UMSL Eliminates Dance Program

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The dance program at the University of Missouri—St. Louis is being eliminated after 10 years of existence. UMSL students who were majoring or minoring in dance are now having to decide whether to change their degree plans entirely or transfer elsewhere to pursue their studies.

The decision to cut UMSL’s dance program came last semester. Ronderrick Mitchell, dance program coordinator and assistant teaching professor of dance, was hired at UMSL as the program coordinator last fall, and he came to the university from Florida after turning down another job offer. He said he was informed at the end of last semester that his program would be cut. However, he said that he was disappointed with the state of UMSL’s dance program before the decision was made to terminate it.

Continued on Page 3

The Current’s 50th Anniversary Banquet Brings Alumni Back

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The golden jubilee of the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ The Current Student Newspaper has come with this, the 1500th issue of the paper, which was launched in 1966.

To commemorate this historic milestone, the paper held an anniversary celebration banquet to honor its staff members, alumni, and friends of the paper. The keynote speaker at this event was Missouri’s State Treasurer Clint Zweifel, an alumni of the newspaper who spoke on the many changes from the time he worked here in the early 1990s.

Back then, he observed, the staff would go home with wax on their hands from cutting out and positioning stories and photos on layout sheets. Sometimes there would be cuts on those hands from having to use an X-Acto knife to cut out mistakes to substitute other copy. These layout sheets were then used to make negatives and burn plates for the printing process that was used at the time. Along with the manual typewriters that they used, the old ways of assembling the weekly newspaper have long since been replaced by the electronic design programs and word processors used today.

Continued on Page 4
THE UNDERCURRENT

By MarVin Nicholson

HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME?

COBI HO,
Freshman, Undecided
“As a student, I have to keep a track record of my classes, practices, and games. I keep hardcopies of every syllabus to stay on top of my school work.”

DEVIN WHITTAKER,
Junior, Theatre
“I have a calendar I use to keep track of all my deadlines.”

LLERMO ROGERS,
Senior, Liberal Arts
“I prioritize my obligations by level of importance.”

THE UNDERCURRENT

WE NEED COPY EDITORS
HIRING NOW!

The Current is now seeking students with strong proofreading skills as soon as possible. Applications are available outside 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.

UMSL’S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

THE UMSL MATH CLUB Presents
Problem of The Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, April 22.
Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

Now these instructions are key
To the square of a number times three
Add the number times six
Plus three more will fix
The final result to be zero, you see.

Problem: What is the number?

Please note: Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will sponsor the 13th Annual Andalefte Mathematical Competition on Wednesday, April 20 from 1-3pm in 304ESH. Monetary prizes for first, second and third place. Open to all UMSL undergrads. Calculus skills a must. Application forms available on Department webpage or from R. Dotzel in 329ESH.
UMSL Eliminates Dance Program, Final Performance Soon

Continued from Page 1

“there was no curriculum on paper for dance majors. Dance majors were not even required to take technique class, which is a heavy part of our study. I’ve never been in a program where technique is not a requirement. That’s not a dance program,” said Mitchell. There is just one dance major who will be graduating from UMSL this year, as well as one who graduated last year. The rest of the students currently in the program were pursuing dance minors. Mitchell said that some of the dance students are not enrolled in any theater classes because of the way the curriculum is set. The dance curriculum is tied into theater, so some dance students would take all dance classes their first two years and then take all theater classes after that.

Mitchell said that when he arrived at UMSL, it took him two weeks to find out that dance majors that he did have because they were not listed on paper.

“We even have students walking around here right now, which disappoints me the way UMSL is run and its organization in terms of how students are advised. I’m still hearing through the grapevine that there are students who are declaring dance as their major and have no idea that the dance program is actually folding,” he said.

Students who were pursuing the dance major or minor and do not have enough credits to complete the program by May will have to either drop the discipline completely, finish up quickly, or transfer to another college to pursue dance. One student had so many credits that she would have completed a dance minor by the next semester but will now have to drop the minor. Another student who is a dance major will be transferring to Lindenwood University to finish her degree. A few dance students left UMSL last semester due to the uncertainty of the program.

