

11-5-2012

## Current, November 05, 2012

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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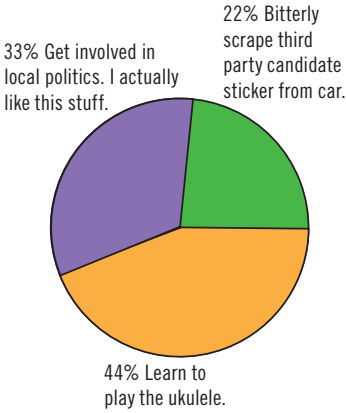
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**Last week's  
poll question:**

*Whatever will you do  
with yourself once the  
elections are over?*

**Results:**



**This week's  
poll question:**

*What does Thanksgiving  
mean to you?*

**Be heard in this week's  
poll by weighing in at:  
thecurrent-online.com**

*Provincial Haunted  
House  
pg4*



*St. Louis police chief  
to join UMSL faculty  
pg 3*



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## Poli-Sci professor Terry Jones discussed election

MADDIE HARNED  
*Staff Writer*

University of Missouri-St. Louis professor of political science and political consultant Terry Jones will be holding a presentation titled "The 2012 Election: Issues, Candidates and Outcomes" on Nov. 5. During the presentation, Jones will discuss the Nov. 6 election in-depth. The presentation will begin at 12:15 and end at 1:15 p.m., and it will be located in the J.C. Penny Conference Center on UMSL's North Campus as part of the Monday Noon Series.

"The presentation is going to focus on the national elections, particularly the presidency and the control of the United States senate and the implications of what might happen in terms of policies depending upon the outcomes in those two situations," Jones said.

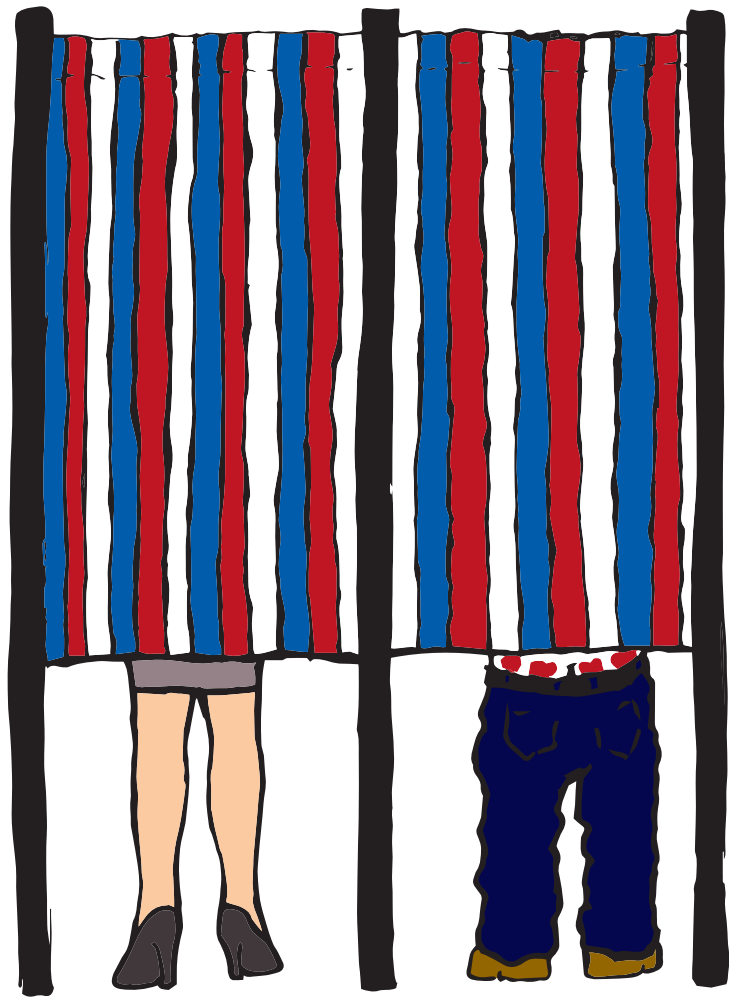
"I will spend the most time on the national situation, but I will devote a portion of the presentation to those areas where the voter will be acting as legislator with the three statewide statutes that are on the ballot for voter adoption or rejection as well as constitutional amendment three, which is up for voter adoption or rejection," Jones said. "Those are situations where you are not voting for a representative to cast a vote for you, you're voting on it directly yourself."

The Missouri State Propositions that will be up for voter adoption or rejection include Missouri constitutional amendment three, Proposition A, Proposition B and Proposition E. Jones's presentation will provide information for voters about what each proposition means as well as their implications."

"Obviously, the vote you cast is dependent upon what views you have on the role of the national government, and the message of the presentation is

*"This is an election  
in 2012 where two  
very different  
philosophies of  
government are in  
play when you look  
at both Republican  
presidential  
candidates versus  
the Democrats  
and also in the  
competitive United  
States senate  
races."—Jones*

(continued on page 3)



## "Presidents and Politics" exhibit features campaign buttons, more



Some of the political campaign memorabilia in the exhibit "Presidents and Politics" at the Mercantile library.

