Anheuser-Busch Hall Breaks Ground

13 officials and dignitaries helped with ground breaking for the new Anheuser-Busch Hall

KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

West Lake Landfill Discussed at Meeting

Heated questions came from large crowd at landfill meeting

ERIC WYNN/THE CURRENT

The ground breaking took place at parking lot J near Express Scripts Hall. A Clydesdale horse was there to represent Anheuser-Busch, and the ground breaking was a spectacle for those who attended.

Yellow and red balloons, pumpkins, and hay stacks decorated the parking lot, as many UMSL faculty, staff, and a few students filled the area. Opening the ceremony, several speakers took the podium to give remarks about the upcoming building and what it will mean for the future of UMSL and the St. Louis area.

Charles Hoffman, Dean of the College of Business Administration, said, “Our generous donors have enabled us to break ground today, on the first ever College of Business building in the history of UMSL, since our first class graduated in 1967.” He noted that state-of-the-art classrooms, business and community linkages, and collaboration areas for students will be a few features of the new Anheuser-Busch Hall.

Continued on Page 3

The annual process of student fee increases has begun with the various colleges and programs presenting their proposed increases and justification for them.

The proposed fee increase process at the University of Missouri—St. Louis is as follows: the deans present fee increases based on their budgets to the Fee Review Committee. The committee presents the recommended fee increases to the Chancellor, the Chancellor makes his recommendations to the president of the University of Missouri System, the president brings the proposed fees to the Board of Curators, and then the Board of Curators has the final say on the fee increases.

The College of Arts and Sciences proposed two fee increases for next year. The first is for keeping up with technologies in the science labs and is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This fee keeps UMSL competitive with other colleges and universities.

Continued on Page 3

Student Fee Increases Proposed, Explained

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UMSL competitive with other campuses for technology and training.

The second fee is to allocate funds specifically for advising in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Ron Yaishin instituted developmental three tier advising when he took over as dean about six years ago.

Continued on Page 2
SGA Budget Reviewed to Help Student Groups

At the last Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on October 16, Michael Clark, junior, accounting, comptroller of SGA, publicly announced that the SABC could not afford to do more SGA co-sponsorships this semester because of depleted funding.

Representatives of several student organizations in attendance made comments that they were surprised by the news. Student government co-sponsorships have become a more important source of supplemental funding for student group events as their own allocations from the Student Activity Budget Committee (SABC) have seen reductions in recent years. This prompted the staff of The Current to look into the reasons for the funds running out halfway through the semester and more general examination and explanation of this year’s SGA’s budget compared with last year’s. During this examination, questions were raised about an SGA retreat that appears to have cost more than SGA’s previously budgeted amount for team building.

SGA receives the largest share of the SABC allocations with approximately 17 percent of the $127,197 for the current semester with $21,525 for their budget. Of this amount, SGA planned on spending $1,500 dollars on co-sponsorships. While somewhat difficult to compare last year’s budget, which was funded on an academic year versus one semester, SGA had an annual budget of $7,500 for co-sponsorships during the 2014-2015 academic year compared to the $1,500 allocated for the 2015 fall semester. This constituted a 60 percent reduction compared to one semester of the previous budget.

SGA’s budget from SABC last year was $44,500, and dividing that for one semester comes to $22,250. This semester’s SABC allocation of $21,525 is only slightly off from last year’s budget when comparing semesters. In addition, SGA reported a beginning balance this semester of $1,948.59. Taking in consideration the previous budget.

The Current requested SGA’s budget from SABC, which includes miscellaneous items such as business cards, meal plans, and polo shirts for the executive committee and senate ($1,182.70), leaving a remaining balance of $5,137.30 available for general operations.

SGA comptroller Clark said that additional expenses over and above salaries for this semester in general operations still

Continued on Page 11

Student Fee Increases Proposed, Explained

Continued from Page 1

UMSL Fiscal Year 2017 Fee Proposals

School of Business / Programs

Fee Description Fee Amount Notes

College of Fine Arts & Communications Art History Supplemental Fee $23.30 No increase Media & Communications Studies Lab Fee $31.40 No increase

School of Arts & Sciences

Science Lab Fee $12.90 From $12.80 Increases CPI estimated at 1%

Studio Arts Fee $29.30 No increase

Advertising Fee $10 No increase

Ashling Fee $10 No increase

Undergraduate Business Fee $75 From $55; 36% Increase

Graduate Business Fee $95 From $85; 12% Increase

Optometry Supplemental Fee $900 No increase, Requesting a name change

College of Education

Undergraduate Education Supplemental Fee $20 No increase

College of Education Supplemental Fee $164.50 From $69.80; 236% Increase

College of Nursing

Optometry Supplemental Fee $900 No increase, Requesting a name change

Online Program

UMSL/WU Engineering Program $59.70 Remain the same for 100% online courses

UMSL Online Supplemental Fee OF $50 Reduce the fee for 75%–99% online courses (PO=Partially Online)

UMSL Online Supplemental Fee EBL $35 New fee for 30%–74% online courses (EBL=Blended)

continued on page 3
Anheuser-Busch Hall Breaks Ground

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Continued from Page 1

business building. New business curriculum will include cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, social media marketing, and supply chains. CannonDesign is the design firm of Anheuser-Busch Hall, and Hoffman acknowledged some of the building’s architects who were in the audience. UMSL named the new building Anheuser-Busch Hall because of Anheuser-Busch’s $2.5 million donation towards fundraising efforts. The construction of the new building will not cause any fee increases for students due to the state’s matching donation of UMSL’s $10 million in private fundraising. Governor Jay Nixon signed the 50-50 match bill in 2012. In May, Nixon came to UMSL to officially announce that the state would match the funds that had been raised.