“I think I put more of their emotions on me because I’m trying to ease them into the next step. I’m trying to ease their stress level right now and get them ready for the next step, the next path,” Mitchell said about his students.

The dance program was part of the new School of Fine and Performing Arts, which includes studio art, art history, music, theater, and dance and was established under the College of Arts and Sciences on January 1.

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com

Metro Pass Subsidies Eliminated

Last week, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded St. Louis County and the University of Missouri—St. Louis a $2.25 million grant to reduce the St. Louis County jail population and address racial disparities.

Dr. Beth Huebner, UMSL professor of criminology and criminal justice (CCJ), is the lead researcher on the grant. St. Louis County was one of 11 jurisdictions to receive funding between $1.5 million and $3.5 million. The grant comes as part of the foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge, a $75 million initiative to decrease over-incarceration by changing the way America uses and views jails. The goal is to reduce the St. Louis County jail population between 15 to 19 percent.

The grant goes toward implementing four interventions: a pretrial release program that allows select inmates to live in the community while awaiting trial, a similar program for probation violators with technical violations, those of which are not criminal offenses but forbidden by a judge, a text alert system to remind municipal court defendants of court appearances, and court policy information, and an online portal so individuals can look up information about tickets received in any municipality. With the grant, the team will also be using trauma-informed services for women.

Huebner said, “We are excited to be a partner with Saint Louis County on such an important initiative. As a professor, I am excited to continue to study the best practices for reforming jails, and this is an excellent learning opportunity for CCJ graduate research assistants. Saint Louis County has a history of important reforms, and I think that this grant will provide important services to a broader range of defendants.”

Among the cuts announced at the University Assembly Budget and Planning Committee open meeting on April 6, subsidies that allow University of Missouri—St. Louis students, faculty, and staff discounted Metro Pass rates are being eliminated.

The MetroLink and MetroBus serve as primary transportation methods for many who attend or work at UMSL. The elimination of the Metro Pass subsidies has left many wondering what exactly the cut means as well as questioning how they will get back and forth if they no longer have a viable transportation option in Metro services. D’Andre Bradliss, assistant dean of students, who oversees the Metro Program said, “Please rest assured that—despite a reduction of $50,000 in campus subsidy—I am making every effort possible to keep our transit program intact.”

He noted that for Fiscal Year 2016, a reduction of $50,000 equates to less than 10 percent of the budget for the Metro Pass Program. “I will be going into contract negotiations with Metro in the coming weeks, and I am confident that we will identify a viable plan for the program moving forward.”

The Metro Pass Program currently provides UMSL students, faculty, and staff with unlimited access to MetroLink and MetroBus at a discount rate in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. UMSL students can obtain a Metro Pass at no additional charge for the semesters in which they are enrolled. Faculty and staff at UMSL can purchase Metro Passes for $65 per semester.

UMSL Receives Grant to Cut Jail Population

April 10: At 7:30 a.m., UMSL PD found a vehicle in the South Campus Garage that was not affiliated with the college and may have been involved in an off-campus incident. The incident was filed as leaving the scene of an auto accident.

April 11: An UMSL student was transported from the Millennium Student Center to the hospital after expressing suicidal thoughts.

April 12: At 8 a.m., UMSL PD discovered an abandoned truck sitting on 7700 Florissant Road, which was then removed by Airport Towing. At 12:30 p.m., a student turned in a cell phone to the UMSL PD station; the owner was notified and the phone held on to for safekeeping. At 5:41 p.m., a student athlete was reportedly hit accidentally by a baseball bat while on the campus baseball field; medical attention was given.

April 13: At 9 a.m. in Seton Hall, a staff member reported that his personal items may have been tampered with; Property damage was reported in South Campus Garage at 12:30 p.m. by a student, whose car had been parked at the time. At 1:30 p.m., a set of car keys was found in the Social Sciences & Business Building and turned in to police for safekeeping. At 10:08 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a check the welfare call at University Meadows and was unable to contact the student whose welfare was in question.

