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THE NCSH

Sodexo is here, so what's new?

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PHOTO BY CHENHAO LI

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The Current

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AFFILIATIONS



News

Sodexo same as the old trough

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

Although the semester is only a week old, all signs indicate that the transition from Chartwells to Sodexo as the University of Missouri-St. Louis' food provider has been a smooth, if inauspicious one.

"Very few large undertakings ever go without some glitches; however, the issues have been minor and we are now in a good place," Bernard Diggs, Director of the Millennium Student Center, said. After a week on campus many students seem to not have noticed the change or feel as though any changes made have been minor.

"So far it seems like the same stuff," Brent Hambrick, senior, English, said while sipping on a Gatorade he purchased from the Nosh. "I had a salad yesterday and it tasted the same as Chartwells." Hambrick wondered if the new provider was buying their ingredients from the same wholesaler as Chartwells. There has been only slight change in personnel behind the counters in the Nosh and at Aromas. Sodexo has aided the transition in being less noticeable than it might have otherwise been.

"Sodexo has hired some of the previous workers from Chartwells which is typical in the industry," Vice Provost for Student Affairs Curt Coonrod said. "They of course will be trained in the Sodexo way of doing business and will meet the high expectations that Sodexo has

for professionalism and high quality customer service."

Diggs said that all Chartwells employees were given the opportunity to apply for positions with Sodexo.

Given that Sodexo has only been in operation on campus for week, several visitors to the Nosh said that it was too early to judge Sodexo. Matthew Balcer, an employee of The Pony Express on campus, fell in line with many other students when he said that he has not formed an opinion yet. "We're going to have to give them a chance to prove themselves. If they keep the prices the same and make the food better that, of

course, would be good."

Chartwells had been the food service provider for UM-St. Louis since 2002. Like Chartwells, Sodexo is a national food service company and is no stranger to Missouri with a presence at the University of Missouri Kansas City, Central Missouri State University and Missouri State University. Anybody hoping that Sodexo would shake up the dining situation on campus has surely been disappointed by the continuation of the Chartwells' status-quo. But changes that are likely to be popular with the student body may not be far away. Sodexo offers na-

tional brands such as Einstein Bros Bagels, Quiznos Subs and Burger King. Although none of these national brands are currently in place in the Millennium Student Center, Diggs did say, "there are new and exciting plans in the works." Though he said he was unable to elaborate at this time.

Coonrod also hinted at similar possibilities, though like Diggs he would not divulge any specifics. "There are several exciting plans in the works and they will be unveiled as soon as possible," Coonrod said.



'Simply to Go' sandwiches provided by Sodexo in The Nosh inside the MSC.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
30 21	26 25	25 17	34 22	25 19	31 20	34 25

UMSL professor mourned across the globe



On Friday, a memorial for Frank Moss, Curator's Professor Emeritus of Physics, was held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

CATE MARQUIS / THE CURRENT

CATE MARQUIS
Associate A&E Editor

Frank Moss, an internationally renowned scientist and Curator's Professor Emeritus of Physics at University of Missouri-St. Louis, has died. Moss, who had been battling lung cancer and emphysema for five years, passed away at his home on January 4.

"We are all saddened by the loss," Lon Wilkens, Assistant Director of the Center for Neurodynamics and Professor Emeritus in Biology, said.

Moss co-founded the Center for Neurodynamics in 1996, with Wilkens and Steve Lehmkuhle, then professor of optometry at UM-St. Louis and now chancellor of University of Minnesota - Rochester.

"He was like a second father to me," Sonya Bahar, Director of the Center for Neurodynamics and Associate Professor of Biophysics, said. "He was absolutely the most marvelous and wonderful mentor."

Moss' groundbreaking research on stochastic resonance established a new field of study spanning neurobiology and physics. Stochastic resonance is an effect in which background "noise" enhances perception of weak stimuli. Moss and colleagues, including Wilkens, first described stochastic resonance in a 1993 paper in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*. In 1999, their paper in *Nature* demonstrated the phenomenon in a living animal, the paddlefish.

The effect since has been shown in other animals and even in studies of human vision.

"A little bit of visual 'noise,' a little bit of jitter, in the pixels of something you are looking at can enhance your perception of it," Bahar said. "The paddlefish work was the first demonstration of this as a behavioral effect in a living animal, and that was what made it so striking."

"In 2003, Frank recruited me to come back to UMSL as a faculty member," Bahar said. "So I basically owed him

for very, very large portions of my career."

"He was just an incredibly energetic, wonderful and completely down-to-earth person," she said.

Among Moss' awards were the 1994 President's Award for Research and Creativity from the University of Missouri System and the Academy of Science of St. Louis' 1999 Peter H. Raven Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1999, he won the Humboldt Prize, given to internationally acclaimed scientists. Many of Moss' numerous scientific publications are now classics in the field.

"Although the concept of stochastic resonance has been modified over the years, it did serve to establish a whole new field of research," Wilkens said.

According to Wilkens, Moss kept up his work even after he was diagnosed with lung cancer. "It was often difficult for him," Wilkens said.

"Doing science was such a central part of his life," Bahar said. "I think, in a lot of ways, it helped him very much, to

continue doing science. It was extremely inspiring for everyone else in the group."

"He had an incredible hunger for all knowledge. He loved art, he loved reading, he loved learning about everything," said Bahar.

Moss' death impacted the international scientific community.

"There's a symposium at an international conference in Sweden being organized in his honor. An issue of a scientific journal, *Chaos*, is being organized in Frank's honor," Bahar said. "Right now there are emails going back and forth, basically across the globe, among scientists who are mourning him and who are organizing various things in his honor. Basically, the whole international scientific community is celebrating his life, and there are a lot of people grieving in places around the world. There is an immense amount of grief."

A memorial for Moss was held on January 21 at 2 p.m. at the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Yumeto Yamazaki

"How do you feel about funeral protests?"



"I believe that it is disrespectful in spite of the reason for the protest. That should be at least some kind of reverence for the dead."

Toni Rowell
Communications
Graduate



"I feel protests for anything have their place, but at funerals people should be left to grieve in private and the protests should be left for another day."

Darnell Scott
Communication
Senior



"I believe that we have the right to express what we think but we have to think about other people's feelings too. Express your opinions at the appropriate time, place and use appropriate words."

Chia-ning Kuo
Gerontology
Graduate

"Is the removal of red light cameras a good idea?"

- From issue 1332

The six councilmen on the Washington city council deserve to be applauded. They reviewed the data, they reviewed the unbiased studies and they came to the conclusion, as EVERY academic study in the nation, as well as many governmental studies have, that while the cameras alter driving behavior, it is that element of uncertainty which causes additional accidents.

The cameras are nothing but a leech on the state of Missouri sucking cash out to Arizona and Australia, while South City maven and Slay confidant Joyce Aboussie makes near 10% commission from these cities, to then pump in to organized labor and the Democratic political machine.

The last thing these cameras are about is safety, unless you spell it \$afety. Please visit <http://www.WrongOnRed.com> and learn the truth about these cameras and the corruption and politicking behind their installation, as well as why the way these systems are being run, even by the camera vendors own admission, violate 302.225 RSMo.

- Matt H

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

New inventions yield millions for UM-System

Report finds UMSL research creating income for the university

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

A new report put out by the Chronicle for Higher Education stated that the four campuses of the University of Missouri System earned a respectable \$10.4 million during fiscal year 2009 off of research conducted by faculty. The income came primarily from royalties from academic inventions and patents, as well as start up companies, many of which are having to do with innovative healthcare technologies.

