Budget Proposal Eliminates 85 Positions at UMSL

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The University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) celebrated its jubilee year in 2013. Now The Current Student Newspaper is celebrating its 50th birthday in 2016. To commemorate this golden anniversary, The Current is hosting a banquet to honor its staff members, alumni, and friends of the paper on April 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms BC.

Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel will be the keynote speaker. Zweifel was the first member of his family to attend and graduate from college, earning both a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a Master of Business Administration from UMSL. While a student at UMSL, he was a writer for The Current.

One of the biggest challenges that a university or business can face is overcoming a budget deficit. The University of Missouri—St. Louis has to face that challenge hopefully by May 1 to balance the budget before the new fiscal year starting July 1.

After an exhaustive several month-long process, the final details of the proposed budget cuts were presented at an open meeting by the University Assembly Budget and Planning Committee on April 6 at 2 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Summit Lounge. The auditorium was filled to capacity with over 200 in the audience.

Everyone in attendance received the news that the budget cuts would result in 85 full- and part-time positions being cut over the next two years. Positions that are currently unfilled because of the hiring freeze will count, however, towards the total 85-person reduction in force.

Chancellor Thomas George presented the plan showing 62 percent of the cuts will come from layoffs, 9 percent from retirement, and the rest would be from not filling the positions open currently.

These cuts will cover about $12 million of the deficit. One of the reasons that there are so many cuts to personnel in these situations is because the cost of salaries and benefits for employees is usually the largest percentage of an annual operating budget.

Chancellor George said, “Compensation itself—salaries, benefits, and so forth—is more like 70 to 75 percent of the total budget so the actual reduction of compensation is less than the percentage they occupy of the budget.”

No undergraduate degrees or scholarships will be cut in the proposal, to keep student retention high. UMSL is anticipating a three percent decline in student population for the next two years. The remaining $3.5 million of the $15 million deficit will be from generated revenue. Some may be from tuition increases for graduate students in and out-of-state.

All colleges and units were asked to give plans for proposed budget reductions of five percent, 10 percent, and 15 percent. The current plan amounts to a total of an eight percent reduction. All deans and unit heads met with the Chancellor and discussed and compromised on the final proposed reductions presented. Chancellor George pointed out that the schools and colleges on campus represent 54 percent of the budget, but they are only going to be 46 percent of the total reductions.

After a motion by a member of the committee that the cuts be approved immediately, some members voiced opposition to a hasty vote based on the fact that their committee had only received it about 16 hours prior. Student Government Association President Cameron Roark, senior, criminology and criminal justice, said, “If people are comfortable with rubberstamping something without really knowing what’s in it, then go ahead. But to me, I think budget and planning plays a

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Mural Honors ‘Overlapping Identities’ of Student Veterans

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

At 12:15 p.m. on April 5, a crowd of University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) students and faculty formed a circle around three covered panels across from the Veterans Center in 211 Clark Hall. Among the crowd were Chancellor Thomas George and Ronald Yasbin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The unveiling of a new mural reflecting the integration and inclusion of veterans into UMSL’s community and campus. The mural is titled “Overlapping Identities” and was painted by Navy veteran Michael Wattle, senior, studio art.

To start the unveiling, there were a few brief acknowledgments from the Department Chair of Military and Veterans Studies, Jim Craig, as well as Chancellor George and Dean Yasbin. Craig thanked Bank of America and the Kaufman Fund for their continued financial support of the Veterans Center.

Yasbin spoke highly of the Veterans Center for stopping the problem of veterans being “ping-ponged” between different campus departments when trying to register for classes. 

Wattle said, “With this painting here, it was something that I felt like I had to do … Rebecca [McMenamin] told me about it, and after submitting the drawings … I was excited about it … I think it’s a little larger than me, for sure, and I think it’s going to mean a lot to other veterans … What I wanted to show in here was veterans on campus. They’re never out of uniform. You still remember everything you did as an active duty member, and of course [there is] a memorial of our fallen soldiers and veterans as well in the painting. You can definitely see my style is a little different than some other painters, but here I just wanted to show … what it’s like to be a veteran on campus and [show] that you remember every day of what you did in active duty.”

Like two other student murals in the Marcus Allen Advising Center in Lucas Hall, “Overlapping Identities” was commissioned by Yasbin. The contest was open to submissions last fall, and Wattle’s drawing greatly impressed the judges. According to the Manager of Veteran and Military Studies, Rebecca McMenamin, “When we saw his submission, it was a no-brainer that he should paint this. Not only is his artistic ability so amazing, but I think his vision for the mural … will do wonders for the culture on campus. We really wanted something that would help civilian students better understand the military perspective or the military experience that veterans and service members have on this campus.”

