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## Current, March 08, 2010

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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# The Current

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## WAR ON PARKING PART 2

BY JESSICA KEIL AND MATT POPOSKY

Last week, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' War on Parking was brought to light, then Parking and Transportation got its chance to respond. The department claimed no responsibility for the price of parking tickets or passes (saying those are set by the student curator), gave reason for slow shuttle buses and provided advice for avoiding unnecessary tickets for students who drive multiple vehicles.

This was done in open forums in which Leonidas Gutierrez, manager of Parking Operations, answered students' questions and concerns about parking at UM-St. Louis.

Inevitably, the expense question was raised at the forum, and Gutierrez was ready.

"I don't know why this

question keeps getting addressed at us. The student curator is in charge of the rates. Nobody else but the curator really has influence on these costs. You have to essentially go through the curator and the Student Government Association [to change the price]," Gutierrez said.

Even the president of the UM System, Gary Forsee, is under pressure to do something about parking prices at UM-St. Louis.

"Here there is clearly a question about the price [of parking]," Forsee said.

"At one level it may lend itself to a little focus group; I mean do we need more shuttle capability? Do we need some other things? ... But it sounds like there has already been some discussion underway about what could be done...there needs to be

some careful collaboration with the students and administration on that," Forsee said.

Forsee's mention of the shuttle services is a topic not forgotten by students at the forums. For some students, shuttles could mean an alternative to parking on campus and paying the parking fee every semester.

"I think [the shuttles] can be a good alternative if you metro here and have classes on South Campus and North Campus, and maybe the art building too," Ethan Chou, chief justice of Student Court, said. "I used to ride the shuttle when I lived back in Oak Hall because it was just more convenient than finding parking on North Campus."

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RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

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VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1306

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FROM PAGE 1

However, the reliability of the shuttle service at UM-St. Louis has been questioned, raising the question of whether it really is a viable alternative to parking on campus.

"I use the shuttles on a regular basis. Despite this, there have been times when the shuttles are unreliable," Jonas Kersulis, freshman, electrical engineering, said.

"I don't have any enormous qualm with them, but when they do let me down, it's a big deal, and I just have to sit there and be late to my class."

Gutierrez attributes the problem of timeliness and the shuttles to several factors, including unforeseeable setbacks such as traffic, blocked routes and disabled students who require extra help boarding and exiting the shuttles. He also cited "courtesy drop offs" as a waste of time.

"The bus may be driving students on a regular

route, and a student may ask to be dropped off at an unscheduled location along the way. This wastes time ... In addition, students sometimes wait inside of buildings rather than at the actual stop. This slows shuttles down as well," Gutierrez said.

Another issue raised at the forum centered on student drivers who drive more than one vehicle.

"I'm curious about whether anything new has been done to assist students who drive multiple vehicles?" Crystal Santamour, senior, biology, asked.

Gutierrez explained that temporary permits can be purchased at the Parking and Transportation Department if a student knows in advance if he or she will be driving a different car.

However, Santamour replied that students do not always know what car they are going to use ahead of time. For instance, Bradley Hult,

sophomore, psychology and vocal performance, once lost access to his regular vehicle due to a car accident.

"I was borrowing my dad's car because of a car accident involving my own," Hult said. "The office wasn't open to assist me with a replacement parking pass, and I got a ticket. It was dealt with, but it would have bothered me to have to pay 50 dollars simply because nobody was available to help me."

By "dealt with," Hult probably means that he appealed the ticket and the fine was dropped. Chou says that although many of the parking tickets written by Parking and Transportation are "legit," the Student Court does appeal many of the tickets "depending on the situation."

Gutierrez also mentioned a Parking and Transportation program that was started to help nighttime students who need a temporary permit after the office closes.

"I have a program called 'Meet Me in the Parking Lot' available after 5 p.m. It is now possible to attain a permit even if the office is closed by contacting our nighttime drivers. You have to show your ID and give information, including how you want to pay for the permit," Gutierrez said.

So, now that the Department of Parking and Transportation has listened to the students and made responses their concerns, the question still remains if anything will be changed.

Maybe Forsee's focus group on parking will pan out? Maybe the Student Curator will demand lower prices?

Or maybe everyone will just grumble about it until they graduate?

Since the forums are over, students now have the choice to keep fighting their War on Parking or just waiting to see how it plays out.

The issue of diversity at UMSL: Is 9% really enough?

▶ AMANDA ROACH  
Staff Writer

On the 24th of February, an opinion was voiced by a student at a luncheon with UM-System President Gary Forsee that the UM-St. Louis needs more African American faculty members. Research into this subject has shown that the university actually has a higher number of African Americans on their faculty than any school in the Midwest. That student also brought up the issue of retention of African American students and whether or not more African American faculty members would help retain such students.

According to the university's website, 20 percent of the student body at UM-St.

Louis is African American; whether that percentage is too low is a matter of opinion. According to Alan Byrd, Director of Admissions at UM-St. Louis, about 9 percent of the faculty at the university is African American.

Byrd's records read that 39 percent of UM-St. Louis graduates from 2001-2007 were African American. The general consensus seems to be that hiring more African American faculty members will not increase the numbers or in fact affect them in any way—Byrd says it is about interaction.

"If [students and faculty] were more connected, we would see a greater increase in retention," Byrd said.

He pointed out that faculty has done things from "de-

partmental pizza parties" to the Mentor Program to better interact with students.

"We need to know we're meeting their needs and they need to know if they are meeting our expectations," Byrd said.

The numbers show that the university has much to be proud of in regards to diversity. According to Byrd, more targeted efforts are needed to connect the students with the faculty, but UM-St. Louis does have potential in this area, and there is always room for improvement. So do students need to connect better with faculty?

The university has many ethnicities in the student body, students from some 68 countries according to its website.

"Diversity goes far beyond race," Byrd said. "International students need the same type of support [as American students]."

Facts show that UM-St. Louis is a widely diverse institution of higher learning both in the student body as well as the faculty. Everyone has their own ideas about what needs examining or changing, some having to do with diversity and some not.

The university's website says, "The University of Missouri-St. Louis is committed to maintaining a welcoming environment for all and will assume an expanded role as a valuable resource for work around social justice."

It is up to the university's community to decide if this commitment is being met.

WEATHER





# Ambiguity leaves student fees stranded

► **ANDY PHIPPS**

Health / Science Editor

Student fees proposed by three University of Missouri-St. Louis colleges may be heading on to the UM System board of curators next month for approval.

The proposed fees, which were designed to help pay for equipment and other services in the Colleges of Nursing, Fine Arts and Communications and Arts and Sciences, were put on hold earlier this semester following confusion over their relation to the proposed tuition freeze agreement between the state and all publically funded universities in Missouri.

The tuition freeze guarantees 95 percent of funding to universities for fiscal year 2011 as long as undergraduate tuition and fees remain flat. Until recently, UM-St. Louis administrators were under the impression that the agreement to hold tuition flat would also apply to student fees proposed by individual colleges. As a result, the fees

were stopped after they were approved by the SGA last semester.

According to UM System president Gary Forsee, the UM System has been operating under the guidelines of Missouri Senate bill 389, which has set a limit on raising in-state, undergraduate tuition and any fee that applies to all students at that university, such as a parking or technology fee.

Under the guidelines of the bill, the only fees that universities could consider increasing would be fees to help pay off bonds or housing fees. Other types of fees have yet to be addressed, such as those that were sidelined at UM-St. Louis.

"What we haven't dealt with yet is out-of-state tuition, graduate school tuition that are specific to a particular college. Those are decisions that will not be made until April," Forsee said.

Even though a final decision has yet to be made regarding the fate of the fees for individual colleges, Forsee

affirmed that there would be a chance that they could still go on to the board of curators for review and possibly be approved and implemented.

As the tuition freeze has yet to become official and Senate bill 389 has provided ambiguous guidelines, administrators' plans have been in a state of flux as they try to plan ahead to provide for their budget while still keeping with the agreement.

"The president [Forsee] has said, we're open [to fee increases] and we're not through the legislative session yet, so who knows what is going to come out of this," Thomas George, UM-St. Louis Chancellor, said.

Final determination of whether to move forward with the fees will come at the April board of curators meeting.

"This is still a work in progress. I wish I could give a definitive response that this is exactly what we are going to be doing," George said.

The news that some fees might be able to go to the

board of curators for approval was greeted with hope and caution by UM-St. Louis administrators.

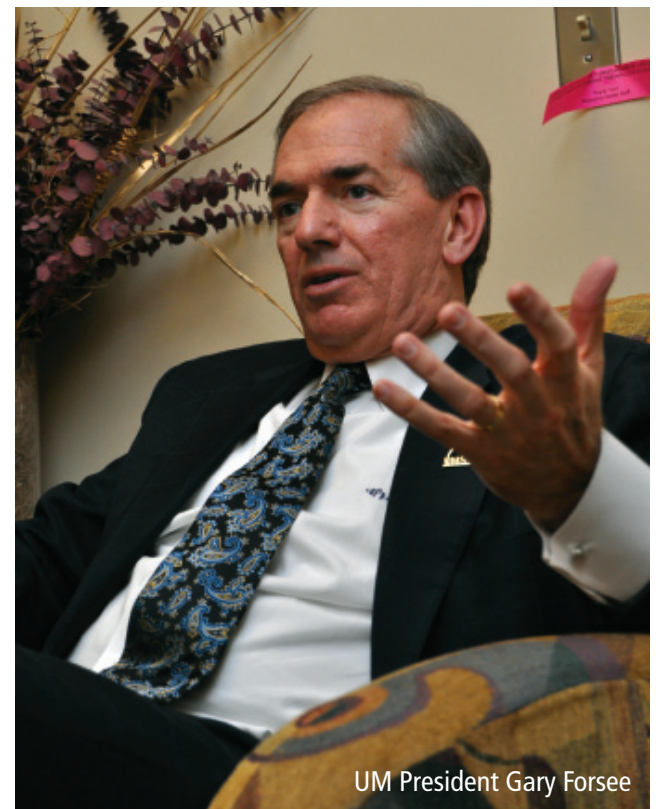
"My understanding [is that] the campus will determine exactly which fees they want to go ahead and send forward ... Obviously it gives us an opportunity to rethink those," Curt Coonrod, vice-provost of student affairs, said.

However, Coonrod said that individual colleges will push forward with the current fees and address future increases with students in mind.

"We are concerned about affordability, we are concerned about keeping costs down as much as possible, but on the other hand [we] want to make sure we have a quality product for our students," Coonrod said.

"It will be done very cautiously and very judiciously, because we want to be sure to consider the impact on our students on any fee increase," Coonrod added.

This concern was echoed



UM President Gary Forsee

AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

by the deans that had proposed the fees, while giving them new hope that they may still be able to obtain funding for proposed projects through them.

"More than anything I'm trying to think now what would be the best course of action. We worry for our stu-

dents; we don't want students to have to pay any more than is absolutely necessary, and yet costs are going up," Julie Sebastian, dean of the college of nursing, said. "Based on [news the fees may go through,] I just need to think about it before I decide what I'm going to do."



Andy Masters talks Olympic athletics on Wednesday in the MSC-Century Room A.

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## News at Noon talks on Olympics and Russia

► **CHRIS STEWART**

Staff Writer

Wednesday's News at Noon asked the question: "Why aren't the Russians bringing home all the golds?" Susan Brownell, professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, attempted to answer that question and discussed with guests what she termed as the "new world order" of the Olympics.

For Brownell—a nationally-ranked and record breaking track and field athlete for both the United States and China, and author of 'Training the Body for China'—sport is a lens through which the interactions, negotiations, competitions and even conflicts of geopolitics can be

viewed. It is a stage on which these global issues play out. The Olympics are thrilling in ways to her that even the most riveted casual watcher cannot imagine.

"I've attended the Los Angeles, Atlanta, Athens and Beijing games," Brownell said at News at Noon, this semester's first installment of a series of interactive informative round-table forums co-sponsored by The Current and The New York Times.

Wednesday's News at Noon saw the forum in a new venue: the Millennium Student Center's SGA chambers. Student, faculty and alumni audience members filed in, partook in free pizza and lemonade paid for by the New York Times, and took their seats. Brownell po-

sitioned herself at a table in front of the room and distributed an article from the Times to audience members. The formatting of the program calls for each topic to center around a Times article and Brownell had selected one that perfectly fit: a piece on Russia's lackluster 2010 winter performance and its significance on social, historical and political arenas.

Brownell spoke of how Cold War era Olympic games were consistently marred by corrupt judging, doping and other behind-the-scenes malpractices. In those years, the Soviet Union (as well as many other countries) saw excellence in sport as a necessary display of their power and the effectiveness of socialism. However, since the fall of the

Soviet Union, many top Russian athletes left the country and a fair number moved to the United States.

"At any skating institution that you go to in most any large state there will be a Russian instructor. Here in St. Louis we have a former 1981 Olympic medalist who teaches," Brownell said. She consulted him in preparation for this forum.

One topic that came up with him and sparked interest from the News at Noon audience was that of funding. Brownell told a shocked audience that the U.S. Olympics Committee makes more money from the games than all 204 other committees combined.

See **OLYMPICS**, page 5



# Statshot

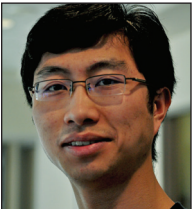
## UNDERCURRENT by Riki Tanaka

Chartwells may be considering new food options for our campus.  
**What types of food stands would you want to see at UMSL?**



**Kathleen Trapp**  
Freshman  
Nursing

"I would like to see more vegetarian options here and a Subway would be cool."



