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Current, August 23, 2010

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

AUG. 23, 2010

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University

forced to

outsource

Union workers protest UM-St. Louis

by Ryan Krull

Pg. 3

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Ryan Krull, Suzanne Matthews, Caitlin E.L. Myles,
Matthew Poposky, Andrew Seal

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Web Editor.....Louie Liu
Staff Photographers.....Abigail Gillardi, Riki Tanaka
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BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager.....Shakina Sheppard
Distribution Manager.....Ryan Krull
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AFFILIATIONS



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CONTACT US

Address 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom 314-516-5174
Business/Advertising 314-516-5316
Fax 314-516-6811
E-mail (General) thecurrent@umsl.edu
E-mail (Advertising) thecurrentads@umsl.edu
E-mail (Employment Inquiries) thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
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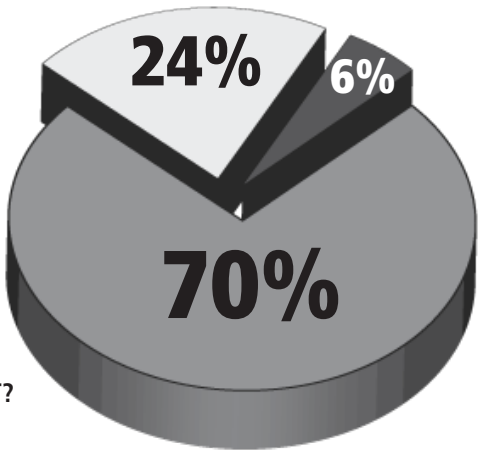
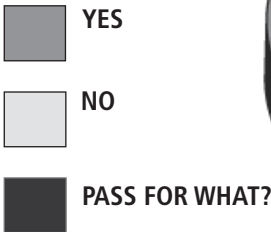
Statshot

WEEKLY WEB POLL

Did you get your free metro pass yet?

Next week:
Do you plan on dropping any classes?

Submit your answer at
www.thecurrent-online.com



The UNDERCURRENT by Abigail Gillardi

"What do you think about UM-Saint Louis using Facebook to increase out of state enrollment?"



"Use the media for what it's worth, good exposure."

Jessica McCollum
Economics
Senior



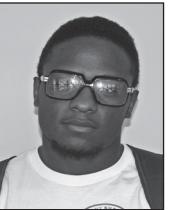
"Sure, go for it. Everything else is on there."

Patti S.
Theater and Dance
Junior



"Like any other business, advertising is important and free advertising can be the best kind."

Simon Rodriguez
Undecided
Sophomore



"It could provide more students due to everyone using facebook."

Derrick Snow
Music
Junior

VERBATIM



"I was wearing a C cup by the time I was 11. I would go to bed and pray, 'Please, Lord, don't let my boobs grow any bigger.'"

-Kim Kardashian



"I was welcomed into the brotherhood of the sock. When you're naked on the show, you have to wear a sock, and it's not on your foot."

- Joe Manganiello from True Blood



"I have a major crush on President Obama ... I think he is so fine."

- Glee's Amber Riley



"First time I heard that, I thought it had something to do with horses."

-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, discussing a bilateral investment treaty

WEATHER



News

Elevator repair causes controversy

► **RYAN KRULL**
Staff Writer

Members of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 3 have been picketing the University of Missouri-St. Louis and distributing flyers to motorists who enter North Campus. "Shame on the University of Missouri-St. Louis" is written in bold and underlined at the top of the union's flyer.

The union's primary point of protest is the university's use of out-of-state labor for repairs being done to an elevator jack in the Mark Twain building. Two full-time employees from Abell Elevator, a construction outfit based in Louisville, Ky., are currently employed on the project.

"UMSL should give work to local laborers who pay taxes to fund the university," John Orr, a spokesperson for the IUEC Local 3, said. "I have a son at UMSL."

Representatives from UM-St. Louis said that in choosing to do business with Abell, they were not discriminating against local labor, but were simply going with the company that could do what was needed for the cheapest.

Sam Darandari, Director of Planning and Construction for UM-St. Louis, said five outfits put in bids for the project and Abell's was the lowest at \$68,000. It is UM-St. Louis' policy to go with the lowest bidder; a licensed engineer and a state elevator inspector looked into Abell for the university and gave them the OK. Orr said that a local union could have done the work just as cheaply and efficiently as Abell, though he admits Abell did put in a lower bid. Legally, construction on public buildings in Missouri has to be done by local crews, but Missouri has a reciprocal agreement with Kentucky and 29 other

states. This allows Missouri crews to work in those states and crews from those states to work in Missouri. "Local companies are working on Marillac Hall, Music Building and University Center," Frank Kochin, UM-St. Louis Facilities Director, said. "And those are all bigger contracts, significantly more than replacing a jack."

According to Orr, the IUEC Local 3 is also concerned that Abell is not paying their employees what is called a prevailing wage. A prevailing wage is essentially a wage that is fair for any given area and is set by the Department of Labor & Industries. "[Abell] is required to pay a prevailing wage," Kochin said. "The university system monitors that and [Abell] has to submit certified payrolls."

The flyer being distributed also claims it is "anyone's guess" who will handle warranty issues related to Abell's

work. Darandari responded by saying Abell's work is guaranteed for a year and maintenance will not be an issue. "These union guys are trying to make a big deal out of what is, in my opinion, nothing," Darandari said.

Both Darandari and Kochin say that the IUEC Local 3's real dispute is with Missouri's reciprocal law, not with UM-St. Louis.

"I have nothing against these local guys," Darandari said, "but [they] need to be more competitive instead of shaming the university for following a state law."

According to their flyer, the IUEC Local 3 has a dispute with Abell Elevator only, and is not calling for any kind of boycott with UM-St. Louis or any other institution or organization.

LOCAL NEWS

Gateway Arch showing rust and decay

Almost 45 years into its reign atop the St. Louis skyline, the 630-foot monument is suffering from growing rust and decay. And nobody knows how extensive. Corrosion, some of it feared aggressive and severe discoloration of the stainless steel skin have long been present, according to engineering reports reviewed by the Post-Dispatch. The problem is not yet a safety issue. **Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

Highway 40 reopens after fatal truck crash

A truck driver was killed in a Monday morning crash that shut down portions of Highway 40 in the city for 5 hours. Thomas J. Niemeyer, 48, of Bethalto, died when he was ejected from his eastbound tractor-trailer after it began to drift to the left and slammed into the median at the Taylor Avenue overpass, police said. Niemeyer landed in the westbound lanes. It is unclear what caused Niemeyer to lose control, police said. **Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

Obama grants Missourians disaster relief

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon says that President Barack Obama has issued a major disaster declaration for "areas across Missouri hit by flooding, severe storms and excessive rain during June and July." Such a declaration means that the federal government will cover 75 percent of the eligible emergency response and recovery expenses, beginning with the storms on June 12. **Via St. Louis Beacon**

Illinois launches new high risk pool for uninsured

A new health insurance option for people with pre-existing conditions and without medical coverage launches in Illinois on Friday, but only a small fraction of the uninsured will benefit. Enrollment in the Illinois Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (IPXP) will proceed on a first-come, first-served basis. It is one of the first major programs to be rolled out in Illinois under recently enacted national health reform.

Via Chicago Tribune

Missouri unemployment rises to 9.2 percent

Missouri labor officials say the state's unemployment rate edged higher to 9.2 percent last month, up from 9.1 percent in June. In a report this week, the Department of Economical Development also said the state had a net gain of 2,700 non-farm jobs in July. That follows a net loss of 7,500 in June. Missouri's total non-farm payroll in July was just below the April figure. The department says last month's biggest increases came in administrative and support services, which added 4,200 jobs. Financial services shed 1,900 jobs in July, the biggest loss by sector.

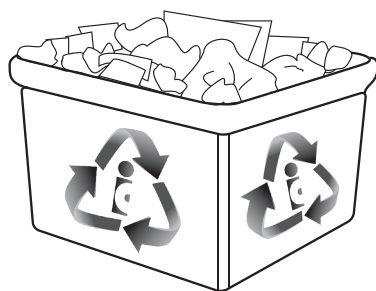
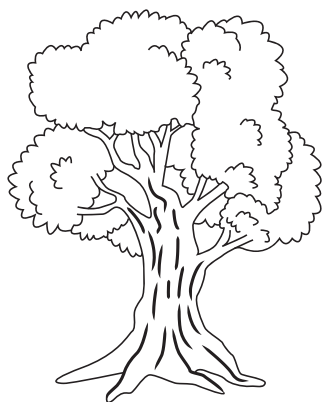
Via Associated Press

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CURRENT

UM-St. Louis' hiring freeze continues

► **MARIAN JONES**
Staff Writer

A 5 percent budget cut at the end of 2008 caused the University of Missouri St. Louis to freeze most, if not all, unfilled faculty and staff positions. University of Missouri-St. Louis has endured almost two years of a strict budget. During the process of enforcement, it came to a point that some positions were pivotal and needed to be occupied. "For a long time Jim Krueger, who is the Vice Chancellor for Managerial and Technological Services kept the Chief Information Officer [position] opened for a long time and had those units report to him directly," Bob Samples, Associate Vice Chancellor, said. "Then he eventually felt that we were

starting to fall behind in the planning and implementation of having the expertise in that and then he asked that there be an exception to fill that slot."

The university established a system where if there was high priority for a certain staff or faculty then the chancellor would make the decision to override the freeze. "There's a form called the Hiring Freeze exception and if someone wants to hire, they fill out a form that says this is a request for an exception to the hiring freeze.

They would then send it to their supervisor, who would eventually send it to one of the three vice chancellors. And if we all agree that it is an important, need-position, then we send it to the Chan-

cellor for approval," Glen Hahn Cope, Vice Chancellor, said.

Within this year the university has hired on two interim deans, Dean of Fine Arts and Communications along with Dean of Libraries. While both deans have tenure with the university they are temporarily replacing the previous deans that have retired. The university plans to start a search for new deans to fill these positions soon. "We will have a search, a national opened search, to replace the deans that retired and [the interim deans] may apply but they will have to compete for the job and get it," Cope said.

Even though there will be a search for deans, the Vice Chancellor said there will not be a search for both at the

same time.

"We can use the salary of the [dean] that is fully retired but the one that has gone back to faculty we only have part of that salary," Cope said. In addition to the hiring freeze, there have also been layoffs.

"The [University of Missouri President Gary D. Foresee] implemented a Transition Assistance Program for individuals who would be laid off due to budget cutbacks, and we have laid off 38 people on this campus—all across the board," Samples said.

Also, there are eight open faculty positions eliminated, 24 faculty searches on hold, 21 open staff positions eliminated, and 57 staff searches on hold.

Possible part-time nursing option coming

► **JEN O'HARA**
Features Editor

Beginning in spring of 2011, the College of Nursing has the possibility of presenting a part-time student option within its college. The demand for a part-time option for students has been desired for years at the University of Missouri-St. Louis could finally be coming into play.

In September, the Missouri State Board of Nursing will either deny or approve the additional option. Should it be approved, the option will begin in January and UM-St. Louis will be the only public university in St. Louis to offer a part-time nursing program.

Although it is part-time, the College of Nursing standards remain the same. Student admission requirements, coursework, and outcome are equal to the full-time and full-time accelerated options. The difference is that the average nursing student takes 15 to 18 credit hours in a semester, while the part-time option will generally have students taking nine credit hours in a semester.

"The full-time traditional option [takes] two-and-a-half years after the students' general education courses are

completed whereas the part-time option, the nursing coursework takes three years. It takes longer because they're going at a part-time pace, obviously. The part-time option, they're taking about five to nine credit hours a semester and they're going year round," Jill Maldeney, admissions advisor for the College of Nursing, said. "With the full-time traditional option, they don't go in the summer. They take more like 15 to 18 credit

hours a semester. That's the main difference," Maldeney said.

The other difference is that in the part-time option, labs and clinical courses will be conducted during the evening and on weekends.

Traditionally, nursing programs have been solely full time due to the demands of the courses.