The unveiling of “Overlapping Identities” was originally supposed to be at the beginning of the spring semester, but some complications in Wattle’s busy schedule of student teaching, coaching football, and taking care of his family prevented him from finishing the mural over winter break.

“Then we had devised a plan in January that he would paint it in his garage and then we would transfer it here. He transported it in three pieces … [and] we installed it over spring break,” said McMenamin.

For his submission, Wattle won a $1,000 scholarship for spring semester. He will graduate in May, and he is interviewing for a full-time position at Hillsboro High School, where he student teaches. As for the mural, the Veterans Center staff believes it is a welcome contribution to UMSL’s commitment to understanding the veteran experience and will continue to enhance the relationship between administrators and veteran students.

As McMenamin put it, “For me, what’s exciting is … we get new students all the time who want to come to UMSL, and I think that … having them see that [mural] as they walk in, they’re going to say, ‘That’s a really great piece of art and it’s really cool,’” but also … I think they’ll start to believe that UMSL understands them and their experience.”

National Geographic Flaunts St. Louis Porcupine

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

National Geographic is publishing 10 different covers in April to honor photographer Joel Sartore’s work capturing more than 5,000 captive species. This will be the first time in history that the magazine has published so many covers.

Piper the porcupine from the St. Louis Zoo is one of the star animals on the covers. Piper has not yet been in the public eye at the zoo, but beginning Memorial Day she will be part of the Summer Stage Shows.

The National Geographic story was written by Rachel Hartigan Shea and photographed by Joel Sartore. Sartore has been photographing animals in the wild for the magazine for years, but with his wife having undergone chemotherapy in 2005, he was unable to continue traveling and taking photographs. His time at home allowed him to refocus his photographic efforts.

Despite taking photos of endangered species for so long, Sartore believed that his work had not been as influential as it should have been to make people care more about the animals. Sartore started taking pictures of animals in captivity, like zoos, which need to be there for various reasons like climate change.

Hartigan Shea wrote, “Zebras are the last hope for many animals on the verge of vanishing—but zoos shelter only a fraction of the world’s species. Even so, Sartore estimates that it will take 25 years or more to photograph most of the species in captivity.”

Read the full story at www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/04/photos-saving-rare-animals-conservation/.

The Current Honored at MCMA Ceremony

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Current Student Newspaper won five awards at the 2016 Missouri College Media Association (MCMA) banquet. The ceremony was held April 9 at 6 p.m. at the Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) campus in Cape Girardeau. The MCMA Conference began April 8 and continued through the day on April 9.

The awards and winners were 1st place A&E Review- Jessie Eikmann, senior, English; 3rd place Editorial- Kat Riddler, graduate, English; 2nd place Non-political Cartoon- Brent Heuer, who graduated from UMSL in 2015 in studio art; Honorable Mention Story Illustration- Eric Wynen, senior, studio art; and 2nd place for The Current’s website.

MCMA is a statewide competition for student newspapers and yearbooks in a variety of categories against different levels of colleges and universities. This year’s competition considered work published from January 1 to December 31, 2015. Each newspaper division includes 25 categories, plus the Best Overall Newspaper category. Each newspaper competes in a different division depending on the size of their school and whether it is a two or four-year college. The University of Missouri—St. Louis competes in Division I.
Budget Proposal Eliminates 85 Positions at UMSL

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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bigger role than just saying ‘Okay we agree. Let’s move on.’ I believe we are up here to investigate what’s in here.”

Nick Paulisch, program director of student services in optometry, was against voting that day. He said, “They just received [the budget proposal]. It is still changing. I really think that I don’t support the motion to move forward with this until we get some feedback from the staff, from the students, and even the faculty who are just now seeing it for the first time.”

The motion carried to postpone the vote until April 11 at 9 a.m. in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center. There will be a live webcast available online for those unable to be there in person.

Some of the bigger cuts will be coming from the Centers which will see a 70 percent decrease. That will include a cut of $630,000 total for the Women in Public Life Center, and Ethics in Public Life.

SGA Comptroller Michael Clark, junior, accounting, asked, “For the Women in Public Life Center, what was the rational cutting that by 50 percent when statistically women have much harder times moving up? When you look at this committee there is only one woman standing here.”

The answer given was that it was cut and not eliminated. Audience members were not allowed input during the meeting, but they did make their feelings known at various times during the meeting with clapping and cheering.

To view a breakdown of all of the reductions, visit http://umsl.edu/budget/.