Margarita Flores, vice president of corporate relations at Anheuser-Busch, said, “Anheuser-Busch Hall will not only enhance this already beautiful campus but provide students and professors a building that will streamline all the current business school operations. We look forward to the completion of the building. The University of Missouri—Columbia, and Ho Hoffman will be a great place to foster learning, collaboration, and to generate the next leaders of our community.”

UMSL Chancellor Thomas George came forward to recognize many of those who made the new building a possibility, particularly Governor Nixon, the Missouri General Assembly, Dean Hoffman, and former College of Business deans who were in the audience. He also thanked former senator Tim Green, an UMSL alumnus who introduced the bill that led to the enabling of the legislation for UMSL to collect private funds and ask for state matching.

Right now, the College of Business is spread across five buildings throughout campus. “This culminates an effort to take our 2,700 students, faculty, and staff, and start to coalesce them into a central location,” said George.

Governor Nixon was unable to attend the event, but his senior policy advisor, Dr. Mike Nietzel, spoke on his behalf. “As Governor Nixon said many times, education from pre-kindergarten through graduate school is the best economic development tool there is, and UMSL continues to be a leader for the St. Louis region, when it comes to providing a high quality education for so many students,” said Nietzel.

After the remarks, 13 people who have had a role in making Anheuser-Busch Hall possible took part in the ceremonial breaking of the ground where the building will be. These included Chancellor George, Dean Hoffman, Flores, and Sharon Pace of the Missouri House of Representatives. Each took their place behind a shovel dug into the ground, and in best union as possible, broke the first ground with their shovels.

Representative Pace said, “The ceremony was great… we always want to see progress, and certainly this was one of those memorable occasions. It will help the students and all, and we’re pleased with that. Education is the key.”

“As an UMSL student, it just makes me proud seeing our school just prosper into something bigger than what I’ve ever thought of. It makes me proud to be a Triton,” said Terry Lee, senior, communications.

Following the ceremony was a reception outside Express Scripts Hall, which included free beer and opportunities to take photos with the Clydesdale. Many of those who attended the groundbreaking sipped beverages from plastic UMSL College of Business glassware as they engaged in conversation with one another about the new building.

West Lake Landfill Controversy Discussed at Meeting in Bridgeton

SARAH BELL
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

underground smolder, and the West Lake Landfill, consisting of smaller storage sites containing dumped World War II-era radioactive waste.

The Bridgeton Landfill is owned and operated by Bridgeton Landfill LLC, a subsidiary of Republic Services. Since December 2010, it has been the site of a Smoldering Exothermic Reaction (SER), a sustained underground reaction consisting of temperatures in the range of 180 to 240°F, resulting from the decomposition of waste and an abnormal balance of gases. Investigation from landfill experts has indicated that the cause of the Bridgeton SER was most likely due to an excess of oxygen caused by over-extraction of methane.

Continued on Page 12
Policy Makers Weigh in On Minimum Wage Increase

On October 30, a few distinguished panelists and engaged audience members gathered to discuss the impact of raising the minimum wage.

The host of the discussion was Mark Trelal, interim dean of the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. Moderating the discussion was Wally Siewert, director for the Center for Ethics in Public Life. The presentation was orchestrated by Anne Winkler, professor of economics and public policy administration. The four panelists were: Hazel Erby, councilwoman on the St. Louis County Council; David Newburger, co-director of the Starkloff Disability Institute and commissioner on the disabled for the city of St. Louis; Karlos Ramirez, executive director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis; Russ Signorino, executive director of Gateway EITC Community Coalition.

During the presentation, a few facts and figures were discussed in comparison to the minimum wage in Missouri, other states, and the federal minimum wage. The current federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour, the minimum wage for the state of Missouri is $7.65, and the wage for the state of Illinois is $8.25. The problem with these wages is that they have not kept up with inflation. Although the cost of living is increasing, the state minimum remains the same. An increase in the minimum wage for St. Louis City was passed on August 25 but was struck down Octo- ber 14 by a judge for being in conflict with a state law passed this year to bar local communities from setting their own minimum wage. There were some exemptions in the St. Louis ordinance such as small businesses with 15 workers or less and city employees.

The argument during the presentation was that a 26 percent increase in the minimum wage cannot be the sole solution to the poverty issue. Signorino was a labor analyst for 18 years and stated that the increase in the minimum wage would impact Earned Income Credit which would be a good thing long term; however, those who fall below the poverty line will still be affected and disturbed by the impact. Newburger presented his insight from a perspective of individuals with disabilities. He believes that if the minimum wage increases then it should be paid to those people affected by Medicaid dollars. The consequence of individuals with disabilities losing their attendants due to not being able to afford the increase in placing people with disabilities into expensive nursing homes.