See **NURSING** on page 7



College of Nursing, located on South Campus **ABIGAIL GILLARDI / THE CURRENT**

USA NEWS

Blagojevich to possibly return to politics

Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich said Sunday that he will not rule out another run for political office if federal prosecutors fail to convict him at a second trial. Blagojevich spoke on "Fox News Sunday" less than a week after he was convicted of lying to federal agents. Jurors, however, deadlocked on 23 other more serious charges, including that he had tried to sell President Barack Obama's old Senate seat. Federal prosecutors have said they will retry Blagojevich on those charges, but the former governor insisted that he will be vindicated. **Via Associated Press**

US troops unlikely to resume combat duties in Iraq

With a major military milestone in sight, Gen. Ray Odierno said in interviews broadcast Sunday that any resumption of combat duties by American forces is unlikely. President Barack Obama plans a major speech on Iraq after his return to Washington, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday because details were being finalized. The speech will come shortly after Obama returns to the White House on Aug. 29 from his Martha's Vineyard vacation. **Via Associated Press**

Wyclef Jean to challenge election ruling

Wyclef Jean, the hip-hop star who had hoped to become Haiti's next president, said on Sunday that his lawyers would challenge the recent ruling from election officials that kept him from the list of eligible candidates. He had simply accepted the decision when it was announced Friday night, but in a message Sunday on Twitter, his preferred means of public communication, Mr. Jean said he had decided to appeal because, "We have met all the requirements set by the laws, and the law must be Respected." **Via New York Times**

Egg supplier had lengthy violation history before recall

Two Iowa farms that recalled more than a half-billion eggs linked to as many as 1,300 cases of salmonella poisoning share suppliers of chickens and feed as well as ties to an Iowa business routinely cited for violating state and federal law. Food and Drug Administration investigators have yet to determine the cause of the salmonella outbreaks at Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms. The FDA investigation could take months, and sources of contamination are often difficult to find. The number of illnesses, which can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems, is expected to increase. **Via USA Today**

Gunmen surrender after invading luxury Rio Hotel

Heavily armed drug gang members engaged in an intense firefight with police, then fled into a luxury hotel popular with foreign tourists and held about 30 people hostage for three hours Saturday before surrendering. The upscale, beachside neighborhood of Sao Conrado where the Intercontinental Hotel sits was transformed into a war zone as upward of 50 gunmen with high-caliber rifles, pistols and even hand grenades faced off with police. **Via USA Today**

Sports

Golfer Matt Rau looks to next season and beyond

► **RYAN KRULL**

Staff Writer

At the age of six Matt Rau was waking up at 4:30 a.m. so he and his father could be on the first tee at Tamarack Golf Course in Shiloh, Illinois by 6 a.m. Rau, senior, marketing, is still hitting the links nearly every day – but now at a more reasonable hour. Rau was the only member of the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's golf team to make it to the NCAA Division II Super Regional last season. He was also one

of four players in the entire region to make it to that level as an individual. This coming season Rau hopes the Tritons will qualify as a team.

After transferring to UM-St. Louis from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Rau has been the stand out player on the golf team that has been improving. The team took eighth place at last season's Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament, but Rau will not take all the credit. He says that Ryan Penfield, senior, business administration, and Tim

Cochran, senior, political science major, are just as good as he is and with a handicap of "plus one-point-something." They also have the ability to routinely drive 315 or more yards off the tee. But Rau's statistics tell a different story. "Anybody who watches my game would say I hit the ball pretty well," Rau said, though conceding, "I need to work on my short game."

For the 22-year-old Rau, his solid swing did not happen overnight. It took about a decade and a half. He played with his father, Chris,

all through grade school before playing for four years at St. Mary's High School. His high school career culminated with a seventh place finish at the Missouri Class 4A State Championships. His favorite course is Old Warson Country Club, where he also just happens to work.

"I think next summer I'll probably turn pro," Rau said. "I'll probably work at the country club still and play in some professional tournaments here and there. I play in all the amateur tournaments around St. Louis, and

that's a good level of competition."

Rau's first season as a Triton was also Troy Halterman's first as head coach. Halterman has brought a level of organization to the team that did not exist before his arrival. This season he has added a weight training regiment to the team's practice schedule. Over the summer Halterman has also recruited four freshmen and transfer players. According to Rau, all signs point to a continuation of the steady improvement that has defined the

men's golf program the last few years.

"When I first got here the team was just kind of guys coming in and not being competitive, and we weren't recruiting guys to be competitive either," Rau said, "but since Troy took over last year as head coach, the program has done a 180. All the recruits are going to be competitive and push myself, Tim, and Ryan to play better golf."



Matt Rau, senior, marketing preparing to tee-off.

SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

SPORTS COLUMN

Pro athletes are setting bad example

► **MICHAEL FREDERICK**
Sports Editor

Professional athletes are often looked upon as role models. However, when watching ESPN or Fox Sports Net it is not difficult to find stories littered with baseball players, football players, or track runners who were caught using anabolic steroids, human growth hormone, or any other type of drug to give them an unfair advantage.

Performance enhancing substances are an unfortunate part of professional sports. Last week, ESPN reported that former big league pitcher Roger Clemens was indicted by a federal grand jury for perjury and obstruction of justice. Clemens, nicknamed The Rocket during his big league career, told Congress in a 2008 hearing that he had never taken performance enhancing substances.

Clemens is not the only big leaguer to have been caught using such substances. Alex Rodriguez admitted several years ago on 60 Minutes that he took steroids to help his game. Bud Selig, Commissioner of Major League Baseball, did not suspend or remove the Yankees third baseman. He has been allowed to continue playing baseball at its highest level. Rodriguez hit his 600th career big league homerun at Yankee Stadium in front of a sellout, cheering crowd. These fans should not be lauding this accomplishment. Rodriguez and others who are known cheaters should not be allowed into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Imagine, for a moment, that a child watching Alex

Rodriguez for the first time wants to know how he became a successful professional baseball player. What are parents supposed to say to their children when they say, "I want to be just like Alex Rodriguez when I grow up?"

Whether athletes like it or not, as public figures, they are role models. What they do, who they are and how they go about their business says something about themselves and the organizations they work for. If a professional athlete uses illegal methods to gain that extra edge above the opposition, then that athlete has no business on the playing field. People, especially children, look up to these athletes. It is true that they are people and people make mistakes. But what Roger Clemens, Alex Rodriguez, Mark McGwire and others did is inexcusable.

Every season seats are filled with countless number of fans who help pay athletes' salaries. Fans expect these athletes not to be having an unfair advantage and to be working hard on their game, not cheating. If there is one bright spot to this sad era of professional sports, where it seems that the benefits of hard work can be ignored if an athlete has the right drug, it can be that we now appreciate the ones that do not use performance enhancers.

Nevertheless, it seems that anabolic steroids and the illegal use of human growth hormones will continue to be a part of sports. Athletes that do not use such substances, those that build their careers off of hard work and ability, like St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols, are going to be under constant scrutiny.

Josh Morgan's short pro baseball career *Former triton drafted into the 'big league'*

► **MICHAEL FREDERICK**
Sports Editor
STEPHANIE BENZ
Assoc. Sports Editor

Josh Morgan enjoyed his baseball career at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "It was the best four years of my life and I wouldn't trade it for anything," Morgan said.

Between 2004 and 2006 the former pitcher for the then UM-St. Louis Rivermen was a three time all Great Lakes Valley Conference selection and in 2006 he won conference player of the year honors, along with being selected to the All Region team twice during his UM-St. Louis career.

"Josh was a great pitcher," Coach Jim Brady, Tritons baseball coach, said. "He had some dominating stuff."

Morgan grew up in South St. Louis city and attended Our Lady of Sorrows elementary school and St. Mary's High School on South Grand. "High School baseball was fun, too," Morgan said. "But the biggest difference between the

high school level and the college game is the quality of play and the speed of the game."

"I think what also helped me get drafted was that we did not use aluminum bats when I played at UM-St. Louis," Morgan said. "During my career we had wooden bats that really leveled the playing field. As a pitcher, it allowed me to really show what I and others could possibly do at the professional level." As of 2007, most college baseball conferences have abandoned the use of wooden bats and have gone to aluminum. During Morgan's four-year career at UM-St. Louis, though, the GLVC used wooden bats.

In 2006, Morgan was selected by the Oakland Athletics in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft. Morgan explained that the difference between college baseball and professional baseball is the competition level.

"In professional baseball, you're not just competing against the opposition," Morgan said. "You're also trying to win that spot against your teammates. Pro-

fessional baseball was kind of a business, but college baseball at UM-St. Louis was defiantly more team oriented."

Morgan never made it to the Major Leagues. Soon after arriving in Vancouver, British Columbia, home of the Athletics short season minor league affiliate, Morgan said he blew out his arm. His baseball career had ended.

"What happened was I was just pitching like I normally do. Then I felt a lot of pain in my arm. The next thing I knew my career was pretty much over," Morgan said.

"One thing that I will never forget about my time at UM-St. Louis would be Coach Brady," Morgan said. "He's one of those guys that no matter what always looked out after his players both on and off the field."

Josh Morgan still resides in the South Kingshighway neighborhood where he and his family grew up. While at UM-St. Louis, Morgan earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He is now a personal trainer at a local sports complex.

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Current sports information


GVLC rankings
Mens Soccer
Mens Soccer is ranked 9th in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Last year they qualified for the GLVC Tournament, narrowly.
Womens Soccer
Womens Soccer is ranked 10th in the GLVC. Coach Bobby Lessentine will be entering his second season as the womens soccer coach.
Womens Volleyball
Volleyball is ranked third in the GLVC. They are a powerhouse in the conference and are having a special Black-Out Game on Sept 17 vs Quincy University.

Upcoming sporting events
St. Louis Cardinals College Night
September 28, 29 and 30 the St. Louis Cardinals are sponsoring a College Night. Tickets are \$10 with a valid college ID.
St. Louis Blues College Night
The St. Louis Blues are sponsoring College Night. Tickets are \$20 and \$30 on most Thursday night home games.
Arch Rivalry Game
Saturday September 4th is the Arch Rivalry, Mizzou versus Illinois at the Edward Jones Dome. Tickets can be found on Stubhub or Craigslist. STLToday also has tickets periodically.

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NURSING, from page 4

“Primarily it’s been the tradition that college students in nursing typically are full-time students because nursing is so demanding. It’s very difficult to go to school on a part-time basis and carry [the courses],” Sandy Linquist, associate dean for undergraduate program of nursing, said. “It’s very difficult to work part time or full time, and go to school full time. So the tradition has been that students who go in nursing are scheduled to be full-time students.”

However, there are benefits to the part-time program that the college speculates will bring in several more prospective students.

“This is a way of providing them with a

different option in terms of how fast they have to complete the clinical nursing major courses. It allows people to work full time or meet their family commitments a little bit better. It’s tough when you’re going to school full time and you have kids, and a full-time job,” Lindquist said. “It’s practically impossible to be successful in a very challenging field like nursing when you have all those activities or commitments going on simultaneously. I think it’ll give them a greater opportunity to be successful in terms of that,” Lindquist said.

The college is currently accepting applications for the spring semester. 32 students have signed up as of yet.

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The College of Nursing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis will host an evaluation team visit from November 17-19, 2010 for the initial accreditation review of the DNP program by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education.

Written and signed comments related to the DNP programs initial accreditation may be submitted up to 30 days before the visit (Oct. 17, 2010). Evaluators consider third-party comments that relate to the programs' compliance with the accreditation standards. Standards may be accessed at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/accreditation/pdf/standards09.pdf>.

Comments should be sent to:
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Accreditation Assistant
Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education
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A&E

FILM

Best comic book movie ever

No matter what, everyone has baggage that they bring to a relationship. Some people have very little baggage and others can have quite a lot.

Sometimes it is something best kept under wraps, and for others, it is seven evil exes hell-bent on eliminating a current boyfriend.

Unfortunately for Scott Pilgrim's precious little life, he is that boyfriend.

See, Scott (Michael Cera) has a bit of a problem. The beautiful Ramona Flowers (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) is literally the girl of his dreams and all he wants is to be with her. But to do so, he is going to have to break up with his brand-new, seventeen-year-old, high school girlfriend Knives Chau (Ellen Wong).

Oh, and defeat those aforementioned seven evil exes.

"Scott Pilgrim vs. The World" is the latest movie from comedic genius Edgar Wright ("Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz"), based on the popular indie comic by Brian Lee O'Malley.

