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The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

JAN. 31, 2011

VOL. 44;

ISSUE 1334

THE BIG BEAT OF TAIKOZA

Japanese drummers perform at the Touhill

By DeMarko Timmons

PAGE 10



PHOTO BY YUMETO YAMAZAKI

ALSO INSIDE

2 UMSL student slain
Tragedy strikes student body

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UMSL basketball loses to Drury University

16 'Anonymous' Hackers
Cyberterrorists or cyberactivists?

The Current

VOL. 44, ISSUE 1334
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AFFILIATIONS



News

UMSL student spent her life overcoming obstacles and defeating adversity

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

A promising future was denied realization when UM-St. Louis student Brandis McCollier was killed in her Jennings home Jan. 17. Brandis' live-in boyfriend, Kevin Stubblefield, 38, has been charged with first-degree murder and armed criminal action. He is currently being held on \$500,000 bond. The two children are in the care of Brandis' extended family.

Brandis, 23, had spent the last several years studying to become a social worker. "She changed [her major] to social work fairly early and that's in understanding more about her life outside of school and off campus," Bridgette Jenkins, a counselor at University of Missouri-St. Louis' Office of Multicultural Relations said, "She was really an active social worker she was always helping families and connecting people to resources so it seems the degree was really just putting credentials on what she already did." Staff at the MCR saw her frequently the last weeks of her life.

After graduating from Cleveland NJROTC Academy in 2005, a magnet school in St. Louis City, Brandis enrolled at UM-St. Louis and began utilizing the MCR's services immediately. Brandis left school briefly when she had her first child Brandin

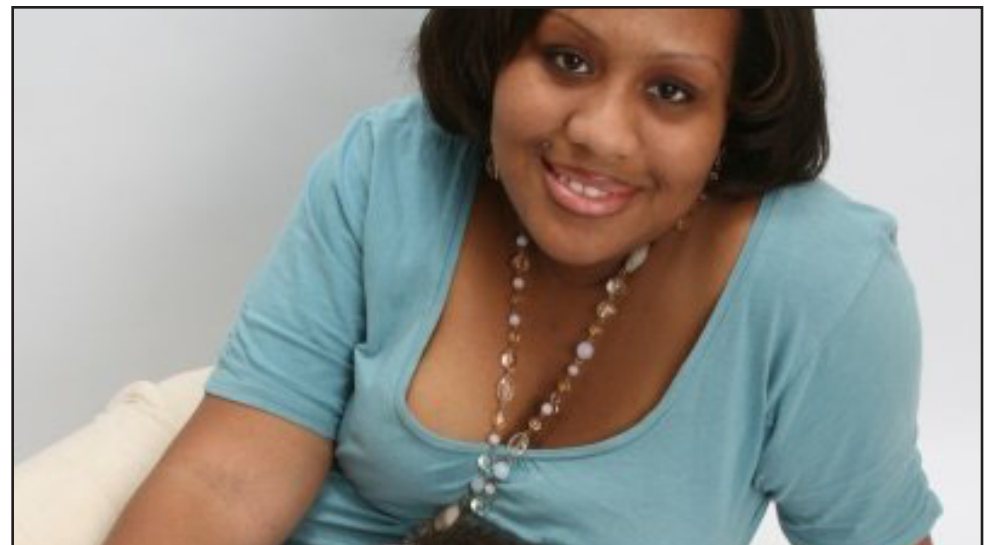
in 2008. Jenkins said Brandis came back to UM-St. Louis briefly but a problem with daycare prevented her from attending her morning classes. She then went to a community college and had just recently finished all her general education requirements. She spent the first weeks of the new year working with MCR staff getting her financial aid in order and registering with career services. "She said, 'I'm registered and I'm coming back [to UM-St. Louis], I'm coming back and so excited,'" Jenkins said. "Two weeks prior to being killed, she was here almost every day. She would have graduated pretty quickly. She had all her general education done and was fully into social work."

Those who knew Brandis said that her desire to contin-

ue her education even with the added responsibility of raising children was typical of her drive and determination. "She was very goal oriented. She came already with a set of circumstances and she wasn't naive about how much work she would have to put into it and she was determined from the very start," Tracy Carpenter, a counselor with the MCR, said. "I wasn't surprised at all that even after having kids she was going to come back." Brandis' positivity was also reflected in the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association's decision to place a photo of her on the cover of a brochure soliciting donations to the campus. In 2007, Brandis was also the president of Helping Hands, a student organization that mentors African American students who are new to campus.

A fundraising page has been created on Facebook (a link to which can be found on *The Current's* website) by Bryan Sutherland. "Brandis was truly an Angel and would give her last to help anybody," Sutherland said. "I ask that anybody help in any way possible to help her children and cover her funeral bill... and let her life be testament to the same women of what a mother, sister, daughter and friend should be."

Authorities have not given a definite motive but have said that they believe Stubblefield and Brandis had been arguing in the weeks leading up to her death. Brandis' final Facebook status read, "I am so ready for a change this year!!! So please don't get offended if u r not a part of the change!!!"



Twenty-three-year-old Brandis McCollier was killed in her Jennings home Jan. 17.

COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
42	34	29	21	16	31	39
29	28	19	-4	5	22	29

Study shows lack of advances in knowledge in first two years

UM-St. Louis implements several similar assessments as recent survey of nationwide campuses

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Staff Writer

According to a recent study, “nearly half of the nation’s undergraduates show almost no gains in their first two years of college.” As the University of Missouri-St. Louis is going through several renovations at this point, it is important that UM-St. Louis ask itself these questions: is this true of UM-St. Louis students? And if so, how can this be remedied to provide the best possible education to students?

“I don’t know [if the results are accurate]. I have not seen [them], so I can only surmise that the survey apparently shows that students who took a particular assessment test did not show significant improvements on that test,” Glen Cope, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UM-St. Louis, said.

Cope then cited that the test in reference would be one which measures general education, rather than knowledge of one’s specific major course-load. “The survey is probably right in what is being measured, but it does not measure everything students potentially learn,” Cope said.

UM-St. Louis itself, according to Cope, is always making strides to improve student learning, and thus guarantee that all efforts are taking to ensure students are given the best quality for their time.

“UMSL uses the Collegiate Learning Assessment test for beginning freshmen and seniors, which I believe is one of the sources of data in the survey. We use these results to analyze our general education, critical thinking, and writing components,” Cope said.

Indeed, the results of this survey were based upon data gathered from the Collegiate Learning Assessment. The data used for the study were gathered from 29 campuses nationwide, in addition to surveys and statements made by over 3,000 students across the nation.

It would seem, however, that despite this study’s popularity in the media in recent weeks, it has not gained much attention to the staff of UM-St. Louis.

“I have not had the opportunity to review the survey’s methodology so I cannot offer an informed assessment,” Terrence Jones, professor and interim chair of political science, UM-St. Louis, said.

Assuming this study creates more interest at UM-St. Louis, it may help

to improve efforts already made by the campus to increase student learning at every level of education.

“We also use the National Survey of Student Engagement...which probably also was used in the survey,” Cope said.

“We also measure students’ performance in their majors, to understand if they are learning what they should...and use those results to improve classes in our majors. We also require junior level writing courses, capstone courses in the major, and engage in other assessment activities. These all help us improve our offering,” Cope said.

UM-St. Louis already partakes of a great number of assessment and check systems to guarantee that necessary improvements to degree programs on campus are made swiftly and regularly. Whether this study, which implements several of the same methodologies used by UM-St. Louis itself, would make a major difference in education on campus is debatable, but the campus would likely do well to look into it either way.

“Ultimately, what students get out of an education at UMSL or at any university is related both to what is taught and the efforts students put into learning,” Cope said.

The UNDERCURRENT by Nitesh Jain

“How do you think obama is doing so far?”



“I think he is doing a good job.”

Katie Green
Secondary Education
Junior



“President Obama has been working hard to bring diverse people and groups together. As a result, some compromises have been made that many people on both sides have not fully embraced.”

