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The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

March 12, 2012

VOL. 45;
ISSUE 1372

CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

With all the wonderful dance troupes that Dance St. Louis brings in, Touhill audiences are running the risk of getting spoiled. Case in point: the Joffrey Ballet, who appeared in three performances, March 9-10, at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's Anheuser-Busch Hall on the University of Missouri -- St. Louis campus.

The Joffrey Ballet is legendary, often called "America's company of firsts" for such things as being the first company to perform at the White House, the first on television and the first to visit Russia.

Joffrey Ballet lived up to its legend at the 2 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 10, when they presented a lovely program of three dance pieces, each combining elements of classic ballet and modern dance.

The program began with "In The Middle, Somewhat Elevated," a dance choreographed by William Forsythe and set to the industrial-modern music of Thom Willems and Leslie Stuck. The modern pulsing, clanging music is deliberately loud and creates a sense of being inside a factory. While the music's repetitive metallic reverberations grew tiresome after awhile, the energetic dancing certainly did not.

The nine dancers appeared on a bare stage with a neutral backdrop, costumed in spare dark green and black leotards and tights. The troupe danced as a whole, then broke into

groups of three, often performing different routines in separate sections of the stage, a bit like a factory with different phases of production happening simultaneously. The lifts and body-bending athletic movements stunned the audience with both the dancers' precision and their artistry.

After the first intermission, the three pairs of dancers performed "After The Rain." Choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, the dance piece was set to the moving music of Arvo Part. The dance had two parts and, although rather short, was quite emotionally affecting. In part one, the three couples danced to Part's "Tabula Rasa" dressed in spare gray-green costumes with a gray backdrop, performing dance moves of lifts, turns and being en pointe, drawing heavily from the classic, and often with couples mirroring each other. Part two was a pas de deux set to "Spiegel im Spiegel," a dramatic, romantic piece in which a ballerina in a pink leotard, Victoria Jaiani, and a bare-chested male dancer in white pants, Fabrice Calmels, performed a series of moving, stunning lifts and close athletic moves with astonishing skill and grace in front of a sunset orange backdrop.

After the second intermission was "Age of Innocence," which featured the evening's most elaborate costumes and staging. Dancers wore simplified, modern costumes inspired by the classic 18th century style, with long skirts and

tight bodices for the women and sleeveless doublets for the men. With the dancers in white against a backdrop of three large red curtain panels, through which dancers could enter and exit, the effect was pleasingly dramatic.

The choreography by Edward Liang was inspired by the novels of Jane Austen and the position of women in Victorian society. The music by contemporary composer Philip Glass is far more modern but also lushly lyrical, from his Symphony No. 3 "The Secret Agent." This longer piece was divided into several sections, beginning and ending with the full troupe.

The dance began by evoking a fancy ball in a grand manor house. As the dance progressed, it evolved into more modern and less structured forms. The first, formal dance was followed by a lovely pas de deux by Jeraldine Mendoza and Mauro Villanueva. Next, four male dancers, Derrick Agnoletti, Raul Casasola, Aaron Rogers and Temur Suluashvili, danced the powerfully masculine segment "The Men."

In "Obey Thee," April Daly and Dylan Gutierrez danced a lovely, athletic pas de deux solo, and were joined by four other pairs of dancers. The piece concluded with the rousing "Parting," with the whole troupe on stage.

Thunderous applause, whistles and cries of "bravo" conveyed the audience's delight with the Joffrey Ballet.

Joffrey Ballet excites and spoils Touhill audiences



Fabrice Calmels & Victoria Jaiani of The Joffrey Ballet. COURTESY OF HERBERT MIGDOLL

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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, March 13

Lisa Ling: Open Heart, Open Mind
Starts at 7:00 p.m. Located at the Touhill Performing Arts Center and open to all.
Ling was the first female host of National Geographic's Explorer series, on which she investigated the deadly MS-13 gang, went undercover inside North Korea and explored the drug war in South America. Ling got her start in journalism as a correspondent for Channel One News, on which she covered the civil war in Afghanistan at 21 years of age. \$5 for UMSL Students with valid UMSL ID (limit four tickets per ID). \$15 for the general public.
For more information, call the Office of Student Life at 314-516-5291.

Wednesday, March 14

Get Ya S.O.M.E. (Student Organization Management Education)
From 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located in the SGA Chambers and open to all.
Experiencing horrible officer transition? Communication on the rocks? Budget all out of whack? Unsure of your organization's future? Get Ya S.O.M.E. is a series of workshops that will equip you and your organization with the tools necessary to increase its functionality and elevate it to the next level! Join us today from 1:00 to 2:00pm for the following session: Breaking the Communication Barrier: The University, Student Organization & YOU!
For more information, call Brandon T. L. Nelson at 314-516-4031.

Thursday, March 15

Picking Fine Wine & Program Evaluation:What's the Difference?
From 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Located in 427 SSB and open to all.
Join us for an applied research seminar, Picking Fine Wine and Program Evaluation: What's the Difference? Presented by Dr. Mark Tranel, Director of the Public Policy Research Center. Beverages served -- bring a lunch! More details at pprc.umsl.edu
For more information, contact Rebecca Pastor at 516-5277.

Friday, March 16

IC Short Course - Adobe Photoshop Basics Session 1
From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Located in 102 SSB and open to UMSL.
This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of Adobe Photoshop. Learn how to use this application for image editing and more that may be required for classes, your job or your own website purposes. Topics include: opening an image, merging images, adding text to an image, copyright responsibilities, personalizing your photographs, improving the colors of an image, etc.
For more information, call Instructional Computing at 314-516-6852.

Monday, March 19

Modern American Dance Company
From 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Located in 402 JC Penney Conference Center and open to all.
MADCO is proud to be the Professional Dance Company in residence at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Explore the Touhill and visit the company behind the scenes in the Whitaker Rehearsal Hall, where MADCO develops new work and practices daily. Engage in conversation with Artistic Director Stacy West and experience the excitement of seeing dancers perform in a close-up, informal setting.
For more information, call Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

Crimeline

February 27, 2012 – 3:00pm Report # 12-79 – Burglary – University Meadows. A resident of University Meadows (non-UMSL student) reported several items missing from his apartment. Disposition: Investigation continuing.
March 3, 2012 – 4:30pm Report # 12-83 – Auto Accident Leaving the Scene – Mark Twain Drive. A vehicle leaving a parking spot struck another and left the scene. Minor damage. Disposition: Pending.
For further details, visit <http://safety.umsl.edu/police/campus-crime-info/daily-log.html>, or check out UMSL Campus Police on Facebook and Twitter.

A Letter to the Editor

"In considering the upcoming referendum on a new campus Wellness Center, some of our long-time university faculty members are hoping that students will consider this center's potential role as a means of serving campus recreational needs but also in attracting – not only more great students – but also competitive faculty members. As many students know, campus recreational facilities are often the 'first stop' on campus tours for students. Among the kind of competitive faculty members we attract to the university, they also tend to take into account the emphasis on a vibrant, healthy campus culture – as well as opportunities to interact with students outside of class," Mike Murray, UM Board of Curators, professor of media studies, chair for Faculty Senate and University Assembly, said.

