Yentumi and Berkowitz: Your Friendly Local Triton Rappers

A s Aesop once said, “appearance can be deceiving.” If you’re not paying attention, Alex Yentumi, senior, civil engineering, and William Berkowitz, senior, international business, both seem to be normal, everyday college students. Once you get a chance to interact with one of them, however, you will be impressed and delighted by an extremely funny, intelligent, and articulate answer, mixed with a healthy dose of hip hop aphorisms. The allusions to hip hop in their speech are the first indication that these students have creative sides as wordsmiths and beatmakers. If you dig a little deeper, you will find out that Berkowitz goes by the moniker Will-Be, while Yentumi is known as Zen Mugen, and both are MCA’s in the local live hip hop collective, LOOPRAT. They grew up on the same block in University City, and have been working on music together since long before they joined the collective. The name was invented by Berkowitz at an open mic with Yentumi in late 2015, and refers to all sorts of loops – beats, life cycles, and the Delmar Loop. Some quick facts about each student:

Ages: Berkowitz - 21, Yentumi - 23
Origins: St. Louis born and raised, mostly in University City
Biggest musical influence: The Roots

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UMSL students were able to work with the Ameren Accelerator startup companies for twelve weeks.

Ameren Accelerator Demo Day Big Success for Startups and UMSL Students

T he University of Missouri System, University of Missouri-St. Louis Accelerate, Ameren, and Capital Innovators hosted the first-ever Ameren Accelerator Demo Day on October 26, at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The highly anticipated event attracted more than 500 RSVPs. The event was hosted by Capital Innovators. Then each of the seven participating startup companies spoke till about 3:30 p.m. The startups presented plans and prototypes of their new energy technology they have been working on.

The program started at 1 p.m. with remarks by UMSL alumnus and Chairman, President, and CEO of Ameren Corporation Warner Baxter. Founding Executive Director of the UMSL Accelerator Dan Lauer spoke next. Lauer was followed by Judy Sindecuse, CEO of Capital Innovators. Each of the seven participating startup companies spoke till about 3:30 p.m.

The startup companies were Blossom, Hyperion Sensors, Omega Grid, Rebate Bus, SensrTrx, Switched Source, and WIFIPLUG.

Kids enjoyed stopping by the different trunks at UMSL like SGA’s “Moana” trunk.

On October 28, the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ Annual Trunk-or-Treat took place at the Millennium Student Center South Garage. UMSL students, staff, and faculty gathered in the morning to set up. The event was hosted by UMSL Tiny Tritons, UMSL Students of Service, and the Office of Student Involvement.

At noon, the event opened to attendees. Activities included various activity and information booths, as well as the main feature: the “trunk-or-treating.” Where various people from UMSL student organizations, departments, offices, and individuals, parked cars and set up their trunks, and passed out candy and other treats to children ages 12 and under. The trunks were decorated in various styles, some made to look like giant monsters. Both adults and children were dressed up as famous monsters and other fictional characters.

UMSL’s Trunk-or-Treat has been a tradition since 2010, when roughly 75 children attending. Over the years, the number has grown to over 300. The event went on until 2 p.m.

Mike A. Bryan
Managing Editor

Chris Zuver
A&E Editor

Kat Riddler
Managing Editor

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Imagine you are standing on a 4x4 grid, and you have to travel from the bottom-left point to the top-right point on the grid. You are only allowed to move up or right. How many different paths can you take?

Email mathclub@umsl.edu with guesses and solutions.

Last week's puzzle: “A farmer goes to the market and buys a hundred animals for a total cost of $10,000. If cows cost $500 each, pigs cost $100 each, and Rabbits cost $5 each, how many of each animal did he buy?”

The puzzle solvers last week were Mike Toohey and Lysa Young-Bates who gave the correct answer of 19 Cows, 1 Pig, and 80 Rabbits. As a bonus, Mike Toohey also noticed that 100 pigs is also a solution!
Omeren Accelerator Demo Day Big Success

Continued from Page 1

Blossom is a way for two parties to exchange anything of value using simple digital agreements set by users to enable two parties to exchange anything of value using simple digital agreements set by users and governed by property owners and enables access and it is an everyday activity, said Vaughn. The networking atmosphere at Cortex.

