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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

April 16, 2012

VOL. 45;
ISSUE 1376

Touhill taken to 'Square None' by Aspen Santa Fe



The World Premiere of "Square None" is performed by the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet on Saturday at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Dance St. Louis continues to spoil Touhill audiences with another splendid dance performance, this one by Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet brought an energetic, artful mix of ballet and contemporary dance to the Touhill Performing Arts Center in three performances over two days, April 13 -14. The program consisted of three pieces, "Square None," "Stamping

Ground" and "Over Glow," with two intermissions.

The troupe was created in 1996 in Aspen by founder Bebe Schweppe, artistic director Tom Mossbrucker and executive director Jean-Philippe Malaty, who all have links to the famed Joffrey Ballet. The troupe then formed a partnership in 2000 to become the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.

The Friday evening performance was the world premiere of "Square None," a work commis-

sioned by Aspen Santa Fe Ballet from choreographer Norbert De La Cruz III. The work was partially funded by longtime Dance St. Louis supporters, Dan and Susan Luedke.

The dance was breathtaking, set to music by Alva Noto and Ryuichi Sakamoto, Michelle Ross, Aphex Twin and Frederic Handel. The dance opened with seven dancers, Craig Black, Katherine Bolanas, Pual Busch, Seth Delgrasso, Emily Proctor, Seia Ras-

senti and Joseph Waston, on a near-dark stage.

The stage was divided into squares, with each dancer on a square under an individual spotlight. Costumes were spare - men were shirtless in gray pants while women wore gray leotards that vaguely suggested corsets. Beginning with pulsing electronic music, the dancers delivered an impressive combination of ballet and acrobatic contemporary dance. The choreography

captured an appealing mix of the grace of ballet with its lifts and turns, seasoned with the athletic fireworks of contemporary moves and a hint of playfulness.

The dancers' movements were exquisitely timed, bringing the occasional gasp from the audience. As the music switched to Handel, the dancers slipped into more fluid and romantic movements, before returning to the modern music and dance style. The dance's conclusion

was met with thunderous applause, as the audience signaled their hearty approval of the new work.

After the first intermission, the troupe returned with "Stamping Ground," a 1983 piece by choreographer Jiri Kylian. Without music, a single female dancer took the stage, emerging from behind a shimmering silver curtain at the back of the stage.

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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, April 17

Child Abuse Prevention Month pinwheel parden fundraiser

From 10:00 a.m. to 11:55 p.m. Located at Children's Advocacy Services and open to all.

The pinwheel represents hope, health, and happiness. This uplifting symbol of childhood represents our efforts to ensure the healthy development of children, while recognizing that child development is a building block for community and economic development. Last year CASGSL served over 400 children and we would like a pinwheel in our garden for each of those children.

For more information, call Karen Banks at 314-516-7389.

Wednesday, April 18

Mindfulness Meditation

From 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success Conference Room (225 MSC) and open to all.

Mindfulness Meditation is a proven—and increasingly popular—method for reducing stress, anxiety, insomnia, and a variety of medical conditions. Incorporating Mindfulness into your schedule can enhance your overall well-being and allow you to live your life more fully. These weekly guided Mindfulness activities are free and open to beginning as well as experienced meditators.

For more information, call Jamie Linsin at 314-516-5711.

Thursday, April 19

Teaching with Technology Workshop IV

From 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Located in SCB 102 and open to all.

Evaluate with Ease: Constructive and Efficient Grading On- and Off-line Avoid those end-of-the-term blues by attending this workshop to learn some easy strategies for delivering feedback in MyGateway and determining that complicated final grade, even if you drop the two lowest quiz grades, sum participation points, and average weighted assignments. Let Excel and MyGateway do the work for you!

For more information, call Margaret W. Cohen at 314-516-7133.

Friday, April 20

Relay for Life

All day. Location to be determined.

Held on UMSL's campus each April, Relay for Life is a life changing event that helps communities across the globe celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. Join our Student/Alumni Team today!

For more information, call the Alumni and Community Relations Office at 314-516-5833.

Monday, April 21

Graduate School Research Fair

From 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Located in MSC Century Rooms and open to all.

The Graduate School and Sigma Xi will co-sponsor the annual Graduate Research Fair to recognize graduate students' research. This event provides advanced graduate students the opportunity to present their scholarship and creative work to faculty, staff, administrators, students, family members and community members. The students' research is presented in poster format so that visitors may interact with presenters directly.

For more information, call Mary Ellen Heckel at 314-516-5898.

Crimeline

April 6, 2012 – 1:00pm Report # 12-142 – Theft – Oak Hall. An UMSL student reported that on April 3, 2012 another student stole a laptop from their room when they left. Disposition: Investigation continuing.

April 9, 2012 – 1:00pm Report # 12-143 – Fire - Seton Hall. A construction dumpster was found on fire behind Seton Hall. NE Fire District responded and put the fire out. Disposition: Information only.

April 10, 2012 – 12:15pm Report # 12-147 – Assault – Social Science Building. An UMSL Student reported being threatened by another student. Disposition: Investigation continuing.

April 10, 2012 – 7:00pm Report # 12-149 – Auto Accident – Millennium Parking Garage South. An UMSL student reported someone struck their parked car and left the scene, minor damage. Disposition: Report taken.

April 11, 2012 – 2:30pm Report # 12-152 – Theft – Millennium Student Center. An UMSL student reported that between 10:00 and 11:00 am their unattended bookbag was taken from the chat room. Disposition: Report taken.

April 11, 2012 – 2:28pm Report # 12-153 – Property Damage – Touhill Performing Arts Center. Unknown person(s) damaged a lock on a beer cooler at the Performing Arts Concession Stand. Disposition: Report taken.

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.

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News

St. Louis occupiers say they experienced brutality from police officers

ANGELA ACTON

Staff Writer

For the past six months, Occupy St. Louis has rallied in protest throughout the city. Since the beginning of the protesters' journey, there have been multiple arrests, protests and injuries.

The movement members say that they experienced a media blackout.

"The news stations are only reporting on us when Occupiers say things or do things to depict us as deranged idiots," Catherine, Occupy St. Louis participant, said. "They only want to be able to say, 'See, we told you those Occupiers were all hippies.'"

A four-day rally took place March 15-18, 2012. On March 15, attendees of Occupy Midwest were confronted by St. Louis police officers as they followed police orders to vacate Compton Hill Reservoir Park. Attendees say that the police engaged them in unnec-

essary combat, and many claim that they were not resisting arrest at the time.

"As we were crossing the street, the police attacked us," Catherine said. "One guy was arrested for asking if he could go back to the park to get his dog's food. I was arrested for asking if I could hold my boyfriend's glasses. One guy had a mag light shoved into his eye sockets. It was kind of indescribable, because it's like nothing I've ever seen before in my life."

"There were about 40 cops that charged and began tackling and pretty severely beating people who were carrying a banner," Paul, Occupy Saint Louis participant, said. "Ironically, the banner said 'Police State' on it. People dispersed, and then were chased and hit with billy clubs. Officers were pulling out pepper spray and shak-

ing it at us. It was chaos. No matter where we went, they would fight us. One of the officers who was assisting in arresting a guy that needed staples in his head made eye contact with me and began advancing on me and had a sick grin on his face. He had a very aggressive attitude. I asked him if he was proud of what he was doing there. You can't arrest me for my freedom of speech. Then he tackled me to the ground and bounced my head off the walls of the patty wagon. He squeezed my genitals and twisted them rather harshly during the pat down process. An elderly woman was arrested who wasn't even part of the protest. She heard the ruckus and wanted to talk to the police commander about what she saw the police doing. They spun her around and arrested her for that. Usually when you are ar-

rested for a political action, the police don't follow you the sake of humiliation." The Current was un-

"You can't arrest me for my freedom of speech. Then he tackled me to the ground and bounced my head off the walls of the patty wagon. He squeezed my genitals and twisted them rather harshly during the pat down process. An elderly woman was arrested who wasn't even part of the protest."