April 14: There were three reports of theft across campus; at 7:34 a.m., cleaning supplies were reportedly stolen from Clark Hall; at 5:12 p.m., a staff member reported a cell phone stolen out of Lucas Hall; during the day, another staff member reported the theft of three art easels, allegedly taken between April 7 and 8. At 11:30 p.m. UMSL PD responded to a possible drug violation in Oak Hall based on the smell of marijuana in a specific suite, but no one was in the suite at the time.

News 3
Dance studio students
LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Metro Pass Subsidies Eliminated

April 18, 2016

The following is a series of daily crime reports issued by the University of Missouri—St. Louis Police Department since April 10:

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The banquet was held on April 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms BC. Zweifel spoke to approximately 70 attendants, reflecting on the sense of pride he’d gotten from seeing his name in print in The Current, from meeting all the people he did as a paper staff member.

That kind of long-term affection for serving on the school newspaper has been shared by several generations over the course of the past five decades. It was evident among the alumni who attended and who were featured in the video and slide presentations.

Michelle McMurray, former Editor-in-Chief from 1992-93, looked back on her initial interest in The Current. McMurray said, “I was in a writing class—a couple different writing classes. I thought it might be fun to write for The Current and I just walked in.”

Josh Renaud, former Editor-in-Chief from 2000-01, said, “The Current has a colorful history. There has been a lot of crazy stuff that has happened over the years. But that history, it has been fun to be part of it.”

Also on hand was UMSL’s Chancellor Thomas George, who delivered a moving tribute on the importance of The Current as a voice for students. He praised the accuracy and balance the paper has shown in covering important and sensitive stories over the last several years: from the incidents in Ferguson, to the Nuclear November at the University of Missouri—Columbia, to the coverage of the budget cuts facing the campus. He even said that he never minded the April Fool’s tradition of the mock issue called The Stagnant, which the newspaper has traditionally published the first week in April. He commented that unlike similar April Fool’s papers at other campuses he has worked at that had been censored at that had to be censored for vulgarity, The Current always managed be funny and satirically biting while avoiding being crude.

State Representative Joshua Peters, D-76th District St. Louis, presented three copies of a framed resolution on parchment from the Missouri General Assembly marking the occasion. One of these was given to the State Treasurer, one to The Current’s Editor-in-Chief, and the last is now proudly displayed on the wall in The Current’s office. Other notable past and current elected officials in attendance included former State Representative and current candidate for Missouri State Treasurer Judy Baker, St. Louis Comptroller Darlene Green, State Representative candidate Tom Hannegan, and former State Representatives Eileen McGeehegan and Bert Atkins. Among other famous alumni who attended and were recognized during the dinner was award-winning photographer Wiley Price of The St. Louis American. Price later toured the office of The Current along with other alumni and reminisced about his time as a photographer for The Current. He talked about the times he spent in the dark room, going in when it was sunny outside and coming out to find it was dark and stormy and how no one ever told him.

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 Masters in Business Administration from UMSL. Zweifel reminisced about his decision to work for The Current and its location at the time in what was called The Blue Metal Building. He spoke about the lack of creativity in naming buildings back then though it was an accurate description since it was literally a blue, metal building. He got up the gumption to walk in and volunteer one day and was sent out to cover his first story that same day. He joked that he must not have been particularly good at writing stories because they soon made him News Editor and later Managing Editor. He spent many hours in that Blue Metal Building which he remembered always being hotter or colder on the inside than it was on the outside.

Editor-in-Chief Kat Riddler, graduate, English, was the MC for the evening. She presented the State Treasurer and the Chancellor with black coffee mugs with The Current’s 50th anniversary logo and their names for speaking at the event. This was in honor of a tradition started by McMurray who passed an engraved coffee mug to the next Editor-in-Chief.

The event ended with a video created from filmed interviews collected of past Current staffers answering questions about their time at the paper. All interview videos will be available on The Current’s YouTube channel in the coming weeks, including the collected video shown at the banquet.