Becca Burns
Adult and Higher Education
Graduate Student



“I think he is doing a great job as he is not just focusing on the political issues but also many diversify fields at the same time.”

Abhishek Jain
International Business
Junior

“Students can now get help from home—Free online tutoring now available to UMSL students”

— From issue 1332

Online tutoring is indeed a great option for those busy families who are looking for extra help for their children in school. Unfortunately, most students are very hesitant to admit that things are out of control, that they are struggling in class, and that they have lost their confidence.

When parents finally are able to determine that help is needed, they will need to turn to an expert teacher, classroom experienced, who can develop a timely support plan.

—Terry VanNoy

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB



**After all is read and done,
Please Recycle!**

—Your friends at the The Current

News Brief

St. Ann Police Chief says to keep it under 71 on I-70

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis students who travel Interstate 70 to get to campus should consider themselves fairly warned. Fines for speeding have been doubled on a seven mile stretch of the interstate 70 between Goodfellow Boulevard and Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. Dubbed "the Gauntlet," St. Ann police chief Bob Schrader said that a special detail of officers on overtime are watching the stretch of highway like a group of hawks.

The stretch of highway has been officially deemed a "Travel Safe Zone" by St. Ann and the seven other municipalities policing it and even though it is an interstate highway local law enforcement is allowed to determine its own fines. Consequently, a speeding ticket incurred on I-70 can cost a motorist as much as \$300, about double what a speeding driver could expect if ticketed by the State Highway Patrol.

Between Jan. 1, 2010 and July 19 Schrader said there were 42 accidents on

the stretch of I-70 that runs through St. Ann. Since the amplified level of enforcement began on the 19th, there have only been 10 accidents on the same stretch. "The Travel Safe Zone was where the bulk of the accidents occurred...there's been a 75 percent reduction of accidents," Schrader said. "We kind of have a lofty goal of zero accidents. I was tired of my officers out there on the highway risking their lives writing those accidents."

St. Ann has a detachment of eight cars--up from an initial four--monitoring the area in four hour shifts, three to four times a week. Schrader says that they write about 60 tickets over the course of one four hour period and St. Ann police officers told the Post-Dispatch they think they have written about 6000 tickets for that stretch of I-70 in the past six months.

"I want everyone to know we're out there. All you have to do to make it through St. Ann is to drive around at or around the speed limit," Schrader said. "We're ticketing for 11 or more over so don't go 11 over. I want to be transparent about this."

UM-St. Louis addresses college graduation conflict

ASHLEY ATKINS
Staff Writer

Since this past November, Missouri Governor, Jay Nixon has been strategizing on how to increase Missouri college graduation rates to 60 percent. Missouri's graduation rate is currently 35 percent. "I think it is unrealistic to expect Missouri universities to abstain from tuition increases when the state government is cutting funding to universities," David C Kimball, associate professor, political science, said. "In addition to combining programs with low enrollment, the governor might consider combining administrative units with light workloads."

As far as another way to handle tuition increase, in his State to State address, Nixon spoke of his plan to fill the universities with students who have the need to better themselves. He wants to focus on lower income students and continue to promote programs such as The A+ Program, Bright Flight and the Access Missouri Programs, a program that the University of Missouri-St. Louis is currently making use of. The Access to Success program believes that everyone on campus is responsible for campus graduation. The program listens to students, faculty, administration and advisors about practices and policies that allow a student to graduate in six years.

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, Judith Walker de Felix, is leading the program at UM-St. Louis. "Then we got commitments from deans and Student Affairs to make changes that will help students reach that goal," Walker de Felix, said. "Now, we check to make sure that all freshman in their first year a) meet English and math requirements, b) earn at least 24 credit hours, and c) have

at least a 2.0 GPA." UM-St. Louis is involved in this national project because the UM-System is one of 24 public universities in the country trying to raise student graduation rates. The Department of Admissions at UM-St. Louis is also on top of the issue of graduating students. "Our goal in admissions is to inform, recruit, and admit qualified students to UM-St. Louis," Alan Byrd, director of admissions, said. "Graduation is definitely a part of our goal. We only admit students who have the potential

of communication and money-management. "A program that will be new for Fall 2011 will be the Energizer Keep Going Mentoring program that will match successful juniors or seniors with incoming first-generation college freshman students," Floyd K. Welsh, Director of Student Achievement and Development for the Center of Student Success and Transfer Services, said. "The Mentors will meet with the new students throughout the first year to help them make a successful transition to campus

“A program that will be new for Fall 2011 will be the Energizer Keep Going Mentoring program that will match successful juniors or seniors with incoming first-generation college freshman students.”

-Floyd K. Welsh

to graduate because the university will only be as successful as its students." The Center for Student Success at UM-St. Louis works towards helping students graduate by providing resources and one-on-one tutoring for the new freshman or person on academic probation. They also offer workshops on the topics

and college life."

Even with programs such as these for some, graduation still seems to be a conflict. Byrd mentioned that students being unprepared for college success and over worked due to the poor economy has made it more difficult for students to graduate on time.

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Sports

Tritons fall into first place tie after loss at Drury



Members of the Men's Basketball team huddled before a game.

CEDRIC WILLIAMS / THE CURRENT

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team fell into a first-place tie after Great Lakes Valley Conference action last weekend.

The Tritons played two games on the road over the weekend against GLVC West Division opponents. UM-St. Louis won 56-53 last Thursday against Rockhurst University, but lost 80-61 on Saturday against Drury University.

The loss to Drury gave UM-St. Louis a 14-6 overall record this season and dropped the Tritons to 8-4 in GLVC play. Drury owns a 15-5 overall and 8-4 GLVC record also. Although the two teams own the same conference record, Drury owns the playoff tiebreakers by virtue of Saturday's win over the Tritons.

Gerald Fulton, junior, communications, who ranks second in the GLVC in scoring at 23.2 points a game, scored 25 points against Drury to lead the Tritons.

Teammate Ryan Lawrence, senior, criminal justice, added 12 points and 10 rebounds but it was not enough to prevent UM-St. Louis from falling behind in the early going, and unfortunately, the Tritons never really recovered.

Before Saturday's loss, the Tritons owned a five-game winning streak. They reached that mark after Thursday night's thrilling three-point win over Rockhurst.

The Hawks led that game from the outset, just as Drury did. But UM-St. Louis was able to rally, thanks to a brilliant 29-point effort by Fulton.

The 6'2", native St. Louisan, who went to Hazelwood East High and Mineral Area College, was unstoppable down the stretch for the Tritons.

Rockhurst could not keep him out of the line, or near the basket. Rockhurst's only recourse was to foul Fulton constantly. And the GLVC's top free throw shooter, at 90 percent for the season, kept making shots. But the play of the game proved to be a deep three-pointer Fulton banged home from the right wing, that gave UM-St. Louis a 54-53 edge, the Tritons' first lead since early in the game. Rockhurst had several chances to re-take the lead in the final minute. But the Tritons forced the Hawks to take nothing but tough shots, and Rockhurst could not make any of them.

Fulton managed to get possession of the ball with 28 seconds left and was fouled to stop clock. As he had the entire second half, Fulton stepped to the line, and knocked down both foul shots to put UM-St. Louis up 56-53.

Rockhurst called timeout and tried to set up a final play to get itself a tying three. But UM-St. Louis' defenders swarmed the Hawks, allowing only a desperate heave with one second left that never even hit the rim.

Thursday's victory was the third time this season UM-St. Louis won a game in the final minute.

On December 6, the Tritons beat Lewis University on a half-court heave at the buzzer by Dominic Williams, junior, physical education. And back on January 20, Fulton flipped in a shot with less than a second left to lift UM-St. Louis over Illinois-Springfield.

Triton fans are hoping for that same kind of excitement this Thursday, February 3, when the UM-St. Louis athletics department will host its annual "Pack The Stands Night" basketball event at the Mark Twain Building.

That night, the athletics department is inviting all UM-St. Louis students, faculty, staff and alumni to come to the Mark Twain and "pack the stands" in support of Triton basketball.