Phot: Cate Marquis / The Current

DAVID VON NORDHEIM  
*A&E Editor*

With the 2012 presidential race drawing to a climactic hysteria, this season provides an excellent opportunity to put the tactics of the Obama and Romney campaigns into a greater historical context. This is precisely the aim of "Presidents and Politics," an exhibition of campaign trail artifacts on display at the St. Louis Mercantile Library culled from the Allen and Helen Shopmaker collection of political memorabilia.

The displays include promotional items from the nation's first president through its 44th. From a bag of Jimmy Carter peanuts to a bar of soap sporting Ike Eisenhower's grinning mug, the relics represent the powerful, clever and often absurd imagery used to portray a candidate's platform and personality to voters. The exhibit focuses in particular on the major presidential races of the twentieth century, an era in which campaigning tactics became a more central (and lavish) concern to candidates.

One display case, for instance, houses campaign pieces from

the gold standard conflict which polarized the Republican and Democratic parties during the 1900 campaign. Throughout the race, the campaigns of William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan each employed symbols and slogans unique to their causes. Bryan believed that a shift to a silver standard would revitalize the American economy by creating a 16-fold increase the amount of currency in circulation. To portray this, his campaign used the image of a broom and dustpan in their buttons and ribbons, representing a "clean sweep" of the American economy. McKinley, by contrast, used a much more practical appeal in his campaign material, circulating bucket-shaped buttons that promised voters a "full dinner pail" for their families under his administration.

Other campaigns relied less on sloganeering and more on the persona of the candidate. The most striking examples came from Theodore Roosevelt's campaigns as both a Republican and independent candidate, both of which portrayed the rugged and charismatic Roosevelt in his debonair cavalier attire from his service in the Spanish-American War.

Roosevelt's 1912 Progressive Party campaign provided an

especially fascinating source of campaign material. The Republican infighting between Taft and Roosevelt led to a seemingly defensive Taft campaign ("Pull for your candidate!") and a brash Roosevelt one ("Roosevelt can win! All American"); this divide was mocked in Democrat Woodrow Wilson's own campaign, which attributed the conflict to a weakness in Republican leadership.

The next series in the display focused on Franklin Delano Roosevelt's unprecedented (and successful) bids for third and fourth presidential terms. Both campaigns strove to portray FDR as the working man's greatest ally, with buttons featuring such slogans as "FDR is the Laborer's Choice" and "A Pauper for Roosevelt."

His opponent in the 1940 election, Wendell Wilkie, was a corporate lawyer and staunch opponent of the New Deal welfare state. He accused FDR of undermining the democratic process with his disregard for the previously unwritten rule that a president only serve for a maximum of two terms, using wry campaign slogans such as "No royal family," "No man is good three times" and

(continued on page 6)



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Crimeline

PROPERTY DAMAGE – SOUTH CAMPUS PARKING GARAGE

Oct. 24, 12:15 p.m. Report # 12-506.

An UMSL student reported that his parked car was damaged in the South Campus Parking Garage. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – SOCIAL SCIENCE BUILDING

Oct. 24, 2:30 p.m. Report # 12-507.

An UMSL staff member reported the theft of a Pink Nikon Coolpix digital camera and case. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – EXPRESS SCRIPTS HALL

Oct. 25, 10:08 a.m. Report # 12-509.

An UMSL staff member reported the theft of an iPad

between October 23, 2012 2 p.m. and 9 a.m. on October 25, 2012. Disposition: Report taken

THEFT – MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER

Oct. 26, 4:00 p.m. Report # 12-511.

An UMSL staff member reported the theft of a commercial vacuum cleaner and two boxes of tile. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER

Oct. 31, 3:30 p.m. Report # 12-519.

An UMSL student was arrested for stealing at the bookstore and was released to Florissant Police on an outstanding warrant. Disposition: Report taken.

What’s Current

Monday, November 5

“Monday Noon Series: The 2012 Election: Issues, Candidates, Outcomes”

Terry Jones, University of Missouri - St. Louis professor of political science and a political consultant, discusses the November 6 election. 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in J. C. Penney Conference Center. For information, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

“Psi Chi Lecture: Trends in Work Ethic Research”

Psi Chi, the psychology honors society, sponsors this lecture from 2 - 3:30 p.m. in 121 Research by Dr. John Meriac, assistant professor of psychology at UMSL affiliated with the graduate program in industrial/organizational psychology. Meriac will discuss current research on work ethic, including studies conducted in his lab. For information, contact Jean Mayo at 5393

Stella Markou faculty vocal concert

Soprano Stella Markou, UMSL’s Director of Vocal Studies, sings works by Mozart, Debussy, Strauss and Britten in a concert 7:30 p.m. at Touhill Performing Arts Center’s Anheuser-Busch Hall. The concert will also feature Washington University faculty Martin Kennedy and Vincent Varvel. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Tuesday, November 6

“Lunch & Learn: Day in the Life of UPB”

University Program Board offers students a chance to learn about their work and what it means to be part of the board, 12:30 - 2 p.m. in Century Room C. Event includes a free make-your-own fajita buffet, plus fruit punch and desert. For information, contact Scott Morrissey or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Wednesday, November 7

“A Conversation with Bill McClellan”

The Department of Economics presents St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Bill McClellan who speaks on “Thoughts on recent issues of interest and the evolution and future of St. Louis,” 2 - 3:30 p.m. in Social Sciences Building room 331. For information, contact Judy Cates at catesj@umsledu for a detailed flyer or call 314-516-5353.

