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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

Feb. 27, 2012

VOL. 45;
ISSUE 1370



Check the Rec Campaign - new student rec center?

Interior of the recreation center at Marshall University.

COURTESY OF HASTINGS AND CHIVETTA

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

The cost-free referendum for a new Student Recreation Center will take place March 12 to 14, 2012. This proposed new recreation center will provide about 94,000 square feet of space for open recreation, intramural sports and wellness education. All currently enrolled students will be able to use the facility.

Students will be charged \$19.25 per credit hour per semester starting in 2014, since buildings such as the Student Recreation Center and the Millennium Student Center cannot be funded by state general fund dollars.

New amenities would include a three-court gymnasium; an elevated track; 14,000 square feet of weight and fit-

ness space; four multi-purpose rooms for activities such as spinning and yoga; a six-lane lap pool (25 yards) with whirlpool; a lounge/game room; a juice bar; a locker room; a sauna; an administrative suite for facility staff and student workers and a wellness center.

"Past, present and future students — those that have taken tours of UMSL — often comment on the need for more recreational opportunities for students who commute to or live on campus," Tom George, chancellor, UMSL, said. "They point out the benefits derived from rec centers located on other campuses—such as providing students with more outlets for healthy activities, stress relief and interaction with fellow classmates. So, from that

standpoint, I want to commend our student leadership for bringing this important issue to the entire student body for consideration."

"Students should vote because it gives them a chance to decide how their campus grows and progresses," Chancellor Thomas, senior, econ/political science, said. "It gives students the option to mold the future of the University in a constructive and positive way. The Recreation center would create a central hub in which students could hold various events, promote health awareness and well-being."

Others are not altogether excited for the changes, though. "I do not agree with an increase in fees specifically for the Student Recreation Center," Erick McLaughlin,

senior, Spanish, said. "If it were used by an overwhelming majority of students it might make more sense, but given the current situation, I would be against the fee."

"I do not agree with an increase in fees for the rec center," Michael Keleher, junior, psychology, said. "I feel I pay enough already in non-resident tuition. It would be a great idea if UMSL had more students on campus. That is not the case, so I would be against a \$19.25 per credit hour fee."

Student Government Association President Jericah Selby disagrees with McLaughlin and Keleher. "In addition, the cost of the fee would result not only in a great facility, but would help establish our growing campus culture and

help recruit and retain students at UMSL," Jericah Selby, senior, criminology, said.

George and Thomas both agree that the addition of a new recreation center will bring in a larger freshman class.

"Our campus is the only one in the UM-System that has not built a new recreation center or renovated their current recreation center. That may not seem important, but when we are in a competition with our universities all over the country in providing the most fulfilling college experience, that is a serious handicap. With the recreation center we can create a great UMSL community in which to bring incoming freshmen," Thomas said.

"I think it will encourage more individuals to consider

UMSL," George said. "We have an outstanding educational faculty, comprehensive internship connections and an extensive alumni network in the region. The rec center would complement those assets well."

The project design is expected to take nine months to a year. Construction will take 15 to 18 months. The building is projected to open in the 2014-15 academic year.

"My expectation is to have a good voter turnout," Selby said. "What I hope for is that students see this initiative as a way to take part in their student governing process. I expect students to want to voice their opinions and vote in March. I want students to have a say in the future of their institution."

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The Current

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ABOUT The Current

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The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. *The Current* edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

AFFILIATIONS



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 thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

Tuesday, February 28

Winning the procrastination battle
From 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success and open to all.
How many times have you become sidetracked from doing an assignment? College students can easily fall into a cycle of procrastination. Understanding why you procrastinate is the key. This workshop will illustrate steps and techniques for avoiding procrastination.
For more information, call Antionette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Thursday, March 1

New from philosophy: a revised major & pre-law track
From 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Located in 316 MSC and open to all.
Come hear about our new and improved major (fewer hours, more options) plus a presentation promoting our new pre-law track. A panel of lawyers and a law school student will discuss how majoring in philosophy benefited their legal careers. Free pizza and lemonade.
For more information, contact Stephanie Ross at 314-516-5634.

Wednesday, February 29

Information systems mentor/protege event
From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Located in 204 Express Scripts Hall and open to all.
Our topic is effective interview, resume and cover letter techniques. We will have a panel of alumni who will give presentations, look at resumes and help our students prepare for career fairs, interviews and job hunts. We conclude each session with speed mentoring which allows the proteges and mentors to interact and engage in an efficient, fun and spirited way.
For more information, call Dr. Joseph Rottman at 314-516-6286.

Friday, March 2

4th Annual International Business Career Conference
From 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Located in the JC Penney Building and open to all.
This conference is an ideal mix of learning and networking opportunities. Participants will be able to interact with organization executives, career professionals and academic leaders who will address the concerns of today's students preparing to enter the international business workforce. The comprehensive conference agenda will include a keynote speech, workshops and a panel discussion all of which are led by business executives and career professionals who are experts in their field. In addition, a tasty lunch will be provided.
For more information, call Mengjia Liu at 314-516-4503.

Monday, March 5

Poetry and the Body
From 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Located in 402 JC Penney Center and open to all.
Members of the Faculty of Languages and Cultures, in the UMSL Department of Anthropology, Sociology & Languages, share international perspectives on the poetics of bodies in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin and Spanish, along with translations in English. This annual event is in recognition of National Foreign Language Week.
For more information, call Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

Crimeline

February 16, 2012 – 11:15am Report # 12-65 – Informational Report – Off Campus – 12837 Flushing Meadows. UMSL Police documented an incident in which a contractor of the University had some keys to an off campus property stolen. Disposition: Information only.

February 17, 2012 – 10:58am Report #12-66 – Theft - Lot KK. An UMSL student reported that the rear license plate was stolen from her parked car. Value \$25.00 Disposition: Report taken.

February 19, 2012 – 9:17pm Report # 12-67 – Theft – Millennium Student Center. An UMSL staff member reported that a men's coat was taken from a custodial closet in the Millennium Student Center. Value \$ 150.00. Disposition: Report taken.

February 20, 2012 – 8:15pm Report # 12-71 – Property Damage– South Campus Garage. Unknown persons threw rocks from the top of the South Campus Garage, damaging three vehicles parked below. Disposition: Report taken.

February 21, 2012 – 11:30am Report # 12-72 – Theft – Lot N. An UMSL faculty member had a fanny pack taken from her as she walked across a parking lot. The suspect was an unknown black male who ran west into the wooded area. Disposition: Pending.

For further details, visit safety.umsl.edu/police/campus-crime-info/daily-log.html, or check out UMSL Campus Police on Facebook and Twitter.

WEATHER

MON. 52 33

TUES. 56 45

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News

Philosophy department prepares to acquaint students to new Pre-law

HALI FLINTROP

News Editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis philosophy department has redesigned the philosophy major to serve students in the department even better and attract students to major in philosophy. The department did so by adding six tracks to the major that require fewer credit hours for graduation than were previously required for philosophy majors.

The philosophy department will host an event at which students can learn more about the new pre-law track. A panel of lawyers and law school students will discuss how majoring in philosophy impacted them positively in their schooling and careers. The event will take place on Thursday, March 1 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in Millennium Student Center room 316.

The UMSL philosophy department wants students to understand the value of a degree in philosophy. Recent flyers released by the department illustrate the earning potential and success of philosophy majors. One flyer showed that majoring in philosophy leads to the highest median mid-career salary of \$72,900, which is more than majors like business, education, psychology, nursing and criminal justice.

The philosophy department also hoped to show prospective students that a degree in philosophy can lead to a variety of unexpected careers. A different flyer lists public figures in a wide scope of career fields who majored in philosophy, including Steven Colbert, comedian, Phil Jackson, National Basketball Association coach, Wes Anderson, filmmaker

and George Soros, financier.

Students who plan to enter higher education after they receive an undergraduate degree also may want to look to UMSL's philosophy department when selecting a major. The philosophy department has advertised that students with undergraduate degrees in philosophy score better on tests needed for graduate and professional study, like the LAST GMAT and GRE, than many of their peers.

The UMSL philosophy department website, <http://www.umsil.edu/~philo/whyphilosophy.html>, has a list of selected articles that also shed light on the professionals pursuing a degree in philosophy. One the "New York Times" story titled "In a New Generation of College Students, Many Opt for the Life Examined" report-

ed that "students said that studying philosophy, with its emphasis on the big questions and alternative points of view, provided good training for looking at larger societal questions, like globalization and technology."

"All of these things make the world a smaller place and force us to look beyond the bubble we grow up in," Christine Bullman, junior, said. "The New York Times." "I think philosophy is a good base to look at a lot of issues."

The new tracks in the UMSL philosophy department include a pre-law track, a history track, a health sciences track, a science studies track, an ethics and society track and a psychology and neuroscience track. The new philosophy major requires 30 hours and has seven required courses.

"The number of required

hours was lowered from 36 to 30 to be in line with philosophy programs at other institution. Some requirements were simplified (e.g., only two rather than four history of philosophy courses are now required, and some lower level courses now count towards the major). And six optional tracks were introduced: pre-law, health sciences, science studies, ethics and society, psychology and neuroscience and history," said Gualtiero Piccinini, department chair "Students will find the major more accessible. The optional tracks we introduced add an element of guidance that should appeal to students who already have specific goals in mind, such as a career in law or the health sciences."

