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6-29-2009

Current, June 29, 2009

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

June 29,
2009

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1282

INSIDE



The Corpse flower

A rare horticultural find here on campus- find out how it got its nickname.

See News, page 3



Welcome Center

You know, that place across from the bookstore where people always seem to be having fun.

See Features, page 6



Fresh Photos!

Our award-winning photography team heads to a local farmer's market.

See Features, page 7



Transform, maybe?

Find out if you should transform your money into a night at the movies.

See A&E, page 9

The Current Redux

The Current has an important announcement to make...

See page 12

ON THE WEB

The Current online.com

This week's question:
What do you think of The Current's suspension?

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CREDIT EDUCATION

Financial counseling center coming soon

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN

News Editor

The Foundation for Credit Education (FCE) and University of Missouri-St. Louis are teaming up to create a "Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling."

The center will be arriving at its new home, here on the campus of UM-St. Louis on July 1st. It will be

headed by President of the Foundation for Credit Education, Victoria Jacobson.

The Foundation for Credit Education donated 3.25 million dollars of assets to UM-St. Louis in order to create this partnership.

The Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling on UM-St. Louis campus will serve as a home base for the FCE nation wide, as majority

of the counselling sessions will take place through conference calls. If a member of the community is seeking financial counselling, the Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling will get them into contact with the appropriate parties. For example a student having trouble with student loans would be put into contact with a counsellor specializing in student loans advisement.

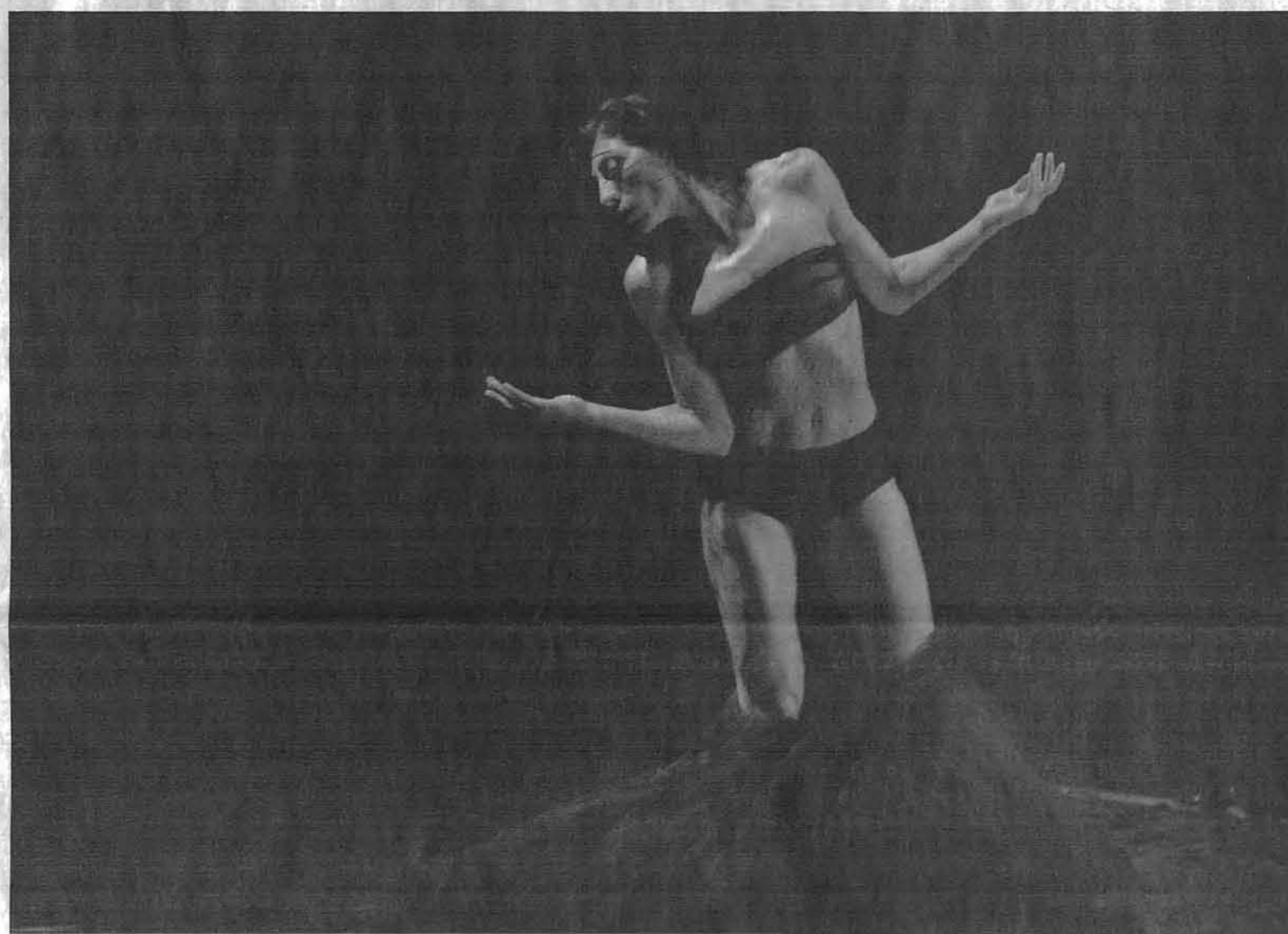
Both the University and the Foundation for Credit Education will benefit greatly from this partnership, according to Jacobson.

Jacobson said that the center will benefit from receiving a plethora of research opportunities to use to improve credit counselling, and the university will benefit from the opportunities it brings the campus community, all of these things that will

help to "enhance credit counselling for the consumer". The provost for the project, Glen Cope, explained that the implementation of center would benefit students in numerous ways. One way that students will be affected is that the implementation of the center will foster more research by the UM-St. Louis faculty.

See CREDIT EDUCATION, page 3

FOR PEOPLE WITH WINGS



Sofi Seck • Photo Editor

Nejla Yatkın of NY2Dance performed "For People With Wings" at the second annual Spring to Dance. This event took place at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on May 21 through 23 and featured 30 dance performances in three nights.

Read more about Spring to Dance at www.thecurrentonline.com

GREAT LAKES VALLEY CONFERENCE

57 Tritons named to All-GLVC Team

By TONY PADGETT

Staff Writer

On June 4, the 2008-2009 Academic All-Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) team was announced. A total of 1,122 student athletes were selected from the thirteen different universities in the GLVC. Altogether, University of Missouri-St. Louis had fifty-seven players chosen this year.

To be selected, a player must have played a sport at one of the thirteen schools for at least two semesters while maintaining at least a 3.3 grade point average.

A player could also be selected by playing less than two semesters while maintaining a 3.4 GPA or higher. Each year the GLVC decides on what the academic standards will be for student-athletes to be selected. Last year, the academic standard was a 3.2 GPA.

Compared to the 12 other universities in the GLVC, UM-St. Louis received the second lowest amount of nominations with only Kentucky Wesleyan receiving less, with forty-five. Drury had the most student-athletes selected this year with one hundred and twenty-one.

Out of the 57 student athletes selected from UM-St. Louis, 19 were men, and 38 were women. For 23 players, it was their first time being

selected. Thirteen players had been selected once before. Fourteen players had been selected twice before. Only seven players made this year's selection their fourth time.

There are a total of eleven different sports at UM-St. Louis and the only UM-St. Louis sport to not have at least one player selected this year was men's basketball. Last year, three players were selected from UM-St. Louis for men's basketball.

There are 15 different sports in the GLVC that were included in the list. UM-St. Louis does not have four of them, which include men's and women's cross country, and men's and women's track and field.

Last year, the Tritons had 71 players selected for the Academic All-GLVC team. With only 57 nominations this year, the Tritons had 14 fewer players selected this year than last year.

Katie Rynkiewicz, sophomore, anthropology, received her first selection for women's tennis. Anthony was one of eight Tritons selected for women's tennis. In her freshman year her record was 3-11 in singles, and 8-11 in doubles.

"It's hard to play a sport and keep up with school work," Rynkiewicz said.

See ALL-GLVC TEAM, page 3

Tritons named for 2008-09 All-GLVC Team

Men's Soccer

- Jack McKenna**
- Eric Pitlyk***
- Andy Schaul***
- Jared Smith****
- Ryan South***
- Ryan Vines***
- Kyle Wogtech**

Men's Tennis

- Daniel Anthony
- Tim Bryant**
- Andi Dimke***
- Maor Grinas
- Peter Hantack**

Men's Baseball

- Andy Ford
- Matt Macke
- Steve Porter***
- Justin Rodgers***
- J.C. Schute**
- Zack Sheets***

Men's Golf

- Luigi Wewege

Women's Basketball

- Kelcy Hulbert**
- Kelly Mitchell**
- Caitlyn Moody
- Lacey
- Shalenko***
- Kristi White***

Women's Golf

- Sarah Cissell***
- Erin Konkol****
- Clara Vila
- Jennifer Niehoff

Women's Soccer

- Mary Behrmann****
- Caitlin Farrow**
- Lauren Kerley
- Krisie Muesenfechter
- Anne Prenger
- Angela Red
- Hanna Sayre
- Anne Weaver

Women's Softball

- Katie Bartlett***
- Meaghan Bauer
- Megan Brussman**
- JaCee Ellis**
- Jessica Findling
- Carly Maddock***
- Holly Nichols
- Amanda Seib**

Women's Tennis

- Pujitha Bandi
- Sara Davidson****
- Adriana Garcia
- Altanzul Gombo
- Stacy Goodman***
- Cassie Maerz
- Katie Rynkiewicz
- Stephanie Thompson**

Women's Volleyball

- Lisa Brinker****
- Joslyn Brown****
- Elizabeth Cook**
- Sarah Eisnaugle****
- Shamika Williams

The * represents the number of times a player has been named to the Academic All-GLVC team.

CANCER STUDY

UMSL hopes to improve breast cancer treatment

By SHARON GILMORE

Staff Writer

According to the American Cancer Society, "African American women with breast cancer are 67 percent more likely to die from the disease than white women." Margaret Barton-Burke, the Mary Ann Lee Endowed Professor of Oncology Nursing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is preparing a study for black women breast cancer survivors.

This is the first study concerning black women breast cancer survivors that UM-St. Louis has conducted. To do this, UM-St. Louis is seeking African American breast cancer survivors to participate in the research project.

UM-St. Louis is asking for participants to complete questionnaires concentrating on how their lives were before and after they were diagnosed with breast cancer.

This is the second year that this project has been going on and is paying all participants a stipend upon their completion. The information gathered from the surveys will help health care professionals provide a better care to the diversity of patient population.

The purpose of this project is to help put out as much information to the community about breast cancer as possible. This information will better help people detect symptoms early. If found early, there is a chance that doctors can find it and catch it in time. There will also be a better outcome from the treatment.

Kathy Castulik, a health educator with University Health Services, organizes multiple on-campus awareness and outreach events. These awareness fairs help educate people on how breast cancer is developed and also on how important it is to get mammograms.

According to Castulik, "African Americans are at a higher risk... due to lifestyle."

Specific choices that will make anyone at higher risk are eating habits, willingness to get checkups, and exercising. If there is someone in your family with breast cancer and you are under the age of forty, the breast cancer awareness association is asking that you get a mammography screening.

On October 14, 2009, UM-St. Louis will be holding a Breast Cancer awareness event. There will be mammography exams provided by Missouri Baptist, which will be partnering with University Health Services. There will be tables set up dispensing information on breast cancer. Between 800 and 1,000 people will show up to get examined, both men and women.

See BREAST CANCER, page 3

Stay Current
with this
week's weather

Monday
Hi/Low: 88/67
Precip: 0%

Tuesday
Hi/Low: 87/69
Precip: 0%

Wednesday
Hi/Low: 87/70
Precip: 0%

Thursday
Hi/Low: 85/69
Precip: 0%

Friday
Hi/Low: 87/70
Precip: 10%

Saturday
Hi/Low: 88/73
Precip: 10%

Sunday
Hi/Low: 91/72
Precip: 0%

Weather predictions
taken from [www.
weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. It is very necessary for everyone to lock their doors when they are out. Even if it is only for a minute or two, a simple locking of the door will prevent most thefts from occurring. As a reminder, please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or the main number of 314-516-5155.

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made.

The May 4, 2009 article "Potential new law to allow guns on campus" contained factual errors and conjecture. We apologize and retract this article.

To report a correction, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by e-mail at thecurrent@umsl.edu

The Current
needs
an Advisor
for the
Fall 2009
and Spring
2010
Semesters.

