Layoffs Possible Amid UMSL Budget Crisis

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Chancellor Thomas George made the University of Missouri—St. Louis community aware that the university is facing a serious budget deficit in a campus-wide email on January 22.

George stated in his email that UMSL’s already thin budget is in need of significant adjustment. According to numbers that were supplied, the university is facing a $15 million deficit and is faced with the challenge of creating a sustainable plan to reduce operational expenditures.

According to a pie chart providing statistics for fiscal year 2016, UMSL is generating revenue of $155 million from three separate categories: net tuition and fees, which account for 58 percent, state appropriations, which account for 38 percent, and an “other” category, which accounts for four percent. Meanwhile, UMSL’s expenditures and transfers amount to $166 million, with 56 percent going to salaries and wages, 26 percent going to an “other” category, and 18 percent going to employee benefits.

The Chancellor said that groups have been meeting over the past several weeks to discuss the budget problems and that unit managers and deans have been assigned to submit five percent, 10 percent, and 15 percent operations budget reduction scenarios.

According to George, across-the-board budget cuts have typically...

University Textbooks Is New ‘Mom and Pop’ of the Textbook Business

SARAH MYERS
STAFF WRITER

Marty and Cindy Witbeck are the new mom and pop in town to guide college students through the textbook buying and selling process. The married couple is in charge of the new independently owned store University Textbooks, for the University of Missouri—St. Louis students.

Their mission is simple: “Help bring down the costs of textbooks and make them more available to students,” said Cindy.

The Witbecks are new business owners in the UMSL area, having just gotten their business license on January 15 of this year. The store is currently comprised of a few bookshelves and a limited selection of books; however the Witbecks say they can order any textbook for any student that walks in.

University Textbooks is located across from Spirò’s Restaurant on Natural Bridge Road, just off UMSL’s campus. University Textbooks came to UMSL after numerous requests from students at St. Charles Community College (SCCC) in Cottleville, Missouri where their first store Book Deals had great success.

At the time there was no competition and the Witbecks decided to open up Book Deals. It was only “a couple days being open and [people] started coming,” said Cindy.

“We’ve really grown. Usually students tell me that once they come, they never stop. They tell me they never had to go on campus. They were always able to get what they needed from us. It grew very quickly in a short amount of time. And what started, it started like this,” Cindy said as she gestured to the...
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THE CURRENT STAFF

THE UNDERCURRENT By Sarah Myers

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS THIS SEMESTER?

Michael Nguyen, Junior, Communications
"COMM 4100."

Tran Nguyen, Graduate, Information Systems
"Principles of Information Security."

Saad Sharieff, Junior, Information Systems
"Intro to Marketing"

MON 47
TUE 35
WED 37
THU 49
FRI 50
SAT 59
SUN 50

THU 49
FRI 50
SAT 59
SUN 50

GAME CORNER
The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents:
Problem of the Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, January 29. Solvers will be eligible for our pi day drawing in March. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

There is a young freshman named Jack Who at UMSL is glad to be back

But this problem, so cruel

Although Jack was on the right track.

Problem: Jack and his dear friend, Jill, are to be randomly placed on a wait list consisting of six students. What is the probability that they will be placed next to each other?

We wish you all a great semester.

Difficulty: Piranha Plushies
Shout out to that special someone for Valentine's Day! Tweet @ Your Tweetie with The Current!
All messages will follow Twitter length restrictions and must be school appropriate. Just $5 for a message to your Tweetie in the paper for the week of February 8.

contact thecurrentads@umsl.edu for details

AD REP POSITIONS AVAILABLE SPRING ’16 SEMESTER

The Current is now seeking communicative students to fill four positions for the 2016 spring semester. Applications are available on our office, 388 Millennium Student Center, as well as our website, thecurrent-online.com. Bring your completed app to our office or email it to thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu. For more information, contact us at thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu.
University Textbooks is New ‘Mom and Pop’ of the Textbook Business

SARAH MYERS
STAFF WRITER

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University Textbooks is New ‘Mom and Pop’ of the Textbook Business

two bookshelves behind her.

They rent the books out to students about 90% of the time, said Cindy. “Very few come in and want to buy.” The store buys books back from any university or college student in the St. Louis area, including loose-leaf textbooks.

“We pretty much price the books between 40%-50% of a price of a new book on campus for rentals. If it’s an older edition we price those even lower,” said Cindy. “For new books, we do not do new book and used book rentals. They are all done as used book rentals. To purchase a book, you’re looking between 5-10% less than campus. Same with access codes. Custom books, too, we carry those.”

When asked how they maintain their business model, Cindy stated that when it comes down to it, “We just don’t take as much money.”