WEATHER

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News

LGBT struggle lit up by recent judicial decision against Camden R-III

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor-in-Chief

A recent decision by U.S. District Judge Nannette Laughrey has ordered the Camden R-III school district to cease blocking LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) issue-related websites. The district had previously been utilizing a filtering program referred to as URL Blacklist, which had questionable and, debatably, very one-sided filtration for websites concerning the LGBT community.

This issue calls into question the concept of free speech as well as the rights of the district to block materials it deems inappropriate for students. However, the filtration program previously used by Camden R-III did not block all LGBT websites. Rather, URL Blacklist only blocked those expressing a positive view towards the topic, flagging them under

its sexuality filter. Websites that shunned practices and issues related to the LGBT community, however, were labeled in the URL Blacklist filter as religion. According to Judge Laughrey's decision, the school's filters discriminated against gay-friendly websites.

"On issues such as this, schools should try to be neutral – not promoting or discouraging any viewpoints. Clearly, the school knew that their filter was sorting websites in this manner, given that the case went to trial," Brian Fogarty, professor of political science, UMSL, said. "They might not have known initially, but once they were alerted, they should have either fixed the filter or used a different one." Fogarty also referenced that blocking all sites on this topic would accomplish the same end of neutrality. This could

be problematic, though.

Many of the sites blocked were from organizations such as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc., the Matthew Shepherd Foundation, Campus Pride, Dignity/USA, etc.

"None of these groups operate sexually explicit sites. They are sites that merely provide information and advocacy for LGBT issues – the kind of information that a student might need if they were doing a paper on the struggles of LGBT teens," Mark Pope, professor of education, UMSL, said.

Blocking educational materials by claiming that they are pornographic or sexual in nature may no longer be a common practice, but it is one that still receives attention. As LGBT issues and struggles for equality continue to develop, more schools find themselves

facing similar lawsuits.

"Students in high schools need access to such websites to be educated about the social issues of the day," Pope said.

The isolation and discrimination high school students reportedly feel on a regular basis may only be heightened for LGBT teens, according to Pope. In this case, the role models and education provided by LGBT websites would provide an outlet and a safe haven for such students in hopes of bringing down the rising rates of suicide amongst LGBT teens.

Even as LGBT advocates continue to fight for equality, issues such as Camden R-III's continue to arise. Students may feel discriminated against or believe that free speech has been blocked even at local schools. Finding the resources to help deal with

such a situation is not always an easy task.

"Contact the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU has developed a 'Don't Filter Me' campaign to address such issues all over the U.S. In fact, the ACLU has sent a letter to school districts across the country suggesting that they change their online

filtering practices because of viewpoint discrimination," Pope said.

It was ignoring and negatively responding to this very letter that helped incite the lawsuit against Camden R-III, leading to Laughrey's final decision that the district was

unlawfully blocking material from student access.

Since Judge Laughrey's ruling, websites previously blocked by URL Blacklist advocating LGBT issues have been added to a "white" list, allowing them to be viewed by students on the school's network.



The UNDERCURRENT

by Ismael Adiputra

"What are you doing for the St. Patrick's holiday?"



"I will be going to Kansas City during the St. Patrick's Day weekend."

Deborah Mandefro
Senior
Biology



"I am going to go to the China Night on that day. You should go, too."

Teden Hu
Senior
Biochemistry

The Political Corner - The Problems Partisanship Causes

Recent bipartisan shows boil down to increased partisanship

HALI FLINTROP
News Editor

Partisanship has recently fluctuated in American politics at state and national levels, stagnating government and impacting bipartisanship. This is advantageous to the party that controls the legislative body, to the dismay of some minority party legislators.

Partisan politics have been accused of ruining state governments. Even cooperation on the JOBS legislation appeared partisan due to disputes over authorship and presentation, with both Republicans and Democrats racing to win the credit.

The problem is not as simple as the common complaint that the government stagnates when opposing parties do not cooperate. The newer, less explored problem is that opposing parties have found themselves in a contest to appear the most polarized party, breeding new hostility and confusion in party relations.

What appears on the surface to be cooperation on the JOBS Act may actually be a subtle example of extreme partisanship.

The JOBS Act, or Jump-Start Our Business Start-Ups Act, is a package of several smaller bills designed to give small businesses increased access to capital. The smaller bills have a history of bipartisan support, and the JOBS bundle is also largely favored by both parties and by President Obama.

Despite both parties' support of the bill, it has still inspired conflict as both parties scuffle to take credit for

its projected success. Recent "New York Times" articles detailed the relationship of the parties as they attempt to maneuver the JOBS Act through the legislative process.

The JOBS Act is supported by Obama, and a version of the act is supported by Senator Harry Reid, Nevada Democrat and Senate majority leader. However, some Democrats have commented on the bill's underwhelming importance.

"I call [the JOBS act] 'just old bills,'" said Representative Steny Hoyer, Maryland, democratic whip.

Democrats would probably have already passed the bills that make up the JOBS Act if Republicans had been willing to vote in their favor. Now, though, Republicans have begun to support the JOBS Act.

Under pressure to show their constituents and voters that they can cooperate and work with Democrats, Republicans have found an opportunity to display their cooperation by promoting the JOBS Act. On the surface this looks like Democrats and Republicans coming together in support of legislation that will benefit each party's constituents, but this apparent cooperation is largely in the name of partisanship. Passing the JOBS Act may benefit each party's image with voters, so each has separate as well as communal reasons for supporting it.

A mutual interest in the JOBS Act has not inspired Democrats and Republicans to get along. Some Demo-

crats feel that Republicans have taken an unfair amount of credit for the legislation.

"Instead of trying to fake it once again this week with a 'JOBS' Act that simply repackages old bills...Republicans need to join Democrats in actually working to put the country back to work," a statement issued by House Democratic leaders said.

Extreme partisanship in politics has been a long-term frustration for citizens, and it has recently been accused of playing a particularly and unacceptably large role in state governments. A "Fairfax Times" opinion article, for instance, expressed extreme frustration with the partisanship of Virginia's Democratic senators. The story said that the Democratic senators voted down a bill that would help the community due to their displeasure at committee appointments.

Partisanship has been in play for years and is an inherent part of America's two-party system. Still, many who have watched it over time believe that it has reached a level of intensity that could ultimately harm political functioning.

"You could always rely on the elected officials from both parties to study the issue and then reach a compromise," said Tim Storey, National Conference of State Legislatures in a governing.com article. "...When compromise becomes an evil thing—a failure and no longer equated in virtue—that becomes a problem."

Depression and working long hours - links revealed in study

RACHELLE BRANDEL
Staff Writer

Researchers from the University of London, the University of Bristol, McGill University in Canada and the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health have performed a study that links long work hours with depression. Workers who put in 11 or more hours a day are twice as likely to suffer from depression as those who work only eight hours.