I was honored to be a part of the 50th anniversary celebration.

- State Representative Joshua Peters, 76th District St. Louis

Congratulations to The Current. I had some of the best years of my life there. I will carry the memories and lifelong friends always.

- Michelle McMurray (Editor-in-Chief, 1992-93)

Congratulations on 1500 issues! Keep up the great work as the voice of the university.

- Sharon Kubatzky Reus (Editor-in-Chief, 1984-85)

Congratulations on the 1500th issue of The Current. As someone who has spent his entire career in the field of journalism, I can’t help but think about how important my time at The Current was in my development. What a great training ground!

- Jeff Kuchno (Editor-in-Chief, 1982-83)
Dance St. Louis continued its 50th anniversary season with a performance by Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, which presented three performances at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 15 through 16.

The Chicago-based Ensemble Español, which has been called the country’s premier Spanish dance company, is celebrating its 40th anniversary, and its founder and artistic director, Dame Libby Komaiko, was in attendance at the Friday night performance.

Dazzling and jewel-like are two ways to describe the show presented by Ensemble Español, but other words that spring to mind are hot and high-energy. While many think of flamenco when they hear the phrase “Spanish dance,” it is only one of several Spanish dance traditions, which Ensemble Español is dedicated to preserving and presenting. Flamenco includes guitar, song, hand-clapping, and dancing. A number of cultures have influenced Spanish history: Moors, Greeks, Romans, even Celts. Spanish dance is divided into three types: classical, regional and flamenco, considered its own. Ensemble Español’s program included flamenco and dances from Spain’s classic and folkloric traditions, as well as contemporary Spanish dance.

The program was divided into two themes, “Essence of Spain” and “Flamenco Passion,” ending with a performance of Ravel’s “Bolero” with Dame Libby Komaiko using castanets. There were also two interludes of flamenco music between dances, where two guitar players and a percussionist gave a little sample of the genre’s percussive, passionate sound.

“Mil Clavos (One Thousand Nails)” was a three-part piece combining flamenco and contemporary dance. The most striking piece was “Pasaje Nuevo,” which featured three men in black costumes like 18th-century frock coats, who danced a powerful, masculine line piece representing Spain’s strength, the bull. “La Paloma Roja (The Red Dove)” featured three woman dancers in a sensuous, feminine dance with Flamenco’s twisting arm movements. “Fuego Negro (Black Fire)” had the whole troupe in a piece that began slowly and built to a fiery crescendo.

After intermission, it was Flamenco’s time to shine. “Flamenco Passion” presented a four-dance sample, with guitarists, percussionists, and singers joining the dancers on stage. The evocative “Duende Gitano (Gypsy Soul)” opened with dancers and musicians framed by images of arches and a distant castle, as they performed foot-stamping, clapping, and skirt-flipping dances set to percussive music. “La Rosa Negra (The Black Rose)” spotlighted solo dancer Paloma Gomez, while “Anda Jaleo” featured the whole company dancing to staccato, high-energy rhythms. “Veneno (Poison)” was a powerful, rapid-fire dance solo by Christian Lozano.

The finale, “Bolero,” was the highlight of Dame Libby’s acclaimed choreography. The performance began with five women dancers, dressed in fiery red and sitting erect on the floor, performing the same sensuous, serpentine dance movements. As the music built, the dancers rose and filled the stage with movement, culminating with wildly-energetic dancing by the whole troupe, leaving the applauding audience on its feet.

For more information on upcoming Touhill events and ticket prices, visit the venue online at www.touhill.org.

Dance St. Louis Brings Spanish Fire to Touhill
Triton Baseball Splits Doubleheader

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis baseball team split the first two games of a four-game series against Rockhurst University on April 16. The Tritons came into the matchup with a 3-3 home stand record that started earlier in the month and held a 22-11 record on the season after Saturday’s games. They find themselves in the middle of the Great Lakes Valley Conference pack with a 6-8 conference record.