CCJ Professor Discusses Incarceration Rates in St. Louis County at WCW

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

“Why are jails so important?” Dr. Beth Huebner, professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL), asked about 15 students and other audience members at the sixth and final What’s Current Wednesday of the year. High incarceration rates in St. Louis County and the steps being taken to address them were the topics at hand on April 6 at 2 p.m. in Century Room C.

Huebner spearheaded the discussion and explained why overcrowding in St. Louis County jails is such a serious problem, the issues that result from over incarceration, and what is being done to try to reform these issues.

She first explained how the MacArthur Foundation’s MacArthur Grant of $150,000 that St. Louis County received last May has given UMSL criminology and criminal justice graduate students the chance to research the incarceration problems in St. Louis County. The grant allowed St. Louis County and UMSL to jointly research and plan for a more effective local justice system.

St. Louis County was one of 20 out of 200 jurisdictions to receive the grant, and they could receive two to four million more dollars if they are selected as one of the 10 jurisdictions to receive more funding this week. This second round of funding would assist them in implementing their proposed plans for reform.

Huebner cited some statistics to demonstrate the issue of high incarceration rates. Offenders stay in jail for four months on average in St. Louis County. The average population in St. Louis County Jail is 1,229, which leaves room for just three people. However, this number can not only fluctuate from day to day, but in minutes or seconds, such as when a large number of people are arrested after a protest or crime spree.

“The goal of the MacArthur Foundation Grant then was to look at these jail incarceration numbers,” said Huebner. “And something to think about, a theme they have given us throughout this grant is to look at the difference between ‘Who are we afraid of and who are we mad at?’

She elaborated further by explaining that some offenders, such as those involved in gun crimes or gangs, are incarcerated because they are a threat to others or themselves whereas others, like drug abusers or prostitutes, may be jailed based on the state’s stance toward their actions. The MacArthur Grant has

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SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

Dr. Susan Brownell, professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, sat down with The Current on April 7 to discuss the upcoming showing of the Niyi Coker, Jr. and Jean Bodon documentary, “Ota Benga: Human at the Zoo.”

Brownell began by giving a broad overview of this little known story. Ota Benga, a pygmy from the Congo, was kidnapped and put on display with four other pygmies at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair. Chosen as an example of African life and as a curiosity, as they were believed to be the smallest people in the world, Benga was toured around the country after the World’s Fair. His full story is detailed in the documentary.

Benga’s tragic story is “extremely disturbing,” said Brownell. The story was finally told, many years later, by Phillips Veren Bradford, the grandson of Samuel Phillips Ver- ner—the agent who brought Benga from the Congo. Verner was contracted by W.J. McGee, the first president of the American Anthropological Association, which had been created in 1902. In these early days, there were very few university positions for anthropologists; most were employed by world’s fairs, museums, and the government in managing Native Americans.

Brownell also gave a broader picture of how Native Americans were perceived at that time. At the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis there were two sections—the fairgrounds proper and the Pike area located in Forest Park. 1,500 indigenous peoples from around the world were housed in the fairgrounds and another 1,500 were displayed in the Pike. Most of the peoples lived in villages built to resemble their own and lived as they would normally. The indigenous peoples were part of a series of small performances and games, often garnering small tips in exchange for their displays of skill in activities such as archery. There were also more formal entertainment, like Wild West shows that used real Native Americans, many of whom got their jobs to escape the economic and social depression on reservations.

The St. Louis fair was not the only one to display indigenous peoples. In fact, it was quite an economic machine at the time, comprised of zoos, fairs, and circuses. Many of the imported peoples died from diseases that they had no immunities for before the agents realized that they needed to vaccinate them.

Brownell said that the most important thing to understand is that this was far for the course. American and European society allowed this because of popular but skewed ideas about evolution. The Fair, for example, was meant to display peoples of the world on a spectrum from least developed to most—most developed being the white European guests. “Some people have described the sort of thing that happened to Ota Benga, all this stuff happening in St. Louis as ‘the Dark Side’ of World’s Fairs … You won’t get that if you watch that Judy Garland film ‘Meet Me in St. Louis’,” said Brownell. “That’s the Light Side.”

As prisoners in a world they did not understand, many of the indigenous people turned to what subtle forms of resistance they could get away with. Benga and his fellow pygmies were notably mischievous. Brownell related a story about one of the pranks pulled by the pygmies and the Kwakawaka’waka, another indigenous people. The Kwakawaka’waka had a Hamatsa cannibal ritual in which they went into a trance and bit the arms of their fellows. “The ritual was put on as a performance to entertain fairgoers. The pygmies got hold of a slab of pork that they carved to look vaguely like a person kneeling and covered it in a robe.