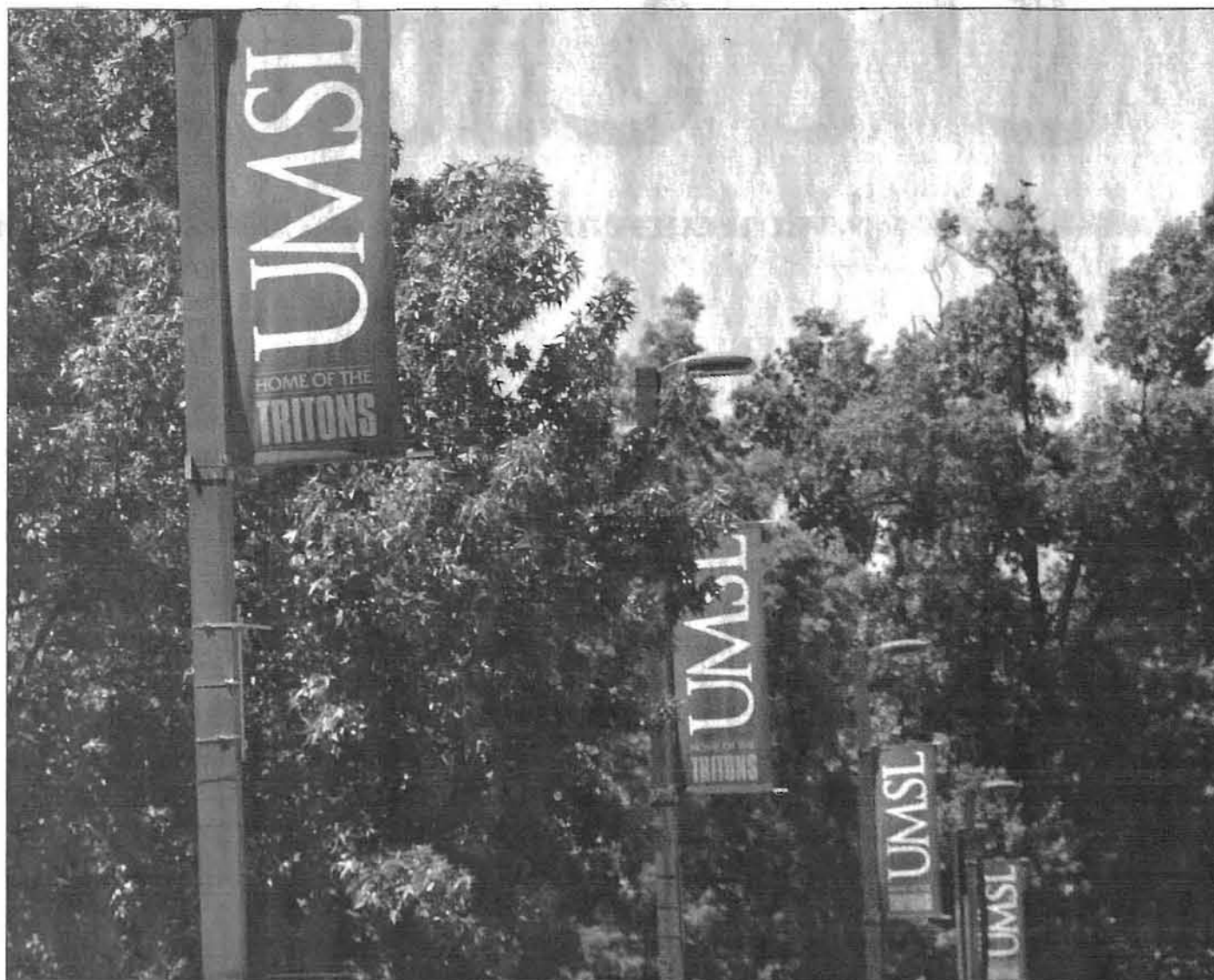
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You could
see your
name in
print!



If you are interested in writing about anything going on around campus send us an email at: thecurrent@umsl.edu

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis grounds crew has installed nearly 40 banners on campus, and more are on the way. The fabric banners are 30 inches by 84 inches and were designed by staff members in the Office of Creative Services at UMSL.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Listings may be edited in regards to space availability and style. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu with the subject "What's Current." Only e-mailed submissions will be accepted. For more information, call 5174.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

MONDAY, MAY 3

What's The Employer Saying? Workshop

Increase your competitive edge by discovering attributes that might set two equally qualified candidates apart. Advance registration is required, for info visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshop" to register.

Date/Time: June 30, 2009 1:00 PM to 1:30PM.
Location: 278 MSC
Audience: Student
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Researching Employers: Know before You Go Workshop

Tailor your job search and maximize your time by researching organizations before you face an interview. Discover resources for uncovering information and key areas to focus your research. Advance registration is required, for info visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshop" to register.

Date/Time: July 7, 2009 11:00 AM to 11:30AM.
Location: 278 MSC
Audience: Open
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Workshop for Writing a Targeted Resume

Identify your unique skills and market yourself to employer through your resume. Advance registration is required, for info visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshop" to register.

Date/Time: July 8, 2009 1:00 PM to 2:00PM.
Location: 278 MSC
Audience: Open
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

Jazz Camp at UM-St. Louis

Music students age 13 and older, including their instruments, are invited to study so some of the most talented musicians in the country. A general meeting and audition occurred on Sunday afternoon, then camp meets 9:30AM to 3:30PM the rest of the week and include improvisation, theory, and jam session. Cost: \$299

Date/Time: July 12, 2009 2:00PM to 5:00PM.
Location: University of Missouri St. Louis, JCP conference Center
Audience: Open
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Exploring Career/Strategies of a Job Search Workshop

Manage your career by learning about the process of job searching and putting your degree to work. Advance registration is required, for info visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshop" to register.

Date/Time: July 15, 2009 1:00 PM to 2:00PM.
Location: 278 MSC
Audience: Open
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

MONDAY, JULY 20

Interviewing Skills Workshop

Prepare to find success! Learn about interview questions, appropriate attire, and how/when to follow up after your interview. Advance registration is required, for info visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshop" to register.

Date/Time: July 20, 2009 11:00 AM to 12:00PM.
Location: 278 MSC
Audience: Open
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Basic Conversational Spanish II

This six-week course is for adults who know basic Spanish and wish to improve their conversational skills. It stresses conversational fluency in real-life situations, introduces different verb tenses, and expands vocabulary.

Date/Time: July 21, 2009 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
Location: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.
Audience: Open
For more info Ashley Paterson at 314-516-5974

THURSDAY, JULY 23

New Student Orientation

New student orientation is the one day program for those who admitted as undergraduate students for Summer 2009 or Fall 2009. It will give you the information and resources you will need to start your UMSL college experience off right. Please visit orientation website to register.

Date/Time: July 23, 2009 12:00 PM to 4:30PM.
Location: Millennium Student Center
Audience: Student
For more info Yolanda Weathersby at 516-5460.

MONDAY, JULY 27

Applying For Federal Jobs Workshop

Learn the basics of applying for the job with one of the nation's largest employers. Advance registration is required, for info visit <http://careers.umsl.edu> and click on "Workshop" to register.

Date/Time: July 27, 2009 1:00 PM to 1:30PM.
Location: 278 MSC
Audience: Open
For more info Career Services at 516-5111.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Summer Commencement

All colleges will be together for one ceremony. No tickets are required and seating will be on a first come basis, visit www.umsl.edu/commencement.

Date/Time: August 8, 2009 10:00 AM to 11:30AM.
Location: Mark Twain Building
Audience: Open
For more info Cindy Vantine at 516-5442.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

New Student Orientation

New student is the one day program for those who admitted as undergraduate students for Summer 2009 or Fall 2009. It will give you the information and resources you will need to start your UMSL college experience off right. Please visit orientation website to register.

Date/Time: July 23, 2009 12:00 PM to 4:30PM.
Location: Millennium Student Center
Audience: Student
For more info Yolanda Weathersby at 516-5460.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

TA/RA Professional Development Conference(2009)

This two year conference is open to all new and returning graduate teaching assistants and research assistants campus-wide.

Date/Time: August 17, 2009 10:00 AM to 4:00PM.
Location: J.C. Penney
Audience: Student
For more info Dr. Sally Barr Ebest at 516-5544.

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit the What's Current section of <http://www.thecurrentonline.com>.

The Current

The University of Missouri-St. Louis
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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Got a tip for a story or photo opportunity? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Are you interested in working at The Current? Please contact us:

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ON THE WEB

The Current

<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

ABOUT US

The Current is published weekly on Mondays.
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The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author.
Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board. The Current requests the courtesy of at least 24-hour advance notice for all events to be covered. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Current, its staff or members of the University.
All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current.

ADVERTISING

All UM-St. Louis students, alumni, faculty and staff are entitled to free classified advertisements of 40 words or less.
The Current also offers display advertisements at a rate of \$8.75 per column inch for off campus advertisers and \$7.75 for on campus organizations and departments. Various discounts may apply. To receive an advertising rate card, contact our advertising or business staff or download a rate card from our Web site at <http://www.thecurrentonline.com/adrates>.

AFFILIATIONS



NEWS BRIEFS

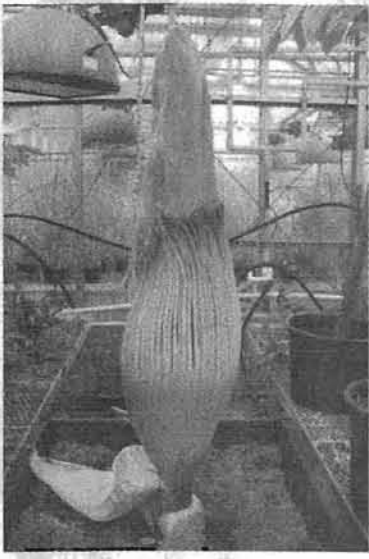
Rare flower blooms at UMSL for the first time in eight years

On May 26, the University of Missouri-St. Louis posted a news release that an extremely rare flower, Titan Arum, was expected to bloom at UM-St. Louis soon. The unique flower has not bloomed for eight years and only blooms for 12-20 hours before dying again. In fact, the Titan Arum has bloomed less than 100 times in the United States and only a few times in the Midwest.

The Titan Arum is often nicknamed the “corpse flower” because of the rotting meat odor that the flower gives off once in bloom. The rotting meat odor helps to attract carrion

beetles, the pollinators of the plant. Although referred to as a flower, the corpse flower is actually an unbranched inflorescence, and holds the record for the largest unbranched inflorescence.

The Titan Arum is native to Sumatra, a western Indonesian island. The Titan Arum came to UM-St. Louis in 1995 from plant collector, Jim Symon. Kathy Upton, research specialist and greenhouse manager at UM-St. Louis has been cultivating the plant since. The original seed batch that Upton received has produced three plants, the third being the Titan Arum that just bloomed. This particular Titan Arum has been nicknamed “Jim the Triton Titan”, honoring both the late collector and



the mascot of UM-St. Louis.

Student Life suspends The Current

The Current received a letter from Miriam Huffman, which effectively suspended The Current’s budgets, organization, and activities. Huffman, the associate director of the Office of Student Life, also detailed four violations that The Current is charged with.

The letter stated that the suspension could be lifted on August 1, 2009 if four conditions are met.

The violations are as follows: University of Missouri Policy HR-105, documents must be presented that establish identity, verify eligibility and make provisions for taxes to be employed by UM-St. Louis.

University of Missouri Policy HR-221, forms such as the Personnel Action Form, Employment Eligibility Verification, Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate, Direct Deposit, and Appointment Notification Form are presented.

Federal law, I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services form filled out at the beginning of employment.

Credit Education, from page 1

“Faculty does a lot of research, research to help better inform people on credit,” Cope said, “Faculty involves students in research.”

Cope explained that another way students will benefit is that some of the pilot “curricula” that the center will be testing will actually be tested on students. Cope also expressed her confidence that Jacobson would do a great job on this pilot program.

“Vicki is going to be a very energetic, enthusiastic advocate for credit counselling and credit education [both] for students and the general public,” Cope said, “I think it is extremely exciting that we will have that on our campus.”

Chancellor Tom George also expressed his excitement of creating the center on campus. He described that he was “delighted” that it would involve so many of the colleges on UM-St. Louis campus. Some of the

colleges that will be included will be the College of Business, the College of Education, and the School of Social Work.

“I am very pleased by this partnership that will create the Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling,” George said, “The center can be a great service to our students and campus community.”

Jacobson explained that not only will the center provide financial counselling on a variety of subjects, but that she hopes that center will help to encourage more awareness amidst students regarding credit education.

“There’s a lot of understanding that if you just send people who are having financial problems to credit counselling, then magically everything is made better and they know everything,” Jacobson said, “that’s not totally true.”

All-GLVC Team, from page 1

“It took a lot of hard work and dedication. At the end of year it is rewarding to have the recognition,” Rynkiewicz said.

Rynkiewicz plans to play again next season. Daniel Raj Anthony, junior, management information systems and an international student from India, was selected this year for the first time for men’s tennis. Anthony was one of five Tritons selected for men’s tennis.

The Tritons tied two other schools, Drury and Indianapolis, in having the most players selected for men’s tennis. Anthony posted a record of 6-17 in singles, and 15-11 in doubles for the year.

“It means a lot to me to be chosen,” Anthony said “and being an international student it means even more.”

Anthony intends to play again next season for the Tritons. Erin

within the timeline given.

In the appeal The Current requested clarification on violations 1, 2, 3, and 4 and said “Clarification of these alleged violations should include a detailed explanation, in writing, of who committed the violation, when, and specifically what happened.”