UMSL took the first game behind seven strikeouts from Kurt McGuire, senior, business administration, who threw very well on the mound in eight innings of work. He allowed the opposing Hawks only four hits and a single earned run, while his own offense tallied six runs in response. Ultimately, the Tritons would keep Rockhurst at bay over the final innings to win 6-2.

The second game turned into quite the pitcher’s duel as the game stayed scoreless through the first seven innings of the nightcap. Jake Renfrow, junior, got the start and did not allow a hit through his six innings of scoreless work. While he gave up four hits and two walks, Renfrow managed to keep the baserunners scattered and managed to eke out the game unscathed. Jon Shanker, junior, accounting, came in for two innings of relief and surrendered three runs, and while UMSL responded with their own run in the bottom of the eighth, they could not push across the two baserunners as they lost 1-3.

McGuire started off the first matchup very strong, getting to the fifth inning untouched. Rockhurst, however, finally connected on a well-hit double down the line by Weiler to break up the no-hitter. UMSL’s offense helped their starter get an early lead in a similar vein to the St. Louis Cardinals, plating three runs in the bottom of the third inning with two outs.

Jake Beckwith, junior, undecided, gave the Tritons the chance they needed by doubling to left field. Two walks later, third baseman Tanner Hudson, senior, biochem, lifted a ball to deep left center for a bases-clearing double for the first scoring of the day. They would score two more in the next inning, one off a single from Dominic Orlando, senior, communications, who would cross the plate from a sacrifice play.

Jake Renfrow pitching, bottom of the 5th

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com

Alternative Sports: Biking

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

This week in ‘Alternative Sports’ we will talk about an athletic activity that many people young and old enjoy, especially in a city such as St. Louis, which has many trails and paths for it. While there is no doubt that the majority of you have ridden a bike before, this guide to a greater appreciation of the ‘sport’ of bicycling will hopefully provide some insight on locations in the area to enjoy your outdoor excursions.

One of the major biking trails in the area passes through the former state capital of St. Charles, just across the Missouri River. The Katy Trail runs for over 200 miles and serves cyclists, joggers, and hikers year-round from sunrise to sunset. It passes through wine country and by many historic sites. It goes as far east as Kansas City and beyond and is an extremely popular route for bicycling, winding through beautiful vistas on a path close to the river.

The Katy Trail connects to another prominent locale for exercise and fun in Creve Coeur Lake, located in Maryland Heights. In the state park are several trails around the lake that part and rejoin at different spots. The area is a very scenic and peaceful cycling route when the weather behaves and the sun glistens off the lake. There is an area that branches off, however, which is used by pedestrians only. One trail on the southern side branches off to jerm Highway 364 to cross over the Missouri and join the aforementioned Katy Trail.

Forest Park, along with playing host to tourist attractions such as the St. Louis Art Museum and St. Louis Zoo, also has a six-mile main bike path utilized by the park’s residents. Much like those already touched on, the 1300-acre urban oasis provides users of the trail with many beautiful vistas to take in while on a relaxing ride. One section of the trail travels through the lovely wooded area designated as John F. Kennedy Memorial Forest.

Finally, the Chain of Rocks Bridge is the centerpiece of the Confluence Greenway, a network of trails in the combined area of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, both in Missouri and Illinois. This is the only truly bicycle-friendly crossing of the Mississippi River within several hundred miles. In addition to biking across one of the greatest rivers in the world, on weekends you can find vendors ready to greet you with fresh produce and snacks as you make your way onto the bridge.

There are certainly many more paths and trails to bike throughout the St. Louis region. Many are connected throughout the city by other paths and bicycle-friendly roads. No matter which you choose, it is clear that biking in St. Louis can be a fun time for all to really enjoy the outdoors.
Celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Current, the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ independent student newspaper and the kind of UMSL I would be proud to graduate from.

Kat Riddler as MC of 50th Banquet COURTESY OF MICHAEL PLUMB

With Metro Passes Gone, Can I Bum a Ride?