A similar robe was put onto a pygmy who then sat in the front row of the audience. One of the Kwakawaka’waka grabbed the pygmy whilst in his ‘trance’ and pulled him onstage. Said Brownwell, “the pygmy is just screaming bloody murder.” The pygmy quickly switched places with the strategically placed pork person which was then torn apart by the Kwakawaka’waka. The audience, understandably, stampeded and generally caused mayhem in their fright. The Kwakawaka’waka were arrested on suspicion of murder and the pygmies were quarantined. “It took a while for it to be sorted out,” said Brownell.

There is also a story about the “Anthropology Days” held alongside the 1904 Olympics as a ‘scientific experiment’ comparing the athletic prowess of the indigenous peoples and the Europeans. Of course, the game was rigged as the indigenous peoples had no training and in most cases no knowledge of the games. When the pygmies were set to throw shot put they were so baffled and amused that they reportedly laughed throughout the whole event. The Europeans were annoyed by the disrespect, but there was nothing for it.

One positive result of the St. Louis World’s Fair was the change in attitude by anthropologists. While McGee fought for the ideas espoused in the World’s Fair, fellow anthropologist Franz Boas argued that the science should move towards education and away from the ‘evolutionary scale.’ The World’s Fair acted as the straw that broke the camel’s back in regards to anthropology. “The incredible excesses of the Fair, whose sheer size would not be seen again until 2010, disgusted anthropologists enough to turn their entire field away from expositions and toward research and educational pursuits.
THIS WEEK IN UMSL ATHLETICS

**SOFTBALL**
SAT. VS. ST. JOSEPH’S
12 P.M. SENIOR DAY HONORING
HANNAH PERRYMAN & KELLY MCGOVERN

SUN. VS. INDIANAPOLIS
12 P.M. SEE TWO OF NCAA’S BEST PITCHERS SQUARE OFF
ZETA TAU ALPHA PINK GAME

**BASEBALL**
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY VS. ROCKHURST
12 P.M. DOUBLEHEADER EACH DAY

MEN’S & WOMEN’S TENNIS
FRIDAY VS. DRURY | 2 P.M.
SATURDAY VS. UW-WHITEWATER | 11 A.M.

**TRITONS HQ**
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DOMINO’S 50% OFF WEEKEND!- 50% OFF ALL ORDERS FROM DOMINO’S NATURAL BRIDGE LOCATION (USING PROMO CODE UMSL50)
From April 7 to April 10, Idris Goodwin’s play “How We Got On” was performed at the University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) in the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Many students and locals attended to see the hip-hop focused performance about youth in the late 80’s and their struggle for success in the blossoming rap music scene.

The cast, consisting entirely of UMSL students, featured: Andre Williams, freshman, nursing; Rob White; Nicole Keithley, senior, theatre; Alexandria Johnson, junior, theatre.

Directed by UMSL’s Jacqueline Thompson of the theatre department, the play tells the story of three teenagers in 1988, living in a neighborhood known as “the Hills,” a fictional place set somewhere in the Midwest. It opens with the Selector (Johnson), who acts as the narrator/DJ and the voice of extra characters throughout the play. She begins by discussing the setting and some background on the state of hip-hop in the late ‘80s: young and energetic, but mostly limited to the inner cities.

Hank (Williams), a boy who has just come to the Hills from the city, finds no one around him who shares his passion for hip-hop and rapping. This changes when he goes to basketball camp and meets Julian (White), another youth. They agree to a rap battle and afterward decide to make hip-hop music. Along the way, they meet Luann (Keithley), a girl from the Hills who also wants to be a rapper. To achieve recognition, they must overcome their fears, rise above their disagreements, and even deal with parents who have no respect for their new music. The actors were emotional and highly animated, creating a play that demands attention.

For those who are not aware of the history of the genre, many important events—such as the beginning of “Yo! MTV Raps”—are explained. The play also explains the concept of rap battling, core elements of the song construction, and the advent of drum machines, all of which were important to the evolution of the genre. Other issues touched upon include breakbeats, ghost writing, and rhyming methods. Many musicians who made hip-hop or influenced it are referenced and played throughout the presentation, including Grandmaster Flash, James Brown, Slick Rick, David Axelrod, and Ice Cube.

Another interesting part of the play was the audience involvement. While the Selector provides most of the sound effects, the audience is asked to root for the rappers at certain points, such as when they are about to take the stage. It was a nice addition to an already great performance.

“How We Got On” is inspiring, humorous, and educational. Better yet, this is only one of Goodwin’s many works. He is also a breakbeat poet, recording artist, and educator. He has appeared on “Def Poetry Jam,” The Discovery Channel, and NPR, and in the past year has released his latest album of poetry, “Rhyming While Black.”