“Game Night”

Wii, charades, board games and more, with snacks like pizza bites, taquitos, and buffalo chicken dip, 5 - 8 p.m. at Catholic Newman Center. For information, contact Rachelle Simon at 314-385-3455

“Networking and the 30 Second Commercial”

Dr. Malaika Horne, founding director of the UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium in the Division of Continuing Education and Curator Emeritus of the UM System, discusses the importance of networking and having your own “30 Second Commercial,” 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in Student Government Association Chambers. For information, contact Emily Spacaj at 3147494254

“Dance Series: Bollywood”

UPB offers students at chance to learn Bollywood dancing, 7 - 9 p.m. in Pilot House, lower level of Millennium Student Center. For information, contact Shatera Davis or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

University Jazz Ensemble concert featuring Denise Thimes

UMSL Jazz Ensemble turns up the volume with a very special guest artist, St. Louis-based vocalist Denise Thimes, in this concert 7:30 p.m. in Touhill’s Anheuser-Busch Hall. This is the ensemble’s last performance before it goes to attend and perform at the prestigious Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Thursday, November 8

“Life After UMSL: Perspectives on Pursuing Law School and Graduate Degrees, Student Loans and Public Interest Work, Getting a JOB, and Promoting Human Rights and Other Causes Along The Way” discussion

The Political Science Academy presents a discussion by Warren Popp, an UMSL alumnus, former intern for the UN Human Rights Council, and St. Louis County public defender, 7:30 p.m., at 7425 York Drive in Clayton. Light refreshments. Maps are available in the Political Science Department office, 347 SSB. For information, contact Political Science Academy at 314-516-5521.

Mon

High: 50

Low: 34

Tue

High:55

Low: 36

Wed

High: 59

Low: 39

Thu

High: 65

Low: 45

Fri

High: 67

Low: 46

Sat

High: 64

Low: 47

Sun

High: 68

Low: 48

“Conservation Forum: Environmental Issues of St. Louis: Past, Present, and Future”

The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center’s Conservation Forum takes place Thursday, November 8, 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at The Living World, Saint Louis Zoo. The conference focuses on environmental issues in St. Louis, with distinguished speakers on several urban environmental topics. The World Ecology Center in a collaboration of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Department of Biology, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo. The forum is co-sponsored by the Academy of Science-St. Louis. Full program found at www.umsledu/~biology/hwec/Whitney%20R.%20Harris%20World%20Ecology%20Center/assets/pdfs/forum/Flier2012.pdf. Event is free and open to all but registration required. To register or for information, contact Patricia Hinton (314)-516-6203 or hintonpa@umsledu.

“Texas Hold Em” tournament

Campus Rec’s free annual “Texas Hold Em” Tournament starts at 7 p.m. at the Provincial House on South Campus. Players of all skill levels are invited to participate. Prizes and free pizza. Participants must register by Nov. 7 at the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain, 516-5326. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office, 203MT at 516-5326.

An Evening of Thanks concert

UMSL Gospel Choir, City Troops, Clayton Jones and more in concert, 7 p.m. in J.C. Penney Auditorium. For information, contact Desiree Blue at 314-369-1023.

“Festival of Dance” by UMSL Dept of Theatre, Dance & Media Studies

The Festival of Dance offers four performances of dance and music over three days, November 8 - 10, featuring choreography from UMSL Faculty and students and guest MADCO and a variety of dances from ballet to modern. Starts at 8 p.m. in Touhill’s Lee Theater. Tickets are \$5 with school ID, \$10 general admission. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Friday, November 9

Pilobolus dance concert (presented by Dance St. Louis)

Pilobolus is the closest thing contemporary dance has to a household name. Dance St. Louis presents the inventive, acrobatic, colorful dance company in three performances, Nov. 9-10. The first performance begins at 8 p.m. in the Touhill’s Anheuser-Busch Hall. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Saturday, November 10

Paintball Adventure

Campus Rec’s Paintball Adventure, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. , at Gateway Paintball Park in Bridgeton, 14510 Missouri Bottom Rd 63044. Cost is \$10 for UMSL students and includes a day of paintball games & gear. Participants must sign-up and pay in advance. Registration at Campus Rec office, 203MT, or call 314-516-5326.

History of Missouri Tour

The St. Louis Mercantile Library, in the lower level of the north campus’ Thomas Jefferson Library, offers a free, docent-led tour which focuses on a specific aspect of St. Louis or Missouri history, 11 a.m. - noon and November 11 from 2 - 3 p.m. . Our weekend tours provide a wonderful opportunity for lively discussions about topics ranging from the founding of St. Louis to the Mercantile’s art collections. For information, call Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248.