---Paul

throughout the process. The officers who arrested us followed us throughout the booking process, and they were antagonizing us as they were strip-searching us. It was just for

able to contact the St. Louis Police Department for comment.

"When I was released on Friday, I was shocked to see that nothing was reported in our local media," Catherine said.

"There were news cameras there, but there was nothing. It wasn't until the Vigil on the 3rd of April that it even got out to the public that this stuff had happened. Nobody knew."

On the same day, the group declined the city of St. Louis' offer of a permit allowing them 24-hour access to Freedom Park for planned demonstrations. The only stipulation was that they did not set up sleeping tents.

Local ordinances about parks closing after dark are not supposed to apply to protesters. Regardless, police arrested 15 protesters for violating curfew in a park. Police said 13 of them were arrested for general peace disturbance and failure to obey a reasonable order from an officer. Two protesters were arrested for third-degree assault.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Ismael Adiputra

"What will you be doing this coming summer?"



"I'm looking forward to summer internship. I might take one summer class also."

Steve Nguyen
Senior
Computer Science



"I will be taking summer classes over the summer."

Yu Liang
Freshman
Business Administration



"I am looking forward to a break after the cramming required to take care of all of the tests and assignments at the end of the semester."

Jeffrey Meyer
Senior
Computer Science

The Political Corner - Healthcare Decisions in the Supreme Court

Possible implications of the Supreme Court's recent rulings on the Affordable Healthcare Law - wait until June to learn anything new

CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

The Supreme Court will not announce its ruling on the Affordable Care Law until June, but many people are wondering about the implications for health care should the court strike down some or part of what is sometimes dubbed "Obamacare." Some observers say the ruling is "too close to call."

Widely considered the Obama Administration's signature legislative accomplishment, the health care law is complex and will take effect in stages, with most portions taking effect in 2014. A central issue that the Supreme Court is considering is the constitutionality of the public mandate: the requirement that individual citizens purchase private health insurance. Although state laws requiring citizens to buy car insurance are common, whether the federal government has the same authority is the current issue.

Opinions vary on what the impact on the health care law will be and whether part or all of it should be ruled unconstitutional.

Democrats generally support the Affordable Care Act, arguing that although it is not perfect, the law is still a great improvement over the current American health care system and worth defending. Republicans prefer the present market-based system and argue that the law is an unconstitutional over-

reach by the federal government. The law, based on an idea that originated with Republicans, was intended as a compromise.

Many Americans, both conservative and progressive, are uncomfortable with the idea of forcing individuals to buy private health insurance. The individual mandate is generally opposed by supporters of single-payer health care similar to the Canadian system, like Medicare for all, which they argue is both effective and less costly. They oppose the idea of the government forcing individuals to buy insurance from private, for-profit companies. Conservatives who oppose the federal government requiring individuals to buy health insurance see it as an unconstitutional expansion of government powers and an infringement on individual liberty.

What will be the impact if the individual mandate portion of the law is struck down? Will the whole law fall without it?

On March 27, analysis by National Public Radio of the Supreme Court arguments concluded that if there are five votes to strike down the individual mandate and the portion barring discrimination based on pre-existing conditions. There will likely be five votes to strike down the whole law. The reasoning is that the law would be significantly changed by

removing those provisions.

A March 29 article in the Los Angeles Times featured law professors analyzing the arguments before the Supreme Court. "To no one's surprise, Paul Clement has been extremely persuasive on the part of the challengers," Adam Winkler, UCLA constitutional law professor, said in the article. "Verrilli did an OK job but I'm sure many supporters of President Obama's health care reform were a little disappointed with his advocacy."

But Winkler concluded that "it's too close to call."

"I wouldn't be surprised if the Supreme Court struck down the individual mandate. [Striking down the entire law] is less likely as that would be a clearer case of aggressive judicial activism," Winkler said.

A March 27 report from Reuters noted that there are few contingency plans if the law is struck down. The report states: "If the court invalidates the insurance requirement... [Congress'] first steps toward finding alternatives to reduce the number of uninsured in the country - nearly 50 million, or one in six Americans - would depend heavily on how far the Supreme Court goes, and on the balance of power in Washington after the November elections."

Continued on next column.

Even prior to this ruling's conclusion, an April 2 National Public Radio report noted that certain health insurance companies had already started to implement various changes to comply with health care law. David Cordani was willing to give further details on these changes. "The broader health care debate is way larger than the individual mandate," David Cordani, CEO of health

insurance company Cigna, said in the report. Cordani also said that the healthcare industry would continue with those changes regardless of the Supreme Court's decision, begging the question of whether the ruling is truly worth following in the first place. In the same report, Mila Kofman of Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute, noted that insurance companies are far more con-

cerned about whether the portion of the law subsidizing insurance specifically to assist in providing aid for lower-income Americans might be struck down by the Supreme Court's ruling.

"We're looking at billions of dollars into the pockets of the health insurance industry," Kofman was quoted as saying.

Questions will have to await June's arrival for answers, it would seem.

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New student organization petitions for higher minimum wage and lower interest rates

HALI FLINTROP
News Editor

University of Missouri – St. Louis's newly formed chapter of Young Activists United has begun collecting signatures and raising awareness for two petitions. One petition aims to raise the minimum wage in Missouri. The other aspires to place a lower legal limit on interest charged on payday loans and loans based on a car title.

The Current spoke with Alice Floros, senior, secondary education, to discuss the group and its startup initiatives. Floros is a representative of Young Activists UMSL.

The Current: Who are the Young Activists?

Alice Floros: Young Activists United- UMSL is [a] new student group as of the spring 2012 semester. We are affiliated with a larger, city-wide group, Young Activists United – St. Louis, [or] YSTL. YSTL serves as a link between students and young activists across campuses, social justice organizations and causes in the St. Louis area. We facilitate learning and action opportunities by utilizing development training, organizing forums and channeling students and young activists into concrete social justice work.

TC: What is the overall purpose of YSTL?

AF: YSTL is a bridge organization bringing together progressive students and young activists with local social justice organizations to collaborate on combating the military-industrial complex, challenging corporate power, advocating for the rights of working people and working for racial and gender justice. YSTL supports students as they build power in their communities and on their campuses through strategic, long-term organizing.

TC: What are the two petitions that are your current focus?

AF: One of these petitions is to raise minimum wage, which is currently \$7.25 in Missouri (that number is also the federal minimum), to \$8.25 per hour. Raising the minimum wage is a great way to put money into the economy... States such as Nevada, Washington, Oregon and Illinois are already at \$8.25 per hour. The other petition is to cap payday and car title interest rates to 36 percent. In Missouri, interest rates at the [quick cash] institutions average 444 percent. Missourians need to get this initiative on the ballot and pass it in November to speak up for our communities and speak out against the wealth drain that these interest rates cause.

TC: What will it take to get the petitions passed?

AF: We need 136,000 signatures from the St. Louis area— including St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

TC: Why raise the minimum wage?

AF: Average people in the United States over the past 30 years have been working more and getting paid less. This is coupled with the fact that the average CEO's pay has soared to 286 times that of the average worker. Increasing the minimum wage and capping the interest rate that payday lenders can charge increases the economic power of working-class people and also directly combats the exploitation that is all too common in low-income communities of color.