**Pengyuan Zhang**  
Sophomore  
Accounting

"The food at UMSL is kind of expensive. I'd like to see McDonald's here because it is cheaper and tastes good."



**James Sims**  
Sophomore  
Secondary Education

"I'd like to see Charley's because the food here is expensive. If we have to pay, it should be good."



**Shakina Sheppard**  
Junior  
Psychology

"I'd like to see a better quality of food like they had 2 years ago. Healthier foods and better quality soul food if they are going to serve it."

## VERBATIM

"I have the honor of presenting the Oscars, and I had this idea that I was going to record it, and then just watch it backwards, and then I'm going to feel like I won."  
*-Gerard Butler*



"I am playing lots of villains. It's horrible. Serial killer, sadist. But I think it's the age. That's what you get over 40, maybe."  
*-Helena Bonham Carter*

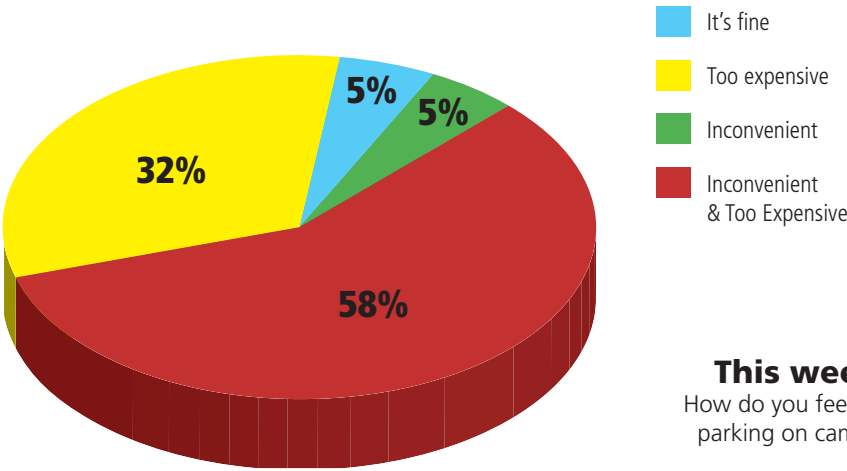
"I would have done whatever character Tim wanted...The fact that it was the Mad Hatter was a bonus."  
*-Johnny Depp on Alice in Wonderland*



"I am proud of my players for doing that. This was the best team building exercise we have ever done."  
*-Coach Guy Morriss on his players stealing newspapers*

## POLL

How do you feel about parking on campus?



**This week:**  
How do you feel about parking on campus?  
  
Answer at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

## CRIMELINE

### Saturday, Feb. 27

**Domestic Assault 3rd Degree - Mansion Hills Condominiums**  
The victim reported that at about 9:15 PM., she and her boyfriend got into an argument and an altercation ensued. There were no injuries and both parties had a slightly different explanation of the incident. The victim did not want to press any charges. This matter will be sent to student affairs. The victim is an UM-St. Louis student and her boyfriend is not. The boyfriend was escorted from the property.

### Sunday, Feb. 28

**Property Damage to a Vehicle - Millennium North Garage**  
Sometime between 2-24-10 and 2-28-10 person(s) unknown damaged the driver's side lock and rear hatch of the victim's car. The victim had her car parked and secured and further advised that entry was not gained into the vehicle and nothing is missing.

### Tuesday, March 2

**Stealing Over \$500.00 - J. C. Penney Building**  
The victim (an UM-St. Louis maintenance worker) reported that sometime between 9:15 AM and 9:45 AM person(s) unknown stole a tool belt with tools. The victim indicated he was working in the lower area of the building and left the items unattended, and when he returned, they were gone.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these, or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. It is very necessary for everyone to lock their doors when they are out. Even if it is only for a minute or two, a simple locking of the door will prevent most thefts from occurring. As a reminder, please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or the main number of 314-516-5155.

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## Hope for children of illegal immigrants

### Senate proposes bill on higher education

► **EDWARD THOMTON**  
Staff Writer

If passed, a recently proposed Missouri Senate bill could change the look of the student body at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

At the end of February in Jefferson City, a Missouri Senate committee hearing sat in and discussed the topic of in-state tuition for children of illegal immigrants in the state.

Surprisingly, no one voiced opposition to this bill. The bill requires the students to graduate from high school, live with a parent or guardian while attending high school and go to a Missouri high school for at least two years. They also must file an affidavit with their college or university promising they will apply for permanent U.S. residency when the opportunity becomes available.

This bill would open up doors for immigrants looking to higher their education across Missouri. Dr. Farida Jalazai, professor of political science at UM-St. Louis, said that if this program was well advertised in lower levels of education and by community groups, it could have small but positive gains.

"I would imagine it would help a number of students afford UMSL tuition and result in a gain in enrollment, though I don't want to overstate this since

the size population it affects is not totally clear to me," Jalazai said. "And I would wonder if some groups would take advantage of it because they would fear negative repercussions against their family."

Among UM-St. Louis students, reaction to this bill ranges from hope to unknown predictions about what it implies.

"I'm happy that Missouri decided to act on this issue; there are a lot of kids in America going without a proper education, and now they might have a chance to receive equal education rights," Aivy Ton, graduate, education, said.

The passage of this bill could mean great opportunities for undocumented immigrant children who have little to no opportunity to pursue a college education. However, the bill has not yet been passed or signed by the governor. If the legislature passes the bill and the governor signs it, the new funding amounts would go into effect for the 2014-2015 school years. However, Jalazai is skeptical that it will make it that far.

"At this point, the question is whether it will even come to vote yet. Senator Justus, the sponsor, is not very confident it will go to a vote and if it does, it may not pass because of anti-immigrant sentiments. She

proposed this bill last year as well," Jalazai said.

Even without much opposition to the bill in Jefferson City, the public sentiment toward the bill is not so silent.

"I don't understand why we would be spending money paying tuition for illegal aliens when there are so many problems facing this country," Ebony Washington, sophomore, criminology, said.

Due to economic problems in the country, the swaying of the public's opinion toward the passing of this bill nationwide might be slow, but could increase in speed in the near future.

Glen Hahn Cope, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UM-St. Louis, said the bill addresses the educational needs of illegal immigrant individuals who could become productive citizens after graduation when they are eligible for citizenship.

"A number of other states are considering similar bills," Cope said. "State legislatures tend to respond to the political and economic needs of their states."

They may observe what is done in other states, but don't necessarily follow others."

States that have already passed similar bills include Kansas, Illinois and Nebraska.

#### OLYMPICS, from page 3

When one student asked why the U.S. does not publicly fund state sports, Brownell said that this is a hot topic at the moment.

"Around the world, countries are investing more and more money in sports, except for the U.S. which, by law, invests zero dollars."

Yet other incentives seem to be enough for our athletes, who won more total medals

than any other country during February's widely-followed games—and by a seven point margin.

Even that, however, was a topic that Brownell revealed had layers to its political significance.

Overall, themes of transparency in sport and government tied together as the discussion progressed, both in financial matters, but also

doping and fair judging. Brownell elaborated on the recent steps taken to ensure the integrity of the Olympic system.

"Sport is a model for a fair, open and democratic life," Brownell said.

The next News at Noon will commence this Wednesday and will tackle the subjects: "Incarceration, Race, and Employment."

## UM-St. Louis seeks a new chief of police

### The market for a new chief comes to a close

► **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is currently in the market for a new chief of police. Chief Bob Roeseler resigned last semester and now the search is on to find a worthy candidate to fill his shoes.

"I've been the interim chief ever since Bob Roeseler got sick. He became very ill around this time last year, and he had to undergo a very complicated surgery. From that and all the rehabilitation, he decided retiring would be in his best interest," John Schupp, police lieutenant, operations manager, said.

"[Roeseler's] retirement wasn't actually effective until October of 2009, and we had to wait until this was effective to begin an official search for a new chief, due to Human Resources and payroll restrictions.

Sometime around October, the Provost came to me to chair a selection committee, because I wasn't going to run for the permanent position," Schupp said.

Once the search began, the opening was posted both locally and nationally. By December last year all the applications were submitted and the committee narrowed the pool of candidates.

"Through evaluation of applications and resumes, as well as telephone interviews, we're down to three candidates. These candidates will

be on campus on the 15th, 16th and 18th of March," Schupp said.

With the diverse group of students and heavy commuter enrollment at UM-St. Louis, it was suggested that diversity awareness would be an important factor in the hiring of a new chief.

"This position is critical for our campus since we service the rest of the community. Ergo, individuals in that position must have a commitment and understanding," Deborah Burris, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, said.

Burris explained that if the police chief were not sensitive to diversity, it would be hard for her or him to optimally do their job.

"Issues arise concerning women, peoples of color, religion, etc. Would these candidates be sensitive to these factors? We have a large disability population as well, which means we need a police department which is willing to help those students .... Students from other countries may require assistance as well, and we should make sure that our environment is safe and comfortable for them," Burris said.

"There are many aspects as to why understanding diversity is important, and a new chief of police ought to understand them all," Burris said.

Students also have opinions regarding the search. "I think our new chief should

help to fairly and justly uphold the law. Aside from that, I don't mind much what our new chief is like," Mikal Soltys, junior, political science and business, said.

But not all students feel as Soltys does. Brandace Gros-sich, sophomore, theater and dance, thinks the new chief needs to do more than just uphold the law.

"The chief needs to understand the needs of our campus specifically. If he doesn't care about UMSL, he won't thrive here," Gros-sich said.

Groissich and Soltys though, as for all UM-St. Louis students, will have the opportunity to share in the process of choosing a new police chief, if they so choose.

"The whole campus will have an opportunity to meet with them. There will also be an exclusive meeting for students to speak with the candidates."

"It won't take much longer after these on-campus events to pick a candidate," Schupp said.

So, for those interested in meeting and possibly influencing the hiring of the future chief of police at UM-St. Louis, they are encouraged to attend the scheduled meetings on March 15th, 16th and 18th.

Within the next week, an email will be sent out campus-wide with more information on the locations and times of the meetings.



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# Pilz steps down as basketball coach

*Assistant coach Steven Gum resigns as well, Chico Jones will remain*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

In a move that shocked many in the department and throughout campus, the University of Missouri-St. Louis athletics department announced Wednesday that head men's basketball coach Chris Pilz resigned his post effective immediately.

Pilz, a former All-American player at UM-St. Louis and 2002 inductee into the UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, had just completed his seventh season as coach of the Tritons when the decision was announced.

"We want to thank Chris for all his contributions to the University of Missouri-St. Louis athletics throughout his career as a both a student-athlete and a coach, and we wish him and his family well in all their future endeavors," UM-St. Louis athletics director Lori Flanagan stated in a statement released by the department. "Chris served his student-athletes and this university with class and dignity."

Pilz finished his tenure as UM-St. Louis

coach with a 77-114 record, the third-most wins in UM-St. Louis coaching history. Those totals include this past season's 12-16 record, which was good enough to get the Tritons into the Great Lakes Valley Conference Post-season Championship Tournament.

That appearance in the GLVC Tournament proved to be Pilz's final appearance as UM-St. Louis coach, as the Tritons lost their first-round game two Saturdays ago to Wisconsin-Parkside, by the score of 74-60.

That loss ended the team's 2009-2010 season, and the Tritons returned to campus afterward with no indications that anything dramatic might happen regarding a change at the top of the program.

Then on Tuesday evening, rumors started flying amongst local basketball insiders that the coach might step down or be asked to do so. By Wednesday morning several local media outlets began reporting that a change was going to happen, and by the afternoon it became official when the athletic department announced that Pilz was no longer the UM-

St. Louis men's basketball coach.

"I would like to thank all my current and former student-athletes for their many contributions to this program and my staff for their loyalty, effort, attitude and commitment to excellence. With them I was able to gain invaluable coaching experience in the toughest Division II basketball conference in America," Pilz said in a statement. "I was excited about coming to work every day, and it was a privilege to work alongside some wonderful people in the athletic office and across campus. I wish the university and our entire athletic department good luck as they move forward."

Athletic department officials and Pilz himself declined to comment on why the coach chose to leave, or whether he was asked to step down. Several players on the team, who asked to remain nameless, said they believed Pilz was asked to resign. However it was made, the players were all dismayed by the decision.

One player who was particularly upset that Pilz was leaving, said that he "wasn't sure" if he wanted to remain at UM-St. Louis, and

that if Pilz landed a coaching position at another school in the area, he would transfer to that school so he could play for Pilz.

If Pilz does not pursue another college coaching position, some believe he might return to coaching high school, where he was very successful prior to taking the UM-St. Louis job in 2003, including a 107-55 mark at local power Hazelwood Central.

However the next few months play out for all involved, this past season will go down as one of the most unusual in program history.

The Tritons started the season 6-0, the best record to start a season ever in UM-St. Louis history, but by midseason, injuries, miscues and strained team chemistry had weakened the unit to the point that it lost 10 straight games in January and February, the second-longest losing streak in program history.

UM-St. Louis finished the season by losing 11 of its final 13 games, leaving Pilz with just two winning seasons in his seven-year stint with the Tritons.

# Tritons go 2-2 in Arkansas Tournament

*Women's softball breaks out big bats in wins in Arkansas*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team finished up the February portion of its schedule by splitting the four games it played at a tournament in Arkansas two weekends ago.