“The World is My Home: The Life of Paul Robeson” one-man performance

Actor Stogie Kenyatta portrays Paul Robeson in this educational, entertaining one-man Broadway performance about the life of the mistreated genius, 7 - 9 p.m. in J.C. Penney Conference Center. Benefits the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation. Performance followed by Q&A. Ticket prices \$15 -\$30, At the door \$25. For information, contact Lynne Jackson at 910-964-8790.

Sunday, November 11,

“Day at the Museum: City Museum”

UPB’s next museum trip visits the downtown playground-as-interactive-art-from-recycled-materials spot City Museum, 1 - 4 p.m. . Sign-up in Office of Student Life. \$5 refundable deposit required. Bus will leave from Provincial House at 1 p.m. For information, contact Marissa Steimel or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

# News

## St. Louis police chief to join UMSL faculty

MADDIE HARNED  
Staff Writer

St. Louis Metropolitan police chief Daniel Isom will be leaving law enforcement for a teaching position in the University of Missouri-St. Louis's criminology and criminal justice department.

Isom earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in criminology and criminal justice from UMSL. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and the Police Executive Forum Senior Management Institute.

"Obviously, we think he's a very smart guy, because we decided to award him our doctoral degree," Finn Esbensen, chair of the criminology and criminal justice department and E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Youth Crime and Violence, said. "Having his presence in our department also adds a great first-hand perspective. We have faculty members who had careers in law enforcement before coming here, but we haven't had any who were chief."

After first joining the St. Louis Police Department as a patrol officer in August 1988, Isom steadily rose through the system of ranks, culminating on Oct. 6, 2008 when he was appointed St. Louis's 33rd Chief of Police. Isom has served in patrol, investigative, internal affairs, training

*Criminology and criminal justice department faculty have received international praise not just for their teaching abilities, but also for their research ...*

and administrative assignments during his 24-year career. Throughout his career in law enforcement, Isom has maintained close ties to his alma mater.

"Something a lot of people may not know is that we work fairly closely with the St. Louis Police Department," Esbensen said. "Every year we have a graduate student working alongside the police department, and now that we have the former chief as a faculty member, it really solidifies that connection we have."



In the months before the announcement that he would be joining UMSL's criminology and criminal justice department, public pressure was mounting concerning Isom's career plans before his contract as Chief of Police expired next October.

"We wanted to act fast and secure a spot for the chief," Esbensen said. "My role was finding room in the budget and relaying messages back and forth to the right people to make this happen."

Isom will join UMSL's criminology and criminal justice department on Jan. 1 with a non-tenure track teaching position. For the Spring semester 2013, Isom is scheduled to be teaching an Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice class (Criminology 1100) and a Policing class (Criminology 2240).

According to U.S. World & News Report, UMSL's criminology doctoral degree program is ranked fourth in the United States. Criminology and criminal justice department faculty have received international praise not just for their teaching abilities, but also for their research in subjects such as criminal behavior, law enforcement, victimization and corrections, among many other areas.

Criminology and criminal justice faculty members believe Isom will add to UMSL's already top-notch department.

"Chief Isom brings not just an insider's understanding of policing to the department, but also an insider's understanding of the political environment within which police administrators and, for that matter, all police officers, must operate," Richard Wright, Curator's Professor of criminology and criminal justice, said. "His appointment is great news for our students and for our faculty."

## Professor Terry Jones discusses election

(continued from page 1)

that it is a very significant choice," Jones said. "This is an election in 2012 where two very different philosophies of government are in play when you look at both Republican presidential candidates versus the Democrats and also in the competitive United States senate races."

According to an Oct. 20 survey on public opinion concerning the United States presidential election by YouGov.com, 48 percent of likely voters said they were voting or leaning toward voting for President Barack Obama, while 46 percent of likely voters said they were voting or leaning toward voting for former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. Four percent of likely voters said they were voting or leaning toward voting for other presidential candidates, and two percent claimed they were unsure.

While data concerning public opinion on the presidential

election projects near neck-to-neck numbers, Jones's extensive understanding of the field of politics will be displayed during his presentation, as he will further explain the candidates' platforms, the function of voting and the important political implications stemming from the 2012 elections.

"When you study a particular field, in one sense, you've been preparing all your life," Jones said. "For me, as with other political scientists who specialize in elections and voting behavior, this is our peak time in the falls of even-numbered years. There's definitely a lot of information, both from scholarly research as well as practitioner comments."

For additional information on Jones's presentation, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

## New plaza honors former chancellor

ALBERT NALL  
Staff Writer

An audience gathered to attend the dedication ceremony of the Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Plaza, located between Lucas Hall and the Social Sciences & Business Building Tower, on Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. Barnett was the chancellor of University of Missouri-St. Louis from 1986 to 1990.