October 22: No incidents to report. It was a very quiet day. No one was overheard. The college released video of the incident on October 20, which showed Taylor being tackled to the ground. In the video, Rodney Gee, Vice Chair of the Board, instructs the audience to refrain from applauding in the public comment portion of the meeting. The college had a goal, we coded it whatever. We can put in real companies’ faces then to opportunity to see challenges people can’t clap, then I don’t want to be a marketing, was paired with Sensr member and is tackled by the office. Bradford took the suspect to the floor and said he didn’t blame the police for this event. What I mean by that is that every day you absolutely do it again.”

Taylor had been “voicing his displeasure with the rules laid out at the meeting” before ultimately being escorted out. The college released video of the incident on October 20, which showed Taylor being tackled to the ground. In the video, Rodney Gee, Vice Chair of the Board, instructs the audience to refrain from applauding during the public comment portion of the meeting. This did not deter the audience, which began to applaud. Bradford took the suspect to the floor and said he didn’t blame the police for this event. What I mean by that is that every day you absolutely do it again.”

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The following is a series of daily crime, incident and complaint reports as they were issued by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between October 10 and October 26.

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S T. LOUIS PUBLIC Radio Partners with Goshen Coffee

AUBREY BYRON
NEWS EDITOR

The World of Virtual Reality for Video Games

MIKE KADEMACHER
GUEST WRITER

T he video game industry grew from humble beginnings into a multi-billion dollar industry over the course of about 40 years. The industry hoped to increase their already massive base by introducing technology that the public had seen before, but with updated hardware for a newer generation. That technology was virtual reality (VR) and they hoped that despite the failure of mainstream adoption in the past, they would finally succeed this time. Even though sales seemed strong starting out, VR did not set sales on fire and the gaming industry had hoped.

There are three main contender virtual reality systems to choose from, the Vive from HTC, the Facebook backed Oculus Rift, and the PlayStation VR (PSVR). The Rift launched in October 2015, while the Oculus Rift launched in April of 2016 and their sales were rather lukewarm as of February 2017. Between them there were 600,000 units between the both of them according to Paul Tassi’s article on VG247. However, sales forecasts VR sales were looking quite strong, according to Tassi it sold around 900,000 units by February 2017 and considering that it had only been on the market since October 2016 it sounded like it was doing significantly better than its competitors. It makes sense that PSVR was doing better, considering that it is one of the cheaper options at launch only costing around $400 for the hardware and another $400 dollars for a PlayStation 4 (the other two require a PlayStation 4 or a PlayStation VR bundle for $399.99 plus the $600 Rift or the $800 Rift with Touch controllers). But are the PSVR sales really that impressive considering there are about 60 million PlayStation 4 owners? This leaves only about 2 percent of those owners owning a VR unit. The most astounding fact is that the PSVR unit is only selling a small fraction of its install base and that is not good. Of that small fraction of PSVR owners, according to the ps3cheaptv blogger on Reddit, a PSVR manager at the local Gamestop, Garrison said, “it’s pretty good.” re: to the sales, he says he has not used it much lately due to lack of titles.

Part of the issue is that there are not that many titles that have been released for VR so far. Garrison said, Not many game developers are developing for virtual reality and that is why VR units may not be selling like the industry had hoped for. After all, it is difficult to develop video games for VR that don’t make people nauseous. “I played for about 15 minutes and started feeling sick to my stomach,” Garrison said referring to the game Resident Evil 7 that obviously didn’t work too well with the VR controls. So, the big challenge at the moment is to develop games for VR that don’t make people sick. But Garrison did iterate that, generally speaking, the experiences are less likely to induce nausea and are more accessible, it is better to experience virtual reality in more of these smaller experiences to reach a broader audience. Garrison said, “That is why VR is more appealing than playing a video game and Garrison emphasizes that they are interesting none the less. Garrison said, “I watched a video game enthusiast, had used VR in this way to watch a basketball game, however, he was not all that impressed. Garrison said, “I watched a basketball game and it was court side. It was cool at the time, but I felt like my experience wasn’t better.” While he thought that the court side view in VR was interesting, he still would have rather watched it on television or attended the game. Stewart did say, “If they made VR with a bird’s eye view as opposed to court side that might be more interesting.” Stewart expressed that VR could be used in more ways than is right now. For one the ability to experience things that many people may not be able to experience due to lacking of funding or physical limitations. “That might be where the hot spot is for VR… I don’t really have the funds or the stamina to go climb mount Everest… [to] experience it digitally might be kind of a cool experience,” Stewart said. Being able to use the technology in this way was a lot more appealing for Stewart and may be more appealing to others as well. “That is honest- more of an interesting concept.” Stewart said. Using VR for once in a lifetime experiences, like the Mount Everest experience Stewart described, might be a more viable market for VR than video games. So, why would companies keep pouring money into a technology that is not being utilized properly as of now? VR units are expensive and playing with all of the games is expensive too, so it seems like the right fit. But with everyone experiencing nausea and people like Stewart showing very little to no interest, it may be time to change the focus of VR. Stewart says that he would rather see VR develop more experiential adventures that he normally could not experience and there are many others out there like him rather than others. Stewart said, “I just think VR, as it stands right now, just feels like [sort of] a big gimmick.” With thoughts like that, it may be time for developers to find a different use for virtual reality technology.
Looprat’s MCs on UMSL Campus