The Tritons left campus intending to play six games at Henderson State University's Hot Springs Classic in Arkadelphia, Ark., but a scheduling snafu prevented UM-St. Louis from playing its Friday games, leaving the team with only doubleheaders to play on Saturday and Sunday.

And on both those days, the same thing happened:

the Tritons won one and they lost one.

The first game was on Saturday, Feb. 27, against Ouachita Baptist. UM-St. Louis led 3-2 in the fifth, but OBU scored seven runs in its final two at-bats to snatch away a 9-4 victory.

The second game that day though went much better for the Tritons. UM-St. Louis pounded out 16 hits in a 12-2 victory over Henderson State.

Katie Bartlett, senior, biology, who was recently named the Great Lakes Valley Conference's Player of

the Week and National Fast-pitch Coaches Association's National Player of the Week, had another fantastic day at the plate for the Tritons.

Not only did she blast a home run in the game-one loss against Ouachita Baptist, Bartlett smoked her third home run of the season against Henderson State, a fifth-inning grand slam, to give UM-St. Louis the lead.

The senior catcher finished the day 2-for-4 at the plate, with four RBIs, and two runs scored. Teammates Haleigh Jenkins, freshman, undecided, and Meaghan Bauer, se-

nior, business, had three hits apiece as well, with Jenkins blasting her first collegiate home run in the second inning.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, the Tritons reversed order with the wins and losses, by winning the first game and losing the nightcap.

Game one was against Arkansas Tech, with UM-St. Louis winning 10-3 despite being outhit 16-10. Megan Brussman, senior, business administration, was the hitting star for the Tritons. The centerfielder led off the game for the Tritons with her first

home run since her freshman year and had three RBIs.

Bartlett had two more hits for the Tritons, including her team-leading fourth home run of the season, as UM-St. Louis jumped all over the Golden Suns pitching staff.

In the final game of the weekend, Leslie Davis, freshman, psychology, blasted a two-run homer in the first inning for the Tritons, but it was not enough to hold off the University of Arkansas-Monticello, which won the game 13-2.

Davis, who had won her first three starts for UM-St. Louis, suffered her first loss, as UAM teed off for 14 hits in the final game of the tournament.

UM-St. Louis will head into March with a 5-3 record, and will look to improve on that this Thursday, March

11, when it travels to Bolivar, Mo., to play a doubleheader against Southwest Baptist University.

The Tritons will then head to Pittsburg, Kan., to play in a tournament at Pittsburg State University on Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13.

Next week, UM-St. Louis will make its much anticipated home debut with mid-week doubleheaders against nonconference foes Truman State and Central Missouri State.

The Truman State games are scheduled to start at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, March 16, at the UM-St. Louis Softball Field. The following day, Wednesday, March 17, the Tritons will host its doubleheader against Central Missouri State at 2 p.m.

# UMSL Baseball Field to host some GLVC Tournament Games

*New ballfield on South Campus will host preliminary and elimination games on May 6-7*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

The Great Lakes Valley Conference league office announced last fall that for the fifth straight year it would host its postseason championship baseball tournament in May at GCS Ballpark, home of local independent league franchise, the Gateway Grizzlies, in Sauget, Ill.

Prior to this season, the GLVC Championship Tournament was a six-team, double-elimination event played to determine the league champion. This year, with the league

expanding to 14 teams, the GLVC has expanded the championship tournament to now include eight teams.

The championship event will still be conducted as a four-day, double-elimination tournament, but with up to 15 games potentially needed to play the entire tournament, the GLVC realized it would need a second ballpark to host some of the games.

After considering many possible sites, the GLVC announced last month that it would

use the University of Missouri-St. Louis' new stadium, the UMSL Baseball Field, as the second site for the 2010 GLVC Championship Baseball Tournament.

It might seem an obvious choice for the GLVC to play its extra tournament games at one of its member schools, but it wasn't that simple.

There are a number of attractive and appropriately-sized facilities in the St. Louis area the league could have chosen, including Saint Louis University's Billiken Complex, Lindenwood University's Lou Brock Sports Complex, or even T.R. Hughes Ballpark in O'Fallon, home of another independent league team, the River City Rascals.

But the league chose the UMSL Baseball Field, which is quite a coup for the brand-new facility, which will finally open for business, this Wednesday, March 10, when the Tritons will host their first game ever at their new home against Missouri Western at 2 p.m.

The GLVC Championship Baseball Tournament will be held May 6-9, with preliminary round games at both UMSL Baseball Field and GCS Ballpark on May 6-7. The tournament semifinals and championship game though, will be at GCS Ballpark only, on May 8-9.

A preliminary schedule on the GLVC Website shows there will be three games played at both ballparks on May 6 and two more games at both ballparks on May 7. The tournament semifinals on May 8 will consist of at least two games, and could have as many as four. Then on Championship Sunday, May 9, at least one game will be played, and if necessary, as many as two would be played that final day.

It simply depends on the eight teams invited to play in the tournament and how well those teams play when they get here.

To earn an invitation to the 2010 GLVC Championship Baseball Tournament, eligible teams must finish with one of the top three records in their respective divisions (East or West) or be selected as one of two wild cards from either division. The wild cards will be the teams with the two best remaining records, regardless of which division they come from.

Last year Northern Kentucky won its second straight GLVC Championship, and third title in the last four years, after defeating Indianapolis 5-3 in the championship game. UMSL St. Louis won its first and only GLVC Championship in 2003, defeating rival Quincy 8-4 in the title game.

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# Alice in Wonderland

COURTESY / DISNEY

Mia Wasikowska as Alice (ABOVE) and Johnny Depp (BELOW) as the Mad Hatter in Tim Burton's 'Alice in Wonderland,' rated PG.

## Burton's latest is pretty but lacking in story

The anticipation for Tim Burton's 3D "Alice in Wonderland" could not have been higher.

A better match in artistic sensibilities than between director Tim Burton and Lewis Carroll's classics "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" would be hard to imagine, as the material seemed custom-made for the director.

Throw in a cast headed by Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, plus 3D technology, and the table was set for a feast of delightful cinematic whimsy.

Sadly, this film is not quite all that.

Firstly, it is not a new movie version of Carroll's crazy-delightful books, but instead a less imaginative, Alice-returns-to-Wonderland tale, with an adult Alice. While the visual elements are a complete treat and individual performances are often quite good, it represents a missed opportunity for a new cinema classic.

The story change does allow a bigger part for Johnny Depp's Mad Hatter, a more conflicted 20-year-old Alice (Mia Wasikowska) and a bit of a romance angle. A lot of the original Wonderland silliness is still there, with Alice chasing the waist-coated rabbit and falling down a rabbit hole. Familiar characters appear, like the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter), Knave of Hearts (Crispin Glover), White Queen (Anne Hathaway), Cheshire Cat (voiced by Stephen Fry) and

hookah-smoking Caterpillar (voiced by Alan Rickman). But the plot more closely resembles "The Wizard of Oz," with a touch of Joan of Arc, than the "Alice" books a curious development indeed.

This is not to say the film is not entertaining. The Tim Burton visual style fills the eyes with a color-drenched, marvelously rich 3D world, a delight simply to watch. Individual scenes are often quirky delights, like when Alice comes across the Mad Hatter, March Hare (voiced by Paul Whitehouse) and Dormouse (voiced by Barbara Windsor) at their lunatic tea party. Johnny Depp quoting the poem "The Jabberwocky" as he spirits a shrunken Alice to safety aboard his hat is a delicious example of one of several performance highlights in the film, both poetic and comic.

Bonham Carter's performance is a standout that challenges Depp for dominance

in the film-goer's mind, but other actors are memorable as well, such as Anne Hathaway's comically-graceful "Disney princess" performance and Alan Rickman's dry, droll Caterpillar.

The appearance of the actors is manipulated to great effect, with Depp sporting unnaturally large, unfocused green eyes along with wild red hair, and Bonham Carter with large, bulbous head on a tiny body.

There has been a lot of talk about 3D movies like "Alice" being a game-changer for the industry, with comparisons to the advent of sound film. It certainly would require theaters to do the same kind of expensive upgrade, but in fact, 3D might be more like the advent of color film, a bigger plus for some kinds of films than others.

Whether theaters will rush to splurge on the re-fit might depend on their core audience.

The 3D effect is a major appeal for "Alice" but overall, the film is less than the sum of its parts.

It is sunk by the weak plot, including an unnecessary framing story, in which the grown-up Alice is inexplicably clothed like the 19th century child in the books' original illustrations, rather than as an adult woman of the period.

No amount of visual dazzle and striking individual roles can overcome the less-than-involving storyline or the disappointment of true "Alice" fans wanting a fresh adaptation of the books.

"Alice in Wonderland" is an entertaining movie but it is also certainly a missed opportunity to create a true, new cinema classic. **B** —Cate Marquis





# The Importance of Being Earnest



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Sean Green plays the role of "Jack Asbury" in Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The Show has its second run from March 10-13.

## Wilde's play takes on new life in student production

"The Importance of Being Earnest" is not a new play by any means. Oscar Wilde's famous "trivial comedy for serious people" has been around for over a century and has been performed around the world by a plethora of acting troupes.

Last Thursday night in the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater, however, the play took on a new life of its own, thanks to some particularly inspired design and set choices, as well as some excellent performances.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" is the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies' spring play, and is directed by Jason Cannon, assistant visiting professor of theatre and Kevin Kline Award nominee.

Instead of the traditional late-1800s setting of Wilde's masterpiece, the Theatre Department's adaptation transplants the play to 1950s New York.

The play was billed as "Earnest Meets Mad Men." It was definitely different than the classic version yet, thankfully, retained its madcap tomfoolery.

The story starts in the Manhattan

flat of one Algernon Moncrieff, played admirably by Ben Watts. He seemed hesitant at first, yet soon warmed to his role immensely. Algernon's chaotic debauchery is part of what makes the play so zany, and Watts did an excellent job of it.

Sadly, there is one part of the play where the transition from 1890s London to 1950s New York is not quite as smooth. Despite a first-rate performance by Juan Shivers Lane (Algernon's servant/butler) the idea of a bachelor living in a flat in Manhattan with a butler is a little farfetched.

Algernon's best friend and comedic foil is Jack Asbury. It is arguable that despite the sizable all-student cast, Jack is the main character of the play. Jack was played heroically by Sean Green, who quite simply stole the show with his performance.

Green's ability and enthusiasm seemed to be infectious, inspiring all cast mates on stage with him to greater heights. To do this to an already talented company is no small feat and should be commended.

The rest of the cast was no exception. Erin Roberts ably performed as Lady Bracknell with grace and a powerful, commanding intensity.

Jami Hirsch took to the part of Lady Bracknell's daughter Gwendolyn with an unmatched fierceness. The sincerity of her performance, as well as her ability

to convey emotion with merely a look was remarkable.

The part of "little Cecily" was played with childlike innocence and gusto by Joanna Lynn Brown, who took to the part with an attitude both refreshingly flippant and emotionally vivacious.

The characters of Miss Prism and Reverend Chasuble, played by Kate Rehagen and Ryan Glosemeyer, respectively, was no exception to the ability shown by the rest of the cast.

Perhaps one of the best choices made in transporting the play to the 1950s was the simply brilliant idea of outfitting the set changeover crew in period clothing instead of the typical all-black garb. Though they were only seen twice, and briefly at that, the camaraderie shown in their silent actions was welcome and a good fit.

Part of that crew was Michael Pierce, doing double service as changeover crew and as Merriman, the butler for Jack's upstate manor house—a place where a butler in the 1950s actually makes sense.

The Theatre Department's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" is not to be missed by anyone, young or old. Whether or not you have seen the play before, the 1950s take is unique and refreshing.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" is on its second and final run this week. Catch it March 10-13 at 7:30 pm in the Touhill's Lee Theater. **A**—Andrew Seal

# New Beach House album is rich, complex

With its tendency to act like multimedia wallpaper, a lot of times drone music goes under-appreciated. On the surface, Baltimore duo Beach House does not seem to do much to dispel this reputation.

The songs are all sleepy and fairly unenthusiastic, and Victoria Legrand's voice is a winding display of robust femininity that hardly even attempts to touch the vibrant energy a typical Top 40 record would have. With "Teen Dream," their follow-up to 2008's excellent release "Devotion," Beach House has dug deeper into their complex and, at times, self-deprecating approach at drone influenced dream-pop.

"Teen Dream" is a contradiction gone horribly right. Lead-off track "Zebra" sees a gentle and repetitive guitar line alleviate the thumping but skeletal percussion and cymbal crashes to come while a sparse organ drones on. The arrangement constructs a beautifully unique drama that points toward a somehow unattainable familiarity.

That is not even to mention Victoria Legrand, who carries "Zebra" and every song with a stout after-hours voice, and lyrics so fiercely internal, the feeling accompanying the whole experience is closer to rapture rather than lucidity and active understanding.

For example, on "Silver Soul," she sings "We gather medicine for heartache, so we can act a fool, It's incomplete without you, The silver soul is running through, It's a vision, complete illusion."

The words do not really look that good on paper but when Victoria Legrand sings them, they take on a whole new life: poignant and perfect.

Beach House's 2008 release "Devotion" was probably tighter conceptually, scarcely moving away from conveying a lovelorn and sedated romantic consciousness with bleak echoing chords and a hauntingly sparse drum machine. On "Teen Dream," however, Beach House seems to be moving toward a brighter, more pop-influenced aesthetic.