UMSL built the Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Plaza in order to honor the many accomplishments of the former chancellor. The four granite columns represent the four years Barnett served as chancellor at UMSL. The four granite walls that lie between the columns represent Barnett's belief that urban universities should connect community and campus resources in support of higher education for underserved urban communities.

and a member of the memorial steering committee. Hubert H. Hoosman Jr., the campaign chair of the Barnett Memorial Plaza, then addressed the audience, describing the creation of the Barnett Memorial Plaza as an event that had been years in the making. He acknowledged the many partners who had a hand in the creation of the Barnett Plaza, which included organizations such as the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and the African American Alumni Association.

A total of 76 individuals and organizations, including faculty and staff of UMSL, donated to aid in the creation of the Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Plaza.

Donald M. Suggs, president and publisher of the St. Louis American, was among those who spoke in remembrance of Barnett, expressing appreciation for the

*[Barnett] established the Bridge Program, which ... has a participation of 3,000 students and parents annually, and 100 percent of its participants have successfully "bridged" their education to public and private institutes of higher learning.*

During her time at UMSL, Barnett worked toward achieving that goal. She established the Bridge Program, which today continues to provide unique and comprehensive programming for underserved precollegiate students. The program has a participation of 3,000 students and parents annually, and 100 percent of its participants have successfully "bridged" their education to public and private institutes of higher learning. Graduating 2011 Bridge Seniors were admitted to more than 90 colleges and received over \$1 million in scholarships.

In addition, Barnett increased private scholarships, added academic programs that include doctoral degrees in biology, physics and political science and led the expansions of the science complex and the Thomas Jefferson Library.

Chancellor Tom George began the ceremony by paying tribute to Dr. Blanche Touhill, Dr. Barnett's predecessor

time he knew the late chancellor and for her work serving the university community.

"Nobody that I knew had a greater impact on the university and the community in such a short period of time than Marguerite Ross Barnett," Suggs said.

Amy Dubois-Barnett, daughter of the late chancellor and editor-in-chief of Ebony Magazine, also addressed the crowd, describing her mother as having a pure and tremendous amount of drive, tenacity and desire to give others the opportunity to go to college who otherwise would not have been able.

"It has been 20 years since my mother passed away, and yet her memory will live forever," Dubois-Barnett said.

Hoosman also paid tribute to St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley for his contributions to the Barnett Memorial Plaza before the final unveiling of the statue of Barnett, which overlooks the plaza.

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# Features

## Haunted Provincial House: Enter if you dare

ANYA GLUSHKO  
Features Editor

For Halloween, the University of Missouri-St. Louis's South Campus Provincial House turned into a replica of the Addams family mansion. This was the first year that Provincial House was decorated in the best traditions of haunted houses, spider webs, skeletons and bats included. On Oct. 29, attendance exceeded 200 people.

Attendees were separated into groups of seven and led through a maze of dimly-lit rooms. The hallways were equipped with stereos that played suspenseful music. The rooms referenced such famous scary movies and videogames as "The Exorcist," "Silent Hill" and others. Students volunteered to dress up and startle visitors.

"The Haunted House was our biggest event ever; it was very successful," PLHCSA Service Chair Marlee Thomas, sophomore, biology, said. "We had to put a lot of work into making this event ... All of the Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association officers had to write the stories for the event and make up the characters. We also had to recruit a lot of volunteers to be characters, which is something we have never done before. Overall, PLHCSA feels very proud of the haunted house event, and we hope to put it on again next year."

Each haunted area had a different-colored ticket. Groups had to return all 13 tickets in order to receive a Haunted Provincial House T-shirt. Each team was given a glow stick and a map with instructions.

The journey began in the basement. The first room had a television set with static and a woman in a rocking chair. In order to get tickets, the teammates had to talk

to her. Many of the rooms included jump scares. Stories provided in the instructions created an even more frightening atmosphere.

"It was really fun; I was actually scared," Kayana McAdoo, sophomore, psychology, said. "... We went into the room with the scientist lady, and she suddenly closed the door as we were trying to get the tickets from the closet. Her husband jumped out and scared us."

Other rooms on the second and third floors featured strobe lights and fake gunshots that were fired unexpectedly. Some of the rooms were introduced humorously with references to Honors College teachers and works that students have to read. One of the back stories said that a teacher killed one of her students and went insane, reciting "Medea" until she died. In the courtyard, there was the ghost of a stabbed bride whose jealous ex-boyfriend was following her even after her death, according to the story. Visitors had to cross the hallway in order to get a ticket. Costumed students terrified attendees by throwing chairs after them and popping out of the windows.

*"I volunteered because I thought it would be funny to scare people."*—Stewart

"It was way more people than we expected; we had 247 people," one of the costumed actors, Darell Stewart, freshman, business, said. "It was non-stop. I had no time to rest; it was group after group after group ... I volunteered

because I thought it would be funny to scare people. The most exciting part was seeing people scream."

"It was my first time going into a haunted house," Teighlor Barnes, sophomore, nursing, said. "I would definitely do it again."

## Day of the Dead brings Latin custom to UMSL

ANYA GLUSHKO  
Features Editor

The Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, gathered the University of Missouri-St. Louis community to honor an important Hispanic custom. The celebration combined the Day of the Dead, Salsa Night and Halloween and blended American and Hispanic traditions.