Along for the ride are Scott's friends, including his gay roommate Wallace (Kieran Culkin) and his band mates: Scott's onetime girlfriend Kim Pine (Alison Pill) and Stephen Stills (Mark Webber).

Right from the very beginning, "Scott Pilgrim" is a tour-de-force of visual effects, with a ton of subtle callouts not only to the original source material, but also to video games and indie music.

Scott, Stephen and Kim's aforementioned band, Sex Bob-Omb, is as much a character in the movie as any of the others. While this movie does feature video games prominently, one cannot forget that O'Malley created Scott Pilgrim after listening to a song. Music is a strong presence in the film; musician Beck wrote and sang many of the songs. The soundtrack is a definite must-buy.

The film unfortunately speeds through the early material of the comics, admittedly using brilliantly executed visual effects and transitions.

It is a shame because just a little more character exposition would have been nice.

Perhaps speeding right to the fight scenes is best, though. After all, watching Scott battle Ramona's seven evil exes for the right to continue dating her is the point of the whole story.

Some fans of the comic were worried that Michael Cera would not be able to do justice to Scott Pilgrim. After all, he has been somewhat typecast since his years-ago performance as the awkward-yet-adorable George Michael in "Arrested Development."

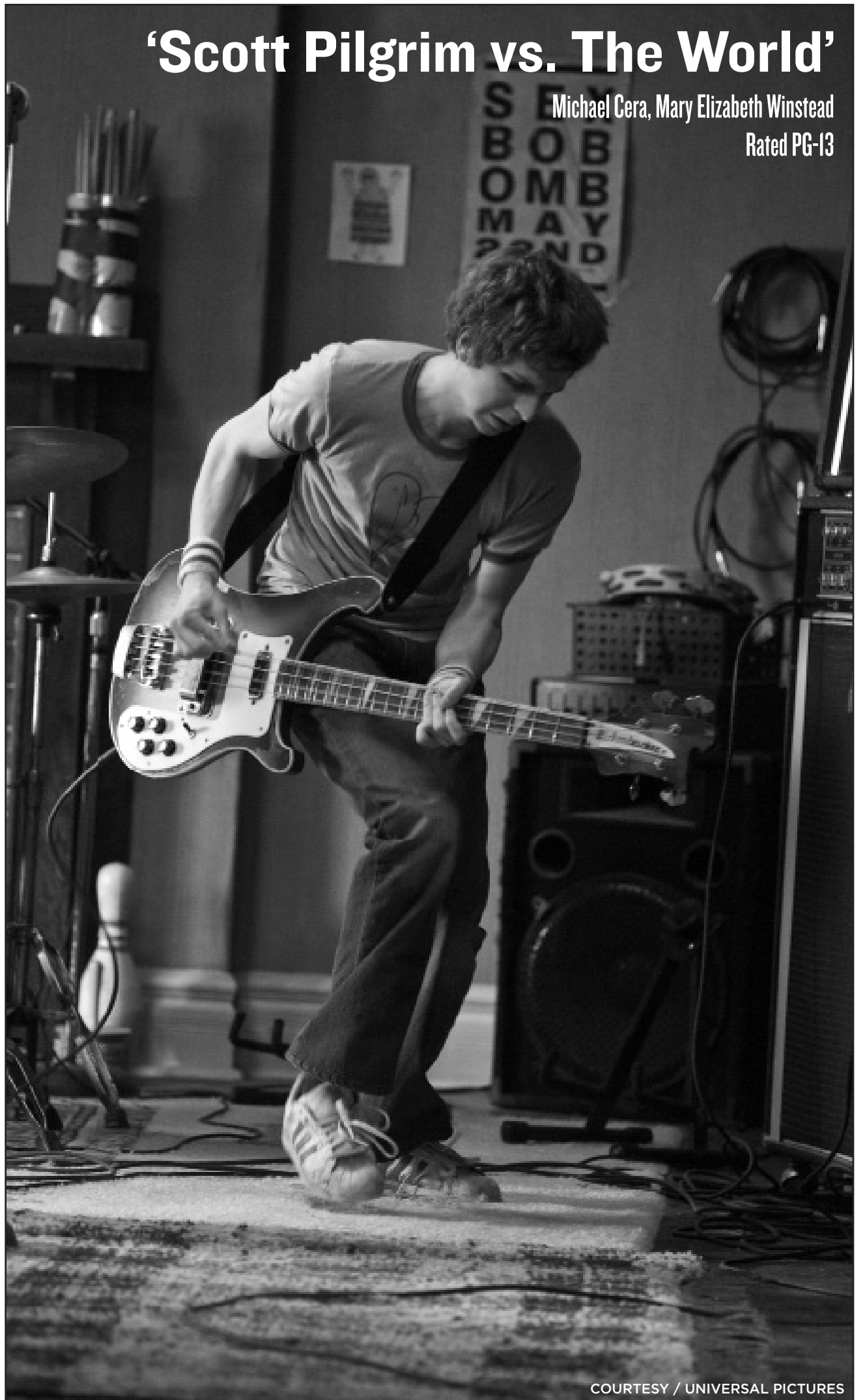
Never fear, fans. Cera's Pilgrim is spot-on. Cera shines in this movie, delivering lines with a moving sincerity. It also does not hurt that, thanks to a great screenplay, those lines will surely be quoted for years to come. Personal favorite? "I'm in lesbians with you."

See **SCOTT PILGRIM**, page 12

'Scott Pilgrim vs. The World'

Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead

Rated PG-13



COURTESY / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

MUSIC

**Artist: Dead Confederate****Album: Sugar****Release: Aug. 24****Labels: The Artists Organization,
Old Flame Records**

Dead Confederate's 'Sugar' is a sweet sophomore release

Dead Confederate's sophomore record, 'Sugar,' ditches the murky psychedelic-rock feel of its predecessor for an alternative rock jangle that leaps between flavors like a chameleon changes color. Produced by John Agnello (of Sonic Youth, The Hold Steady, and Dinosaur Jr. fame), 'Sugar,' is more refined and polished than Dead Confederate's debut, the Nirvana-tinged 'Wrecking Ball.'

This means no more meandering twelve-minute songs; on 'Sugar,' the Athens, Georgia-based Dead Confederate has whipped up a tighter, rootsier (think Deer Tick mash-potatoed with the alternative rock of Black Rebel Motor Cycle Club), more purposeful sound, that while steady rocking, at times admittedly feels watered down. This is the case on the fuzzed-out "Mob Scene," but certainly not on "In The Dark," 'Sugar's' opening track, which soars into the stratosphere with its swerving organ, white hot guitars, and crashing drums, to reveal the band's immense potential.

"Run From the Gun," stands out with androgynous vocals, guitar strumming and an alternative-country hook that is sure to be a crowd favorite. "Father Figure" pulses with a vibe that is reminiscent of early Smashing Pumpkins crossbred with The Silversun Pickups.

"By Design" brings the restrained leanings of Black Rebel Motor Cycle Club, borrowing their consistent thump, thump of the bass drum, near falsetto, rockabilly vocals and shimmering guitar. The song is wonderfully amorphous and at times, specifically during the chorus, sounding like "Naveed"-era Our Lady Peace. The anthemic "Semi-Thought," with ear-poking piano and drum-roll dominated drums, works well to bridge the record's first and second half.

On "Giving It All Away," front man Hardy Morris tackles the country energy of a restrained Jim James (My Morning Jacket) to create a tune that takes flight in a thought-provoking blend of Silverchair, Neil Young, Toad the Wet Sprocket and Radiohead. The song blends in

some of the psychedelic guitar work that dominated whole sections of 'Wrecking Ball,' but does so in an accessible and condensed fashion. That being said, the very tail end of the song is a tad disappointing, where the bass line and organ seem to hint at more, possibly a section with a bit of a Mo-town bent, but instead, simply dissolves.

The record's title track "Sugar," pleases with spooky guitar, intermittent drums, and captivating, saccharine, yet melancholy lyrics with a light bullhorn effect dribbled on top. The creeped-out cocktail builds to an earsplitting thunder of driving guitar, cascading drums and silky vocals.

The song melts into the similarly-paced "Shocked to Realize," which with its finger-picked glimmer guitar, drum build and bluesy, Deer Tick influenced vocals, winds tension like an old fly fisherman.

See SUGAR, page 12

William Elliott Whitmore, a gentleman and a rocker

On Sunday, August 15, William Elliott Whitmore, the tattooed, finger picking, friendly, grinning, whiskey-shooting, traveling troubadour, brought his brand of country-blues-gospel-folk-guitar rock to Off Broadway all the way from his farm in Iowa. Whitmore took the stage after openers Muscle Worship and the local band Strawfoot.

Whitmore dutifully hung out near the stage for both opening bands and cheered them on with a fervor rarely seen from headlining acts. He loves the camaraderie and the togetherness, a notion Whitmore commented upon like a preacher celebrating unity before a house full of the faithful.

Whitmore leapt up on stage and with his 100-year-old mountain man voice launched into an a cappella version of "Cold and Dead," a track from his debut record 'Hymns for the Hopeless.' Whitmore's singing was met with cheers and hoots from the crowd who sloshed and swayed to the song like blessed converts. Next came the rollicking, stomp laden "Lift My Jug." Everyone hoisted their glasses to the ceiling, careened their heels into the wood floor and crooned right along with Whitmore, who churned out a more impassioned and energetic performance than the version found on 'Ashes To Dust.'

Between songs, Whitmore would often stand up from his stool and stride around the stage like a coyote possessed with Duende energy, to shake hands and thank the crowd copiously. At one point, the swarthy Whitmore, who between songs cursed and drank like a bandit pirate, noticed there were some kids in the audience. He said, "Hello," and tried to stop cursing, but as the night and the booze wore on, Whitmore's excuse hilariously, became "the flood gates are already open." Whitmore, no doubt, knows how true this is, not only for this specific blasphemous situation, but also for American culture both economically and spiritually.

"Diggin' My Grave," "The Day the End Finally Came" and "Hell or High Water" all slid by with a palpable diligence from Whitmore, whose lyrics, vocals and strumming struck the audience near dumb. All they could do was whistle, sip or sway with the heart-on-the-sleeve, work-a-day trueness of Whitmore's music, who during "Hard Times" sang, "Hard times made us, you know that...and I would not trade them all for anything." The audience, who most likely were on course to sink nails, move earth, drive trucks, serve drinks, serve tables, answer phone calls, guard a desk, or fill out rueful paper work the follow-

ing day lapped it up like sentiment-hungry buffalo.

Whitmore played the crowd well, but it was he who fed off their collected, power-packed energy. The anti-police attitude conveyed in "Johnny Law," brought the audience to an impassioned roar. They raised their hands skyward and mimicked being cuffed, as Whitmore's loud vocals were almost lost in the caterwaul and singing along.

Whitmore gave and gave some more, playing around 23 songs in an epic two-hour set. At the end of it all, the crowd was still starving for more, but the proprietors of the wonderful Off Broadway brought the house lights up and demanded everyone depart. All that the sweaty and beaming Whitmore could do was shake hands and say, "Sorry, I've played too long," to which every audience member wished to reply, "If only it could go on forever."

Whitmore's shows are transcendent, powerful, rowdy and pulse with an energy rarely seen in today's concert world. Please, for the sake of art, eardrums, good music, community and love of life, get out and see William Elliott Whitmore. He is a gentleman, a musical genius, and quite possibly the strongest uniter of crowds in music today. **A+** — William Kyle

UPCOMING CONCERTS

August 25

American Idols Live, Scottrade Center
\$23-161

August 27

Rascal Flatts, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater
\$40-177

Black Crowes, The Pageant
\$79-335

August 28-29

Lou Fet Fet, Bottle Rockets, Stephaniesid, So Many Dynamos, Adam Reichmann, Titus Androconicus, Lucero, Airborne Toxic Event, Built to Spill, and Broken Social Scene
Central Field in Forest Park
\$34-300

VIDEO GAMES

'Zeno Clash: UE' is quirky, but flawed

"Zeno Clash: Ultimate Edition" may just be the best game featuring a bird-legged, hermaphroditic creature ever made. Then again, it is also the only game featuring a bird-legged, hermaphroditic creature ever made.

And strangely enough, that is meant as a compliment.