For more information about the Touhill, including upcoming performances and ticket prices, visit the venue online at touhill.org or call the box office at 314-516-4949.
SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

Of all the exhibitions that have been displayed in Gallery 210 at the University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) this semester, one in particular is both the most esoteric and the most practical. The exhibition, “Cast And Recast: St. Louis Type Design Present And Past,” portrays type casting as an art in and of itself. Type casting, the method of creating moveable type for printing letters by creating metal molds for individual letters via a casting machine, is one of those things that most people do not notice unless it is done really well. Typography itself, and the beauty of its creation, is one of those things that most people do not notice unless it is done really well. Typography as it is made now, via machine and PC, with new artists keeping it alive.

The show is a combination of the work and labor of local talent such as Robert Magill, owner of Monumental Type Foundry, Jennifer McKnight, associate professor in art and art history at UMSL, Ben Kiel, owner of typeface studio Typefounding, and Eric Woods, owner of letterpress printer Firecracker Press. There are also items on loan from the collections of the Missouri History Museum, the St. Louis Public Library, Firecracker Press, and printer studio Central Print. Along with the extensive timeline on the wall detailing the history of St. Louis type founding, what is embodied in Gallery B is a feeling that the classic art of typography and how we create letters never truly went away—it just adapted to a new way of living.

This becomes clear when patrons watch the over one-hour-long walk-through of Magill’s foundry in Union, Missouri, as he is interviewed on camera by McKnight. The Monumental Type Foundry has been around since 1995 and still serves clients but Magill’s machinery is from the early 1900s and his techniques are as classic as the massive presses and caster machines he uses on a daily basis. He is not alone; aside from the two main business foundries, there are half a dozen smaller foundries in the United States, like Monumental Type, who do regular work. Other foundries are run by hobbyists who do the work for themselves, not for clients. It is a niche field, but it is a passion for Magill, who says that he is “just interested in the way things work,” which propelled him into the type field.

Watching Magill take viewers through his workshop and the various machines and techniques he uses is enthralling enough, but the proof is in the print, on display alongside some of the actual metal type and typesetting tools. Handset lead type hangs on the walls, displaying type from as far back as 1885. Magill’s type is clean and striking on the page, but one can tell it has been created through an old-fashioned press, not through a computer printer. There is an impressive visual quality about them that digital print just cannot capture.

Which is not to say that the digital examples of type casting on display are any less striking to look at. The posters that combine type aesthetic with modern technology elevate the words to a form of art. Some of them use type to make a political statement, such as Anna Karpinski’s “#yesallwomen.” Others are a delightful commentary on type itself, like Darren Collier’s “Feel The Kern.” Patrons are shown the process behind creating modern-day fonts on computers, such as Ben Kiel’s Geometric Italic, made specifically for the gallery show. It is a process of precision and takes time, but the end result is a type that feels modern but could invoke a more classic look, specifically the Central Type Foundry’s 1881 face, Geometric.

The show is careful to exhibit the past and present of type design, showcasing the works of modern artists alongside the printed material and type of foundries and presses past. While the physical craft of processing typefaces may be disappearing in the face of new technology, the passion for making words into a visual art continues to grow. Campus art students may find a new outlet for their creativity in the creation and arrangement of something so seemingly straightforward but amazingly complex as letters.

“Cast and Recast” is scheduled to run until May 14. There will be a reception on June 25 to show the entire catalogue available. For more information on upcoming shows, visit Gallery 210 online at www.umsl.edu/~gallery or call the gallery at 314-516-5976.

**Intensive French**

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**THE JUNGLE BOOK**

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[Winners will be selected at random. For rules, visit www.louislimd.com and click on festivals. No purchase necessary. Contest open to residents of the United States, except PA. Void where prohibited. Offer expires April 12, 2016.]
The University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) men and women’s tennis teams continued to improve on their strong spring with victories over Truman State University on April 9. The Tritons travelled to Kirksville for the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) matchup and improved their records on the season to 12-3 and 14-4, respectively. Both squads also remain undefeated in GLVC play with conferences records of 2-0 and 3-0.

After losing two well-fought matches against two nationally ranked opponents, the men’s team has gotten back to their winning ways with the Saturday bout increasing their streak to four in a row. They showed their strength by sweeping the competition rather handily, 9-0. Only one UMSL player dropped more than three games in singles competition, and Dario Vidaurre, junior, business, won his match 6-0, 6-0, dominating his Truman State opponent.