On Nov. 1, the museum room in Provincial House on South Campus was transformed into a ballroom and decorated with balloons, spiders, ghosts and pumpkins. Instructors taught attendees basic and more advanced dance moves. The altar contained pictures and biographies of significant people who have passed away; it was ornamented with flowers, skulls and candles. The altar also had offerings such as bread, water and salt, which symbolize the essentials of life.

"It's very popular to see sugar skulls and bright flamboyant colors for this holiday," Mary Von Holten, sophomore, graphic design, said. "It's very different because normally in America, we mourn the dead. Hispanic culture celebrates their ancestors' lives and recognizes them. It is like a festival; it's a feast. People bring offerings to those who passed away; it keeps you attached to where you came from. It keeps your loved ones in your memories."

Spanish music brought in a diverse audience to enjoy a warm and friendly atmosphere of celebration.

"I am a part of HISLA [Hispanic Latino Association], and I came to support the organization," Briona Perry, sophomore, biochemistry, said. "It's a good event. I try to dance and I like salsa ... [The event] brings people of different cultures together."

*"It's very different because normally in America, we mourn the dead. Hispanic culture celebrates their ancestors' lives and recognizes them. It is like a festival; it's a feast."*—Holten

Students danced and got a glimpse of different Hispanic customs, such as honoring the dead, and traditional dances, such as bachata, which is a music style that originated in the Dominican Republic.

"I wanted to incorporate HISLA in an event for a long time and was glad that they were on board with a program," Shatera Davis, sophomore, communications, president of the Residential Hall Association, said. "I am glad we finally got to collaborate with a great organization like HISLA, and we hope to do it again soon and with other organizations, as well."

The audience consisted mostly of UMSL students who live on the campus. "I heard about this event from living at Oak Hall," Aaron Mann, junior, art and education, said. "I was interested because I wanted to experience something new. I want to learn and see more about a different culture."

The event did not have a large attendance; only about two dozen people showed up. HISLA member Sonia Martinez, junior, studio art, wishes that such events were publicized more broadly and that more people would attend.

"I chose to participate because I feel that Missouri does not have large number of Hispanic students," Martinez said. "The Hispanic community is not very visible at UMSL. My goal is to share a little bit of culture, music and arts with students who would probably not be exposed to it otherwise ... [Day of the Dead] is a celebration that isn't specific to any region; everyone can celebrate it. It's important to remember those who aren't with us anymore ... and it's a lot of bright colors in a gloomy time of the year."



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**UMSL**



A&E

... the St. Louis  
International Film  
Festival is the cultural  
highlight of the year.



A shot from "Fatal Call," a film by UMSL faculty member Jack Snyder.

Photo courtesy of Cinema St. Louis.

# St. Louis Film Festival kicks off with bang

CATE MARQUIS  
*Editor-in-Chief*

For serious cinema addicts, the St. Louis International Film Festival is the cultural highlight of the year.

For 10 days, Nov. 8 to 18, the St. Louis region is swamped by a tidal wave of films from around the world, from fiction films to documentaries to short films, along with parties, awards, seminars and special events.

The festival debuts some Hollywood Oscar-bait, showcases Oscar hopefuls from a bevy of nations and, in the short subjects category, gives screen space to cinematic gems that otherwise never make it to the Gateway City and offer hot new documentaries, new filmmaker offerings and retrospectives. Several theaters serve as venues, but most of the action takes place at the Tivoli, Hi-Pointe and Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

Festival-goers might need a little help to sort through and make their choices, because frankly, one cannot see them all. The Current aims to help with a two-part guide to SLIFF 2012. This week we will look at some choice films for Nov. 8 through Nov. 12, pointing out some of the highlights and special treats.

Those who want to be the first to see big Oscar hopefuls get their chance with a handful of early peeks. The opening night gala film is often a big Oscar-bait release, and this year, it delivers. "Silver Linings Playbook" has won over audiences at other festivals and is set to do the same here. The film is a quirky, funny comedy with a romantic flavor starring Bradley Cooper, Jennifer

Lawrence (of The Hunger Games) and Robert DeNiro. The film screens at the Tivoli at 7:30 p.m.

While it is fun to see those big Hollywood films first, they generally return for a longer run. Wise festival-goers focus on rarer fare. This is the international film festival, so subtitles are common, although there are plenty of films in English as well.

This year's festival includes a film with a University of Missouri-St. Louis connection. Jack Snyder, lecturer in media studies, directed the thriller "Fatal Call," which was shot in the St. Louis area. Snyder and the film's cinematographer, Chris Benson, will attend the screening, which also features a short film with an UMSL connection, Patrick Lawrence's "The Stakes."

Short films are something worth making time for at the festival. SLIFF is an official qualifying venue for short films hoping for an Oscar nomination, so the category generally shines. The first week includes a program of documentary shorts, programs titled "Family Shorts," "Absurd Animation," "Crime" and two animated short subject programs.