At the April 6 Budget and Planning Committee meeting, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in all of its infinite wisdom, presented its decision to eliminate the subsidies that provide discounted Metro passes to students, faculty, and staff. Because the best way to cut costs is a predominantly commuter-based university and entice area students to enroll and keep our relationship as a business with Metrolink on the up and up is to destroy any remaining vestige of accessibility via public transport. Good job, UMSL: Expensive plagues for everyone!

My understanding was that a portion of my student fees goes towards paying for these passes, which UMSL buys at a reduced rate in bulk from Metro. It seems that only recently fees were raised for students, since the optics of raising tuition at a time when enrollment is on a decline would be very bad for administration. So, where is my money going? Obviously not to the Metro Pass Program. Or if it is, it is being badly mishandled.

Instead of cutting the Metro Pass Program, it would make more sense for UMSL to renegotiate whatever it is paying Metrolink. For one thing, Metrolink is so broke that they cannot afford to refuse whatever UMSL would offer in terms of monetary compensation; they could probably make up the difference in a larger campus presence for Metrolink, including tables in the Millennium Student Center with hiring agents. For another thing, Metrolink has not one, but two stops on campus for train service as well as a stop for the Natural Bridge bus. Discontinuing the pass system means cutting off these access points to campus for students who cannot afford to buy Metro passes at full price and do not have any other means of transportation.

UMSL is, at its heart, a commuter college (despite every single effort to make it a dorm-based college, which is not working). Three-fourths of the current student body are commuting here on a regular basis—which, considering the sorry state of housing, it is no wonder they do not want to live closer to class (only last year did The Current report on the mold issue in Villa). The students who come here are predominantly lower-class and reliant on scholarships and government grants. Programs that assist in any way in lessening the cost of basic necessities like transportation are vital to retaining these students.

If there is no low-cost transportation system to campus, UMSL will very likely see the number of enrolled students drop as they seek their education elsewhere. We will definitely lose students to St. Louis Community College, who just last year enacted their own Metro Pass system, giving free passes to any student enrolled in at least one credit hour per semester. Having the Archers steal a portion of our best doors have opened for more students of color and coverage of social justice issues has expanded. A lot has changed in 50 years.

At the 50th anniversary banquet, Missouri’s State Treasurer Clint Zweifel, an alumnus of The Current and our keynote speaker, spoke about the technological changes just since the early ’90s when he was a student. Copiers were printed out, cut, and glued with wax onto layout sheets. If you made a mistake, you used an X-Acto knife to cut it out and glued in the corrected copy. “Cut and paste’” is what my dad calls it. He was a reporter and poured out stories on manual typewriters for The Current in the mid-’70s. It was these large layout sheets that were delivered to the printer and turned into negatives to burn plates for a printing press. Photos did not have pixels, but were screened to create dots of various shades of gray, or color separations. All of this is a far cry from the word processors, laptops, notebooks, Apple computers, electronic layout programs, and electronic transmission of our layouts to the printer, the world of mass media, and the digital photography. A lot has changed in 50 years.

Oh, and not to forget, Zweifel also talked about working in the Blue Metal Building (not a very creative name he thought) that used to be the home of the newspaper staff. He mentioned in his remarks that smoke often filled the building, because least we forget, smoking used to be common on campus. Before occupying the Blue Metal Building, the newspaper offices were in the University Center building, past a hole-in-the-wall candy-and-newstand, and above the cafeteria. The offices were even in what is now Natural Bridge for a time. Then in 2000, the Millennium Student Center opened and The Current had a new home. The offices received a makeover in 2015 with the help of our hardworking staff, alumni, and friends of the paper.

The Current, like a river, is always flowing, sometimes rushing ahead at flood, sometimes meandering along, but always flowing into the future and whatever waits around the next bend. We look forward to the future with great anticipation, because a lot can and will change in the next 50 years.
Ben & Jerry: Ice Cream and Social Responsibility

SARAH BELL
STAFF WRITER

Beginning with an announcement of the flavors of free ice cream to follow their talk, the two founders of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, set the stage for a fulfilling night for University of Missouri—St. Louis listeners. Invited to UMSL as part of the Student Life Speaker Series, the two longtime friends and business partners recounted their early beginnings and the path that led to the ice cream business that they founded in Burlington, Vermont in 1978.