Turning research into income for the UM-System is done through what is broadly called a technology transfer, that is a formal transfer of rights of a faculty member's discovery to be commercialized and developed by another party, usually a company or corporation. The income generated from a licensing of patent rights is split four ways, with the inventor receiving a third of the money and the inventor's department, the inventor's university and the UM-System evenly splitting the remaining two-thirds.

According to Tamara Wilgers, Director of Technology Commercialization and Economic Development, money made of technology transfers is typically used to fund more research as well as support campus offices.

"In fiscal year 2009, UMSL licenses brought in \$130,417 to

[UM-St. Louis]," Wilgers said.

One invention developed by researchers at UM-St. Louis is the Q3D, a small device used by doctors and clinicians to detect vision suppression in adolescents. Vision suppression is a precursor to vision impairment and the Q3D can detect both the presence of suppression as well as increases or decreases in it. Knowing whether a child's visual suppression is increasing or decreasing allows caregivers to judge whether or not a treatment is being effective.

Another invention coming out of UM-St. Louis is a portable, non-invasive blood glucose detector for type 1 and type 2 diabetics. Zhi Xu, an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is the machine's inventor.

In addition to those two inventions, Wilgers said there are currently 12 issued patents and 21 pending patent applications based on UM-St. Louis technology.

Although the UM-System is able to bring in money from academic discoveries and inventions, Wilgers is careful to point out that profit is not the reason institutions of higher learning conduct research.

"Faculty researchers conduct their research and exploration for a variety of reasons, such as to generate knowledge and to provide research opportunities for students," Wilgers said.

It is because faculty members are in the knowledge business, not necessarily the marketing or money-making business, that start up companies will often be formed to commercialize newly discovered technologies.

Advanced Spectroscopic Technologies, LLC is an example of just such a start up company with a goal to "commercialize UMSL technology," said Wilgers. "The company was formed to provide ultrasensitive detector add-ons for use in spectrometers based on UMSL technologies that increase instrument sensitivity over 100 [times]."

In the area of technology transfer the next big invention could be around the corner at anytime. Professor Xu's glucose detector is currently in the "patent pending" category of UM-St. Louis's roster of inventions. But Wilger said that the detector's "license should be executed within the next 2-3 weeks. Should we come to terms on the license agreement, a startup company incorporated in Missouri by the potential licensee will work to commercialize this device."

"Technology transfer is an extension of our research enterprise and as such we pursue it to the best of our abilities, Nasser Arshadi, the Vice Provost of Research at UM-St. Louis, said. "This is a new paradigm and we need to take it seriously."

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Sports



Men's basketball players during practice.

NITESH JAIN/ THE CURRENT

Men's basketball nets victories over UIS, SJC

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The weekend road trip through Illinois and Indiana proved quite eventful for the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team.

The Tritons, who were looking to maintain their hold on first place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division, headed east to take on GLVC foes, the University of Illinois-Springfield (UIS) and St. Joseph's College (SJC), who were both looking to gain ground in their own divisional race.

But the rejuvenated UM-St. Louis squad, which won two home games last week, proved too much for both the Prairie Stars and the Pumas, knocking off UI-Springfield 72-70 last Thursday, and pounding SJC 57-46 on Saturday.

The two-game sweep raised UM-St. Louis' record to 13-5 overall and 7-3 in conference play. Drury University, which is chasing UM-St. Louis for the GLVC West championship, won both of its games over the weekend also. So the Tritons could not afford to let up.

On Thursday, UM-St. Louis led from the outset, and never trailed UI-Springfield by more than a point. The Tritons played especially well early in the second half, when they used

a 12-3 run to grab a 51-43 lead.

UI-Springfield rallied to get within three points, but UM-St. Louis reeled off a 12-4 spurt to grab its biggest lead at 70-59 with less than five minutes remaining.

From there, it seemed like UM-St. Louis would cruise to the victory, but UI-Springfield rallied. The Prairie Stars scored the next 11 points of the game, including two free throws by Steffen Spinks with ten seconds left that tied the score at 70.

But the Tritons did not panic. They put the ball in the hands of their best player and watched him deliver.

Gerald Fulton, junior, communications, who finished with a game-high 20 points, got past his man as the clock ticked down, and flipped in a heart-stopping layup with a half second left to give UM-St. Louis the lead.

UI-Springfield inbounded the ball and flung a desperate shot at the rim. But the shot landed nowhere near the basket, and UM-St. Louis skated out of the building with its third straight win over the Prairie Stars.

On Saturday, UM-St. Louis, playing without Fulton, who was a late scratch from the lineup, jumped out to a big lead over SJC.

The Tritons scored the first 12 points of the game, led 34-15 at halftime, and never looked back.

SJC got as close as eight points with about five minutes left. But UM-St. Louis refused to wilt.

Ryan Lawrence, senior, criminal justice, and Justin Hightower, junior, communications, each hit a pair of free throws to put the lead back at ten. A thunderous dunk by Justyn Watkins, junior, communications, with about a minute left, really put the Tritons over the edge and ended any thoughts of a comeback for SJC.

The Tritons will return to campus for classes and practice on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the team will head west to Kansas City for a GLVC West matchup with Rockhurst University.

The most important game this weekend and unquestionably the biggest game of the season to this point, will be Saturday, when UM-St. Louis will head to Springfield, Missouri to take on GLVC West preseason favorite Drury. The winner will gain early control of the division race.

The Tritons' next home game will be "Pack The Stands Night," Thursday, February 3, when They will host Kentucky Wesleyan at the Mark Twain Building. Tipoff that night will be at 7:30 p.m., following the women's game between the two schools, which will tipoff at 5:30 p.m.

2011 UMSL Tritons Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Feb. 25	vs. Wayne State-Mich. (Savannah Invitational)	Savannah, Ga.	12:00 p.m. (EST)
Feb. 26	at Armstrong Atlantic State (Savannah Invitational)	Savannah, Ga.	1:00 p.m. (EST)
Feb. 27	vs. Queens College (Savannah Invitational)	Savannah, Ga.	TBA
Mar. 4	at Southern Indiana (Dunn Hospitality Tournament)	Evansville, Ind.	4:00 p.m.
Mar. 5	vs. Wisconsin-Parkside (Dunn Hospitality Tournament)	Evansville, Ind.	TBA
Mar. 6	vs. Wayne State-Neb. (Dunn Hospitality Tournament)	Evansville, Ind.	2:30 p.m.
Mar. 10	Florida Trip	Orlando, Fla.	TBA
Mar. 11	Florida Trip	Orlando, Fla.	TBA
Mar. 12	Florida Trip	Orlando, Fla.	TBA
Mar. 13	Florida Trip	Orlando, Fla.	TBA
Mar. 14	Florida Trip	Orlando, Fla.	TBA
Mar. 19	at St. Joseph's* (dh)	Rensselaer, Ind.	12:00 p.m.
Mar. 20	at Indianapolis* (dh)	Indianapolis, Ind.	12:00 p.m.
Mar. 23	William Woods	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 p.m.
Mar. 26	Wisconsin-Parkside* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Mar. 27	Lewis* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Mar. 30	at Bellarmine	Louisville, Ky.	3:00 p.m. (EST)
Apr. 02	at Quincy* (dh)	Quincy, Ill.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 03	at Quincy* (dh)	Quincy, Ill.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 06	at Maryville* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 p.m.
Apr. 09	Illinois-Springfield* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 10	Illinois-Springfield* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 13	Bellarmino	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 p.m.
Apr. 16	at Rockhurst* (dh)	Kansas City, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 17	at Rockhurst* (dh)	Kansas City, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 19	Maryville* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00 p.m.
Apr. 22	Oakland City	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 p.m.
Apr. 23	Oakland City* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 25	Webster	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 p.m.
Apr. 30	at Drury* (dh)	Springfield, Mo.	1:00 p.m.
May. 01	Drury* (dh)	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00 p.m.
May. 07	Missouri S&T* (dh)	Rolla, Mo.	12:00 p.m.
May. 08	Missouri S&T* (dh)	Rolla, Mo.	12:00 p.m.