The study examined the work habits of 2,000 English civil servants over six years and found that people who worked 11 or more hours a day were 2.5 times more likely to experience a major depressive episode compared to those who worked standard eight-hour workdays.

So what does this mean for full-time University of Missouri – St. Louis students? Well, full time is defined by the University as being 12 or more credit hours, and for each credit hour, two hours of study outside of class is recommended. This means that the average full-time student will spend 36 hours a week on schoolwork.

However, to graduate in four years, the average student must take 16 credit hours per semester. This means the four-year degree seeking student will need to spend 48 hours a week on schoolwork—between nine and 10 hours in a five-day workweek.

The average full-time

student also has a part-time or full-time job that adds even more hours to an already full schedule.

"Several studies have found that working [in an employed job] over 20 hours a week has a negative effect on a student's ability to persist in college," said Alan Byrd, admissions director, UMSL. "Students who work are also less likely to engage in campus life, use campus support services or participate in extracurricular activities, which are all positive indicators for college success."

Continued on page 6.

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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@umsl.edu or call Gallery Visio
314.516.7922 with questions.



Depression and too much work

Continued from page 4.

Thus, according to this study, UMSL student are at a high risk for depression.

Depression can lead to a lack of ambition and concentration, which can greatly impact a student's grades. Depression can also lead to lack of interest in social issues and end up hurting students' relationships with friends and family.

parents' home, and mature students also face challenges for time and economic reasons. What is supposed to be an exciting time of independence can end up becoming a stressful punishment for students.

So, is there a possibility that UMSL will lower the number of credits required to be considered full-time? Not likely. Full-time requirements are mandated by the federal government,

alleviate their financial distress, from scholarships to loans to on-campus jobs. These options are meant to ensure that a student is not required to spend additional hours working at an employed job.

Students can also seek assistance through the University Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services. Counseling services are free to students with a variety of issues, including depression, academic anxiety and relationship problems. They can also screen for issues—such as depression or learning disabilities—that could be affecting a student's level of anxiety.

The Wellness Resource Center offers support groups and services. Students can also undergo a wellness assessment for 25 dollars.

University Health Services offers students a place to get medical care for a variety of issues that could affect their mood and/or stress.

Students can also take steps to ensure better help for themselves. Eating healthily and getting the recommended amount of sleep can play a big part in a student's overall health. Taking breaks in between hours of work can help energy levels stay strong, and exercising is a sure way to decrease anxiety and alleviate stress.

"The key is to live a balanced life, so that you don't feel deprived of these other important life activities and have time for self-care," said Sharon Biegen, Ph.D, Director of Counseling at the University of Health, Wellness and Counseling Services.

"The key is to live a balanced life, so that you don't feel deprived of these other important life activities and have time for self-care."

---Sharon Biegen

College life is already stressful for students. New students have to adjust to a lifestyle outside of their

but that does not mean students are out of options. UMSL has many opportunities for students to



Pinterest offers web new forms of procrastinate and entertainment

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

Pinterest: because you can only Facebook stalk your friends for so long. Pinterest is a virtual pinboard. It lets people share and organize all of the things that interest them. One can browse “pinboards” formed by friends or random people to discover new things and get insight from others with common interests. Many people use their pinboards to plan their weddings, decorate their homes, find new hairstyles, shop for the perfect gift, find their newest do-it-yourself projects, share their favorite recipes and many other things. Pinterest has started gaining popularity only recently, although it has been around since 2010. Within the past two months, there have been several new developments.

Pinterest has 11,300,000 monthly users, 1,396,876 people “like” it and 146,033 are talking about it. The numbers go up way. The most risqué things one may come across are the quotes on the now-famous “e-cards.” They are quite hilarious, but some of them may cross the line of polite dinner conversation. Users usually just click on everything and see what is on the main board. If one prefers, one can search only what friends (who are synced from Facebook) have recently pinned. Specific topics can be searched, as well. The rule on objectionable content is the most important to this writer. There is nothing on the site that you could not share with your grandmother, and the creators like it that

Continued on page 10.

LATEST + GREATEST

St. Patrick's Day Events

St. Patrick's Day is Saturday, March 17. Here are a few events to celebrate the Irish.

Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Day Parade
Saturday, March 17, starting 12:30 p.m.
Begins at Tamm and Oakland, runs south along Tamm in the Dogtown area of St. Louis
This is the more traditional and family-oriented of the two annual parades. The Hiberians' parade always takes place on the actual holiday, but since St. Pat's falls on a Saturday this year, both big parades take place on the same day. This more authentically Irish parade by the Irish heritage group the Ancient Order of Hibernians takes place in the traditionally Irish neighborhood of Dogtown.

Official St. Louis St. Patrick's Day Parade
Saturday, March 17, starting 11:30 AM
Begins at 18th and Market, runs east along Market in the downtown St. Louis
It's official but not as authentic. This parade always takes place the Saturday before the actual holiday, but since this year St. Pat's falls on a Saturday, we have dueling parades. The St. Louis City-sponsored parade, in which the city's Italian, German and other American political leaders get to play Irish, has bigger and fancier floats and is a kind of recap of Mardi Gras.

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*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. While supplies last. Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two admit-one passes per person. This film has been rated R by the MPAA for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, drug material, teen drinking and some violence.

Want to rant or rave about technology,
or just have an opinion to share?

Let us know at:

www.thecurrent-online.com

'Pop Manifesto 2' accentuates controversy in Gallery Visio

ASHLEY ATKINS
Features Editor

Gallery Visio's latest exhibition, "Pop Manifesto 2," which opened February 23, is the successor to a previous show by the same name. The student-run gallery is in the Millennium Student Center at University of Missouri - St. Louis.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Made Monarchs, a "creative house" that sponsors events intended to "support, entertain, and empower our generation."

While most of the exhibit focuses on race, overall the exhibit questions perceptions of humanity. Artists Kevin McCoy, Jermaine Clark, Skip Jones and Erica Brown achieve this message by incorporating visuals of pop culture into their work.

Walking into the exhibit, visitors are confronted by a pop political piece. The work consists of three separate drawings, each contained within a green frame. The two outer pictures are made up of an eagle wearing a swastika on its arm and an elk sporting the title "El Politico." The eagle is supposed to represent African Fascism while the swastika represents Nazism. The goal was to express the similarities between the two meanings by incorporating both.

In the room's center is a sketch of the Morton's Salt girl, holding an oil drum rather than a salt canister under her arm. The canister only leaks a couple drops of

oil, which could represent the next generation's high demand for oil or the rationing of that oil.

Artist Jermaine Clark played with expressionism in his piece "A Brave Refrain vs. Make Me Believe." In acrylic on panel, he shed light on two different male shadows: a young man and an elderly man. The body language of the young man reveals his uncertainty, while the aged, bearded man exudes confidence despite having his hands tied behind his back. Based on the positioning of the two separate paintings, they may have represented the old man revisiting his past. The simplicity of the piece is why it should be praised.