The appeal also stated: “Due to the ambiguous nature of the policy violations and sanctions within the Office of Student Life’s disciplinary letter to The Current and the vast number of issues, questions and concerns that arise because of The Current’s pending suspension, this letter should be recognized as our formal appeal.” The appeal elaborated on The Current’s questions and concerns.

To date, The Current has not received a written response to their appeal.

Local media such as the St. Louis Post Dispatch and KSDK have reported on the suspension on June 22 and June 23.

All UM-St. Louis students who have chosen to be involved in the summer-editions of The Current are doing so on a volunteer-basis.

Jacobson went on to explain that there has not really been much research or “exploration” of what content each counselling session contains.

Jacobson claims that there is “no real look at how the session evolves”. Because of this, the Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling is planning on expanding upon what has traditionally been considered acceptable financial counselling.

“We figure if there isn’t some examination of the counselling sessions there certainly won’t be any different outcomes than there have already been,” Jacobson said.

Jacobson explains that the FCE will strive to “enhance the quality” of financial counselling. With this approach, Cope expressed her opinion that “there was no limit to how far” Jacobson could take the project.

Konkol, graduate, international finance, received her fourth nomination this year for women’s tennis. Konkol was one of eight Tritons selected for women’s tennis. In her final season, Konkol’s average score was 87.3.

“It looks good on resumes,” Konkol said, “and [it] shows your dedication to not only sports, but to learning as well.”

Biology prof Ricklefs wins Humboldt award

Curators professor of Biology Robert Ricklefs has won the Humboldt Research Award. The sought-after honor is bestowed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to recognize lifetime achievement in science research. The award, which also aims to promote international collaboration, provides support for a year-long research sabbatical.

Ricklefs’ research interests focus

on evolutionary biology, particularly on avian species’ growth and life histories, but also include work on plant evolution and other species. He has written or co-written four books, including two well-regarded text books, and published numerous academic papers. He joined the UM-St. Louis faculty in 1995.

Ricklefs plans to spend the research sabbatical in Germany, where he will use the time to finish up several on-going research projects related to his study of birds, including a life history of one species.

He plans to conduct his research at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Radolfzell, Germany. The professor’s wife, also a scientist, is already teaching in Germany.

The Humboldt award comes shortly after Ricklefs was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the only academic from Missouri to be selected for membership in the prestigious organization this year.

Ricklefs also recently co-authored a paper on molting of flight feathers in larger birds.

Former Alumnus named one of 10 high scorers on UCPE

Chris Leon, former student of University of Missouri-St. Louis and native of Oakville, Missouri, was awarded the Elijah Watt Sells Award.

Every year, this award is given to the top ten scorers (based on cumulative score) of the Uniform Certified Public Accountants examination.

In 2008, close to 85,000 people took the test.

The American Institute of Cer-

tified Public Accountants (AICPA) created the Elijah Watt Sells Award in 1923 in honor of Elijah Watt Sells himself. Sells was the first person to qualify as a CPA in New York in 1896. From the time the award was created up until 1935, there was only one Sells award given after each test. After 1935, the top two highest cumulative scores received the award (in the form of gold and silver medals). In 1978, a bronze medal was added. It was not until the test became computerized that the additional seven recipients were added.

In the last five decades, aside from Leon, there have only been two other people from Missouri to be awarded this honor. In a news brief released by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Leon said,

“I was surprised to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Award. I knew I did well on the exam, but it truly was a shock and an honor.”

Leon graduated in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in business (emphasis on finance) and a bachelor’s degree in accounting. Leon credits much of his success to the professors at UM-St. Louis.

Breast Cancer, from page 1

UM-St. Louis health educators have learned that breast cancer is not only found in women, but also in men. Although women are 100 times more likely to get breast cancer, any male can develop breast cancer.

The Mayo Clinic tells us that “Male breast cancer is most common between the ages of 60 and 70.”

Current care has been based on what has been learned from Caucasian women who were diagnosed with breast cancer.

UM-St. Louis is asking for survivors from the African American community to share their experiences so that health care professionals will have a better understanding of how breast cancer impacted their lives.

The university has received a lot of positive feedback regarding this study. UM-St. Louis ran their first ad in the St. Louis newspaper and since then 50 new women have been included in their study.

This has affected UM-St. Louis greatly because it has help build a

trust between the university and the community.

Health educators at the university believe that this project will be of significance because it will educate the community about how important it is to get regular checkups and mammograms.


Ebony Smith, an advisor of the breast cancer study says, “Our ultimate goal for this study is to increase mammography...especially in the African American community”.

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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION

We're suspended



Illustration by Cody Perkins

Nix the suspension, just let us do our jobs

Readers of the Post-Dispatch's educational blog "The Grade" and viewers of Channel 5 News were informed last week of a rather shocking turn of events that has occurred here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. It seems that various departments, with Student Life taking the lead, had decided that *The Current*, award winning student newspaper, was temporarily suspended.

To clarify the significance of two points in that statement, reflect that "award-winning" does not refer to some obscure pseudo-honor, but rather to the Missouri Collegiate Media Association's "Best in State" award. This has bestowed upon *The Current* for the past three years putting them ahead of SLU and Mizzou's news publications.

Likewise in need of clarification, "suspension" does not simply mean a slap on the wrist or a minor admonition; but rather that *The Current* (technically a student organization) is cut off from its own funding and cannot take part in regular summer cycle work of hiring and training a new administration. This also means that *The Current* cannot pay its employees for their two regular summer issues, the first of which is contractually obligated by the paper's publisher.

While *The Current* has clearly made the decision to release this summer issue regardless, the suspension remains in place tentatively until August 1, if the provisions in the disciplinary letter from Student Life are met.

One point that we as a paper would like to clearly make is this: we acknowledge that we, like any organization, have had issues. We know that some of the problems are considered severe (and reasonably so) by Student Life. The main issue in this category is payroll, alongside problems assuring that all staff members have properly filed with Human Resources.

The problem is not that we deny hitting speed bumps; the problem is that we are eager to make amends to these areas and (as we are eager to do every year) make as many changes as are necessary to better the paper; anything

from tidying up confused business practices, rearranging the office, training staffers to redesigning the paper.

These are the kinds of changes that happen every summer as a new staff and Editor-in-Chief come on board, excited to take the reigns and improve the paper that we are so proud of.

This summer any such changes are, unfortunately, on the backburner. At best we are able to limitedly work on them on a volunteer basis. Additionally, the provisions for getting un-suspended include working with Student Life on training (which is not entirely in our control) and changing our constitution to what Student Life deems appropriate. What Student Life was forgetting however is that a constitutional amendment requires a 2/3 majority paid staff vote. Student Life terminated and removed all *Current* staff-members from payroll on May 28.

We are working with Student Life, Student Affairs and other offices to do what we can to moderate this suspension and to make our case for its easing and lifting. We want to work with them and believe that this is the first step in preventing the same issue from occurring in the future. However, this does not change the fact that we are being punished for long-standing, cross-departmental errors that have more to do with changes in staff, lack of training and a tradition of averted eyes.

We truly do wish to move forward and correct the problems mentioned in the letter.

The Current means a lot to more people both on and off campus than many readily acknowledge, in fact, there is a slew of *The Current's* alumni who have banded together to help us during this tumultuous time and to whom we want to extend our extreme gratitude. We just ask that we are dealt with a level of respect befitting our little award-winning publication, one that we have put so much time and heart into on a weekly basis.

Michael Jackson: One small death for man, one giant buzz for mediakind

The day Michael Jackson died, people all across America tuned into every news channel to hear the same blurb repeated over and over for 12 hours. When Michael Jackson died there apparently was no longer conflict in Iran or a need to make snarky comments regarding Sanford's vacation to the Appalachians. Well, at least nothing important enough to push Michael Jackson from center-stage.

To say that Michael Jackson was not an influential person or that the U.S. was not devastated by his shocking death would be a foolish thing to say. He grew up in the spotlight alongside the Jackson Five, propelling himself into idol-dom after achieving a stream of #1 hits during his solo-career ("Thriller," "Beat It," "Black or White," etc). In short, America's infatuation with Michael Jackson is understandable. The media's ignorance of anything else significant that occurred on the day he died is not.

What sort of message do we send as Americans to foreign countries that tune in to watch our 5:00 news, and find the only topic is the death of a celebrity? As Americans we take offense at the way other countries perceive and label us, yet we allow our media sources to be conquered by tabloid gossip. What sort of example are we setting for the younger generations of Ameri-

cans, who while gearing up to lead the nation find the currently accepted point of high-brow discussion being one celebrity. Well, to be fair, two celebrities. (Farrah Fawcett died on the same day and also made sparse appearances throughout the news media.)

Generally, American culture tends to find obsessions and latch onto them until discovering a juicier one to replace it. Take the Swine flu "pandemic" for example.

For weeks, all the media focused on was this supposed outbreak of dangerous swine flu that left its victims lying in bed drinking tea and eating chicken noodle soup. The question remains: Why does our society feel the need to fill primetime news space with celebrity obituaries or hyper-inflated warnings against theoretically devastating illnesses? Why does our culture need a tragedy or high-risk threat to feel complete? Instead of focusing all of our time on celebrity gossip, news media should at least consider tossing in a few additional issues that hold importance to the percentage of Americans interested in more than just the death of a pop icon. Of course, the media needs to make money just like any other business and the public gets what the public wants. This time it was a bejeweled-glove wearing mega-star.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Reflections on death

By PAUL MAGUIRE

Recently, I have been thinking about death. It is strange, because during my contemplation, my girlfriend's grandfather has coincidentally been nearing the end.

Then, the media began saturation with the death of M.J. and we found that our cat has hypercalcemia, which is causing his kidneys to fail. He will die and someday so will I.

Surrounded by death, I have been forced to consider the implications of such an event. First and foremost, despite the fact that sometimes I feel as though I could live forever, all the evidence points to a surety that someday I will die. This, as is attributed to Ben Franklin, is a certainty.

Following the conviction that I will surely die, I consider what dying entails. When any organism dies, its organs shut down, leading to a loss of movement, growth and reproduction of cells.

This leads to the loss of the senses. Since consciousness is seemingly, directly dependent upon one's senses, one's physical consciousness slips away as well.

Now, I have read some claims that people have made of experiencing an afterlife. There is even a very convincing story of a woman named Pam Reynolds who had to be put clinically to death in order for surgeons to operate. She was dead for a time, meaning that her senses were turned off, then, following the surgery, she was revived.

The interesting part of the story is that Pam described, in detail, events and conversations that happened during her surgery. Later, doctors and nurses confirmed her claims. If she was completely dead, her brain was turned off, meaning that her physical senses were turned off.

If one's consciousness relies on one's senses, then this feat of Pam's should be impossible. On the other hand, if we take her story as truth, then consciousness continues after death.

Unfortunately, I am still having a difficult time believing in an afterlife. Pam's story is only one story out of billions of stories of humans dying.

As far as I can conceive and despite the fact that I wish this were not true, there appears to be no conscious afterlife. Honestly, I am pretty scared of this most plausible reality.

I guess I have a few responses to all of this reflection. My first response is a barrage of questions.

Is there anyone who can help eliminate some of my doubt in a conscious afterlife? Is there anything beyond pure faith in such a thing as heaven? What does existence devoid of an afterlife mean for my perception of self? Do I actually exist, or is 'I' just a term for the collection of matter, which constitutes my body? Will I then become an illusion to those still living as the matter that was once me disperses into space?

Second, I want to know how others deal with such a realization. Believing that there is no conscious afterlife is a pretty heavy thing to contemplate. This means that it matters whether or not I die tomorrow or the next day, because it is the difference between one and two more days of experiencing life. This can become something very nerve wracking. I know that the future is unknown, therefore my time of death is unknown, and therefore I cannot know whether my actions will be fulfilling or wasted.

Lastly, while some think that my doubt in an afterlife removes a sense of purpose, it also adds a sense of urgency. More than ever I have been feeling that the things I do should be full of new experiences. I understand the idea of seizing the day and even though this 'loss' of an afterlife has been causing some bad moods, I am trying not to fret the small misfortunes of life.

Ultimately, I am trying hard to be happy and joyful. I want to be able to promote these things to others.

To end, I hope I have not brought anyone down. These are just things I have been considering and I think the more I open to others about these difficult questions, the closer I will come to answers.

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As a forum for public expression on campus, *The Current* welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from students, faculty, staff members and others concerned with issues relevant to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. *The Current* reserves the right to deny letters.

For information on writing a guest commentary, contact *The Current's* Editor-in-Chief.

UNDERCURRENT

By Sofi Seck • Photo Editor

How are you keeping cool this summer?



Ahmad Aljurryed
Sophomore
Business

"Stay at home and drink a lot of water and juice."



Jillian Richardson
Sophomore
Communications

"I'm staying cool by keeping Hawaii on my mind, and drinking plenty of water."



Jim Schurk
Senior
History

"I sit on a block of ice all day."



Latonya Taylor
Senior
Criminal Justice

"I stay under my [air] conditioner."



Courtney Pike
Graduate
Biology

"I walk around naked as much as possible."

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu or talk about it in our online forums at thecurrentonline.com.