Another concern is the long-term impact on sheltered workshops, which are established institutions that offer employment for people with disabilities that pay less than the minimum wage. Newburger started the Independent Living Movement for people with disabilities to help them become productive members of society. He believes the rise in minimum wage to be distributed in Medicaid dollars would make an enormous difference to this movement.

Ramirez spoke for the SUCCEED program at the University of Missouri—St. Louis County Council. His perspective is based on economy versus morality. The economic standpoint must consider whether “a rise in the minimum wage causes businesses to stop hiring or will a rise in income cause a rise in the cost of living across the board.” From a moral standpoint, he said, “I was born and raised in a single-parent home and had employers that shaped me up,” she said. She related that at her first job as a welder, she made the mistake of saying that someone else’s welding job looked “like a pig had doo-dooed on it.” She was grateful to the plant manager for explaining to her that such language was not appropriate and making her realize what was expected of the person who did the welding job.

Dr. Grandin presented a PowerPoint on autism and how to get kids into employment. Grandin’s presentation was an enormous difference to this movement. She related that at her first job as a welder, she made the mistake of saying that someone else’s welding job looked “like a pig had doo-dooed on it.” She was grateful to the plant manager for explaining to her that such language was not appropriate and making her realize what was expected of the person who did the welding job.
About twenty people took turns tuning in to artists and sharing their own art in the Pilot House of the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Millenium Student Center on October 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. This Open Mic Night was the first major event hosted by The UMSL Writers Group (TUWG).

The setup of the event was plain. There were chairs aligned in a typical audience fashion. Various cookies and hot drinks rested on the table by the entrance. There was no special lighting. There was no background music except for the music-based performances. The performers were wearing a mix of casual and formal attire, emphasizing individual comfort and style. Performers looked at printed paper, cell phones, or their memories for their stories. Some of the pieces also covered unexpected genres, such as the singing of Vietnamese music by Hung Nguyen, senior, chemistry, and stand-up comedy by Galen Wilson, freshman, computer science.

Perhaps because of the casual atmosphere, most of those who approached the stage seemed relaxed. For example, Dai T. Smith, sophomore, social work, was called to perform unexpectedly but provided her rapt poem “The Couple.”

“It felt mysteriously calming [to perform on stage]. Like, I was already in the most tranquil mood listening to the performers prior to even stepping on stage; however, when my name managed to be accidentally called, that particular feeling never left me,” said Smith. “I went up on stage and didn’t feel anything but honored that I could share something that means so much to me.”

As Sarah “Blacky” Arbogast, freshman, English, read her piece, her voice trembled throughout her short story. Yet she gave one of the most involved performances. Her voice inflections, character voices, and gestures expressed her confidence as she told her tale of a wizard avenging his wrongful imprisonment at the hands of a paranoid king.

Despite their calm demeanors, the performers brought a range of tones to the stage. Laura Jenkins, freshman, biology, shared a humorous poem about her high school teacher and her opinion of him as a “light at the end of the tunnel”—as in the light of an oncoming train.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, Sarah Hayes, junior, English, offered mystery and suspense. Her pieces, including “Darkness (An Exercise in Trioliet),” “Yuki-omba,” and “Torch Song for a Night Ride,” detailed haunting experiences like a protagonist wishing for train wrecks, voices that come out of darkness, and a yokai (a mythological Japanese monster) that is dejected with her existence in a thousand-year-old winter. Hayes said, “All three pieces—one poem and two short stories, were in some way spooky, and I wanted to keep it spooky because of Halloween coming up. I don’t think a lot of people thought like I did, though so my weird stuff stood out in an awkward way.”

A few performers read their published works. TUWG vice president Jessie Eikmann, senior, English, and president Amber Scholl, senior, English, read their works from a copy of 2015’s LitMag, the undergraduate-run literary magazine at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. Ethan Crombie, junior, criminology, listed a few places where his editorial articles could be found, one being the South County Times. Kristen Flood, junior, elementary education, presented from a proof of her upcoming poetry book “The Museum: A Collection of Dark Poetry.”

“We [TUWG] had a really great turn out,” said Scholl. “I think it went above our expectations,” considering the wide variety of people and performances.

TUWG meets once a month on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. in the MSC. The next meeting is on November 11. TUWG is planning a book drive for Ready Readers, an organization that provides books for children in impoverished neighborhoods. The book drive will begin in late November. For more information about TUWG or its upcoming events, contact Eikmann or Scholl or visit TUWG on TritonSync.
Readers of poetry who are entranced by the idea of “The Museum” should do well to keep in mind its back cover blurb as they open up to read the first poem: “A place where people are tortured and displayed as art. A world where creativity dies with humanity. A preview into the gritty reality of ‘Seeking Incandescence.’ Experience the haunting poetry and gruesome artwork of the imprisoned. May their martyrs bring you closer to enlightenment.” It becomes harder and harder, as the book progresses, not to imagine that the large blue eye that dominates the front cover is actually watching you as you read.

“The Museum” is a collection of self-described dark poetry by local author Kristen Flood and illustrated by Jessica Boyer. It takes readers through a museum run by a woman named Clarabelle, who speaks to a nameless Savior upon which she has created this place of torture and experimentation. Each poem is a different test subject, each being put under a different, horrifying test designed to destroy the spirit and extinguish their artistic gifts—or anything that makes a person ‘different.’