Erica Brown is most innovative with two works, her abstract wooden puzzle made of screen print and salvaged wood, "The Unrealized Dream," and her collage of magazine photos titled "Mind, Body, Soul."

Brown's collage centers on three different themes that apply to the African American woman: brain, heart and eye. In her brain collage, Brown focuses on the "Afro Woman" who is "still real" and has managed to maintain the "roots" of her heritage. In the heart collage, Brown focuses on the body image of the black woman from her breast, thighs and

are generally sexualized by the media, it seems like the artist uses these images to express power. The eye collage is used to represent disrespect for the black woman with word association, such as "dirty" and "explicit content."

The most meaningful pieces may be Jermaine Clark's combined works "Heart vs. Logic," "True or False Face," "Badge of Infamy," "The Man Who Was," and "Patience vs. Pride." Clark's five canvases circle the same theme and take up the entire right wall.

The works are a mixture of scattered billboard headlines and controversy. The two African American male subjects wear white clansmen hoods to protect their identities. One man is an athlete, while the other appears to be a criminal with his hands tied behind his back. Under their white hoods the men wear black hoods, which represent the executioner's hood. The two subjects are unable to see out of their hoods because they also represent the hood of the war prisoner. This piece sees the black man as both victim and criminal, stating that disobedience (on both sides) has no true identity.

"Pop Manifesto 2" offers visitors a chance to interpret the pieces the way they see fit, which makes it an ideal exhibit to explore. It is open through March 22.

"A new recreation and wellness facility could attract new students which could potentially increase student enrollment."

Joel Ayala
Triton Athlete

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AND HIS BAND
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Presented by Jazz St. Louis

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FOR INFO VISIT
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Pinterest opens up artistic influence

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

Continued from page 8.

Topics are wide-ranging. They include, but are not limited to: architecture, arts, cars and motorcycles, design, DIY and crafts, education, film, music and books, fitness and food and drink. Users can also select gardening, geek, hair and beauty, history, holidays, home decor, humor, kids, “my life” and women’s and men’s apparel. If that is not enough choices, others include outdoors, people, pets, photography, prints and posters, science and nature, sports, technology, travel and places and weddings and events. There is even a category for “other.”

These are just the suggested topics to search, though. If there is something

else visitors are looking for, they can just type it into the search bar.

The only complaint, in the opinion of this writer—besides the addiction factor—is that a user can get so excited with all these ideas but cannot disengage from the website long enough to complete them! Some people buy odd items that they would never need otherwise just for a project they saw on the site, but then they never get around to completing the project.

Make sure to check out the video, popular or gift sections as well. The links are right on the top with the others mentioned. The site is very easy to use.

All Pintrest users should also download the “Pin It” button. If one sees

something on a website that one would like to post to a pinboard, the user clicks the installed “Pin It” button from the bookmarks bar, and the person will then be able to select something from the website to pin.

The Pinterest website puts their purpose this way: “Our goal is to connect everyone in the world through the ‘things’ they find interesting. We think that a favorite book, toy or recipe can reveal a common link between two people. With millions of new pins added every week, Pinterest is connecting people all over the world based on shared tastes and interests.”

Happy pinning!

Grade: A



Yeondoo Jung, Korean, born 1969; Location #4, 2006; chromogenic print; 48 x 60 1/2 inches; Courtesy Tina Kim Gallery and Kukje Gallery © Yeondoo Jung

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Features

International Business Honor Society hosts IBCC in JCP

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

Friday, March 2, the International Business Honor Society at the University of Missouri -- St. Louis conducted the fourth annual International Business Career Conference in the JC Penney building. Sponsors included Sodexo, Boeing, Cold Stone, Mayuri, Bar Italia and many more. The conference ended in cake, ice cream, various raffles and potential internships.

The main purpose of the conference was to help UMSL business students get to the next level in their careers. Conference committee members included Anthony Alexander, Jenna Waldschmidt, Mengia Liu, Edgar Ramirez, Chris Schaefer and Sheena Crompton.

"The International Business Honor Society exists to bring awareness about international business

to the UMSL community and throughout St. Louis. That is not to say that people have to be in international business, but we have heard that there are a lot of jobs going overseas," Chris Schaefer, senior, business administration, project manager of the International Business Career Conference, president of the International Business Honor Society, said. "If you know about outsourcing and international business, then you can be more competitive."

It was also mentioned that people with knowledge of a foreign language could possibly work in another country through an American business. Workshop panelists earlier in the morning included Linda Jacobsen on Global Vision Strategies, Margaret Gottlieb

on U.S. Commercial Services, Frank Danzo on Experience on Demand and Luis F. Campedelli on MasterCard Technologies.

Campedelli gave a workshop on what companies are looking for and how to get jobs. He divided attendees into two different categories. In the world of business there is the "hunter" and there is the "prey." The hunter is proactive, assertive and focused while the prey is the unaware and visible victim. Campedelli also made it clear that companies were looking for history makers, not storytellers.

"My favorite workshop was Success at First Glance with Campedelli. I think that he presented things in a very calm way where you can look at yourself from the perspective of the employer's eyes," Rebekah Gooch,

junior, accounting, said.

The scheduled executive panelists who came later in the conference were Maxine Clark, founder/president of Build-A-Bear; Turbjorn "Turbo" B. Sjogren, vice president of global maintenance and upgrades at Boeing defense; Tim R. Heard, senior vice president of Brown Shoe International; and Tim Nowak, executive director, World Trade Center.

Sheena Crompton, senior, business administration, project coordinator of the International Career Conference, president of the International Business Club, vice president of the International Business Society, was in charge of contacting the speakers and their companies.

"A lot of the time my UMSL email would be blocked, so I had to find

strategic ways to let them know that we wanted them. I also went to the International Business Institute advisory board meetings," Crompton said.

IBI invited her to their board meetings last semester, where they discussed what she needed from them. The conference committee as a whole credited the institute for their cooperation in the conference.

Around 11:30 a.m. the conference took a recess from lectures. During this time attendees mingled at the networking lunch the International Business Honor Society had provided. Students at the conference used this time to question their lecturers and inquire about internship opportunities through the company of their choosing.

"I am actually from SIUE, so this is my first time

being at UMSL. I was really impressed. This was very well put together, and they had great speakers. I really liked the workshop on being a 'Cultural Chameleon' because I am interested in working for the Department of State and it is a trait that you have to have," Samantha Holdermann, senior, international business, said.

The conference closed with a five-person panel moderated by Rodolfo Rivera, director of business development, Fidelity National Title Group. The importance of internships and experience was heavily stressed in the panel.

The majority of the questions seemed to be directed towards "Turbo" B. Sjogren of Boeing, who told a student to reconnect with him after the conferences - was the student up for the advantage?

