is 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenberg at 314-526-7016.

Read more event listings online at
www.thecurrentonline.com