The evening will begin with a women's game between UM-St. Louis and Kentucky Wesleyan at 5:30 p.m., followed by a men's game between the two schools, which will tipoff at 7:30 p.m.

2011 Triton baseball schedule announced

men's baseball schedule has many excited for spring

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Athletics Department recently released the finalized and approved 2011 season schedule for the UM-St. Louis men's baseball team.

The Triton baseball squad has been practicing almost daily at Mark Twain and over at the UM-St. Louis Baseball Field, preparing for the 2011 season.

Weather permitting, the Tritons are scheduled to play 50 games this season. Those 50 contests include 34 Great

Lakes Valley Conference games, the team's annual March Florida Trip, as well as early-season tournament appearances in Savannah, Ga., and Evansville, Ind.

UM-St. Louis' home schedule consists of 12 home dates, eight of which are doubleheader days.

During those eight home doubleheaders, the Tritons will play two games in one day against the same opponent. The schedule on these days usually includes one nine-inning game and one

seven-inning game.

One of UM-St. Louis' most anticipated doubleheader matchups will be April 19, when the Tritons will host cross-town GLVC rival Maryville University. The schools have been developing quite a rivalry since it was announced that Maryville would be joining the league in 2009.

The four single-game home dates for UM-St. Louis are the March 23 home opener against William Woods University; an April 13 matchup against Bellarmine University; an April 22 non-conference tussle with Oakland City University, and

an April 25 battle with non-league cross-town foe Webster University.

The Tritons will open the season on February 25 by travelling to Savannah, Ga. to compete in the Savannah Invitational Tournament, hosted by Armstrong Atlantic University. UM-St. Louis' opponent on opening day will be Wayne State University.

Another highly anticipated ballgame for the Tritons will come the following weekend, when the Tritons travel to Evansville, Ind. to play in the Dunn Hospital Invitational, hosted by the University of Southern

Indiana.

Southern Indiana is the defending NCAA Division II national champion, and is ranked number 1 in the nation again by Collegiate Baseball News. UM-St. Louis will play Southern Indiana on the first day of the Dunn Invitational on March 4. In seasons past, the Tritons tried to schedule several in-town road games against opponents like SIU-Edwardsville, Harris-Stowe or Lindenwood. But this season, UM-St. Louis' lone in-town road date is a doubleheader matchup against Maryville on April 6.

UM-St. Louis is looking to bounce back after a diffi-

cult 2010 campaign in which the Tritons went 15-37, and finished in second-to-last place in the GLVC standings.

One of the key additions to the 2011 UM-St. Louis baseball team is the program's new pitching coach, legendary former Washington University coach Ric Lessmann.

Lessmann comes to UM-St. Louis after 17 years at the helm at Wash. U., where he became the all-time winning coach in that program's history with a 396-231-1 overall record.

All UM-St. Louis home games will be played at The UM-St. Louis Baseball Field on South campus.

Corey CIOCCHETTI

author of real rabbits: chasing an authentic life

returning to umsl february 8 & 9!

FEBRUARY 8

2:00pm

Under the Influence of Stress

Century Room C

7:00pm

Chasing Authentic Success

JC Penney Auditorium

FEBRUARY 9

10:00am

Redeem the Time

11:30am

Identity Theft, MySpace and Your World

1:00pm

Professionalism and Your Iron Ring/

The Importance of Priorities

all events held in Century Room C

For more information contact Student Life at 516-5291

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Colin Farrell plays vicious Urki gang member, Valka, in "The Way Back."

COURTESY / NEWMARKET FILMS

'The Way Back' is epic adventure set against awe-inspiring landscape

MOVIES

The phrase "exiled to Siberia" still resonates as a severe sentence from which one does not return and "The Way Back" is an epic adventure about an escape from such a sentence to exile. For decades, Russia, and then the Soviet Union, exiled criminals, political prisoners and anyone deemed undesirable to the remote, cold region of Siberia.

The Oscar-nominated film is directed by the award-winning Peter Weir, who is no stranger to epics, having directed "Master And Commander" and "Gallipoli."

Ed Harris, Colin Farrell, Mark Strong and Jim Sturgess play members of an international band of prisoners escaping from a gulag during World War II in one impressive tale of survival.

Based on Slavomir Rawicz's acclaimed book, "The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom," and on other real-life experiences, this film is indeed a long walk, thousands of miles.

The reason Siberia was such a harsh sentence is not just its coldness but also its remote isolation. As one character notes, the prison walls in Siberia do not need to be strong because the whole countryside is the prison. In a sparsely-populated land with a harsh climate, hundreds of miles from anywhere,

the few local people easily recognize outsiders. Bounties for escapees ensure they are reported.

Life is harsh in the ramshackle, overcrowded gulag. Prisoners starve on the meager rations, develop night-blindness and other illnesses from nutritional deficiencies. They wear filthy rags infested with lice and fights break out over the warmer rags. Criminal gangs dominate the rickety barracks. New arrival Janusz (Jim Sturgess), a Pole from a wooded region of the newly-occupied Poland, thinks only of returning to Poland. A flinty, older American prisoner, who only gives his name as Mr. Smith (Ed Harris), offers to help organize an escape, noting the Pole's backwoods skills and one "weakness" - kindness - might be useful for the older man's survival.

They begin a ragged group escape during the height of winter with no real idea of where they are, only a vague plan of walking south. Their one survival tool is Janusz' skills as an outdoorsman, honed in Polish forests. The prisoners form an uneasy alliance, especially with Russian gangster Valka (Colin Farrell), who forced his way in when he overheard their plans. In their long trek, they are joined by another escapee, a young girl named Irena (Saoirse Ronan).

The whole epic plays out against a breathtaking landscape of natural beauty. Shot beautifully in Bulgaria, Morocco and India, the landscape is a daunting, haunting backdrop, almost

a character in the characters' struggle for survival.

The tone is emotionally muted, with everyone dampening down feelings as they focus on their challenging journey. The escapees may be hardened but there are still flashes of emotion.

The acting is excellent, with each actor carving out a believable, well-rounded character, and avoiding familiar stereotypes. Colin Farrell's Valka is an unrepentant criminal but sports a tattoo on his chest of Lenin and Stalin, he espouses a strange kind of patriotism. The addition of Iren, brings out new emotional dynamics, especially in Harris' steely-eyed, closed-mouthed Smith, but Ronan makes her a complex character as well.

To the film's credit, not everyone survives the ordeal and the actors are never prettied up - they look dirty, thin, and sunburned - adding a gritty realism as they trudge through snowbound forests, the parched Gobi desert and transverse the Himalayas.

This is fiction, not history, despite its factual inspiration. However, this film is one of those man-versus-nature survival stories that evokes documentaries like, "Touching the Void."

"The Way Back" is truly an epic adventure.

B + -Cate Marquis

'No Strings Attached' is the unconventional love story

MOVIES

"No Strings Attached," the new Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman romance/comedy currently resides at the top of the weekly box-office, a spot they have achieved only because literally nothing else is out and movie-goers are unwilling to sit through a ballet flick or a film about a King who stutters. While the film had its charming moments, as romance comedies often do, potential viewers should wait for it to reach Netflix. "No Strings Attached" centers on the sexual relationship between two former acquaintances who first met years ago at a summer camp. Re-introduced years later at an outside market, they cook up a scheme to

only use each other for sex sans a relationship status. Inevitably, one of them wants more out of the deal.

Portman plays Emma, a strong-minded feminist who uses the outcome of her own parents' divorce as an excuse to shy away from serious relationships. Her career as a doctor only helps promote her "I do not need a man" independent lifestyle. As twisted as her character is, she is likable. Kutcher plays her opposite, Adam, the handsome playboy who is wrongly misguided by his pack of minions, played by Ludacris and Jake M. Johnson. It was uncertain whether Ludacris was just a horrible actor or snubbed in dialogue.