Mounsey and International Studies bring a taste of Ireland to Touhill

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in all of its tradition on Friday, March 9, in the Lee Theater of the Blanche Touhill Performing Arts Center. The event offered its crowd a taste of traditional Irish music a week before the highly commercialized holiday, as well as a chance to view some Irish competitive dancing, also known as step dancing. The show was made up of various performances from St. Louis Irish Arts Incorporated with special guest Eileen Gannon on the Irish harp.

The event was spearheaded by James Mounsey, lecturer in Irish studies, international studies and programs, who upon completion of graduate school at the University of Limerick

applied to the University of Missouri -- St. Louis to see if he could bring in some Irish music course offerings.

"I was delighted that both the music department and the center for programs and international programs invited me back to actually start up a module in Irish traditional music," Mounsey said.

He was formerly introduced onstage by Robert W. Nordman, chair of the Department of Music at UMSL.

"Joel Glassman, the director of international studies, came to me a year and a half ago and asked if we would be interested in having an Irish studies program and of course we were," Nordman said. "Joel Glassman and Eammon Wall,

who is also in Irish studies, funded James Mounsey and brought him to the campus."

Decked out from head to toe in spring green, Helen Gannon, president of St. Louis Irish Arts Incorporated, acted as guest speaker for the ambitious event. She appeared onstage in support of her organization and to introduce the adorable Hoijarvi Boys, who hail from Finland.

As the Hoijarvi Boys made their way out to the stage, the crowd could not help but react to their innocence. The three boys could barely set themselves up in the oversized chairs that were laid out for them on center stage. They then proceeded to play "Dawning of the Day." Upon completion of the brief tune,

they attempted to scurry off of the stage without crowd recognition until their single-file line was stopped by a pleased Helen Gannon. The three boys accepted their applause willingly and then ran off stage.

The Hoijarvi Boys were followed by a polka, the use of the Irish drum the Concertina and a couple of lively jigs performed by a female troupe sporting their traditional step uniforms and crowns.

The crowd seemed to most appreciate the playful dance between Mounsey and his partner Shannon Flecke as they commanded the stage with their talent. Together, they gave the crowd a taste of the possibility that could come along with years of practice.

"I was delighted about the

turnout. The publications department did a great job in publicizing the event," Mounsey said. "I had my classes here from this semester and I was delighted to see some of my students from last semester turn up today also. It is nice to see them back again, showing their support."

The St. Patrick's Day celebration ended with a collaboration of company steppers that gave the crowd a chance to see the Hoijarvi Boys and their attempt at step.

Before the crowd met up with their loved ones an announcement was made concerning the Academic Conference that will take place April 26 -- April 29. Together the Comhaltas North American Convention,

Washington University, UMSL, ICTM and DRFI plan to offer students a chance to be part of a new academic interdisciplinary conference where Irish music, song and dance will be the primary theme.

"Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann has 44 branches throughout North America. I think that there are nine of them in Canada. On the April 26 all of them will be coming here to St. Louis, where we have a convention every year and share and collaborate with each other," Gannon said.

A representative for the conference was at the St. Patrick's Day performance and asked that any individual interested meet him in the lobby of the Touhill.

UMSL's student performers share the stage with the United States Air Force's Band of Mid-America

DAVID VON NORDHEIM

Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 1, the University of Missouri – St. Louis Jazz Ensemble was complimented with a dash of martial flair.

The Shades of Blue, the United States Air Force band of mid-America, appeared at the Touhill Performing Arts Center alongside the UMSL Department of Music's regular showcase of student musicians.

The University Jazz Ensemble, directed by UMSL professor of jazz studies Jim Widner, performed a number of classic compositions from some of the most celebrated names in jazz, including Count Basie's "Who, Me?" and Vince Guaraldi's "Cousins."

Widner's excited commentary between sets was

a welcome addition to the performance. "They just don't write 'em any better than that, folks," he said after Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood" was played.

The Shades of Blue, an 18-member assembly of enlisted professional musicians, interpreted a set of equally distinguished pieces, including Duke Ellington's far-East epic "Phantasm" and "Hullabaloo," a Dixieland-style New Orleans rag. One of the many highlights of the performance was vocalist Technical Sgt. Keisha Gwin-Goodin, who lent her powerful voice to "Smile," a song made famous in Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*.

The Shades of Blue play-

ers hail from several regions throughout the Midwest, including nearby Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, IL. The concert on March 1 was their first time performing at the university, and the UMSL Department of Music hopes that this will be the first collaboration in a long-lasting partnership.

"It was really a privilege to play on the same stage with such excellent performers," Nick Shea, senior, music, third trombone for the University Jazz Ensemble, said. "I hope we will be able to perform with the Shades of Blue again."

"Their musicianship is particularly impressive when you consider how demanding their day job is," Shea added. "I thought it

was hard enough just being a music major, so it definitely takes a lot of dedication to juggle the responsibilities of being a military personnel on top of that."

The sentiment was apparently mutual. After concluding their set, the Shades of Blue presented Professor Widner with a commemorative plaque and expressed their delight at the privilege of performing alongside the University Jazz Ensemble, promising to return for a future performance.

The audience, which included several UMSL students, seemed equally enthused about the performance.

"It was a fantastic experience, for both the UMSL students and the Air Force

band," Chris Kepling, senior, music, said. "Both the jazz ensemble and the Shades of Blue chose some phenomenal pieces to interpret." He particularly liked the Duke Ellington piece "Phantasm" and drummer Master Sgt. Paul Shaw's use of Eastern percussion. "I guess I am kind of a geek for that stuff," Kepling said.

The performance created some new fans of the jazz ensemble as well.

"This was my first time seeing the UMSL jazz band in concert, and I will admit that I do not really know much about jazz outside of my experiences playing trumpet in the fourth grade," Matt Plodzien, senior, communications, said. "But listening tonight,

I could really appreciate the amount of skill that was on display from the students and the airmen. I'll definitely have to go to another jazz ensemble performance."

The concert on March 1 was the University Jazz Ensemble's first performance for the spring semester and the first student performance for the Touhill Performing Arts Center's 2012 program. Upcoming student concerts include the University Wind Ensemble on March 21, a Piano Studio recital on April 11, and the University Community Chorus on April 24. The University Jazz Ensemble will also perform at the Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival on April 20 and 21.



Protestors gathered two weeks ago outside the MSC to support Syria.

JARRED GASTREICH / THE CURRENT

Sports



Katie Rutledge, elementary education, freshman, hits a home run on March 5.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Lady Tritons moving toward knocking another win out

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

University of Missouri - Saint Louis Tritons softball coach Brian Levin predicts that the ambitious team will make a run at the west division lead in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The ladies hope to make a run similar to last year without falling to Quincy this time around. They all seem very confident that they will be able to follow the same path as last year.

The team does have a lot to live up to after last year's success of finishing with 20 wins and five losses. They are currently at 10 wins and eight losses. Levin explains that they

have had a very tough schedule up to this point, though. Their most glorifying moment of the season so far was beating Missouri Western State, which was ranked number 19 in the country at the time.