TC: Why limit interest rates?

AF: As of right now, payday lenders charge an average interest rate of 444 percent interest... in Missouri. Furthermore, they can charge as high as 1950 percent interest. This initiative would

limit interest rates to 36 percent, which, while still high, is much more manageable.

TC: Are there any negative consequences to raising the minimum wage or capping interest rates?

AF: Creating a wage floor through a minimum wage just makes sense. It's a misconception that raising the minimum wage causes the prices of everything else to go up. While some say that limiting interest rates for payday loans will limit Missourians' ability to acquire small loans, that's not the whole story. In fact, Missourians will continue to have access to small loans—like the average \$307 loan— through avenues offered by banks, credit unions, pawnshops or even family members.

TC: What will the Young Activists do next?

AF: YA UMSL is excited to be present at Mirthday [on] April 18 to gather signatures and have great conversations. We invite [the UMSL community] to visit our booth. In the next year we look forward to building relationships and collaborating with other students and student organizations interested in social justice and building a better St. Louis for all people!

TC: How can students get involved with the petitions or YA UMSL?

AF: Petitions must be in to the governor's office during the first week of May. Folks interested in soliciting signatures should contact Alice Floros at asfn96@umsl.edu. However, while these particular initiatives are winding up, people will be at work on these issues past early May. Interested folks should contact Alice Floros to learn more.

The Current is now accepting applications for all positions for the coming academic year.

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-Advertising Director

-News, Features, A&E, Sports, and Opinions Editors

-Photography Editor

-Staff Writers

-Staff Photographers

-Advertising Assistants

-Copy Editors

For more information, inquire at
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Thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu

A&E

CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Continued from page 1.

Each dancer was then replaced by another, usually alternating women and men. The percussive sounds of the dancers' foot-stamping, thigh-slapping and clapping provided the only accompaniment for a large part of the dance.

Finally a percussion score by Carlos Chavez was added as all six dancers took the stage. The choreography was comic, with dancers contorting into postures that sometimes suggested children playing and even mimicking animals. The audience responded with occasional laughter and gasps of appreciation, fol-

lowed by enthusiastic applause at the end of the dance.

The last piece was Jorma Elo's 2011 "Over Glow." It was the most colorful dance, with male dancers in light blue pants, again shirtless, and female dancers in short, light green dresses. A backdrop lit with pastel shades suggested spring. The music was more Beethoven and Mendelssohn, but the dancing again combined elements of classic ballet with acrobatic elements.

Like the opening dance, the dancers often performed in precisely-timed unison or coordinated their movements with the exactness of a circus high-wire act. As the music changed from the

lively Beethoven to a romantic Mendelssohn, pace of the dance turned to the romantic, before concluding with a return to Beethoven and lively, playful dancing. The dancers' grace and skill, along with their sheer athleticism, astounded the audience time and again. The choreography again combined the best of ballet's artistry with the freshness of contemporary dance troupes like Pilobolus.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet delivered an evening of pure delight and artistry, which the delighted audience applauded for a long and heartfelt time.

Grade: A



The Aspen Santa Fe Ballet performs at the Touhill.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Got a performance you want to discuss with us?

Let us know at:

www.thecurrent-online.com

LATEST + GREATEST

Movie Calendar

*Movies opening Friday, April 20
(subject to change)*

CHIMPANZEE (everywhere)

This Disney documentary follows a young chimp as he grows up, in a heart-warming family film offering for Earth Day.

THINK LIKE A MAN (everywhere)

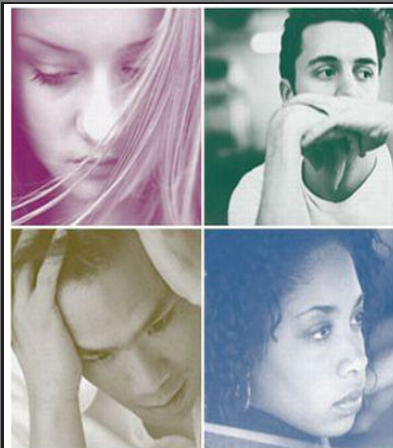
A clever, comedic look at Steve Harvey's relationship advice book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man." Stars comedian Kevin Hart as a newly divorced man trying to keep his basketball-playing buddies away from romantic heartbreak, with several couples playing out romantic comic scenarios. Also stars Gabrielle Union, Chris Brown, Michael Ealy and Taraji P. Henson.

THE LUCKY ONE (everywhere)

This romantic drama is the latest film adaptation of a novel by Nicholas Sparks ("The Notebook"). Stars Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling in a story about a Marine, a veteran of Afghanistan, searching for a woman he believes is his good luck charm.

TO THE ARCTIC (St. Louis Science Center)

IMAX documentary about the animals of the Arctic with stunning nature photography.



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Mid-America Clinical Research at:
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www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/forlanglit/apptitude.html.

For the next big film after 'Harry Potter,' look no further than 'Hunger Games'

ARTEMIS CARVER
Staff Writer

Since the "Harry Potter" series debut, no book-to-film franchise has created as much buzz as "The Hunger Games." The movie adaptation of the young adult science-fiction book series has dominated the film industry, taking the world by storm and totaling in over \$300 million in sales in its latest box office weekend.

The film's leading female role is brought to life by Jennifer Lawrence. She plays Katniss Everdeen, the big sister who volunteers to take the place of her younger sister Primrose (played by Willow Shields) as "tribute" for her home district. Sixteen-year-old Katniss is one of 24 children who have been chosen as "tributes" to be sacrificed for the amusement of the upper-class citizens living in the Capitol.

These annual "Hunger Games" were created to keep order in a post-apocalyptic America. The lower 12 districts are forced to give one boy and one girl, aged 12 to 18, to compete in a real-life version of "Survivor" in which the victor must kill his or her competition in order to win.

Based on the trilogy of books by Suzanne Collins, the movie features a cast that brings the characters to life. Their performances will leave an imprint on viewers' minds and hearts for years to come. Not since "Harry Potter" has a cast received such a reaction of fierce loyalty and raw emotion from its audience this early.

Director and screenwriter Gary Ross and costume designer Judianna Makovsky are geniuses at making sure minor characters make an impact in every scene in which they are featured. Characters that were just fun in the books at times have chilling lines that leave audience members on the edge of their seats.

Amanda Stenberg, who plays Rue, and Woody Harrelson, who plays Haymitch Abernathy, are two actors who bring power and emotion to every scene and every line. When Katniss and Haymitch talk about what the former can do to win, Haymitch delivers one of the most memorable lines of the movie: "This is the time to show them everything. Make sure they remember you."

The character of Rue, the tribute for District 11, is one of the youngest to be "drafted."

She adds a sense of humor and innocence to the world of harsh violence that the movie is centered around. In a scene where Cato (Alexander Ludwig) accuses someone of stealing his knife, only the audience sees Rue hiding above in a military net. This funny scene allows Rue's personality to shine through.

The difference between the people of the lower districts and those who live in the Capitol is showcased, not by the latter's positions of power, but through the use of costumes. Costume designer Makovsky brings back the Victorian era of fashion, using elegant gowns, big hair and a steam punk edge on the movie's most colorful character, Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks).

When people see "The Hunger Games," the riot that occurs in District 11 may bring memories of the civil rights movement or the uprisings of Syria and Egypt to the forefront of their minds. The movie pulls the audience in and stirs emotions about everything the citizens are finally fighting for.