Although this was a film that would usually be taken

on by the Judd Apatows of the world, "No Strings Attached" was directed by Ivan Reitman who is mostly known for his success with the "Ghostbusters" franchise. In other words, he has had less experience in the romance side of cinema and more in comedy and action. This was confusing considering that the comedy in the film was probably one of its weakest points. Yes, there were a few good lines said here and there, but considering this film was mainly marketed as a comedy in order to make it a little more "date-night" friendly, it could have had a few more laughs.

Believe it or not, Cary Elwes, of Princess Bride, was cast in the film. This casting choice was a mistake even if he was "Dear Wesley." He

was supposed to play the handsome yet elusive Dr. Metzner who Emma shows an interest in, representing the type of man that Emma feels she should be attracted to as opposed to Adam, the film assistant. At least that is what viewers are led to believe with close to no dialogue. His character was never developed in the storyline, so whenever he would enter the scene it felt uncomfortable and creepy. Who is this guy?

Another factor that works against the film is that it goes neck and neck with other films that possess the same motives.

See **STRINGS** on page 9



Ashton Kutcher plays Adam and Natalie Portman plays Emma in "No Strings Attached."

COURTESY DW STUDIOS LLC

LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, February 4

"Sanctum"

James Cameron ("Avatar") produced, but did not direct, this 3D adventure, about a team of explorers trapped in a cave. Australian cast, based on real experience of Cameron's collaborator and adventurer Andrew Wight.

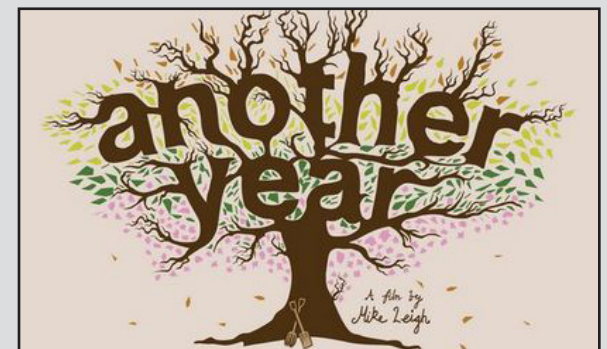


"Biutiful" (Plaza Frontenac) - Oscar-nominated Spanish-language drama stars Javier Bardem in an award-winning performance. Bardem plays a devoted father living on the edge in Barcelona while struggling with cancer, in this haunting film from legendary director Alejandro González Iñárritu.



"Another Year"

(Plaza Frontenac) - Director Mike Leigh brings us another intelligent, wonderfully-acted, unblinking slice of real life, a film that upends assumptions and offers layers for discussion. Stars Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen and Lesley Manville.



Cage the Elephant does wonders for indie

Indie for the masses

MUSIC

Released on January 11, Cage the Elephant's latest addition to their musical library, "Thank You, Happy Birthday," is a delightful look into the wonderful world of indie. Mixing oldie inspired elements with new age lyrics and extras to make something that is entirely their own.

"Thank You, Happy Birthday," is Cage the Elephant's second venture out into the album realm. Going almost instantly to #1 on the iTunes Download chart, and #2 on Billboard Top 200, it's obvious to see that the album is something to be looked into.

While some of the songs seem a little off, or maybe out of place is the better phrase, "Thank You, Happy Birthday" is still a fun listen. Listeners may get bored with a song or two on the album, but as a whole, the album is something deliciously different.

"Always Something" is definitely one of the boring songs and to place a boring song right at the beginning of an album is definitely not smart (tisk, tisk Cage!). However, "Aberdeen" makes up for that failure of a first song. The opening few notes are catchy, and once mixed with an even catchier bass riff, expect to hit the repeat button.

"Indy Kidz" does not start off well either (remember that annoying sigh sound everyone made as a kid?) but definitely picks up. Unfortunately, that noise still makes its appearance throughout the song and is even joined by Matthew Schultz's impersonation of a child, which is also irritating. Survive past the first 15 seconds or so and it will be well worth it.

The next song, "Shake Me Down," sounds like it is a long lost track from the Nick and

Norah Infinite Playlist soundtrack. The song, simply put, is beautiful. Switching from sweet guitar melodies to driven rhythms, it will keep even the most seasoned listener intrigued.

"2024" is energetic and instantly makes the listener want to bounce around. While some of the intro sounds a lot like another band's work (a little bit of "Drop It Doe Eyes" by Los Campesinos!), the song is insanely energetic.

Another track with sweet melodies is "Rubber Ball." While Schultz's voice seems almost ghost like in the beginning the song is tender and heartfelt and the perfect one to add to a bedtime playlist or a mixed CD for a sweetheart. It is a guaranteed sing along song too, which is not a bad thing.

"Right Before My Eyes" at first seems just like any other rock song about heartbreak. However, there is something about it that prevents the urge to hit the skip button. What is even better is that there is an acoustic version as a hidden track in the end of the last song. "Around My Head" is also iffy. The only terrible thing about it is the attempted impersonation of Bob Dylan in the singing. It is not bad, and Schultz does put his own spin on it but it is hard to get into. After sifting past the fake singing, the song is enjoyable.

As a whole, the album is a definite win. Combining not only their own person taste and style, Cage the Elephant also uses influences from other bands and genres that mix to create a sound that they can truly call their own. "Thank You, Happy Birthday," is worth every penny and it will be a shocker if every listener can't find a song he or she likes on it.

B+ -Janaca Scherer

STRINGS from page 8

Take a look at "Love and Other Drugs" or the upcoming Justin Timberlake flick "Friends with Benefits." It is as if they were all working off of the same script. Films such as these make a person appreciate smaller films such "500 Days of Summer" in which the main character does not get what he originally wants. In the previously mentioned films the main characters will live happily ever after in

the end because that is how romantic comedies work.

"No Strings Attached" was not a horrible movie. It just lacked in story and comedy. While it was a refreshing, light-hearted opportunity for Portman it only proved that Kutcher needs more time to mature in film roles.

C - Ashley Atkins



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sequences and some disturbing images.

Features



Taikoza is a Japanese drum performance and was performed on Saturday at the Touhill.

The big beat of Taikoza

Japanese drummers come to the Tuohill

DEMARKO TIMMONS
Staff writer

Taikoza is known for filling the room with awesome performances on the drums; the entertainers dropped by the Touhill on Saturday to show St. Louis the real power of the Taiko drums. This music playing, foot stepping, heartwarming group brings all the excitement of traditional Japanese music and vibrant motion onto the stage and gives an electrifying performance like no other. With only six performers, the percussion-playing group is making their way to the top.

Taikoza was started in New York City. It began from the members of the Ondekoza. Taikoza has played in several parts of the world including Russia, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, France and the Republic of Georgia. Their most recent stop was here at the University of Missouri-St Louis.

The Touhill Performing Arts Center was filled with an audience of all shapes and sizes waiting to see the E3 performance. As the performers appeared, the

room fell into a silence that was quickly ended by the beats of the Taiko drums. One beat after another, the performers created a rhythmic stream.

“I always enjoyed listening to the sounds of the drums played by Taikoza, they are so fun to watch and [are] simply amazing,” Jessica Combs, audience member, said. “Once I heard that they were coming to St. Louis, I had to hurry and buy my tickets before they sold out.”

Musical instruments included the Taiko drums, the Fue, a bamboo flute, the shakuhachi and other instruments that left the audience clapping after every rendition. The beats of the drums were strong, getting louder with every passing second. The performers movements were always in sync with the rhythms. With 14 great percussion pieces, colorful uniforms and great energy, there was never a dull moment throughout the entire Taikoza performance.

“I [kept seeing] one of the performers who always had a smile on her face, she had such a big smile and it lasted throughout the whole show,” Joshua Smith, audience member, said.

Along with the drum beats, Taikoza also interacted with the audience by encouraging clapping, going out into the audience and even bringing a few people up to the stage to play on the drums.

One scene even included a masked person interrupting the performers by jumping around, poking the drum players and trying to perform with them. The scene amused the audience and made them eager for more.

Nearing the end of the performance, it was finally time for the performers to give their strongest percussion piece. The Odaiko scene used the biggest drums on stage and every pound of the sticks sent chills through the audience. The drumbeats produced a sound like no other finale could do. When the performance was finished, the crowd stood up cheering as the cast introduced themselves.