One issue the Tritons are facing is that the team members are very young. As many as five freshmen start at times. Many see this as a struggle for the team, but others remain positive. "Our freshman class has really stepped up and continues to produce for the team as well as the returners," Monica Strube, senior, physical education said.

In Huntsville, Alabama the Tritons played Augusta State, Truman State, Georgia College & State and North Georgia in the Charger Chillout Tournament. They won one game but lost the other three.

In Bentonville, Arkansas, though, they won four but lost two. It was in Bentonville that they had their infamous win against Missouri Western, as well as playing Missouri Southern, Lincoln, Arkansas-Monticello, NW Missouri State and Southwest Baptist in the UAM Quad-State Classic games.

Since returning home,

the Tritons have won five and lost three games. The team lost the first game against Northern Kentucky 1-2, but won the second with a score of 13-1. In this game they allowed seven walks and 12 runs and had nine strikeouts.

The trend of winning one game and losing another happened when playing Bellarmine (1-2 and 9-1 in six innings). Then the team defeated Upper Iowa twice in a row (5-4 and 15-7 in six innings). The softball team closed out an eight-game home stand on March 7, 2012 with a split against Lewis (6-0 and

3-4). A lethargic season is not always the outcome of a slow start, though.

The Tritons will next step up to the plate in Indianapolis, Indiana and Rensselaer, Indiana. Games scheduled after those are mostly local, including Missouri cities St. Louis, Rolla, Springfield, Kansas City and Liberty as well as some over the river in Quincy, Springfield and Peoria. Teams they will face include Indianapolis, St. Joseph's, Lindenwood-Belleville, William Jewell, Rockhurst, Quincy, Illinois-Springfield, Central Missouri, Drury, Mis-

souri S&T and Maryville.

"We have already recorded 15 home runs and are hitting the ball very well," Levin said.

Players are as excited for the rest of the season as their fans. "Right now we are getting more into our conference games and are really coming together as a team. With all the talent we have on this team this season will be one to remember! Fear the fork!" Strube said.

The UMSL Tritons softball team play at the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament in Peoria, Illinois April 27-29, 2012.

UMSL Men's basketball program has greatest season in decades - key players and strategies chronicled

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

It has been a long time since the University of Missouri -- St. Louis men's basketball program has been highly competitive, but Steve Tappmeyer is instilling a winning tradition here at UMSL.

The 2011-12 campaign ended in the semi-finals of the conference tournament, a record of 19-9. The program has not had single digits in the loss column since the 1990-91 season, and 19 wins is also the largest number since that same year under head coach Rick Meckfessel (22-9).

The Tritons won the largest number of games

in their history in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with 16, and they also captured the west division crown for the first time in program history.

Success like this has eluded this school's men's basketball team in the recent decades, but Tappmeyer has the program turned around and headed in the right direction. Successes like this season will be more expected in the future.

As far as this team goes, it will be remembered as the group that started the west division champion tradition. One of the team's strongest assets is the sup-

port of its key players. Troy Long, senior, liberal studies, was the team's most valuable player. A transfer student from Southern Illinois University, Long led the team in points, points per game, assists, minutes, 3-pointers and percentage, with two game-winning buzzer beaters to boot.

Long's impact was huge, as was the impact of Zach Redel, senior, business administration and Justin Hightower, senior, communications. All three will be missed heading into the next season. However, although the team is losing their leader and strong role

players, the returning team's roster still looks strong.

If Long was not the most valuable player, then Joshua McCoy, junior, communications, certainly was. McCoy, a native of St. Peters, transferred to UMSL from Cleveland State University. A knock-down shooter, McCoy was second on the team in scoring, averaging over 14 points per game. McCoy was just as valuable defensively, matching up with some of the conference's best and leading the team in steals. His return is huge for the men's basketball program.

Fellow Cleveland State

transfer Charlie Woods, junior, psychology, will also be returning. A strong force in the paint, Woods was the team's best defensive player. With 31 blocks, he led the team in that category and even contributed 31 steals. Woods averaged 10.6 points per game, and led the team in rebounds with 191, averaging to 6.8 per game. Woods' return is also huge for the Tritons' hope of repeating as West Divisions Champions.

Other returning players who will be important are Isiah Nunn, junior, communications, Neil Branham, freshman, fi-

nance, Jack Connors, freshman, business and Aareon Smith, freshman, undecided. These players will see their roles significantly increased next year, since Tappmeyer is building this future program with a plethora of young players to go along with what will be solid senior leadership.

McCoy, Woods and Nunn will be the leaders for the team next season. Experience and increased minutes will result in better play from players like Smith, Connors and Branham. This team looks likely to repeat as division champions next season.

"A new recreation facility would benefit UMSL as a community and help create an exciting atmosphere where students can hang out and promote personal wellness while on campus."

Gustavo Perez
Music Student

"The new recreation facility would benefit the UMSL campus and community by bringing everyone to a central location where health, fitness and wellness is encouraged in a social environment."

Monica Strube
Triton Athlete

"A recreation facility is what this campus needs to be complete! Giving students a reason to stay on campus will help to create a more welcoming atmosphere."

Liz Jaeger
Nursing Student

"A new recreation and wellness facility could attract new students which could potentially increase student enrollment."

Joel Ayala
Triton Athlete



What is the "Check the Rec" Student Referendum Initiative?

"Check the Rec" is a student led initiative that is promoting students to participate in the voting process of the student referendum regarding the construction of a new recreation and wellness center facility on campus. The facility would be located adjacent to the Millennium Student Center and would provide 94,000 square feet of new student recreation and wellness space.



How does this affect me?

The Student Recreation and Wellness Center will be a place where students, can exercise, socialize, and relax. The center will enrich campus life, encourage healthier lifestyles, complement academic programs, and improve recruitment and retention among students seeking a more comprehensive college experience. In addition, the Student Recreation and Wellness Center will create numerous employment opportunities each academic year. Every other university in the University of Missouri system already has a contemporary recreation and wellness facility. If this initiative moves forward, UMSL would have the latest and greatest.



What would it cost me?

The recreation center would be funded primarily by student fees. Students would be charged \$19.25/credit hour up to the maximum of 12 credit hours per semester and 6 credit hours in the summer, in addition to the existing recreation fee. **The fee will not go into effect until the building opens in the fall 2014.**



How does a referendum work?

The referendum process for the "Check the Rec" initiative has been brought to a student wide vote by a signature petition facilitated by other students. If approved by the student body, the referendum will be proposed to the University of Missouri System to determine official approval.



What should I do now?

Exercise your right to vote! Voting is taking place online and can be found at the sources below. Elections begin Monday, March 12th at 8:00am and will close Thursday, March 15th at 11:59pm. To learn more about the initiative, visit any of the following links. "Check the Rec"!

facebook.com/checktherec | checktherec.umsil.edu
More questions? Contact us at: checktherec@umsil.edu

CHECK
THE **REC**

Point/Counterpoint



Could school shooter T.J. Lane be considered a victim himself?