Stephanie Ross, director of undergraduate studies,

philosophy, believes that familiarity with philosophy can benefit any field. "...It is the philosophical method that makes for philosophy's practical value. The method involves questioning preconceptions, analyzing concepts, challenging arguments and demanding proof. These components – skills that students learn in any philosophy class – are highly portable. They are the reason we believe philosophy students can truly claim to perform any task better as a result of their education," she said.

The pre-law event this Thursday is open to students who have already selected the philosophy major, students who are considering the philosophy major and students who are considering taking a philosophy course just to explore their possibilities and broaden their horizons.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Jarred Gastreich

"What did you do for Mardi Gras?"



"I was stuck at work studying for exams. I wish I could have gone downtown."

Jackson Suhre
Senior
Economics



"For Mardi Gras I went Downtown and went to the parade. After I went to a couple bars around the area."

Michael Williams
Junior
Information Systems



"I am taking a vacation to see some of the Crewes. They have beautiful parades. I want to show my boyfriend how the holiday is enjoyed in the south."

Amy Connell
Sophomore
Special Education

The Political Corner - Political Science Alumni Speaker Series

Dr. Amaney Jamal focuses on democracy in the Middle East

DIANNE RIDGEWAY
Staff Writer

Wednesday night, Dr. Amaney Jamal, associate professor of politics at Princeton University, presented Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All to a crowd that overflowed with over 150 people. She revealed her most recent findings from her upcoming book "Of Empires and Citizens," which explores opinions of Arab citizens on democracy and their current governments. Research done in Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey revealed that most citizens agreed with the statement that "democracy may have its problems, but is better than any other form of government."

However, financial or economic impacts have taken precedence over definite democratic pursuits.

Jamal explained that the rise of a middle class in some countries with increased access to the global market changed the way citizens show their support for democracy. "Because I know that my country needs to be in the good graces of the United States," she said, "I am going to be mindful of the fact that democracy might mean that an axis may come to power that might disrupt that relationship... and I'm going to be watching events very carefully to see where I'm going to allocate my support for democracy." She continued, "For example, if Egypt is going to be more of a headache than a solution, it might drop the whole democracy project."

She described a problem in some Arab countries like

Jordan where regimes receive support even though they are non-democratic because governments "dish out revenue and perks and benefits" to their citizens, so many people do not challenge the status quo. In Jordan the reigning king was reported to have support from citizens because he "knows how to navigate this political landscape."

That political landscape was explained by Jamal. "You have client states that are dependant on larger states in the real world... states that are subordinate in the world order or that rely on larger states." The Arab world received more aid in the last twenty years than any other region in the world, "including Africa," explained Jamal. "There is a hierarchal relationship that exists between the U.S. and Arab countries."

Not only were the citizens of these non-democratic governments providing support to the regimes, but other, outside forces were as well. Saudi Arabia was described as having very close ties with America as a non-democratic country.

According to Jamal, "there is no way we're going to push for democracy in Saudi Arabia." She argued that without knowing what would replace it, we will not disrupt a regime. "If we know that 15 of the hijackers that came to the U.S. came from Saudi Arabia and that's how they feel about us, we might end up with a regime sitting on 25 percent of the world's oil resources that won't export to western countries." Jamal said, "There is no reason

to believe that the Middle East is going to become less strategically significant not only to U.S. national interests, but Europe, Japan, China and all the global powers these days."

Jamal's research aimed to gauge and understand anti-Americanism and democratic views in the Arab world. Support for democracy was not a sure sign of the right kind of progress. "If you are pro-American in a country like Jordan and you value trade and you value more access to global markets, you are more likely to support the regime, and if you are anti-American you are more likely to be pushing for more democracy..Anti-Americanism... is much stronger in a country like Kuwait," Jamal said.

She proposed that rather than attempt to change Islamic beliefs, we allocate our efforts in investigating what led people to support anti-American movements in the first place. She proposed consideration of "the audience effect" and argued that "the economic disparities, the inequalities, the corruption of regime and the fact that these regimes where squandering the wealth of citizens" were reasons that the Islamic movement was able to capitalize. "We need to get back to the basics. We need to create jobs. We to make sure people getting education degrees are not driving taxis, and if the United States is going to continue the status quo and preserve its interests it really needs to come up with a strong economic development package."

MISSING

Phoenix Coldon

Date Missing: December 18, 2011

Missing From: St. Louis, MO



If you have information on Phoenix's disappearance, you can report it **ANONYMOUSLY** at www.BAMFI.org under "Tip Line" or contact Goldia Coldon, mother, 314-653-6606, or Captain Doyle (314-355-1200) or Detective Vogel (314-615-8630) of the St. Louis County Police Department.

Entertain Your Brain

**St. Louis
PublicRadio**
90.7 KWMU

A Station of The University of Missouri—St. Louis

Students transferring to UMSL confronted by a number of issues

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri – St. Louis’ website instructs potential transfer students to “take the next step in your academic career with the seamless transition to UMSL—preparing you with hands-on experience and a clear pathway to academic success.” However, many transfer students do not find

pretty much all of their credit is going to transfer.”

Usually state or federal financial aid stays the same for students who transfer to a school in the same state, but some scholarships are school-specific and do not transfer. Transfer students are eligible for UMSL scholarships, however. “A lot of times the nice thing is that we are drastically

what transfer shock stems from. It is a catch-all term for all the stressors that are involved in switching academic homes.”

Many services are available for transfer students. Four days a week Krystal Lang, transfer coordinator, UMSL, spends her time at local community colleges meeting with students who are interested in moving on to university life. Counseling and therapy are available for the stress involved in switching schools. Joining clubs is also suggested. Tau Sigma National Transfer Student Honor Society can fill the niche as well, but it is invite-only.

Parents can be another issue for transfer students. The average student attends at least two different schools before they graduate, and many parents believe that transferring is “giving up” and going against your alma mater. Often, students see transferring to a university as an act of independence and do not want their parents’ help, which can be stressful for the parents as well.

“Around three-fourths of the UMSL population is transfer students,” Hettich said. “That’s something that admissions and recruitment services are slowly trying to work against.” This is because transfer students generally do not live on campus, which cuts into UMSL’s revenue stream. New freshmen are more likely to be traditional students, who are more likely to be on campus all day, eating at the cafeteria and being active on campus; the investment of that money improves the university.

“Around three-fourths of the UMSL population is transfer students.”

---Doug Hettich

matters to be that simple.

Transferring from one college to another has become much more common, but experts say that transfer students from community colleges are treated differently than their favored counterparts who come straight from high school.

“I lost some credits, but I also changed my major from psychology to social work so it was sort of expected to some extent,” Courtney Proffitt, sophomore, social work, said. “I am in my third year of school, but with my transfer credits this is my last sophomore semester.”

“The biggest issue that transfer students face from an academic standpoint would be the difference between how much of their degree they had completed at their previous school versus how far along they are along in their degree now based on how their credits transfer,” Doug Hettich, transfer coordinator, UMSL, said. “In general, for most standard accredited institutions,

more affordable than most four years schools, so that can make up the difference,” Hettich said.

Another major issue for transfer students is what is referred to as “transfer shock.” There is a difference in the educational environment from what they are used to, and the change is similar to what freshman experience.

“We see that in transfer students in the same vein, only slightly different,” Hettich said. “Coming from the community college to a university setting can sometimes have the same exact same sort of issues. Depending on what community college you went to, it could have felt just like an advanced version of high school. Community colleges tend to hold the student’s hand a lot more when going through the basic processes, whereas UMSL kind of expects you to take the lead on it and is just there to help if you ask. You are a little fish in a little pond dropping into the ocean, and that is

February 7 | 12:15pm

Century Room A

BYOBanana:

How Does Sex Make the News?

Dr. Jennifer Siciliani

March 12 | 12:15pm

Century Room B

Where Did You Go to High School?

Does Place Matter, and... Should It?

Dr. Todd Swanstrom

April 5 | 12:15pm

Century Room A

FORGOTTEN:

A Look at Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Michael R. Nichols






UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CAREER CONFERENCE

launching your global career

MARCH 2, 2012
8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
JC PENNEY CONFERENCE CENTER AT UMSL

FEATURING:
 PANEL DISCUSSIONS | WORKSHOPS | ATTENDANCE PRIZES
 PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING | FREE LUNCH

showcasing:



register at <http://www.umsi.edu/ibcc>

UMSL International Business Career Conference on March 2

HALI FLINTROP
 News Editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis is scheduled to host its fourth annual International Business Career Conference titled "Launching Your Global Career" this week in the JC Penney building on March 2 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The schedule that includes presentations from career and international business experts, including a keynote address by Susan Lang, senior vice president and chief supply chain officer at Express Scripts; workshops; lunch; a panel of international business professionals discussing how to become an international business professional and networking opportunities with the executives from over 40 companies that will be in attendance.

The International Business Career Conference is free to attend for all majors and professionals at every level. Registration forms are available in many places on the UMSL campus, and attendees can register online at the conference website, www.umsi.edu/ibcc/index.html.

The UMSL international business program ranked within the top 20 programs for nine consecutive years. This year it is ranked 15th nationwide by "American's Best College."