The ending of "The Hunger Games" will leave you anxious and hungry for its sequel, "Catching Fire," due to be released in 2013.

Celtic Woman enchants and captivates for one night at the Fabulous Fox

RACHELLE BRANDEL
Staff Writer

The lights dim, a tribal beat echoes through the theater and the silhouette of a woman appears high up on the stage as the haunting melody of a violin begins. Suddenly, you are not sure if you are still inside the Fox Theatre or if the fairy queen has stolen you away into the hills of Ireland.

This was the beginning of the Celtic Woman concert on Wednesday, April 11, when the vocal group brought their 2012 North American "Believe" tour to the Fox. Their new studio album and companion DVD recently debuted at number one on the Billboard's World Music and Top Internet Album charts.

Celtic Woman is an all-female Irish singing group that consists of veteran singers Chloe Agnew and Lisa Lambe, newcomer Susan McFadden and violinist Mairead Nesbitt. They were backed by their amazing six-piece band, the Aontas Choir, and championship Irish dancer Craig Ashurst.

On Wednesday night, Celtic Woman played to an audience of old friends, fans who have continued to admire the group since their beginning and many of whom attended their 2005 concert at the Fox.

The voices of Chloe, Lisa and Susan were enchanting and lilting, flowing through

the concert hall like wind over the isles, but it was the talent of violinist Mairead that truly captured the audience. Over the course of her career, Mairead has embraced both classical and traditional Irish music and has striven to master the two distinctly different styles. As she played, Mairead kicked and danced across the stage. As the tempo increased, she whipped her hair and spun wildly, all the while playing her music perfectly. Her songs were wild and fiery like a consuming flame that enchanted the viewer. At each finale a standing ovation was the only worthy applause.

Each Celtic Woman performer is completely different from the others. Chloe is sweet and young, a kind, loving person who enjoys engaging the audience with every song. With "Green Grow the Rushes" she led the audience in a sing-along, describing the song as a "sing-along" song.

If Chloe can be described as the sweet member of the group, Lisa is the fiery, passionate one, reminding the viewer of the passion they felt as teens in love. Her songs were hypnotizing and fluid, yet playful. "A Spaceman Came Traveling" told the story of a spaceman and the song he brought to a new world. The passionate and enchanting melody was a perfect example of Lisa herself.

Susan brought some

Broadway to Celtic Woman, leading a performance of "Les Miserables" and "The Circle of Life." She was fresh and different but preserved and enhanced the Celtic flavor that tinged each of their songs.

Each singer expressed her uniqueness and talents when the three came together with such songs as "Téir Abhaile Riú," which told the story of sisters trying to keep their other sister from chasing after sailors. At one point in the song all three women held onto fellow male singers and spun in a circle until inertia sent the women flying off their feet.

Irish dancers and bagpipes made up an enormous part of the show and brought the Irish element back into the show, if any audience member forgot it was there. The show is a beautiful representation of Irish culture and music that accurately displays the passion of the singers.

Fans of all ages can get into Celtic Woman. The audience was made up of entire families, including children, great-grandparents and all ages in between.

When a group of people can make their art transcend all ages and sexes, their art becomes something that can surpass generations into the future. Celtic Woman gave an enchanting show that left the audience yearning to be taken away into the lands of Ireland for one last moment.



Jennifer Lawrence stars as 'Katniss Everdeen' in 'The Hunger Games.'

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Dance beats and violin suites unite in Kishi Bashi’s excellent ‘151a’

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

Though the Anglo-fied monikers of genre bigwigs like of Montreal and Beirut may suggest otherwise, the indie pop scene shares a lot of common ground with its notoriously twee cousin J-Pop. But beyond a few notable exceptions (the effervescent far East feels of Shugo Tokumaru come to mind), there is a striking lack of Eastern perspective on the scene.

Apparently realizing the untapped potential of infusing a vaguely Japanese sensibility into a batch of quirky electro-pop toe-tappers, Japanese-American violinist Kishi Bashi’s debut album “151a” offers as compelling a compromise between J-Pop and indie pop as one is likely to find.

Considering that “151a” is Kishi Bashi’s first venture in a leading role, it is astonishingly well-crafted and arranged. The project is all the more impressive in light of the fact that Bashi (funded by the ubiquitous financier Kickstarter) single-handedly tackled the production and performances on the album.

Having originally earned his reputation as a fiddle-for-hire for indie heavyweights such as Regina Spektor and of

Montreal, Bashi’s contributions had a knack for adding a touch of sophistication to his collaborators’ weirdo ballads.

Kishi Bashi also graced of Montreal’s most recent effort, the underwhelming “Paralytic Stalks,” but whereas his role was more or less sedative on that release, the indie rock violinist conceit is far more convincing on “151a.” With Bashi at the reins, his violin transcends from a peripheral gimmick to the core of the album. It provides one of the most effective marriages of classical leanings and indie pop eccentricity this side of an Andrew Bird album.

Like the best indie pop albums, “151a” is a densely layered affair with a dizzying number of influences both earnestly borrowed and shamelessly cribbed. With album credits that include everything from hand claps and joyful group singing to Asian child sounds, “151a” is a kaleidoscopic concoction.

The album juggles Kishi Bashi’s equally magnetic attractions to chamber pop, dance rock and electronica as he weaves every manner of electronic squiggle, thumping bass and Eastern percussion around his nimble strings.

Though the Japanese choruses supporting Bashi’s English vocals may elude his target audience (whose tastes probably do not get any more international than Bjork), the current of irrepressible joy throughout the album requires no translation.

This eclectic approach is apparent throughout “151a.” The album’s restless songs careen through a dizzying number of styles throughout their modest four-minute lengths. “Manchester” begins as a folk freakout, boasting a vocal harmony that would make Animal Collective blush before giving way to a tranquilizing wash of strings and ambient effects. Meanwhile, “Chester’s Burst Over the Hamptons” gives way to a synthesizer symphony that sounds like a forgotten number from the “Blade Runner” soundtrack.

Along with Perfume Genius’s excellent “Put Your Back N 2 It” and Chairlift’s “Something,” “151a” is an easy contender for the best indie album culled from the first quarter of 2012. Debut albums rarely emerge sounding as superbly crafted as “151a.” This excellent first stroke suggests a promising career for indie pop’s journeyman violinist.

The Current is now accepting applications for all positions for the coming academic year.

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Features

Students Government debate offers vocal outlet for student voices

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

On Thursday, April 13, the Student Government Association at the University of Missouri -- St. Louis held a debate for the upcoming 2012-2013 SGA elections. The debate, which was delegated by Matthew Poposky, editor and chief, The Current, was held in the Pilot House of the Millennium Student Center.

Each candidate was instructed by Poposky to come up to the stage based on the position for which they were running. While on stage, the candidates were asked a particular question regarding that position, giving them the opportunity to face off with their opponents about their beliefs and ideas. The entire process took two hours.

Presidential candidates were the first called up to the stage. Demetrius Reynolds, junior, business

administration, Steven Brockman, senior, management/marketing, and Thomas Estopare, junior, political science, were the hopefuls running for the position, but the debate was between Reynolds and Brockman.

Both candidates were asked why they would be perfect for the position. Reynolds focused on how his experiences in other forms of business make him best for the position. Brockman, who is currently a member of SGA, also mentioned the importance of reaching students.

"I think one of the major things that I want to focus on is trying to reconnect the students who currently do not have a voice in student government. Right now, it is really focused on student organizations," Brockman said.