Originally appearing last year on the PC, the curious and quirky "Zeno Clash" was pretty interesting. It combines the groundbreaking first-person melee fighting of "Dark Messiah of Might and Magic" with the unusual organic weapons from "Oddworld: Stranger's Wrath," wrapping them all up in a nice, inscrutable package.

The land where "Zeno Clash" takes place, Zenozoik, is an enigmatic place full of fantastic creatures, hidden secrets and ancient mysteries. The game plays out "Memento" style, starting with the assassination of the aforementioned bird-legged, hermaphroditic creature Father-Mother by one of its sons, Ghat.

Surrounded by legions of his confused and angry brothers and sisters, Ghat must fight his way out of the city of Halstedom by any means necessary.

His journey to escape will take him far across Zenozoik, where Father-Mother's secrets are not the only mysteries to be unveiled. He will have to fight his own family, a clan of insane navel-gazers and some deadly apparitions in order to be vindicated.



COURTESY / ATLUS

While there are weapons that Ghat can use to take on his foes, their control is still a little slippery. Luckily, weapons come sporadically and often break, forcing Ghat to go mano-a-mano with his opponents.

The first person melee is still top-notch, as fresh today as it was a year ago. Unfortunately, it is also still a tad sloppy, being extremely hard to fight off two or more opponents, particularly when a third is sniping from afar with a set of dual fish guns.

This might make the game more "real"—after all, it is pretty hard to fight off multiple people in real life—but this is a game and a rather fantastical one at that. The ability to block oncoming side attacks when guarding would have been nice.

"Zeno Clash: Ultimate Edition" is the same game as the PC version, albeit for Xbox Live and including combat rebalancing, new modes and new gameplay content. Cooperative play is exclusive to the "Ultimate Edition," allowing the player and a friend to fight wave after wave of fighters in the Tower Challenge both online and locally via split screen.

While the story is interesting, it can easily be completed in less than five hours, and after a while, the combat does become a tad repetitive.

The bulk of the content lies in the single player survival challenges, which, while fun enough, eventually fall prey to the same repetitiveness of the main campaign's brawls.

That is not to say everything is bad. Despite its shortcomings, "Zeno Clash: Ultimate Edition" is still a fantastic game and well worth the money to spend an evening or afternoon exploring Ghat's story.

For those who played "Zeno Clash" on the PC last year, there is nothing here that warrants a purchase. For people new to Zeno Clash though, the Ultimate Edition is a great chance to get in on the oddness at a great price.

"Zeno Clash: Ultimate Edition" was developed by ACE Team and published by Atlus for the Xbox 360 on May 5. It is available in the Xbox Live Marketplace for 1,200 Microsoft Points, or \$15. The Publisher gave a copy of the game to *The Current* for reviewing purposes. **C+** —Andrew Seal

Funeral statues, video art explore expressions of grief at SLAM

The current special exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum combines two very different art forms and time periods to explore expressions of grief and loss and offer food for thought on being food for worms.

"The Mourners: Tomb Sculptures from the Court of Burgundy" is an exhibit of French medieval statues created to encircle the base of a nobleman's sarcophagus. What makes the statues so fascinating over the centu-

ries has been both their sheer number and the remarkable variety of expressions of grief and loss they portray.

Some exhibits require that visitors only view the art to take in the full effect. "The Mourners" is one for which it

is essential to read the story, provided in supporting materials displayed in the exhibit, both to best appreciate the miniature statues displayed and to grasp their context.

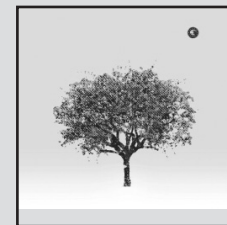
See **MOURNERS**, page 12

LATEST + GREATEST

MUSIC

Eels *Tomorrow Morning*

Architected by Mark Oliver Everett, who is known for devilish, yet oddly affecting sonic surprises that include everything from pared down drum and bass sadness to Rolling Stones-esque single effect rock replete with light vocal distortion, "Tomorrow Morning," promises to be an aural ride worth taking. Check it out on August 24. Upcoming tracks at Myspace.com/eels.



Disturbed *Asylum*



Disturbed's newest record is sure to feature more the band's trademark brooding heavy metal sound, but is rumored to offer up tidbits of lead singer, David Draiman's life. The band has paradoxically stated that "Asylum" will mark a fresh direction for the band, but will somehow stay true to their previous work. See how Disturbed makes that happen on August 31.

The Weepies *Be My Thrill*



The recently married duo of Steven Tannen and Deb Talan craft a singular brand of melodic, melancholy and shimmering folk pop. Their third major label release, "Be My Thrill," due out August 31, will surely help listeners paste a happy face over the woes of life using acoustic guitars and lilting harmony. Check out Myspace.com/theweebies to hear the record's title track.

MOVIES



Cairo Time *Plaza Frontenac only*

A lush romantic film about an American woman (Patricia Clarkson) who comes to Cairo to search for her missing husband with the help of an Egyptian man (Alexander Siddig).



Life During Wartime *Tivoli only*

Art house director Todd Solondz's ("Palindromes") latest is a comedy/drama with friends and family attempting to find meaning and love in a war-torn world.

MOURNERS, from page 11

Without the context, they look like little more than an array of tiny figures, some very eroded, arranged around a darkened room.

The mourners are small alabaster figures that were created for the tombs of the 14th and 15th century Dukes of Burgundy, who ruled over vast territories from their base in Dijon and whose patronage helped produce some of the best medieval art. The figures were produced by the court workshop under Claus Sluter and were placed in a gothic arcade around the base of the sarcophagus. Many of the figures portray nobles of the time but others convey the range of emotion, from anguish, to sadness, to religious devotion, to a quiet peace in exquisite detail. The arrangement of the figures represents a funeral procession, and are arranged as if the hooded, robed figures are in a cloister. Some figures' faces are hidden with their hoods while other have hoods lowered to reveal the face. Some dab tears, others wringing their hands.

Alabaster is softer than marble and some of the figures have endured abuse over the years. But enough remains to make the moving exhibit worthwhile.

To best appreciate this thought-provoking exhibit, the visitor should also take in its companion piece, "Visitation," a video work by ac-

claimed artist Bill Viola.

Putting these very different works, from divergent times, together seems counter-intuitive, but in fact it works very well, as they are united by their exploration of the fundamental human emotions surrounding life and death. In the film, which plays on an endless loop, two women walk down a hallway toward a shimmering surface, which we learn is a curtain of water. They pass through the barrier, take in the world around them and then return through it and walk back down the hall.

Like nearly all video art work, "Visitation" lacks the editing and pacing of film. At 20 minutes, it seems 10

minutes too long. The action takes place in slow motion, which is riveting as the figures approach and pass through the curtain of water, but is much less so in the long walk toward and away down the hallway. The patient viewer can take in the whole work, but the essential core, the part packed with emotion, is the middle part of the scene, where the play of emotions on the faces and the movements of bodies convey layers of meaning about grief, loss, horror, life and death.

"The Mourners" and the "Bill Viola: Visitation" exhibit run through September 6. Admission is for both, at \$8 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors. It is free on Fri-

SCOTT PILGRIM, from page 9

The fight scenes are impeccable. From the Bollywood-inspired fight against Evil Ex one, Matthew Patel (Satya Bhabha) to the almost Dragon Ball Z-inspired fight versus Ex three, the telekinetic vegan Todd Ingram (Brandon Routh), Wright has crafted kung-fu bliss.

For anyone who grew up in the late 1980s and early 1990s, "Scott Pilgrim" feels like home. The subtle video game references (the end level chime from "Sonic the Hedgehog" and the coin noise from "Super Mario Brothers") are copious and smack of a childhood well spent.

Infusing indie sensibility with video game rhetoric, "Scott Pilgrim" is a geek opus, surely destined for cult status (at the very least). The way that Wright deftly blends different genres into one film is not only a testament to his skill as a director, but also a fitting hallmark for the Scott Pilgrim series itself.

Run, do not walk, to see this movie. Those that do will not regret it. **A** —Andrew Seal

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Features



Shweta Galande swings her club. Shweta placed 27th in the NCAA Championships.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Golfer lands nationals for UM-St. Louis

► JEN O'HARA
Features Editor

As a freshman, Shweta Galande not only was the first on the University of Missouri-St. Louis' women's golf team who qualified for a national tournament, but also did well at the tournament.

The Current: You are from New Dehli, India. How did you find yourself at UM-St. Louis?

Shweta Galande: I had spoken to my agent. He gave me a list of some universities, and I liked UMSL first of all because your weather is what I'm used to playing in. Plus, what the psychology [program] offered me was interesting. They had given me 100 percent scholarship, plus being on the team. I really wanted to play my first year and not just sit on the side and watch others play.

TC: How did you get involved with golf in the first place?

SG: My dad was watching golf on TV one time and I started ridiculing the game. I was like, "Oh my God, this is such a boring game, just hitting around the golf ball. I mean, it doesn't make sense. I mean, anyone can hit a golf ball." So, my dad was like "Ok, do you want to try a hand at it or something?" I said, "Yeah, sure!" So, he took me to the golf course and I could not hit the ball, as many times as I tried. I never

even knew there was a game like golf that existed before that. When I first held a golf club, I was thirteen. He asked if I wanted to join golf and I said sure, just for fun. But as I got ... better, I got more into golf.

TC: How did you feel as a freshman qualifying for a national tournament?

SG: Nationals [were] a very big thing for me and for our school because I was the first one to go to nationals. It was a new experience. Everyone at nationals is as good as you. It was a very healthy competition, very different. It made me feel really important. It was a very exhilarating experience and it was icing on the cake for my first year. I couldn't believe that I actually made it to nationals. It was a very humbling experience and I was ecstatic. It's an experience I'll always cherish. It's like a stepping-stone.

TC: Can you tell me a little about your relationship with your coach, James Earle?

SG: We kind of bonded when we went to nationals. The thing that I like about him the most is that he's not interfering, he doesn't mess with your game too much. He gives you your space to work with. If I know how to get a particular outcome, he won't come in and force things on me.

Honorary Doctorate degree awarded to world famous choreographer

► **SUZANNE MATTHEWS**
Staff Writer

Michael Uthoff is not the ordinary choreographer, nor is he the ordinary artistic director. A world-renowned choreographer, his work has spanned 40 years and several countries. An inspiration to any aspiring dancer, he has held almost every position in the business and has had the career that most dancers will only dream about. For these reasons and more, the University of Missouri-St. Louis has awarded him with an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts.

Originally from Santiago, Chile, Michael Uthoff was raised by dancers Ernst Uthoff and Lola Botka, founders of the National Chilean ballet. Even with his artistic upbringing, Michael Uthoff did not start dancing until after high school.

"I had no real interest or reason for being involved in the field other than I had enjoyed it and seen it since I was born. After graduating from high school, I wanted to be involved in a formal career. I knew I wanted to work in theater and I discovered the other side of dance that my parents didn't show me," Uthoff said.

Since his start in dance, Uthoff has been a dancer, director, choreographer, a company owner and now an artistic director.

"[Michael] is a very important person in the field. There's a certain strength he brings to the company. He has those contacts," Janet Brown, Director of Operations and Education, Dance St. Louis, said. "Often he can find an up and coming dance company that the public is not aware of yet. He has an eye for it, being a dancer and choreographer himself."

Dance St. Louis is a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring the world's best dance to St. Louis.

"We need a lot of resources to carry out our mission. To do what we do, we have to raise \$1 million every year. We have fundraisers but the more the audience comes to see us, the less pressure we have to try to raise money," Uthoff said. "Just enjoy dance. Come and see what we have to offer. Come enjoy yourself and see the jazz or tap that's performed all over the world for the price of what you pay for any other theater or party in the city."

The honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts came as a surprise to Uthoff.

"It was completely humbling and touching. I was dumbfounded, so to speak. I didn't know anyone was even watching what I had done with my life, so I was very surprised," Uthoff said in an interview with Ryan Heinz.

"Since arriving in 2006, Michael Uthoff has been an outspoken advocate for the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Touhill Performing Arts [Center]. The honorary degree that Uthoff [received] on Saturday is richly deserved for his many contributions to the arts over a 40-year career in dance," John Hylton, dean of the college of fine arts and communications, said.

So what is next for this renaissance man of dance?