Murder is not the tool of a victim, but a murderer

Every day people from all walks of life are faced with choices, and not all of them are easy ones.

On February 27 T.J. Lane made his choice and brought a .22 caliber gun and a knife to Chardon High School in Ohio. He fired 10 rounds at students in the school's lunchroom. The 17-year-old opened fire on five students at a single lunch table before being chased away by a member of the faculty. Three of his five victims are dead; the two others were seriously injured.

Lane may be tried as an adult with three counts of aggravated murder, two counts of attempted aggravated murder and one count of felonious assault.

Despite Lane's atrocious actions, many people are suggesting that he may be a victim—a victim of bullying and a victim of circumstance.

The dictionary definition of a victim is "one who is harmed or killed by another." Lane gave up his right to be called a victim the moment he pulled the trigger of his .22 caliber pistol, ending the lives of three other students. He is a killer. To call him a victim is a slap in the face to all the people that are hurt or dead as a result of his grievous actions. To call him a victim is to belittle all the people in the world who

choose not to commit murder.

Lane has been described as quiet, yet pleasant and polite. He has had troubles with his home life, although he has rarely spoken of it. His father, Thomas Lane Jr., has been arrested several times for violent crimes against female acquaintances and once for assaulting a police officer. His mother also has a history of violent behavior. Lane himself was enrolled at Lake Academy Alternative School, an institution for "at risk" youths. He also has a record for the assault of a girl that took place in 2009.

There are some suggestions that he may have been bullied, but prosecutor David Joyce says that theories involving any form of bullying or substance abuse have been ruled out. Joyce also states that the victims were chosen at random and that Lane is "not well." The school's students have another theory, suggesting that the targets were specific and that Lane was motivated.

Whatever the reason may be, the facts are still black and white: Lane shot and killed three people and injured two others.

Many people grow up in harsh conditions and come from abusive backgrounds. Many people are bullied and many of these

same people bully others.

Not everyone ends another person's life. Not everyone is a murderer. This has been true throughout human history and will not change. Victims are victims and murderers are murderers. You can be one or the other, but not both. Everyone makes choices that do not involve ending another human being's life.

Lane did not kill those students in self-defense. His life was not in danger. No evidence suggests that he was suffering any physical harm or being threatened in any way. This was not a heat-of-the-moment reaction, but a planned assault with steps that included stealing his grandfather's gun and bringing that gun to school. It would be a serious mistake to label Lane a victim.

The consequences of Lane's actions ripple throughout Chardon High School, affecting the faculty, the attending students and their families. These are actions that no apology and no amount of sympathy can erase.

This terrible crime needs to be punished. Students, parents and teachers need to be educated to better identify signs of troubled children, and a system needs to be put in place to properly assist those children in making better choices.

Lane was as much a victim as the people that died

T. J. Lane was as much a victim as the people he shot. Lane, who walked into the cafeteria of Chardon High School with a .22-caliber gun and a knife and opened fire, was a victim of bullying and a bad home life. He was being transported to Lake Academy Alternative School in nearby Willoughby, which is a school for "at risk" students who face problems much like those Lane faced.

It's not hard to connect the dots. Children can often be cruel, and if someone is being sent to a "special" school for "special" reasons he becomes an easy target for those seeking to differentiate. Without a doubt, Lane must have been bullied by students from Chardon High School, even though he wasn't a student there.

Does this mean his act was justified? Not in the least. What Lane did was wrong, but he is not fully to blame. Every student and staff member at Chardon High School who bullied Lane or stood by and let the bullying happen is partly to blame for making Lane into the monster that he became.

Lane's home life is also to blame. Lane's father has been arrested and charged

on multiple counts of violent attacks on women and police officers. Lane grew up around violence and then was met with the cruelty of the outside world.

When people reach out for help and are met with either further cruelty or a lack of interest and sympathy, those people slowly cease to care about anyone or anything. They can then go one of two ways: inward, through ways such as self-mutilation, or outward, which leads to the endangerment of those around those people. Basically, people who direct their pain outward have given up on the world and no longer feel that they can seek justice through regular means.

Say you're a kid on the playground and another kid comes over and chokes you. To save yourself, you kick that kid in the leg and run over to the teacher for justice. But the teacher didn't see what happened, and when both of you run to the teacher yelling what the other did, she does nothing.

You have yet to receive justice, so you decide to tell your parents what happened. Normal parents would storm down to the school and raise hell, but

your parents don't believe you or simply don't care.

Suddenly it becomes evident that no one cares about justice--no one cares about you--and suddenly you don't care about anyone else and resolve to take justice into your own hands. Suddenly, in your mind, there is justification for murder.

This is what makes Lane a victim. His suffering twisted his mind so much that he decided that murder was justifiable retribution for his pain. He didn't consider the pain and suffering that he would be causing another human being, because no one ever cared about his pain and suffering. If no one cared about justice for him, why should he care about justice for someone else?

In this case, the old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," is true. An entire town had the opportunity to reach out to Lane and prevent him from becoming a monster, but this outcome shows that no one did. All that the testimonies and quotes from various people show is that they recognized his existence, but not one person actually reached out to help him. Lane is just as much a victim as the people he shot.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Time has come to end the labeling ban on GM foods

When genetically modified, or GM, foods were first marketed in this country, companies like Monsanto went to great lengths to prevent them from being labeled. The argument was that labeling would give consumers the impression there was something wrong with GM foods, hurting their sales or lowering prices. Not only was such labeling not required, but it was essentially banned.

On the other side, consumer advocates and others argued that consumers were entitled to know what was in their food, even if it had not been deemed harmful, and that they should be free to make informed choices. The GM food industry asserted there was no proof that GM foods were harmful, but the opposition countered that there was no proof of harmful health effects mostly because no studies had been conducted.

As a result, this nation went one way and others went another on GM foods. We not only permitted GM foods, but we did not label them. Meanwhile, the European Union, Japan, Russia, Australia, Brazil and China require labeling. In some cases, GM foods have been banned.

In the U.S., some scientists noted, we all became test subjects in an experiment to determine the health effects of unlabeled GM foods.

One health problem the GM food industry admitted was the possibility of increasing food allergies.

Years after, food allergies have risen in this country. Is that due to GM foods? There is no way to tell - because we don't label them. What is GM food and what is not is unknown in the American supermarket.

About 60 percent of processed food products in American supermarkets have GM ingredients, often corn or soy. U.S. sugar comes from GM beets as often as not, some types of produce like sweet corn or papaya may be GM and GM salmon have been discussed.

However, rising food allergies have led to some new rules on food labeling. Foods are now routinely labeled to say if they contain common allergens like milk, soy, tree nuts, peanuts and wheat. Some school cafeterias have banned the once-ubiquitous peanut butter sandwich due to peanut allergies.