See **BEACH HOUSE**, page 21

## Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

**Alice in Wonderland.** Tim "Never quite as good as I could be" Burton finally got his hands on Alice "Never quite adapted for film as well as I could be" in Wonderland. The result? Florid, transportative and ends with an unnecessary bang. **B-**—Chris Stewart.

**She's Out Of My League.** Romantic comedy revolving around an average-looking slacker serendipitously ending up with a fragrant centerfold. Jean-Luc Godard once said that the history of film is the history of boys photographing girls. Somehow it has morphed into "boys photographing hot girls getting with average boys like them." If Freud weren't on a secret Rainbow Island with Jimmy Hoffa, Amelia Earhart and Elvis, he would be rolling in his grave. **C-**—Chris Stewart.



# 'Dante's Inferno' game devilishly good fun

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Visceral Games must think SCE Santa Monica is the absolute tops.

Visceral's latest, "Dante's Inferno," is pretty much a cut-and-dry carbon-copy of any game from SCE Santa Monica's "God of War" trilogy, albeit with a medieval flare as opposed to Grecian.

Until a few years ago, Electronic Arts was not known for branching out to create new intellectual properties. Luckily, EA executives changed their stance, and brilliant games like "Mirror's Edge" and "Dead Space" came out of that dedication to new ideas.

So did a gamble to create a game based on something old: an epic Italian poem written in the early 1300s by a man named Dante Alighieri.

Video games based on movies are certainly nothing new—although, for some reason or another, they are rarely good. A video game based on a book, though (and an old one at that) is something else entirely.

And thankfully, it is actually good. Though it shamelessly steals most, if not all, of what makes the God of War series good (fluid combat, hordes of enemies, easily performed combos and timed button press finishing moves), it manages to stand on its own.

The video game version of the first part of the Divine Comedy manages to retain most of the poet's original intent, though a bit is lost thanks to Visceral's (admittedly needed) retconning of the source material.

As it stands, the intro to the poem is a bit bland—Dante's merely a poet, taking a sight



COURTESY / ELECTRONIC ARTS

and sound tour of Hell. Not very interesting at all. It served the purpose of the poem well, but as the basis for a video game?

No way. To start off a game about the fiery depths of hell, something more is required.

Something... badass.

Visceral's Dante is an over-muscled soldier/tortured survivor of the Third Crusade who arrives home to see his beloved dead outside his home.

If this story seems familiar, well, it is—it was pretty much lifted right from the original God of War.

Dante follows the soul of his beloved, Beatrice, down to hell in order to win her back. A noble feat, to be sure, but his tour of the nine concentric circles will be a bit bloodier and gorier than the poet's.

If it sounds like a high schooler's English class daydream, that is because it pretty much is. But that is not necessarily a bad thing.

Despite the additions and omissions to the root story and the blatant plagiarism from a certain successful franchise, "Dante's Inferno"

manages to be a compelling experience.

The story is intense enough, with Dante being forced to confront his own sins as well as the sins his family committed and the atrocities he carried out during the Third Crusade. Lucifer appears often to the embattled and beleaguered hero, constantly taunting him with the knowledge that the Prince of Lies has his beloved Beatrice.

The game plays pretty much as expected from a God of War clone.

Perhaps most clever is the "Punish or Absolve" system, whereby Dante has the option to pursue either an Unholy or Holy path. Each enemy or damned soul he comes across in the bowels of eternal fire can be either punished or absolved for resulting holy or unholy points.

Visceral Games should be commended if only for the uncanny ability to turn a centuries-old poem into a more-than-decent video game. Sure, it borrows heavily from "God of War" but then again, if it is not broken, then do not fix it, right? **B** —Andrew Seal

# Gallery Visio exhibits 'The Art of Labor'

From now until April 1, Gallery Visio will be hosting an exhibition titled "The Art of Labor." The pieces all hold a common theme: the labor done by low to middle-class society and the wide variety of individuals drafted to these tasks.

The art was all lent to the University of Missouri-St. Louis by their owner, lawyer and mediator Bruce Feldacker.

"I started out just seeing art

with labor-focused subjects on travels. I thought they would look pretty as decorations in the office. As I acquired more, I became very interested in their artistic aspects," Feldacker said at the exhibit's opening reception March 4. "I realized that art with a labor and industrial theme was part of an entire social genre. I realized that they really represent society."

Feldacker's favorite work was

not on display at the show. "I have a print Robert Rauschenberg made for the 100th anniversary of the American Federation of Labor.

To me, it symbolizes my own transition from buying decorations to respecting art. Having bought the piece, I didn't know the artist, or its true value. I researched his work, however, and it was after this that I learned to appreciate art of labor," Feldacker said.

The coordinators of the event, Sarah Keller and Jeanne Zarucchi, were also present at the reception.

"We started by looking for art by female artists which portrayed

women as the subjects. However, we soon realized that we wanted to include work by male artists as well, and have the show reflect equality in the workforce," Zarucchi, professor of art history and French, said.

"Once we became more aware of how we wanted it to reflect the real world, that there is obviously a mix of subject matter and artists in labor art, we wanted a perfect sampling of that artwork. We think this show reflects that quite well," Sarah Keller, manager of Gallery Visio, said.

Three pieces especially shone in reviewing the exhibit.

See **ART OF LABOR**, page 17

## SWEET JAMS

This week's top 5 iTunes downloads as reviewed by The Current's Chris Stewart

### 1 'Break Your Heart' Taio Cruz



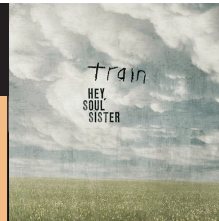
From the music video I gather that Mr. Cruz's life involved much more yachting with scantily-clad women than mine. By, like, 100%. As such, I feel unqualified to remark on his song, other than to say that I've already forgotten it.

### 2 'Imma Be' Black Eyed Peas



Germany's iTunes charts feature songs with names like "Spinner" by Revolverhead and "Disco Pogo" by Die Atzen Frauenartz & Manny Marc. So what's the deal USA? Will the Germans once again outcool us?

### 3 'Hey, Soul Sister' Train



Barring it's lyrics, this song isn't nearly as bad as I thought it was. Hell it's so fluffy and vapid and Love-Me-Love-Me overproduced that it could even be mistaken for a '90s pop song. And trust me, I consider that a compliment of the highest order.

### 4 'Need You Now' Lady Antebellum



Lady Antebellum is not unlike that one kid in class with the striped polo shirts and the good posture: you don't think about them much, you can't hate them, but Lord knows you don't want them anywhere near you come the weekend.

### 5 'Baby' Justin Bieber



Sixteen-year-old Bieber serves up what could pass for a Kidz-Bop reimagining of just about any recent R&B hit. In fact it's better; open in its silliness, earnest in its melodrama (Bieber is too young for the genre's carnal obsessions) and hey- is that a Ludacris bridge? Score.



## 'August: Osage County' is hotter than hell

The best theater is like a snapshot of real life, just wittier. "August: Osage County" at the Fox Theater was a look into a reality few would wish on themselves.

The fictional family the play follows could be a synonym for the word "dysfunctional," but even that word does not fully describe them.

The matriarch, Violet Weston (Estelle Parsons, or the mom on "Roseanne"), is a prescription-pill-addicted grimalkin who drives her husband to commit suicide. This tragic event brings all of Violet's offspring and their families back to her dusty, sweltering house in Pawhuska, Okla.

Though more coherent than Violet, these characters are not much more sane. Violet's middle child, Ivy (Angelica Torn), is romantically involved with her cousin. Her youngest child, Karen (Amy Warren), is engaged to a man who tries to seduce a 15-year-old and nearly succeeds.

And her eldest child, Barbara (Shannon Cochran) bore that 15-year-old with a man who is currently sleeping with his student, who is not much older. In fact, by far the sanest person in the house is the one not related in any way to the Weston family. That

is Johnna Monevata (DeLanna Studi), the Native American housekeeper. Put all these people together in the same shadowy county house and hilarity is bound to ensue, in a profoundly dry, creepy, and intense sort of way.

Although the house was next to empty compared to other shows at the Fox, "August: Osage County" was one of the best the venue has ever seen.

Within seconds, the audience could go from laughing to gasping, sometimes doing both at once. The superb acting enticed chills to creep down spines, and the writing was profound in its cohesiveness. A further testament to its greatness is that "August: Osage County" is over three hours long, yet it never ceased to transfix.

Shannon Cochran as Barbara is part of the reason why. She commanded the stage, even when her overbearing mother was yelling insults. A standout performance of Cochran's ended the first act, when her character decided to literally take control of the household, which was quickly becoming a madhouse. She shocked audience members by yelling "I'm in charge now!" at her mother before the lights dimmed, signifying the act's end. The line reverberated off the theater's walls, and long af-



COURTESY / ROBERT SAFERSTEIN

ter the play ended, audience members echoed it to one another.

As with many of the play's lines, it became more meaningful as the scenes passed when it became obvious that Barbara Weston not only took Violet's authority, but was also slowly turning into her mother. Another profound line of Barbara's was uttered to her daughter, Jean (Emily Kinney): "Thank God we can't see the future," Barbara told Jean. "We'd never get

out of bed."

"August: Osage County" will bait audiences with its rapier wit, but theatergoers who make it through the dark comedy will be hooked for weeks after they leave the theater. It is a powerful testament to playwriting, acting and direction. "August: Osage County" is a show that reminds viewers of why live theater is still around, and the intense experience of seeing it live can never be forgotten. **A+** —Jessica Keil



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# Features

## Art students 'Without Walls'

*Students take second in German embassy's Freedom Without Walls national art contest*

► JEN O' HARA  
Staff writer

Kristen Franke, senior, art education, worked with fellow student Matt Grant, senior, art education, on a project titled "Light Beyond the Wall," which won 2nd place in a national art contest.

University of Missouri-St. Louis students Kristen Franke and Matthew Grant recently won the German Embassy's Freedom Without Walls national art contest. Kristen Franke tells *The Current* about the artwork and how the experience changed her life.

*The Current:* What was the German embassy's Freedom Without Walls national art contest?

Kristen Franke: The German Embassy's Freedom Without Walls national art contest was a national contest for college students to create a sculpture commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. This involved designing a project and then building it within about a month's time.

*TC:* What was your artwork?

KF: Our artwork was called "Light Beyond the Wall." It was meant to draw an emotional response from the viewer that would make them think of the struggle that the people endured on the east and west sides of the wall. By day a faint shadow of a person could be seen, but at night the piece was lit and the shadows of people could be seen. Humans could not be seen on the other side of the Berlin wall but they were still present.

*TC:* What inspired your piece?

KF: Matt Grant and I combined our ideas to form our piece. I was inspired by YouTube videos showing the emotional response of the residents of Eastern and Western Germany.

*TC:* How did it feel getting second place?

KF: I was shocked to get second place. Even though it is a great honor, it does not even compare to the journey that the group took to get to the finished piece. We learned so many new skills and worked through so many problems together. I really wish we could all have got to go to Washington.

*TC:* Because of your win, you get a trip to Washington in October. What will you be doing?

KF: In October, Matt and I will be attending the German Unity Celebration at the German Ambassador's residence. This is a VIP-only event and we will get to meet the ambassador, along with some senators and Hollywood stars like Sandra Bullock!

*TC:* What was it like working with Matt?

KF: Working as a team was the best thing that could have happened in sculpture. [The] trip is going to come and go, but I will always have the memories of the good times that

we shared as a group. It isn't easy coming into class and trying to solve problems using materials that you are not familiar with. We experienced many problems but that will never change the time that we got to spend together.

*TC:* What was the most challenging part of the process?

KF: The most challenging part of the process was figuring out how we were going to turn our design into reality. Sketching a project in 2D is completely different than actually constructing it.

*TC:* If you didn't go into art, what do you think you might've done instead?

KF: If I didn't go in to art, I would have gone into counseling. I may get a master's in art therapy or counseling anyway.

*TC:* What are your plans for the future?

KF: I hope to be teaching art in a K-12 school within the next two years. I will pursue a master's degree in either art therapy, counseling, or studio art someday. It would be wonderful to go to graduate school for painting. We will see! I know that as long as I keep dreaming and working hard to make things happen, then I will achieve them.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT





RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

Joseph Carroll, Curators' Professor of English, is one of the leading authorities on Darwinian literary theory. He published the novels "The Cultural Theory of Matthew Arnold"; "Wallace Stevens' Supreme Fiction: A New Romanticism"; "Evolution and Literary Theory"; and "Literary Darwinism: Evolution, Human Nature, and Literature."

# Literary Darwinism explains culture

*Joseph Carroll speaks on the evolution of Darwinism, and its impact on culture*

► MATTHEW B. POPSKY

Staff writer

Joseph Carroll is a curator's professor of English at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His main field of study reaches into a relatively new field known as Literary Darwinism.

**The Current:** What is the focal point of your most recent publication?

Joseph Carroll: The publication which received the most attention, the one in the messenger, is actually a journal I recently started to co-edit with Alice Andrews, called "The Evolutionary Review: Arts, Science, Culture." The idea is to demonstrate that the evolutionary view can be used to illuminate every aspect of life and culture.

**TC:** What other notable works have you published?

JC: I've published multiple works on the topic of Literary Darwinism since the mid '90s. Among these are "Evolution and Literary Theory" and an edition of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species." I also published several essays in this time which were collected in 2004 in a book called "Literary Darwinism." The title of that book became the name of the entire movement I am a part of.