The book is split up into two narratives, which run adjacent to each other on the page: the story of the person on display and the story of their ‘case’ and what is believed to be wrong with them—and the specific experiment these people are going under. Oftentimes, the treatment is suited to match the talent or perceived disorder of the subject. One subject, a painter, is watched to see if they eat the paint they have been locked in with. Another is unaware that the ‘wet air’ they are surrounded by means they are drowning, so the museum workers simply increase the amount of water flowing into the cell. The purpose for these things are clear: readjust or die. Unfortunately, readjustment is not a common test result.

What Flood does best in these poems is the shock and awe of each story. There is nothing safe about these poems; every piece has a cosmically depressing sting that drives home how bad a place the Museum actually is. We do not get any names of these subjects, or even physical descriptors or gender pronouns. And yet, between the visceral openness of their words and the cold clinical feel of the reports, they come together to create micro portraits of people that are as real as any photograph.

“The Museum” also makes reference to another location, as yet unseen in the given stories: Ares Academy. It is apparently a colorless place where “mute soldiers” go to become better cogs in the machine, and from which the colorful are made examples of as museum exhibits. Readers interested more in the Ares Academy and how it relates to the Museum will want to read the book advertised in the back, “Seeking Incandescence,” scheduled to come out spring 2016. Until then, we shall have to be content with haunting ourselves via Flood’s poetry premiere.
Over the last few years, autism spectrum disorder has gained enough attention to become more than just a blip on the disability radar screen. Despite all the frequent “awareness” periods and fundraising efforts, however, recognizing the accomplishments of people on the autism spectrum still leaves something to be desired.

Gallery Visio’s latest show “From the Spectrum” works to correct this lack of recognition. The gallery has teamed up with Saint Louis Art for Autism, LLC, a local organization that helps empower children on the spectrum through art. The show, which features the works of artists on the autism spectrum or families of someone on the spectrum, was largely organized by Saint Louis Art for Autism’s founder and University of Missouri—St. Louis alumnus Charles Mooneyham. According to Mooneyham, producing the show was “nothing shy of a spiritual experience. At the opening I met such a wide range of individuals on the spectrum who came to visit the show… It was such a shining example of pride in the purest nature.”

Several of the pieces in “From the Spectrum” are by current students in UMSL’s SUCCEED program. One student-created piece, Eric Stuckmeyer’s “Marionetto,” immediately stands out. While all the other pieces are two-dimensional, “Marionetto” is a 3-D puppet made of pipe cleaners, string, and dowel rods. The piece takes an interesting geometric approach to anatomy, breaking down each limb into a series of looped segments. The parts of the figure are beautifully proportioned and flow together well, demonstrating the tremendous attention to detail that the artist employed to make it.

Other pieces in the gallery illustrate a point made by Stuart Shadwell, the director of Gallery Visio. Shadwell, who is himself on the spectrum, said, “I think that so-called neurotypical people are likely to build up inhibitions about making art and they stop trying … People on the spectrum are less likely to have these inhibitions, so they just go at it, and the results are lively and entertaining.”

Whatever vaguely-defined “sophistication” that neurotypical people may claim these pieces lack, the pieces compensate by creating entire worlds for their pieces. Two examples of these are the works of SUCCEED students Brandon Jones and Nicholas Kamin. Jones, in his series of drawings called “Primal,” has developed his own mythos. According to the description next to the drawings, “humans and the mighty dinosaurs live side-by-side and extinction is over rated. At a young age boys and girls are released into the wild to find and tame their own dinosaur while it is at its most lethal age.” That premise is reflected in the tranquil way the person is riding the dinosaur in the image.
**Volleyball Dominates the Courts, Sweeps Prairie Stars**

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis Tritons took on Illinois-Springfield in women's volleyball on October 31 at the Mack Twain Athletic & Fitness Center, sweeping the Prairie Stars in three straight sets. The victory makes the four-game home stand a 2-2 split as the season approaches the final month of action.

The team has had its ups and downs throughout the semester, starting with a tough tournament in Florida in early September. Since then, it has been a literal roller coaster, with two-three-game winning streaks and a three-game losing streak interspersed among the rest of the schedule. As winter draws near, the players understand now more than ever how important everything is from this point on.

“We need to win the rest of our games to basically make it, so we can’t afford to lose anymore,” explained Jessica Ploss, senior, criminal justice, after the match was concluded. “That’s one of our goals—to just get the next six games. It’s my last year and the other four seniors and I really want this.”

Ploss was thick in the action trying to keep that hope alive against Illinois-Springfield, supplying three blocks and eight kills for the Tritons. Fellow senior Hannah Miller, graphic design, did her part as well, leading the team with 12 kills on the night and showing exceptional poise during her services. Overall, the team shot extremely well to a .213 attack percentage, over 30 points above their average on the year. With 37 assists to go along with that, it was clear the women were on point.

“We’ve been really working hard on working together as a team,” said Olivia Gillum, freshman, undeclared. Gillum personified her own words, diving on multiple occasions to give her teammates a chance to win points that should have been lost. “We had lots of good energy on the court and bench,” she added. “It was 100 percent effort out there.”