Continued from Page 1

Both cite classic blues and jazz as major influences, as well as golden-age hip hop—mostly east coast—driving the live band and hip hop combination. They both revere Black Spade and Price E.A. for their contributions to St. Louis music. The live show is reminiscent of the hip hop band vibe of The Roots or Oxnuttall, combined with the dynamic MC style of Jurassic 5 or The Beastie Boys, but not quite like any of the aforementioned bands and more akin to Guru’s Jazzmatazz series. Seeing them live is always a unique experience—the dynamics of the collective produces an energy that defines the idea of live hip hop and jazz.

The duo work on projects outside the LOOPRAT collective, and Yentumi will be dropping a solo album soon. As MC’s and beat makers, they revere the jazz, soul and funk style of DJ Premier, which can be heard in their work with LOOPRAT. While Berkowitz played some piano in his younger days, he spent 2-3 years playing percussion in middle school. Both are members of the Pierre Laclede Honors College, and intend to graduate with honors. In their down time, they are fans of anime, with “Sword of the Stranger” a favorite.

They were working on music together when they decided to join forces with the band that makes up the LOOPRAT collective, and another MC named Nat King Flo. The collective now includes even more members, up to 13 total, with two more MC’s in the mix, Armani and David Bohlen. Armani has also just released a solo project, and Bohlen also produces music under the name Napalm. The band includes guitar, keys, bass, drums, saxophone, and trumpet, in addition to a backup singer and the five MC’s. Berkowitz and Yentumi are grateful to the Kansas City entertainment label Indyground for support during the early years by putting LOOPRAT on lineups at local shows.

The story of the band is fascinating, with almost all members having been close friends and playing music together since elementary school at a place called the Sunrise Conservatory in University City. All original members of the LOOPRAT collective, with the exception of two, are from University City, and have strong connections to the Sunrise Conservatory. The group is dynamic, meaning that a slightly different collection of artists performs at each show; the recorded music reflects this diversity as well, with some songs featuring all of the MC’s and some focused on just one. The group has been producing music together since late 2013. Their music is “innovative, but timeless and relevant,” said Yentumi of music that is a combination of hip hop and jazz, with a little funk and soul, but “more energetic due to the presence of the live band.” According to Berkowitz, it is “some sort of raps that your mother could appreciate.”

The collective has been busy lately, making appearances at various festivals and special local shows. At the Delmar Hall SlumbFest Awards this past summer, LOOPRAT was awarded “Best Hip Hop Group.” Earlier this year, they especially enjoyed the experience of playing the Riverfront Times ShowcaseSTL. In October, the collective paired with the culinary experts at Spare No Rib to produce a sold-out pop-up dinner and concert experience, called “Soul Food for Thought.” There are plenty of opportunities to see LOOPRAT perform live this fall and winter, and the best place to find information on the collective is at www.LOOPRAT.com. Their music can be found on Apple Music, Spotify, Soundcloud, and Bandcamp, and is available for free download.