FOREIGNER'S CORNER

The Death of Michael Jackson... and 300,000 others

By Sofi Seck

Maybe it is the African in me, but I just do not think that one man's death should take over the news media, no matter who that one man is. Unfortunately for me, this is 2009, and in 2009 the death of a celebrity seems to be the most 'important' news of the week.

I do not mean to be insensitive, but Michael Jackson is a man who lived 50 long years and most of it was spent in the spotlight. A guy who lived his dreams and got to see and do things that most of us can only imagine. I think that it is fair to say that Michael Jackson will live forever through his music, moves and fame, but what about the children who die from preventable things every single day?

Did you know that Michael Jackson was just one of over 300,000 people who died on June 25, 2009? And of those, 25,000 were children.

All men are created equal, right? No one person is more important than another, so why is no one talking about the 300,000 other people who died today?

I am sorry, but the death of a pop icon does not sadden me. What really saddens me are the children who die everyday around the world from poverty, hunger, easily avoidable diseases and illnesses. In spite of the scale of this ongoing tragedy, it rarely

gets prime time or headline coverage in the news. I just cannot for the life of me understand how one man's death can make people worldwide shed a collective tear, but the death of 25,000 children is just another day.

I suppose if you were a big fan it would make sense to be a bit sad that he past away, but what I hear is many people saying, "holy shit, is he really dead? Why Michael, why him?" Strangely, those are the same people who mocked him for years and years and made his name into a punch line.

Okay, so the more I write on this subject, the more I am answering my own question. Michael Jackson was a musician.

In fact, he was a superb musician. He was an international icon and although I might not be a huge fan, there are a lot of people out there who grew up listening to him. I can respect him for that.

People care that he died for the same reasons that they cared about the deaths of people such as Elvis and Selena. Just like Elvis, Jackson laid the ground for an entirely new component in the musical spectrum. No matter what he did in his personal life, Michael Jackson was tremendously gifted and any loss of talent is tragic. Music plays a major part in our lives and Michael Jackson provided a soundtrack to several moments of people's lives. I can respect that as well. What I do not like is that his death has taken over the news.

Did I mention that Michael Jackson was just one of over 300,000 people who died on June 25, 2009? And did I mention that of those, 25,000 were children?

Unfortunately, it seems that the world just does not care. It might be rational to expect that death and tragedy on this scale should be prime time headline news. Yet, these issues only surface when there are global meetings or concerts about them. And even then, the celebrities that host these concerts are the focus of the media's attention.

We have the ability right now to stop children from dying. Maybe we cannot cure cancer or sustain a human being on Mars, but today right at this very moment we can end the deaths of 25,000 children by simply feeding them and taking an interest in their health.

But instead, promises and pledges from the wealthy, powerful countries and the corruption of the poorer ones, who evidently receive plenty of care, make the headlines. The broken promises, the bad quality and low quantity of aid do not.

All I am saying is that at some point, we might want to think of the children. In fact, at some point, we might want to think of all of the people that died, not just celebrities. Until that day comes, to all who died today, yesterday and tomorrow I hope you rest in peace.

Sofi Seck is Photo Editor at The Current.

SCIENCE COLUMN

For summer star-gazing, campus observatory offers unique view

By Cate Marquis

Looking up at the night sky with all its stars is a time-honored summer tradition. But in the city, and an increasing amount of other locations, few stars can be seen. So where can one go to stargaze?

While an escape to the light pollution-free countryside always does the trick; you can actually see stars, and take a really close look too, without even leaving campus, by attending an Observatory Open House.

Students from the Department of Physics and Astronomy run this monthly sky viewing program, which takes place one Saturday night each month except during the coldest winter months. Astronomy assistant professor Erika Gibb is the faculty advisor.

Dr. Gibb studies astrobiology, a multi-disciplinary field that brings together scientists in biology, geology, astronomy, physics and chemistry to take a big-picture look at the origins of life in the cosmos. One unique area Gibb has lectured on is the study of comets and their potential role in the origin of life.

Typically, the Observatory Open House does not include a chance to see comets, although they are included when they happen to be visible.

Last year, UM-St. Louis' Richard D. Schwartz Observatory was moved from its long-time location on South Campus. It is now located near the Fine Arts Building and the softball field, on Rosedale Drive and across Florissant Road from the North Campus. The Observatory's website, <http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/astro/>, has directions.

The most recent Open House was held Saturday, June 27. The next Astronomy Open House is set for Saturday, August 1 at 9 p.m. The planets Saturn and Jupiter will be on view, along with the Hercules Cluster, Ring Nebula and the double star Alberio. The following Open House, on Saturday, August 29, at 8:30 p.m., features the same celestial objects, except for Saturn.

Observatory viewings always include viewing of the moon, and expert information from the astronomy students. Often other celestial phenomena can be viewed as well.

The Observatory houses two main telescopes; a fourteen inch Celestron telescope and an SBIG St-8 CCD. Sometimes additional telescopes are set up.

Since a clear night sky is still a must, the Open House is occasionally canceled due to clouds. Usually the viewing is re-scheduled for the next night. A call to the Astronomy Open House hotline can clear up schedule questions.

For details on what's on view, updates on weather cancellations and other information, visit the Observatory website at <http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/astro/> or call their Hotline at (314) 516-5706.

After a visit to an Astronomy Open House, summer stargazing can take on whole new meaning.

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



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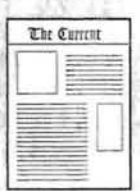
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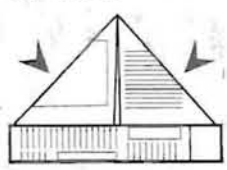
Mountain Dew

How to make a pirate hat by: The Current


1. Take the front page of The Current




2. Fold the corners of the paper down to the center




3. Fold up the bottom edge



4. Flip the paper over and fold up the bottom edge





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THEATRE

TOP TEN Summer TV Shows

- 1. True Blood.** This HBO series portrays the co-existence of humans, vampires, and shape-shifters in a small Southern town. Sundays at 8:00 on HBO.
- 2. Entourage.** Vincent Chase is an up and coming actor living the good life in Hollywood with his friends. New episodes start July 12 on HBO.
- 3. Burn Notice.** Michael Weston, a former spy, tries to find out who burned him without getting himself killed. Thursdays at 8:00 on USA.
- 4. So You Think You Can Dance.** Dancers perform choreographed routines in different styles in hopes of winning the cash grand prize of \$250,000. Wednesday & Thursday nights at 7:00 on Fox.
- 5. Harper's Island.** A couple plans to wed on the island where they grew up, but a serial killer takes the guests out one by one. New episodes air Saturdays at 8:00 pm on CBS.
- 6. The Fashion Show.** Isaac Mizrahi and Kelly Rowland judge this reality competition where contestants compete to create the best designs based on a weekly theme. Thursdays at 8:00 on Bravo.
- 7. Mental.** The new Director of Mental Health at Los Angeles Wharton Memorial Hospital stirs up drama with his unusual tactics and personality. Wednesday evenings on Fox.
- 8. Philanthropist.** Based on a real life billionaire, this series focuses on a man who is troubled by the death of his only son. Wednesday nights on NBC.
- 9. The Cleaner.** After the birth of his daughter, a former addict dedicates his time to helping others take control of their addictions. New episodes begin July 15 on A&E.
- 10. In Plain Sight.** Mary Shannon is a United States Marshall with the Federal Witness Protection Program. Sundays at 9:00 on USA.

twitter

Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out

What are you doing?

@umsl twitter is fastest growing social networking site

140

update

By SEQUITA BEAN • ASST. FEATURES EDITOR

What do a cartoon bird, the President of the United States, and about 6 million people have in common? One word: Twitter.

Twitter is a social networking site that emerged from the shadow of Facebook to become the fastest growing member community online right now. Its members include celebrities, political figures, and even news networks. Still, many people have never heard of Twitter. The free micro-blogging service simply asks, "what are you doing?" It allows users to answer via status updates posted on their own profile and the profiles of the users who are following their updates.

Twitter members are allotted 140 characters to say whatever they want, and their followers can respond to them using the @ symbol followed by the member's username. Users can "follow" and "unfollow" as many people as they like, but the member you follow has to be following you in order to see your updates. Twitter also has a privacy feature where users can protect their updates by only allowing their approved followers to see

them. More recently, users can update what they're doing with pictures and live videos using Ustream, a free live video streaming service.

Founded in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Twitter was first an SMS (Short Message Service) text-based program that allowed users to send mass messages about their whereabouts to their friends. Since then, Twitter has become usable through many outlets including the web, SMS text, instant messaging, and web and phone applications specifically designed for Twitter. Even though Twitter is only three years old, its popularity has skyrocketed within the last year due to the rising number of celebrities that have joined the service in an effort to reach out to their fans.

"I love Twitter," Angel Robinson recent UM-St. Louis social work grad said. "I tweet at least ten times a day!"

Robinson first learned about Twitter through entertainment mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs on MTV.

"He said to follow him on Twitter, so I joined the site to see what it was about. Now I'm hooked," she said. Along with

Diddy and a few friends, Robinson follows CNN, Serena Williams and Oprah.

"My favorite part about Twitter is connecting with the celebrities. I really like UStream because you can tweet them questions and they will answer—it's great."

Twitter makes staying connected with friends and celebrities simple, but the new social networking site has been criticized for making information too available. Pop singer Michelle Williams recently "tweeted" her observation that people have become too comfortable with her on the site and other celebrities have made similar observations.

However, Twitter says the information that users make available is up to them; not everyone who tweets updates their daily whereabouts. President Obama uses Twitter to update about press conferences and promote volunteering. CNN updates its Twitter page with headline news and singers' updates with concert information.

See TWITTER, page 10

umslcurrent

5 following 5 followers 20 updates

Trazzler Buzz n. tracking popular travel destinations via Twitter.

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Trending Topics

RIP Billy Mays

Michael Jackson

OxiClean

Confederations Cup

Farrah Fawcett

Welcome Center is UM-St. Louis' front door

By BRIAN CRAYCRAFT
Features Editor

Cassandra Gay is in the University of Missouri-St. Louis Welcome Center filling a large wicker basket with candy as she says, "The Welcome Center is the front door to the university."

When it comes to welcoming students to UM-St. Louis, Gay is on the front lines.

She can often be found working the front desk in the Welcome Center since she is the administrative assistant there. "We are a resource center for all students. We can answer questions for new students, but everyone is welcome to come in hang out," says Gay.

The Welcome Center is where campus tours for prospective UM-St. Louis students begin. While Gay's statement is a figurative one, the Welcome Center really is just a few steps inside the Millennium Student Center, directly across the hall from the bookstore. Campus tours are given twice a day, Monday through Thursday, and four times a day on Friday. Reservations for campus tours are not required—walk-ins are welcome.

The tours last around an hour, but sometimes longer, and are led by Student Associates such as Skip Jones, a junior in graphic design. Jones usually will lead a couple of tours a week. They are usually for just a few prospective students and their parents,

but sometimes for groups as large as 30 people.

Jones allows that he did not have any trouble getting into the swing of speaking to groups. "You learn how to break the awkward silence, throw some jokes, and keep the people talking," he says. He laughs as he tells the story of how he walked backwards into a pole while he was leading a tour. "It was pretty funny. It messed me up for a second and made my head hurt, but everybody laughed," says Jones.

Eboni Redmond, a junior in criminology and criminal justice, is also a Student Associate at the Welcome Center. "Anything you need, we are always here to help," says Redmond. She says she never gets tired of leading the campus tours. "It's always fun, I love it. I really like getting to meet new people, especially prospective students. If they do decide to come here, they are more relaxed because they actually have somebody here that they know."

Redmond and Jones both agree that the most frequently asked questions on the campus tour are about living on campus. Redmond always speaks in favor of living on campus to the parents and prospects on the tour, and she knows what she is talking about. Even though she lives right here in St. Louis, Redmond decided to live on campus her freshman year. She wanted to have the full college life experience. "You are more in-



The staff of the Welcome Center greets the families of current and prospective students who come on campus looking to take a tour and learn more about the university.

volved in the campus, and you actually like your school a lot more if you live on campus," she says.

Talking a little more about FAQs on the campus tour, Jones says, "a lot of people want to know why parking is so expensive. It is a question I try to steer clear of."

The Welcome Center has a lot more to offer than just guided campus tours. Yolanda Weathersby is the manager of the Welcome Center, and she has been with the university for 22 years.

She points out, "We conduct workshops for customer service, and I am also co-chair on the Respect Committee, which works to change and

build the culture on the campus community. We have a lot of things going on." Weathersby says of the Welcome Center, "we love our students that are already here, we love our prospective students and their families, and we are here for faculty and staff as well."

See WELCOME CENTER, page 10

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

History professor specializes in St. Louis

By BRIAN CRAYCRAFT
Features Editor

If you were to call a casting agency and ask them to send over a college professor, they would not send Peter Acsay. Nonetheless, Acsay is indeed a college professor, complete with a Ph.D. in History from St. Louis University and a life-long interest in the history of St. Louis.