Careers in international business can be lucrative as the economy rebounds. Internationalbusinesssalary.com stated that, while entry level positions can vary depending on the degree, specialization and work experience, people with MBA degrees in international business can earn a salary in the range of \$87,000 to 130,000 yearly. "International business sal-

ary is high because of the knowledge [professionals] must have when they deal with other people from another country and culture. International business is a must for a company that wants to broaden its horizons because the world is slowly becoming interconnected," the website said.

Majoring in international business or becoming an international business professional offers an opportunity for success, varied possibilities, cultural connections and involvement in the global market. Website www.international-business-careers.com says that those most likely to find success in the international business field have strong personalities and enjoy the company of other people, yet remain task oriented, flexible and willing to take risks. The International Business Career Conference offers the opportunity to explore and understand the major and field.

The presentations and networking opportunities provided by the conference will lend valuable opportunities for conference attendees. The conference has planned workshops to take place after Lang's keynote address, introductions and orientation. Each attendee will attend two workshops, each lasting 40 minutes. The beginning workshop presentations will cover subjects like breaking into the job market both abroad and domestically, how to achieve success, how to function adeptly in other cultures and how to network.

After the breakout session workshops, the conference will allow attendees to network with executive professionals in a comfortable setting. "This is different than

something like a career fair, where the companies send out human resources. Actual executives will be at this conference and they'll be available for you to talk to," Sheena Crompton, project coordinator and executive speaker coordinator of the conference, said; the conference allows a break from 11:30 to 1 p.m. for networking. "Having the opportunity to reach out to major international firms and collaborate with top executives has really been a unique experience through my role as project coordinator of IBCC 2012... We have a stellar lineup of executives who will host workshops telling us what students should be doing now in order to become successful professionals in the future. Personally, I am most looking forward to the executive panel where the VP of Space & Security at Boeing, the founder and CEO of Build-A-Bear, the Executive Director of World Trade Center and the Senior VP of Brown Shoe International will take us through their personal global experiences and provide advice for students eager to launch [their] global careers," Crompton said.

The executive panel and closing will conclude the International Business Career Conference at 2 p.m.

Carlos Suarez, assistant to the president and secretary general, Junior Chamber International, said of the conference, "I highly recommend all students who desire to work in an international-related field to get involved with the International Business Career conference. Employers are not only looking for students who excel in academia, but whose actions and results can be noticed."

POP MANIFESTO PART 2
 OPENING RECEPTION FEB 23, 4 - 7PM
 February 23 - March 22, 2012

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PHOTO CONTEST
 OPENING RECEPTION APR 5, 4 - 7PM
 April 5 - April 19, 2012

MULTI-CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS
 OPENING RECEPTION APR 26, 4 - 7PM
 April 26 - May 16, 2012

CALL FOR ART Multi-Cultural Expressions

Multi-Culturalism is the recognition of cultures from various nationalities as well as their social and educational theories within a community. In this show we would like to celebrate the cultural differences that coexist peacefully and equally. Multi-Cultural Expressions will showcase a creative and magnificent collection of diverse artistic expressions. UMSL students, faculty, alumni, and staff are encouraged to submit work in all types of media; photography, graphic design, painting, drawing, and 3-dimensional art. This exhibition is co-sponsored by Multi-Cultural Relations.

Be sure to include the following in your email:
 title, media, size, price, contact information

ENTRY DEADLINE: April 9, 2012
 Email galvisio@umsi.edu or call Gallery Visio
 314.516.7922 with questions.



A&E

Night of Japanese music gives a new perspective to world music

JANACA SCHERER
Design Editor

Mixing traditional Japanese and other music from around the world, Silver Roots delighted their audience at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on February 18. During the Center for International Studies-sponsored concert titled "Japan Meets World," the group played "a rich blend of music from over 15 countries and classical music spanning over 400 years."

Silver Roots is comprised of Shawn Wyckoff (flute), Maria Millar (violin) and Michael Haas (cello). All Juilliard graduates, the three share a fantastic gift for music and improvisation. Many pieces performed were written or arranged by the group's musicians, who more than proved their ability to beautifully mesh music of different backgrounds.

According to their website, "Silver Roots weaves music, history and candid commentary into magical performances that leave audiences and presenters asking for more," which was true for their performance in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater. Between most songs, they provided a bit of background, whether it be something about the style of song they played, how the song originated or the history of it.

As a whole, the show was excellent. All of the

pieces played combined beautifully into a night filled with pleasantly different music. The concert began with a unique musical piece composed and played by Millar, "Tsuru (for Solo Dancing Violinist with Fabric)." The music itself was extremely interesting but the addition of a fabric dance grabbed the audience's attention early and created high hopes the rest of the night.

The rest of the night proceeded the same way. Each piece was given some history before the audience was amazed again. Throughout the night, modern Japanese, Irish-Japanese music and even a piece from a movie soundtrack were all played perfectly. Each piece became more and more impressive than the last.

Perhaps the most interesting song of the night was called "Ghost Ship." The song sent shivers down spines as the musicians used their instruments in a not-so-usual way (plucking the strings, playing past the bridge and also taking the head off of the flute to create a ship's horn). This created an eerie sound that filled the theater. The staging made it seem like there was mist on stage and whisked the audience's imagination away to a ghost ship.

The night ended with the theme song from "Tonari no Totoro." The movie is a Japanese animated film that

acquired its popularity after Disney released the film with English sub-titles in 2006. The song was every bit as delightful and whimsical as the movie and was instantly recognizable.

The only minor qualm that could be mentioned is that there was no piece that was strictly traditional Japanese music. For those who do not know very much about Japanese music, it was difficult to pick out the pieces that were Japanese or Japanese fusion. A purely Japanese piece at the beginning would have been very nice for those not well versed in Japanese musical stylings.

Also, at times, the Japanese aspect of the night seemed to be lost. At one point Silver Roots played a combination of songs that they titled "Bach in Ireland." While the songs were beautiful and had a wonderful sense of purpose and flow, the piece seemed out of place in the evening. Perhaps it would have been better to title the show as a night of world music instead of "Japan Meets World."

However, as a whole, the evening was wonderful. The group deserves all the praise, awards and recognition that they have been receiving. Silver Roots does exactly what they promise, fuse Japanese traditional music in unconventional and never-before-dreamed-of ways.

Grade: B+



Silver Roots mixes traditional Japanese music with influences from around the world in their show entitled "Japan Meets World."

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LATEST + GREATEST

Movie Calendar

Movies opening Friday, March 2 (subject to change)

DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (everywhere)

-Animated movie adaptation of beloved Dr. Seuss book featuring voices of Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Ed Helms and Danny DeVito. Helmed by "Despicable Me" director Chris Renaud, it comes out in time to celebrate the children's author's birthday and the Read Across America Day honoring him.

PROJECT X (everywhere)

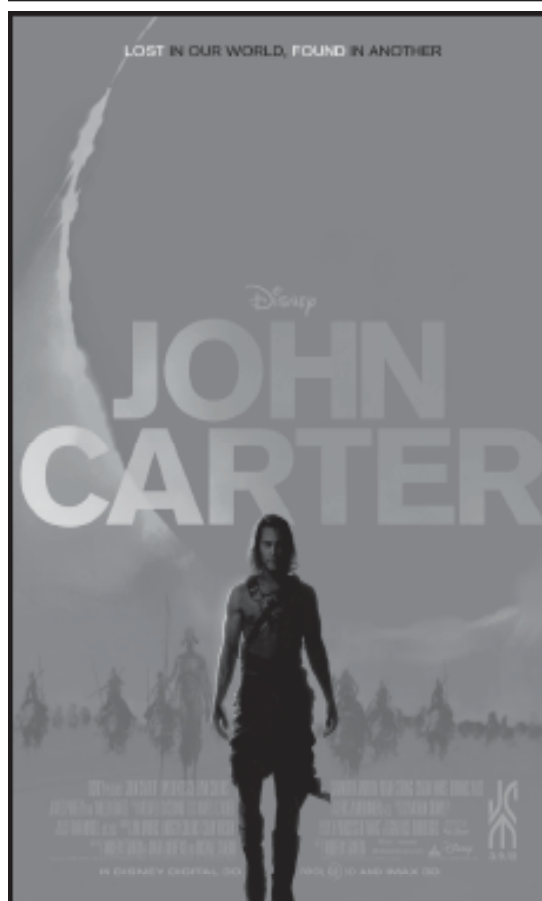
-A found-footage, shaky-cam comedy about three high school seniors who set out to themselves throw a legendary birthday party. Stars Thomas Mann, Oliver Cooper and Dax Flame.

THIN ICE (Plaza Frontenac)

-A Coen-esque tale of a Wisconsin insurance agent (Greg Kinnear) and an unstable locksmith (Billy Crudup) and a murderous scheme for an elderly farmer (Alan Arkin) with a valuable object. Directed by Jill Sprecher, who directed the intriguing "Thirteen Conversations About One Thing."

TIM AND ERIC'S BILLION DOLLAR MOVIE (Tivoli)

-Cable TV comedy duo Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim, who get help in the form of cameos by A-listers like Will Ferrell, try to make a comedy about making the worst movie ever and then reviving a dying mall. Or maybe it's a parody of a bad movie about making a bad movie and reviving a mall. Either way, it is packed with movie, YouTube and advertising insider references and short bits from some big Hollywood names.