Other high-profile films shown the first weekend include "A Late Quartet" starring Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Catherine Keener in a film about a renowned quartet on the verge of celebrating its 25th anniversary. Billy Bob Thornton directs Robert Duval in the family drama "Jayne Mansfield's Car." Actor/director/producer Fisher Stevens' "Stand-Up Guys" stars Al Pacino, Christopher Walken and Alan Arkin in an action comedy about retired gangsters. Dustin Hoffman directs "Quartet," another intriguing

offering. An animated feature must-see for the adventurous is cult animator Don Hertzfeldt's "It's Such A Beautiful Day."

Films with festival-circuit buzz include "Teddy Bear," a Danish film about a shy body-builder that won the Best Director World Cinema Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Other worthy international films include Argentina's "Las Acacias" and the Israeli comedy-drama "Off-White Lies." Award winners and official national Oscar submissions include Slovenia's "A Trip," Rwanda's "Grey Matter," Romania's "Morgen" and Bulgaria's "Tilt."

Worthy documentaries include one by a St. Louis native, Oscar nominee Josh Aronson, the astonishing "Orchestra of Exiles" about the gifted violinist who gave up his rising career in the 1930s to build an orchestra made up of Jewish musicians being excluded from orchestras by the Nazis, an orchestra that became the Israeli Symphony Orchestra. Other must-see documentaries include "Casting By," the charming "Oma and Bella," the environmental-themed "A Fierce Green Fire," and "We Are Wisconsin," which is about the protests that led to the governor-recall effort. Baseball gets the spotlight in the documentary "Knuckleball!" This year's festival features several documentaries about Joplin, Mo., including "Joplin, Missouri: A Tornado Story."

Retrospective and little-seen historical films include a program of George Melies's inventive silent gems and a screening of the 1960s movie compilation cult classic "The Movie Orgy."

Full programs with times and ticket information are available at the Tivoli, Hi-Pointe and Plaza Frontenac Cinema or online at [www.cinemastl.org](http://www.cinemastl.org).

## Campaign exhibit at Mercantile library

(continued from page 1)

"Roosevelt for Ex-President."

The final series in the exhibit contained a hodgepodge of campaign curios from the Kennedy and Nixon administrations. Described in the display as "a decade of controversy and conflict," the impact of the social and political upheaval during these campaigns was reflected in the slogans and symbols used to promote each candidate.

Kennedy's campaign merchandise made cheeky appeals to the civil rights movement, including a button declaring, "Kennedy's white, but he's alright." It also capitalized on the royal "Camelot" image surrounding the Kennedy administration, such as a deck of "Kennedy Kards," which featured JFK as the grinning king, Jackie Onassis as queen and Lyndon B. Johnson as the jack.

The Nixon campaign, by comparison, seemed as if it was working to make the notoriously crotchety commander-in-chief more sympathetic and likable. Through cute slogans like "Click with Dick," his items tried to bank off voters' goodwill toward Nixon's vice presidential term with Ike Eisenhower, whose simple but effective "I Like Ike" may be the most popular election slogan in American history.

Although the primary focus of the display is on these particularly significant moments in the evolution of the presidential campaign, curios and memorabilia from other races are scattered throughout the exhibit as well. Other displays of note include a colorful assortment of bumper stickers ("LSD not LBJ") and a giant canvas portrait of Barack Obama that references artist Shepherd Fairey's iconic "Hope" design. These items provided an interesting example of how despite the countless advances in media technology of the past century, the power of a well-run campaign remains indisputable.

"Presidents and Politics" will be on display in the Mercantile library through Jan. 27.

## Touhill hosts "A Night of Duke Ellington"

PAUL PEANICK  
*Staff Writer*

The St. Louis Jazz Orchestra visited the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Oct. 21. The orchestra is comprised of noted university jazz professors and accomplished freelance musicians from across the St. Louis region. Led by University of Missouri-St. Louis's charismatic and dexterous Professor Jim Widner and his double bass, the orchestra delivered an unforgettable performance.

Widner is an accomplished bassist whose career spans nearly three decades. A graduate of the University of Missouri, he is now a teaching professor and director of jazz studies at UMSL. Widner has been hosting his own summer jazz camps across the nation for over 25 years.

Joining Widner were such notable names as trombonist Dave Dicky, saxophonist Jason Swagler, pianist Kevin Kehner and many other storied artists. Together, Widner and the 15 members of the St. Louis Jazz Orchestra performed before an enthralled audience, holding them spellbound from open to close.

The theme of the orchestra's performance was the music of iconic jazz musician Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington. A major figure in the history of jazz, Duke Ellington's career spanned over five decades. During his life, Ellington wrote over 1,000 compositions; he is remembered as one of the finest and most influential jazz musicians of the twentieth century.

The orchestra treated the audience to some of Ellington's greatest hits.

A black and maroon stage flanked the orchestra in the dim, candle-lit Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. As Widner counted off the musicians with "a one-two, one-two, one, two, three, four," the show was underway.

The performance that followed alternated between soft, sharp, powerful and somber. The piece was full of noir, romance and passion. Powerful surges of trumpet, trombone and saxophone accompanied skillful percussion. A flurry of notes from the hands of Kehner joined the fray, as well.