Do not expect to meet a stereotypical college professor when you see Dr. Peter Acsay, Assistant Teaching Professor of History at the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

Acsay is the son of an immigrant. His mother is from Austria and his father is from Hungary. After attending a Catholic high school in North St. Louis he then earned a B.A. in history at Washington University. Acsay spent about 15 years in the construction business, doing rehab work in the historic Lafayette district in the city of St. Louis.

Once he had completed his B.A., Acsay had seen enough of college history departments for a while.

"In 1978 I thought that the history discipline was too much influenced by this meaningless rivalry between the left and the right.



Peter Acsay
Asst. Teaching
Professor, History

In the books and public discourse at the time, there was all this ideologically driven history, and I wanted no part of it," Acsay said.

He had been working summers as a rehabber during school, so he decided to pursue the rehab construction business. He lived and worked in the Lafayette neighborhood for many years.

By the early 1990's, tax credits for rehab work had dried up and a more mainstream type of construction and carpentry was the only work available. He was closing in on 40 years old and after years specializing in restoring cornices on old buildings in a historic St. Louis neighborhood, Acsay was facing the prospect of spending his days hanging doors in typical suburban houses.

He decided instead to return to school. He earned his master's in history from UM-St. Louis, then his Ph.D. from St. Louis University. He was 45 years old when he was awarded the doctorate degree.

Acsay began his career at UM-St. Louis in 1993 as a teaching assistant for Andrew Hurley, currently the chairman of the History Department. These days, Hurley does not hesitate to sing Acsay's praises.

"The best thing Dr. Acsay brings to the department is his vast knowledge of history. He can teach American History, European History, and of course, St. Louis History. We appreci-

ate his flexibility to teach so many classes," Acsay said.

Acsay teaches his course in St. Louis history using a book written by Harold Primms, Professor Emeritus of History at UM-St. Louis.

"I sort of inherited the position of resident St. Louis historian from Primms," he said.

Since the book ends with the 1980's, Acsay's students in St. Louis history must write their own chapter for the 1990's and beyond. To do this, they collaborate on articles using the Wiki tool in UM-St. Louis' My Gateway online learning tool.

Hurley likes the way that Acsay employs all the available tools to work with his classes.

"His use of technology in the classroom is innovative," Hurley said. "He is the go-to guy in the History Department for technology. We ask him about everything on My Gateway."

The hot project for Acsay right now is his work as Regional Coordinator for National History Day in Missouri. History Day is an educational program and contest for students in grades 6 - 12, where contestants submit research projects on a theme.

See ACSAY, page 10

Acsay's Top 5 Moments in St. Louis History

- 1. The Founding of St. Louis**
December 1763: Pierre de Laclède and Auguste Chouteau select the site which will become the city of St. Louis. No founding, no St. Louis.
- 2. The Battle of Fort San Carlos**
May 26, 1780: St. Louis militia defeat a British-led force. If the British had taken St. Louis, the post-revolutionary settlement would have been very different.
- 3. The Camp Jackson Affair**
May 10, 1861: This skirmish keeps St. Louis in the Union. Governor Jackson and the Missouri militia meant to take the St. Louis Arsenal and transfer its contents to the Confederacy.
- 4. The St. Louis World's Fair**
April-December 1904: Officially titled the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the fair is an ambitious undertaking done by locals. The fair had "something for everyone," and was a huge success—plus the city got clean water.
- 5. Acsay's final "moment"** is the creativity of the many musicians who passed through or produced work in St. Louis, helping to create ragtime, jazz, the blues, and rock'n'roll—WC Handy, Scott Joplin, Chuck Berry, Fontella Bass, Tina Turner, Ike Turner, Mel and Tim, Bob Kuban and the In-Men, plus many more.

Ferguson Farmers Market

PHOTOS BY CHERA MEYER • PROOFREADER
STORY BY CATE MARQUIS • A&E EDITOR



The Ferguson Farmers Market, located near University of Missouri-St. Louis campus provides homegrown produce while contributing to the local economy.

"Real farmers, real food, real fresh," Kathy Noelker, the Ferguson Farmers Market Manager said. She was quoting the Ferguson Farmers Market's slogan. This year's tag line is: "Get Fresh, Shop Local."

Noelker explained that all of the produce available for purchase at the Ferguson Farmers Market is homegrown.

"We do not allow re-sellers, which some of the markets, are doing," Noelker said. "[Re-selling] is someone going to Souland (produce market) with a pick-up truck and buying produce and then selling it at a farmers market, which means it has not been locally grown. We are really, really proud of that."

Noelker noted that produce shipped from elsewhere is usually picked before it is ripe in order to be shipped here and is never going to taste the same as crops allowed to ripen first.

The Ferguson Farmers Market is open Saturday mornings, 8 a.m. to noon, from May to October. Located at 20 South Florissant Road at Spot Drive in downtown Ferguson, the Ferguson Farmers Market is just under a mile and half north of I-70.

"We opened May 2. This is our seventh season," Noelker said. "We opened with 32 tents on Saturday, which is a very big opening for us."

Many of the fruits and vegetables available at the market are grown by organic methods, free from pesticides, according to Noelker. Many of the farmers use organic methods, although few are officially certified organic. The Mueller farm is the oldest farm in the state of Missouri and has never had chemical fertilizer or pesticides applied to it.

Noelker also explained that all of the farmers who participate in the Ferguson Farmers Market have farms in either Illinois or Missouri. Some of the farms have been in families for generations.

"We are so proud of our market. We have all local farmers; they are all within 100 miles," Noelker said. "Everything is picked within 24

hours to be sold on Saturday morning."

Because everything is locally grown, the produce available when they open in May is limited. Noelker explained that early in the season there is only lettuce, spinach, radishes, some of the early crops.

"As the weeks go on, there will be more and more farmers and more and more produce," Noelker said.

Now in late June, berries and lettuces are still around but the height of summer crops like corn and tomatoes are getting closer.

It is not all fruits and veggies either. Ferguson Farmers Market offers local meats, eggs and honey, as well as flowers and hanging baskets, jellies and jams, crafts and art, and even a quick meal or snacks from local eateries.

Noelker added that the farmers market has free-range chicken and grass fed beef, things typically unavailable in a supermarket.

"[The farmers] are very, very health-conscious," Noelker said. "They don't want to use pesticides, they don't want their chickens in a coop, they want them to have walked on the ground and have eaten some grass, pecked around in the barnyard."

A visit to the farmers market this past weekend yielded baby lettuces and black raspberries from Thies Farms, purple-colored green beans from Earth Dance Farm, Kerr's Pink Potatoes, an heirloom variety from Ireland, grown on Mueller Farm, summer squash from Cascade Farms and grass-fed beef stick sausage from Seibert Farms.

Several vendors had peaches, cucumbers, zucchini and summer squash but farm eggs had already sold out earlier in the morning.

Although the Mueller family no longer farms, new farmers are using the space to grow organically. A new program at the Mueller farm, called EarthDance Farm, helps train new farmers, using an internship approach.

"There are 12 apprentices who are learning to farm organically," EarthDance farmer/apprentice Brian DeSmet said. "This is just the first year of experimenting, to see if this will work. So we are hoping to keep doing this and make sure the Mueller farm stays a farm."

Andy Burrell explained that the EarthDance

Farm program is run by Molly Rockamann, who "grew up, basically, with a dream of doing [that]."

"Right now, it is very small scale," Burrell said, "so there is a lot of room for growth."

Hahn Farm has been selling produce at the market since the farmers market started. "We grow organically but aren't Certified," Andy Hahn of Hahn Farm, located in Foley, Missouri said. "We grow all kinds of produce. We will have sweet corn next week, and we will have more tomatoes."

Ferguson Farmers Market has special events every week, like a pie competition and free live music.

There are posters up on campus about the Ferguson Farmers Market and special events. In the fall, there will be a "Cook Off" between UM-St. Louis' chef Marvin Mosley of Chartwells Dining, who runs the Nosh and Florissant Valley Community College's chef Martin Lopez.

Noelker expressed her happiness at having UM-St. Louis as a neighbor, saying that she would be "thrilled to pull some of the students, faculty, and staff into the farmers market on Saturday mornings."

Supporting local farmers has other benefits besides good food, Noelker noted. According to Noelker, buying from local growers means keeping local food available and supporting a local business, which is good for the local economy and therefore all of us. Local food saves energy, since it does not have to be shipped from somewhere else, which benefits the environment in several ways.

Growing and selling heirloom varieties, as many of the farmers do, helps maintain genetic diversity in food.

"Some of the varieties [of tomato] are even called ugly but, boy, they have that flavor," Noelker said.

Ferguson Farmers Market has a website to keep you informed about what is in season, what events are going on or which band is playing on a particular weekend. The website, at www.fergusonfarmersmarket.com, also lists information on the various farmers selling their wares at the market.



E&A

MOVIE OPENINGS

BRUNO
Bittersweet naturalistic tale about a young European who comes to America to seek his fortune. A documentary crew follows the hapless fop who experiences culture shock, discrimination, and attack by men with sex toys. The films delves into the soul-deep questions of what it means to be human, and the things that we all have in common regardless of Nationality. In several theaters.

PUBLIC ENEMIES
Oh my god. Johnny Depp and Christian Bale. Did you hear me? You couldn't have because you aren't having a canyption fit. Which is what happens when one hears that Johnny Depp and Christian Bale are in a movie together. Oh, and they'll be trying to kill each other. The heat of the earth's core just increased by like ten billion degrees. At several theaters.

ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
Everyone's favorite animated prehistoric team of adventurous creatures (after, of course, Littlefoot and the gang from "The Land Before Time") are off on another trip that promises to be as zany, kooky, and just plain fun as the first two! Kids will enjoy the sights and sounds and body humor and parents will enjoy having their kids distracted for two hours. The rest of us will be watching "Bruno" and wondering if "dawn" is really the correct term for the gradual evolutionary appearance of dinosaur species. At several theaters.

- TOP iTunes DOWNLOADS**
1. Man in the Mirror - Michael Jackson
 2. I Gotta Feeling - The Black Eyed Peas
 3. The Way You Make Me Feel - Michael Jackson
 4. Thriller - Michael Jackson

- The Essential MICHAEL JACKSON**
5. Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough - Michael Jackson
 6. Smooth Criminal - Michael Jackson
 7. Black or White - Michael Jackson
 8. Boom Boom Pow - Black Eyed Peas
 9. P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) - Michael Jackson
 10. Fire Burning - Sean Kingston

The Real Rivermen

By Chris Stewart
Asst. A&E Editor

Art plays many roles for many people in a variety of contexts. This is not news to anyone, but it is one of the more vivid impressions that lingers in one's mind after viewing Public Policy Research Center's Photography Project Exhibition "Mississippi Tows: Mississippi pilots and their crews," which is on display in the third floor, south hall of the Social Sciences Building through the end of August.

The photo exhibit is the last in the year-long "Point-Of-View" community photography project, in which members of various communities or groups used amateur photography to document their own lives and environs. There was an opening reception for this exhibit on June 23, which included a gallery talk by Photography Project director Mel Watkin.

The initial shock of the photos in "Mississippi Tows: Mississippi pilots and their crews" is their simplicity and their naturalism. It is certainly a stereotype, but one becomes accustomed to expecting fairly abstract material when attending a University campus photo exhibit. This is certainly not the case with "Mississippi Tows," a reflective, elemental spread of photographs. They speak to the Mississippi that has been known by Americans for generations; a river that has provided many with (and tak-

en from many) their livelihoods.

As a visceral experience, the exhibit can be divided into photos with people in them and those without. The human-free shots are stark and industrial and remind us that nowadays the river, no matter how unimaginably vast, can rarely be glimpsed without the presence of engineering. Locks rusted into layered color levels, time-worn bridges and purposeful barges move and are still along the river. It makes little difference whether or not it is high noon and blue-skied, the overwhelming metallic and dirty-watered tone of the photos makes the scenes seem overcast, majestic at best and joyless at worst.

Then there are the people: faces and bodies that we recognize, an almost startling thing in and of itself, in poses that seem entirely unforced without detracting from the art of the photo. Even a photo that seems simple at first look, like "Mike Radcliffe, Pilot Trainee, on the Mary Scheel, AEP River Operations," by Gene Matthews, reveals depths upon closer inspection. The symmetry of the workspace, the open-yet-closed nature of the three large windows, the comparison of the photo to another which shows just the barge without pilot or cabin; all of these elements take the entirely natural photo beyond its initially apparent potential.

A pamphlet offered at the exhibit offers these words from Mel Watkin, the Director of the PPRC Photogra-



Anh Nguyen • A&E Photo Editor

phy Project, "Prior to this Project, I could not understand the lure of the Mississippi River... The photographs for this Project made me 'see' the true nature of the river... a powerful, if unpredictable thoroughfare for commerce and a tight knit community of hardworking river boat crews."

The community is seen in the exhibits' briefly triumphant moments, such as "The Carol Ann Parsonage's

Cook Marty Smith," photographed by Gene Messengill, which seems to have accomplished something nearly magical in catching Smith at a sublime moment looking exactly as you would hope a Mississippi ship's cook would. For a moment, it can be understood why so many people call the river home.