The women’s team came out on top as well, taking the win with a score of 7-2. Aside from the one singles loss from Salome Bleuler, freshman, undecided, who forced her Bulldog adversary to three sets after losing the first, none of the Triton women faced much trouble in their matchups. UMSL also lost the number one doubles match, but the team looked very strong nonetheless with their fourth win in a row.

The women’s team next faces off against Washington University in St. Louis in a home matchup on April 12. After that, both squads host GLVC opponent Drury University on April 15. They hope to finish out the season on a strong note in preparation for the GLVC tournament at the end of the month.

Hey UMSL students! As spring is finally here (or at least it was last week) and summer is just around the corner, we at The Current want to inform our readers of the fun outdoor activities available in the St. Louis area.

One such example is a sport called disc golf. Much like traditional golf, the aim is to complete each hole on an 18-hole course in a specific amount of tries, or ‘strokes’. The main difference, one that gives disc golf its name, is that players throw small aerodynamic discs toward the holes, which are really chain baskets.

The best thing about the sport is that aside from your starting purchase of a couple discs, which can also be bought in ‘used’ condition for a few dollars less from stores such as Play It Again Sports, disc golf does not cost a dime to play except for what extra you want to put into it.

There are many courses in the area to play at as well. All you need to do to find one near you is type in ‘disc golf’ into your Google Maps, and you will find plenty. Some local favorites are Endicott Park, right off of St. Charles Rock Road just west of I-170, and Creve Coeur Park, next to Creve Coeur Lake. However, there are tons of different courses around the city to try out.

Compared to most sports, disc golf is much more laid back and the perfect social activity to do with friends, no matter if you’re a beginner or a seasoned veteran. If you run into other disc golfers, odds are they will give you advice, suggest a different place to go to, and probably argue about who should go ahead first. Just be sure to have fun, and read Alternative Sports next week for more outdoor shenanigans!
Oversharing Should Not Be The Next Fad in Sports

NATHAN WATSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

In many ways, Pope Francis’s anxiously awaited apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” (Latin for “The Joy of Love”), has been disappointing, but not surprising, to liberals and conservatives alike. On the one hand, Pope Francis consistently and resolutely upholds the Church’s doctrine, including its claim that homosexual unions do not constitute a legitimate form of marriage. On the other hand, in keeping with his oft-repeated call to love one another, he urges clergy and laity alike to refrain from acting in a judgmental manner toward those whom the Church sees as “living in sin.” In reality, not much of the 256-page document, even not its stances on divorce, homosexuality, or same-sex marriage, is surprising. What is of note, however, is the striking and almost comical way in which Pope Francis seems confined to a dualistic role as both an apostle of Christ (remember, apostolic succession?) and political leader of an irreligiously archaic social institution.

“Amoris Laetitia,” a 256-page document, is the culmination of two years of formal discussion and counsel amongst Catholic bishops and the pope, and gives official guidance—but not doctrine—on how to approach certain matters central to Catholic faith and practice. Among its varied responses to the pressing social question of gay marriage and abortion, the document reoccurs as a guiding doctrinal claim: the Church has always held, and continues to uphold, the centrality of procreation to the contextual scope and definition of marriage. Although there are a number of logical inconsistencies that naturally arise from this view (William Salten at Slate does a great job exposing them), it is a historical and theological contradiction that is most troubling. Like many other areas of Catholic dogma—and this, in part, has been the reason for the Church’s consistently declining relevance in the eyes of the otherwise religious—the Church’s views on marriage have little in common with those espoused by the religion’s very founder, Jesus. Instead—and I would be willing to guess Pope Francis is painfully conscious of this irony—this stance is no more than a relic of the very legalism against which Jesus rebelled. Is it really that much of a coincidence that Jesus said nothing about procreation forming a central part of his message? Granted, many things unmentioned in the Gospels share the spirit of Jesus’s message to deny oneself and serve one’s neighbors in charity. But that’s just the thing: the emphasis on procreation, and the subsequent message that marriage, as an institution, only gains credibility in its context is not even a logical extension of the message of the Gospels. It is no coincidence that neither Jesus himself, nor the majority of the Apostles and early Christians had children. As for those few who did, they were excluded to leave them behind for the higher calling of serving God and neighbor (a questionable decision, ethically, that only strengthens the Christian argument against forming procreative bonds).

I do not know the pope’s thoughts on these issues; maybe he really just is a slightly liberal-minded Catholic who nonetheless views his life’s mission in the context of church dogma. Yet, it almost seems as if he is implicitly saying—and I would commend him for this—who exactly what Church doctrine is, Christ’s command was to, above all, “love thy neighbor as thyself;” and if this is mitigated by a belief that God’s government agency, the Roman Catholic Church, says some people are unlawful, so be it.