After the performance, Taikoza members came into the lobby to answer questions and sell CDs.

“This was real; [it was like] nothing that I have seen before,” Ashley Hanes, audience member, said.



A drummer plays a traditional Japanese drum at the Touhill on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

Operation RAFTT 2011: We support our troops

MINHO JUNG
Staff writer

The event, "Operation RAFTT 2011," sponsored by Regional Alliance For The Troops (RAFTT) was held Saturday, January 22 at the Touhill performing arts center to support the United States troops, veterans and their families in the St. Louis region.

The event was opened by a performance from the United States Air Force band. The sounds of "Hot Brass" began the show at 12:05 p.m. Many organizations from the St. Louis community visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Saturday to provide free services for military personnel, veterans and their families.

"This is an outreach event for veterans in our community, letting them know that we are supporting them and their families. I also have a very good friend of mine who is over in Iraq right now" Tracy L. Davis, employee of The American Legion, said.

Various service groups were introduced to attendees, such as

Consulting Outreach for Soldiers' Families and medical services for people who have experienced a concussion or traumatic brain injury.

"What we are trying to do is to look at [participants'] brains and symptoms and compare that to those of civilians. So by doing that, we hope problems of [participants'] brain[s] can be diagnosed early if there is any problem found," Jacob Bolzenius, research assistant from Division of Neurosurgery at St. Louis University, said.

On the second level of the building, a job fair for veterans who are looking for their second career after their service was also arranged.

"We are a Veterans Business Resource Center. What we do is help them to write their business plan or flesh out their business ideas. We basically guide them through the whole process from beginning to end," Roger Horn, outreach director of Veterans Business Resource Center, said.

Some retired veterans also participated in the event, providing their retired co-workers with second career opportunities after their service.

"I'm a veteran. I spent 24 years or so [in the service]. I'm

absolutely proud of my service. If I had to do it over again, I would do the same thing. I also I got my job through the state because I'm a retired military [employee]. It was a definite benefit for me to be hired as veteran's employment representative," Del Senn, veteran's representative of Missouri Career Center, said.

Many volunteers took part in the event, contributing to lining up the second major event at UM-St. Louis after the Martin Luther King, Jr. annual ceremony.

"I think it is such a good idea to honor our troops, putting together all the organizations into an area so that they can collaborate with one another," Carol Simon, event volunteer, said.

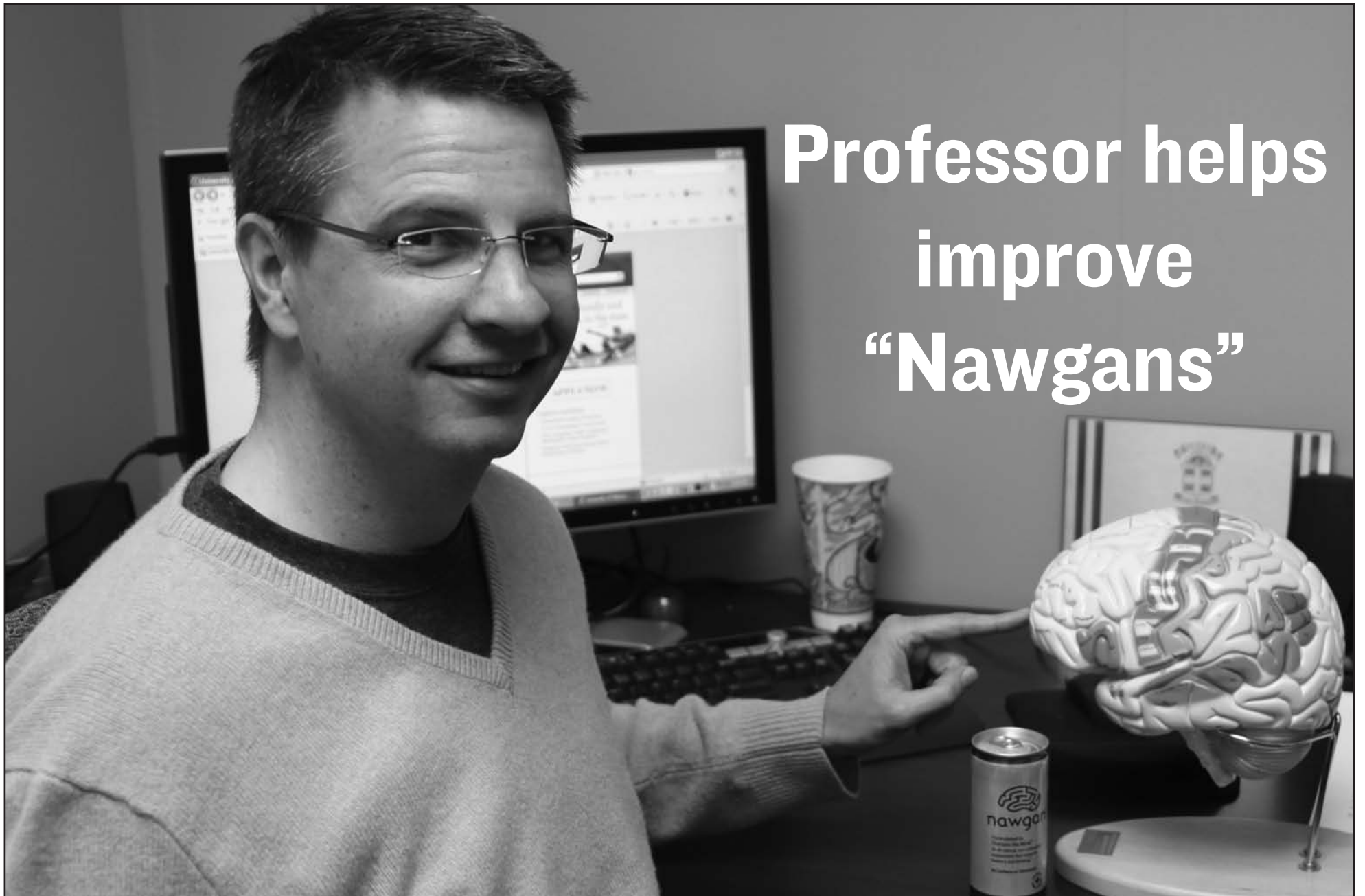
Many young participants also visited UM-St. Louis that day to support the U.S. servicemen and women. A small care package event for military members working overseas also captured many people's attention.

"The primary reason that I came here [was] to get my kids exposed to great things provided for our servicemen overseas. I [had] two brothers involved in the military back in Vietnam days. One passed away. So I'm trying to do whatever I can for our servicemen," Dave Oleksa, employee of Daugherty, said.



Children packing care packages for troops on Operation RAFTT 2011 on Saturday, January 22.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT



Professor Paul points out the area of the brain where his natural energy drink may improve memory.

ZHENG ZHANG / THE CURRENT

JEN O'HARA

Features Editor

Robert Paul is a neuropsychologist, teacher, father, husband, and creator of an increasingly popular drink that increases brain activity and memory. "Nawgan" has been on the shelves since spring 2010 and is sold in various places from the University of Missouri-St. Louis bookstore to Walgreens across the state.

The Current: How did you get into neuropsychology?

Robert Paul: Since I was a marine biology major, I was living in southern California. I spent most of my time at the beach really excited about marine biology. I just happened to take a developmental psychology course as part of my required credit. The instructor turned out to be a pretty famous researcher on wolf play. That really sparked my interest on learning behavior. So, I shifted from a marine biology major to a psychology major really following that class. Then, the next semester I took the biopsychology course and that really opened my eyes to not just describing behaviors, but understanding the biology behind the behaviors.

TC: Tell us a little bit about your background and how you ended up at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

RP: I grew up in southern California and went to college in California. I went to receive my Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center in biological psychology and completed clinical training at the same time. Then, I did a clinical neuropsychology internship at Brown medical school, and then a two-year clinical neuropsychology fellowship at Brown. I joined the faculty at Brown medical school for five years before moving to UMSL.