“We try to do it more like a Mom and Pop style so it’s more personal,” said Cindy. “We are more student service oriented.” The couple talked about how they help students through the aisles and make the students aware of the options of renting, buyback, etc.—options that they may not know if they simply went to a cashier.

“We will call you and remind you to bring back the book so you don’t get charged for a full book,” said Marty. The couple even help students write checks and provide emotional support to worried students. The Witbecks empathized with college students, noting the high cost of textbooks and the lifestyle of college students without the funds for them.

“Competition can be a good thing,” explained Cindy. After Book Deals started buying back books, SCCC started doing the same.

Aaron Engelbrecht, junior, psychology and an SCCC graduate said, “I think textbook prices at university bookstores are universally extremely high, and they can serve as a very difficult barrier for less wealthy students, such as myself, to getting an education. I think if more places offered rentals or more reasonable prices, university education in general would be much more accessible. Book Deals is a really good example of this; the books still aren’t cheap, but there are rental options and that business allowed me to be able to afford the books I needed.”

Brian Carlett, junior, communications, also an SCCC graduate, said, “I would definitely be interested in an independent bookstore, because one bookstore may have something another doesn’t.” After being a student also at Truman State University, where there were also two bookstore options, he said, “It was nice to be able to compare the two to see what each had available and where I could possibly save some money. I’ve never actually been to Book Deals, but I’ve heard good things about it.”

University Textbooks does not currently have a webpage, but in the future they would like to have one. In the meantime, one can find them on Facebook under the page name Book Deals.
LORI DRESNER  
NEWS EDITOR

Continued from Page 1

resulted when reductions have been necessary at UMSL. However, he said he believes the university should take a different focus. “We no longer can nor should we operate this way. We need to focus on the activities that best support our students and their future in our community,” said George in the email. Additionally, George called upon the UMSL community to give input and suggestions about the university budget deficit. He noted that students, faculty, and staff can provide those suggestions via the UMSL Sustainable Budget Realignment website, which also provides more in-depth information and FAQ about the budget issues. The budget reduction will result in employee layoffs, according to the website. However, there is not yet an estimate of how many layoffs the university will make.

Four primary reasons were given for why the university is facing the budget deficit, although the website notes that there are a number of factors.

Projected student enrollment at UMSL has been down the past few years and the university saw a four percent decrease in Fall 2015.

UMSL has been down the past few years and the university saw a four percent decrease in Fall 2015. The deficit has worsened since the initial email due to lower than projected enrollment.

As of last October, all colleges and universities in the state of Missouri were evaluated to find which had the most structural deficit. The deficit has worsened since the initial email due to lower than projected enrollment.

Last year the university was facing an $8 million deficit and had to make cuts. The St. Louis Post Dispatch took the salaries from all UM system employees and turned it into a searchable document based on name, department, campus, position, and pay range to contrast to the budget cuts for each campus. For comparison, there are 10 UMSL employees whose salaries are above $200,000. The list is public information provided by a 2015-2016 salary report from UM InfoPoint and can be found at uminfopoint.umsystem.edu/media/fa/planning/annual_salary.pdf.

George first notified the UMSL community of budget problems in Fall 2014 when a hiring freeze was implemented. He said at the time that the university was facing a structural deficit. The deficit has worsened since the initial email due to lower than projected enrollment.

State appropriations have also declined significantly since FY2010. Despite the improvement of appropriations the past two years, the amount is well below the $63.6 million UMSL received in FY2010. UMSL will also be spending $3 million more than budgeted this year as a result of investing more in need-based aid for recruiting and graduating students who qualify.

Finally, the university has put their reserve funds towards major building projects, particularly Seton Hall, the Nursing Administration Building, the Optometry Patient Care Building, and the replacement of a major cooling tower serving buildings on North Campus. Last year the university was facing

LORI DRESNER  
NEWS EDITOR

Triton Store Begins New Method for Recycling Bags

Anyone who has passed by the Triton Store recently may have been curious about the new recycling bin specifically for used bookstore bags that is now located outside the store. Stephanie Eaton, assistant director of the Triton Store, said, “The hope is that we can collect more of the unwanted bags to fill the ever growing need for them in our order fulfillment department (web orders, customer holds, special orders, etc.).”

She said that the store has been recycling and reusing their bags for years but previously used a cardboard box to collect them. “Some of those bags and boxes get used for several semesters before they are too worn out to continue on,” said Eaton. By the end of the first week of classes in the Spring 2016 semester, a considerable amount of Triton Store bags had accumulated in the new recycling bin.

UMSL Ranked Among Best Value Colleges in Missouri

As of last October, all colleges and universities in the state of Missouri were evaluated to find which had the best value for enrolling students. Out of the 19 schools that made the list, the University of Missouri—St. Louis placed 11. Not only did this ranking put UMSL among the highest ranked schools in the state for value, but it placed the school as the third highest ranking university in the St. Louis area.