Teaching Has Nothing To Do With Christ

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

Imagine being able to track your favorite basketball player’s heart rate during a game. Now imagine monitoring their blood pressure, glucose levels, bone density, and platelet count. It is really not that far from being reality. Not, however, if the NBA has its say. Cleveland Cavaliers player Matthew Dellavedova has been judgmentally turned to stop wearing his Whoop while playing. The Whoop is a Fitbit-like, wearable device that absorbs immense amount of health data—health data that athletes like Dellavedova can use—from his body, which Dellavedova can use to improve his performance.

This Internet of Things-esque world turned reality has its potential shortfalls. Imagine, as one CNET article suggests, turning reality has its potential shortfalls. Imagine being able to track your favorite basketball player’s heart rate during a game. Now imagine monitoring their blood pressure, glucose levels, bone density, and platelet count. It is really not that far from being reality. Not, however, if the NBA has its say. Cleveland Cavaliers player Matthew Dellavedova has been judgmentally turned to stop wearing his Whoop while playing. The Whoop is a Fitbit-like, wearable device that absorbs immense amount of health data—health data that athletes like Dellavedova can use—from his body, which Dellavedova can use to improve his performance.

I have always been an advocate of enabling the usage of technology to improve everyday problems and bring the fantastic to the mundane aspects of the world we live in. Sports can always benefit from recent breakthroughs in tech: cameras in the helmets of players for unique points of view; tracking gameplay with 3D computer generated graphics; broadcasting the clearest video possible using 4K cameras. Sometimes it can be distracting—with when they clutter the screen with stats and block the main action on the field—but often it can enhance the viewing experience.

But unless you are the team doctor or are in the field of sports medicine, you really do not need to be tracking players’ every single health issue. If you would not want that kind of information about yourself flitting about on social media for everyone to discuss and dissect, maybe you should employ that same level of respectable discretion for the athletes you claim to admire. The ideal version of privacy may be dying in the twenty-first century thanks to people’s propensity for oversharign, but this is not so much a call for privacy as it is a call for basic respect and common sense. The Whoop wearing and the data broadcasting, however, is just a symptom of a larger problem: how major fandoms interact with their fan base.

What does an organization like the NBA owe its fan base at the end of the day? To act like professionals on every level, providing an honestly run and thrilling to watch event while maintaining integrity as a sport and a cultural institution. They do not owe the kind of freakishly infinitesimal data that would more commonly be found in a player’s health records. Eventually, even the NBA must draw its own line and tell fans, “We love you but this is off limits. Respect.”

This may be disappointing for sports fans who love their stats and end-lessly obsess over them like jersey-clad wizards of numbers, hoping to glean from the figures how the next championship will turn out. But there is no shame in recognizing what our wearable tech can do in certain situations and declaring it a TM1 situation, exploring that particular avenue of data mining no further. You will sleep more soundly not knowing the status of LeBron James’ prostate.

Is Science the New Religion?

TIANYA ZHAO
STAFF WRITER

It would be no exaggeration to call our present century the century of science: more than ever, people trust science to tell them what to do, eat, think, or believe. Even our most notoriously ignominious sports to precious much weather reporting, are remarkable advances over the tools of our ancestors. And, according to some researchers, science has had an influence on whether or not we are religious.

It is commonly believed that an increase in scientific knowledge makes for a decreased need for religion. Yet, as many professional scientists with religious beliefs will tell you, religion and science are not necessarily contradictory, but merely serve different needs. If it is possible to be both scientific and religious, why does knowledge of science seem to correlate with a decrease in religious belief?

Well, to be honest, few people actually do give up on religion. Sure, what we typically consider to make up religion—churches, holy books, etc.—typically disappear in more scientifically mature communities. In many cases, however, such people simply have another “religion,” and its name is “science.” Despite all our confidence in the scientific method, theories are always just that: theories. Modern people feel proud to live in a “rational” world, but this is really just an illusion. These same people are often the first to accept dogmatically the latest scientific theory.

Theories change. Paradigms shift. Beliefs are invalidated. Even people in the Middle Ages believed they were living in a developed, democratic, and ordered world. Like the religious crusaders of the past, many supposedly “advanced” people nowadays believe themselves part of a mission to proselytize the masses.

Rather than assuming that religions are all wrong, I regard science and religion as ideologies that could coexist. I think that they are both systematic theories and worldviews that can be applied practically to explain the origin of the world, or what we should do to change it.