Read
The
Current



COURTESY SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

'The Green Hornet' is seriously simple fun

MOVIES

"Pow! Bam! Socko! Wham!" are the kinds of sound effects in "The Green Hornet," which is based on a radio show from the 1930's and '40s as well as a television show in the '60s. Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg's script and Rogen's performance as the titular character manage to blend two disparate genres together: the superhero movie and the slacker buddy comedy. The question is, does it work?

Yes and no. The film's buddy comedy aspect works much better than the superhero aspect, although the combination creates an extremely fun, if somewhat emotionally confusing, film.

The basic plot follows newspaper heir Britt Reid (Rogen), an obnoxious party boy, as he figures out what to do with his life after the death of his respected father (Tom Wilkinson). He meets his father's Chinese mechanic/coffee maker, Kato, who is a genius inventor and martial arts expert. After trying out Kato's inventions and committing an act of both botched rebellion and heroism, Britt decides to pretend to be a criminal

in order to save Los Angeles from corruption with the help of Kato (who insists he is a partner, not a sidekick) and his new secretary, Lenore (Cameron Diaz). In the process, they manage to enrage the city's biggest crime boss, Chudnofsky (Christoph Waltz, in his first post-Oscar role). Hilarity and chaos ensue.

There is one large problem with this movie; Britt is the typical unsympathetic male protagonist found so often in current comedies. The audience can laugh at him but not with him. He has no strengths or virtues that make him endearing. He does not even develop much over the course of the story. It is just very, very fun to watch him make a fool of himself as he tries to be a superhero.

The other characters follow suit, including the villain. Chudnofsky is amusing but not at all intimidating, which is disappointing because Waltz balanced those two traits so well in Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds." Here, he is simply the evil schlup who just wants to be the coolest kid in town. Chudnofsky is not developed further than that, so viewers can more easily laugh at him, as they do with Britt.

The scenes with Britt and Kato are definitely the strongest because the dialogue is goofy, sarcastic and even witty at

times and Rogen and Chou have great comedic chemistry together. However, when Kato eventually gets sick of being the sidekick and lashes out, their fight is funny but lacks any emotional impact. As per any buddy comedy, the audience already knows the ultimate outcome, so why should they care who wins that particular fight? Also, it is a moment in which Britt could learn something but he does not. In a slacker movie, this is acceptable, but in a superhero movie, the friendship should have more depth and substance.

In the end, "The Green Hornet" is hilariously entertaining (it really is hard not to laugh at the jokes) but it does not quite hit the mark. While the film does not want the audience to take it seriously, it also forgets to take itself seriously by giving depth to its characters. At some moments, it harkens back to the past of a completely different superhero, and it feels like someone should shout, "Holy cheese crackers, they made a movie!"

B- -Mary Grace Buckley

'Fall of Heaven' is clever, surprising and entertaining as hell

THEATRE

"The Fall of Heaven" is a clever, twist-filled tale of a wily, street-smart African-American man from Harlem, whose penetrating questions shake heaven's foundations.

Brainy, funny and full of plot twists, "The Fall of Heaven" is the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' Main Stage production until January 30. The play touches on topics like race, religion, morality and love, with a mix of humor and humanity, in a story of the struggle between a man, an angel and a devil that threatens to upset the balance between Heaven and Hell.

When philandering, small-time hustler Tempest Landry (Bryan Terrell Clark) is killed by a stray bullet on a present-day Harlem street, he faces St. Peter (voiced by Jeffrey C. Hawkins) at the gates of heaven to hear his judgment. Yet Tempest upends this routine process by challenging his sentence to hell with questions that cannot be answered. To resolve the questions he raised, St. Peter returns Tempest to earth, in the body of another man and under the supervision of the "accounting angel" Joshua (Corey Allen).

The play was written by award-winning novelist Walter Mosley, based on his novel "The Tempest Tales." Mosley is the author of the best-selling "Devil In A Blue Dress" and other mystery novels featuring detective Easy Rawlins, plus numerous other books. "The Fall of Heaven" is his first play.

The relationship between human Tempest and angel Joshua is pivotal but the story's focus is often on the angel. Joshua takes a last name Angel to blend in on Earth and a job as an accountant to keep busy while waiting for Tempest's final move to the underworld. Tempest tries to distract Joshua by putting temptations in his way, including the sweet Brannwyn (Kenya Brome). Over time, Basil Bob (Jeffrey C. Hawkins) slips into the picture.

Stories of an angel come to earth and seduced by human life are common but what is the end point for other stories is merely a starting point for this one. "The Fall of Heaven" is far more complex, far more surprising and entertaining as hell.

Seth Gordon directs this fast-paced play with a firm hand. Supporting cast playing multiple roles. Rachel Leslie portrays Tempest's

girlfriend Alfreda, Joshua's secretary Darlene and passers-by on the street. Jeffrey C. Hawkins also provides the voices of St. Peter and Joshua's unseen bosses Mr. Chin and Mr. Akbar. Jerome Lowe and Borris York play people on the city streets.

The acting is excellent, with Clark's Tempest an endlessly inventive, charming rogue. Allen's Joshua is an appealing mix of formality, innocence and strength. Their discussions are the theological center but the heart is often carried by Brome's Brannwyn. Hawkins is delightfully creepy as Basil Bob, the sole non-African-American character in the play. In supporting roles, Rachel Leslie is a stand-out, particularly as the self-impressed Darlene.

Sets are always one of the delights of any Rep production. "Fall of Heaven" pres-

ents some special challenges for set designer Robert Mark Morgan because it calls for numerous diverse scene changes. The opening scene on a Harlem street gives way to the gates of Heaven in scene two. Morgan solved the problem with a backdrop that transforms from a sepia-toned Harlem street scene to the gates of Heaven by clever shifts in lighting. Set pieces that rise from the floor or slide out from behind rising panels provide a host of ever-changing locations, from office, to bedroom, modest apartment to penthouse.

This complex, funny, endlessly clever and thought-provoking play is well worth the money and a trip to the Repertory Theater in Webster Groves.

B+ -Cate Marquis



The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis' production of The Fall of Heaven. COURTESY OF REPERTORY THEATRE OF ST. LOUIS

Sophia Coppola's 'Somewhere' paints surprisingly poignant portrait of empty Hollywood life

MOVIES

Sophia Coppola created an indelible impression with "Lost in Translation," which featured a fading Hollywood star and a photographer's young wife, at loose ends in Tokyo. There is a bit of that film's sense of being alone in

a crowd, although without the romantic undertones, in Coppola's new film "Somewhere." The film won the Golden Lion at the 2010 Venice Film Festival.