**TC:** What would you say has been your largest project in this field of study?

JC: For the last six years, my main project has been a book with three other people. We put a questionnaire on the web, including over 2,000 characters from English novels. Professors around the world have been asked to pick out a character and fill out questionnaires regarding them. I'm helping to draft a book from this called "Graphing Jane Austen: Paleolithic Politics and British Novels of the 19th Century." We were studying role assignments: protagonists and antagonists. We discovered that the main pattern was simple. The antagonists were oriented specifically towards dominance and greed. Protagonists, however, were co-operational, self-effacing, etc.

**TC:** So, this research project ties in heavily with Literary Darwinism as well. How does Literary Darwinism relate this study to culture?

JC: In tribal cultures, people spent a lot of time suppressing dominance: if anyone got too big for his britches, they were brought down. We believe novels of the 19th century create imaginative patterns which serve the same function: they suppress dominance and encourage egalitarian behaviors. We published a few articles out of this, which were picked up by a journal called "New Scientist." This caught people's fancy, and it became a popular story, spreading through newspapers around the world. England, Ireland, India and Russia have all covered the study. It's all statistics, correlating motives, personality characteristics, and role assignments. People can look at these novels and realize that they are related to human evolutionary behavior.

**TC:** So, it would seem the movement has really been taking off lately. How did it get started, and what are the implications of this study on the future of literary study?

JC: Once you get a knack for this thought pattern, it's interesting to think about how it's influenced humanity from ancient history through our modern culture. Again, this started as a fringe movement. Those doing this research were doing so in isolation. They gradually realized others were involved, however, one of the important things to know about this approach is that it's a major force in bridging the gap between the two cultures: literature and science. Literary people don't tend to know much about science and vice-versa. This new approach to analyzing the impacts of literature upon society may help in producing more well-rounded students of both science and literature in the future.



# Frenking out at UMSL

*Patrick Frenking plays intensely dark Marimba*

► **CHRIS STEWART**  
Staff writer

There are marimba clubs, marimba debate forums, marimba awards, nationally renowned marimba composers and a worldwide marimba community. At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, there is Patrick Francis Frenking. “It’s a pretty small world, marimba, we’re the only [marimba-focused students] we know,” Frenking, senior, music performance said. The “we” in his sentence refers to Frenking and Casey Kell, senior, music education. Longtime friends and collaborators, Frenking, Kell and three other performers performed a marimba concert in the Provincial House Chapel on Thursday. The marimba lends itself to some incredibly rich, intense, dark music. A tonal percussion instrument, it packs the one-two combination of percussive force (it is played with two mallets in each hand) and instantly recognizable tones that are rounded and cantering yet muted. This description is probably a first for non-musicians and even some musicians. Despite its uncanny potency for producing music ranging from the exhilarating and buoyant to the eerie and macabre, the marimba is not often chosen as an instrument of focus by music students. “When you meet another [marimba player] you kind of want to corner them, you know... What’s your repertoire? What kind of mallets do you use?” Frenking said.

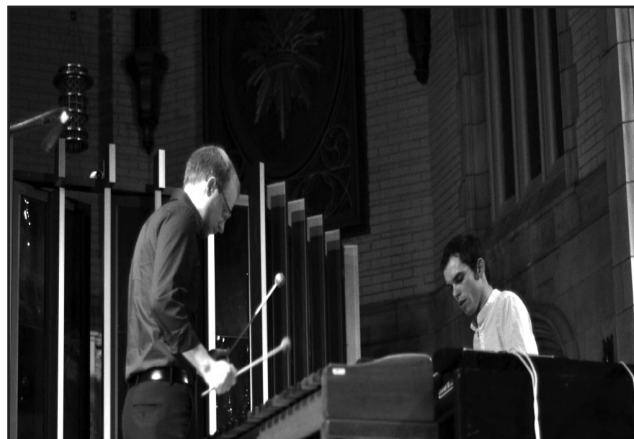
His collaborative performance (all pieces were duets, several with Kell on an accompanying marimba and several with other musicians) was entirely self constructed, compiled and promoted.

Frenking spent untold time undertaking the harrowing long process of acquiring the venue, applying for a permit, scheduling the event and getting department funding to rent the chapel. But all of the logistical vagaries paid off when the darkened chapel fell silent and Frenking and Kell began their performance.

Frenking talks about not having chosen a specific theme but rather choosing songs that he likes and that worked well with his musician partners, but there seemed to be an unspoken tone connecting the evening’s pieces. Songs varied pace and feel. Duets with Kell and Jane Boxall on marimba were more free-form and unpredictable, straying from strictly accessible refrain while his piece with flautist Marissa Lightner was a more melody-based piece that soared to haunting heights. Emily Rockers’ violin duet with Frenking allowed him to re-emerge classical soundscapes. But connecting all of these was the triumphantly melancholy drive of the marimba. The chapel was the ideal locale for these darkly powerful songs. Frenking is a showman too, with an impressive curriculum vitae. In 2007, he

placed first at a Washington University Young Artist Music competition, performing an original piece. He has also performed for international academies in Germany and taught in New York City. On stage he is a portrait of focus, playing entirely from memory with no sheet music in sight. Marimba, by its nature, requires some fairly theatrical movements up and down the instrument, and the arched elbows and scurrying feet add to the surreal scene. In person, Frenking is also focused, making sure to communicate his true priorities. “I want to inspire, but more than anything I am about bringing new music, new sounds to people. I don’t play to take a bow and be applauded. I want to introduce something new,” Frenking said. He was also quick to praise his collaborators, and the whole idea of music students putting on a self-produced performance in any situation. Kell also spoke about this. “It’s rare. This kind of thing just doesn’t happen—a student-led, on-campus chamber concert,” Kell said.

“It was the most exciting concert I’ve ever been in.”



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Casey Joseph Kell, senior, music education and Patrick Francis Frenking, junior, music performance.



Sequita Bean

Last Tuesday, the New York City police department put out an arrest warrant for British supermodel Naomi Campbell. Campbell allegedly slapped and punched her limo driver before exiting the vehicle. She then reportedly ran away from the vehicle and the driver called the police and proceeded to press charges. The driver suffered physical injuries relating to this attack, according to a New York City police officer.

Rewind to 2000 when the supermodel pled guilty in

## The Runway

*Naomi Campbell assaults yet again*

Toronto for attacking one of her assistants. Then to 2006, while in New York she was arrested for hitting her assistant with a crystal studded Blackberry, and she was sentenced to community service in 2007 as a result of that attack. Then a year later she was sentenced to 200 hours of community service and a \$4,500 fine for assaulting a security guard at London’s Heathrow airport.

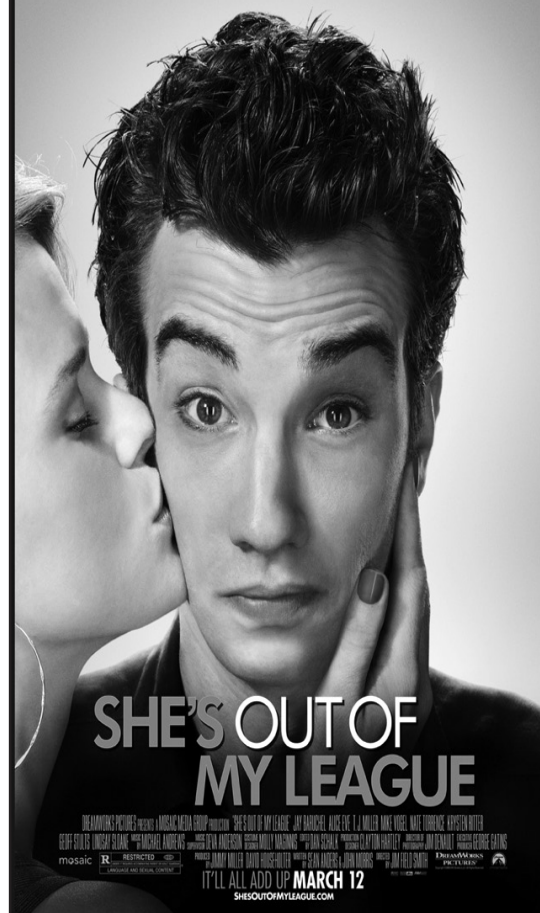
Two words for you Naomi: anger management. Following this latest offence, everyone probably thought, “typical Naomi being violent,” but surprisingly on Thursday the limo driver

and his attorney told the press that the entire incident was “blown out of proportion” and that he “got angry and overreacted” by informing the authorities. But that is not all. The driver also released a public apology to Naomi for overreacting. That never happens. Even if the whole “overreacting” story was slightly believable, what is the driver exactly sorry about—that his face got in the way of Naomi’s hand?

There is something enthrallingly interesting about this situation.

See NAOMI, page 21

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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, MARCH 12

# Science/Health

## FACULTY PROFILE

# Dr. Guoqiang Li

► **SAMUEL ABRAHA**  
Staff Writer

Dr. Guoqiang Li is an Assistant Professor teaching Physical Optics and Optometry. He received his Ph.D from Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He worked at the University of California-San Diego before joining the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

**The Current: Tell us about your personal history?**

Dr. Guoqiang Li: I was born and grew up in China and I got my PhD degree in the Chinese academy of Sciences, and I moved to the United States 10 years ago. I came to UMSL in 2008.

**TC: Recently you received grants totaling \$640,000 for two projects. What kind of research are you conducting?**

QL: We want to work on the next generation eyeglasses to create an alternative to multi-focal lens. As you may know, many people, especially those about 45-years-old, they have difficulty reading. It's a phenomenon with aging that the accommodation ability of the eye lens is reduced. The previous assumption is to use bifocals or trifocals (the trifocal glasses were invented by Benjamin Franklin about 230 years ago). The best idea is to use area division because for each division the field of view is limited, so we want to work on some adaptive lens so that

the power can be changed, and so the field of view can be larger.

\$240,000 was received from the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation to support this vision correction project, and I had another grant of \$400,000 from the National Institute of Health to work on some new imaging techniques by using adaptive optics.

**TC: What is the major advantage with this kind of technology?**

QL: The major advantage is that the field of view is larger, and the other thing is, with the bifocal and trifocal lens, people feel dizzy, discomfort and some distortion of the images, but with the new eyeglasses this phenomenon should be removed.

**TC: Are there other organizations or people who are working on this research?**

QL: There are some other places working on the adaptive bio glass for vision correction. There is a retired professor at Oxford—he developed some adaptive eyeglass based on liquid lens.

**TC: What can students do if they are interested in being part of this project?**

QL: Currently I am recruiting some new students for this project. I want them to do tests of some lens in my lab. I prefer if they have some experience or background but I encourage anyone interested to contact me.



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

## UM-St. Louis faculty agree with study, not The New York Times

► **MICHAEL FREDERICK**  
Staff Writer

Medicine is the subject of scrutiny lately because of the health care debate. A new study from the National Health Institute is attempting to identify biological, environmental, social and other trends in human development.

The National Children's Study is looking for over 100,000 pregnant women in their first trimesters. According to a recent New York

Times article, the study, approved by Congress in 2000, is attempting to find any kind of trend in human development through environment and other sources.

Main participants are children and their family members. The study is tracking stages of human development.

But New York Times health columnist Pam Belluck calls this "chalking one up for the scientists." The article seems to indicate that this is not a do-able scientific

or medical study. Dr. Jennifer Siciliani from the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Psychology department begs to differ.

"Longitudinal studies such as this one look for trends rather than trying to prove a null hypothesis," Siciliani said. She explained the null hypothesis as two groups being equal. "This study has infinite possibilities for other advancements and understandings."

"Data from these studies can be used to look at popu-

lations in a wide range of demographics," Siciliani said. The study's purpose, unlike many with an experimental group and control group, is to collect as much data as possible. This, according to Siciliani, can be expensive.

The New York Times reported the cost of the study around \$6.7 billion, but the St. Louis branch says this is embellished. "We do not have exact numbers yet," Amanda Herrod, project manager for the study's St. Louis metropolitan area, said.

"Right now we are still in the planning phases in St. Louis," Herrod said. She has been with the study since 2000 and is in charge of participant recruitment in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jefferson County. She explained that Saint Louis University received a government grant to aid in the study.

"It seems like the study is looking for epidemic trends and attempting to find patterns," Julie Sebastian, Dean of the College of Nursing, said.

"These long term studies are not new."

In 1948 the National Heart Institute started the Framington Heart Study. The data collected in the longitudinal and multigenerational protocol has been used to better understand factors to heart disease.

This study through the National Health Institute is attempting to find similar demographic trends, such as ethnicity, geography and other factors leading to childhood development.



# HOTWIRE

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
Business/Tech Editor



COURTESY OF NATURETREK.CO.UK

## Sea lions dying from mysterious cancer

According to data that has been gathered since 1996 and reported in last week's New York Times, 18 percent of the sea lion population that lives along the California coast has died of a quick spreading, metastatic cancer. Despite their 14-year study of the affliction, researchers at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif., and their colleagues at the University of California-Davis School of marine biology have yet to find a cause for it.

Although 18 percent of the overall population does not seem like a large amount, it has been enough to disturb researchers and ecologists who are now wondering if there is some kind of carcinogen in the ocean's water. The report on cancer deaths comes along with a spike in other afflicted sea lions being treated by the Marine Mammal Center, whose health issues seem to be linked to industrial contamination in the ocean.



COURTESY OF DIRECT-HEALTHCARE.COM

## Less metal to be used in replacement hips

Hip replacements done with joints made of metal, which were expected to last longer than previously available solutions, are being halted by many doctors after scores of patients have had to have follow-up surgeries because of the devices.