The Tritons came out of the gates strong, winning the first set 25-15. The Prairie Stars were visibly worn out early and could not keep pace with the Tritons. Like a sprint, after the first set, the Tritons used all their speed to pull away from the younger Prairie Stars.

The second set was a close battle, with the Tritons pulling away from a 5-5 tie with seven straight points to end the set at 25-10. The Tritons dominated with an overall .262 attack percentage. The third set was the closest of the game, ending with the Tritons on top 25-19.

The Tritons outshot the Prairie Stars 20 to eight. While the second set was closer, with UMSL taking it 25-15, the Prairie Stars were clearly outmatched, failing to take a lead until a few points into the third set. The team did not have much chemistry compared to the Tritons. There were several instances of a lack of communication in the first two sets as players jumped into each other, let the ball drop, and the same player hit the ball twice, among other errors. The match concluded on a lift ball—rather anticlimactic.

While UMSL managed to secure the victory with little trouble, they faltered briefly in the final set. Illinois-Springfield managed to string together five straight points to an 11-7 lead before UMSL head coach Ryan Young took an opportune time-out. All his athletes seemed to need was a little breather, and when play resumed, the Triton women soon closed out the contest, finishing the third set 25-19.

With the victory at home, UMSL improves to 12-14 (6-7 Great Lakes Valley Conference) on the year. The Tritons' volleyball team will play its next four matches on the road and will return to the home courts on November 13 at 7 p.m.

**Tritons Fall to Southern Indiana in Women’s Soccer**

MARY CHICKOS
STAFF WRITER

The visiting Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles defeated the University of Missouri—St. Louis women’s soccer team 2-1 on October 25 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) competition at Don Dallas field. This ended a 12 game winning streak for the Tritons. They lost for only the second time this season, dropping to fourth place in conference standings with the final game played at Maryville on October 28. About the speed bump, midfielder Lee Strande, freshman, actuarial science, said, “We need to move on from this as we head into tournament play.”

UMSL honored 11 graduating players prior to the game, presenting them with framed pictures, awards, and flowers. The seniors included Megan Ohm, psychology and criminal justice; Sidney Allen, elementary special education; Mary Hoffmann, marketing; Katie Rapisardo, liberal studies; Kali Thomas, elementary special education; Jessica Mincher, nursing; Hunter Wagoner, social work; Cassie McFadden, nursing; Laura Hurlbut, special education; Kelly McGovern, special education; Jaylon Griffith, marketing.

The Eagles scored early into the game (8:29), netting a goal on a free kick from Kelsey Smith. Things did not get much better for the Tritons as they lost midfielder Laura Hurlbut to an injury halfway through the first period. The Eagles added another goal two minutes into the second half. With only a few minutes left, the Tritons finally got a shot on the board from Thomas, who took a shot pass from Kayla Delgado, junior, liberal studies, but it was too late. Surprisingly, the Tritons outshot the Screaming Eagles 20 to eight. However, Southern Indiana goalkeeper Jackie Lohmann, in just her third game this season, had 12 saves en route to her team’s win.

Despite the loss, the Tritons are optimistic, as their strong run earlier in the season essentially shores up a spot for them in the GLVC playoff tournament. UMSL fans are excited too. After the matchup, Rob Hoffman, junior, business administration, said, “The game reflected the qualities the seniors gained during their time as Tritons. They were dealt a lot of unlucky breaks, but never gave up.” The women’s team would go on to lose the final game of the regular season at Maryville University 1-3.
Student Fee Increases Proposed, Explained

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Continued from Page 3

The Dean of Engineering at Washington University, Joseph O’Sullivan presented the proposed fee increase for the joint Washington University and UMSL engineering program. O’Sullivan said, “When the program was originally founded about 23 years ago, there was a separate appropriation from the state that covered the gap between student tuition plus fees and the actual cost to UMSL. In recent years, those funds have no longer been ear-marked for the joint engineering program. This has created a large gap between revenue and costs. Washington University has agreed to signifi-cantly decrease the costs starting next year. Nevertheless, there remains a gap. This fee increase would remove that gap.”

The School of Social Work proposed a fee from $5 per practicum course to $10 on all social work courses. Practicum courses are an important part of the degree program as it is required for accreditation. These practicum courses place students in various agencies to hone their skills prior to graduation. The UMSL faculty must visit these students at their work to evaluate them and must be reimbursed for travel.

The Dean of the School of Social Work, Lois Pierce, said, “The $10 supplemental fees will allow us to continue reimbursing faculty travel and will allow us to offer additional sections of our required courses. We decided it was less confusing to add a supplemen-tal charge of $10 ($2 of this will go to scholarships) on all social work student credit hours rather than increasing practicum supplemental fees to more than those for other courses. We will also use some of the fees to develop a more secure storage site for student and agency files.”

The online programs at UMSL has suggested a variety of changes to their fee structure. These effect the three types of coursework offered. The first is traditional online, where the entire course is taken online. The second structure is called partially online, where students occasionally come to campus for testing. The final structure is called blended and involves a combina-tion of online and on campus learning. The online class fee will remain the same, the partially online class will be reduced, and there will be a new fee for the blended classes.

The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents: Problem of the Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, November 6. Solvers will be eligible for a valuable prize determined by a drawing on Thursday, December 3 at the Fibonacci Day festivities.

Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

There was a young man from London
Who loved doing math just for fun.
Although this problem he greatly admired,
His attempts left him really quite tired
And so this one, still remains undone.

Problem: At EATTilUDrop Café, one order consisted of 3 sliders, 2 brews and 1 side of fries and it cost $15.75. A second order consisted of 1 slider, 3 brews and 2 sides of fries and it cost $10.75. A third order consisted of 2 sliders, 2 brews and 1 side of fries and it cost $11.75. How much would an order of 1 slider, 1 brew and 1 side of fries cost?

Please note: Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and the UMSL Math Club presents “The Art of Problem Solving” on Wednesday, November 11 in ESH 304 at 2:00pm. Refreshments at 3:00pm.

Difficulty: Trial by Combat

SERIOUSLY TASTY LUNCH

Enjoy the goodness of a Turkey Club Mex Wrap or indulge in breakfast for lunch with a Spinach, Mushroom & Swiss Egg Sandwich.

MSC Second Floor
Monday-Thursday: 7 AM-6:45 PM
Friday: 7 AM-1:30 PM

©2014 Einstein Noah Restaurant Group, Inc.
5-Year-Old Girl Exposes Flaws in End-of-Life Debates

NATHAN WATSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Last fall, a new, younger face entered into the assisted suicide debate. Brittany Maynard was only 29 years old when she moved from her home in California to the state of Oregon, one of the few states to have legalized assisted suicide. Like Maynard, 5-year-old Julianna Snow, an Oregon resident, is now challenging the assumption that only the elderly are forced to make end-of-life choices.

Last week, a CNN report detailed the case of an Oregon family forced to make one of the most unimaginably difficult choices. Julianna, the youngest of two children to Michelle Moon and Steve Snow, suffers from the neurodegenerative disease Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT). Her prognosis is grim; although now living at home with her parents, her next illness, even if just a cold or the flu, would likely tax her body beyond its limits. When this happens, she can either remain at home where she will die, or return to the hospital to undergo extremely painful surgeries that will likely leave her in an even worse physical and mental condition.

When Julianna’s parents were given this information, they decided to have a conversation no parent wishes to have with their child. They asked her if, upon getting sick again, she would rather return to the hospital or stay home where she would die. She chose to stay home. She did not want her feelings of imminent loss and tragedy that drove Julianna’s parents to initiate this conversation. For it is only out of pure selflessness that two parents could set aside their own fear and listen to the deepest needs of their 5-year-old child.

Unsurprisingly, Moon and Snow’s stated commitment to their daughter’s wishes has ignited a host of illogical reactions. One such case comes from Dr. Art Caplan, a professor of medical ethics at New York University who told CNN, “I think a 4-year-old might be capable of deciding what music to hear or what picture book they might want to read. But I think there’s zero chance a 4-year-old can understand the concept of death. That kind of thinking doesn’t really develop until around age 9 or 10.”

There are several things wrong with Caplan’s argument. First, he holds the assumption that adults themselves are able to “understand the concept of death.” Considering the wide range of beliefs regarding what awaits (or does not await) us after death, how can you possibly say a 5-year-old’s understanding is lacking? When it comes to an experience that literally nobody has lived through, it is safe to assume we are all on equal footing. Suppose materialists are right, and that the cessation of brain activity also means the cessation of all that we consider “Vitalis.” Death then becomes a literal “nothing” which no concept, even one derived by a Ph.D. holder like Caplan himself, would suffice to convey.

Yet Caplan’s argument harbors an even more egregious logical inconsistence, albeit one that is almost always promoted by those against the right-to-die. “Surely,” one may argue, “a 5-year-old, is not in a position to make a rational, informed decision about her life. The only sensible thing to do is to force her to ‘keep on living.’” Interestingly, few proponents of this line of reasoning ever acknowledge that the action of not granting a patient’s wish to die is as much a moral decision as the action of ending it. Their argument is essentially as follows:

Premise: only those competent to make an informed decision should be allowed to make decisions about their own life;

Premise: Julianna is not competent to make an informed decision;

Conclusion: Julianna should be forced to live.

Assuming the validity of the two premises, the logically necessary conclusion would be “Julianna should not be allowed to make decisions about her own life.” Yet this is hardly the same as concluding that Julianna should not be allowed to die, for this already takes as one of its premises that choosing to die and avoid suffering is morally inferior to choosing to live and suffer. In reality, far from deciding that Julianna’s age disqualifies her opinion, this argument only confirms that the decision is now out of Julianna’s hands.

Who, then, is to make the decision for her? Obviously, in Julianna’s case, the decision is legally entrusted to her parents. But is this morally sound? Luckily for Julianna, her parents were compassionate in their decision to listen to her needs rather than their own. Yet, were she not so lucky, would the parents be justified in forcing her back to the hospital or forcing her to die at home? The question thus becomes: “who is in the best position to make an informed decision about Julianna’s life?”

We can only answer these questions if we accept the completely subjective nature of attitudes towards life and death. For too long there has been a bias against those who choose death on their own terms. As progressive as Oregon’s Death with Dignity law and similar movements are, they sacrifice the rigorous logic at core of their argument by limiting a dignified death to those who can check off a number of arbitrary boxes. We need a better framework for discussing end-of-life choices—one that does not rely on the “run away from the inevitable” mentality. Of course death is a hard topic to confront, but when it comes to arguments about who gets to impose what kind of suffering on whom, logical rigor is an absolute necessity.