The rankings, which were conducted by Best Value Schools, were based on graduation rate, net price, acceptance rate, and a 20-year net return on investment (ROI).

UMSL was praised for its accessibility and combination of city elements with those of the Midwest, as well as its diversity of degree programs. Also mentioned were its cheap annual net price for students, which fell below $10k a year—much lower than many other entries on the list. It also boasted a 20-year ROI of nearly $230k and had an overall score of 100 out of 200 (the highest scoring entry having 145 points). The two universities in St. Louis that ranked higher than UMSL were St. Louis University and Washington University.

"If you are going to take advantage of opportunities, you have to be twice as good as to have half a chance," said UMSL student James Shannon, senior, communications, on the ranking’s importance.

"UMSL’s position in the culture of the city gives students easy access to poetry and fiction readings, to art openings and exhibitions, and to concerts, whether on campus or near campus,” said English Department Professor Mary Troy. “UMSL students partake of and become part of the thriving cultural and artistic life of the city.”

All of the statistics were determined by gathering data on each school and then calculating it into an average. Graduation rates were evaluated based on the percentage of students who had completed their degrees within six years. Net prices were determined by an average of what students pay per year on account tuition, room and board, living expenses, scholarship awards, and financial aid packages. The total presented for each school was 25 percent of the total. Still considering this, UMSL’s net price was considerably low in comparison. The acceptance rate category was determined and then represented by 30 percent of the total. Meanwhile, the 20-year ROI was gathered from the website PayScale and gives an idea of how much students can expect to make after graduation. The total average was taken and then weighed by 15 percent of the total.

“Being able to stay home and still work while paying UMSL’s lower tuition is a reasonable way to get a degree,” said UMSL graduate Nick Garcia about his university. However, with this in mind, he also stressed the importance of the student’s effort in order to be successful. “What are you getting for the value? Make sure you’re looking at job boards and reading the requirements for the work you want and make sure that you meet those requirements.”
UMSL Collaborates to Bring The Telling Project to St. Louis

JESSIE EIKMANN
FEATURES EDITOR

Veterans returning home from combat often face the problem of feeling that no one knows or wants to listen to their stories. University of Missouri—St. Louis Associate Teaching Professor and Department Chair of Veterans and Military Studies Jim Craig summed up the problem when he said, “People don’t really understand what the veteran experience is. They think they do. They know they are supposed to be supportive, but they don’t really ever hear the stories.”

Craig is aiming to start a conversation about this problem through his work with The Telling Project. The Telling Project is an experiential theatre project that has been done in 35 cities across the country. It allows veterans and their families to perform their stories onstage.

Craig said he originally learned about The Telling Project while teaching about veterans’ involvement in the arts. He noticed that “they’ve been to San Antonio, they’ve been to Michigan, they’ve been to New Jersey, they’ve been to Kansas City, they’ve been all over but they have never been to St. Louis.” So Craig reached out to Jonathan Wei, the director of The Telling Project. Wei agreed to bring the program to St. Louis.

After finding out about the project, Craig also contacted UMSL Associate Professor in Theatre Felia Davenport, who was also excited about the possibility of bringing The Telling Project to St. Louis. Davenport said, “Bringing The Telling Project to St. Louis is a highlight this year for me…Jim Craig had asked if we were interested in this project and I jumped at it immediately. I believe that we do not always listen to or understand our veterans especially those who have fought in a war. I am very close to the veteran community in South County and we discuss what war was like and how it changed them and their families. Their stories need to be heard. Their stories can save another human being. Their stories and lives have built this country and protected our freedom.”

Davenport, along with Craig, was also instrumental in booking the dates and venue and figuring out the timeline for the performances. UMSL will be working with the Bob Woodruff Foundation, among others, to bring The Telling Project to St. Louis. “What UMSL is bringing is the connection to the veteran community, the director [UMSL Assistant Professor] Jacqueline Thompson, the expertise of the theatre department at UMSL, and the space to do the production and the interviews. What the Bob Woodruff Foundation through the Telling Project provides is the professional script writer, the experience on how to produce these things, and how to spark the conversation and continue the conversation. It’s a collaborative effort,” said Craig.

The process for putting together The Telling Project begins several months prior to the performances. A group of veterans—usually between 10 and 12—sign up to be interviewed for the performances. A professional script writer interviews the veterans and creates an hour-long script out of pieces of the interviews. Then the veterans approve the script. The Telling Project brings in a professional director and the veterans spend a few months rehearsing the script. Finally, the veterans perform the script onstage at a theater in their community.