Both candidates were asked to reflect on their own personal strengths. Reynolds believed that being an extrovert gives him the ability to motivate others. Brockman said that because of his current commitment to the SGA, he has a tendency to focus on the overall student experience rather than his own educational experience. There was clearly ambitious confrontation among the two determined candidates, the motivator and the experienced.

Standing on the stage alone was Gustavo Perez Diaz, sophomore, music, who was running for the position of vice-president. Diaz focused on his desire to be approachable so that students can feel comfortable voicing their opinions on things such as the "building issue." This

was a topic that had come up on various occasions during the debate from both candidates and students who questioned the school board's decision.

RV Jenkins, junior, accounting, SGA Prizm representative, and Pat Ward, junior, biology, duked it out for the position of comptroller. Both were asked why students should trust them with \$625,000. Referring to himself as a fast learner, RV said that he would be willing to learn from past comptrollers and that he wants to put focus back on the student, international, including international students and students with disabilities. Ward expressed a desire to hold on to the system previously established by comptroller Dan Rosner, claiming Rosner as his mentor.

He wants to gain better relations with the treasurers of each organization.

"Our biggest issue this year has been communicating with the student body who has been submitting the budgets," Ward said. "I hope to keep the budget process going as smoothly as it has been."

Jenkins and Ward were followed by a parade of senate candidates who were asked to join the officers onstage, where together they would tackle certain issues. Hot topics included the ceilings in the music department, the condition of Benton/Stadler Hall, the upcoming campus rec center and whether or not it is needed on campus and, most importantly, the smoking ban. An audience member complained about how the ban was not properly

enforced. Many candidates voiced their beliefs that there should be designated spots on campus for smokers because expecting them to quit cold turkey is unrealistic. A couple of students also expressed their hope for a 24-hour library, since UMSL is a commuter campus.

Reynolds wanted to focus on the issues of the smoking ban and the library, while Brockman believed that the focus should stay on the aforementioned buildings and how they will define the future of UMSL's campus. The showdown on stage was, for the most part, between Reynolds and Brockman.

Additional candidates running for general election were unavailable for further comment on the debate. Elections will take place during of this week.

The U Radio history - entertaining and involving campus for five years

HALI FLINTROP

News Editor

The U student radio station of University of Missouri -- St. Louis made plans to engage the UMSL community this week through their presence in the Nosh and giveaways in celebration of its five-year anniversary as a station and a student organization.

For the half decade that it has been in operation, The U's goal has been to engage the UMSL community, to give students, faculty and staff an outlet for communication and to provide entertainment through their broadcasts, which can be heard in the Millennium Student Center on a low-broadcast frequency that reaches across UMSL's campus and can be streamed live worldwide on the station's

website, UMSLRadio.com. Dr. Charles Granger, biology, UMSL, has served as The U's faculty advisor from the beginning of the station five years ago through the present. Granger feels that the station has carried out his original vision.

"The original vision was to provide students, faculty and staff with a new option for a campus activity that [...] facilitates self-expression and at the same time provides a sense of campus community," Granger said. "The high points are that the station has found a very important niche on our campus with a very large group of students who participate in management and as on-air talent. Another highlight is the fact that not

only are students involved, but faculty and staff are also active and all operate together in a very professional, informative and entertaining manner. The station has been very successful over the years, participating in nearly every campus event in some manner or another, and therefore has become an integral part of campus life. The listenership averages at about 600 at any given time and includes individuals from several foreign countries. Of course, this success can only be attributed to the devotion and talent of those directly involved in the day-to-day decisions and operations that make the station work."

Adam Wiseman, facilities director, Teach for America,

New York, is an UMSL alumnus who served as the president for the Student Electronic Media Professional Association and worked with Granger at the beginning of The U five years ago. "I remember going to our small studio, which was a closet next to Dr. Granger's office, and dreaming big. We wanted an online presence as well as a radio presence and knew that there was a lot of interest from the student body. The station was fun, and we were able to really create a grassroots movement at UMSL," Wiseman said.

The current leaders at The U plan to continue this vision of the station and keep engaging the UMSL community.

"The objective of the radio station is to provide interested students with practical experience in broadcast radio. The U also provides a free communicative and promotional service to all student organizations and the university. The U provides students a voice to express themselves and become more comfortable and confident in sharing information with their peers. The U and SEMPA provide an encouraging and comfortable atmosphere for students to be creative. It is the place where technology and creativity collide. The rest of our campus benefits from the result. Students are engaged and informed with news specific to their academic

community," Joshua McNew, junior, media studies, SEMPA president, said.

The U plans to celebrate its fifth anniversary with a party including station staff and the UMSL community.

"We are going to have a party for the fifth anniversary and the UMSL community is invited. We will have our DJs playing music and showcasing their shows live in the Nosh. We also have a video presentation planned around noon highlighting our five years in the MSC. We also plan on doing some giveaways as well!" Keith Robinson, senior, information systems, The U station manager, said.

The Current speaks to Celtic Woman singer Chloe Agnew

RACHELLE BRANDEL

Staff Writer

While most of us are in class, Chloe Agnew is traveling across the U.S. toward her next concert with the internationally acclaimed vocal phenomenon Celtic Woman.

The Irish singing group was at the Fox Theater on Wednesday, April 11, performing their North American tour “Believe.” Their studio album recently debuted at number one on Billboard’s World Music and Top Internet Album charts.

Celtic Woman has sold more than 6.5 million CDs and DVDs, as well as over two million concert tickets, worldwide. The group features vocalists Chloe Agnew and Lisa Lambe, new member Su-

san McFadden and Celtic violinist Mairead Nesbitt.

Chloe Agnew, whom The Current interviewed by phone prior to the concert at the Fox, has been a part of Celtic Woman since she was 14 and is considered a musical veteran at age 21.

The Current: What does it mean to be a Celtic Woman to you?

Chloe Agnew: Celtic Woman is about showcasing the quintessential Celtic woman. She’s fiery and passionate, a woman from the soul. The music we perform showcases this while bringing together our different styles. But we are still four individual women and we are able to perform the styles that

make us different and special. We love the music we perform and we love our audience. We want our concerts to be an escape from the chaotic outside world, and I think that’s what Celtic Woman does.

TC: What gives you your inspiration and drive?

CA: Our fans and the audience. The music means so much to these people, and I know I’m helping them through difficult times. Children, parents, teenagers and grandparents-- everyone comes to our show. It’s become a family show that everyone can enjoy, and I think that’s wonderful. To hear from fans that music has helped them is really amazing and

was something I didn’t know would happen.

TC: How hard is it to learn a song in a different language?

CA: Well, growing up in Ireland I was, of course, taught Irish. My mother spoke Italian and my father spoke French. Since I come from a musical family, I grew up listening to music in all kinds of languages... I recently recorded a song in German called “Symphonie.” It was difficult but in the end very rewarding.

TC: It’s said that you play piano, guitar and recorder. Since you’ve covered a wind instrument and a string instrument, will you be attempting a brass instrument next?

CA: (laughs) Actually, during gap year, which is a year off in between school to focus on studies that interest us, I took up trumpet but didn’t keep it up. It ended pretty soon. But I have been thinking lately that I’d like to take up the drums next.

TC: You’ve mentioned that you do a lot of country songs. Why do you think you are so drawn to country music?

CA: My dad loved country music and so I think it’s in my blood. It comes more naturally to me because of my love for it.

TC: You’ve gone to Japan in the past. How was that experience?

CA: Incredible! Japan is one of our favorite coun-

tries to visit. The people are so nice and love our music. They call it healing music. I love the culture so much that I even taught myself a little Japanese. After the tsunami in 2011 we went again and were amazed at the strength of the Japanese people. They were incredible and strong and pulled themselves together to rebuild their lives. It was truly inspirational.