But this poignant drama of emotional longing, with dark comic touches, centers not on a fading star but a Hollywood action movie star

at his peak fame.

In the opening scene, movie star Johnny Marco (Stephen Dorff) drives his expensive sports car around a circular track, driving in and out of frame, literally driving in circles. Early on, he falls and breaks his arm in the company of a party of drunken hangers-on, something he

takes with a strangely passive acceptance.

Johnny has wealth, fame and every creature comfort, including an endless stream of beautiful blondes to occupy his bed, yet there is a sense of emptiness about him.

See SOPHIA on page 9

LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, January 28

"The Mechanic"

Jason Stratham, Ben Foster, Donald Sutherland star in and Simon West directs this action film about an assassin and an apprentice, a re-make of a 1972 Charles Bronson movie.



"The Illusionist" (Tivoli)

From the creator of "Triplets of Belleville," an animated dark comedy about a magician in the waning days of his career, from a script by great French comedian Jacques Tati.



"The Rite"

Colin O'Donoghue and Anthony Hopkins star in thriller about a seminary student studying exorcism at the Vatican.



Latest album will please CAKE fans old and new

MUSIC

A popular Internet meme states, “the cake is a lie,” and while the delicious moist dessert very well may be a falsehood, CAKE’s latest album is not. In fact, it is amazing.

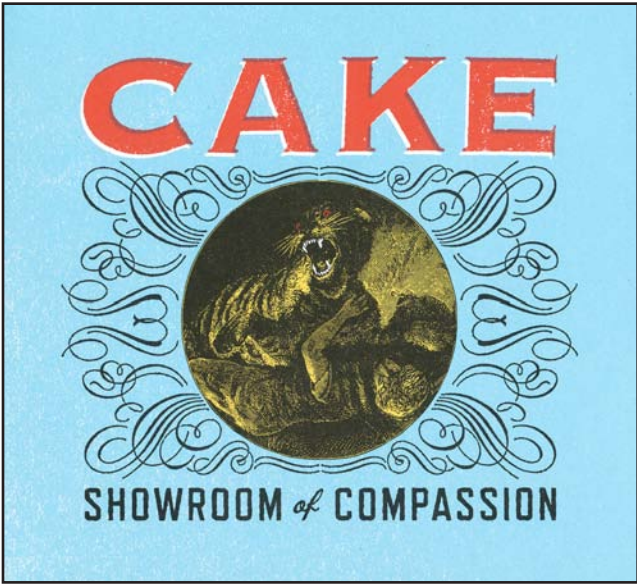
It has been seven years since the last proper CAKE album, ‘Pressure Chief.’ That is not to say that 2007’s ‘B-Sides and Rarities’ was not a good album; quite the contrary. It just did not seem like a proper CAKE album.

2011’s ‘Showroom of Compassion’ is however, and has everything CAKE fans have come to love: catchy lyrics, John McCrea’s beard and crazy hats, as well as Vincent DiFiore on trumpet and euphonium. ‘Showroom of Compassion’ kicks off with “Federal Funding,” a song in classic CAKE style (think “Comfort Eagle”). The catchy beat and impressive guitar work are worth multiple listens. The second song, “Long Time,” seems destined to be the album’s next single. It has a strong chorus and features lead singer John McCrea doing what he does best: shouting encouragement in the background during the breakdown.

“Got to Move” is a slower song with a long chorus. It is worth a listen, but it is not one of the strongest songs on the album. At the least, it sounds like a CAKE song; the next song does not.

“What’s Now is Now” is the weakest and most un-CAKE-like song on the album. That may have something to do with the fact that this song was not written by any of the band

members. The liner notes state “all songs published by Stamen Music. ... except ‘What’s Now Is Now’ published by WB Music Corp.” Thankfully, the epic-ness of the next song more than makes up for the crappiness of “What’s Now is Now.”



COURTESY UPBEAT RECORDS.

“Moustache Man (Wasted)” is a simply fantastic song. Think “Short Skirt, Long Jacket” good. It is destined to be a classic. DiFiore’s trumpet features prominently and is amazing as always.

The guitar work by Xan McCurdy is top-notch as well. It is CAKE at its finest: where else could the listener find lyrics like “He’s a king dust demon with an icepick smile / His music fills your feathers as you feel your passions fly?”

CAKE’s instrumental pieces are always interesting. The album’s sixth song, “Teenage Pregnancy,” is just that. The title is misleading but this is an instrumental song through and through. It only highlights that fact that someone needs to hire CAKE to score a movie. Daft Punk doing “Tron Legacy” was great but any movie scored by CAKE would be simply and utterly mind-blowing. “Sick of You” is the first single off the album, and while it was a wise choice, it is also the easiest to well, get sick of. It has the classic CAKE back-and-forth with McCrea and the rest of the band that older songs like “Never There” epitomize. “Easy to Crash” and “Bound Away” are both solid entries. “Bound Away” is a take on the classic country travelin’ song, complete with pedal steel. Of course, since it is CAKE doing it, there is an undertone of mockery at the government: “I’m an unknown individual in an unattended car.”

The final two songs on the album “The Winter” and “Italian Guy” are also good songs. “The Winter” is about as close to a Christmas song that fans will ever get and “Italian Guy” in particular seems like a throwback to earlier albums.

‘Showroom of Compassion’ is a fantastic comeback from a band that really never left. A seven-year wait is a little long though, guys. How about a shorter wait for the next album?

A+ -Andrew Seal

SOPHIA from page 8

He seems to be drifting directionless through life, with no real home, cycling through a series of posh hotels where he seems to be a regular. The blondes who pass in and out of his bed look so much alike that they almost seem like the same person. He is surrounded by hangers-on, partying in his room, but his connections to them seem tenuous and he seems to have nothing to say. His routine is broken only by calls from his agent, sending him on rounds of media junkets to promote his recent film, publicity appearances he dutifully shows up for when his agent sends a car.

Johnny is awakened from this comfortable sleepwalker’s life by an unexpected arrival, a hint of family life in the form of his sweet, unassuming 11-year-old daughter Cleo (Elle Fanning). His ex-wife, or ex-girlfriend (the audience never learns which), drops her off one day for a visit. Cleo is pleasant and sunny, and Johnny seems revive when called on to play parent, watching her at her skating lesson. He offers her fatherly praise, while also revealing his lack of involvement in her life.

When Cleo returns to her mother, Johnny’s life returns to its empty, comfortable, self-indulgent pattern. On Cleo’s return visits, she and her father play “Guitar Hero” and “Wii Tennis” with Johnny’s childhood friend, a musician named Sammy (Chris Pontius). They laugh, cook and engage in a variety of

simple domestic activities. Although Johnny seems more alive and happier, in Cleo’s presence, he still retains a strange passiveness, as if he cannot seize the opportunity.

Acting by Dorff and Fanning is superb, and the scenes between them are charming. Coppola both wrote and directed this tale of Hollywood angst. Growing up the daughter of a famous director, she may have witnessed situations like this. Scenes without Cleo often have a claustrophobic feel, all interior, while scenes with her are visually lush, open, pretty, colorful and sunny. The soundtrack is spare, with what music there is often occurring as part of the scene.

“Somewhere” has a rather French feel, starting out slowly, with long takes on still scenes, creating a sense of Johnny’s deadened, shallow life. Eventually, the pace picks up but it is always a tightly-controlled film. The film ends with an unresolved shot, almost Chaplinesque, prefaced by foreboding.