The St. Louis version of The Telling Project, like the versions that have been performed in other cities, will be a long group monologue. One veteran will begin telling a piece of their story, and then another person will tell a piece of theirs, and so on. “It’s weaved into a meta-story about the veteran experience in the community,” said Craig.

Davenport added that The Telling Project’s performances are designed to be simple but powerful. Regarding the upcoming performances, she said, “I anticipate it to be emotional and poetic. It does not call for special effects, costumes, or really any scenery. The focus is simple: their words being told.”

Craig hopes that the project will accomplish different goals for the different groups involved. He said, “[The Telling Project], I think, from the veterans’ perspective helps them tell their story and make the connection on the street to communicate with the community. From the community side, it’s just more understanding. It’s better sensing and sparking a conversation about what it is like to be a veteran…The goal would be to spark that conversation, and then to try to keep that conversation going through UMSL and other programs in our community.”

St. Louis’ Telling Project will be performed at the Kranzberg Arts Center in the Grand Center Arts District. Craig explained that this venue was chosen because “I don’t want this to be an UMSL event. I want it to be a St. Louis event.” There will be five or six performances, and they will take place in the first week of June.

The script writer will be interviewing veterans and their family members on January 26, 27, and 28 in 110 Clark Hall. The interviews will be in 90-minute blocks. There are still slots available for interviews, and Craig is especially interested in having the student veteran experience represented in the project. Any veterans interested in being interviewed for The Telling Project should contact Craig at craigjr@umsl.edu or send an e-mail to info@thetellingproject.org with “St. Louis” in the subject line.
Golden Opportunity for Nintendo to Take Lead in 2016

DAVID TOCCO
STAFF WRITER

With the Wii U console now over three years into its life, Nintendo seems poised to possibly release their next generation video game machine later this year, codenamed the Nintendo NX. As for the Wii U, while it has had mild success since its inception in 2012 with over 10 million hardware units sold and well over 50 million software titles worldwide, it still lags in a distant third place behind video game bosses Microsoft and Sony. Nintendo's loyal fan base has received the obligatory family-friendliness and many top of the line first party titles which they have come to expect from the Kyoto, Japan based video game company, but there still is much to be desired for older, more competitive gamers.

With units sold and overall popularity, the Wii U has trailed behind the Sony Playstation 4 and Microsoft Xbox One in the power department and not surprisingly the third party software support. Why is this still the case? Oddly, it seems Nintendo has not made much if any headway in gaining support and dedication from big third-party developers. Nintendo has had this problem since the GameCube, back in 2001. The GameCube also lagged far behind its competitors in that day and age, the Playstation 2 and Xbox.

One thing is certain: Nintendo is not stupid and has a big vision to stay competitive in the console wars. This year is a golden opportunity to take a decisive lead. With neither Sony nor Microsoft having unveiled any plans for a new console in the near term (probably not until at least 2018 based on trends), Nintendo can, if executed properly, gain a large competitive advantage with a much more powerful console. From rumors, patent releases, and Nintendo’s own statements, this seems to be what they have in mind. New president Tatsumi Kimishima said, “I can assure you we’re not building the next version of Wii or Wii U. It’s something unique and different.”

Tom Hooper’s The Danish Girl, Starring Eddie Redmayne

JANECE WOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Crying alone in a theater after the credits roll is not a dignified thing to do, but after some contemplation, it was a warranted reaction for “The Danish Girl.” In this story of a transgender woman’s initial shame and confusion, director Tom Hooper offers her story a lot of dignity. It is a fusion of both relevant social anxieties and artistic consciousness. Eddie Redmayne acts as Einar Wegener, an early 1900s painter who receives the first successful gender reassignment surgery in history.

As with many of his past films, such as “Les Miserables” and “The King’s Speech,” Hooper offers compact, tilted camera angles and a swelling musical score that works around the dialogue. However, this film offers something more. Both of Hooper’s aforementioned films are sometimes overwhelmingly bleak and exposed. The actors bear smudges, stubble, and snot; they have cracking voices and choking gasps as if they were alone and unaware of an audience. But Hooper and Redmayne together transform the accomplished, manly, and married Einar Wegener into Lili Elbe, a gorgeous and desired woman, without the blood and dirt and sweat that typically appear in Hooper’s films.

The plot only presents glimpses of the violence and terror Lili’s character faces, which works in the film’s favor. This ambiguity of what happens after Lili is attacked in the street, or threatened by unrelenting psychologists, could strike at anyone’s nerves. Hooper mildly mutes these feelings with Lili’s vibrant persistence with the presence of rolling waves, lace, silks, flowers, paintings, lights, and art. The sequence is very beautiful to watch. It may not be completely realistic, but it is what Lili would have wanted, and that is the point. The scenes look like the paintings of the artists which the film focuses on. Lili’s suffering is contrasted by the lovely natural blues and greens of Denmark and France.