With this new level of awareness about food allergies, is it not time to re-visit the topic of labeling GM foods, whose only acknowledged health concern prior to entering American supermarkets was the possibility of food allergies?

Some people have raised the possibility of such labeling. Further, an overwhelming majority of American consumers would like to see labeling of GM foods.

Earlier arguments of a public too superstitious to eat GM foods have been wiped away by the likelihood that we all have eaten GM foods by now, unless we eat strictly organic.

The GM food industry's argument that it is too dif-



Cate Marquis

ficult to take a finished food product and trace back to see whether GM ingredients were added at any point is silly. Of course, GM foods should be tagged as such at production and traced through the system.

Complaints about labeling being too costly or being too much work are ridiculous as well. They are the same kinds of objections raised to earlier requirements for sanitary food production. Sure, it costs more to do something than to do nothing. The point is, consumers have a right to know.

If some consumers do not choose to buy GM foods, is that not how the marketplace is supposed to work? Increasingly, companies tout market forces when they are raising prices but grumble when a free market means that customers do not want to buy their products (or pay their prices). You cannot have "buyer beware" if the policy is to keep buyers unaware.

The time has come to end this ruse and label GM foods.

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

MAD WORLD

"Friend finding" sites a threat to personal safety

There is perhaps nothing that feels as unnerving and surreal as plugging your name into one of the many "friend finding" websites out there and being met with a slew of your previously-personal information.

Spokeo, a people search engine which boasts that it is "not your grandma's white pages," provides information on individuals such as their hobbies, occupations and "family trees" that provide links to the profiles of relatives. "Property descriptions" include real-time photos taken from Google maps that give you the eerie feeling of being watched by strangers.

To access the full wealth of information such as photos, videos and logs of social networking activity, one has to pay a monthly or yearly fee. This may strike many as odd. After all, how many well-meaning individuals need to search for personal information online often enough that they would pay for a service that makes it easier to do so? Not many with good intentions, most would guess.

Needless to say, if someone is really your friend, it doesn't make sense for you to have a pressing need to look up pictures of his or her house online. This goes beyond the idleness that usually accompanies "Facebook stalking" and devolves into dangerous, seriously creepy behavior.

With information that includes data on the level of wealth of people and of the neighborhoods they live in, these sites are like one-stop shops for criminals looking to hand-pick their next victims - or keep tabs on old ones. "Friend finding" sites present a chilling threat to victims of crimes like stalk-

ing and abuse. Trying to flee someone harmful and maintain their non-existence in your life can be difficult enough without websites that not only make it a hassle to protect yourself, but that do so with a complete lack of empathy concerning the very real threat to safety that their services present.

In addition, requesting for your information to be deleted can be a huge pain. This further proves that sites like these aren't intended to truly help anyone if they can't profit from doing so. While they try to give off a demeanor of helpfulness in the tone of their websites, dealing with them can quickly get ugly if you begin to challenge or inconvenience them. Many people run into customer service walls where the should-be-simple act of requesting for the removal of their personal information from the website becomes an ordeal. It becomes more and more obvious that site administrators expect people to get frustrated with the process and just give up.

While it's true that nothing is ever really private, there is no excuse for making it easier for criminals and other creeps to use private information for their own gain. It's opportunistic and morally suspect, and it showcases the utter lack of compassion so often associated with profit-driven services like these.

What's so enraging about sites like Spokeo is the glee with which they present what they do, as if they truly believe that they are offering a useful service from which everyone can benefit. It pretends to be that well-meaning, if oblivious, friend that gets you into



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trouble, but that's only an act. Information-sharing services know exactly the harm they can cause and the threat to personal safety they pose for many people. They just don't care.

The defensive battle cry of corporations like these is that it's all a matter of public record, but that doesn't eliminate personal responsibility. That is not to mention that a fair amount of the information gathered is done so in less-than-legal ways.

The selling of information is a tasteless business venture that no longer just results in minor inconveniences like telemarketers calling during dinner. Offering this level of access to personal information is life-threatening and can have disastrous results. The dangers far outweigh any useful aspects of the service.

At least in your grandma's day of such archaic resources as the white pages, criminals didn't have it quite so easy when it came to choosing and tracking their victims. With sites like these on the rise, along with horror stories of the criminals who benefit from them, suddenly your crazy Internet-hating uncle doesn't seem so paranoid after all.

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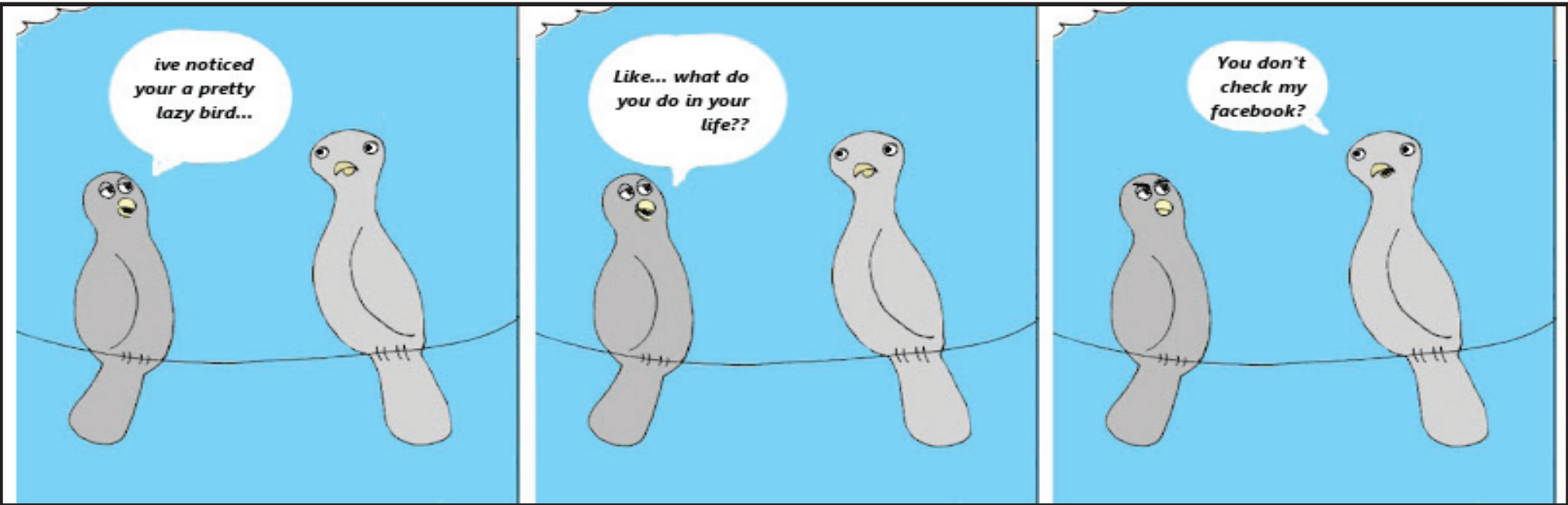
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