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Alexandra Ballet performs 'Sleeping Beauty' at Touhill Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall on April 27th - 29th.

COURTESY OF ZACH HOESLY

Alexandra Ballet's Sleeping Beauty Enchants

RACHELLE BRANDEL
Staff Writer

From the dream of flight came the expressive and ethereal art form known as ballet. Ballet dancers balance precariously upon the tips of their toes to give the viewer the impression that they are weightless and have only descended to Earth for a moment.

Last Saturday night at 7:30 p.m., the Alexandra Ballet, directed by Alexandra Zaharias and choreographed by Marek Cholewa, performed "Sleeping Beauty" in the Touhill Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at University of Missouri – St. Louis to an eager audience. Tchaikovsky's music resounded through the speakers as the curtain began to lift on a distant fairytale

land.

"Sleeping Beauty" is the tale of Princess Aurora, whose parents forget to invite the fairy Carabosse to Aurora's christening. Insulted, Carabosse, also known as the wicked fairy, casts a curse upon Aurora: on her sixteenth birthday, she will prick her finger on a needle and die. But the Lilac fairy, unlike her three counterparts, had yet to give her gift and intervenes changing the curse. Aurora will not die, but instead will sleep for a hundred years and awaken to true love's kiss.

The ballet was performed in two acts. Princess Aurora's christening and the pricking of her finger take place in Act I, while the defeat of Carabosse, the awakening of Aurora and the wedding take place in Act II.

Act I was quite stunning. Each of the fairies' portrayal easily portrayed the meaning of their gifts: grace, beauty and happiness. But Carabosse, played by Andrea Lucas, stole the show. Her costume was dazzling and as she cast her spell upon baby Aurora. Her dancing was riveting and expertly done. The dozens of young ballerinas and danseurs were adorable, especially Carabosse's attendants.

In Act II, the defeat of Carabosse took place much too quickly, but Lucas' moves were beautiful and perfectly symbolized Carabosse's fight to keep Prince Desire, played by Sean Sessions, away from Princess Aurora, played by Lindsey Moncrieff. At the wedding, the Prince and Princess' grand pas de deux was well done and a great

crowd pleaser. To the delight of the many children in attendance, Puss in Boots, the Bluebird and Little Red Riding Hood made an appearance. The Bluebird, played by Garrett Glassman, and the Wolf, played by Elisha Malinski, performed amazing grand jetes that had them flying through the air.

Overall the ballet was beautiful; the scenery and costumes were beautiful and expertly done and no mistake was to be seen by any ballerina or danseur. But the choreography seemed lacking; almost no grand jetes by the ballerinas and only one great lift done by the Bluebird. The great moves of ballet that give the sense of flight simply were not there.

But that is not to suggest that what was performed was

not good. On the contrary, in the context of a ballet done with overwhelmingly young participants, it was magnificent. The choreographer, Marek Cholewa, even purposely choreographed the ballet to the skill level of his dancers. Without a doubt, they performed to the highest of their skill levels. The Lilac fairy, played by Jasmine Smith, had amazing precision; each lift of her leg was at a perfect angle. The many attendants throughout the ballet almost always moved as one, giving a beautiful effect.

The Alexandra Ballet's mission is to "educate, elevate, and enrich our community through the art of dance," and their performance of Sleeping Beauty achieved this. The

many children who left the theatre at the end of the night twirled and pointed their toes in an effort to imitate the work they had just witnessed.

The Alexandra Ballet is the perfect ballet for University of Missouri – St. Louis students who want to broaden their horizons into a new art form while assisting and promoting ballerinas and danseurs in their own community. The Alexandra Ballet will be performing Swan Lake April 27th-29th at 8 p.m. in the Touhill Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall.



Adina (Stephanie Clonts) sings a story to Giannetta (Victoria Hood) during a performance of Elixir of Love at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

DANNY REISE/UMSL STUDENT LIFE

Funny, charming “Elixir of Love” at Touhill aims to introduce opera to students

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Imagine: a dimpled beauty with a golden voice, wearing a colorful Renaissance costume, smiling and winking charmingly at the audience. She is cute and when she sings, it is with the most pure and beautiful of voices. And she sings in English, with funny, playful lyrics.

Appealing and gifted Stephanie Clonts, senior, vocal performance, is that singer, playing the role of Adina in the Friday night production of “Elixir Of Love.” The University of Missouri - St. Louis Opera Theater student production was presented at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center in the Lee Theater on Friday,

February 24 and Saturday, February 25.

Not what comes to mind when someone says opera? UMSL Opera Theater program aims to introduce the classic musical form to students in the most appealing way possible while giving vocal studies majors an opportunity to show off their gifts. The troupe, under Stella Markou, UMSL director of vocal studies, stages popular, appealingly-tuneful works embellished with sets, costumes and an emphasis on the theatrical. If you love musicals like “Wicked” or “Phantom of the Opera,” then you are close to going to the opera.

Sung in clearly-spoken English that needs no subtitles and delightfully acted to play

up the comic silliness, the student-run production makes it easy to like opera. These gifted vocal music students sing beautifully but they also put a lot of theatricality into the show, teasing and flirting with the audience, camping it up and really getting into their roles.

This year’s production is Gaetano Donizetti’s “Elixir of Love,” a farcical romantic comedy about a poor young man in love, a beautiful woman who ignores him and a magic potion he hopes will set things right.

At the Friday night performance, soprano Stephanie Clonts played elusive Adina and tenor Gustavo Perez played the love-sick Nemorino. The playful,

sexy plot also features a handsome, egotistical sergeant named Belcore (baritone Brandon Smith) who hopes to wed Adina; a tricky traveling peddler of potions who calls himself Dr. Dulcamara (baritone Ravi Raghuram); gossiping girl Giannetta (soprano Victoria Hood) and a town full of soldiers and buxom beauties (sopranos Rachel Beckemeyer, Rachel Sexson and Lauren Weber, tenors Aaron Pollard and T. Brendan Lally, baritone Bryan Ziegler and bass Adam Wirth). On Saturday, Weber, Lally, Ziegler and Wirth sang the lead roles, while Friday’s leads joined the chorus.

Most of the singers are vocal music students, with a couple of alumni. Many also appeared

in last year’s “Marriage of Figaro.” Markou directed, and pianist Donna Pyron provided the accompaniment.

There was a great deal of funny mugging and delightful eye-rolling silliness, and a great sense of fun. The singing and acting performances were all delightful, but there were a few stand-outs. Clonts was charmingly funny, singing with beauty and power. Perez was touching as the love-sick, clueless Nemorino but, while his singing tone was incredibly sweet, it could have used a bit more power.

In romantic comedies of all kinds, much comic enjoyment comes from supporting roles. Baritone Raghuram as the slick Dr. Dulcamara was the audience favorite, judging by

applause. But this reviewer thought Brandon Smith as confident bad-boy Belcore was better, both vocally and in his comic acting. Aaron Pollard, who played one of the guys in the first act, was hilarious cross-dressed as a most buxom maid in the second.

The translation uses modern dialogue to pump up the fun. When a character wants to say his rival is an idiot, rather than use the old-fashioned dolt or fool, he calls him a “jackass.” It is hard not to smile when someone is singing the word and it makes the comic action more accessible.

Overall, “Elixir of Love” delivered a delightful evening, a mirthful charmer sure to bring one back for more.

Grade: A

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Features

Benjamin Torbert holds semester long discussion on The Wire

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

The hottest class for the 2012 spring semester at the University of Missouri – St. Louis seems to be Language, Ethnicity and Inequality in “The Wire.” Instructed by Benjamin Torbert, assistant professor, English and linguistics, the course, which focuses on the 2002-2008 HBO DVD phenomenon, has gained some attention.

The Current: The question that everybody wants to know...did you have any problems pitching this course to the university?

Benjamin Torbert: No... not really... The way that I pitched the course, I ran it through honors because if you really want to do a topical course the easiest way to do that without having to go through curriculum committees and things like that is to pitch it to Dr. Gleason. She is the Associate Dean of the Honors College, and if you can convince her that the course has value usually they will pick it up and they have a budget to buy you out of your department. It is kind of a strange course in that it does present some issues that you usually do not have to deal with.

TC: How are you able to fit an entire curriculum around one show?

BT: It was very difficult to come up with a syllabus for this course. First of all, “The Wire” deals with

absolutely everything in Baltimore, so if you talk about language, urbanism, gender, sexuality or ethnicity... I have only 14 classes. So, I decided to divide the class in two parts. The first half of class we do post-game analysis on the last four episodes that we saw and the other half deals with the topic of the day.

The first three classes, we dealt with language, and that is my actual qualification to teach the course. I am a sociolinguist and we work on dialect. Language variation is just a huge part of “The Wire.” We are going to read a little bit of a book by Kelvin Sewell, “Why do we Kill: the Pathology of Murder in Baltimore.” I included that because some other criticisms of the show have dealt with Simon writing this cast that is predominately African American. So, I wanted to bring in somebody who deals with homicide and the drug culture in West Baltimore. I wanted a writer who is African American to counter-balance David Simon.

TC: What inspired you to focus on this particular television series?