Continued on Page 12
The University of Missouri—St. Louis women’s basketball team played in their second straight overtime game on January 23 against nationally ranked #18 Quincy University, but fell short of pulling off the upset, 77-81.

The Tritons shot their best all season with a 57.4% field goal percentage and managed to keep the talented home team Hawks to a poor 37.1%. However, Quincy was able to overcome this shortcoming by capitalizing off the strength of 19 offensive rebounds, netting 20 second-chance points over the course of the matchup. The Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) loss leaves UMSL with a 7-10 (2-7) record on the season thus far while Quincy’s victory brings their record to 8-1 (4-1).

Quincy shut the door on UMSL in overtime with eight unanswered points to power them to the finish line, but the Tritons were close behind the division leader throughout the entirety of the Saturday contest. Aside from allowing the Hawks many additional opportunities to score, UMSL committed 24 turnovers on the afternoon that resulted in 22 points going the other way.

The first half was a back-and-forth affair as both teams strived to take advantage of miscues on the opposite end. Quincy continuously turned second chances and turnovers into points, but the Tritons would not back down from the challenge, forcing the issue right up till the buzzer sounded for the half.

UMSL nearly had the upset late in the second half after a late-game surge lifted the women from 62 to 68 in the final minute for a two-point lead. But the home team, helped by their cheering fans, would not go away, and forced the Tritons to foul in the closing seconds to send the game to overtime.

Kelly Kunkel, senior, marketing, and Shea O’Brien, junior, elementary education, led the team offensively with 17 and 16 points, respectively, netting seven three-pointers between the two. Jordan Fletcher, redshirt freshman, finance, added two blocks defensively for the Tritons.

The women’s basketball team next plays on January 28 at 5:30 p.m. against William Jewell University at the Mark Twain Fitness and Athletic Center, the first in a string of home games.
New ‘Star Wars’ Novel Lacks Force

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

A long time ago, in a galaxy far away, except it was only late last year and the galaxy was actually a movie theatre nearby, the newest entry in the “Star Wars” series hit the big screen. It introduced the latest generation of heroes who will take part in the war between the Republic and the First Order, including the fearless scavenger Rey, ex-Stormtrooper turned resistance fighter Finn, and ace fighter pilot Poe Dameron. It has been smashing box office records and raking in lots of money based on ticket sales and merchandising, so naturally, a novelization of the film was bound to happen.

So now we have the book version of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” written by sci-fi author Alan Dean Foster, who is no stranger to the novelization process. Foster has written up numerous TV and film books in the past, including several in the “Star Wars” print canon. It becomes obvious from reading the “The Force Awakens” novelization that Foster is also intimately aware of the depth of the fictional universe he is writing for. However, the level of writing he brings to the 2015 film’s story seems at times superfluous and off-putting.

The basic story is still there: everyone is searching for the droid BB-8 who holds the key to finding the elusive legendary Jedi leader Luke Skywalker; Rey and Finn realize they have a greater destiny in the universe as they dodge blaster fire, rathtar claws, and malfunctioning starships; old heroes such as Han Solo and Leia Organa retake the stage only to hand the baton off to the younger crowd; the villain, Kylo Ren, grumpily hunts for the droid and its two new owners while thrashing innocent machinery with his big red phallic lightsaber.

What Foster does in his novelization of “Force Awakens” is take the breakneck pace of the two-hour-plus film and slow it down to a more suitable pace for verse. It is still a quick read but now it has layers that the film did not have, including additional character insight and missing scenes. Suddenly, the Starkiller weapon makes sense due to a quick physics lesson in the text, Rey actually learns how to use her blaster, and the relationship between Stormtroopers is explained somewhat, among other additions. The narrative takes the time to look into the characters’ heads, humanizing those like Poe Dameron who have considerably less on-screen time than others.

However, what is lost is the spark of the acting, the interaction between characters that feels genuine and spontaneous and that only the camera can capture. Foster keeps some of the cleverer moments dialogue-wise, but some smaller moments are lost—including, surprisingly enough, the duel between Finn and his ex-Stormtrooper brother in arms. This is the danger of letting an author who was not intimately part of the original story process write the book. Foster clearly has a different idea of which scenes were important to the overall story than J. J. Abrams and Lawrence Kasdan, who worked on the screenplay.