The problem is being caused by the wear of the metal parts of the artificial joints, which causes a buildup of metallic debris

that causes bone damage and tissue irritation as the patient's body absorbs the metal debris. Metal implants were used in one third of the 250,000 hip replacements conducted in the U.S. last year.



COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

## Number of births up in all age, ethnic groups

The number of births in the United States in 2007, the last year data was compiled, was 4,317,119—the highest ever recorded, according to a final report on the statistics released last week by the Journal of Pediatrics.

The study also pointed to a rise in unwed mothers and women older than 30 who had children. According to the

study's findings, 40 percent of all births in 2007 were to single mothers, with a higher than average amount of those babies being born to Hispanic mothers. In addition, the number of women over 30 years of age that had babies was the highest it had been since 1964, the last year of the post-WWII baby boom.



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## Lawmakers seek delay on EPA emission limits

Members of Congress from coal producing states introduced measures in both the House and Senate this week to put a moratorium on the Obama administration's move to put stringent caps on carbon emissions linked to climate change.

The members of Congress, all democrats, including Sen. John Rockefeller of West Virginia, are opposed to the time-

table being proposed by the EPA, which would restrict the amount of emissions many major producers could produce beginning next year. Rockefeller and other democrats join the ranks of members of Congress from both parties who have called for the plans to be halted, as it will not provide enough time for industry to prepare.

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## ART OF LABOR, from page 10

The first was titled “Because We Care,” which was created in 1976 by Harvey Dinnerstein. The piece portrays two nurses caring for a sickly man in a bed. Each character in the pastel/charcoal drawing appears to be of a different racial background: one nurse is Caucasian, another African American, and the patient appears to be Native American. The title, “Because We Care,” takes on new meaning as a viewer considers the amount of racism existing in modern society. Considering that racism was more prevalent in the past, this piece is a ray of hope for those searching for equality.

Next was a piece titled “Workers of the World,” created in 1939 by Clara Mahl.

This lithograph (artwork produced by the use of oils or greases against a flat stone to produce a print) depicts people of all nationalities, colors and genders gathering together outside of what appears to be a factory. This piece struck home. Workers the world over experience much the same harsh working conditions, the same corruption and the same disrespect by corporate suits. “Workers of the World” depicts these workers gathering together in common assent, rather than striking out against each other.

Last was a piece titled “In Her Place,” made by Erena Rae in 2004. This piece of computer-set print is covered with the names of professions that have been modified for females. It demands that the workers of the world realize these distinctions only help to create rifts between male and female workers, and that we rise up to remove the “ess,” “enne” and “ette” from the ends of such professions. - *Matthew B. Poposky*



LEANNA BALES / THE CURRENT



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# Opinions

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board:  
Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel  
Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal • Cedric Williams

## The truth will out

On the morning of Feb. 28, members of Texas A&M University-Commerce grabbed all of the copies of the student newspaper, the East Texan. Why? They were interested in being the first ones to read the cover story—the first and only ones. The headline for that issue of The East Texan was “A&M-Commerce football players arrested in drug bust.”

The players who were caught on video taking the newspapers even stole all of the issues out of the campus police station.

At best, this comes off as an ill-advised prank; at worst, it is a criminal act. Simply put, it is a desperate act of censorship.

As if the players' actions were not bad enough, this is what head football coach Guy Morris said to campus police in response: “I’m proud of my players for doing that, this was the best

team building exercise we have ever done.”

While the university sent out a press release stating that they will punish those responsible, they have so far made no mention as to when or what they will do.

There is a problem with how the university is handling the incident.

They seem to want to use it as a teaching moment rather than treating it like the criminal act that it is.

But this should come as no surprise.

If the same act were to happen on any campus in the U.S., the leaders of the school would want to shuffle it away as soon as possible.

Using it as a teaching moment for all those involved does nothing more than show the football players that they can show the same aggressive behavior against people they oppose off the field as they do against people on the field.

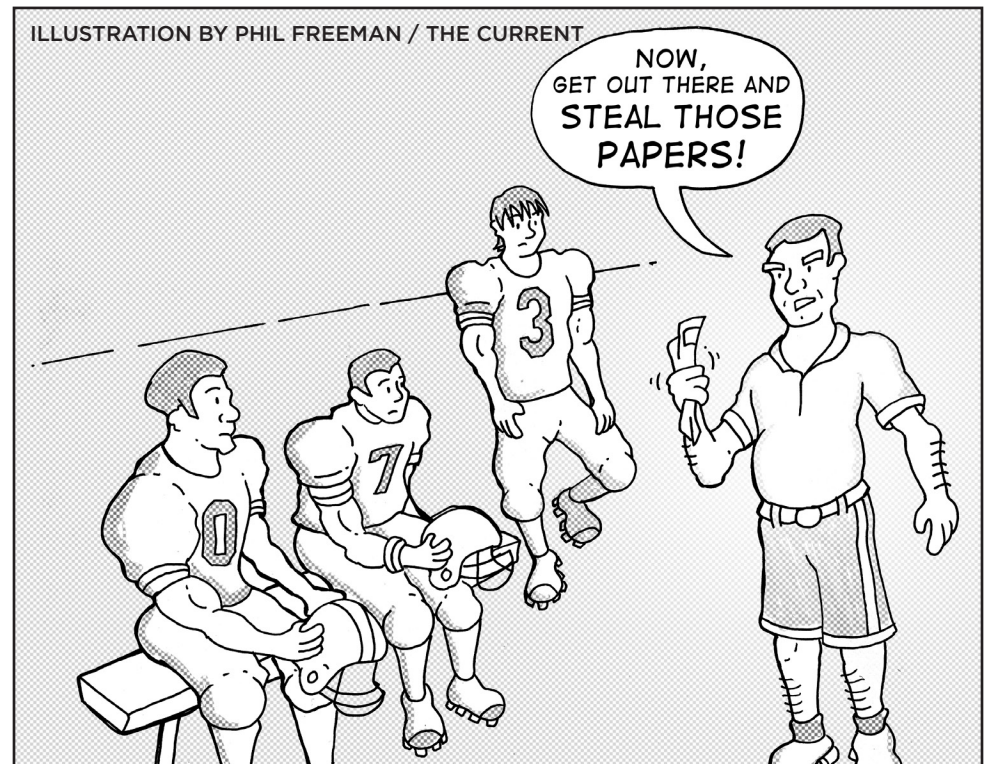
The aspiring journalists at *The East Texan* got a real-life dose of the lengths that people will go to silence bad press.

The reason that the Coach Morris said that he approved of some of his players' actions is that he believed parts of the article false.

If that was the case, why would he give his approval of throwing the papers away instead of doing the sensible thing and bringing charges of libel against the paper? Rather, the football coach and some of his players come across as simple goons.

What the football team's actions did do was turn what was once a local school newspaper story into a national story.

Something that would have been talked about on campus for a week has propelled the coach and the team into the spotlight for careless remarks, censorship, theft and, oh yeah, that pesky drug



bust. The coach's attempt to rally around his players' actions has done nothing more than embarrass himself, the team and the school.

Texas A&M University-Commerce president Dan Jones summed up it nicely: “We will emerge from this incident with a better under-

standing of one another.” If we are understanding things correctly, Coach Morris seems to condone theft and censorship, and the leaders of Texas A&M look the other way when uncomfortable situations occur on their campus.

In addition, the Texas

A&M University-Commerce athletics director wrapped up the incident perfectly when he was asked if he thought that the players acted alone: “I don't think they are smart enough to do this on their own.”

We at *The Current* could not have said it better.

## In-state tuition for illegal immigrant children

Everyone deserves a chance to go to college.

Unfortunately, sometimes it simply is not possible to be able to go.

There are many different barriers, but the price of tuition is a universal constant, even more so if one is the child of an undocumented immigrant and forced to pay higher out of state tuition fees.

No matter the stance on illegal immigration, it is clear that these children should not be punished for wanting to go to college and become legal, educated citizens.

Missouri Senator Jolie Justus (D-Jackson) is trying to

make the dream of college an affordable reality for these undocumented children, and *The Current* applauds her effort.

Her proposal, SB783, would make sure that Missouri students who are living in the U.S. without proper documentation would receive in-state tuition rates at Missouri's public colleges and universities.

At a committee hearing last week, no one spoke against the bill, which is as it should be. A bill like this can and will benefit Missouri and Missourians in multiple ways.

It would help keep Mis-

souri competitive on the national scale—10 other states, including Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska, already have similar laws.

It would give undocumented high school students another option after high school, instead of looking forward to a life after graduation without legal documentation to work, and therefore no ability to afford college.

The bill would help to prevent high school dropouts. After all, why even bother with high school if there is no possibility of a real job or continuing education afterward? Supporters of the bill say it will aid in preventing

gang activity and will keep kids engaged in the classroom.

There are a few stipulations. In order to qualify for the in-state tuition rate, the children of undocumented immigrants have to graduate from high school and live with a parent or guardian during high school. They also have to have gone to a Missouri high school for at least two years.

On top of that, an affidavit must be filled out, indicating that the student will actively apply for permanent U.S. residency.

The affidavit would be filed with their college or uni-

versity of choice.

Justus has been sponsoring this bill for the past two years.

Ironically enough, two years ago Missouri lawmakers approved various restrictions on illegal immigration. Thankfully, they passed over a proposal that would have prevented undocumented immigrants from even attending college.

Committee chairman David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) has told Justus that if she is able to drum up enough support for the bill among the Senate Education Committee, he will schedule a vote on it.

*The Current* knows that only good things can come of this bill, and Justus should be commended for fighting for it.

It is *The Current's* hope that the senators in the committee will throw their support behind this bill.

This bill is sorely needed, and certainly past due. The faster this bill is made into a law, the better for Missouri students, and the better for Missouri.

What do you think?  
Let us know at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

# Utah miscarriage bill misguided

For potential mothers, the very idea of a miscarriage is frightening and terrifying.

Unfortunately, Utah is not making it any easier.

If Utah's House and Senate get their way, mothers who miscarry could have to deal with criminal charges on top of their tragic losses.

The proposed bill, waiting gubernatorial review and approval, would essentially make it a crime for a woman to have a miscarriage, and "make induced abortion a crime in some instances," according to an article on [rhrealitycheck.org](http://rhrealitycheck.org), a Web site dedicated to reproductive health.

The bill does not affect legal abortions of course, but it "criminalizes any actions taken by women to induce a miscarriage or abortion outside of a doctor's care," with the kicker being that one of the penalties is life in prison.

The bill came about after a 17-year-old Utah girl paid a man \$150 to beat her in order to terminate her seven-month pregnancy. She could not be charged with a crime because Utah had no law on the books preventing this kind of desperate tragedy from occurring.

While no one can deny that this is a tragic event, it is also an isolated one—and Utah is overreacting a tad. Some states have bills "directed [against] third party attackers," but oddly enough, Utah's bill seems "specifically designed to be punitive toward pregnant women, not those who might assist or cause an illegal abortion or unintended miscarriage," according to the article.

This bill is not moronic just because it targets women. Its stupidity knows no bounds, mostly due to the extremely ambiguous nature of the bill's language.

Under the bill, women can be accused of "reckless behavior" by the govern-

ment if she "behaved in a manner that is thought to cause miscarriage, even if she didn't intend to lose the pregnancy."

This would not be a problem except for the fact that pregnancy dos and don'ts vary from doctor to doctor. Some say eating sushi is a bad idea; others say it does not matter. Until recently, alcohol was a no-no; now, some doctors say that a glass of wine once in a while won't affect the fetus.

"Reckless behavior" could also mean something as innocent as tripping and falling down stairs—like in the case of Christine Taylor.

While she was pregnant with her third child, Taylor fell down the stairs in her home after she got light-headed.

Fearing that she had injured her unborn baby, she went to the ER—a natural, motherly reaction.

Instead, she found herself arrested on suspicion of trying to terminate her pregnancy, thanks to Iowa's feticide laws.

The nurse who took care of her thought that Taylor might have been in her third trimester, which would have made tripping down the stairs a crime.

Thankfully, charges were dropped—but not because authorities decided Taylor actually had tripped. Instead, they were dropped because her doctor confirmed that Taylor was actually in her second trimester, not her third.

Sigh. Not to mention, no-one is entirely certain how the authorities found out—apparently, a nurse in Iowa is not familiar with doctor-patient confidentiality.

As mentioned earlier, some states' feticide bills only come into play during a woman's third trimester. However, even if the Utah bill's ambiguous language wasn't a perfect example of



Andrew Seal

"reckless behavior," there's the issue that Utah's law would make a miscarriage during any part of the pregnancy into a potential murder trial.

The Utah bill would discourage women with substance abuse problems from seeking treatment, for fear that they could be charged with a crime if they miscarry.

It also would punish women who are in abusive relationships and unable to leave because, "not leaving would, under the 'reckless' standard, constitute conduct that consciously disregarded a substantial risk," according to the same [rhrealitycheck.org](http://rhrealitycheck.org) article.

Women who have already suffered the double-threat of an abusive relationship and a miscarriage would be subjected to a criminal trial. This bill is an absolute travesty and a perversion of the justice system.

Anti-women legislation isn't anything new, but the Utah legislation stands to set a dangerous and irresponsible precedent with the introduction of the "reckless behavior" clause and 'anytime during pregnancy' prosecution ability.

Utah lawmakers need to get with the program and realize that not only is their new feticide bill draconian, it is also anti-woman and goes against everything that reproductive-rights advocates have fought so hard for in this country.