BT: It is just so good. It is so well-written and it deals with so many topics. People are always comparing it to Dickens, but one of my students also compared it to Tolstoy, in that it is concerned with all socio-economic

statuses and people from all walks of society.

TC: How have your students been responding to the course? Does it have a future?

BT: Students have acted very positive toward it. I have been extremely impressed with the group that I have in this class. They are extremely thoughtful. This is a seminar, so the discussions in class have been fantastic. They notice things that I have not noticed. One of my students noticed a reference to the Tennyson poem “The Lady of Shalott” that I had missed, and I thought that was just wonderful. My superiors in my department have actually asked me if I want to offer it as a special topic in the department some time in the future.

TC: What do you expect a student to take away from this course?

BT: This show deals with topics that are extremely sensitive in an extremely intelligent fashion that have to do with why we have persistent problems with poverty in this country, why the drug war is essentially un-winnable, why we have problems in public education, why the media tells some stories and not other stories, and why our politics are broken. I want students to come away from this course with a greater sensitivity to all of these issues that they might have had before.



Lunch and Learn event helps students prepare for zombie attacks

CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Are you prepared for the zombie apocalypse? That question was posed at the University of Missouri - St. Louis Lunch and Learn on February 22 in the Millennium Student Center's Century Room C.

About 40 people gathered to learn "How to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" and enjoy a free Mexican food buffet at the University Program Board-sponsored event. Besides lunch, every attendee received a "zombie" button.

Zombie apocalypse preparedness has been used by the Center for Disease Control to help people prepare for disasters from any cause - natural, man-made or undead. The locally-based Zombie Squad conducts fun yet practical disaster preparedness events, when not clearing neighborhoods of zombie infestations. The group, whose website is zombiehunters.org, has been

recognized as a legitimate preparedness organization, with government permission to keep special survival equipment and weapons.

The Lunch and Learn event was a bit more movie-based and fun. Although it used the above sources, it also drew heavily from the book "How to Survive a Zombie Invasion."

"We do Lunch and Learn every month and generally they are a lot more serious, stuff like foreclosure," Jared Thimes, senior, psychology, said. "We always brainstorm for our events. About a year ago, I started reading zombie stuff, so I said, 'How about we do something on how to survive a zombie attack?'"

Thimes, who led the discussion, started by saying it was not a question of "if" there would be a zombie apocalypse rather when it would occur. "The question is, how will you survive the zombies?" he asked.

"I just happened to see it

on my e-mail this morning. Pretty much my entire family does the planning for [a zombie apocalypse]...we have an evacuation plan and everything," Brittney Gray, junior, accounting, said when asked why she attended.

"I love zombies," Kaitlyn Eagan, junior, chemistry, said. "I am just into horror movie stuff in general and I've read 'The Zombie Survival Guide,' seen 'Zombieland,' 'Night of the Living Dead,' 'Shaun of the Dead' [and] a ton of zombie movies. I just thought it would be an awesome thing to do."

The event began with a slide show describing the kinds of zombies, from the traditional voodoo zombie to the "Night of the Living Dead" shuffler and the quicker, infection-created types of "28 Days Later" and later movies. Film clips from "Shaun of the Dead" and "Zombieland" were shown.

Thimes cautioned that to survive a zombie attack or

any kind disaster it is important to have a plan now. "You may have to run, so get in shape now," Thimes said.

"Having an emergency kit, supplies and a plan for where to go and what to do are key to disaster preparedness. Now is the time to think about options and assemble those materials, not after disaster strikes," Thimes said.

"Form your own survival rules. Don't call us," Thimes warned. "Take care of your own survival." He also cautioned that it is important not to tell others your plan.

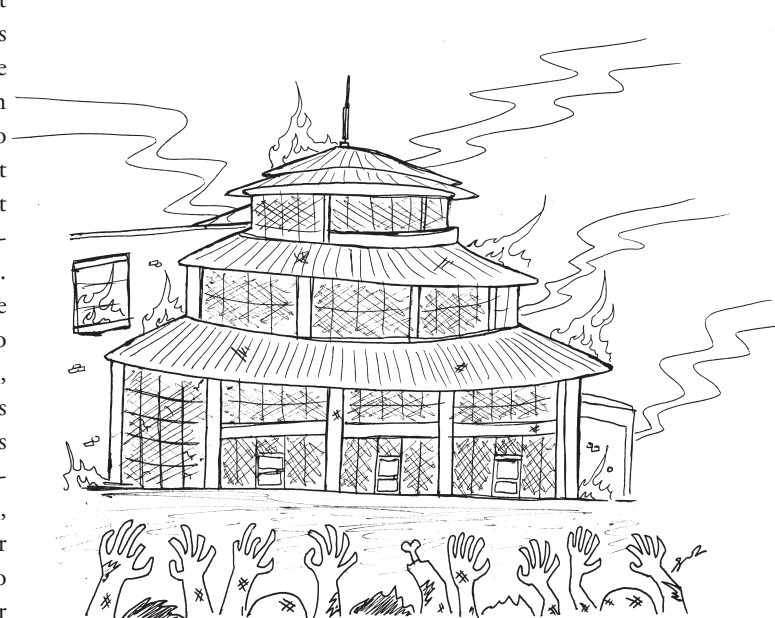
The audience was divided into survival groups, and Thimes posed a series of zombie survival options, such as whether one should go to the mall or

a hospital to increase the chance of surviving a zombie attack. After groups gave their answers, Thimes revealed the best choice according to zombie experts.

Zombie knowledge was important in answering these questions. Tundra was tapped as the best spot for long-term zombie survival, since cold slows zombies down, but for real

survival, the frozen landscape offers challenges like cold winter temperatures and little chance of growing food in the permafrost.

The audience seemed to love the event, as shown by enthusiastic applause at the end. The event's success means the University Program Board probably will hold similar ones, said Thimes.



Gospel choir takes audience on a musical journey through black history

SHARON PRUITT

Opinions Editor

The power of music is a prominent part of black history in America. On the night of February 23, the University of Missouri - St. Louis Gospel Choir brought both history and entertainment to the JC Penney auditorium with its program entitled "The Journey of Sound: A Musical Journey Through the History of Negro Spirituals and Gospel Songs." The choir presented a program that showcased the history of black gospel music from the 1600's to the present day.

The show began with a rousing selection by the Friendly Temple Youth and Young Adult Choir, who warmed up the crowd and

set the mood for the rest of the program. The narration of Antionette Sterling effortlessly guided the show from beginning to end, while Monte Chambers conducted the choir (and at times, the audience) with contagious energy and aplomb. The musical presentation itself was accompanied by a slide show, the visuals of which aided in creating the desired mood of each piece, from the somber spirituality of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" to the optimism and hope of "O Happy Day." The choir, which featured a wide range of vocals, approached each selection with a charming touch of theatrics that kept the audience engaged.

"We really just wanted to display the musical side of

our history and how music has helped us [as a race] through both our triumphs and our struggles," Katina Magnussen, president, UMSL Gospel Choir, said. "[Desiree A. Blue] really wanted to display that history so that people could be enlightened by the music that was put out there, because a lot of us do not know about the pathways [to freedom] and the railroads and Harriet Tubman and 'wading in the water.' She really tried her best to explain and show people that side of the struggle."

The show, which utilized the power that music and images have to simultaneously entertain and inform, attracted members of the UMSL community who

were looking for a pleasant way to celebrate Black History Month. "I thought it was very inspiring to see the young people singing the old spirituals and going through the old times. It was very enlightening. I was very impressed," William James, audience member, said.

"I think it was very historical. It was interesting to see how it was back then and compare it to how it is now, both in everyday life and with music. The songs were how we got through everything that we were going through. To see the history and to see it all brought back to today and recent music, was very touching," Gladys Jordan, audience member, said.

A legacy that began in the late 1950s, the UMSL

Gospel Choir was one of the first African-American student organizations founded on campus. Though the organization has gone through recent struggles, it has returned stronger and more determined than ever to make itself known to the campus community.

"Mainly, [what we want the audience to take away from this is] the word, because what our organization is really trying to do is save souls and help people and show them that music can be your outlet. You don't have to damage yourself and go through other things. In presenting the play, we wanted to put our name on the chopping block because there is a relatively small amount of

people at UMSL that know about UMSL Gospel Choir and we're not just trying to display that towards the African American students. We're trying to open it up [to everyone] because we are contemporary and we want more people to see the talent and to be inspired. If they have a talent or they feel like they don't belong or they want to join an organization but don't know which one, we want people to know that we're here to help them," said Magnussen. "We're hoping that through events that UMSL hosts we can spread the word and let them know that hey, we're here. We don't want to be overlooked. We want people to know about us."

Sports



Louie wanted to make some noise at Thursday's game.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Men's basketball beats Maryville, clinches west division

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

The 2011-2012 University of Missouri - St. Louis men's basketball season was one to remember. What started off slow, with a bunch of question marks, quickly and quietly turned into the greatest season in program history.

Second-year head coach Steve Tappmeyer's men started off the season slow. It was tough to get a grip on what kind of team we actually had this season. After losing three of their first four games, the Tritons had an ever-changing starting rotation and unsure roles for every player. But Tappmeyer had a plan

all along, and it did not take long for him to figure out his rotation, roles and game plan for victory.