Looprat has been featured on 104.1 and Fox News, and is currently played on 88.1. The UMSL radio station, The U, does not play them due to the need for clean edits of their songs. They truly are a home-grown group, playing a modern style of music that so many people can appreciate. Two of their gifted MC’s grew up with their presence here on campus at UMSL. If you get a chance, go see this group perform, and watch your fellow Tri- ons kill it on the mic. You will not be disappointed. The next show is on November 4th, and details can be found at www.LOOPRAT.com.

Top 5 Stephen King Movies

Michelle Reynolds
Staff Writer

B ringing you horror since 1974 with his first novel “Carrie,” Stephen King wants to help make sure you never sleep again. Here are five Stephen King movie adaptations to make your Halloween even more terrifying.

Carrie
From the book that started it all. Whether you watch the 1976 original, the 2002 remake or the 2013 remake, they are all based off the book.
**Tritons’ Volleyball Extended Winning Streak Ended**

**Roderick M. Wilson**  
Sports Editor

On October 27, University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons faced off against the Quincy Hawks. The Tritons are on a five-game win streak entering the game. The match was a back and forth nail-biter where every point counted. Both teams seemed evenly matched, but the Tritons used power and finesse and a few trick plays to throw the Hawks off.

UMSL won the first game by 25-19 after a late 5-0 run to win the set. The Hawks did not go away though. They won the next set 25-23. Danielle Waedekin, senior, nursing, played a wonderful game with 23 digs with 11 of those in the first set. The Tritons won the third set 25-22, a tight set, that was opened by key aces from Alex Miner, junior, psychology, and Morgan Childers, sophomore, business.

The Tritons wanted to put the Hawks away in the fourth set, but allowed them back in the game to tie 24-24. Miner would end the set on two powerful kills for a 26-24 set and 3-1 overall win by the Tritons.

“I’m glad it’s a W and I’m glad we’re even,” said Head Coach Ryan Young. “That team serves tough and passes well, it was a battle but we came out with the win.”

“We’re really scrappy on defense,” said Waedekin. “Our first ball touches needed an adjustment, and started passing the ball better to put them away.”

The Tritons went on October 28 to face the McKendree Bearcats. The Tritons came into the game with a six-game win streak. The Bearcats came into the game zero losses in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, but the Hawks were on a five-game win streak entering the game. The matchup was a back and forth affair, but the Hawks did not go away. They won the next set 16-25. Danielle Waedekin, senior, nursing, showed in this meet,” said Coach Hernandez. “This meet gave them a speed portion of our training and it was a lot of energy in the building.”

The meet was awesome, it was one of the best home openers we’ve had so far,” said one of the captains of the swim team Radoslaw Chupka, junior, international business and marketing. “We had a lot of support, we won a lot of events, there was a lot of energy in the building.” Chupka would go on to say, “I felt really good, we had a couple days of rest before this meet...The hard work in practice is paying off and is really worth it from coach.”

“We’ve gotten into the pace and speed portion of our training and it showed in this meet,” said Coach Hernandez. “This meet gave them a lot of confidence for the next meet next week in the Drury Invitational.”

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**Hernandez Regimen Paying Off for Tritons**

**Roderick M. Wilson**  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Men’s and Women’s swimming teams held a home tri-meet against Maryville and Lindenwood-Belleville October 27.

The Men’s side took the 200-yard medley and the 800-freestyle relay in huge fashion. Patryk Golinski, sophomore, computer science, and Gabor Jimenez, sophomore, civil engineering, came up big in the individual races. Golinski won 100 freestyle and the 1000 freestyle and was part of the 800-freestyle relay. Jimenez won the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke and was part of the winning 200-yard medley team.

“Roderick M. Wilson  
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**Contamination: Phase 6***

**The Mutation**

**Contamination will be November 4 and 5 at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport. November 3 is a free preview day of the convention and starts at 8 p.m. The Haunted House and the Movie Room will be the only things open and available to everyone. The movie room will be centered around the celebrity guests coming. They will be showing horror, sci-fi, and pop-culture movies and tv shows. On November 4 and 5, the con will fully be open including the show floor with vendors, artist alley, and celebrity guests. There will be a big cosplay/costume contest for prizes on Saturday. Every year Contamination has an overall theme based off the time of year and celebrity guests that are introduced. The promoters build the lineup with the mindset to have a small intimate con with a big con feel. This year will have a larger horror theme since the convention takes place the weekend after Halloween.**

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**Interact on Social Media**

October 30, 2017
Easier Every Day

If you were to look at the tag of the shirt you are currently wearing, what would it say?