The "Mississippi Tows: Mississippi pilots and their crews" P.O.V.

photo exhibit is being shown at two locations. The first is in its current run on the third floor of the Social Sciences building here at UM-St. Louis, from June 23 thru August 30. The second location is the Cape Girardeau Public Library, where the exhibit is running from June 23 thru August 1. The campus exhibit is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DMB concert honors late LeRoi Moore

By Anna Marie Curran
News Editor

Dave Matthews Band delivered for fans when they played at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Maryland Heights, Missouri on Wednesday, June 17. The concert's opening act was The Hold Steady, who took the stage at 7 p.m.

Dave Matthews Band, originally from Charlottesville, Virginia has been together since 1991. Dave Matthews Band's latest studio album "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" and this tour honors a founding member of the band, LeRoi Moore.

Moore was the band's previous saxophonist who passed away in late August 2008 due to complications from an ATV accident he suffered in June of the same year.

Dave Matthews Band is currently made up of Dave Matthews on guitar and vocals, Boyd Tinsley on violin, Carter Beauford on drums, Stefan Lessard on bass guitar, along with touring members Jeff Coffin on saxophone, Rashawn Ross on trumpet and Tim Reynolds on guitar.

Dave Matthews introduced the opening act, The Hold Steady. The Hold Steady, from Brooklyn, New York, was a surprising choice as an opening band considering that Dave Matthews Band could have had their pick of bigger name

bands. The Hold Steady began with their original song, "Stuck Between Stations," a song that seemingly started the mood right. Two songs later it seemed as if The Hold Steady was beginning to wear on the audience's nerves. By the fifth song it appeared that the Hold Steady had worn out their welcome as majority of the spectators had sat back down.

Dave Matthews Band took the stage and greeted an eager audience around 8:15 p.m., building anticipation by setting up behind a curtain which dropped on the first note the band delivered full throttle.

The band opened with a perfect blend of two of their original songs "Pantela Naga Pampa" and "Rapunzel," both of which were released on Dave Matthews Band's album "Before these Crowded Streets."

Dave Matthews Band made a smooth transition into "Shake Me Like a Monkey," a song from their newest album "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King," which was released on June 2. "Shake Me Like a Monkey" favored well with the crowd as they danced and sang along. The bands infectious energy and obvious passion for playing pulled any last stragglers still sitting to their feet to sing along to one of the most popular and catchy songs from "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King."

Next the band moved to a slower

song, "Funny the Way it is," also from their June released album. "Funny the Way it is" featured slower melodies and the characteristic Dave Matthews Band soulful lyrics, like "funny the way it is/ not right or wrong/somebody's heart is broken/and it becomes your favorite song." "Funny the Way it is" is a favorite for many Dave Matthews Band fans because it highlights the individual talents of many of the members of the band.

After a smooth lead into "Typical Situation," Dave Matthews Band astounded the audience with several impressive instrumental solos, especially by Moore's replacement saxophonist, Jeff Coffin, who was previously a member of Bela Fleck & the Flecktones and a winner of two Grammy Awards.

As the concert continued, Dave Matthews Band played more songs from "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King," as well as some old favorites including "Crush," "Grey Street," "The Best of What's Around" and "Dreaming Tree." The band also played a medley of songs in tribute to the memory of LeRoi Moore, showing how greatly they missed their former band member.

After playing for around two hours, Dave Matthews and the rest of the band exited the stage, much to the dismay of the crowd.

In hopes of coercing them back out for a few additional songs, the majority

of the audience members delayed leaving, instead sending enthusiastic applause towards the stage.

After several minutes of coaxing applause from the audience, Dave Matthews Band returned to the stage for an encore.

Dave Matthews Band played for nearly a half hour for their encore performance, including playing the hit song "Warehouse" and the band's own phenomenal rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven." Tim Reynolds was especially impressive, showcasing his incredible talent during a lengthy and skillful solo.

All in all, Dave Matthews Band provided yet another great concert to their fans in St. Louis, even if the opening band did turn out to be a tad disappointing.



Dave Matthews Band Discography

1994: Under the Table and Dreaming	1996: Crash	1998: Before These Crowded Streets	2001: Everyday	2002: Busted Stuff	2005: Stand Up	2009: Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King

DMB album blends well-known style and new, electric sounds

By Anna Marie Curran
News Editor

The seventh Dave Matthews Band studio album, "Big Whiskey and GrooGrux King," was released on June 2. Greatly anticipated, the album honors the late LeRoi Moore, the previous saxophonist of the Dave Matthews Band who died in August 2008.

Moore was a founding member of the Dave Matthews Band and was the "original 'GrooGrux King.'" The album features several cuts recorded before Moore passed away.

"Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" begins with "Grux," a slow, jazzy intro, opened by one of Moore's solo saxophone lines, that then explodes into the "classic" Dave Matthews Band sound of "Shake Me Like a Monkey."

"Shake Me Like a Monkey," one of the arguably strongest tracks on the album, features seductive lyrics, like "I like my coffee with toast and jelly/but I'd rather be licking you from your back to your belly," and inspired melodies.

Drummer Carter Beauford is especially impressive on this song, unleashing a unique drumming style different from previous Dave Matthews Band albums.

The next song on the album, "Funny the Way

it is," includes the instrumentation that makes it the ultimate song for the summer, blended with moving lyrics such as "A bomb blast brings a building crashing to the floor/ you can hear the laughter while the children play 'war'," turning it into an instant favorite for many.

The album then makes a perfect transition into "Lying in the Hands of God," a song that weaves the melodic voice of Dave Matthews through intricate instrumental parts.

"Lying in the Hands of God" is also one of the songs on the album that features snippets of Moore's work, providing the song with its finishing touch.

Next on the album is "Why I Am," yet another Dave Matthews Band masterpiece filled with creative lyrics and catchy beats. "Why I Am," like the majority of songs on the new album, seems reminiscent of Moore.

Matthews sings "Why I am, still here dancing with the GrooGrux King/We'll be drinking big whiskey while we dance and sing/and when my story ends it's gonna end with him/ Heaven or Hell I'm going there with the GrooGrux King."

"Dive in" follows and it changes the pace from the upbeat "Why I am" to a slower, contrasting piano interlude that envelops the listen-

er in the harmonic melodies and emotional lyrics. "Dive in" also highlights the bands added use of electric guitars, an instrument that has not been as evident on their prior studio albums.

"Spaceman" is yet another notable track on the album, filled with complex instrumental parts that almost seem to overwhelm the listener.

However, with each added listen, the individual parts of the song deepen and it becomes apparent how well the parts complement each other.

Next is the eerie beginning of "Squirm," one of Dave Matthews Bands' most unique songs, not only on this album but on their others as well. Although a great song, "Squirm" does not have the feel of a song that will end up on anyone's top 25 most-played lists on iTunes.

"Alligator Pie" has the same Bayou feel as numerous previous Dave Matthews Band songs but still should not be disregarded as unworthy of a listen.

However, if one was to buy only one song from this album or judge the album based on one song, it should not be "Alligator Pie," as there are several songs on "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" that are far more inspiring. The song that follows it, "Seven," is a de-

cent song but not the best on the album by any means.

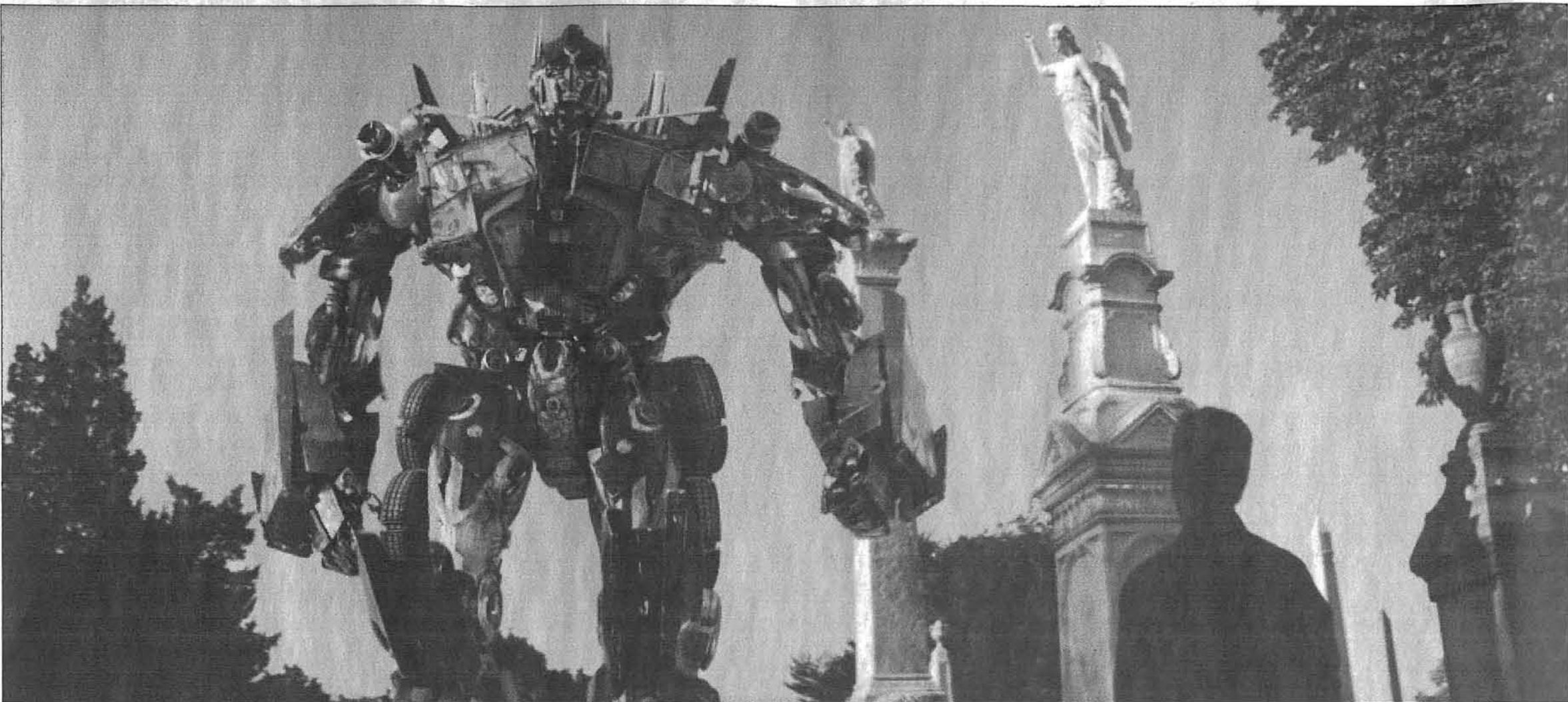
The next song "Time Bomb" feels exactly like its name. Slow, sultry saxophone melodies begin the song and are joined by strong lyrics, then two tapping power chords. "Baby Blue" comes next and feels like a bittersweet goodbye to Moore. "Confess I'm not quite ready to be left/still, I know I gave my level best/you give, you give, to this I can attest/You made me."

"Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" pulls to a close with a final "re-birthing" song, "You & Me." "You & Me" feels like classic Dave Matthews Band music, a blend of great instrumentals, the perfect amount of variation and great vocals, although a slight bit repetitive during the chorus.

From beginning to end, "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" is an exceptional album, made all the more impressive by the inspiration behind it.

"Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" is an essential addition to any Dave Matthews Band fan's collection or a great starter for someone who wants to try the band out.

Their War, Our Planet, Your Wasted Money



New college student Sam (Shia LaBoeuf) is greeted on campus by a Transformer, setting into motion the film's kinetic plot which will take the characters to China, Egypt, and back again.

By CHRIS STEWART
Asst. A&E Editor

The first notable line of dialogue spoken by a character in *Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen* is “Damn, I’m good.” This is uttered with baritone bravado by one of the titular machines during an opening battle in Shanghai.

Actually, it’s not quite the opening- the film opens some dozen-or-so thousand years ago when primitive man first encounters the enormous, mechanized alien race of transformers.

Cut back to Shanghai in modern times (the cue card helpfully informs that it is in fact “today”) and a team of good transformers are working with the U.S. army to search out and kill bad transformers. The monstrous

metal creatures generally behave in a vehicular manner, even when in their “natural” form, and the result is that the opening fight sequence (along with every other one in the film) takes on all the charm of a train wreck with incredibly detailed digital sound.

The preposterous, pointless, noisy beginning to the film is bad, to be sure, but it can’t hold a candle to what’s about to come next. *Transformers*, with 150 minutes to kill (pun absolutely intended), uses the first forty-five to half-heartedly march through the well worn action-film-sequel cliché of showing us our hero in humorous everyday life situations which we, the audience, secretly know are about to be violently interrupted.

After the opening clangs and

booms the film cuts immediately to teenage hero Sam (Shia LaBoeuf) at home preparing to go off to college. We watch as he packs and prepares while his dimwitted mother and father look on, distraught and overjoyed, respectively.