TC: How would you describe yourself?

CA: What you see is what you get. I’m a loving person. I love to travel and meet new people, and I love the people I work with... I’m a real softy.

Kevin Hart talks ‘Think Like A Man’ with The Current

DAVID VON NORDHEIM

Staff Writer

On April 12, comedian Kevin Hart was in St. Louis for the early screening of his upcoming film “Think Like a Man.” Working his way through opening day, he recently sat down with The Current to give more insight into the project as well as his personal life. The film is to be released nationally April 20.

The Current: By taking on these types of roles, do you ever worry about being typecast in Hollywood?

Kevin Hart: No. This role is actually a good role for me because it is real. When you are dealing with things that can be somewhat believable (relationships, divorce) there is no way to get typecast. Honestly, with me doing

the scary movies at the beginning of my career... I could have gotten typecast in that world. Thank God stand-up picked up when it did. Now, my options are much better.

TC: Do you see yourself gravitating more toward movies or would you like to hold on to stand-up?

KH: Stand-up is always going to be number one. The reason is that I control stand-up. At the end of the day, there is nothing better than that immediate reaction, immediate laughter. When I tour, whether it is theaters or arenas, those people are there to see me. When you do movies, after the film is done there is an editing process and release date.

People get to pick it apart, whether critics are saying good stuff or bad stuff.

TC: Did you get an opportunity to ad lib in this film?

KH: So much. Tim Story was a great director. The one thing I love about Tim is... he allows you to bring whatever you feel like you need to bring to your character. You say, “Well, here is what I want to do.” Tim says, “Try it and if it seems like it is too much let’s take it back and we will find a line that we can’t cross.” I think that was the best thing with my character. In my real life, I was actually going through a divorce at the time, so I was able to take things from my personal life and incorporate them

into my actual character, which turned out well.

TC: But your character ends up going back to his wife?

KH: Yeah, I am not going back. That is the only thing that is not real. I am not going back.

TC: Are you familiar with Steve Harvey’s book? Harvey categorizes the non committal man, the mama’s boy, which one are you?

KH: At one point, I was probably the noncommittal man. In the realm of business that I was in, I found it hard to stay in a committed relationship, which isn’t necessarily good, but you learn from your mistakes. And I can say after being that guy, you realize why commitment is so important. You gotta

mess up before you can be perfect. You don’t know what perfect is unless you make the mistakes first.

TC: What do you think about the 90-day rule?

KH: In no way can I wait 90 days. No way in hell. If it is going to happen, it is going to happen. If you put a time limit on something, I think you take the authenticity away from what could ever happen. That is what makes sexual relations or love the best.

TC: In America, there seems to be an obsession with self-help media (films/books). Why do you think that is?

KH: Some people need to see that people are experiencing the same problems that they are going

through, because at the end of the day, whatever you think is bad, there is something out there that is 10 times worse. Some people do not have people in their lives to give them that extra push.

TC: Why should people go see “Think Like a Man?”

KH: I think you should see “Think Like a Man” simply because it is dealing with real-life issues and relationships. I feel like it is a universal movie. It is not just for men, women or one ethnicity. At the end of the day, the overall message is “if you want a relationship to work... communicate, be honest and be real.”

Sports



Jena Boudreau, nursing, freshman, catches a hit against Bellarmine on Sunday, March 4.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

UMSL gets hot in April; hard push to secure postseason

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

It has been a trying season for the University of Missouri -- St. Louis women's softball team as they search for their identity as a team with their strong contingent of young and talented players. This year's team consists of 14 women, 11 of whom are freshmen or seniors.

Head coach Brian Levin started the year with many out-of-state tournaments. The team played in Alabama and Arkansas in February before the conference schedule started. These tournaments served as a good way to measure where the team is, as well as a way to start the season. The Tritons played against two nationally-ranked teams, North Georgia in third

place and Missouri Western in nineteenth. Although the Tritons lost to North Georgia, they were able to beat Western Missouri 11-12, showing signs of the potential the team has. They finished their out-of-state tournaments 5-5.

The team opened their conference schedule at home with back-to-back double headers against Northern Kentucky and Bellarmine. The Tritons lost the first game 2-1, but recovered in the second game with a 13-12 win. The next day was a similar story. The Tritons dominated one game 9-1, but lost the other 2-1.

The team went on the road for their first conference double header at Saint Joseph's. UMSL could not get it to-

gether offensively and only scored four runs that day, losing both games. Low-scoring games continued to be the norm in the next road conference double header at William Jewell; the Tritons won the first game 2-0 and lost the next 1-0.

The Tritons played another double-header at Rockhurst the next day. Still struggling to find their hitting eye, they lost both games at 0-8 and 2-1.

The Tritons then came home for two conference double headers in an effort to get back into the division race. Quincy and Illinois -- Springfield came to town, but after the Tritons scored seven runs in the first game to win 7-0, their bats went cold. The team only scored three runs over the next

three games, losing each one.

On March 31, the team started a run of five straight conference double headers. The Tritons chose those games to start playing to the best of their abilities.

Hosting Drury, the Tritons split the first double header. Then, hosting Missouri S&T, the Tritons swept their first conference double header of the season.

The Tritons continued their winning streak at Maryville, sweeping the double header again and scoring 15 runs, the most runs scored in any conference double header. The team continued their winning streak in Rolla and Missouri S&T and stretched their winning streak to five games, the

longest of the season, before losing the back end of the double header at Missouri S&T.

In their most recent double header at Drury, the Tritons split the games, losing the second game in an extra inning battle 4-3.

Leading the team in batting average, hits, doubles, homeruns and slugging percentage is Brianna Butler, freshman, early childhood education. Butler was recently honored as the Great Lakes Valley Conference player of the week. Butler has started in every game this season, one of three freshmen to do so on the UMSL roster, the others being Katie Wood, freshman, biology, and Madison Zbarschuk, freshman, biology. Erin

Driskell, senior, business, is having a nice final season, batting .309, leading the team in at-bats and stolen bases and having an error-free year.

The Tritons find themselves out of the conference tournament right now. At 11-13 in conference and 22-20 overall, UMSL is just out of the tournament picture. The Tritons have been playing their best this month, and if they can continue to win games and get some teams to fall down the standings, the Tritons can sneak into the tournament. If they do get in, then they can make some noise, as they have shown that they have the ability to beat anyone when they are at their best.

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Point/Counterpoint



Should children be allowed to participate in beauty pageants?

Pageants allow young girls to find self-confidence

The world of child beauty pageants is not something to be feared. It should be embraced as a way for mothers and daughters to bond. Pageants teach children confidence and give them strength in a world that continuously judges women both on and off the stage.

Mothers have constantly been criticized for “showcasing” their daughters like dolls dressed up in costumes for their own amusement, but if society is making it harder for girls to be comfortable in their own skin, why not let your daughter or son participate in a beauty pageant? With participation and support from their parents, all children should be allowed the opportunity to dress up as princes or princesses and feel good about themselves and their talents.

As ABC News stated, there are some benefits and opportunities that come with child pageants. These opportunities include the chance for the participants to learn more about themselves as individuals, to overcome shyness and to socialize and become more open to interacting with others.

“It is solely for the children,” June Shannon was quoted as saying. Shannon is the mother of child pageant participant Alana, otherwise known as Hon-

ey Boo-Boo. Shannon says that her daughter’s opinion comes first and that they would not be in the competition if Alana did not want to participate.