Upset About UMSL’s Financial Situation? Let’s Take the Lead

DAVID TOCCO
STAFF WRITER

Our university’s fiscal situation is troubling. Student fees and tuition are increasing and the administration talks of cutting student programs and resources. Many factors have contributed to this dire state and I certainly do not claim to know all the information or have all the solutions. However, there are some basic, fundamental issues that need to be addressed.

As a student body, we expect those in positions of leadership to represent our best interests, regardless of their personal agendas. Until recently, I had no idea how large a budget our Student Government Association (SGA) was operating under. They were allotted $21,525 for this fall semester alone. Most student organizations are happy to receive a tenth of that from Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) funding, which is generated by student activity fees and split among the student groups.

So, why is SGA allotted so much of our money and where does it all go? For starters, the three highest officers (president, vice-president, and comptroller) are each paid $585 every month. Do the math and you will find that, for six months, three members of the SGA received nearly half—$10,530—of the total allotment of $21,525. Should they get paid at all to do the work they do? I am inclined to say no, given their minimal level of duties. I want my student representatives to lead for the right reasons—not to get a check every month. If anyone in SGA is to be paid, then the entire SGA should be paid equally—why should only the president, vice-president, and comptroller get paid? This seems wrong on many levels.

How can we justifiably criticize our administration’s lack of financial responsibility when our own student government is just as irresponsible? The goal of a student organization should not be to get as much money as possible from the SABC, only to spend it all. Instead, organizations should ask only for what is needed and can be responsibly spent for the benefit of the organization. In SGA’s case, the student body as a whole should be the ultimate concern. Spending thousands of dollars on SGA officer salaries or to travel to conferences and retreats hardly benefits the student body. There is no reason the SGA cannot train their leaders without spending our money on travel and conferences.

This wastefulsness needs to stop. I want to be able to trust the students whose job is to represent me and I want to believe that they are willing to do so voluntarily.
Full Spectrum of Artists on Display in Gallery Visio Exhibition “From the Spectrum”

JESSIE EIKMANN  FEATURES EDITOR

Continued from Page 7
“Primal III.” The look of contentment on the rider’s face and the way she rides the dinosaur—with as much ease as a surfer would ride a board—indicate the rapport the dinosaur and rider must have established before the picture.

Nicholas Kaminsky took his world-building one step further. This artist accompanies his series “Anubis Jr. Versus Timberwolf” with a three-page story about his world, which he calls “Wolfanthus.” The comic book-like panels of the second and third drawings only tell part of Kaminsky’s story, which manages to pack into three short wolf princes and princesses, a royal adviser named Sir Quack, an elaborate plot against a cousin, a dungeon scene, and a black hole. The fleshed-out story line shows that artists on the autism spectrum make their art richer by bringing more imaginative back stories into their work.

Another of the artists in the gallery, Derek “Deek” Diedricksen, channels an unusual interest in his work “Desert Scape A.” Like “Marionettes,” the piece has a striking geometric quality. The shelter is an isosceles triangle with scaled-down articles of furniture and a miniature window on an upper level. The piece reveals Diedricksen’s fascination with tiny houses. His book “Micro Shelters” sits on a table below his artwork so that the viewer can get absorbed in both “Desert Scape A” and the “59 creative cabins, tiny houses, tree houses, and other small structures” inside the book. He manages with two different mediums to integrate the viewer in what might otherwise be dismissed as a mere obscure fixation.

Another piece comments on the nature of autism itself. Pierre L. Owens’ “Autism: The Happy Kingdom” pictures a family who has autism and engages in unusual acts.” This fictional African-inspired movie poster suggests that people on the spectrum can be happy and whimsical without being “handicapped” by their diagnosis. The piece’s bright colors, exotic masks and costumes, and the written message “No Panic, Right?” at the top all suggest that autism spectrum disorder does not have to mean a life of fear and stigmatization for those who have it.

“From the Spectrum” is on display at Gallery Visio until November 18. Its hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information about Saint Louis Art for Autism, visit them at saintlouisartforautism.com.

SGA Budget Reviewed to Help Student Groups

KAT RIDDLE  EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Continued from Page 2
include giveaways (pens, buttons, etc.) and room reservations for SABC, but did not provide specific amounts.

The line item for conference and travel, which remained roughly the same, has a remaining balance of $673 for the LEAD 365 conference still this semester.

The line item for team development, which had been reduced by $600 and had planned on expenditures not to exceed $400 this semester, was overspent $1,369.35 for a team development retreat at the Wyman Center. In explaining why this particular line item was overspent resulting in a $969.35 deficit, Clark replied, “Fourteen total people went to the Wyman Center: 10 senators, three executives, and our advisor. We stayed two days. We planned the entire year and it was important that the money would be available for reallocation for other groups.

Despite SGA co-sponsorships being depleted, remember that all student groups can co-sponsor events without it being a line item in their budget. Anyone interested in seeing additional funds reallocated towards co-sponsorships should contact SGA officers and senators.

Interested in Global Health and Social Medicine?