Andrew Seal is *Opinions Editor* for The Current.

# College priority #1: Adapt

College students have several things that are expected of them throughout the course of a semester. Homework, showing up for class, finishing assignment are all things that instantly come to mind. But perhaps one of the most important things a student must do, is not something that will show up on the syllabus. As a student in a higher education institution, the biggest task is to learn how to adapt.

In the classroom, one never knows what to expect. Lectures, power points and discussions are what most teachers will use in order to teach the important parts of their curriculum. What students should really take away from their classes isn't what is showing up on the board, it is the ability to adjust to what is being taught and the method it is being presented.

Students today are spoiled in almost every way imaginable. Today's students get to pick their classes, the teachers for the classes, what times they want to take their classes, and sometimes even how the classes may be structured. But even more is being catered to them through Accessibility Laws. If something is not right for their personal learning preference, it can be changed into a format that is.

But doesn't that defeat the purpose of what college is really suppose to do: prepare for a real job in the real world?

For some reason though, this is not what most students are learning. They have been taught that complaining to bosses that their desks do not properly work because they're left-handed, new desks to accommodate them will magically appear. If they're unhappy with the weekly lectures their bosses give, the following week they'll be watching Power Point slideshows.

There are a few students who may really need help. Some students may not stand to write in a left-handed desk, but others may. If someone really sees being left-handed as a learning disability, then how have so many left-handed students been able to succeed in right-handed ones?

Students need to learn that they must adapt or be lost in the dust of fellow classmates that can. Students must find ways to make teachers' curriculums and teaching styles work for them. If that takes two hours of preparation, the possibility of bringing a recorder to class or beginning to study two weeks ahead of time to get ready for a test, then they should.

An important thing to remember is that a classroom is not a democracy in any way. It is a dictatorship and should remain one. Teachers will give assignments which are expected to be finished in order to succeed with a passing grade. In a classroom that runs off of democracy, there would never be assignments and students would always pass. Even the least intelligent of the bunch could be going to the highest ranked school, getting a degree they know nothing about and then going on to rule the world without ever learning a thing.

But isn't there something wrong with that picture? As much as some students do not want to, they go to school to learn and to better themselves as people in order to provide hopes for their own future. If everyone succeeded, no one would work. If everyone succeeded, anyone could have a degree in whatever they wanted. If everyone succeeded, our world would be a terrible place full of individuals who knew absolutely nothing.

Of course, not all students will agree, only the ones who



Janaca Scherer

wish they could get by doing nothing. If classes are not as well structured as they like, they may take matters into their own hands. Complaining to the teacher, sending nasty emails and talking to their superiors may not always be the best solution in the long run.

Being fully catered to in such defining moments of their lives will just make them weaker later on. The people who learn to adapt to what is presented will be the ones who succeed. Those who cannot adapt in any way, get used to having every tiny detail tailored to their exact whims, will fall by the wayside.

Instead of complaining, try a new way of thinking. Think about the teachers who put forth an effort in their class schedules and presentations and end up fixing everything that their students may not agree with. In the end it is best just to do the work, get it done, and avoid confrontations. Creating more trouble is not the solution.

Not all situations can or should be avoided, but a student should think before complaining about a situation that will just cause more pain later on. Learn to adapt now, while there is still time. Otherwise, every left-handed writer in the world will be out of a job simply because of right-handed desks.

Janaca Scherer is a staff writer for The Current.



## SCIENCE MATTERS

# Will MOBOT head's exit impact World Ecology Center?

The Missouri Botanical Garden, along with the St. Louis Zoo, is one of University of Missouri-St. Louis' partners in the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center, an organization that provides support for graduate students in a world-class biological research program and offers an array of educational outreach programs here in town.

Peter Raven was the president of the Garden when the World Ecology Center was formed as the Tropical Ecology Center. After heading the Garden for some 40 years, Raven is retiring from that position.

Raven announced his plans to retire on February 10. On March 2, the new president of MOBOT, Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson visited the Garden.

Raven worked with the Garden's Board of Trustees to select his replacement but there are bound to be changes for the Garden under new leadership. For this university, there may be changes as well.

Raven's name is fairly well-known around town as the leader of the Missouri Botanical Garden, but few recognize what an international rock star he is in conservation and biology. Raven's international stature has elevated the profile and reputation of MOBOT over his years as its head.

Raven has been a scientific leader in conservation and plant science, and an

advocate for maintaining plant biodiversity despite the challenges of deforestation, environmental degradation and climate change. Raven is a recipient of the U.S. Medal of Science, the nation's higher award for scientific accomplishment. He has been the president of Sigma Xi and home secretary of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, is a member of the National Geographic Society board of trustees and has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Raven has been a prominent member of the United Nations team on global climate change, the International Panel on Climate Change.

Last December, he spoke at the university's course on Global Climate Change, held at the St. Louis Zoo, another partner in the university-based World Ecology Center.

Raven has made the Garden a leader in botanical research and education, and worked hard to encourage young people to become familiar with and develop a love for the natural world. Despite his international stature, he has always made time for this city and this university.

The new Garden president, Wyse Jackson, has a sterling reputation in the world of botanical gardens as well but a somewhat different focus in his career. The Irish-born Wyse Jackson's work has focused more on



Cate Marquis

gardening and horticulture, rather than conservation in the wild. He has been leader of director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland in Dublin since 2005, where his emphasis was on horticulture, organic gardening, and sustainability.

Prior to that, he was chief executive of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International. He also has been a resource for the Irish government in environmental policy development, providing advice on biodiversity, conservation and climate change.

Raven will stay on during this year of transition, to help Wyse Jackson. Hopefully, he will help the Garden's new head embrace the goals of the Harris World Ecology Center, to promote the new generation of researchers in ecology and conservation, and educating the local public on the importance of conservation, biodiversity and the complexity of the natural world.

*Cate Marquis is the A&E editor and a columnist for The Current.*

## THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

# Politicians are bad or worse, but Bunning is crazy

Being a politician has its perks, and by perks, I mean power. It means that you are the person that gets to decide how the people that elected you should live their lives.

There are upsides and downsides to this, depending on the politician. None are humble and considerate, though a few might put your interests ahead of their own or those of whichever groups are donating sums of money to them at the moment. In any case, there are bad politicians and then there are worse politicians. Sometimes, the only way to tell one from the other is to see which they put first: their personal agenda or the agenda of their corporate sponsors.

Believe it or not, I actually find the politicians that put the interests of those lining their pockets first to be the most trustworthy. This makes them dependable in that you can count on them to stand for certain things—you can count on them to cast votes in favor of their donors' agenda.

In my experience, it is those who put their own agenda ahead of those who pay or interests of the people who elect them that are scary. This makes them completely unreliable and, more often than not, something that trained political observers like to call batshit crazy.

They do things like this based on some twisted logic that abortion is murder, but providing healthcare to babies that are actually born depends on free-market economics and putting food in their mouths is socialism.

With politicians like these, one never knows what legislation they might bring to a grinding halt just because one minor provision in it might disagree with their

moral beliefs, which they in turn try to apply to everyone else through rule of law.

They have done much to hold the country back over the years by filibustering landmark legislation to end segregation, or tie up the legislative process with bills mandating that school children recite the "Lord's Prayer."

Such a thing happened in Washington last week when Republican Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky held a one-man filibuster of a procedural vote on the Senate floor. The vote was for an extension to provide unemployment benefits to over a million Americans because he did not foresee a way that the government could pay for them.

Bunning's move was one part fiscal conservatism combined with an attempt to take a jab at President Obama's demands that all programs from here forward be pay as you go, meaning that money that did not exist would not be allotted to the programs. The problem with Bunning's reasoning was that the extension did have guaranteed funding, and even if the funding was not guaranteed, the delay would mean millions of unemployed Americans would lose their only source of income.

His successful opposition to the amendment kept it from being passed on time, and at the stroke of midnight that night, those people lost their unemployment benefits. Because the procedural vote and the final vote did not go through on time, the next day there was an immediate 21 percent funding decrease to Medicare and Tricare, the government subsidized system that provides health care to veterans.

The decrease meant that



Andy Phipps

doctors would now be unable to see as many recipients of these programs because they would not be reimbursed for seeing them. In addition, Bunning's objections led to the immediate furlough of thousands of people working on the interstate highway system.

But as the night ended in the Senate, on the evening that this one man held the governmental process hostage and single-handedly threatened the wellbeing of millions of Americans all over a minute detail, Bunning had but one regret:

"I have missed the Kentucky-South Carolina game that started at 9 o'clock, and it's the only redeeming chance we had to beat South Carolina since they're the only team that has beat Kentucky this year," Bunning said.

It is too bad Bunning is retiring from the Senate at the end of this term. Otherwise, I would suggest that he get a Tivo so that unemployed Americans can feed their children and veterans can get healthcare. Either way, as the person who wrought this havoc by splitting imaginary hairs, I think he needs to be committed. And that is why I trust the corporate skills in Congress over the crazies.

*Andy Phipps is Business/Tech Editor and a columnist for The Current.*

**What do you think about this week's columns?**

Post a comment at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

# Classifieds

Classified ads are **free** for students, faculty and staff. Other rates vary. To place an ad, please send your ad (40 words or less), your name, and student or employee number to [thecurrentads@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrentads@umsl.edu), or call (314) 516-5316.

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**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your employment needs, including help wanted, sales positions, office positions, internships, child care wanted, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

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**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your selling needs, including textbooks, clothes, pets, computers and much more! If you need to sell it, sell it here! Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

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## 700 MISCELLANEOUS

**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for most anything at all. If your classified doesn't fit into the above categories, simply request an ad in the Miscellaneous Section. Some restrictions may apply. Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

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**AD**  
could be  
**here!**

## BEACH HOUSE, from page 9

"Norway" alludes to this with a flurry of "ah-ha-ha" backing vocals that decorate it and additional orchestrations that fill voids Beach House may have previously left deserted. They even use real drums. "10 Mile Stereo" sees Legrand's voice lilt over what turns out to be an explosion of shoe gaze reminiscent of TV on the Radio. This is in part due to Chris Coady, the pop-leaning producer who worked with Beach House on the new album (as well as on TV on the Radio's 2008 release "Dear Science").

It is not that everything is entirely new here. It is more that Beach House has per-

fected the sound that they have been cultivating. Sure it is more polished, and the holes left by the raw, isolated and less produced sound Beach House put out in the past may be filled in but all the ingredients for a prototypical and ethereal Beach House album remain. The songs are still mesmerizing mid-tempo and semi-droney takes on pop music. Most importantly, Victoria Legrand is still casually infecting her listeners in her polite, self-aware way, and with a voice that towers over every single song.

The more open, even happier sound that Beach House showcases on "Teen

Dream" shows a broader creative scope.

As great as "Devotion" was, if Beach House continued to put out the same record, taking no artistic risks, "Teen Dream" would have been a huge disappointment. Though the new record may not have the same ascetic charm as its predecessors, the openness works really well for what it is—a masterfully crafted and arranged display of dream pop.

The album is a grower and although it may be a little too friendly for fans of their previous work, it is a very positive step in terms of mainstream direction for the duo. **B+** —Joe Schaffner

## NAOMI, from page 14

It is hard to believe the limo driver would summon the police out of anger and accuse the supermodel of assault because he was simply overreacting. There is more to this story that has not been revealed. Is anyone else wondering if the driver and his attorneys were paid off to drop the charges? Surely Naomi cannot afford another assault charge, or she will be in jail.

Someone needs to tell this spoiled, near-40-year-old model that hitting is no way to solve problems. In a perfect world, New York City police will pick up the charges and make Naomi pay for her actions because, quite frankly, no one can "overreact" to being hit in the face. And let us not forget about the reported bruises the driver had. Too bad the law does not work that way. The driver was clearly assaulted because, had he not been, he would not have bothered to press charges in the first place, and Naomi would not have bothered running away from the scene, hiding, and

then reappearing when the driver suddenly had a change of heart.

It is annoying that celebrities can get away with this type of malfeasance. This woman has assaulted several people in three different countries, two different continents, and has been slapped on the wrist each time. If Naomi does not get any real punishment, she will assault again. The model has been given a second chance, and a third chance, and a fourth chance. There are people being jailed for much less serious crimes, and Naomi should be jailed for her offences.

Being a world renowned supermodel should not give her a free pass to hit or assault anyone as she sees fit. A 40-year-old should know how to control his or her anger and navigate through more constructive ways to deal with their anger. Kids learn to keep their hands to themselves in pre-school. Naomi obviously skipped that grade.