The film’s story and performances are poignant, although “Somewhere” is perhaps not as magical as the director’s previous iconic film.

“Somewhere” is now playing exclusively at the Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

B+ - Cate Marquiss

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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 4

Features



Nonverbal Communication

UMSL psychologist Miles L. Patterson publishes new book

MINHO JUNG
Staff writer

Dr. Miles L. Patterson is one of the most notable figures at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has been at UM-St. Louis since 1969, just after he received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in psychology. His research interests in social behavior in public settings and the role of non-verbal behavior in forming judgments of others made him a prolific writer. His great efforts recently led him to publish another book, “More than Words: The Power of Non-verbal Communication.”

The Current: Can you tell us about your

book, “More than Words: The Power of Non-verbal Communication?” What is the most powerful thing about nonverbal communication?

Miles Patterson: This book is about [the] pervasive and powerful nature of nonverbal communication. There is a lot of popular information out there about body language. That is a misnomer. It is not a good description of what happens because it involves more than a body. Besides, it’s not a language. In most cases, nonverbal communication happens more or less automatically. This is a highly efficient [and] adaptive means of communication that developed long before languages did in our species. Nonverbal communication is powerful because

people can be subtly affected without being aware of it. But it changes people’s attitudes and behaviors.

TC: Did you grow up in St. Louis? What kind of student were you when you were young?

MP: I grew up around Chicago. I have been here, in St. Louis, since 1969. I think I was a pretty good student. I wasn’t always right at the top, but I was curious. I liked science particularly. I started out with a physics major. I thought I wanted to do physics. I later switched it to psychology. I started to read about psychotherapies when I was a physics major. That eventually got me into psychology more.

TC: What was your special interest?

MP: I was particularly interested in social interactions and how people get along with one another. There was very little research at that time; it was [the mid-’60s]. So I did some of the early research on special invasions.

TC: What is the most memorable thing you have experienced at UM-St. Louis?

MP: There have been a lot of changes obviously. I worked with some good friends and colleagues. I think everybody who was here before 1974 is gone. So I’m the last one of the

early group. I have been able to do what I want. I had my own interests in research. I have had adequate support from school. I also had some good students and colleagues that I still keep in touch with, even after they retired or moved away.

TC: What are your future plans?

MP: Well, I’m getting up there. I could have retired several years ago. But, I still like what I do. On the other hand, I’d like to have a little more time. So in a few years, I’ll be semi-retired. That is, to try to stay on school teaching and keep on doing research. I’ve always got stuff to do with students. Even if I retire, I want to have

an opportunity to teach and do some research. This is not a burden to me. I like what I do.

TC: Do have some comments for students dreaming of becoming a psychologist?

MP: Get exposure to somebody who is doing research. Try to get involved with them. We have a directed studies course, which is an opportunity to team up with faculty members to get involved in [their] research project[s]. It could get you a good inside look and different view.

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University colleges make efforts to retain students

Access to Success aids in keeping students in school

JEN O'HARA

Features Editor

As a nationally known program, the University of Missouri-St. Louis semi-recently joined in on Access to Success. Across the country, minority males are known as the least likely to graduate or attend a college. UM-St. Louis is no exception to that statistic. Although UM-St. Louis' graduation rates have been steadily increasing over the years, minority males still have the lowest graduation statistics. "The University of Missouri-St. Louis has topped 3,000 graduates two years running.

That represents a 25 percent increase in annual graduates over ten years ago. This success is in large part due to better retention and graduate rates among all classification of students. That being said, UMSL is striving to improve further retention and graduate rates generally through its Access to Success initiative," Thomas George, Chancellor, said. The University is primarily concerned with closing the achievement gap rather than upping overall graduation rates. According to the Education Trust, a bachelor's degree has been

earned by 37 percent of Caucasians, which is almost twice the rate of African-Americans at 20 percent and three times as much as Hispanics at 12 percent.

"The University has begun the Access to Success initiative as part of the system-wide effort to address the achievement gap between underrepresented minority students and first generation college students compared to the majority students," Floyd K. Welsh, Director of Student Achievement and Development, said.

The Access to Success program is a program that encourages college attendance. Access to Success, or commonly known as A2S, has a separate goal at each university across the United States to decrease achievement gaps.

"UMSL's goals are a little different since we're the best in the state at recruiting diverse students, and our students on Pell grants are more successful than those who don't qualify for Pell," Judith de Walker Felix, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, said.

Because of a letter addressed to all faculty last semester from Chancellor George addressing the A2S program, small

changes have been made around UM-St. Louis to encourage success. Some of these changes include reminders on MyGateway of the academic integrity policy on campus, increases in academic alerts when students fail to attend classes and student life creating more curriculum based activities so education can continue outside of classrooms.

According to Derrick Freeman, Equal Opportunity Specialist, the cause of low graduation rates is compounded. He believes a large part of the cause is simply culture. "Research has shown a lot of time, especially black males, don't feel welcome to the campus or a part of the campus, so that's why some of these programs are coming up now; to help them get connected to the campus," Freeman said. In 2009, UM-St. Louis developed the Males of Color initiative. This campus group aids in the A2S program to increase retention rates. Because male minorities are most likely to drop out of college, the college wanted aid to show benefits of a college life and atmosphere.

UM-St. Louis shows signs that small steps and campus programs will increase graduation rates.



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MLK volunteers turn a dream into reality

ASHLEY ATKINS
Staff Writer

Early Monday morning, the day before the start of the spring semester at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, volunteers willingly pulled themselves up out of their weekend slumbers to participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Although the program has existed throughout the nation for the past 17 years, the University Program Board decided to implement the program three years ago at the UM-St. Louis in order to support the St. Louis area.

"A lot of schools, including us, are out of school today. It is an opportunity to get out of the house and volunteer, do something productive," Nikia Munson, senior, electrical engineering, said.

As volunteers made their way to the third floor of the Millennium Student Center, they were welcomed and directed into a single file system for registration and their free t-shirts. Entering the Century conference room, the chatter seemed to increase as more groups crowded in, seeming to welcome those who may have previously felt uncomfortable. Each white-sheeted table held a numbered place card which divided up

the volunteers into their unknown volunteer sites throughout the Normandy area.

While the event may have hosted a few "newbies" to the world of volunteering, for some it was familiar territory.

"I love helping the community and I enjoy giving back," Krista Lieburn, junior, social work, said. "I have a heart for helping people, my major is social work."

When the volunteers got settled they were shown a Power Point presentation about the sites where they would be working, including the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Normandy Middle School, Unity Lutheran Church, STL Juvenile Detention Center and Girls Inc., among others. The volunteers would break away from the conference room to reach their respective sites by 9 a.m., returning to the Century Room by 1 p.m. for lunch and discussion.

All of the sites required various assistance from the volunteers, including cleaning, carrying boxes, shining trophies, teaching, etc. Girls Inc had volunteers painting bathroom stalls purple and pink and working on various pieces of a new mural that would soon be showcased. It depicted little girls at play.

Girls Inc had large range of volunteers: mothers, children and even the sororities came out for the day of service.

"Our philanthropy is Choose Children, along with Autism Speaks," Lieburn said. "We take the opportunity as an organization to give back to the community and support our school."

Unity Lutheran Church volunteers also worked with paint, repainting the walls and doorways inside the church. With a big group, they were able to finish in time to chat amongst themselves.