The Tritons headed into last weekend in the driver's seat for the west division. After an instant classic buzzer-beater over Quincy, the Tritons visited Illinois - Springfield for a tough matchup against a team right behind them in the standings. Though this game's importance was not as high after Thursday night's win, it was still a good test for the Tritons to see where they stood with the competition.

This game was a barn-

burner. Both teams competed hard throughout, and exchanged leads. After battling for 39 minutes, it came down to the final minute for UMSL. Down by two, UMSL looked to their clutch performer Troy Long, senior, liberal studies, for a basket, and once again he delivered, knocking down a two point jump shot to tie the game with just over a minute left.

A scramble in the final seconds under Illinois - Springfield basket led to a defensive rebound for Illinois - Springfield, resulting in a foul by Charlie Woods, junior, psychology, that

sent Illinois - Springfield to the free throw line. Illinois - Springfield knocked down one for a one-point victory, 70-69. They and the Tritons split the season series with one win apiece.

The final game of the season was Senior Night on Chuck Smith Court, when the Tritons hosted in town rival Maryville. Maryville came in hot and shot 65 percent from the field in the first half, leading for the majority of the half. Down by nine with a minute to play, UMSL built a little momentum for the second half with a five-point run to close the first.

Maryville built their lead to nine with 16 minutes to play, but UMSL responded with a 12-point run to get a three-point lead, their first of the half. It was all Tritons from there. A 24-1 run gave the Tritons a commanding 13-point lead with six minutes to play. UMSL outscored Maryville 40-12 in the second half en route to a 77-53 victory and a season sweep.

UMSL finished their season 18-8 - the best overall record in Triton's men's basketball - and a conference record of 13-5 - the best Great Lakes

Valley Conference record in team history. It only took Tappmeyer two seasons to get the Tritons to the precipice of success.

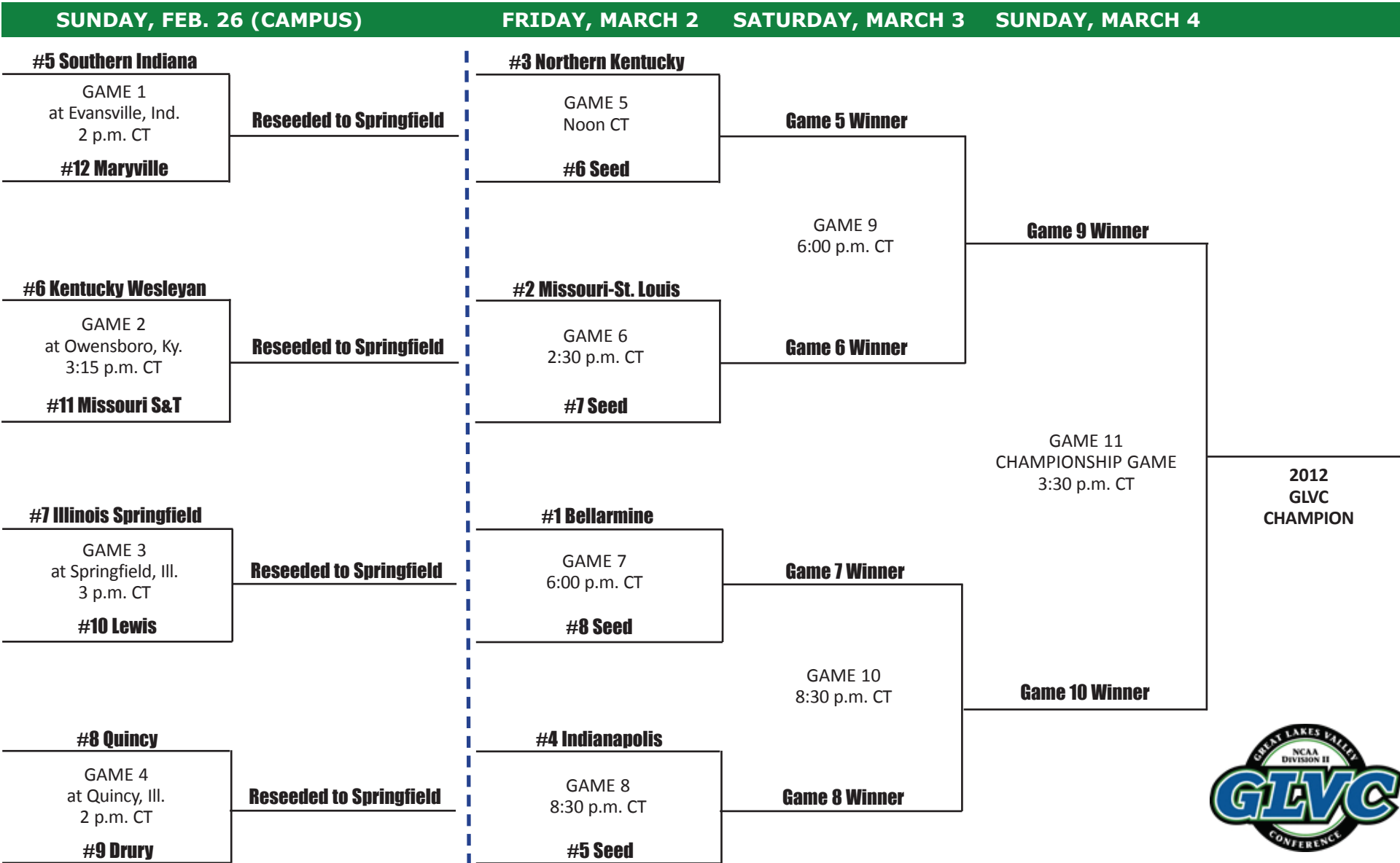
Now it is tournament time. The Tritons are the second seed in the GLVC tournament. They will be watching and waiting Sunday to see who they will be playing in Springfield, Illinois on Friday. How far can the Tritons take it? This team is built for a run. With strong senior leadership, good athletic ability and great coaching, the Tritons have an excellent shot at winning this tournament.



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COURTESY OF GREAT LAKE VALLEY CONFERENCE'S WEBSITE

Tritons baseball looking to bring further success this year

LEON DEVANCE
Staff Writer

Because winning in baseball requires doing the little things correctly - such as advancing runners into scoring position, hitting the cutting man, throwing to the correct base, and executing sacrifice bunts - Jim Brady, head coach, UMSL, drills the game's fundamentals into his players' heads until it becomes second nature.

"For us to be successful, we have to put the ball into play, have good hard contact at the plate, move runners [into scor-

ing position] and get them in from third base with less than two outs," Brady said.

Last year the Tritons finished in fifth place ahead of Maryville at 15-30. Brady views Drury, Quincy and Rolla as the teams Tritons must contend with in the conference. Drury has quality arms, plays good defense, is sound fundamentally and makes no mistakes in the field or at bat. Quincy made the conference tournament and is well-coached, has dangerous hitters and are well-conditioned. Rolla is the surprise team, because they are a hus-

ting team that pitches well and employs the small-ball concept.

The Tritons have some exciting newcomers. Shortstop/second baseman Beau Harris, junior, undecided, who was called a catalyst and nice table-setter by Brady; center fielder Luke Matecki, junior, business, covers ground in centerfield. Paul Richmond, sophomore, media studies, is a solid catcher who understands his sport and calls a good game - he has a quick release and excellent footwork; catcher Joel Ayala, sophomore, communications, has a cannon of an arm that can shut down

the opposition's running game and provides excellent defense behind the plate. Ayala's offense is improving because he swings at good pitches. Outfielder John Pilackas, junior, nursing and education, provides power and comes from a winning program at Southwestern Illinois Community College.

"Because we play small ball, we have to keep our heads in the game. And [Brady] drills the situation into our heads to remind us where to be at all times. Coach Brady pushes us to the limit but gets the best out of his players," Matecki said.

Left fielder Drew Standefer, junior, nursing, is a believer in Brady. "I love playing for coach Brady. He will not settle for anything but the best. Coach Brady is experienced and has been around. He has coached great teams before and knows what it takes to get the job done," Standefer said.

Pitcher Austin Schuler, junior, media studies and advertising, said that he will be prepared for his starts. "Basically my approach is to go after guys. I will be prepared for situations because of the scouting reports. I will know

the hitters' strengths and attack their weakness," Schuler said.

Though they are picked to finish sixth in the conference, Brady feels game experience will make UMSL a contender.

"If the players focus every inning, the game will take care of itself. I want us to score one run every inning. If you do not give away outs and eliminate multiple run innings, we have the ingredients to be successful. [It is just a matter of the players] believing in themselves. If we execute the fundamentals, everything will be all right," Brady said.

Point/Counterpoint



Is modeling a healthy practice for young teenage girls?

Modeling does not have to be a dangerous choice for girls

During New York Fashion week, Marc Jacobs cast two 14-year-old girls to be models for his show. These two Ford models were sent out despite the suggested age limit of 16 that the Council of Fashion Designers for America (CFDA) had decided on. Jacobs, who is on the CFDA board, doesn't think he has done anything wrong since the girls' parents gave consent. But many others have not felt the same as Jacobs, calling for an age limit for models.