**Use your mouse better.**

[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

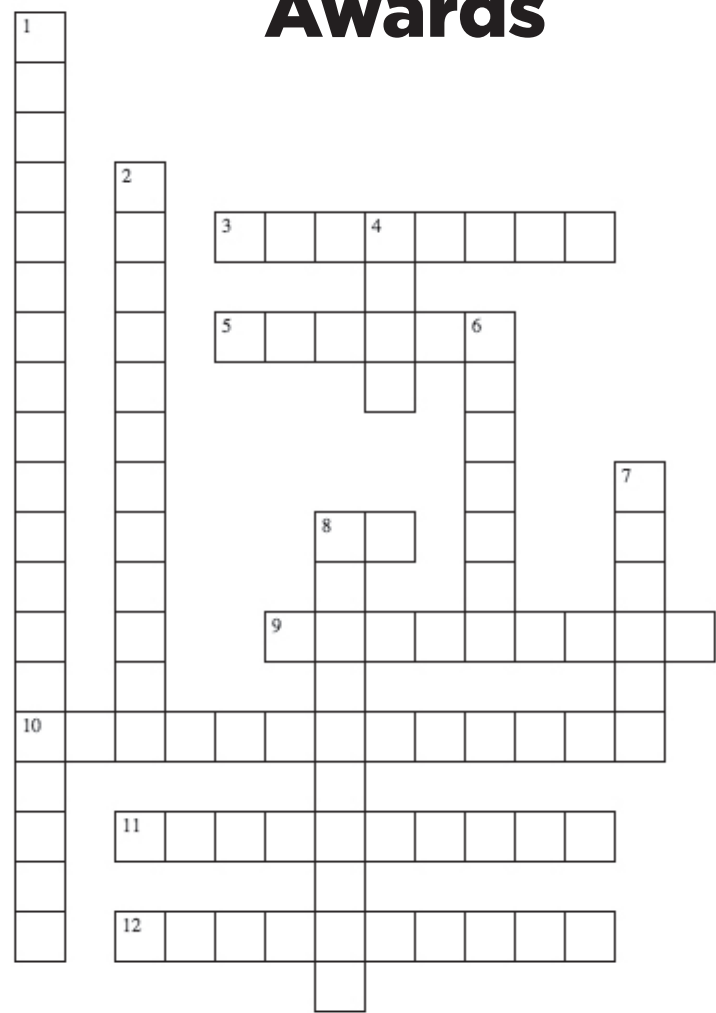




# Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

## The 82nd Academy Awards




ACROSS

- 3. Based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire.
- 5. The longest this actress has gone without an Oscar nomination is 5 years.
- 8. The first 3D film to open the Cannes Film Festival.
- 9. Originally based on the sci-fi short film "Alive in Joberg."
- 10. It is said that James Cameron was the one to convince hi ex-wife to direct this movie.
- 11. Married to the actor of 12 Across.
- 12. Local university that Peter Saarsgard ("An Education") attended.

DOWN


- 1. "That's a bingo!"
- 2. Former New York Giants player Lawrence Taylor has a cameo.
- 4. Brother who made "A Serious Man"
- 6. This actor received his first Academy Award nomination this year.
- 7. Was originally planned to come out in 1999, two years after the director's last film.
- 8. This film features real life recently laid off persons.

CURRENT HOROSCOPES




**ARIES**  
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Don't worry too much if a lot of work is dumped in your lap this week. Not all of it is as important as it seems, and if you prioritize it shouldn't be too much trouble.




**TAURUS**  
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

If you've been in search of employment, this may be a promising week for you, though you'll have to work for it. Stay alert to every opportunity, no matter how small.




**GEMINI**  
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Your work on a big project may be slow early in the week, if you're feeling less then creative, but with the help of a few trusted friends, you'll soon be back on track.



**CANCER**  
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

This week may bring a positive change in your financial situation. It might not be immediately obvious, but you'll be feeling the effects for a while.




**LEO**  
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Give some thought to reconnecting with someone you've fought with in the past. It's likely they've forgotten all about it and will be more than happy to hear from you.




**VIRGO**  
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

This week, leave the worrying to others and focus instead on enjoying yourself. Relax with friends, pursue hobbies and enjoy life, but prepare to go back to the real world next week.




**LIBRA**  
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You may find yourself holding some unpopular opinions this week. Don't be afraid to stand up for yourself. You've got more people on your side than you may think.




**SCORPIO**  
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

You'll be feeling moody most of the week, but an exciting event toward the weekend should help you snap out of it, especially if a friend comes along.




**SAGITTARIUS**  
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Your emotions may threaten to get the best of you this week, but try your best to keep them under control. Although things seem chaotic right now, they'll settle down given time.




**CAPRICORN**  
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Your intuition may be steering you away from a certain person or group this week, and you should definitely follow it. This is not a good time to try new things.



**AQUARIUS**  
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

This week, temper optimism with a healthy dose of practicality. Don't get carried away with grandiose plans. Turn to friends to help you focus on your priorities.



**PISCES**  
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Don't over-analyze things in order to delay making a difficult decision. Instead, rely on your instincts and remember that the sooner you make up your mind, the happier you'll be.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:  
★★★★  
(Very hard)

Last week's answers	8	5	4	9	2	7	3	1	6
	2	6	3	8	1	4	9	5	7
	9	7	1	3	5	6	2	8	4
	5	2	9	6	7	8	1	4	3
	4	3	6	1	9	5	7	2	8
	1	8	7	2	4	3	6	9	5
	6	4	2	7	8	1	5	3	9
	7	9	5	4	3	2	8	6	1
	3	1	8	5	6	9	4	7	2
Last week's rating: Hard									

9		5	6					4
2			7				8	
7			4				3	
		3		2			4	
			9					
		9		6			2	
3			8				7	
8			1			5		
5		4	2					8

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the A's in the message, and so on. (Hint: G = B)

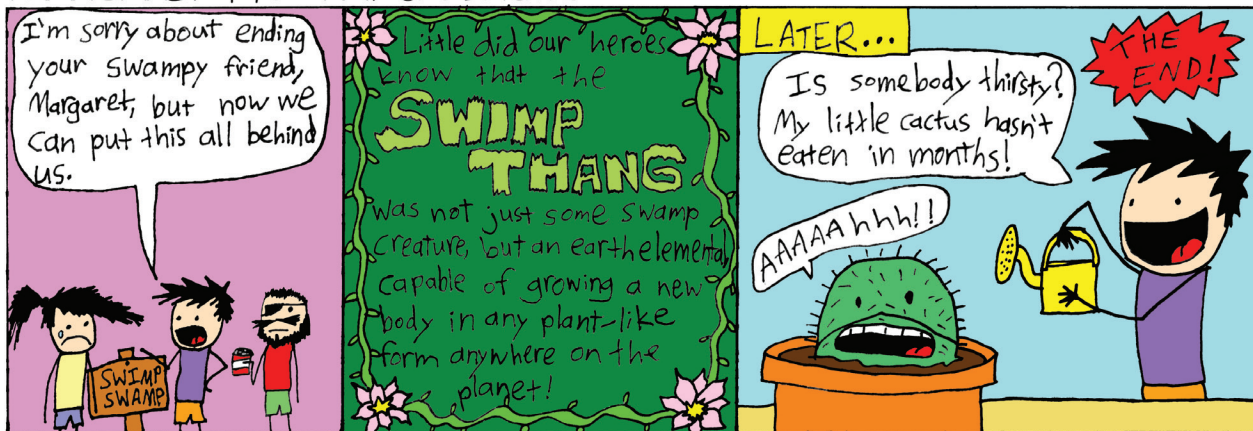
T EGPSKY!

The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office at MSC 388 will receive a free T-shirt.

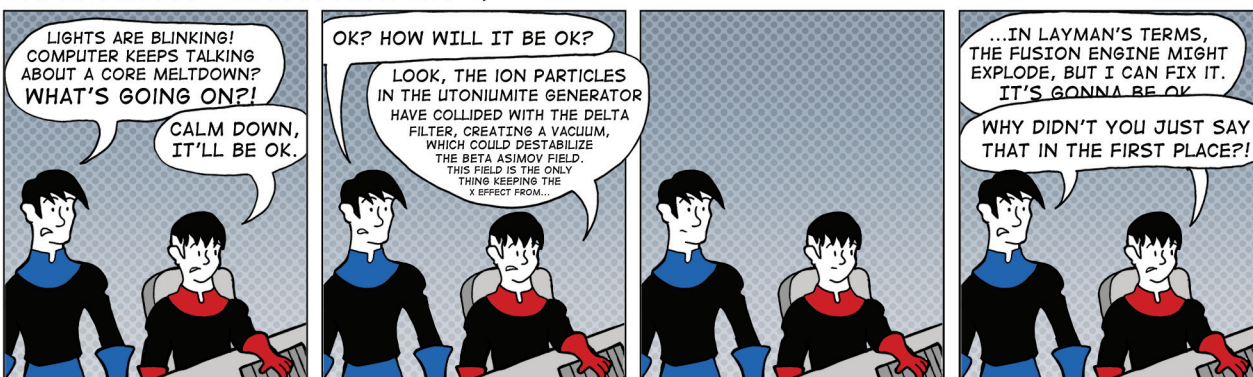


# Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman

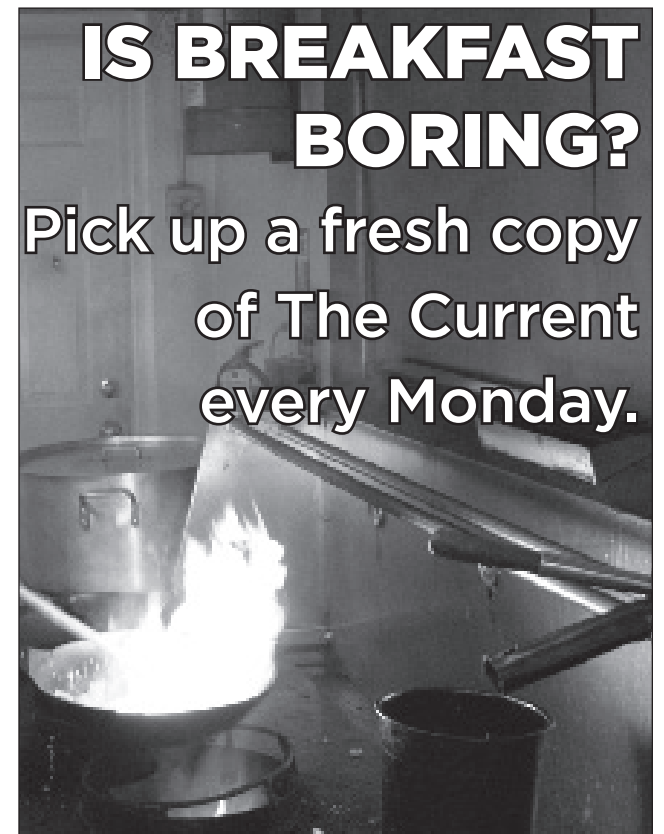


RANDOM MINDS BY JEFFREY GROSSMAN



Bananas #27

by Paul Maguire



**FILL SOME OF THIS SPACE WITH YOUR COMIC!**

(The Current is looking for cartoonists! Drop by 388 MSC for more info)



# What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. First-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

## Monday, Mar. 8

**Candy & Careers March 8, 2010 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM @ The Nosh** open to students Sweeten up your career! Visit our information table in the Nosh to learn more about the resources offered through Career Services & enjoy some free candy. For more Info Career Services at 516-5111

**The Art of Labor March 8, 2010 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM** Located at the 222 JC Penney Conference Center, Open to all students. Jeanne Zarucchi, UMSL professor of Art History, presents a selection of works from the Bruce and Barbara Feldacker Collection depicting facets of labor, including portraits of men and women at work, the drama of strikes and disasters, and machinery that evokes abstract design. Today's talk complements a Gallery Visio exhibition in the UMSL Millennium Student Center, co-curated by Zarucchi and Sara Keller, opening with a reception on March 4, 2009, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and running until April 1.

## Tuesday, Mar. 9

**Tips for Effective Presentations on March 9, 2010 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM** Located at 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success. Open to students. Does the thought of delivering a presentation in class sound frightening? Attend this workshop and demystify the process! Learn how to organize your presentations and receive instruction on effective delivery techniques. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

**Winning the Battle with Procrastination at 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM**, Located at 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success Available to all Students. How many times have you gotten sidetracked from doing an assignment? College students can easily fall into a cycle of procrastination. Getting at the reasons behind the procrastination is the key. This workshop will illustrate the steps and techniques to become a person who does NOT procrastinate. For Info: Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300

## Wednesday, Mar. 10

**Barnes Library Annual Open House on March 10, 2010 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM**  
Location: Ward E. Barnes Library, South Campus. Open to all who attend, Please join us! Coffee, tea, and cookies Play the Library Puzzler to win a \$25 gift certificate! Lots of cool, free stuff! For Information contact Betsy Williams at 314-516-4322

**Weightlifting Contest sponsored by Campus Rec at 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**  
Located on at the Mark Twain Weight Room. Open to students. All participants win a t-shirt in this fun, recreational competition. Events include squat, deadlift, and bench. Choose one or compete in them all. Men's and women's divisions are offered in a host of weight classes.

## Thursday, Mar. 11

**Coed Basketball Tournament sponsored by Campus Rec at 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM**  
Located at the Mark Twain Gym Open to all students, The is a one-night Coed 4-on-4 Basketball Tournament. Coed teams consist of 2 men and 2 women, plus subs. Special coed rules will be used. T-shirts awarded to tournament champions. To enter, register your team in the Campus Recreation Office, 203MT. Entry deadline is Thursday, March 9. For Information get in contact with Campus Recreation (203 Mark Twain) at 516-5326

## Friday, Mar. 12

**College of Business Administration Research Seminar Series** on March 12, 2010 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM Located at 401 SSB, Open to all students and faculty. Jia Li, PhD student in Marketing, Washington University in St. Louis, "Compensation and Peer Effects in Competing Sales Teams" For more Information contact Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 314-516-7654



LEANNA BALES / THE CURRENT

Myron Schankman, computer science, sophomore, receives the H1N1 vaccine in the MSC clinic on Wednesday from Kim York. The Health and Wellness Center, located on the first floor, recently received a new shipment of the vaccine that prevents Swine Flu. They can be reached at (314) 516-5671.



**AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,  
PLEASE RECYCLE!**

**-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE The Current**