"It is really fun to come back here because we actually had a spaghetti dinner here last spring. It was just a great opportunity to come back to help them [because] they let us use this space for free," Krista Hedrick, senior, secondary education, said.

Groups rejoined in the MSC where tables of boxed lunches awaited them. When all of the groups were assembled at the tables, they were shown a slideshow of photographs and held discussions. Some volunteers felt satisfied with the day's events while others simply craved more.

"The benefits of doing an event like this is that it helps you see that your community helps you, you need to help your community," Kendall Meloy, UPB member, senior, special education, said.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Life's most persistent, urgent question is: what are you doing for others?"



The registrators were the busiest volunteers that morning, as their registration desk were always full of people.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Opinions

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

Power of the people outweighs that of corporate pigs

Service calls. Not the kind where somebody has been invited to perform a service, such as a plumber or locksmith. Rather, the sort where a pre-subscribed service provider calls repeatedly to offer services the subscriber never asked for or showed an interest in.

This can be experienced in a variety of ways, too. Sometimes it can be pleasant. Say a customer is finishing up buying groceries at the supermarket and the cashier kindly suggests an additional herb or topping for the dish said customer is making.

This is helpful. It is offering an improvement to the service provided on a one-time basis. Similar experiences are often had by video game advocates at stores such as GameStop. While wrapping up one's purchase, customers will often be offered additional products which match their previous purchases or discussions with the associate.

These forms of offering additional services really are not that bad. The problem arises with those darned telemarketers.

Say a customer has purchased a single item from a company. They agree to email offers, but never give consent to use their personal telephone number for business offers. In fact, in certain situations, the customer may have even requested that this company no longer contact them via telephone.

Does this prevent said corporation from constantly

calling back? Not in the slightest. An angry enough customer may receive calls from a different phone number in the future, but no matter how many times requests are made to end new offers, these companies will continue to call and offer their services.

Most customers are not so blind as to ignore when new services arise. When Charter offers a new channel in high definition, chances are, 90 percent of their viewer-base will know about this new channel within a week if they watch an hour of television each day.

Corporations do more than enough advertising to guarantee their customers learn of new products. So, why continue with the "our customers just have not realized they want this product yet" mindset? Really, this is rather insulting to the average consumer, and even more so to those who may actually be rather well-versed in their wants and needs.

The primary foci of any corporation are growth and profit. However, there comes a point when corporations seem to forget that in order to grow and profit, they need to respect their customers.

Consumers hold the true power in any business relationship. Even if a contract is involved, the consumer can still cut their losses by ending a contract and paying a fee which is less than the total amount they would have spent supporting the ailing corporation otherwise.



Matthew B. Poposky

This argument is not only against corporations who do everything in their power to force new products upon their customers, but also against the customers who do nothing but complain about it.

If a company is bothering customers to the point that they feel the need to complain about said company's telemarketing on a nearly day-to-day basis, then maybe customers ought to simply leave the aforementioned company. Sure, there will likely be some cost to this, but, in the long run, it is almost always possible to find a comparable company, with very similar services to replace the annoying one.

Learn to just say no, people. If saying no is not possible, then leave entirely and find something new. This is the way life works, and the populace really needs to realize that in the end, they hold the ultimate control over corporations.

Matthew B. Poposky is a Staff Writer for The Current.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Jasmine Revolution just the beginning

Besides being mostly Islamic, the countries of the Middle East are known for something else: the presence of vicious dictators.

It is a particularly nasty trend, one that has been going on for many, many years.

It's an elite group: Saddam Hussein, Ali Khamenei, Muammar Gaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, as well as others.

The former dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, mercilessly oppressed his own people and profited off their misery. He and his sons ruled over Iraq using fear and terror. In one infamous instance, Hussein's son Uday beat and executed Olympic athletes who failed to perform. Iraqis called him the "Butcher's Boy" in secret.

Ali Khamenei is the shadowy figure behind all of the nastiness in Iran. While most people believe Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to be in control, the simple truth is that while Ahmadinejad is powerful, the authority he has is bestowed by Khamenei, who is the Rahbare Mo'azzame Enghelab, the Supreme Leader of Iran.

Then there's Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, who besides being a bit of a loudmouth, is known for sponsoring international terrorism as well as harboring known terrorists and terrorist organizations.

He has "played host to both Abu Nidal [a terrorist] and the infamous assassin Carlos the Jackal [mastermind of the 1975 OPEC

hostage crisis in Vienna]," according to people tracker Web site NNDB.com. Gaddafi is a dangerous man who likes to surround himself with other dangerous men.

Hosni Mubarak took power in Egypt in 1981 and hasn't let go of the reins yet. His regime routinely uses sham anti-terrorism laws against Egyptians attempting to assemble peacefully.

Torture is widespread in Egypt; the U.S. has even exported some of its own prisoners there to have information beaten out of them. In a January 2001 report to the United Nations, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture cited 32 cases of death in custody between 1997-99.

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, better known as Ben Ali, took power in Tunisia in 1987. He relied on what TIME Magazine calls an "unwritten compact...[of] economic opportunity in exchange for political freedoms". Essentially, Ali was guaranteeing prosperity at the cost of total control. This past month, that compact fell apart.

The youth of Tunisia—the well-educated and tech-savvy youth—managed to do the impossible: they toppled a dictator. While it took the might of the U.S. military to topple Saddam Hussein from his iron throne, it only took the actions of a humble fruit seller and computer science grad student, Mohammed Bouazizi, to push the youth of Tunisia into a frenzy of revolt.

After an altercation with



Andrew Seal

a policewoman, Bouazizi sought recompense from the government. He threatened to light himself on fire if he was turned away, and then made good on that threat when he was. "Millions of young Tunisians had a martyr," wrote Vivienne Walt in TIME Magazine. The Jasmine Revolution was at hand. A few short weeks later, and Ben Ali fled the country. A similar uprising occurred in Iran in 2009. The similarities of the revolts are surprising. Both have their martyrs: Tunisians have Bouazizi, and the Iranians have Neda Agha-Soltan, the young woman whose death by sniper at a peaceful protest was caught on cellphone camera for the world to see. The difference is that the Jasmine Revolution was successful, while the Iranian Uprising of 2009 was quelled—for now.

The dictators of the Middle East should take note; your people are not satisfied. The youth of your nations are more powerful than you can imagine, and one day, they will topple your regimes and tear down your palaces.

Andrew Seal is a Opinions Editor for The Current.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Entertaining, informative IMAX film 'Sea Rex' focuses on ancient kings of seas

Lots of kids have books about dinosaurs that also featured ancient flying creatures, Pterosaurs, and ancient sea creatures, like Plesiosaurs and Ichthyosaurs.

It is not surprising that many kids grow up thinking these creatures are dinosaurs, too. But these "saurs" were not dinosaurs, but flying reptiles and marine reptiles.

Of course, "saur" really means "lizard" but one can hardly blame kids for being confused, given the high profile of those dinosaurs.

But an entertaining new IMAX movie is going to help set the record straight for the next generation.

In addition to the St. Louis Science Center's new special exhibit, Climate Change, their Omnimax theater is showing, "Sea Rex: Journey to a Prehistoric World," a new film on marine reptiles of the Age of Dinosaurs that is refreshingly science-based. This IMAX film and the one on the Hubble Telescope represent an encouraging trend and an enormous improvement on "The Legends of Flight," a Boeing-produced piece that is basically a long advertisement for the company which has little to do with the history of flight.