If casting 14 year-old girls for the runway is bad, then letting them sing, and/or act is bad also. Yet no one makes a fuss when Miley Cyrus takes the stage at concerts or goes into the acting studio. And let's not forget the thousands of beauty pageant contests that have participants who are infants. Young girls are able to take the stage in every other occupation, from sports to arts; how is the fashion runway any different?

The biggest worry for some is the number of eating disorders associated with modeling. While this is a serious issue, it isn't restricted to only the runway. Eating disorders can be as prevalent in high schools as they are on the runway. If we keep people off the runway, we might as well keep them out of school while we're at it.

The problem with young girls on the runway is that high fashion has always been associated with older age groups. No one thinks of the Power Puff Girls when they think of Louis Vuitton's spring line. But that shouldn't hinder these girls' chances of being models; it should be a chance for others to broaden their minds.

This controversy is also the result of older models who are mad that their careers are being taken over by the next generation. These girls are getting a head start on their careers and are obviously talented enough to get the attention of high-end fashion designers. There are plenty of pretty girls in the world, but you have to be a mature professional to get the job.

Another argument is that backstage, there are no precautions taken to ensure the safety of the models. At concerts and acting studios there are barriers and countless protection surrounding the star to ensure safety, but in the backstage of a runway show there isn't much protection. There aren't even walls, because the models must change their clothes and get back to the runway as quick as possible. However, many people do not realize that there are so many people running about and so many racks of clothing

surrounding the model that the dressing room can be a dangerous place. That's not to mention the fact that every piece of clothing surrounding the models is worth hundreds or thousands of dollars and the designers wouldn't just leave them out in the open, unprotected.

Many are also saying that these girls are being sexualized by being dressed in provocative and revealing clothing. Yet no one has had any problems with this issue if it's found on the movie screen. Actresses such as Dakota Fanning in "Hound-dog" and Natalie Portman in "The Professional" both played provocative roles. Yet no one is calling for an end to child acting and actors, because actors, even child actors, are acting and what is on the movie screen isn't real. Models are acting as well, but they ply their trade on a runway instead of a stage. Models portray the idea of the brand and are simply moving mannequins to show off the products of the brand they are portraying. To define a model by the clothes she wears is like associating an actress by the role she plays in one movie.

The world will have to move on and realize that the times are changing and that the young models stalking the runway are here to stay.

Underage girls should not be modeling professionally

The runway is no place for children. The Council of Fashion Designers of America have set forth guidelines that instruct designers not to use girls younger than 16 in their runway shows. Though Marc Jacobs initially agreed to this, he later cast girls as young as 14 in his Fashion Week runway show this year. Ford models also reneged on the agreement. The insistence of some designers and modeling agencies to maintain the right to use such young models is problematic in many different ways.

The fashion industry is a cesspool where every negative aspect of society that can negatively affect the self-image and development of young girls collects, multiplies and thrives in an environment where those unhealthy views are normalized and supported. The fashion world glamorizes an unhealthy obsession with an unattainable, narrow-minded (and hipped, and waisted) definition of beauty. Young girls should be protected from this, not thrust directly into the center of it.

Though some parents claim that they are being supportive by letting their daughters model professionally, children are not known for making responsible decisions when

it comes to what's best for them. This goes doubly where their futures are concerned. Sadly enough, parents cannot always be trusted to make those responsible decisions for their children, either, especially if money is involved.

There should be some sort of regulations in place to protect kids from the many negative aspects of working in the fashion industry, be it by the government or by the gods of fashion. Something needs to be done in order to prevent people from making mistakes that will have negative effects on their children.

Not to mention the fact that the clothes these underage girls are paid to model are targeted for an older consumer. This means that part of the ideal that the designer is selling to women (because fashion sells an entire package, a look and an ideal, not just a dress or top) involves having the body and shape of a 13-year-old girl.

There's also the obvious increased risk of body image issues and eating disorders that can arise from working in the fashion world at such a young age. Adolescent girls are already taught to be preoccupied with their appearance. If they are getting paid to look a certain way and maintain that

look, when their body inevitably changes with the unforgiving onslaught of puberty, the change is going to be even more difficult for them to handle.

As a workforce, models also have relatively little in the way of rights. In an industry where they're seen and treated as disposable assets, intended to fulfill the role of a hanger or a mannequin, models have very little ways of demanding respect for themselves (such as the right to react negatively to a grabby photographer) without forfeiting their careers in the process. Why would any parent want to let their child enter a world she will be not only be treated as disposable, but thought of as lucky to be in that position to begin with.

Modeling is one of those dreams that is better for kids not to achieve until they are old enough and mature enough to understand the realities of what it is that they're wishing for. No matter how tall these young models are, they are still children, and children should be protected from the darker aspects of an industry that adults may choose to inhabit. A child is not capable of making a responsible decision when it comes to the types of environments that they should be exposed to.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Not even celebrities should be defined by their mistakes

Is it possible for fallen artists to redeem themselves in the eyes of the public? Depending on the severity of their actions, should they even be given that chance?

When the news broke that Rihanna was in the hospital right before the Grammy's due to the abuse of Chris Brown, debate raged on for a long time afterwards: who was wrong, who was right, and it brought society's varied views on domestic violence into the spotlight. Three years after the incident, the topic has been reintroduced into public conversation. Chris Brown was invited to perform at the Grammy's this year and it has stirred a large amount of controversy. Some anti-domestic violence groups have said that hiring Brown is akin to publicly supporting domestic violence and those who commit it. Others felt that it was in bad taste to invite him to an event that, years earlier, he had to pull out of because he was too busy dealing with the legal repercussions of assaulting his girlfriend to perform.

What must be realized and accepted is that celebrities are flawed individuals, which means that in reality they sometimes turn out to be the kind of people that aren't pleasant to have at dinner parties or be in a relationship with. Does this mean that they shouldn't be allowed to pursue a career in their chosen field? As cli-

ché as it may sound, celebrities are people too. Hard as it may be to believe, iconic public figures are not immune to the common mistakes and pitfalls of life that befall the average man. And, like the average man, celebrities who make bad decisions should be given the chance to come back from that. They should not be defined by their mistakes; no one should.

The separation between personal life and the body of work of an artist has been blurring for some time now. Michael Jackson, prior to his death, was the center of controversy due to speculation about what went on when he wasn't on stage or in the studio. Who one is as person and what they create can be experienced (and enjoyed) separately. In the case of musicians and artists, that is perhaps the best option. If no one bought or enjoyed music that was made by people they may not like if they were to meet them in person, then most music libraries would be woefully bare.

Whether or not Chris Brown is repentant of his actions — at all or enough — is beside the point. Things like this will always be debated. However, if his music isn't glamorizing domestic violence — and, by extension, his deplorable actions — then he should be given a chance to earn redemption and restore his reputation as an

artist. If someone doesn't approve of what he did or who he seems to be as a person (which, considering the nature of the 2009 scandal, is both expected and understandable), then they have the right not to support him. He shouldn't be blacklisted from music because of his earlier mistakes. The individual consumer has the right to decide if the things he does in their eyes, affect how they view him as an artist and person and the music that he creates.

His actions were indisputably despicable, but whether the guy is a jerk or not, he's allowed to have a career in any field he wishes (or at least try to keep his afloat). By hiring him, the Grammy's were not necessarily approving of the mistakes he made in his personal life; it was a business decision. The Grammy's hired him as a performer not to make a statement on what he did but because they wanted him to do what it is he does for a living. Whether or not Brown should be supported (financially or with public approval) is a decision that's best left up to the individual consumer.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Matthew Poposky, Jeremy Zschau, Janaca Scherer, Ashley Atkins, Hali Flintrop, Cate Marquis, Sharon Pruitt, Owen Shroyer, and Nikki Vahle.

JANACA'S TOP FIVE

Five reasons Spotify is the only music app you'll ever need

Music in this day and age is getting easier and easier to obtain, and the Spotify music app isn't any exception. Whether it be legal or illegal downloading or streaming, it is obvious that today's society is not scared to simply take what they want. However, there are new ways to obtain music that are completely legal and completely free. Being college students, who are we to argue about something that is free?

Spotify has been making waves in the music industry since its premiere in the United States in November of last year. Those who download the app can listen to pretty much whatever music they want for no cost whatsoever. Is there really any more need to list more reasons when we've already said that it's free?

1. Just go download the app.

It's that freaking easy. Download the app from the Spotify web page and that's it. There isn't anything else to getting it. No card charges, no hidden fees. The app is also available for iPhone, BlackBerry and Android phones, but to listen to songs on the go users need to upgrade to a Spotify Premium account. Anyone who puts the app on his or her computer will be instantly addicted.

2. Who wouldn't be willing to put up with a few ads to listen to whatever music their little heart desired?

Sure, they intersperse some really horrible ads every couple of seconds, and

then it is back to some seriously rocking tunes. Those wishing to upgrade need only pay \$4.99 a month for Spotify Unlimited or \$9.99 a month for Spotify Premium. It costs just \$120 a year for unlimited music from an insane number of artists that can play from any internet capable phone or laptop, anywhere one could want it. That same price will get about you about 12 actual CDs. Seems pretty affordable, right?