Many mothers support the opportunity for their daughters to achieve their own unique greatness through the learning of poise, patience and compassion. These are values that help their daughters grow into young women. Parents want their children to believe that they are beautiful and worthy of being a prince or princess no matter how much money they have or what color their skin is. In a world that constantly tells girls that they are too fat or not pretty enough, moms are standing united in something that they know will lead their daughters to grow up with the confidence and tough skin needed to brave a cruel, judgmental society.

Beauty pageants are not just about learning to embrace physical beauty. They also serve as a cultural learning opportunity for girls to meet new people from different backgrounds. Such opportunities can open their eyes at a young age to the differences people share and keep them open-minded for the future.

Another advantage of child beauty pageants is the

chance to receive scholarships and other cash prizes that allow parents a small break in worrying about how they are going to pay for college.

Furthermore, children love to play dress-up, and parents are the ones putting them into those cute clothes for family photos. Why is it such a big deal when a mother dresses her daughter up in gowns and costumes? The child probably only views it as a bigger, more fun version of playing dress up.

There is nothing wrong with a mother wanting her daughter to embrace her own beauty by participating in a pageant. It is the parents’ job to be there and support their children no matter what. Yes, there are those mothers who go too far in trying to win everything and cross the line between what will and will not psychologically damage their children. However, that doesn’t mean that all of the mothers who stand behind their pageant daughters are bad apples.

Pageants are meant to be hobbies and fun activities where kids can enjoy themselves. In a world where children are constantly reminded that they have to mature faster than they are meant to, child pageants can be a way to reclaim innocence and youth.

Child beauty pageants should not be allowed

Child beauty pageants should be banned. The fact that there is a debate over whether or not children should be dressed and primed to imitate provocative adults is shameful and a disgrace to the human race. Crazy parents have allowed their children to be dressed in lingerie (which, by definition, is women’s intimate apparel), painted with makeup, injected with Botox and made to pose provocatively for judges, all in the name of child beauty.

There are laws against child pornography for good reason, and adults who objectify children sexually can be charged as pedophiles. Pornography is defined as any form of media containing a display intended to cause sexual excitement or arousal. By definition, child beauty pageants are nothing more than a legal form of child pornography. Those who condone it are nothing more than pedophiles to one extent or another. Who else but a pedophile would seek to paint children’s faces with makeup and dress them in skimpy clothing? No one should ever say these kids do so willingly.

As adults, we should set an example and serve as these children’s voices until they have reached an appropri-

ate age to consciously make these decisions for themselves, with a knowledge and understanding of all the far-reaching consequences.

Let’s pretend for a moment that these children aren’t being displayed for some level of sexual purpose and that it is all in good fun. Do we really want to send young children the message that physical beauty and possessions should define a person and be what we strive for? That there is only one way to win the game of life, and that way is to wear the most expensive jewelry and the most popular clothes and be defined by those who judge you? For the sake of women’s equality and the progression of humankind as a dignified and maturing race, I hope this is not the case!

It has been proven that young children are easily manipulated and influenced. The objectification of a child has profound negative effects for the development of that child. Very few ever fully recover from these effects.

Some would argue that supporters of child beauty pageants are not pedophiles and are only seeking to provide their children with opportunities that they did not have growing up. But this is

a matter of parents seeking to live vicariously through their children. Children are unique individuals and should not be compelled to live their parents’ fantasies, no matter how innocent those fantasies may seem. A parent’s overwhelming desire to be sexually appealing should not, under any circumstance, be fostered onto his or her child.

ABC network recently produced a segment about a six-year-old girl who was worried about being fat, even though she was obviously at a healthy weight. There is no reason any child should have these worries at such a young age. Next we will be hearing about toddlers doing Saturday morning Zumba to shed those few extra pounds of baby fat so they can sign modeling contracts for “Vogue.” Babies will be refusing to wear diapers because doing so may make their butts look big.

The only child pageant that might be considered acceptable is one that allows kids from all areas of the world to come together to be an example of acceptance. This type of pageant also educates adults by displaying the level of equality that is often perceived by children who haven’t been brainwashed by society’s shallow impulses.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Celebrate Earth Day by shopping with local farmers

April 22 is Earth Day. First off, in honor of Earth Day, this columnist wants to note that the biggest reason for recycling is to keep more things out of landfills, not to save money, as anti-recyclers like to frame it in their “don’t bother” arguments. If you save energy or resources too, that is great, but who needs more trash in more landfills, right?

But instead of going to a parade or festival, how about meeting a farmer? Our unusually warm, early spring means local produce is already available. Luckily for us on the University of Missouri -- St. Louis campus, the Ferguson Farmers Market is just down the road. If you are closer to St. Charles or West County, there is also Thies Farmer’s Market near Creve Coeur Lake in Maryland Heights.

The Ferguson Farmer’s Market, located at 20 South Florissant, is right in the heart of the little town north of campus. This genuine market features real local farmers, not people re-selling produce as other farmers’ markets sometimes do. They have fruits and vegetables in season, meats, honey, eggs and baked goods, much of it organic. And when they say their produce is fresh, they mean really fresh; in most cases, it will have often picked within the last 24 hours or even that morning. The outdoor market does not open until May 5, but those hungry for local foods can

still find some of the same farmer vendors at the Winter Market, The Vine’s Market at St. Stephen’s Church, 33 North Clay Avenue at Darst, in Ferguson. The market has local meats, cheeses, breads and other treats and they are open next (and for the last time this season) on April 21.

But if one is craving asparagus or early strawberries, Thies is the place. Thies Farm has two produce stand locations, one at 4215 North Hanley Road, a short drive north of campus, and the one near Creve Coeur Lake on the Missouri floodplain, 3120 Maryland Heights Expressway. Both locations are open now, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thies is a fifth-generation farm operation that has been selling local food from their produce stand since 1885.

What they have varies as their crops come in. They sell some non-local produce too, so watch for the signs labeling fruits and veggies as “our own,” or just ask. Thies is local, which means no wasted energy shipping food from across the country and the dollars spent here, stay in the local economy. However, they are not organic, so if you are eating organic only, take note. They also sell plants from their greenhouse, plus jams and jellies.

Most of the area farmers’ markets do not open until May, but there are few options for local foods now. Soulard



Cate Marquis

Market, near downtown, is open year-round. It is your best bet for local asparagus now, but check that it is local.

Another new local food option, although not a farmers’ market, is the Local Harvest Grocery. The store is located at 3108 Morgan Ford Road in St. Louis city and it is open daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Local Harvest Grocery is opening new locations in Kirkwood and downtown this summer. It also offers “Weekly Harvest,” a weekly local food subscription “comprised of the best local foods in the region.” They pack the produce and subscribers pick it up, with “Vegetarian” or “Omnivore” options. They also have a cafe serving local food.

So what’s available right now? Well, not a lot yet -- after all, it is only April. There are eggs and locally-produced meats. Illinois and Missouri farms are producing asparagus and spinach, but strawberries won’t arrive until May.

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

MAD WORLD

Invasive iPhone app makes it too easy to stalk women

Why are there so many services available to aid stalkers-in-training? With Spokeo and all the other “friend finding” sites out there, it has never been easier to hunt people down like wild animals using only an Internet connection and a valid credit card.

A new iPhone app allows its users to see the Facebook profiles of every woman within walking distance of themselves. It then plots those women on a Google Map. Imagine a digital map with little indicators that pinpoint exactly where women are in relation to the user at any given moment and provide links to the profiles of said women.