If you bought it from any of the trendiest stores (H&M, Forever 21, Urban Outfitters, and many more), chances are it would bear the name of an Asian country where U.S. companies are paying workers next-to-nothing wages and providing abysmal working conditions.

In 2015, a documentary name Andrew Morgan released a film entitled True Cost. In an hour and a half, he explained just what it costs when consumers participate in what has come to be known as “fast fashion.”

What it costs is human lives. Two years before the release of the documentary, a Bangladeshi garment factory where clothes were being made for companies like Walmart and GAP collapsed killing over 1,000 people. Factories like this are scattered all over South Asia, and a large majority of them are putting the lives of their workers in danger. Instead of mass producing thousands of each garment, they are hand cut and sewn by these women. When they run out of a product, they are out of it forever. In short, Krochet Kids and companies like it could be considered “slow fashion.”

In the ten years since Krochet Kids began, the women they have trained have increased their income ten times, increased their savings twenty-five times, and this financial independence has led to a drop in violence, and a gain in quality of life. The great thing is that Krochet Kids and companies like it could be considered “slow fashion.”

In short, Krochet Kids are out of it for the foreseeable future. In short, Krochet Kids and companies like it could be considered “slow fashion.”

In the ten years since Krochet Kids began, the women they have trained have increased their income ten times, increased their savings twenty-five times, and this financial independence has led to a drop in violence, and a gain in quality of life. The great thing is that Krochet Kids are out of it for the foreseeable future.

For consumers who make their garments, each item is signed by the woman that made it, customers can write a thank you note to her. This is a revolutionary way to consume goods, and it is satisfying for both seamstress and customer. Perhaps if people could see the face of the woman working in those South Asia sweatshops, they would feel differently about the shirt they bought from Forever 21 that likely won’t hold up for the summer.

If consumers continue to use their wallet as a way to demand change, not only will companies like Krochet Kids and companies like it be considered “slow fashion.”

Top 5 Stephen King Movies

(continued from page 5)

with the same premise about a misfit teenager named Carrie White who unleashes her newfound supernatural power on the classmates who bullied her. Whether you have seen any of the movies, most seem to know that iconic scene of a girl at Prom covered in pig’s blood.

Ah, high school memories, anyone?

“1922” has been called a “reminder of what Stephen King does best” by The Verge.

The Mist

Yeah, Stephen King even made fog scary! The 2007 movie “The Mist” is R-rated and based off of King’s 1980 novella of the same name. The Mist is roughly two hours in running time and involves residents in a town which suddenly fall under a mist. The main characters find themselves held up in a grocery store, as they try to defend themselves from creatures that appear from the strange air.

Like “Carrie,” however, this movie is not streaming on Netflix and is only available on DVD. However, just recently made available for streaming on Netflix is first season of the 2017 series “The Mist,” which is also based off the book. Who knows what you’ll make you hesitate the next time you see a haze outside.
What’s Current Wednesdays:

**Discriminatory Directives: Transgender Rights in the Military**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - 2:00 PM**

MSC Century Room C For Cookies and Conversation*

Join *The Current* and Jim Craig, Associate Teaching Professor and Chair of the Department of Military and Veterans Studies with Cathy Serino, Army National Guard Veteran and equal rights activist, for a discussion moderated by Harry Hawkins, Diversity & LGBTQ+ Program and Project Support Coordinator at UMSL. In this session, we will discuss the executive order of President Trump toward persons who identify as transgender and want to enlist or currently serve in the military. The signed executive order prevents persons who are transgender to enlist in the military; however, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has the authority to declare if active-duty military who identify as transgender would be still able to serve their country.

The *New York Times* features that will serve as the jumping off point for the conversation is “Trump Gives Mattis Wide Discretion Over Transgender Ban” which can be found at: goo.gl/vGwDy4

“What’s Current Wednesdays” is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events, co-sponsored by The Current and the New York times, with support from Community Outreach & Engagement at UMSL.

The Current

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* Cookies/dessert and beverages provided to the first 25 students.