TC: Can you tell us about your drink, Nawgan?

RP: It's a brain fitness drink. It doesn't have the standard ingredients as in an energy drink. Every energy drink contains taurine as a common ingredient. Taurine is questionable in terms of how well it actually works with our body. There's a lot of concern about its safety. Our blend is not intended to be an energy blend, it's not meant to keep people up for six hours and get them [so] ramped up that they can't settle down and disrupt their sleep patterns. It's more about giving the brain more alertness, some focus, and concentration.

TC: How did you decide to create this drink?

RP: For me, part of it was looking at other brands that were

on the market, like Vitamin Water. When I looked at the science behind those ingredients, they were decent ingredients, but usually put in such small doses instead of bottles, that it was just a marketing game. Of course, they sit on the shelf and because they are in plastic bottles, UV light and air breaks them down further. Really, what people buy is ultimately just sugar water. For me, it was like, this could be done the right way.

TC: What do you like to do outside of the academic setting?

RP: I spend most of my time with my family. I coach my son's football team; I'm the head coach of his tackle football team, so that keeps me pretty busy. I do a lot of travel for work, and that allows me to visit countries and cultures. I think that's a blast.

TC: What do you enjoy most about teaching?

RP: Trying to get people to get as excited about the content as I am. I like teaching because I want to get students really excited about content that actually is really interesting. If I can get students excited about [psychology] when they had no expectations they would get excited about that, that's very fulfilling.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

STLCC cuts sports program

Like Garry Templeton giving the finger to his own fans, or the football Cardinals moving to Phoenix, and Adam Vinatieri kicking Rams fans in the gut back in 2002, the recent announcement by the St. Louis Community College system that it would be drastically cutting its athletic programs will go down as one of the very dark days in the history of St. Louis sports.

The St. Louis Community College system has a long, storied history of success and winning at its three primary campuses.

At Meramec, the wrestling, softball, baseball and men's basketball programs are nationally recognized for their victories. The Magic (or Warriors as they were called for much of their history), were considered perennial national championship contenders in those sports almost every year.

The Florissant Valley program was successful in several sports. But the Fury (or Norsemen/Norsewomen), were best known for the school's nationally revered track and field program.

Forest Park, known as the Highlanders, had built championship-caliber programs in baseball and wrestling at different times during that program's history. And all three schools were powerhouses in men's and women's soccer.

So it truly will be a sad day when St. Louis Community College shuts down most of its sports programs.

Although the athletic budgets were not big, the Magic, Fury, and Highlander sports programs were points of pride for each SLCC school.

So many young men and women, who for whatever reason, were not the right choice for whatever NCAA Division I or Division II program they might have been interested in, managed to find a place to go to school and play ball thanks to the community college system in general and St. Louis Community College specifically.

The number of junior college and community college success stories is almost infinite.

Now, with St. Louis Community College going to just seven district-wide athletic teams, the opportunities for young St. Louis area men and women, who might not be right for Division I or II athletics, but still hope to turn their athletic talent into a college scholarship, is pretty minute.

St. Louis Community College needs to cut more than \$3 million from its operating budget, and the cuts in athletics will save the district nearly \$700,000.

Clearly, that is a huge hunk of what SLCC needs to do. It is just unfortunate that sacrificing such a wonderful part of our city's athletic history is what had to be done to save the school system money.

The worst part of all of this is that many believe SLCC's money problems were not

caused by the expense of athletics. They, instead, believe it is some of the hefty salaries members of the upper administration at SLCC pay themselves that have put that school system in such dire straits.

Others believe it is the unprecedented money that has been put into certain real estate ventures SLCC has undertaken, that has forced the virtual shut down of athletics at SLCC.

Whatever the cause, its likely SLCC will not ever recover once the July 1 cuts take effect.

That means, short of a miracle, many coaches, trainers and administrators will lose their jobs come this summer. And many more St. Louis-area student-athletes will lose the opportunity to better themselves through athletics in a wonderful college system that has been a part of our community for more than half a century.

Last week's announcement was a dark day for St. Louis Community College. And once that school system shuts its athletic's doors, it will be remembered as one of the worst moments ever in St. Louis sports history.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Sequita Bean, Ryan Krull, Andrew Seal, Jen O'Hara, William Kyle, Cederic Williams, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary Kraft.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Down with Mubarak and dictators everywhere

As predicted, the unrest in Tunisia has spread. The Jasmine Revolution has inspired similar protests in Egypt, Yemen, and other Arab nations.

Most of the protesting is occurring in Egypt, where the Egyptian Army has been called out to help settle the unrest—something that has not been done since the protesting in 1985.

Interestingly enough, Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak's deployment of the military could spell his end. It was a military coup in 1952 that toppled the old monarchical regime, after all.

Unlike many other countries around the world, Egyptians have a great amount of love and respect for their army. For Egypt, the use of the military is not seen as excessive.

The armed forces are beloved in Egypt; according to an article on CNN.com, "protesters [cheered] army convoys as they drove into Cairo and Alexandria. Some embraced the soldiers on the ground; they were seen as saviors from excessive police brutality."

The experts are in agreement that the military's deployment is something of a desperate attempt by Mubarak to re-establish control. This is most likely true, and it most likely will not work.

Indeed, the 82-year old Mubarak (or whomever is pulling his strings; it is widely believed that Mubarak is ailing) does not seem to see

what is happening before his very eyes. "I asked the government to resign today and I will commission a new government to take over tomorrow," he said last week in a prepared speech.

It is the political equivalent of doing nothing. What is worse is that he had the audacity to appoint his chief spymaster, Omar Suleiman, as his new Vice President.

"These protests arose to express a legitimate demand for more democracy, a need for a greater social safety net and the improvement of living standards, fighting poverty and rampant corruption," he said in his speech. In his own words, Mubarak betrays his dangerous obliviousness to the very issues that caused this unrest in the first place.

Mubarak acknowledged the problems with Egypt—problems he himself caused with his 30-year rule of iron-fisted authoritarian dictatorship. Only now he "suddenly" realizes there are and were major problems.

Thankfully, the Egyptian people have seen through their president's lies. CNN.com is reporting that "people took to the streets, chanting 'Down with Mubarak' and burning pictures of the authoritarian leader," after his announcement to form a new government.

The United States is walking a tightrope in this situation. On the one hand, Egypt is and has been one of our staunchest Arab allies—and one of the only ones that has not had any



Andrew Seal

of its citizens kill Americans recently.

The U.S. sent 1.3 billion dollars in military aid last year to Egypt. Indeed, CNN.com reports that during the protesting, "people picked up spent shotgun cartridges and tear gas canisters that said 'Made in the U.S.A.'" Our money is being spent, year after year, to oppress the Egyptian people.

President Obama has said that he has spoken with Mubarak since the protests started. "I just spoke to him after his speech and I told him he has a responsibility to give meaning to those words, to take concrete steps and actions that deliver on that promise," he said.

That is not enough. The hollow promises of this sham government need to end. Change, real change, is coming to Egypt, much like it did in Tunisia. Hopefully, other Arab nations will follow suit and throw off the shackles of their oppressive dictators.

Andrew Seal is a Opinions Editor for The Current.

What do you think?
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SCIENCE MATTERS

If Taco Bell tacos are less than 35 percent beef, then what are they?

What does the saying “you are what you eat” mean if you regularly munch Taco Bell tacos and it turns out they are only about one-third beef?

A new lawsuit has asserted that Taco Bell’s “seasoned beef” taco meat is less than 35 percent beef. In fact it is less than 35 percent any kind of meat. It kind of gives a new meaning to “junk food.”

The class-action lawsuit, brought on behalf of a California resident, charges false advertising. It does not seek monetary damages, asking only that Taco Bell to be honest in its advertising.

According to Taco Bell, this is entirely wrong. They claim their taco meat is 88 percent beef, in a massive new ad campaign.