Documentary filmmaker Pascal Vuong and co-writer/director Ronan Chapalain spent about five years and \$5 million on this project. Their previous experience with CGI in other films was an enormous help. The Science Center is the 2D version of the film but the CGI effects are still plenty impressive.

Vuong visited the St. Louis Science Center to talk about his film at a press event for its opening. The director said had a fascination with dinosaurs. When he hit on the idea of making an IMAX film about ancient sea creatures and sought out help from experts, the first fact he encountered was that they were not dinosaurs.

Vuong's research was aided by experts including Dr. Nathalie Bardet at the Museum of Natural History in Paris and Dr. Olivier Rieppel at the Field Museum in Chicago. Both scientists appear in the film, in a sense, although actually they are played by actors, who tell us the facts on marine reptiles. The "sea rex" in the title is a creature Vuong describes as "the T. Rex of the seas," the Mosasaurus.

The first fossil Mosasaur was discovered in a quarry in 1764. George Cuvier, known as the father of vertebrate paleontology, studied the famous fossil known as the Mosasaur of Maastricht. Cuvier is one of two people whose conversation is used as a device to engage the audience. The other is a young woman named Julie whose imagination takes flight during a visit to an aquarium.

Their talks and CGI images explore the long history and diversity of marine reptiles, which spanned three periods of the Mesozoic era, the Jurassic, Triassic and Cretaceous, dominating the seas 20 million years before the dinosaur dominated the land.

The filmmakers selected species that represented the



Cate Marquis

dominate marine reptiles of each time period.

They featured Ichthyosaurs for the Triassic, Plesiosaurs for the Jurassic and the Mosasaurs--their "T. Rex of the seas"--for the Cretaceous. Sea creatures highlighted include Elasmosaurus, with its long neck, the enormous Shonisaurus and the fierce Prognathodon.

The result is an entertaining and informative film, with terrific CGI creatures and impressive seascapes and covering the extraordinary and too-little known ancient underwater creatures of the Mesozoic. The IMAX film is short enough at 41 minutes to easily combine with a visit to the museum's other exhibits.

It is a delightful to see the St. Louis Science Center add this excellent entertainment and science film, another step in re-making itself into an exciting destination for adults and kids.

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

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Point/Counterpoint



Is there too much vitriol in politics?

Vitriol is just a buzz word; today's political discourse is fine

In the wake of the Tuscon shooting, the Left has been fiercely blaming the Right for the violence that occurred and the Right has been quick to respond in kind. Out of all this mud-slinging and name-calling has arisen a bipartisan appeal for less 'vitriol' in politics.

Vitriol is just a buzz word that does not really mean anything. It is equitable to George W. Bush's "compassionate conservatism" or Barack Obama's increasingly unpopular "hope" and "change."

These buzz words are used by politicians to pander to the masses and create such a broad and milquetoast message that no sane person could possibly be against it. By the way, vitriol's primary definition in Webster's is actually "a sulfuric acid."

In 1804, Alexander Hamilton, a former secretary of the Treasury, and the Vice President, Aaron Burr, hated each other so much that they went out to a field in New Jersey and shot pistols at each

other. Hamilton died from his bullet wound the following day. How's that for 'vitriol'?

In 1856, South Carolina Representative Preston S. Brooks actually beat Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner with a cane to the point of Sumner losing consciousness and having to refrain from senatorial duties for a full three years before he recovered.

Those two examples from well over a century ago prove that harsh political rhetoric existed well before Sarah Palin and The Ed Show. But it is not at all fair to put those events in the same category as the 2011 shootings in Tucson.

The Burr-Hamilton duel took place because those two had been spouting personal attacks against each other for years all over the campaign trail and then Brooks caned Sumner in retaliation for personal insults Sumner made about Brook's cousin in public speeches.

The man accused of six

murders in Tuscon, Arizona, on the other hand, seems to be mentally deficient when all the available evidence is taken into account. Zach Osler, Loughner's best friend, told ABC News that Loughner, "did not watch TV, he disliked the news. He didn't listen to political radio. He didn't take sides. He wasn't on the Left [and] he wasn't on the Right."

Reading the note Loughner left behind before the shooting makes it clear that he couldn't string a set of sentences together coherently nor could he articulate his political beliefs any better than saying, "The longest war in the history of the United States. Goodbye. I'm saddened with the current currency and job employment."

That is not the writing of someone influenced by an alleged "vitriol" in American political discourse. That is the writing of someone incapable of tuning into a discourse of any kind.

Political pundits need to tone it down

Jared Lee Loughner's violent shooting spree in Tucson, Arizona earlier this month has elicited some sentiments on both side of the political spectrum regarding the political landscape. All of a sudden, there's a bipartisan movement to try and decrease "political vitriol."

In an article in the Washington Post, Arizona's Pima County Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik is arguing that "the 'vitriol' in today's political discourse contributed to the incident and that Arizona has become 'a mecca for prejudice and bigotry.'"

Dupnik argues that "there's reason to believe that this individual [Loughner] may have a mental issue. And I think people who are unbalanced are especially susceptible to vitriol".

While this may be true, the fact is that Loughner most likely has serious mental issues that went untreated before he shot up that supermarket. After a close examination of the facts available, it appears as if Loughner was not either liberal or conserva-

tive. He called himself a "terrorist," and railed against illiteracy and "currency" in his YouTube videos.

This push for a cut in the nastiness of political language seems like nothing more than a sham to push the "blame" for Loughner's actions onto a political party—namely, the Republican Party and the Tea Party. But the thing is, neither of them is responsible for his actions. No one is—he acted by himself, and he alone bears the responsibility for his heinous deed.

And to be honest, it is not really the Left and it's not really the right who is pushing all this vitriol down our throats: it is the mainstream media—more specifically, it is the media's talking heads and pundits. There are people like Keith Olberman calling for Hillary Clinton to be physically beaten back in 2008 or Rush Limbaugh calling for violent riots in the same year.

Interestingly enough, Limbaugh seems to be the worst culprit, with his overtly racist agenda (see his com-

ments on Al Sharpton) and xenophobic attitudes (see his recent remarks regarding Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit), but he's not alone by a long stretch.

It is not the political parties that need toning down, it is their fanatic media-supported backers like Lou Dobbs, Olberman, Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, Rachel Maddow (to an extent), Sean Hannity, and others.

Not that these people do not deserve the chance to speak their minds, but there should be a better way about it than going on about trying to create a "replay of Chicago 1968, with burning cars, protests, fires, literal riots, and all of that," as Limbaugh has said in the past.

Imagine the work that could get done if parties on both sides of the aisles calmed down, disregarded the nonsense spewing out of the media's talking heads, and actually fixed things like the economy and higher education?

Have something on your mind this week?
www.thecurrent-online.com

Comics

Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



The Current needs cartoonists

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ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?

IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, STOP BY 388 MSC AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP, ALSO.


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Puzzles & Classifieds


CURRENT HOROSCOPES

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


Well you have a good outlook on things right now. The world is at peace and you just bought a coffee. Now spill it on someone.

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


It's been a long tme since anyone has paid you a compliment. Today do something that proves extraordinary. Cover your face in beans and carrots.

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


Taurus, you normally go to a party to steal beer and then pee in a large puddle around yourself. Make tonight different and eat a pound of your own skin, wearing that new sock you bought. You are attractive.

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


Lately you have a rash. You know it's visable to most people over 5 feet tall. Get it looked at by a friend, then cry in public while taking photos of it.