These scenes and the following scenes at college are when director Michael Bay and his screenwriting team decide to do awful, terrible things to the audience. The mere sight of a college campus is ironic considering the fact that all of the humor in these scenes is pitched at (and seemingly written by) twelve-year-olds. Julie White as Sam’s mom in particularly pitiable as she is given preposterous lines and actions that Elmer Fudd would turn down on grounds of dignity.

Here’s an example of the film’s

moronic take on a “funny” situation that “could” happen at a college: upon arriving to drop of Sam, his mother is so upset that she purchases some brownies from “the bake sale.” Sam’s father and he try to warn her not to eat them considering the large, bright green marijuana leaf printed on the bag. This kind of inane scenario (and there are many, many more) feels like the equivalent of being smacked in the face by the screenwriters with a shovel that has “joke!” scrawled on it.

The sequence, which began with us expected to believe that a drug dealer would be dumb enough to sell their brownies in bags with pot leaves on them, ends with Sam’s mom running around giggling and loudly imploring girls to meet her son who, she announces (in crude terminology),

just lost his virginity. In closing my description of *Transformers*’ beginning, I will leave with two facts: 1- this film was produced by the man who directed *Shindler’s List*, and 2- the college Sam is attending happens to be Princeton University.

After the teeth-pulling-awful college sequence, one finds oneself relieved; nay enraptured, to finally have some action start. We are teased as to coming action by A: quick cuts to satellites in space and evil transformers violating them, B: the development of a scene where an evil transformer (in disguise) violates our hero, and C: a scene where a knee-high transformer expresses his affection for Sam’s girlfriend Micaela (Megan Fox) by, you guessed it, violating her leg.

This scene brings the count of

animal (or transformer) humping to three, all used for humor. To make a few more lists out of *Transformer’s* plot (believe me it’s more fun than describing it outright) I would say approximately five explosions are slowly run away from; four major cities are brutalized without so much as a sign of a fire truck; two main characters are dragged through that most tired action movie routine of being “killed” only to turn out to be...not killed!

And helicopters? I lost count of the actual number destroyed but I can say that a helicopter pilot in *Transformers* has got to be the most dangerous fictional film job since Spinal Tap drummer.

See TRANSFORMERS, page 10

Red Collar’s ‘Pilgrim’ album not for the faint of heart

By ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

The band Red Collar, originally from Durham, North Carolina, makes a great first impression with their first full-length album “Pilgrim.”

The album was produced by Brian Paulson, the producer of Beck, Superchunk, Wilco, and Archers of the Loaf. Red Collar is made up of Jason Kutchma on lead vocals and guitar, Michael Jackson on guitar and vocals, Beth Kutchma on bass and vocals, and Jonathon Truesdale on drums.

versun pickups resemblance, creating a not at all bad effect.

“Stay” is overall a pretty good song, one that grows on the listener the more they listen to it. At first “Stay” sounds like it could have been edited and meshed together a little better. At first listen, it sounds like a bunch of songs forced into one but eventually one appreciates the diversity that the song holds.

“Pilgrim” is an indie/rock song that has a chorus sure to replay over and over in your head, whether you want it to or not. The fast-paced tempo of “Hands Up” is the perfect follow-up for “Pilgrim” although the vocals in “Hands Up” feel like they weaken the song overall. “Hands Up” finishes with a catchy guitar rift winding the song down.

“The Astronaut” comes next. It feels a little bit too much like the seven songs before it but if it were to stand alone, one would not hesitate in labeling it a great song.

The song “Tonight” takes a break from the heavier power chords and guitar rifts of the previous songs on the album and gives the listener a soothing ballad instead. “Tonight” features awesome lyrics and the perfect instrumentation to accompany them, the first song on the album to emphasize the vocals/lyrics instead of instrumental parts.

“Why think about the past/ and all the things held dear/ when the best thing about the future is that it’s never here.”

Transitioning from “Tonight” is “Used Guitars,” one of the strongest songs on the album. Everything a rock fan looks for in a song can be found in “Used Guitars.” The song has a great back beat, excellent guitar rifts, and lyrics perfect for singing along to. “Catch a Ride” finishes off the album, adding an ironic twist to the album.



‘Food, Inc.’ takes aim at food production

By CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

“You are what you eat” means you might want to know exactly what you are eating. The new documentary “Food, Inc.” now playing at the Plaza Frontenac Cinema, takes a look at what is behind all the pictures of old-fashioned farms on grocery store packaging. The reality behind the bucolic images may surprise you. A closer look under the covers of large-scale modern farming might send you running down the road to the friendly small-farmer realm of the Ferguson Farmers Market.

The film starts out by telling us the simple fact that food production methods have changed more in the last 50 years than they changed in the previous 2000 years. It goes on to delve into some of those changes, good and bad, and what they mean for consumers as well as farmers.

Despite the illusion of choice in supermarket aisles, only about six companies produce the food on shelves. What’s more, a surprising number of products contain commodity crops such as corn or soybean. Later, the film notes that it is cheaper for a family on a tight budget to fill up on fast food and junk food calories than to buy healthy fruits and vegetables.

Actually, “Food, Inc.” has little new information for those who are already reading about modern food production methods; however, the film serves well as a quick, broad overview of modern food producing, a sort of handy primer on the topic.

Despite its serious subject, “Food, Inc.” presents information in



a visual and colorful manner. There are some clever, very polished graphics, such as lines of cartoon cows with the market share of major food corporations presented on the sides. The pacing is brisk, in the style of recent documentaries from Morgan Spurlock and others.

Eric Schlosser, author of “Fast Food Nation,” and Michael Pollan, author of “Omnivore’s Dilemma,” are among the experts who present information in director Robert Kenner’s wide-ranging film. In fact, they are among the film’s producers and their research is often featured.

The film presents facts in graphics and features interviews with farmers working with large food corporations, organic small farmers, and big organic operations. It is always interesting and avoids preachiness.

Subjects covered include con-

fined feeding operations and links to increased disease and manipulation of farm animal genetics to maximize profit, such as chickens bred to grow large breasts and grow so fast, that their bones are not strong enough to allow them to walk. Commodity crops and their effects on farming methods and profits, and Monsanto’s genetically engineered seed are scrutinized.

One of the most chilling parts of the film covers Monsanto’s heavy-handed, even ruthless pursuit of farmers it believes have illegally saved patented company seed. The company employs a network to keep tabs on their product. The fact that the seed is now used by some 90 percent of soybean farmers and it is virtually impossible to keep neighboring fields from being contaminated by wind-borne pollen from patented strains leaves some farmers open to

lawsuit even though they never purchased or planted Monsanto seed, a chilling David and Goliath scenario.

Even more chilling are reports that film reviewers who have commented on the film’s content about Monsanto have received phone calls from the company.

However, the focus always remains on the practical concerns of consumers and the effects on the farmer, and it does not get bogged down in more philosophical or scientific debates.

“Food, Inc.” is an excellent, easy introduction to a deeper and important subject. The film’s one flaw is that since it is a broad survey, there is not a lot of depth on certain topics or lists of facts. For more, you would do well to start with Pollen’s and Schlosser’s books on the subject of food. It is worth digging into.

Red Collar will also be playing at the PLAY:STL Festival on September 17-19 of this year.

The album “Pilgrim” eases into the first song, “The Commuter,” with soothing, traffic-like sounds that lead the listener to expect anything except the catchy power chords and a surprisingly strong vocal sound from Caleb Followill, lead singer of Kings of Leon.

Although a little repetitive, “The Commuter” is a song definitely worth a listen or two. The next song, “Radio On,” kicks off with a steady drumbeat and is joined by a popesque guitar line. Again Caleb Followill’s voice is added, creating an effect that is anything but mediocre.

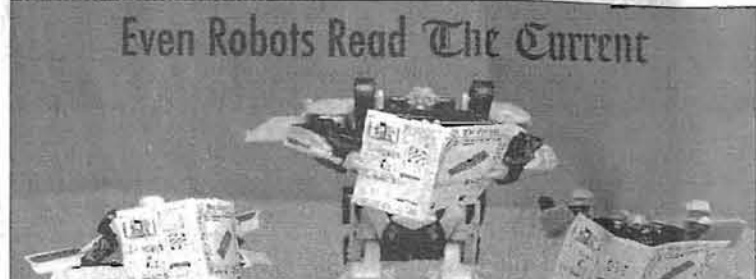
Another song, “Tools,” starts out softly, with a few strums of a guitar line, slowly building power into the fierce rifts starting as background instrumentation and then slowly moving to the main focus of the song.

Red Collar winds the song down a little towards the middle, only to build the instrumentation back up to an all time high. “Rust Belt Heart” has arguably the best beginning and more awesome rifts building into the finale of the song.

The fuzzed-out guitar lines in “Rust Belt Heart” oddly lend a Sil-



The Current:
For that
smooth, long
lasting flavor



TWITTER, from page 6

Critics of the site believe that Twitter will start a need-to-know obsessive society in the future. UM-St. Louis sociology instructor Randy Lynn said Twitter may lead to obsessive behavior by some people because of the constant status updating, but such behavior cannot be attributed to Twitter alone.

"If Twitter users become compulsive and need-to-know as the result of their use, it will be because of other social forces that have to do with how the people are using the site," he said.

His colleague, sociology instructor Robert Keel, feels the same.

"If you add in status updates on Facebook and MySpace, it appears that a lot of folks, especially younger folks, are getting hooked into constant contact," Keel said.

Both instructors feel Twitter is another site causing people to waste time in the same manner as its counterparts.

"If people use Twitter to write shallow tweets about celebrities, then it becomes a shallow site," Lynn said. "If people use Twitter to organize resistance in Iran as they've done recently, then it becomes a powerful political tool."

Twitter's staying power will only be determined as time goes on, but right now it is making an impact across the globe. Twitter is still not as popular as Facebook, but with a monthly growth rate of 1382 percent, the site is well on its way.

TRANSFORMERS, from page 9

So considering the fact that the first *Transformers* film was a half-decent summer flick; what, if anything, is good in its sequel? Well there are maybe three jokes that actually work. At least two are thanks to character actor John Turturro, who at least seems to know that he's in a profoundly silly movie.

Also Shia LeBoef is fine as the lead, even managing to somewhat hold his own when subjected to a series of scenes in which he (for reasons that escape me) is mentally overcome (violated?) by alien symbols, causing him to go into a cross between an epileptic fit, an episode of demonic possession, and The Stanky Leg. These symbols lead him, as well as the evil "Decepticon" transformers, to Egypt.

Once there the film spends its final hour showing us an army squadron (who our hero and friends are with) and evil transformers spraying bullets and missiles at each other. Elsewhere, for reasons I won't bother to explain, the Great Pyramid of Giza is being violated by a massive Decepticon. I have never in recent memory been less interested or convinced of a blockbuster's action scenes. And I saw *Stealth*.

Transformers 2: Revenge of The Fallen is overwrought, grating, insulting, stupid, messy, ridiculous, and much too long. A good blockbuster (like the recent *Star Trek*) leaves its audience thrilled, excited, satisfied, and even a little breathless. After *Transformers 2*, the only thing that I felt was, to borrow a joke from the film, something that rhymes with shmiliated.

WELCOME CENTER, from page 6

Weathersby wants to emphasize one particular thought for currently enrolled students, something that they might not automatically connect with the Welcome Center. "If you have a problem with a class that you might not feel comfortable going directly to the department with, you can come to us and we will act as a liaison to that particular department. You can come here for anything."

More information on workshops, new student orientations, and campus tours is available on the Welcome Center's web page at www.umsu.edu/~welcome, or you can simply search "Welcome Center" from the UM-St. Louis home page. Their phone number is 314-516-5460.

Everyone should feel free to stop by the Welcome Center and check it out. You can always get a bottle of water, a cup of coffee, or something from the candy basket. "The chocolate always disappears first," warns Gay.

ACSAY, from page 6

A project may be created as a website, a performance, a documentary, or a research paper. The local History Day program has enjoyed national success.

"Last year was the first national competition for websites, and a kid from Clayton High School won for the number one website in the U.S.," Acsay said.

Back here at UM-St. Louis, it is fitting that Acsay teaches St. Louis history after spending all those years rebuilding the Lafayette neighborhood, one of the great historical areas of St. Louis.

The son of immigrants now teaches the young citizens of St. Louis about their own local history, and he has done his part to keep our St. Louis heritage on display in the old buildings of Lafayette.