What exactly is in that fast-food taco? According to news reports, the law firm had the meat tested and found that Taco Bell’s “seasoned beef” is mostly “other ingredients, including water, wheat oats, soy lecithin, maltodextrin, anti-dusting agent and modified corn starch.”

In other words, the taco filling is about one-third beef and two-thirds filler, binders, starches, chemicals and other not-so-savory-sounding edible, stuff. Not meat. Something less than 50 percent beef seems more beef-flavored than actual beef.

As shocking as this is, it is more disturbing yet that the U.S. Department of Agriculture allows something that is

more than 50 percent filler to be called any kind of “meat” to begin with.

What is so wrong with accurately labeling foods? Europe has far more restrictive laws about food labeling and purity. They also have less obesity. Yet attempts at labeling or restrictions on man-made fats are met with both outrage from industry and howls from people who seem to think letting people know what kind of trash is in foods is some kind of attack on personal freedom.

Honestly labeling foods as two-thirds vegetable starch and chemicals does not seem to infringe one’s right to eat it anyway. Where is the freedom in being kept ignorant of what is in that stuff?

There is such a wide difference between the plaintiff’s test results of less than 35 percent beef and Taco Bell’s assertion of 88 percent that both sides will have to produce some data to win over public opinion.

It also calls into question USDA’s oversight and testing of food products. That is something that has been much in the news, with last fall’s massive egg recall and other recent tainted food matters.

This particular issue is about labeling, not contamination, but labeling matters. With rising food allergies, most foods in the grocery store now are labeled to let consumers know if it contains



Cate Marquis

wheat, peanuts, soy and other substances. One of the ingredients mentioned in Taco Bell’s meat mix - wheat oats - sounds as if it could trigger wheat allergies. Should not consumers know that?

Food manufacturers and chemical companies fought hard to limit food labeling, so genetically-modified foods are both allowed and not labeled in this country, although they are banned in other countries. Ironically, one objection raised about GM foods was that they would trigger a rise in food allergies. Indeed, we have seen such a rise in food allergies, but linking that to GM foods would be difficult since they are not labeled.

Even if Taco Bell’s “seasoned beef” is more than 35 percent beef, even as much as 88 percent, what are those other ingredients? For food allergies, if no other reason, are we not entitled to know?

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

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

St. Louis bans smoking, forces away customers

St. Louis recently implemented a new smoking ban in public restaurants. Of course, certain venues, such as bars, are allowed to retain smoking privileges for their customers which makes sense. The problem is that this new law is actually causing problems for several businesses, in addition to the improvements it is providing others.

The law requires that any business wanting to gain exemption from the smoking ban must receive a majority of their income from liquor sales. Thus, bar and grill restaurants which make more sales on food throughout the day than they can balance with liquor at night have lost privileges for their smoking patrons. In addition, and this is the one that hurts, is the change made to restaurants offering hookah to their patrons. Hookah is a form of smoking which utilizes water vapor to transport the smoke from a basin, through a tube, to the smoker’s mouth. The tobacco is of a flavored variety, ranging anywhere from Strawberry Daiquiri to Fuzzy Navel, to non-descript names such as XYZ.

Hookah, like any form of tobacco, is legal for use by any citizen of age 18 or above. However, given the new ordinance in St. Louis, restaurants offering hookah now must turn away any patrons under the age of 21 for service of any kind.

The reason? As these establishments were able to keep their license for providing hookah to customers,

they clearly gain a majority of their revenue from alcohol sales. According to St. Louis, allowing restaurants such as this to serve minors raises the risk that such venues will also overlook age limitations on alcohol service.

This is absolutely ridiculous. There are bars across the city which will gladly admit minors to the establishment, but simply do not serve them alcohol. Clubs participate in the same behavior on a nightly basis downtown. Yet, are these establishments losing a large portion of their customers? Not if they do not serve illegal beverages to them.

Again, hookah is nothing but tobacco smoke, utilizing water vapor as a medium of delivery. Flavored tobaccos presenting the names of alcoholic beverages do not actually have alcohol in them, no more than a wine-flavored piece of gum does.

The problem is that hookah lounges have long catered to crowds in the 18 plus range, but now, have to turn away a large percentage of their consumer base because of these new laws. Some establishments, which do not gain a large enough percentage of their revenue from alcohol sales, are even being forced to abandon hookah altogether. One such example is Sahara, a Mediterranean restaurant offering exquisite cuisine, exotic music, and belly dancing (on Fridays and Saturdays), all within a family-friendly, comfortable environment. However, Sahara does not



Matthew B. Poposky

pull a majority of its revenue from alcohol. Most of their revenue has long been pulled from food and hookah sales.

This restaurant is now losing one of its staple profit sources, along with a large part of what made its environment so appealing to customers. Granted, this is not enough to push all customers away from Sahara, nor should it be to truly loyal customers. However, Sahara will be losing a large portion of its revenue due to this change in law. In addition, had Sahara been able to keep their tobacco privileges, it would have then become a 21+ restaurant, and would have been viewed, rather than as a family-friendly environment, as a bar.

Everybody has a right to clean air. Removing hookah or forcing patrons to be 21 will not guarantee this right, though. It will simply create suffering for several family-owned establishments as well as anger previously happy patrons.

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

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Point/Counterpoint



Is the hacker group 'Anonymous' righteous?

Unorthodox, sure, but Anonymous does good

When mighty governments turn their back on the people, there is usually no one to help. With the U.S. government all pal-y with Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak, there's no hope for U.S. aid with the fledgling revolution.

Except that there is. There is an activist group with members all over the world that is tirelessly working for justice and the betterment of society.

They are Anonymous, and they are legion. Their motto is "We are Anonymous. We do not forgive, we do not forget."

Anonymous is a relatively new activist group that primarily focuses on Internet-based objectives. This has led to them being branded "hacktivists", for their work done on bringing Internet justice down on those who deserve it. The movement began on Internet message and image boards, and is a diverse group of men and women all across the world. Anonymous picks its targets very carefully, and for good reasons.

The "Church"

of Scientology was one of Anonymous' first targets. Anonymous views Scientology as both a cult and an affront to Internet freedoms.

Perhaps the most well-known actions of Anonymous were their coordinated Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks on the Web sites of MasterCard, Visa, and PayPal. Anonymous began Operation Payback last December. MasterCard, Visa, and PayPal were all chosen for their willingness to deny their customers the ability to donate funds to WikiLeaks. In the eyes of Anonymous, the credit companies caved to pressure from the U.S. government—pressure that shouldn't exist in a free society. Sure, Anonymous' methods are unorthodox. But who else will bring companies to justice and show them that their actions are wrong? It's a matter of liberty.

As columnist Barrett Brown said in The Guardian, working with Anonymous is an alternative to trying to work with "various western governments that have shown themselves to be comfortably complicit with tyranny."

Such as the U.S., who sent about 1.3 billion dollars in military aid to Egypt last year. Those tanks, that Hosni Mubarak is using to oppress his people with. Some were bought and paid for with U.S. funding.

Now Anonymous has chosen their next target: aiding the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia and the fledgling revolution in Egypt. "Operation Tunisia" was launched earlier this month after the Tunisian government blocked access to WikiLeaks.

These "hacktivists" began collaborating with Tunisian free-speech activists in order to help Tunisian citizens circumvent Ben Ali's Internet censorship. That was only the beginning: days later, Ben Ali fled the country.

Anonymous has turned its collective eyes onto Egypt. When Mubarak ordered the mass denial of Internet access to Egyptians last week, Anonymous responded by mass-faxing WikiLeaks cables to Egyptian numbers.

Anonymous is doing what so many wish we could do: help those who cannot help themselves.

Anonymous are cyber-terrorists, not Activists

For years, the viral and not so viral world that constantly surrounds a good portion of our lives today has been under attack by an interesting and terrorizing group.

Calling themselves Anonymous, and disguising their members in public with "V for Vendetta" masks, this group has been causing nothing but trouble and an expense of taxpayer's money.