This new app, called “Girls Around Me,” sets off a creep-o-meter when first reading a description of its services. Just who is it marketed to? To people who want to know what women are around and then read up on them on their Facebook profiles, and then... what? Travel to where they are? Go introduce themselves? This can go very quickly to really weird, unsettling places. Who wants to be unsuspectingly sought out by strangers?

When first reading the description of the app, something immediately seems off, to say the least. Being able to search specifically for women in the area and then access their personal information is just strange.

Some might argue that these women did, in fact, make their Facebook profiles public and link said pro-

files to their Foursquare accounts, which allows for the synchronization of profile and location. Despite that, there’s something extremely wrong about compiling that information and selling it to people. Also worrisome is the emphasis on finding women -- I’m sorry, “girls” -- which really sets off alarm bells. This app manages to be horribly invasive while at the same time grossly objectifying women, all in one fell swoop. While it’s true that there’s a real problem with people being too willing to post their private information online, why do services like these insist on profiting from that lack of judgment?

How exactly are these scenarios supposed to play out, anyway? Guy sees attractive woman in book store aisle, guy clandestinely looks her up on app service, guy goes home and sends her a friend request on Facebook? What is the message going to say? “Hey there. You may not remember me, but I was that guy at Barnes and Noble who watched you from behind a book shelf but didn’t say anything to you?”

I have nothing but sympathy for the socially awkward single person, but apps like these are not the answer. Maybe this app is intended to appeal to guys trolling around on the weekends for single women. But that’s what the bar scene is for. Why get creepy about it with apps like these? Again, it’s the emphasis on finding women in the area that really makes this



Sharon Pruitt

app feel creepy and weird. It makes the people who use apps like this look like they hunt women like billionaires hunt wild game in Africa.

There are just way too many technologies and services out there that seem specifically marketed to people who would list stalking and being creepy and invasive as their favorite pastimes. The sad truth is that social networking is not the harmless hobby that many would have you believe. Whenever personal information is shared online, it is pretty much guaranteed that that information is going to be compiled and cross-referenced by third parties at some point, without explicit permission.

What users of social networking are given is the illusion of control, but at times like these, it becomes clear what exactly users may be unknowingly signing up for when they agree to the Terms of Service without reading the fine print.

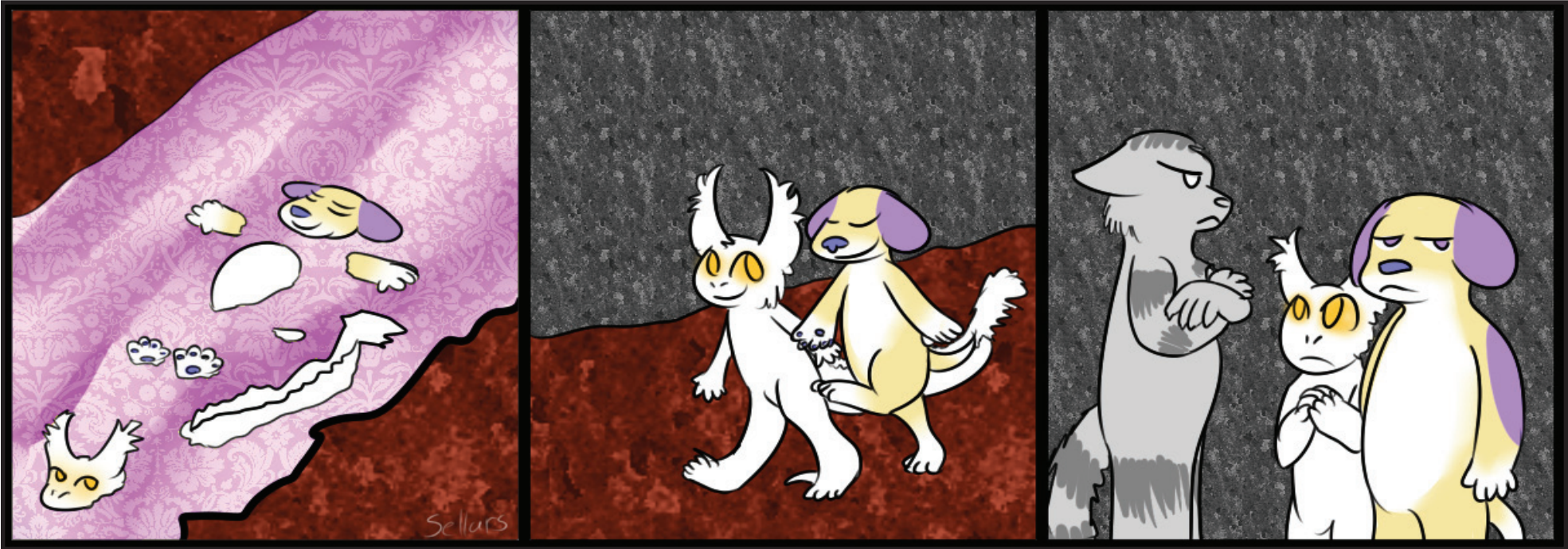
Sharon Pruitt is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

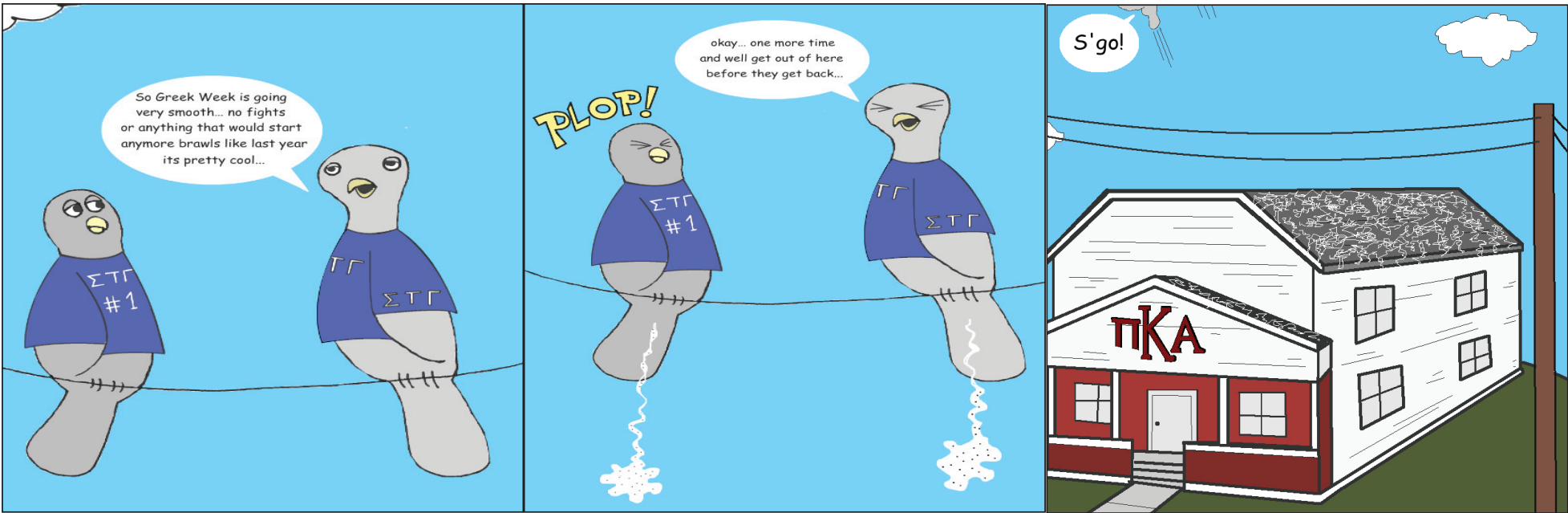
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