3. Just about any and every album you could ever want is on Spotify.

Literally, Spotify has nearly anything. Looking to listen to the Glee soundtrack? What about Top 40 hits? Need some Queen, Frank Sinatra, Whitechapel, All-American Rejects or Rihanna? It's all there! Full songs, full albums and special bonus tracks from re-releases are all available on Spotify. While it is true that bands like AC/DC or the Beatles don't have any songs available, there are plenty of others to make up for what Spotify lacks. Use it during a party and there will never be a time when someone can't find a song they like. Try brand new music or even find related artists for bands that have been a personal favorite for years.

4. It is so insanely easy to use.

Create a profile while logging in through Facebook. From there the app links itself to iTunes, importing all your existing music into its library, and that's it. My 87 year-old Grandma could



Janaca Scherer

easily use Spotify. The search bar makes it easy to find any artist or any album. Those looking for covers can simply type the name in. Playlists are made the exact same way they are in iTunes. Star a song to save it for a later listen. If the user is capable of using iTunes, they're capable of using Spotify.

5. It is another social media site. What's to hate?

Spotify users can stalk their friends through their music or even on Facebook. Favorite a friend's playlist or steal some of their songs. Those with linked accounts can see what songs friends are listening to on their own News Feed. Download apps with the Spotify app itself to follow Rolling Stones' playlists, provide lyrics so hairbrush singers can belt along with their music and even access concert calendars based off of the music already in ones Spotify library. Our generation revolves around social media, so why not create another source that is centered around something that impacts so many people in different ways: music?

Janaca Scherer is the Design Editor and a columnist for The Current.

What do you think?
www.thecurrent-online.com.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Avoiding grossest foods can help you and the local economy

Many of us are concerned about pesticides and additives in food, but some things found in commercially-packaged foods are mind-boggling. Big international food manufacturers can use some revolting ingredients if labeling rules permit. Stage your own food revolt by preparing foods yourself or buying from local producers, and leave this icky stuff out.

Pro-multinational business types might start screaming their heads off about regulation, but labeling or eliminating these extras would help make foods healthier. As an added bonus, it would also help local economies by helping local producers, who are less likely to use these additives on their products, and therefore less likely to inflict them upon their customers.

There are now foods being made with products derived from human hair. Commercially-packaged breads or baked goods often have the amino acid L-cysteine. This additive is made from human hair, often from China, or in some cases, duck feathers. It is added as a commercial dough conditioner, to improve texture. Who thought this was a good idea? Most of us would prefer not to eat human hair or duck feathers, so buying bread from a local baker - like Lubeley's on Watson Road - or even Dierbergs or Schnucks Bakeries, is much more appetizing. You can even make your own bread.

Sunscreen or salad dressing? Titanium dioxide is a good sunscreen on your nose, but would you want

to eat it? Some major food corporations add the chemical to salad dressings, like ranch dressing, or other white processed foods like coffee creamers. The chemical is also used in paints, and when the metal titanium is mined it is sometimes contaminated with lead. Better to buy locally-made dressings (there are plenty), stick to oil-and-vinegar style dressings or, again, make your own vinaigrette.

Shrimp from far, far away? If you are going to eat shrimp, Gulf of Mexico shrimp is better, although it is more expensive. After last summer's big oil spill in the Gulf shrimp might make you wary anyway, but imported shrimp can be really revolting. Only a very small percentage are inspected. They can be raised in shrimp-farms loaded with antibiotics and/or cleaned with chemicals to knock down the filth. There are also insects, rat hair and other savory extras to deal with, so buy wild-caught American shrimp or just skip them.

Canned mushrooms with maggots? Yes, you read that right. Packaging laws allow a certain level of maggots and other insect stuff in canned mushrooms, but who wants to eat canned mushrooms anyway? The fresh ones are much tastier and when farmers markets, like the one in Ferguson, open later this spring, you can get them from local growers, who are far more likely to like things clean.

Juice products without juice? Parents like to give their kids juice because fruit is healthy. So artificial fruit-flavored, fruit-



Cate Marquis

colored "juice" that has no real juice is a kind of cruel joke on both kids and parents. One example is Tropicana Twister Cherry Berry Blast, which has neither cherry or any berry juice. Reading the label will tell you this, but it certainly seems like false advertising nonetheless, doesn't it? In many cases, the only juice is apple, not the best nutrition choice. Give the kids fresh fruit, buy organic juices or squeeze your own. Kids love fruit, if you just give them a chance at it.

Carrot cake without carrots? This is really the same thing: artificially flavored and colored processed foods that sound like healthy foods. Betty Crocker Carrot Cake Mix has no actual carrots, but it is probably a good bet that the carrot cake at Lubeley's bakery does.

Shoppers do not have to give up all their conveniences. They just need to make a few things themselves, or stick to local brands and locally-made foods. Go to that farmers market when it opens in the spring. Not only will your food be healthier, but so will the local economy.

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

MAD WORLD

Beauty pageants remain an ever-present example of sexism

Beauty pageants remain one of the oldest and well-known symbols of sexism in society today. Shows like TLC's "Toddlers and Tiaras" highlight the over-the-top antics of those involved in the pageant world, but even without the high occurrence of little girls in age-inappropriate outfits that exemplify child pageants, beauty pageants as a whole remain a fundamentally sexist practice. Beauty pageants have evolved somewhat over the years, attempting to add more focus on aspects beyond physical beauty. However, the fact remains that beauty pageants still celebrate and reward a narrow view of feminine beauty.

Many women who participate in beauty pageants contribute more to society than many would have expected in the past. They are law students and community outreach leaders.

However, despite what these women may accomplish in their respective fields, pageants can't fully claim to be progressive. By their very nature, beauty pageants support the idea that, for women, any noteworthy success or accomplishment should be presented in a physically attractive package. For men in these same fields, such an emphasis on physical attractiveness does not exist. The day a male law student has to walk the stage in both a tux and speedo for scholarship money is the day pageants can claim that they are no longer a sexist institution.

By adding scholarship funds and community out-

reach endeavors, pageants attempt to legitimize themselves in an ever-changing society. Some have gone so far as to claim that the swimsuit portions of their contests are about rewarding health, an utterly ridiculous claim. Pageant winners often utilize their new platform to inspire and educate girls on a variety of topics, ranging from the importance of higher learning to advocating for proper sexual education. The influence these women can use to help young girls can be a positive force, but what's to be said of the unspoken message behind the message: the underlying importance of conventional physical beauty that underscores everything that they do?

Ideally, women who succeed and inspire in their fields should be celebrated whether or not they possess the ability to walk in high heels while wearing a swimsuit. However, there are no nationally syndicated television shows that celebrate women who excel in community service that also contain little to no emphasis on the hair and makeup of those women. The things that we see celebrated in the media have the most power to influence young girls, from what they watch on television, see in movies and magazines and hear spoken about in a positive way.

Many exemplary women participate in pageants, and the issue is not with them, but the ideology of the pageant industry itself. Providing scholarship money to deserving women is



Sharon Pruitt

a good thing, but why is it that these women must first parade around onstage in an evening gown to acquire it? Pageants support harmful messages about what exactly should be celebrated in women, and in what order of importance it should be celebrated.

Though the presentation of women in pageants has evolved in order to present a more modern view of the ideal woman, it hasn't really improved. The ideal woman must now also be intelligent and successful as well as conventionally attractive. The importance of physical beauty has not been de-emphasized in pageants, but rather simply added to. Beauty pageants continue to celebrate a very narrow ideal of feminine beauty that is limited by many things, race, age and size being just a few of them. Traditional standards of beauty are undeniably Eurocentric and remain unexamined by society at large. Pageants celebrate rather than subvert or question these things.

Sharon Pruitt is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Let us know at www.thecurrent-online.com

Horoscopes



PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Remember that pain and suffering are simply a part of reality. It is better to learn healthy coping mechanisms and to face down the harshness of reality than to escape to a world of mysticism.



ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

It may be in your best interest this week to step back and see things from another's perspective. Sure, your opinions are well-formed and warrant respect and consideration, but listening to others can be beneficial.



TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You always take the brunt of any workload upon yourself - an admirable task for anybody. Always remember, however, that when the going gets tough, it is not advisable to simply get going in return.



GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Some may be agitated by your constant need to be involved with their business. Try not to take it personally, as your drive for involvement and helping others can sometimes be perceived negatively.



CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

That tough outer shell you love portraying has become something of a crutch in your life of late. Make a greater effort to break out of your comfort zone and take a risk now and again.



LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Your need for control in life has been a point of self-improvement of late. Keep up the good work, but know that it is not necessary to give up your own autonomy to appease others.



VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

Internalizing the entire world is your daily routine, one that has served you well thus far in life. Never give up your talent for analysis, but be sure to experience reality once in awhile, as well.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Take a break this week from constantly mediating everybody's problems. Your natural inclination is to solve problems, but there are some situations in which even your talents are not going to help.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Your sign falls under traits of intensity and extremity. Take a page out of Libra's book this week and try to find a suitable balance between the many demands your life places upon you.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Optimism and an undying spirit can speak volumes and carry you a long way in life, but always remember that reaching out for aid is not a crime.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Polarities of opinion are not always the answer. As you go through your life this week, try seeing things in grayscale for once. You may find an entire world of experience previously blocked off to you.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

You should cut out your hipster tendencies. Granted, innovation is an essential part of progress. However, placing yourself upon a pedestal due to simply deviating from the crowd is not the same.

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