Foster is also in love with pulling from a collection of vocabulary that would be better suited for a high octane Scrabble game to describe the more mundane aspects of “Star Wars” in ways that make me suspect he is writing for a different target demographic than the book is actually for. Instead of being ready, for example, Finn responds to events with ‘alacrity,’ a word which seems foreign to the story’s vocab set. Other scenes attempt to raise the intelligence of the story, but read flat. Leia, who has never had an open fondness for her “brother in arms,” has considerably less on-screen time than others. What Foster does in his novelization is take the film’s breakneck pace of the two-hour-plus film and slow it down to a more suitable pace for verse. It is still a quick read but now it has layers that the film did not have, including additional character insight and missing scenes. Suddenly, the Starkiller weapon makes sense due to a quick physics lesson in the text, Rey actually learns how to use her blaster, and the relationship between Stormtroopers is explained somewhat, among other additions. The narrative takes the time to look into the characters’ heads, humanizing those like Poe Dameron who had considerably less on-screen time than others.

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The “Force Awakens” novelization is not bad, per se. If you loved the film and want to comb through the additional material for further clues and nuggets of deeper character moments, or just want a textual distraction populated by familiar faces, Foster delivers, although with caveats.
The Republican Party is No Longer Relevant

DAVID TOCCO
STAFF WRITER

Having participated in the shear insanities known as “political activism” during the last Presidential election, it is sad to see what has happened this time around with the Republican Party.

They have given absolutely no thought to expanding the youth movement, which they effectively squashed in 2012 by blocking Ron Paul’s chances in the election cycle. This time around, the Republican Party has completely—and possibly once and for all—insulted, and alienated the youth voter base. Can the party leaders push Donald Trump into the Oval Office without any real support from the youth of our country? Sadly, yes. And that is the way it’s looking to turn out.

With so many older conservative voters frustrated with the eight year presidency of Obama, they have been, and are still desperate to support anything or anyone who has a real shot to beat the Democratic candidate, regardless of the serious negative consequences. Trump is not a conservative, nor is he a man of honor. Rather, he is nothing more than a power-hungry egomaniac, one who will probably be our next President.

Though his rhetoric is sharp and divisive—as all opposing candidates are—in the way of policy there is very little difference between him and our current president, just as there was very little difference in policy making between George W. Bush and Obama. They all talk a good talk, but when it comes to action they maintain the status quo.

In 2011-2012, when supporting Ron Paul’s push for candidacy, I saw and participated in something powerful.

I witnessed a political outcry from the youth of our country. We actually got involved and were passionate about our democracy. He garnered huge crowds wherever he went to speak, and even gained support among some Democrats, yet the Republican establishment and national media acted as if he did not exist, giving him virtually no media coverage or time to speak at the so-called “debates.”

Despite the virtual black-out of his candidacy, many young people experienced firsthand the principles on which our country was founded and the value of liberty.

No longer willing to let the government control their lives, we became the voice that could help restore our nation.

None of the present candidates for office have had anything new or viable to offer. All that has been accomplished by the supposed “debates” is to stir up and energize the blind conservative base in anger and hatred against Democrats and their agenda.

This is the same script played out many times before.

Yet now Republican voters think that Trump, a supposed “businessman, not a politician,” can be trusted. This is very dangerous. Trump has the potential to be a tyrant. He is unpredictable and has not shown any kind of respect for the libertarian movement, or the Constitution for that matter. Trump loves power and attention, and he is seeking both.

Any decisions he makes as President will be to advance his own power and attention. That is not what we need—far from it.

SB 589 Is Dangerous Political Pandering

KAT RIDDLE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

None of the present candidates for office have had anything new or viable to offer. All that has been accomplished by the supposed “debates” is to stir up and energize the blind conservative base in anger and hatred against Democrats and their agenda.

This is the same script played out many times before.

Yet now Republican voters think that Trump, a supposed “businessman, not a politician,” can be trusted. This is very dangerous. Trump has the potential to be a tyrant. He is unpredictable and has not shown any kind of respect for the libertarian movement, or the Constitution for that matter. Trump loves power and attention, and he is seeking both.

Any decisions he makes as President will be to advance his own power and attention. That is not what we need—far from it.

The State of Abortion in the U.S. Today

ABBY N. VIRIO
STAFF WRITER

Last week marked the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court case that recognized women’s rights to abortions as a matter of personal privacy. While the Supreme Court decision did not guarantee unlimited rights to abortion—setting up a trillion-dollar fund for pre- and post-abortion education (such as ABC News) citing as many as 201 state and federal programs to “educate” you on how to avoid unwanted pregnancies, according to a 2016 report released by the Guttmacher Institute, “seventeen states mandate that women be given counseling before an abortion that includes information on at least one of the following: the purported link between abortion and breast cancer (5 states), the ability of a fetus to feel pain (1.2 states), or long term mental health consequences for women (7 states).”

Twenty-eight states mandate a waiting period, usually of 24 hours, and 14 states require a woman to make two separate trips to a clinic, necessary or not. All of this is required even while a woman’s employer is not required to give her leave from work. Eleven states restrict the coverage of abortion by private health insurers, and 43 states have a tickling clock restriction on abortion after a certain point of gestation.