Attend an informational meeting about a new B.A. major 12:30 Monday, November 16, 2015, in 527 Clark Hall.

We want your feedback on a proposed major that would respond to the need for doctors and healthcare professionals who

✓ have cultural competence in working with diverse populations
✓ are trained in an integrated biocultural and social approach to health
✓ are “people people”

Come participate in the discussion, fill out a questionnaire survey, & learn about career options. PIZZA PROVIDED!

TAKE NOTE OF COURSES OFFERED IN SPRING 2016:

History and Culture of Medicine (ANTH 2191-005) satisfies Cultural Diversity requirement

Human Variation (ANTH 2105)

Aging Across Cultures (GERON 3215)

For further information contact Prof. Brownell at 516-6451/sbrownell@umsl.edu
Continued from Page 3

wells. The SER is currently occurring in the southern part of the Bridgeton Landfill, but several reports have issued warnings of the reaction migrating into the northern part—which lies adjacent to the radioactive waste contained at the West Lake Landfill.

The West Lake Landfill Community Advisory Group, whose members consist of parents, local business owners, teachers, and other volunteers, meet regularly to discuss plans for remediation of the landfill. At their meeting last Monday, there was a presentation by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), who had performed a health consultation at the West Lake Landfill. The presenters were: Erin Evans, the regional representative for ATSDR Region 7 (includes Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa); and Dr. Paul Charp, senior health physicist. As the presentation began, however, there were complaints from the audience. Several people demanded to know the source of information for the presentation, and if there were any links to Republic Services-funded research groups. It was discovered that some of the information was unknowingly derived from such sources, which then sparked a lengthy dispute over the data—well-representative of the vagueness and uncertainty that has plagued much of the data concerning the West Lake issue. Claims were made that the federal agencies were manipulating data and misleading the public, in fear of entering a legal trap with Republic Services. In its defense, the representatives continued to protest and inform the public, “using the best science to provide trusted health information.”

Several members of the audience were very clear in indicating their disapproval, however, when the presentation proceeded with the message that “off-site air sampling results show no migration of contaminants in the surrounding residential areas, groundwater from the site will not harm people’s health, and levels of outdoor radon are not high enough to harm people’s health.” ATSDR did note that levels of radium (Ra-226; linked with increased risk of bone, liver, and breast cancer) were higher than the range of the Missouri average, but that they were not high enough to pose a serious health concern.

After the report, the president of the Community Advisory Group, Doug Clemens, asked representatives from the EPA to come to the podium and answer audience questions. Clemens raised the question of whether testing had been done concerning agricultural usage of water near to the site. It had not. Several audience members also raised concerns of whether groundwater from the site could contaminate the Missouri river, the source of drinking water for the city. The ATSDR report had indicated that drinking water was safe from contamination because the groundwater from the site was moving north and west, away from the point of the river used for drinking water. However, the issue of downstream contamination appears still unresolved. As the meeting progressed, audience members voiced several more concerns about the lack of communication from government authorities about the risks of contamination in the area, and the potential of the SER from the Bridgeton Landfill reaching the site.

The radioactive waste at West Lake was illegally dumped in 1973 by B&K Construction, a contractor for Cotter Corporation, a former uranium processing company. Cotter purchased the waste from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, which had funded the uranium enrichment activities of Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in downtown St. Louis. The waste consisted of 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate, which was mixed with topsoil and spread over the landfill. There is doubt over whether Cotter was to blame, or the AEC, for incorrectly informing the corporation of the waste’s contents.

The West Lake Landfill was designated as a Superfund site in 1990, listed on the National Priorities List, and put under the regulatory authority of the EPA. This means that the EPA is responsible for testing and maintenance of the site, with funding derived from “potentially responsible parties.” General Atomics’ affiliate the Cotter Corp., Republic Services, and the US Department of Energy. Cotter Corp was owned by power company Exelon from 1974 to 2000, and it has also agreed to retain financial responsibility for past Cotter actions.

The West Lake Landfill site has been handled differently than other sites in St. Louis containing radioactive waste. At five other sites, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has removed or is in the process of removing the waste to other locations. However, the site at West Lake has remained only under the jurisdiction of the EPA, which claims that more testing is needed before action is taken. Several community groups and political activists have been frustrated with the pace of the EPA’s program, which may be easy to feel panicked. However, such a landfill fire expert, the worst scenario would be if the chemical reaction consumed enough material to create a large underground hole, causing the landfill surface to collapse. Under these conditions, there would be the potential for the smoldering reaction to come to the surface and spread rapidly as an actual fire.

Considering these possibilities, it may be easy to feel panicked. However, as with any situation, fear without cause is unlikely to bring solutions. What has been brought to the surface is the need for more accurate data collection and transparency, and the strength of the community to organize. Missouri State Attorney General Chris Koster is bringing Republic Services to court for negligence. The trial set to begin in March 2016. The EPA has declared that it will conduct more testing, concerning the release of groundwater contamination into the Missouri, and potential contamination of agricultural fields. Community activist groups such as Just Kids St. Louis are working hard to convince Governor Nixon to issue a state of emergency and hand authority of West Lake over to the Army Corps of Engineers for remediation. Several issues have been raised and past mistakes exposed. One thing is clear: inaction is not an option.