Causing mayhem around the world and around the Internet seems to be their biggest goal. But terrorizing innocent citizens, threatening churches, and even criticizing governmental policies are also on their to-do list. It seems that big or small no one is safe from the scrutinizing eyes of Anonymous.

Do members of Anonymous seem to have any true goal in the nonsense that they do? No. No visible link can really be seen between their acts. Shutting down websites, bullying innocent citizens and harboring hate fests against those with different beliefs. In most cases it is said the members simply do it for 'the lulz.'

But what most members

of Anonymous realize is that they are actually partaking in what could be considered domestic terrorism. Threats to bomb sports stadiums, sending pornographic images to government officials across the world and spreading pornographic YouTube videos with tags such as 'Jonas Brother's' are not going to be taken lightly by very many.

Sure, some good ideals can be taken from Anonymous. They work together without having any known leader to organize them. They have raised money towards some slightly noble causes. But the bad definitely outweighs the good in this situation. And it only appears to be getting steadily worse.

In more recent attacks, they have been shutting down major businesses, like MasterCard, for hours. But what they do not realize is that they aren't just 'sticking it to the man,' they are causing issues for the people who rely on these businesses and sites.

The good news is that slowly, Anonymous is being brought to justice. Members in the United States and in

Britain have been arrested and will be charged with crimes. Three teenagers and two young adults will all be given jail time in order to pay for their crimes against humanity.

These vigilantes need to realize that they are not just punishing higher forces; they are also causing issues for the American people. Millions of tax dollars will be spent in order to correct the wrongs that are going on. Until the attacks stop, millions could be in danger.

All in all, it appears that Anonymous is just a bunch of cyber-bullies who do little more than cause trouble. They are too scared to reveal whom they really are, in order to take the blame for the idiotic and ridiculous games they are playing with people around the world.

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

Comics

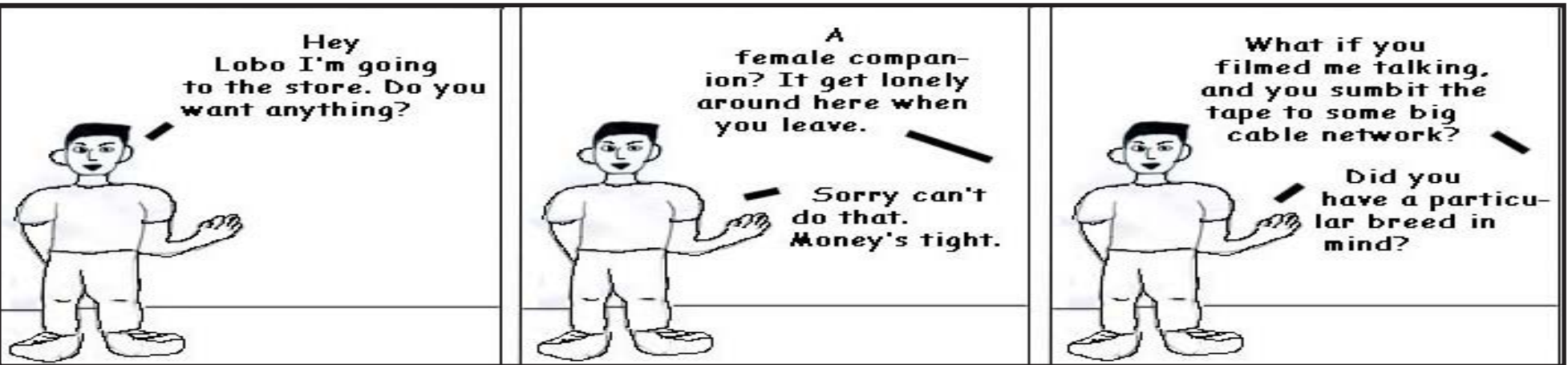
Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



Question Marks by Stephen Peterson



Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



Puzzles

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

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

After a brief stint as a lion tamer, you will find out later this week that you are the reincarnation of the leader of the mole people.

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

People keep giving you things, so much so that this week, you go out on a limb and chop off all of your limbs. Good job, now you do not have to hold anything.

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

Taurus, you normally go to a bath house to pass gas and then wake up next to a large man. Make tonight different and drink nothing but goat's milk. You are not at all attractive.

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

On this Thursday you will take trip. This will change your life in ways you can imagine, so you just imagine these ways for a day or two, real boring.

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

Recently, your twin was found dead in his closet. The police told you that it was autoerotic asphyxiation, yet somehow you feel this is definitely not over...

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

Take your own advice this week you're never wrong and let small children that are reasonably weak know this. If you can take their money, do it. Second best is stealing their shoes.

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

Listen to your friends on Monday and then on Thursday, do the exact opposite to get their attention. If you don't have friends, cry alone.

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

Times are tough and you have to save more now than ever. So this week collect as much hair, nails, and teeth from people as you can. Deliciousness.

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

You get a new chance to try out your scissors on the kid sitting in front of you in class. This week, make him look like a shaved cat. Other kids are going to love it!

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

This week, all of your beliefs on religion are going to be proved wrong as you find out that man and dinosaurs never could have lived together. You could be mentally disabled.

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

You're going to feel so good this week. With ease, your work will get done, your sleep will be pleasant and your words eloquent. Take a deep breath and relax.

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

I predict a lot of snow in your face. Do not fight it, just eat it! Eat all the snow you see this week and check this horoscope next week to see if you're still alive.

CURRENT WORD SEARCH

Japanese Theme

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

- anime

bonsai

haiku

japan

karaoke

kimono

kyoto

miso
- origami

ramen

rice

sake

samurai

sushi

Tokyo

tuna



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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.



Director of Student Life, Miriam Huffman and Ashlee Roberts, Diversity Coordinator educate students on Student Life during the Open House on Thursday.

NITESH JAIN / THE CURRENT

Monday, Jan. 31

Wednesday, Feb. 2

Major Challenge: How to choose a major that fits who you are

At 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. located at 225 MSC (Center for Student Success - Conference Open to all. Have you ever questioned your major choice or wondered if you will ever find a major that's right for you? In this workshop we will debunk common myths such as, "There is only one right major for me," and "A major is the same as a career." You will learn how to identify majors and career paths that are a good fit for your personality, interests, strengths and values. Students may follow up with a coordinator for individual assistance. For information call Antionette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Thursday, Feb. 3

Savvis Cloud Computing - hosted by Delta Sigma Pi

From 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. located at MSC - SGA Chambers and open to everyone. Savvis knows cloud. Savvis can be found in the Leaders category in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Cloud Infrastructure as a Service and Web Hosting. According to Gartner, "For the past five years, the Web hosting market has been evolving toward on-demand infrastructure provisioned on a flexible, pay-as-you-go basis; the majority of hosting customers now obtain at least some of their infrastructure on demand, and most new hosting contracts include on-demand services. The market for traditional Web hosting services, especially for Internet and intranet Web content and applications, continues to grow." Hosted by Delta Sigma Pi; apply today at www.etanudsp.net. Food and drinks provided at no cost.

For more information contact Stacy Bueneman at 314-761-9951.

Brand "U": Involvement today for tomorrow's career

At 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located in Millennium student center - century room C, open to students. To some students, being engaged or involved on campus is deemed as detracting from their ultimate goal of graduating and getting the dream job. Join us as we explore how being engaged or involved on campus actually enhances your marketability to future employers. Whether you want to work in corporate America, education, government, or your own business, tis program will provide insight on buildin the brand of "you". This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life and edward jones.

Come learn about law school preperation

From 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. located at 126 SSB, open to all. Come here Mr. Michael J. Kolnik, Assistant Dean of Admissions from St. Louis University School of law talk about preparing for law school and how the admission process works. For more Information contact Dr. Richard Middleton at 314-516-6745.

Friday, Feb. 4

Procurement Services monthly surplus property tag sale

From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. located at JC Penney Building dock, Open to all. Procurement Services is hosting our monthly surplus tag sale. Items for sale are desks, chairs, CPU's, monitors, laptop computers and other items too numerous to mention. For more information, call Tanjela Brooks at 314-516-5361.