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


Recently your twin gave you a hug and then took you out to dinner. You finally have a feeling everything is okay but when you come home, your wife is tied up and you have no carpet.

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


You will find a penny today. You will also find a sock, a cup, two glasses of water, a bag of fertilizer, thirteen Israeli passports, sex video of Michael Jackson and a boy..... when did you stop reading this?

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


Check it out; you eat all week and gain weight untill friday when you get stuck in a doorway and starve until you are skinny again. Life is funny that way.

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


In just a few months school will be over what are your plans. Well you could -
A. Sleep for a year
B. Sing for a year
C. Get a job at Applebee's

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


Now the principal is getting into the matter. Just take all your candy out of that one place an put it, in the girl who talks too much face, while you go to recess.

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

Do some research on poverty in the Latin America. Find out your lifestyle is the cause of their horrible poverty, then do nothing about it because you are a piece of sh*t!

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

Hey you. Yeah you. Don't let idiots boss you around this week. They might have a mental/pyhsical handicap but that only means they are easy to kick.

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

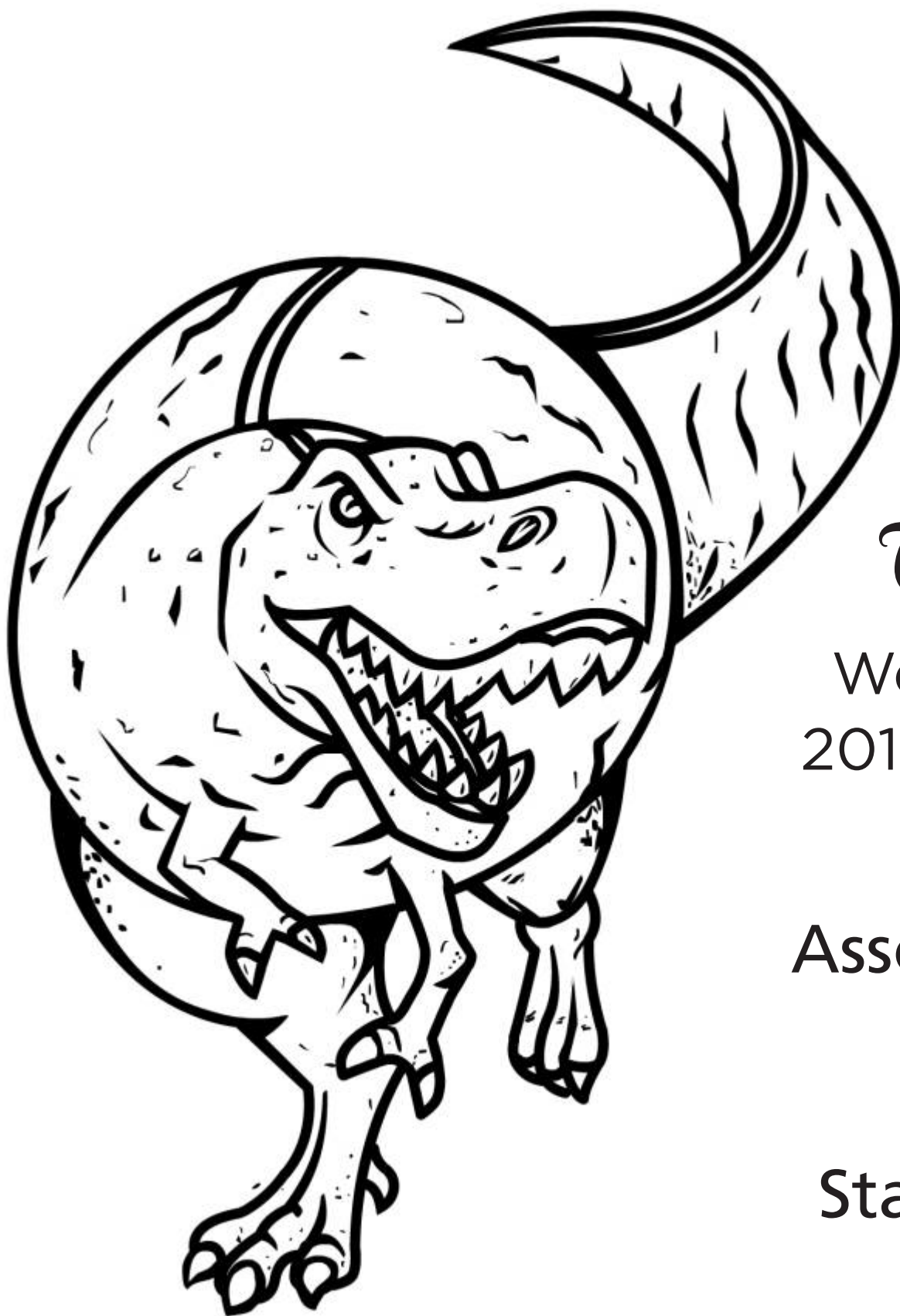
This week cover yourself in blankets, stay inside and play games with a pet. You will be young and live forever, so don't worry about doing anything important ever.

CURRENT WORD SEARCH

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

Aliens
Animal House
Beetle Juice
Breakfast Club
Childs Play
ET
Ferris Bueller
Ghostbusters
Gremlins

Lost Boys
Popcorn
Pretty in Pink
Sixteen Candles
Steel Magnolias
Teen Wolf
Terminator
The Goonies
Valley Girls



The Current

We're hiring for the
2011 Spring semester!

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Reptiles from the Cretaceous encouraged

Job descriptions and how to apply at

www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment/

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrentads@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions.



Footprints faded quickly in the snow on the walking road north of the MSC.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Monday, Jan. 24

Study Skills That Make a Difference

At 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Located at 225 MSC in the Center for Student Success-Conference Room. Open to all Students.
Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal setting for studying, concentration, improving recall, reading a textbook, and test-taking skills. For Information Antionette Sterling at 516-5300.

Intro to Fiction

From 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Located in 202 Lucas Hall, open to all. Let your creative voice out of its box, and let it be heard! Explore the writing process, character development, plot development, story structure, setting, dialogue, and point of view. Participate in oral and written exercises. Brainstorm, write, and revise. For Information contact Raina Traore-Gress at 314-516-5974.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Getting the Most from Note-taking

From 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.in 225 MSC (Center for Student Success-Conference Room For Students only. Lecture notes can be critical to learning material and preparing for tests. Learn how to format and organize your notes to be the most beneficial to you. For more Information talk to Antionette Sterling at 516-5300.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

College of Business Administration Research Seminar Series

At 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Located in 401 Social Sciences & Business Building (SSB) open to all. Dr. Haitao Li, Asst. Professor of Logistics and Operations Management at UMSL, Topic: "Approximate Dynamic Programming Algorithms for Resource-Constrained Project Scheduling with Stochastic Task Durations" For Information contact Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 314.516.7354.

Planning & Zoning: Financing

At 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the J. C. Penney Conference Center and Open to all. Learn how developments can be financed. Review implementation and development financing techniques and applications authorized by law. While planning and zoning commissions do not have approval authority over project financing, it is important that financing terminology and arrangements are understood by commissioners and staff. For Information talk to Stephen Smith at 314-516-5948.

Thursday, Jan. 27

Digital

From 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Located at Gallery Visio, open to all. There will be light refreshments and this event is free and open to the public. For more Information contact Stephanie Sivils at 314-516-7922.