I, personally, accept science’s claims, but it is important to not take these things for granted. It is never the scientific method itself but our attitude towards it that we need to worry about. We seem to never hold the claims of science accountable; nobody challenges or doubts science, and it become something that explains everything. Science has become an absolute authority and people blindly believe its claims.

As such a dominant force in our society, isn’t it something we should think twice about?
Commit to Success Illuminates Importance of Community Involvement

ZYRA DE LOS REYES
STAFF WRITER

Ashley Storman, University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) academic coach, hosted the Being a Student is Not Enough: Your Guide to Community Involvement workshop, accompanied by Dr. Bridgette Jenkins, academic coach, on April 6 at 10 a.m. in Lucas Hall 107. This workshop illuminates the importance of community involvement, which gives the best impression to others when applying for jobs, internships, or scholarships.

"Are you well rounded?" she asked a group of about 30 students.

The majority of students were given the time to think about this question.

"I'm in the mentoring program and over the last four years I've worked with some students who have taken 15-18 hours of class, involved in four to five organizations," said Storman. "At first I thought that they are the perfect student leader that I need. But sometimes, the amount of load that they have is too much. What I have found is that those students who have taken good amount of classes and they are in few different things that they are really involved in are the ones to have the leadership positions."

In addition to being a professor, Huebner explained that much more overcrowding occurs for women due to there being less space for them in jails. With the MacArthur Grant, $200,000 has been given back to families who are moving away from hiring people based on their degree alone. Based on a study, employer[s] evaluates graduates for student for hire mostly based on internships, then employment during college, college major, volunteer experience, extracurricular activities, relevance of coursework, college GPA, and lastly, college reputation.

As the presentation went on, the students were asked to form three groups for an activity. Each group was assigned to evaluate three resumes and identify which one fits the job description the most. At the end of the activity, each group shared their decision and explained why they chose that candidate.

"It's beneficial to review your resume and make sure that everything is up to date. Even if you're the most qualified candidate for the position, that you are applying for, employers are not going to call you and clarify some things in your resume. Don't underrepresent yourself," advised Jenkins.

CCJ Professor Discusses STL Incarceration at WCW

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

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allowed researchers to use risk assessment to determine who needs to stay in jail and who does not.

One-third of offenders who are in St. Louis County jail are there on a probation violation. Huebner said researchers conducted case-by-case analyses to determine who was there for a probation violation and found that most of them have committed a technical violation, something that is not a criminal offense but is forbidden by a judge. Many of the probation violators had used drugs once or twice and out of fear, had failed to check in.

"So we thought, 'Are these the people that are best to be in jail?'" Huebner said. "Because then they're going to detox in jail, they're going to lose any sort of job they had, and continue this kind of vicious circle."

"Where people that are best to be in jail are," Huebner explained. "This means that a person could be innocent and still spend months incarcerated."

Women in jail have been another challenge. There are less women than men in jails and prisons anywhere in the United States and the world. However, Huebner explained that much more overcrowding occurs for women due to there being less space for them in jails. With the MacArthur Grant,

Huebner said that they have the opportunity to do trauma-informed interventions for women. Furthermore, Huebner said that in many fields, including the criminal justice and medical field, it is assumed that a treatment that works for men must work for women when in reality there needs to be gender responsive programming.

Despite the challenges, Huebner said that there are steps being taken to make changes within the system. One reform currently in the works is changing the waiting time for a hearing from 99 days to under a week. This is being achieved through a new program similar to pretrial release that fast tracks offenders through the system, and allows them to either have the judge see them right away and decide on their probation or stay in the community until the judge is ready.

Around seven percent of people in St. Louis County jail are there for failure to pay child support. A new program as an alternative to incarceration enrolls 50 people at a time who have violated probation for not paying child support. The program allows them to be out of jail with an electronic ankle bracelet or monitor, but they are on modified house arrest, meaning that they can only leave the house for work. Those who participate in the program must complete it or preparing to work. About 200 individuals have completed the program, there has been an 86 percent rate, and in two years $200,000 has been given back to families in child support.

"So in the space of time, it's not only about getting out, not being in jail, but it's also about making this family relationship as well," said Huebner.

Finally, Huebner said that there are steps being taken to create procedural justice, which is the idea of giving as much information to people as possible, keeping them involved, and making the criminal justice system fair and accessible. An example of this includes new training for judges to help them better respond to citizens in court.

"Basically, if you explain to people what's happening to them, they are much more likely to comply," Huebner said. "It's this whole idea of even as we accept criminal justice sanctions if you explain to them why they're going to happen, if they think it's just." In addition to being a professor, Huebner is the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She currently researching prisoner reentry, criminal justice decision making, and public policy.
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