"To stabilize the company over the next five years in a manner we can continue providing the service that we've been bringing to the city and expand the programs that we have and to reach more young people. And eventually, retire and walk into the sunset with a smile on my face," Uthoff said.

Mark Twain Brick Campaign:

More student support is needed

► **MINHO JUNG**
Staff Writer

The Department of Athletics initiated the Mark Twain Legacy Plaza campaign in June to raise funds for improvements and renovations of the 40-year-old facility. Bricks are accepted in three different sizes from the public. The main purpose of this project is to mark the Mark Twain Building's fortieth anniversary and to revitalize it by improving the old facilities inside and out.

"I saw this as an oppor-

tunity to help the university and the athletics program" Westerholt, a former University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball player and 1973 education graduate, said.

Purchased commemorative bricks will line the walkway of the entrance to the Mark Twain Building where many people pass through. Brick purchasers' names will be engraved on the bricks.

"I think it is a great idea to make students feel a part of

the university and show their spirit of love for their school. I'm definitely willing to participate in donation," Aquira Chelsea Foster, junior, English, said.

However, some students point out the fact that the minimum price of brick for the donation is a little too high.

"Yes, the brick campaign is an excellent way to raise money, but I only can participate in the spirit of it. I wish they could offer more flexible price for students," Justin Jojo Bello, senior, graphic design, said. Foster offers an idea for more student involvement in suggesting the idea that the campaign advertising should be more directed toward student organizations, who can raise money as a group.

The fundraising has greatly contributed to improving the facilities, noted by students who use the athletic depart-

ment. The positive changes inspire hope that other facilities will also be improved through fundraising.

hopes to see better and more musical instruments for students and I think [a] fundraising campaign could be a

raising event will be used for athletic scholarships. Without scholarships, a number of current students would not have been able to attend the university.

"The scholarship is really important to students like me. I play tennis; therefore, I get a scholarship from the school. Probably I wouldn't be able to come and continue my academic dream without a scholarship. Since a lot of student athletes make a great effort for the school, I think that contribution should be returned in a way. I hope the scholarship [can] be expanded for athletic students," Daniel Raj Anthony, senior, management information systems, said.

More information about the brick campaign can be found on the school website. <http://www.umsl.edu>

.....
“I think it is a great idea to make students feel a part of the university...”
- Aquira Foster
.....

"I expect to see this type of fundraising campaign for other school facilities, such as the performing arts center. My brother, who is majoring in music, mentioned that he

way to make his dreams come true," Sandra Trieb, senior, nursing, said.

Apart from renovating facilities of Mark Twain, a part of the money from the fund-

Find more of student news at www.thecurrent-online.com

Tai Chi Qigong:

Simple, easy and fun

► **CAITLIN E. L. MYLES**

Staff Writer

Four times a week, the University of Missouri-St. Louis students, faculty and staff work on their internal life energy with Tai Chi Qigong, an alternative exercise.

Tai Chi Qigong, developed in the late 1970s, is a unique martial art. Its purpose is to open up channels within the body. Focusing on the task at hand brings the mind to calmness and clarity. Thirty minutes of it fulfills a day's worth of exercise. Anyone can practice Tai Chi Qigong with or without an interest in martial arts.

Linda Gatson, chief clerk in the Office of Finance at UM- St. Louis, is the instructor of the Tai Chi Qigong daytime practices and has been for the last three years. A hobby she first took only to help reduce her blood pressure has now become a seven-year commitment.

"I absolutely love Tai Chi," Gatson said. And she does not plan on quitting any time soon.

Gatson teaches Tai Chi as a class in both the fall and spring semesters, but offers Tai Chi Qigong, a combination of Tai Chi and Qigong, to anyone interested on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. From noon to 12:30 p.m., Tai Chi Qigong is practiced in a secluded room in the JC Penny building located on north campus. These sessions are free and open to all faculty, staff and students. Anyone of any age, weight or height can participate. No special clothing or

level of experience is required.

"I come over two to three times a week, because it's really relaxing. It gets rid of stress," Annette Prince, Ward E. Barnes Library employee, said. Many of the group members were seen with relaxed expressions after completing their 30 minutes of Tai Chi Qigong last Friday.

Many health benefits come from practicing Tai Chi Qigong such as improved posture, balance, flexibility, lower body strength and, most of all, relaxation. After attending a session, Dianne Ridgeway, senior, media studies, said, Tai Chi Qigong is "a different kind of relaxing." The exaggerated, hard and soft movements help slow down breathing and force the body to rest. Tai Chi Qigong also helps reduce stress and lower blood pressure.

"It cut one of my student's blood pressure medicine in half," Gatson said. Gatson hopes it will one day do the same for her.

In addition to the many health benefits, Tai Chi Qigong is also a great form of entertainment. "It's the most fun I've ever had exercising. I can't wait to do it again," Tiffany Mayo, junior, criminology, said.

Tai Chi Qigong sessions are every week. The times and days for sessions are noted on the campus calendar on Mygateway. For more information on the daytime Tai Chi Qigong sessions, visit Umsl.edu/~gatson/taichi.

SUGAR, from page 10

Sadly, for much of 'Sugar's,' run-time, Dead Confederate rehash the sound of their predecessors and in doing so, merely swim downstream, failing to paddle against the sound of these aforementioned bands and play off them in any new, meaningful or artful way.

Rarely do Dead Confederate's salmon wriggle upstream, against the flow of what has been done before, but when they do, as on the sun-soaked, nasally perfection of "Run From the Gun," or the rueful power of

"Father Figure," the audience glimpses Dead Confederate's true potential purpose.

Here's to hoping there is more of this Deer Tick meets Blitzen Trapper feel to be found in the next step of Dead Confederate's evolution, and perhaps fewer references to other bands in describing their songs. Nonetheless, 'Sugar,' stands as a solid record, one more than worth picking up, if only for its handful of delightful grunge rock meets alternative-country songs. **B** —William Kyle

S.T.A.R.S. program shines

educating the next generation of scientists

► **CATE MARQUIS**

Assoc. A&E Editor

"The country is not worried about too many science PhDs," Dr. Kenneth Mares, director of the Student and Teachers As Research Scientists program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said.

STARS is an annual six-week summer program that allows high-ability high school students or their teachers to experience research in a top-flight lab.

Think of it as summer camp for budding scientists.

"There [are] plenty of [summer camp] opportunities for our athletes in our community, but very limited roles for athletes at the next level, in the professional level. But, our country is not going to have too many physicians or too many PhDs in molecular biology," Mares said.

This summer's program ran June 7 through July 16, with 62 students from 28 high schools in the St. Louis area participating. The students divided their time between individual research labs, lectures on the UM-St. Louis campus and social activities.

"This is not shadowing or anything like that. This is six weeks, or maybe longer, of developing a research project, understanding what you are doing, developing some skills, doing some observa-

tions, writing up what you see and then interpreting it," Mares said.

Scientist mentors came from Washington University, St. Louis University, the Danforth Plant Science Center and other scientific research facilities. Students chose their mentor and area of interest, ranging from astronomy and physics to biology and computer science. The program is co-sponsored by the participating universities along with the Danforth Center, Pfizer Inc., LMI Aerospace Inc./D3Technologies and Solae LLC.

Among this year's students was Avital Shulman, who attends Block Yeshiva High School. Shulman's project with Dr. Mariana Beltcheva at St. Louis University was "Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation along the Oligodendrocyte Lineage: The Effects of Morphine."

"We studied the effect that morphine has on [cell] differentiation," Shulman said. "We started with characterizing the line of stem cells that we used, by staining them with different proteins to confirm they were expressing different cellular markers. Then, we would treat certain groups with morphine for a given length of time; nine days or ten days. We would then stain them and count how many cells had differentiated to what stage, to see what effect the morphine had

had."

Shulman enjoyed working on the project so much, she continued the research for the rest of the summer. "That enthusiastic reaction is common," Mares said. STARS students plan to go to medical school.

But STARS is not all work.

"We got to go see a baseball game, that we won at the very last second," Zach Weinstock, who attends Parkway North High School, said. "We saw 'Toy Story 3,' which was really good and then we had some awesome ice cream. And at the baseball game, we got tons of fudge, which was cool."

Weinstock's project was "The Role of the Globus Pallidus in Sleep Homeostasis." His mentor was Dr. Michael Anch of St. Louis University.

"My project focused on a portion of the brain called the basal ganglia, which has previously been associated primarily with movement," Weinstock said. "However, a previous study tested whether the basal ganglia might be associated with sleep, and they found abnormal inactivity in insomniacs. It was really cool, but one thing I did not count on was how much I might be learning. Not just in my topic, but from all the speakers we had. And, I made a lot of cool new friends."

Read

The

Current

THE LOCAL TOURIST

I'd rather be in St. Louis, City Museum brings out the kid in you



Suzanne Matthews

Welcome back Tritons! As your homework assignment this weekend, go to City Museum and celebrate your return.

This is for the shy guy that longs for the day when he could chase his crush around the playground... For the girl who misses hide and seek and

tag... For anyone who wishes they could be a kid again... This museum is for you.

When you get to the roof, do not be fooled by the sounds of a waterfall and the tables and chairs that seem to invite you to relax. Take this time to warm up for the day-long obstacle course you are about to embark upon. And if a giant jungle gym was not enough to take you back to your childhood, walk over to the infamous bus that dangles off of the roof threatening to topple over at any minute. Climb inside and head straight to the one place that was never allowed: the driver's seat. Feeling bold? Try rocking it.

Then, head over to the

Ferris wheel where both the breeze and the view will blow you away. Perfect for the hot summer days St. Louis is famous for, it provides the kind of breeze only a rusted Ferris wheel can when it is eleven stories in the air. Warning: It may cause a nervous stomach.

Speaking of nervous stomachs, the museum boasts a ten-story slide—a popular favorite with museum-goers. Sitting at the top of the slide wondering how fast it really is, the brave grab the bar for momentum, the columnist does not but instead holds onto the voice recorder whose back has broken off and fallen down the slide, giving a preview of what is to come. Fun

from beginning to end, this is a must-do on the list. Note to boys: Empty your pockets before going down the slide. A wallet managed to escape its owner.

Further down the rabbit hole...

Curiosity and wonderment run rampant in this world of caves where every crevice presents a new contortion challenge and a new adventure that never ceases to amaze. Hieroglyphics in the form of children's drawings decorate the dinosaur shaped rocks and the damp walls, sounds of dripping water create a world in which the mind boggles at the thought of the city being just outside. A serious game of hide and seek is in order should you accept the challenge.

For the skater go to the skate park where you can run all over the half pipes, and clam shells and wax nostalgic on the days when you could

do a flip trick.

For the individualist, stop by St. Louis' largest vintage store where you can buy anything from a wool coat for \$12.00 to a T-shirt for \$1.00. The store has everything needed to revamp your entire wardrobe and makes it possible to do for minimal cash.

Then head to Monster City. Tons of twisted metal run in a dozen different directions. Have a ball fight in the gigantic ball pit or join the quarter-mile high club (the PG kind) and climb up

to the old plane that sits atop the massive playground. This jungle gym is an all day event.

As the coup de gras, head over on any Friday and Saturday nights for live music and Lights Out until 1 am. Pay admission after nine and all lights on the main floor are shut off and you're given a flashlight to find your way around. Flashlight tag anyone?

NATIONALS, from page 13

He gives me a lot of space and gives me the freedom to work with my game the way I'm used to. That's what I like the most about him. And, of course, he's a very fun person.

TC: *Do you have a favorite golfer? What do you like most about him/her?*

SG: I like Phil Mickelson. I like his temperament on the golf course. He's easygoing, and focused at the same time. His wife was battling cancer, and he's got arthritis now. In spite of that, that guy is always smiling. That's why I admire him the most.



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AUGUST 29- SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

Opinions

OUR OPINION

President Obama keeps promise; combat troops come home from Iraq

President Obama has delivered one of his campaign promises. This August, American forces in Iraq have returned home.

In one of the longest conflicts in American history, the Iraq War lasted from late 2003 to August 2010. Nearly 2 million lives were lost during this conflict, both military and civilian.

It was also difficult to watch the nightly national news and not see stories of service men and women returning home without limbs, or not returning at all.