In addition to all of this, only 18 U.S. states require that contraception be taught in sexual education for teens, 26 states require abstinence education be taught in school, and 17 states require that sexual education facts be medically accurate. In addition, while a 2007 Congress-mandated study found that federally-funded abstinence-only programs have no beneficial effects on teen sexual health, Title V guaranteed $100 million to states’ abstinence-only education in 2010.

Obviously, the U.S. government wants to use any means possible, short of openly banning abortion to prevent it. At the same time, it does not want to educate you on how to avoid unwanted pregnancies, according to a 2016 report released by the Guttmacher Institute, “seventeen states mandate that women be given counseling before an abortion that includes information on at least one of the following: the purported link between abortion and breast cancer (5 states), the ability of a fetus to feel pain (1.2 states), or long term mental health consequences for women (7 states).”

The restriction of abortion and sexual education reinforces the idea that sex exists only as a means of procreation and in the context of marriage—two entirely religious conceptions that hold political sway in a country that boasts “freedom of religion” in its constitution. Moreover, the stigmatization of sex and abortion disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color and lower socioeconomic status who have less access to healthcare and adequate education. Unplanned pregnancy contributes to the cycle of generational poverty, and while we may think of single or teen mothers as abortion-seekers, most abortions are actually sought by women who are already mothers and cannot afford another child.

This is where adoption enters the dialogue. Opponents of abortion see adoption as the solution to unplanned pregnancy. According to the U.S. government and Adopt Us Kids, approximately 200,000 children enter the foster care system each year, with other sources (such as ABC News) citing as many as 800,000 children entering the system in some way or another. Add to this the approximately 1 million abortions performed annually, and the system suddenly seems rather crowded.

These restrictions and the attribution of shame to abortion directly attack the sexuality of women by placing the “consequences” of sex primarily on females. They are symptoms of a system that unfairly values Christianity over others’ liberties and systematically oppresses minorities. Not convinced? Here’s something every woman who has seen “16 and Pregnant” has thought but will you never hear a man say: “here are all of my goals and aspirations—as long as I do not have an unplanned pregnancy first.” Why? Because unlike a man, a woman’s freedom to decide her career, academic, and social future is directly tied to her ability to decide her reproductive future.
Commuter Break Inspires Environmental Discussions

SARAH BELL
STAFF WRITER

On the morning of the first day of spring semester, University of Missouri-St. Louis students and faculty flocked to the Millennium Student Center tightly bundled in parkas, hats, gloves, and scarves. Upon escaping the biting 20 degree weather, these daunting commuters were met at the information desk by a Commuter Break, a free breakfast provided by the University Program Board consisting of hot cocoa, coffee, and donuts. While the breakfast was mainly intended to reward UMSL commuters—who make up roughly 91 percent of undergraduate students—representatives from UMSL Sustainability also used the opportunity to start conversations with commuters about transportation.

When the commuters filled their coffee, UMSL Sustainability representatives asked them how they arrived at campus. A little over half of the respondents said they drove themselves, about one quarter took public transportation, and the remaining 20 percent were about evenly split between carpooling and taking the campus shuttle.

Although many are aware of the air pollution and congestion caused by driving, they may not see any possible alternative for commuting to campus. While Metro passes are free for students and faculty, driving may be the only practical option for some because of work schedules, distance from a Metro stop, insecurity about riding the Metro, or other personal reasons. Especially in the winter, the Metro can be inconvenient if there are multiple transfers required, or if the commute takes longer than an hour. Other public riding/sharing options, like Uber, exist in St. Louis, but have not become as widely accepted as in other cities.

Carpooling can be a good option, though it is often difficult to set up initially. It is hard for people to ask someone else for a ride, not to mention to coordinate schedules. Of the commuters who said they carpooled to campus, most did so with either family members or with other classmates they knew who lived nearby.

For those commuters who drove themselves, UMSL Sustainability representatives offered information about RideFinders, a St. Louis metro-area online carpooling service. RiderFinders (ridefinders.org) allows users to create a profile and then matches users with similar preferences who are traveling along the same routes. RideFinders also offers reward points for people who register and track their miles.

Of the commuters who said they took the Metro, there was a wide range in the amount of time it took them to reach campus. With a public transit system whose routes can take three to four times as long as travel by car, St. Louis is not exactly the most public-transit-friendly city. Some commuters commented that it was simply too inconvenient to take the Metro and that SB 589 Is Dangerous

KAT RIDDLER
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Legislation like this, which impacts every college and university, also raises the question of whether one size fits all. Senator Dixon is from Springfield, Missouri—for most from the campuses his bill would impact. There is a great deal of hypocrisy when such politicians seek to impose their will on an entire state. After all, are they not the ones who condemn Federal mandates and advocate for states’ rights? If government “closer to the people is best,” why take decision-making power away from local governments, boards or administrators who may know the needs of those they serve best? Why not take into consideration the will of professors, staff and students on what their work and study environment should be?