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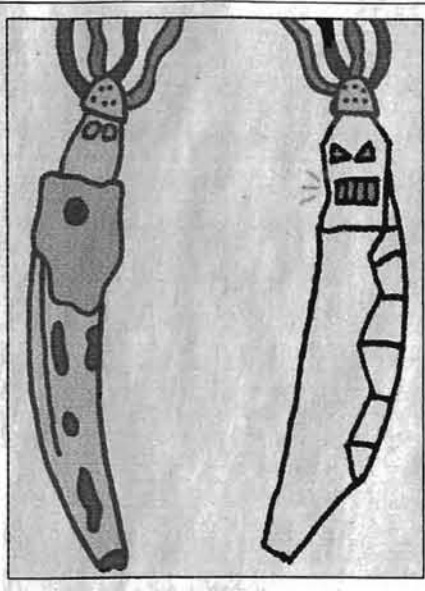
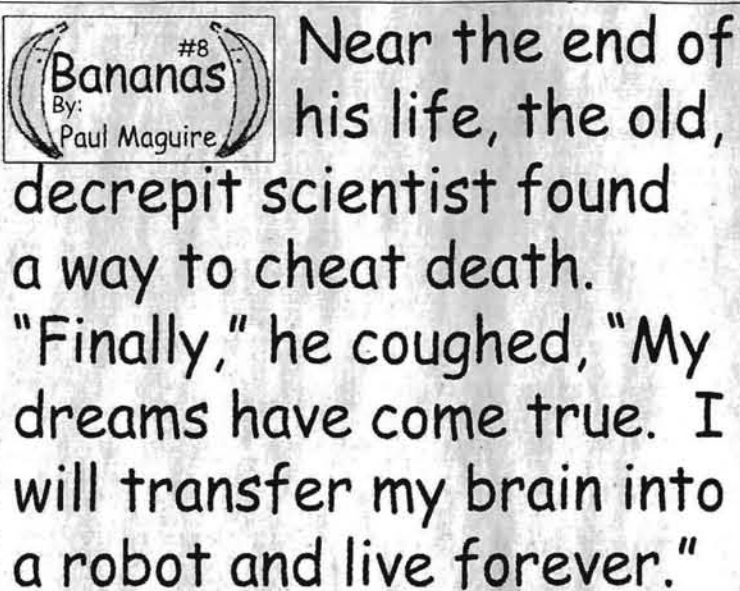
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♈ Aries (March 20 - April 19)

If you have been putting something off or waiting for the right moment to act, now is a good time to make big decisions or begin work on a new project, but beware of resistance from those around you. You may face a lot of stubbornness or negativity from others, but you can use your sign's determined, energetic nature to overcome any fears or doubts about what the future holds. Your friends are there to support you, and the coming days are full of potential, so do not be afraid to make bold moves and meet every challenge head-on.

This week is a good time to take stock of your life and whether or not you are happy with the direction it is going. It may also present a wonderful opportunity to improve various aspects of your love life, whether or not you are currently attached. If life has seemed a bit too challenging lately, you will be glad to hear that this period is likely to end soon, clearing the way for exciting changes. However, you should try to avoid making any impulsive decisions. This is a time for serious contemplation, so slow down a little bit and think before you act.

You have been feeling even more creative than usual recently. Keep tapping into this burst of inspiration and use it to push toward your goals. Your job prospects are good, although a slight decline in your normally outgoing nature means you may have to try a little harder. You will be feeling an increase in your popularity soon, but do not let all of the attention distract you from important projects, even if that means sitting out from a few events or gatherings. If you take the time and solitude you need, your work is sure to be a success.

This week you may come across an opportunity for a fresh start in your career, so be alert and unafraid to take chances. Adventure may be coming your way in the near future and though your urge to travel may not result in a physical trip, now is an excellent time for more spiritual journeys. Aim to discover more about yourself in the coming days, alone or with the help of others. Let the curiosity you are feeling guide you and be open and willing to accept the new and challenging things life will soon be bringing you.

Take care at work as a possible conflict may occur with someone who does not appreciate your typical enthusiasm and high spirits. Handled delicately, this situation will end well, but do not try to push your point too hard and be careful not to let your frank attitude come across as rude or hostile. Watch for opportunities to get ahead in your career or other areas of life and work especially hard on keeping up your natural optimism, since these traits are especially likely to bring you happiness at this time.

You may be feeling inspired to re-start an abandoned project. This will be a positive move for you and for those around you as your infectious enthusiasm encourages others to achieve their own goals. Do not let failure, or the fear of it, hold you back from getting what you want, and do not be afraid to start over from scratch if that is what needs to be done. Others, possibly including romantic interests, will notice that your warm, caring personality shines even more than usual now, so be yourself and act naturally to win their admiration.

♉ Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

The stars will give you a head start on any hard work in the beginning of the week, so stop procrastinating and get down to business. Stay alert for opportunities that could benefit your career and keep an eye out for an increase in your cash flow in the near future. Academic pursuits begun this week are likely to be successful and a relationship may become a little more serious. Now is also a good time for a possible reunion. Your patience will help you overcome any obstacles that stand in your way.

Proving that you have what it takes to control your own destiny is important to you, so be aware of any opportunities to bring change to your life. If you feel controlled by others, now would be an excellent time to remedy that. This is also a good time to let go of any grudges you may be holding and work on rebuilding damaged relationships. Do not let apprehension stand in your way. Make a leap of faith this week and use your natural intuition to determine the right steps to take.

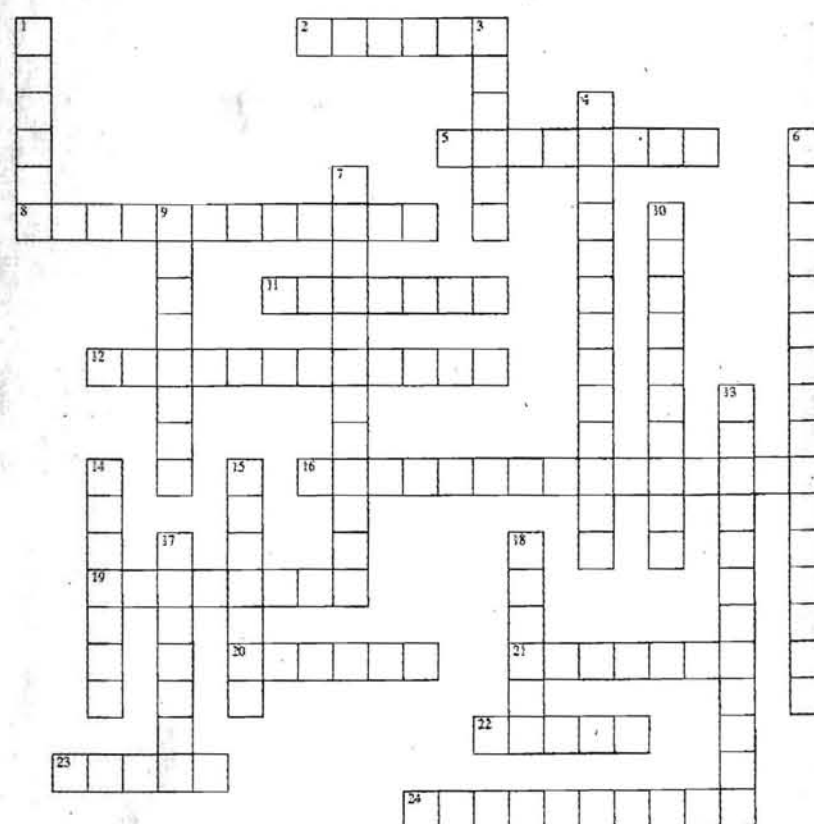
This could be a defining time in your life, so try not to be overcome by worries and self-criticism that could stand in the way of success. Take opportunities to learn about ways to increase peace, stability and happiness in your everyday life and prepare for an exciting occurrence that may be headed your way. Let positive results from past projects encourage you to work toward even greater goals. Speak with care this week, as more people than usual may be listening to what you have to say. Look for resources to set your life back on track.

It is time to work on keeping both feet on the ground. You are very prone to living in your own head and though that lends itself well to your creative drive, it will be unhelpful to you this week. Your intensity is sure to attract plenty of interesting, like-minded people fairly soon and perhaps even a romantic interest or two. You may feel a strong desire to spend a lot of time at home and you should definitely follow that desire since a good deal of excitement is likely to occur in your life without even needing to step out the door.

Continue to make changes to your life and re-examine long-held assumptions about any number of things. You may be presented with the opportunity to re-commit to something you have been neglecting lately. Carefully determine whether this is something you want. Do your best to remain optimistic about all situations and consider with caution any major decisions, as these may have the potential to completely alter the course of your life. It is extremely important at this time to be aware of and open to all of your options.

Travel and adventure are very likely for you in the near future, so keep those bags packed. While at home though, you may be noticing that you are happier than ever with your living arrangements. Now would be a good time to have a few people over for a small get-together. Take extra care to watch what you say, because even though you are usually loyal to a fault, you may find it difficult to keep a secret in the coming week. Loyalty is also an issue when balancing your private life and your relationship with a friend, so be cautious not to step on any toes.

Fads and Craze



2. Diet craze named for its founder. Bye bye breadsticks.
5. They wouldn't quit playing games with our hearts, but we love them anyways.
8. Whether its creative memories or the regular dull ones, get together and put them in a book.
11. From cards to video games to movies, this mega-fad hailed from Japan.
12. Uri Geller-fueled telepathy vs. metal craze.
16. Computer game. Lifestyle. Enough said.
19. Razor made a killing on these wheeled toys.
20. Choose your own _____ books. Enough said.
21. Mystic Jewish branch that was Hollywood's faith of choice for a spell.
22. For a while these were hottest when sold pre-tattered.
23. This 21st century web-phenomena made everyone a citizen journalist.
24. Horror-lite novella fare that exploded in 90's popularity.

1. Bygone hybrid animalian techno-toy that "learned to speak."
3. Number-based puzzle game that has become all the rage in recent years.
4. Disney-channel character who leads a double life as a mild-mannered teen.
6. You've probably heard your parents talk about this veggie-sounding doll craze.
7. Clog-esque shoes known by their brand name.
9. Put a face on a bit of gravel and you've got this bygone craze.
10. Careful to feed this electronic Fido or risk its death.
13. TY's claim to fame. Hint, alliterative animal toy.
14. The first big music-downloading program that was quickly shut down
15. Football videogame created by EA Sports
17. _____ your collar. Ever since you can remember...
18. _____-me Elmo. All the cool kids had them.

Find the original meaning of the message below.
Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, and you will have all of the As in the message, and so on.

SR! YROOI NZIC SVBV GRDS LHIXOVZM.

XOVZMVB, YBRTSDVB, GSRDVB. DSZD'C DSV

KLGV B LU LHIXOVZM.

The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt!

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Difficulty: ★★ (Medium)

We've won many awards for our design over the years and starting on Aug. 10, we're changing to better serve the UM-St. Louis community.

More information on what's inside.

More specific sections and new sections (including Science, Technology, Business and Health).

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MADE IN AMERICA: Twila Tharp's ballet hits the Fox Theater | Inside

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Broke but never broken: 'I am that I am: Woman, Black' at the Pilot House. See BLACK HISTORY MONTH, 4

Tritons reach end of the line this season. See BASKETBALL, 9



'Cherish the music' visits the Touhill. See ON CAMPUS, 12



Bankers as bad guys: The International. See FILM, 13

Pamela Houston's novel 'Cowboys' a must-read. See IN PRINT, 15

Why you should start caring about UMSL. See OUR OPINION, 16

Seck: American news sucks. See FOREIGNER'S CORNER, 19

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Civil rights legend visits UM-St. Louis

CAPTION HEADLINE: Jesse Jackson, American Civil Rights leader and a Reverend of the Baptist Church, came to the University of Missouri St. Louis last Wednesday as a keynote speaker for UM-St. Louis' celebration of Black History Month. Jackson held a press conference in the Office of Multi-Cultural Relations Wednesday evening before speaking at the Touhill that night. Jackson discussed the economy and then encouraged students to come together to battle rising interest rates in student loans, and mobilize via the internet to promote change.

UMSL hosts first IB Conference

BY KIMBERLY HUDSON, Staff Writer
The University of Missouri-St. Louis held its International Business Career Conference in the J.C. Penny building last Friday, Feb. 27. The IBCC was a regional conference and schools such as University of Missouri St. Louis, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, St. Louis University, Washington University, Lindenwood University, Fontbonne University, Missouri State College, Arkansas State College, Westminster College, Greenville College, Principia College and Webster University were in attendance.
The conference consisted of Stephen J. Burrows, former Chief Executive Officer and President of Anheuser-Busch International Asia Pacific Operations, panel board of speakers from different companies that incorporate international business in their companies.
Although this was the first International Business Career



CAPTION HEADLINE: Susanne Evens speaking at one of the corporate seminars in this year's International Business Career Conference on Friday. Ms. Evens, who is President of AAA Translation.

Textbook affordability policy passed in Maryland

Could UM-St. Louis follow their lead?

BY ELIZABETH SWOBODA, News Editor

In a ground-breaking move, the University System of Maryland's Board of Regents has passed a "textbook affordability policy" which, coupled with the Federal Higher Education Act of 2008, will possibly result in a 20 to 30 percent lower textbook price for students.

This policy enacts several steps to gain these benefits.

1. ISBN numbers and other information regarding textbook selections will be released well in advance of the beginning of the semester to ensure that students can shop competitively for texts.

2. Teacher deadlines for book finalization will be set before the previous semester's classes have ended in order to maximize the book buy-back process.

3. More faculty directive regarding new editions of textbooks and bundling practices. Faculty can also allow students to purchase older editions of an assigned book, as long as the content is of relevant educational content.

4. Bookstores will be required to stock both unbundled and bundled versions of materials.

5. During the final course evaluations, students will have a chance to review the textbooks to help gauge the usefulness of the text.

See TEXTBOOKS, page 12

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