In 2003, President George W. Bush gave a famous, or sometimes infamous, Mission Accomplished Speech on the USS Abraham Lincoln in the Persian Gulf. Despite this announcement, insurgencies and car bombings were rampant in Iraq.

The Current is a neutral campus newspaper. However, President Bush's speech was premature and caused more harm than good in Baghdad and other Iraqi insurgent areas. We at *The Current* are appreciative of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. But we also believe that these men and women should be given the benefit of the doubt and only be deployed overseas in the direst of situations.

The Bush administration between 2001 and 2008 used the war to pass legislation such as the Patriot Act and other legislation which limited civil liberties throughout the United States. The Patriot Act expanded the power of the federal government and some police forces.

The Current is grateful for the sacrifices military men and women from all branches of the armed forces. We also understand the sacrifices military families give on a daily basis. We are not, however, grateful for

the then commander in chief of the United States military for using these men and women for political gain.

The Current is also appreciative of President Barack Obama for coming through on one of his campaign promises, to bring home troops.

If it were not for his progressive agenda and administration, American troops would still be in the Persian Gulf.

Scott Air Force Base in Shiloh, Illinois might have an influx of returning troops looking for work and school through GI bill legislation. We hope and wish that the colleges and universities around the country welcome these people home and give them every opportunity to succeed in life.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has a new student organization for former military veterans. We hope that these individuals returning home from war zones like Baghdad and Tikrit are given a hero's welcome.

As for the troops who did not return home, who leave behind wives, husbands, children and other family members, *The Current* more than thanks you for your service to the United States of America. We also hope that instead of war, death and destruction, government in the future will decide their differences diplomatically and peacefully, instead of reaching for guns, tanks and artillery shells.

In conclusion, *The Current* wishes to again thank the American armed forces from the entire editorial staff and beyond.

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board: Sequita Bean, Gene Doyel, Jennifer O'Hara, Michael Frederick, William Kyle, Zachary James Kraft, and Jennifer Meahan.

WHAT'S BEAN HAPPENING?

Religious America has to stop *Troops who skip Christian concert get punished*

Sadly, in America patriotism is decided based upon support of the military and a love of Jesus Christ. Anyone who disagrees probably has never lived in America or is one of those people who are quick to call a person un-American if they don't support the military or love Jesus Christ.

Imagine the dismay of the troops stationed at the Newport News, Virginia base when they were allegedly punished for skipping the commanding general's "Spiritual Fitness Concert." The May concert featured Christian rock group BarlowGirl and 200 men were told by a sergeant that they could either attend the concert or stay in their barracks.

About a hundred men stayed behind and were put on lockdown instead of being released to their personal time. Some of the soldiers were reportedly told not to use their cell phones or personal computers and were forced to clean up the barracks. While disturbing, this story is not surprising. The military has long been forcing Christianity on soldiers despite it being against army policy. For too long these acts of ignorance have been going on, but luckily someone had the guts to report it. Now the army is investigating the incident, but no repercussions for the episode have been

reported. Before long this situation will be swept under the rug never to be brought up again and therefore the military will continue forcing Christianity on soldiers.

America is supposedly the land of the free, but how free is America when it comes to religion? Three things are true about religion in America: Our president cannot under any circumstances be anything but Christian/Catholic, "In God we trust" will never be removed from our currency and for religious reasons, several states will continue to ban abortion, same sex marriage and stem cell research.

Seeing the disparity of the people in religion ruled countries such as Iraq and Pakistan, one would think that Americans would reject the idea of a Christian run nation. In the past, those who have spoken up about it have been accused of being anti-patriotic and un-American.

The holier-than-thou pompous attitude of American bible huggers is sickening. For America to be the richest most powerful nation in the world, we are so far behind socially compared to other nations. The Christian undertone in American politics keeps us from being progressive and other nations continue to hate America because of it—thus igniting ter-



Sequita Bean

rorism and wars.

It also makes America look very prejudiced. There is no reason why in 2010 there are still millions of Americans fighting for the basic human right to marry whomever they want. There is no reason why anyone should be protesting a Muslim community center being built in New York City. There is also no reason why our president is constantly accused of being a Muslim, as if it is a bad thing.

Americans and immigrants alike should be permitted to worship who they want, when they want despite scrutiny from others. This country was built on freedom, but yet it is so hard to find here. Forcing people to worship Jesus? Now that is truly un-American.

Sequita Bean is Editor-in-Chief of The Current.

**DO YOU AGREE WITH SEQUITA?
DO YOU DISAGREE?**

**Comment on this article at
thecurrent-online.com**

CATCH US EVERY MONDAY

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Higher education in America messed up

I have a friend. Let's call her Eleanor.

Eleanor wants to be a doctor. She is not quite settled on what kind of a doctor yet-- maybe a surgeon, maybe a physician, maybe a pediatrician-- but a doctor nonetheless. From a young age, she has had a dream of helping others.

The product of a broken home, Eleanor had to grow up quickly. The eldest of three children, she had to be the caretaker while her mother got drunk and her father did drugs.

She graduated high school and went to community college for a year. She was already paying for all of her own expenses and, to top it off, she walked nearly two miles to work every day.

Quickly, her home life worsened considerably. Finally, she decided it was time she got out and actively pursued her dream of becoming a doctor.

Eleanor's divorced parents are not the best of people. Both of them are very selfish and neither one of them will help her pay for her schooling. They would not even drive her to her chosen college. She was on her own.

For students like Eleanor, there are few options. There are the standard subsidized and unsubsidized loans from the Federal Government and the Pell Grant. If you apply early enough, there is always the chance of scholarships.

But what happens if those funds are not enough? Well, there are always private loans. The catch is, many require the borrower to either make \$12,000 a year or to have a cosigner with great credit. Eleanor makes less than that, and her parents cannot cosign for her due to their terrible credit.

Classes have not even started yet and Eleanor was told last week that if she did not come up with \$698 by last Friday, she would be dropped from her classes. On top of all her woes, she still has yet to pay for textbooks. Have you ever tried going through pre-med courses without a book?

To make matters worse, her expenses do not even cover a meal plan for her at her new college. She is try-



Andrew Seal

ing to get on food stamps, but that is a crap-shoot at best.

Our country is going through a rough time economically and, sadly, budgets for higher education are being slashed left and right.

But let's set aside politics. Let's set aside Republican and Democrat, Tea Party and Libertarian. Here we have a young, motivated girl who yearns to not only better herself, but also to work for the health of others, to fix what ails them and to make them whole and hale.

There should be some kind of benevolent organization that recognizes this, and says, "Hey, we see what you're trying to do. We want to encourage that kind of selfless behavior. We would like to loan some money to you to help you achieve that dream and make something of yourself."

There is an organization like that. It is called the Federal Government. We need to cut through all the bigger government/smaller government crap and work together to overhaul Higher Education.

A brilliant girl who wants to make something of herself should not have to leave the college she chose to attend because of financial issues. This girl has been through the absolute worst that life can throw at you and she has come out the other side unscathed.

America, can't you see what is happening? We are so busy fixing other people's problems and fighting other people's wars that we are letting our own, our brilliant children like Eleanor, the future of our country, slip right through the cracks.

Andrew Seal is a staff writer and columnist for The Current.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Bush's rising popularity lessens likelihood of a party crashing

During George W. Bush's last weeks in office, his approval rating was in the 20s. It had been in the 30s for most of his second term. His unpopularity allowed Democrats to easily take control of the House, Senate as well as a majority of governorships across the country in the midterm elections of 2006. A Democrat victory in 2008 was all but official before the party had even figured out who the candidate was going to be. Leaving office in January of 2009, it looked like poor George was going to be a thorn in the side of the Republican Party for years to come.

That thinking was not without precedent. Jimmy Carter's disastrous four years in the Oval Office gave Republicans enough campaign ammunition to make sure they occupied it for the next 12. Mondale was branded as the second coming of Carter, as was Dukakis four years later.

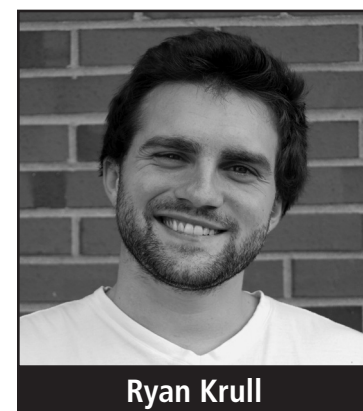
Democrats running in the 2010 midterms are campaigning on a platform of opposition to the failed policies of George W. Bush. Just recently President Obama stopped referring to "the previous administration" and started naming Bush. "That's pretty unusual for him to name the former president directly in this criticism," Wolf Blitzer, CNN correspondent, said. "Usually it's implied, but to specifically name George W. Bush,

that is significant."

Significant indeed, Wolf. It shows that Democrats are really banking on there being some lingering dislike for Bush, just as there was for Carter in the 80s and early 90s. But just because running as the antithesis to Dubya worked two years ago does not at all guarantee it will work again now.

George W. Bush is not going to be the Republican Jimmy Carter; he is just too damn good at being a former president. Wisely, he has kept a low profile and acted with dignity. His most public action was a joint fundraising effort with Bill Clinton to help earthquake-ravaged Haiti. He has given a few interviews, but, unlike his former vice president, avoids bashing his successor. Why would he bash Obama anyway? The current administration keeping Gitmo open as well as sending more troops to Iraq and Afghanistan only gives justification to Bush's foreign policy.

Carter, on the other hand, remained in the public eye after his presidency, constantly reminding voters of the "malaise" his single term as president created. The failures of Carter were also much more tangible than those of Bush. It is difficult to explain to voters how or why a housing bubble bursts or the Valeri Plame scandal. But events that happened during Carter's administration -- 52



Ryan Krull

Americans being held hostage in Iran and long gas lines, for example -- are pretty straightforward and speak for themselves. It took three whole election cycles for the Carter fallout to dissipate, but the residual effects of the Bush years are already fading fast.

Unfortunately for Democrats, voters are tired of the incumbents blaming predecessors. T-shirts with 'Miss Me Yet?' printed next to Forty-Three's mug have reportedly begun outselling their 'I Vacation with Barack' counterparts at gift shops all across Martha's Vineyard.

So if Democrats want to stay in power, they need to come up with a better campaign slogan than "a vote for a Republican is a vote for Bush" because George W. Bush won't be running for anything anytime soon. And even if he did, it sounds like he might win.

Ryan Krull is a staff writer for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at
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Point

Counterpoint

Should the 14th Amendment be repealed?

Yes: change the Constitution to match today's needs

Being born in the United States of America means more than just getting citizenship. It means its array of rights and privileges predecessors have fought for throughout the history of the country. A simple accident of birth in the United States is not sufficient to justify getting a citizenship of the nation.

More importantly, that is not the right way to understand the true meaning of the 14th Amendment. The core of the problem resides in different interpretations of the Constitution, where all the debates start.

So-called "birthright citizenship" is based on the interpretation of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Section one of the 14th Amendment states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside." What does it mean by "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States? Here is the definition of "subject to" from the dictionary: "In

a situation where you have to obey a rule or a law." Regarding the meaning of "subject to," it is hard to say that anyone who owes allegiance is included in it, especially the ones who entered the country illegally.

The tragedy began when the U.S. Supreme Court misinterpreted the clause a century ago. Since then, millions of illegal immigrants' offspring have become American citizens and the number is gradually increasing. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, an estimated four million citizen children born to illegal immigrant parents lived in the U.S. as of 2008, up about 1.3 million from 2003.

Since then, the right of the U.S. citizens has been ideologically threatened by those who are not supposed to be citizens. Moreover, the misinterpretation also generates physical problems such as "birth tourism," which is getting more commercialized day by day in addition there is a nonstop influx of illegal immigrants who want their baby to become an American citizen. But the ques-

tion is, "Has it been misinterpreted?" "I'm not sure exactly what the drafters of the (14th) amendment had in mind, but I doubt it was that somebody could fly in from Brazil and have a child and fly back home with that child and that child is forever an American citizen," Jeff Sessions, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee of Alabama, said.

As the history of the United States of America tells us, apparently, the U.S. has been found, developed and served by immigrants from around the world. Their contribution to the country should be honored and passed on to next generations. However, to serve their honor well and to pass on what we have received from our ancestors to future generations, some serious research and follow-ups over the controversial interpretation should be proceeded and corrected if an error is found. Maybe "subject to the jurisdiction" means just simply "born in the U.S." as the current Supreme Court insists. At this point, however, something does not seem to be right.