Ben and Jerry met in their seventh grade gym class, and remained friends through high school and college—where they found that they were not succeeding at what they were trying to achieve on their own. Jerry attended Oberlin College, and had planned to go to medical school afterward, but was rejected both times he applied. Ben first attended Colgate University, then dropped out and took classes later in pottery at New York University and Skidmore College. He then ended up working at several odd jobs. The two then decided to pursue some kind of business together, probably related to food, since they both liked to eat. They settled on ice cream and took a five dollar correspondence course in ice cream-making from Pennsylvania State University.

After the course, they chose a location for their ice cream business. They wanted to be in a college town, and wanted a place where they would not have competition from other ice cream stores. After much searching, they chose Burlington, Vermont. It was not easy to convince a bank to give them a loan at first, but eventually they submitted their business plan, received the loan, and opened up their ice cream store—in a dilapidated gas station. The first summer went surprisingly well—people liked Ben and Jerry and their small, local ice cream shop. However, winters in Burlington would prove to be a challenge. Jerry told stories of reducing the price of cones for every degree below 0 degree Celsius, and driving around to restaurants with a car-load of ice cream to see what they could sell, just barely staying in business.

Over the years, Ben & Jerry’s became relatively successful as an ice cream business—so much so that the ice cream company Häagen-Dazs actually began to fear for their sales and attempted to limit Ben & Jerry’s distribution in Boston. In response, Ben and Jerry filed suit against the parent company, Pillsbury, and started a campaign, “What’s the Doughboy Afraid of?” to raise public awareness. Eventually, Pillsbury backed down, and Ben & Jerry’s continued to grow.

It was at this point that Ben and Jerry started having second thoughts about owning a business. They found all their time was spent going to meetings, promoting products, and hiring or firing employees. It felt like they were becoming just another business or ring employees. It felt like they were supporting. They refused to use milk from cows treated with recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH), and have a non-genetically modified organism (GMO) standard for all their products.

Near the end of their presentation, Ben talked about the role that businesses play in our society. In the past, he said, the power in society was held by religion, then by nation-states—but now, it is held by businesses. With the primary goal of so many businesses to only make a profit, he spoke of how this is an issue that our generation needs to address. He made a demonstration of the amount of money that large corporations donate to politicians, compared with the amount that 99 percent of Americans donate, using several jars of BB gun bullets compared with one. He introduced his current campaign to remove big money from politics, called the “Stamp Stampede,” in which citizens are encouraged to stamp messages on dollar bills, in efforts to pass a bill to remove the influence of corporations on politics. More information can be found at stampstampede.org.

Attendee Yuhan Huang, freshman, and the path that led to the ice cream business. In the past, it was held by businesses. With the primary goal of so many businesses to only make a profit, he spoke of how this is an issue that our generation needs to address. He made a demonstration of the amount of money that large corporations donate to politicians, compared with the amount that 99 percent of Americans donate, using several jars of BB gun bullets compared with one. He introduced his current campaign to remove big money from politics, called the “Stamp Stampede,” in which citizens are encouraged to stamp messages on dollar bills, in efforts to pass a bill to remove the influence of corporations on politics. More information can be found at stampstampede.org.

Attendee Yuhan Huang, freshman, said Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, which funds grant requests from non-profit organizations for socially-responsible causes. They started buying their ingredients from small, less well-known sources, like coffee beans from small farmers in Mexico, blueberries from a local Native American tribe, and brownies from a bakery in New York City that taught cooking skills to low-income residents. Ben & Jerry’s used space on their ice cream packages to write about the sources for these ingredients and the causes they were supporting. They refused to use milk from cows treated with recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH), and have a non-genetically modified organism (GMO) standard for all their products.

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