I agree with the voted upon decision of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) Board to oppose SB 589 on behalf of the students in the University of Missouri system. Colleges and universities are not a place for weapons, period. I hope that their opposition is considered and that this misguided legislation is rejected by Senators. Unfortunately, past experience has shown that campaign cash and scoring political points too often win out over logic in Jefferson City. This time I hope they get it right, before another innocent person is caught in the crossfire.

Almost one third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. With these emissions contributing to global warming and causing increased health problems, this is an issue that cannot be ignored. Every gallon of gas burned by a car produces about 20 pounds of carbon emissions. To put this in perspective, an average tree absorbs about 20-40 pounds of carbon per year. In addition to the environmental impact, there are also obvious political problems involved in buying oil from Middle Eastern countries and using domestic land for oil drilling or fracking.

While it can be a sensitive topic, conversations about transportation changes are among those that our society will need to have. Many complain that we have become too insular, blocking ourselves off from others with cell phones and avoiding face-to-face interactions. Some people do not like riding Metro because of the kind of people who ride it—but this kind of avoidance perpetuates divisions in our society that can be harmful. Instead of seeing alternative transportation as a time-consuming burden, it can be a way to improve social awareness and at the same time reduce our society’s negative impact on the environment. While a choice in transportation cannot solve all the world’s problems, it is at least one place to start.
Alicia Vikander ("Ex Machina") plays a massive part in the film as Einar/Lili’s wife. She has the fortune of possessing both romantic and platonic chemistry with Redmayne, a trait that is rare to see on screen and is also vital to the film’s plot. Although Vikander could easily steal the show, as she plays a formidable, passionate character, she gives way to Redmayne. He commands the film, both as a man and as a woman. In a technical regard, his mannerisms fluctuate in their masculinity and femininity with ease. Not to be dramatic, but it is a sight to behold.

Redmayne, in conjunction with the lighting and close cameras and clever dialogue, shows the audience every-thing that Lili aspires for, and why it is so enticing. Although Vikander could easily steal the show, as she plays a formidable, passionate character, she gives way to Redmayne. He commands the film, both as a man and as a woman. In a technical regard, his mannerisms fluctuate in their masculinity and femininity with ease. Not to be dramatic, but it is a sight to behold.

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Probably the most highly anticipated Nintendo release is the new Zelda game, which in many fans’ minds is long overdue. Nintendo has promised a 2016 release, but not how close to the launch of the NX it will come, or if it will be released on both the Wii U and NX. Another big release will be the Twilight Princess HD port for the Wii U. Also upcoming is a new Star Fox title, Star Fox Zero. The Star Fox series, one of the most beloved Nintendo franchises, has only enjoyed moderate success in recent years with releases such as Star Fox Assault and Star Fox Adventures—none of these games have been able to live up to the greatness of Star Fox 64. Online: will Nintendo up its game in this ever-important department? The fact that the Wii U did not come equipped with an Ethernet port should be telling as to the lack of priority of online gameplay experience in Nintendo’s vision. In addition, the games which have had success in online participation such as Mario Kart 8 and Splatoon, there is no in-game voice-chat ability. Will this change with the NX? Part of what makes the online gaming experience so much fun is team-based combat or strategy with voice chat.

Will Nintendo of America execute and properly showcase their NX, or will they rely on fan loyalty to ensure adequate sales? Will there be a reason for the Xbox and Playstation loyalists to take a look at Nintendo’s newest device? No matter what, it should be an interesting year for Nintendo.

Golden Opportunity for Nintendo to Take Lead in 2016

DAVID TOCCO STAFF WRITER

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Are you a Veteran?

Would you like to be part of a National Organization for Student Veterans?

Join Us
Every Tuesday from
3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
in the Veterans Center
(Clark Hall, room 211)
for our Student Veterans Association Meetings.

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Redmayne, in conjunction with the lighting and close cameras and clever dialogue, shows the audience everything that Lili aspires for, and why it is so enticing. Although a viewer could see this film through the lens of the political and social questions of the day, perhaps it is better to abandon these biases before seeing Hooper’s work. In my opinion, the audience cannot help but observe the loveliness of Lili as she departs from Einar. But “The Danish Girl” does not feel like a story of champions shouting victory on the field. It is also not a tale of how cruel and mortifying the world can be to an outsider. It is somewhere, and quite perfectly so, right in the middle.