No: protect the Constitution from the populist frenzy

The 14th amendment was adopted in 1868 so that the former Confederacy would have no choice but to recognize the citizenship of African-Americans.

This amendment is also the basis for giving citizenship to anyone born in the United States, even if that person is born to parents here illegally.

Arizona's SB 1070 has started a wave of anti-immigrant fervor and the Tea Party crowd wants to take away the citizenship granted to children born to parents here illegally by repealing the 14th amendment. House Minority John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have called for congress to look into doing just that.

But repealing the 14th amendment for that reason really goes against the whole reason this country has a Constitution in the first

place. The document was created to fend against the tyranny of the majority, especially when that majority has been whipped up into a populist frenzy. Yes, the founding fathers designed the Constitution so that it could be changed, but it is not supposed to be changed on a populist whim. The last time that happened was Prohibition (the populist whim was the temperance movement) and we can all see how that is regarded historically.

Immigration in the United States is not a quagmire, but it is close. However, repealing the 14th amendment is not the "comprehensive immigration reform" we need. Repealing the 14th amendment would do nothing to deter drug smugglers, human traffickers or terrorists from entering this country illegally. Granted, it would discourage some people from trying to

enter the country illegally. It would deter poor people from countries like Mexico or Cuba who risk everything to try to get to this country so that their unborn children might one day enjoy a better life than they have. But are those the people we really need to be worried about? No.

In terms of an approach to immigration reform, repealing the 14th amendment is the exact opposite of what would be humane and effective.

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs summed all this nonsense well last week when he said, "Those who have with steadfast fidelity talked about not tampering with our Constitution have now swerved to pick the 14th Amendment as the best place to address comprehensive immigration reform. It's rich in its irony. It's wrong in its approach."

What do you think about the 14th Amendment?

Let us know at thecurrent-online.com.

Point/Counterpoint showcases a different issue each week, presenting two opposing positions on that issue.

**Do you have an issue we should cover?
Let us know at
thecurrent@umsl.edu**

SCIENCE MATTERS

Scientists find evidence of ancient fungus controlling ants

Who knew zombies were real? The walking dead appear not to be restricted to horror films. Parasites in the real world have the power to influence the behavior of their host victims even as they kill them. In one case, a tropical rain forest fungus preys on arboreal ants, turning them into “zombie ants” to serve the fungus’ own ends.

A new study published in the scientific journal *Biology Letters* indicates that “zombie ants” have been around at least 48 million years.

The world is full of parasites using a variety of strategies on hosts, often manipulating host behavior. Only a few of them employ as startling a strategy of behavioral control as the fungus *Ophiocordyceps unilateralis*, which infects canopy-living carpenter ants in jungle environments. The ants nest in the canopy, but descend to the forest floor to forage, where the fungal infection occurs.

The fungus directs the behavior of the ants, causing them to spend more time on searching for leaves, before they succumb to the parasite in a gruesome fashion. Ultimately, the fungus drives the dying ants to clump onto the underside of a leaf, biting around the leaf vein and suspending it above ground. The ant’s jaws lock in a death-grip so strong that the body of the ant remains attached to the bottom of the leaf even after its death.

The fungus cannot grow in the canopy or on the forest floor but the dead ants attached to the leaves are at just the right height, with the right temperature and humidity, to maximize fungus growth. The fungus continues to grow on the dead ant, producing a fruiting body that sprouts from the ant’s head and releases spores that fall on ants walking across the forest floor below. Researchers have found “graveyards” of 20 to 30 such dead ants attached to the undersides of leaves in a square meter.



Cate Marquis

But a new study reveals that the “zombie ant” parasitic strategy goes back a long way. The ant’s death-grip on the leaf’s large main vein leaves a distinctive mark, something David Hughes, a behavioral ecologist at Harvard University, noticed while doing research in Thailand. Wondered how far back the behavior date, Hughes conferred with Conrad Labandeira, a paleoecologist at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

They found leaves that displayed the same distinctive markings among fossils unearthed from the Messel Pit in Germany’s Rhine Rift Valley and stored at the Smithsonian. Since biting plant veins is not normal ant behavior and because the bite mark is so distinctive, it indicates that the parasitic behavior dates at least this far back.

The research team’s findings were published last week. The discovery represents the earliest evidence for this kind of parasitic strategy. Zombies, at least of the ant kind, appear to be older than anyone suspected.

Cate Marquis is Assoc. A&E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Geek 101: going geek

Believe it or not, geeks and nerds are not the same thing. Shocking, I know. That bullying jock in high school may have been calling you the wrong name the entire time!

There is actually a geek hierarchy. It is nothing enforced or stratified, but it does exist.

Let’s start from the very top with the average, boring people. These people have very little to define them and are apparently the source of all those terrible “the average American”-type polls. “The average American reads less than one book a year.” You stay classy, average Americans.

Below the normies, you have fans. Fans are people who regularly partake of certain media, be it books, television, films, video games, or what-have-you. I am a fan of fantasy author Brandon Sanderson, for example. He writes very excellent stories and I go out of my way to read his books.

Continuing on our way down, there are geeks. Now, the term “geek” is both an overarching umbrella term (hence the “geek hierarchy”) and also a specific term. A geek is your average, run of the mill dude or dudette, but with a specialized knowledge of something usually non-essential and/or niche.

Someone who plays the “Halo” series of games, reads the related novels and has a great deal of knowledge about the “Halo” universe is a geek. But I do not care what you say, “Halo: Reach” is going to be awesome, I only read

the books to get ready for it, and knowing what a Mendicant Bias is doesn’t make me a Halo geek. (It totally does).

Some examples of geeks include “Star Trek” geeks (commonly known as Trekkies) and “Star Wars” geeks (commonly known as morons if they like anything other than the last three episodes and the ‘Expanded Universe’).

More intellectual geeks sometimes evolve into nerds unless their trainers press the ‘b’ button to stop them. And if you get that reference, congratulations: you are a geek.

The term “nerd” generally implies that the person in question is a specialist in certain complicated fields. There are many kinds of nerds: math nerds, history nerds, biology nerds-- the list goes on and on. Film nerds are especially fun, because they will spout off movie quotes that no one else understands like no one else’s business.

Unfortunately, nerds tend to be more anti-social than their geek counterparts. While this certainly is not the norm, it is still fairly common. This anti-social behavior is not due to rudeness, but it is because many nerds never learned social skills because they were simply too busy with their chosen interest.

A nerd is a good person to have around if you need information on a certain subject, moreover if you need help with a certain subject. Keep that in mind! Nerds often enjoy sharing their vast knowledge



Andrew Seal

because it validates their knowing it. For example, did you know that the original Nintendo Entertainment System was called the Famicom in Japan? Huh. I feel... validated, somehow.

After nerds come the fanboys. A fanboy is a wretched, rabid thing, ready to lash out at anything and everything that disagrees with their viewpoints. For example, Madden is the greatest videogame football franchise ever. If you disagree with me, then you must not play video games. Or if you do, you are misguided. At worst, you are an absolute moron and an idiot and I hate you.

There you have it. Geeks and nerds are not the same thing, though both can fall under the label of geek.

The best part is that becoming a geek is infectious and easily transmittable.

Andrew Seal is a staff writer for The Current.

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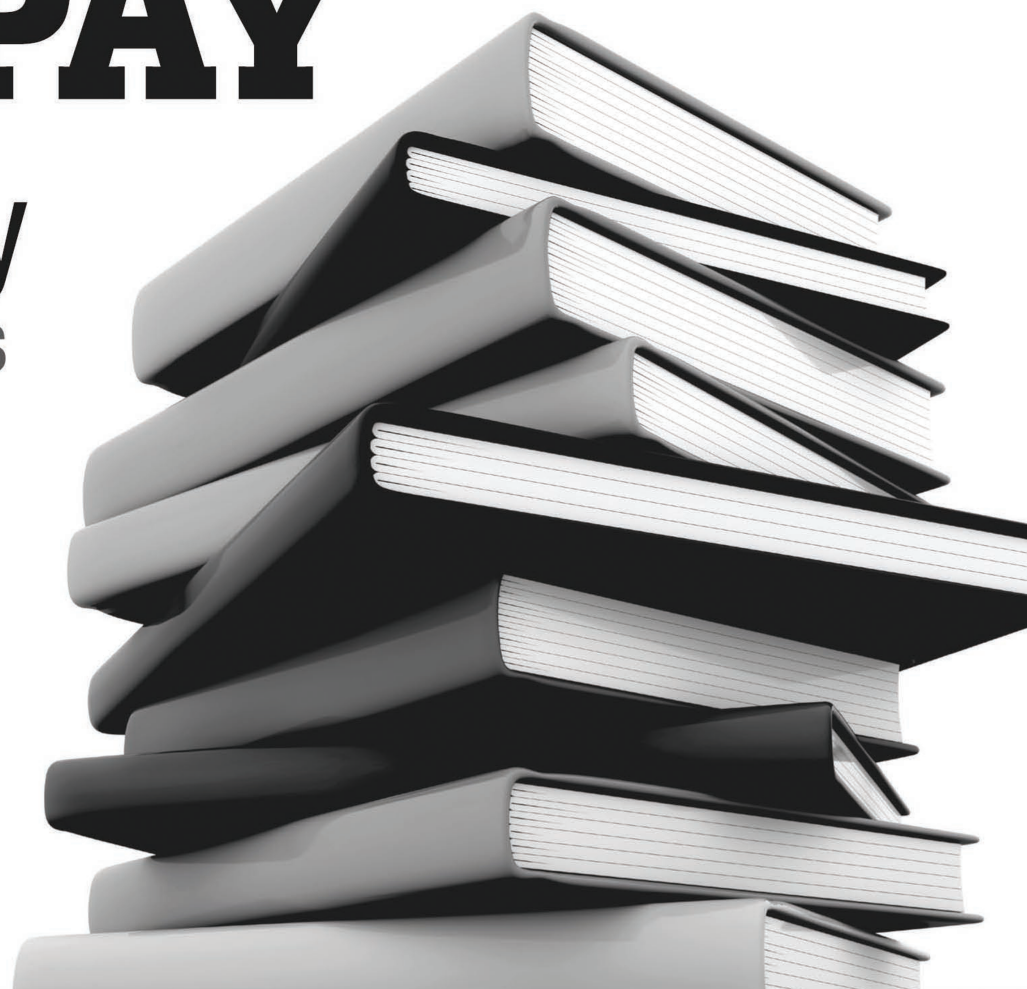
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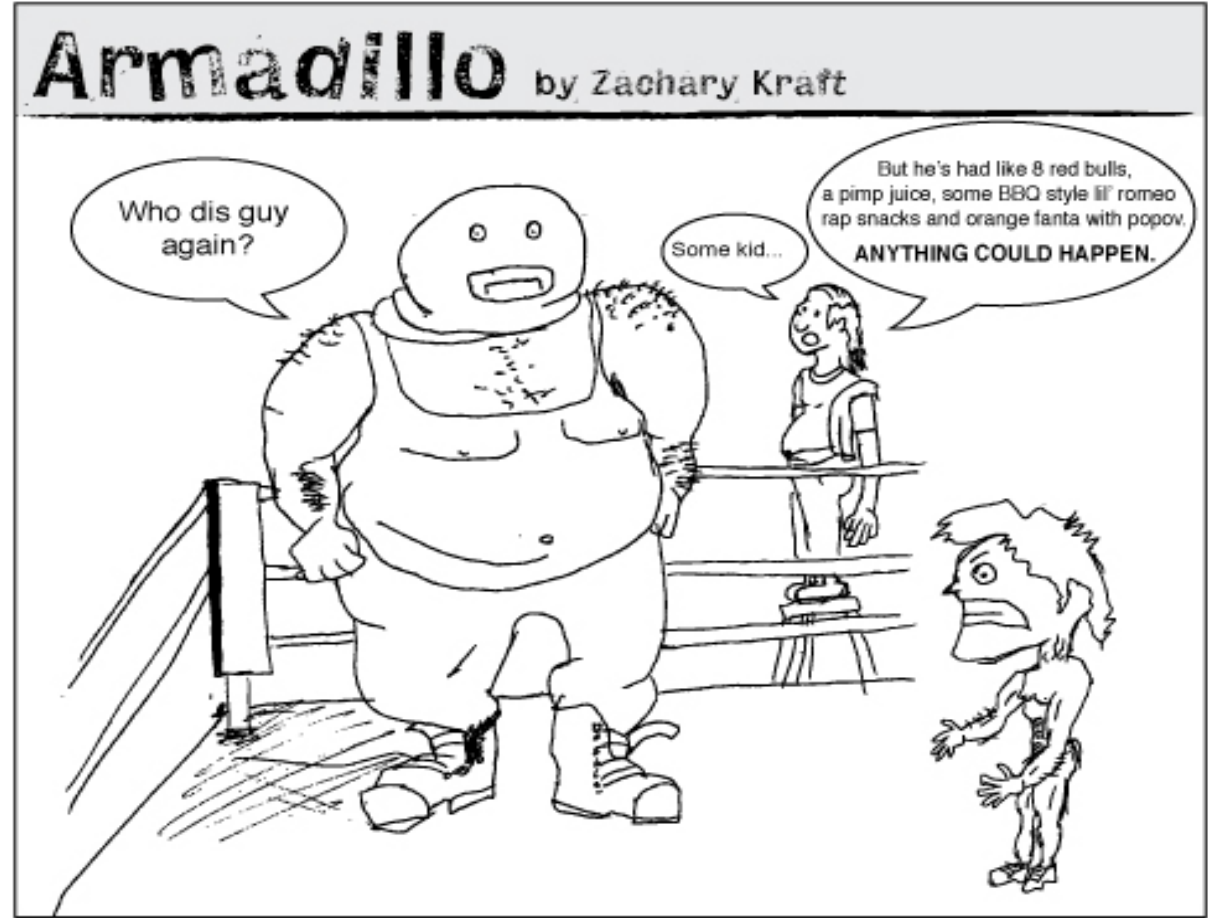


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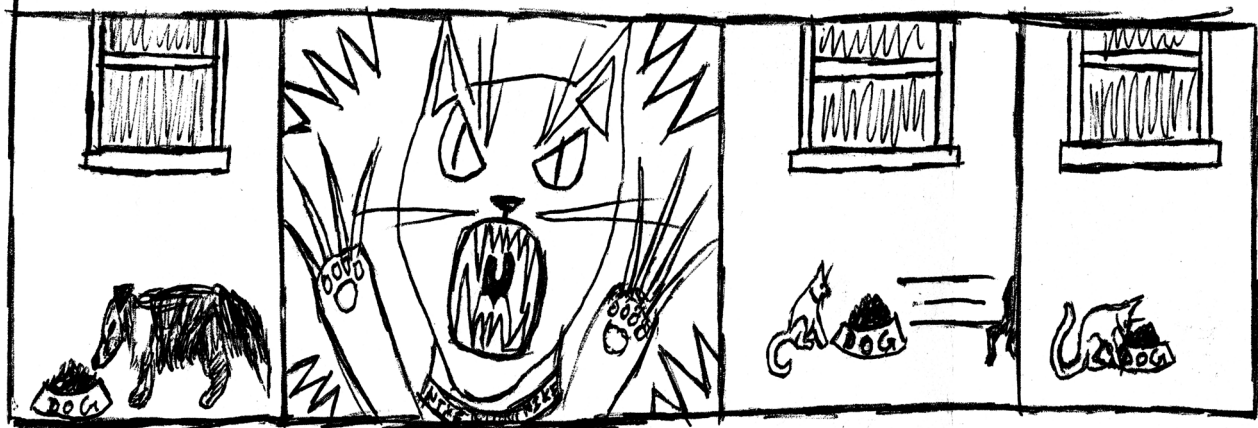
Comics



They Teach That? by Sam Kayser



Dave and Nike by Grace Searle

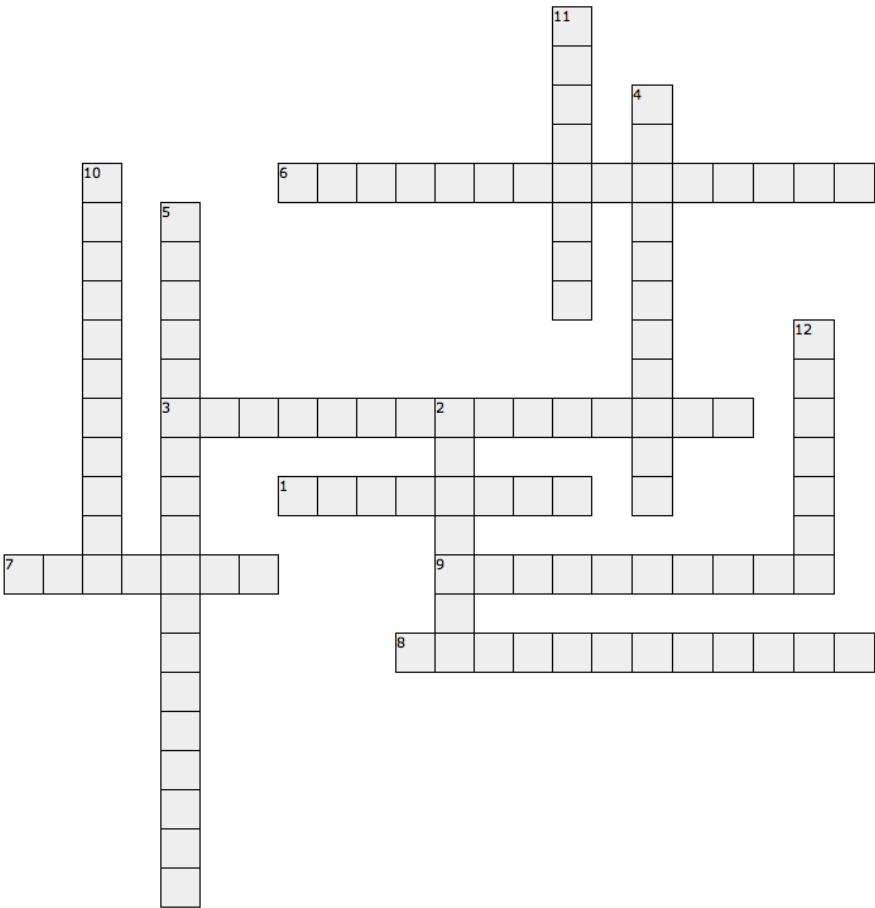


MAX AND LOBO by Gail Fike



CURRENT CROSSWORD

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



- Across:
- 1. subject in which Dr. King earned his doctorate
 - 3. became youngest person the receive this award in 1964
 - 6. famous nonviolent leader Dr. King studied while in college
 - 7. town in which Dr. King was assassinated.
 - 8. Name of individual who shot Dr. King
 - 9. way in which Mr. King organized his demonstration in order to mininize injuries

- Down:
- 2. town in Georgia Dr. King was born
 - 4. the separation of people by race
 - 5. Famous Civil Rights Leader
 - 10. name of one of Dr. King's famous speeches
 - 11. Occupation of Dr. King
 - 12. refusal of a group to trade or associate with another group

U.S. State Capitals

S R S S Y B X D A I P M Y L O M P K U Z
A C Y N A R E I L E P T N O M R H M A M
Z U K T B L Q D U E N R W H H W O D E U
Y G F Q I W E Y O L I I E Z O P E E N T
L R Z Q N C C M T V U F T V K L N S U K
J S X C T O N H G I E L G S N D I M J C
S B A M P A T O E R C R O N U E X O Q O
A D A L M J L S S Y U N B N I A D I X R
I D T T T O P L E R E B O O O R C N S E
N U N N O L N R A L E N S S S H P E I L
T Y D O O N A T O H R F N I R T I S L T
P T A P M S R K G V A A F E R A O N O T
A O V E A H K O E O I S H E E R C N P I
U J A X M M C C U C M D S C J L A K A L
L C O L U M B I A G I E E E N L M H N X
G N I S N A L S R J E T R N E C E H A M
C O K L A H O M A C I T Y Y C H M Y I C
J B P F R A L E I G H H Y T I E G V D R
Z U W S O W O T N E M A R C A S V O N M
Q T R O F K N A R F E F A T N A S D I M

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- BOSTON
- CARSONCITY
- RALEIGH
- OKLAHOMACITY
- COLUMBIA
- SALTLAKECITY
- OLYMPIA
- CHEYENNE


CURRENT HOROSCOPES

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

Romantic love may be the area that gets the biggest upgrade, change or resolution energy this week, especially during the 48 to 72 hours just after the full moon on the 24th, particularly IF paired to Pisces, Virgo, Libra, Aries, Scorpio or Taurus.

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


Romantic love does well this week with hot potential for single Scales near the full moon the 23rd to 25th 'all day' especially the evening of the 24th and again the evenings of the 27th and 29th.

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

Romantic love may be a tad challenging near the 25th and 28th but the remaining balance of the week appears to be rather promising and productive overall, for both single AND paired Bulls.

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


Romance holds some rather hot prospects this week, especially for single or recently paired Stingers. Upgrades may be 'life long' and a hefty cross section of you will hit 'milestone and/or pivotal' events.

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


Some level of 'loss' is indicated for a cross section of Twins near the 23rd to 25th and can touch either personal/romantic life or family/pet situations. This 'too' is a 'part of life.' Embrace it, process it and get on with life.

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


Romance does very well early in the week, especially near the 23rd but if you are careless and do not 'see the other person's needs or view point' you may unseat your happy status.

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

Romantic love appears rather stable for the most part but a minor cross section of Crabs, especially those paired to Gemini, Virgo, Pisces and Aries may be a bit more patience this week to let your love interest 'act out.'

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

Romantic love may have to wait a spell this week, especially near the more emotional and demanding days of the 24th to 26th. Cooperation is poor the 25/26th and misunderstandings are highly likely.

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


Romantic love appears stable this week but other types of love energy may require patience, tolerance and even some humor. Be willing to 'let it slide' if the problem is typical or minor.

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

Romance does show a small challenge in communications this week as misunderstandings are possible, especially if paired to Gemini, Libra, Virgo, Pisces or Cancer.

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

Romance appears slightly choppy near the 24th and 26th but once we are past those days and you are still communicating and clear with each other, any potential threat to 'happiness/stability' vaporizes quickly.

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

Showing your strength and support for a love interest that is suffering a setback is also something you may be faced with this week and your strong emotional fiber can make all the difference.

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, with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

Tuesday, Aug 24

Campus Blood Drive

From 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. at the Millenium Student Center in Century Rooms B & C, the Office of Student Life will hold their first blood drive of 2010-2011 academic year. To schedule an appointment, go to 366 MSC, call the Office of Student Life x5291, log on to www.bloodcenterimpact.org or walk in the day of the drive. For more info, contact Ashlee Roberts at (314) 516-5291.

Wednesday, Aug 25

Student Organization Showcase

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. an exposition featuring student life organizations on campus will be held in the North Campus Quadrangle. Student organizations will be available to answer any questions you may have. For more info, contact Miriam Huffman at 314-516-5291.

Thursday, Aug 26

Campus Reception Honoring Two Retiring Deans

From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., a reception congratulating and thanking two retiring deans: Charles Schmitz and John Hylton, will be held in the Century Rooms of MSC. For more info, contact Cindy Vantine at 314-516-5442.

Friday, Aug 27

UMSL-TV & MPS Host Welcome Back Concert

From 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., UMSL TV & WPS will host a benefit concert featuring local talent for Woman's Overcomers at The Pilot House. Cash and clothing donations are welcome. For more info, contact Derrick Thompson at 314-395-6811.

Saturday, Aug 28

Write Stuff: Life Writing

From 9 a.m to 11:30 p.m., a class will be held to learn how to turn memories into such compositions as memoirs, personal essays, etc., held in 202 Lucas Hall. For more info, contact Raina Traore-Gress at 314-516-5974.



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

A helper set up for the Welcome Back Picnic to kick off the fall semester. The Sunday picnic lasted from 4-6 p.m. and was located in The Nosh of the MSC. Open to students, faculty and staff, the picnic was planned to bring a variety of people together to eat and play games.

*SOMETIMES IT'S OKAY TO LET
STRANGERS TALK TO YOU.*

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