Widner purred with enthusiasm between pieces, captivating the audience with tales of "The Duke" and explaining the significance of the compositions. Widner and his orchestra's passion and their dedication to their

art were easily visible.

All of the performances were timeless, moving and well-played. One could not help but feel nostalgic and daydream about the evocative music. This was classic Americana, conjuring up images of men and women in Harlem jazz clubs sipping wine or coffee and chatting with their sweethearts late into the night. The show could have been in any venue in the world and been just as captivating.

Couples young and old sat hypnotized in the theater. The romance of the music was clearly taken to heart: people were staring into the eyes of their beloveds, exchanging kisses to the sumptuous jazz. In the eyes of the elderly could be seen the passing of memories, and in the eyes of the young, respect for the art. Although Ellington's music has been around for decades, Widner and his orchestra demonstrated that it still has the power to teach and captivate.

The orchestra carried this mesmerizing theme for over two hours, showcasing some of Duke Ellington's most beloved pieces. Included were the passionate "Prelude to a Kiss," the somber and contemplative "Mood Indigo" and the deeply romantic noir of "In a Sentimental Mood."

Many of the band members played solos at Widner's direction.

"I always pick who solos which tune at random; makes sure these guys are always ready," Widner said.

As if to prove this statement, the orchestra's grand finale was an improvised performance. In these finales, the band members had no idea which piece was going to be played beforehand, and they performed without the guidance of written music.

The piece chosen was Ellington's classic "Take the A Train." To add to the difficulty, Widner chose the duets and solos for the piece at random. The finale was climactic and showcased the high level of skill possessed by its members, including a fantastical high-paced drum solo finale that was greeted with a raucous standing ovation from the audience.

"If it ain't got that swing, it ain't nothing," Widner said.

The St. Louis Orchestra will return to the Touhill on Feb. 26 for a tribute to the works of another jazz great, William "Count" Basie.

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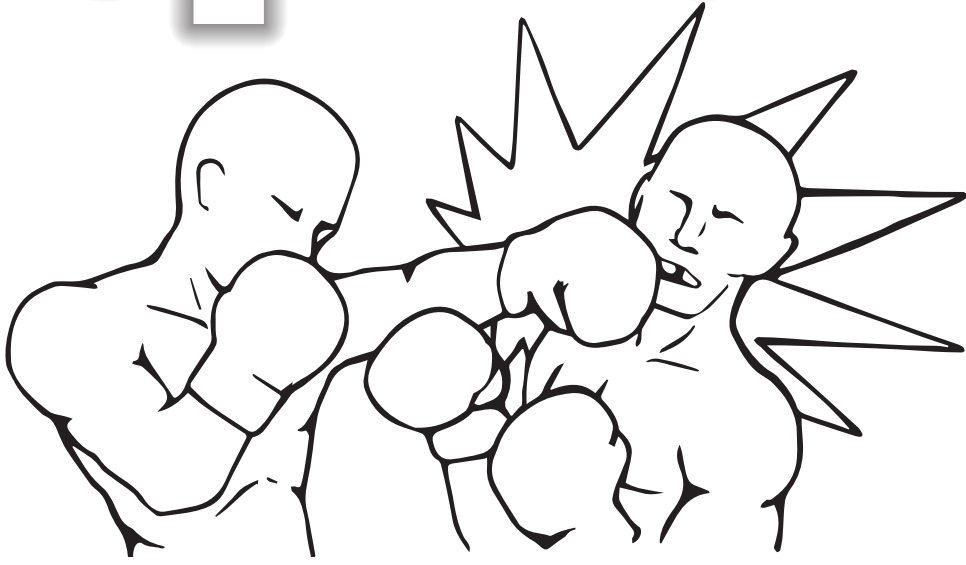
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# Opinion



## THIOFCOUNTERPOINT

### Romney's campaign keeps punching

Throughout the entire presidential election, Governor Mitt Romney has managed to stay on top of his game. Not only has he managed to stay afloat and give Obama a run for his money during the presidential debates, but GOP candidate Romney has managed to keep the American people focused on his policies and what he plans to do when he takes office.

While the Republican party has had some major bumps and bruises along the way, the wave of support for Romney and his vice presidential running mate Paul Ryan have never wavered. It is this support that has helped the Romney-Ryan ticket stay dominant in key Republican states. Romney has also given the American people something they want to hear from their candidates and that is his own voice when he was pressed with the tough questions. An example would be how Romney planned his speech to perfectly counter the words spoken by Missouri Republican Todd Akin when he addressed the standards of "legitimate rape." Romney managed to stay on top of his game and provide the American people with his own belief, that abortion is acceptable in the cases of danger to the mother or child, rape and incest.

The Romney-Ryan campaign has done better than Obama's campaign regarding explanation of how his economic and jobs plan would work. Romney stated that he wanted to create 12 million jobs by the end of his term,

which comes to at least 3 million jobs a year, something that the American people find a little safer and a lot

*While the Republican party has had some major bumps and bruises along the way, the wave of support for Romney and his vice presidential running mate Paul Ryan have never wavered.*

more realistic when determining which candidate gives them the better opportunity in the future. Romney also stated that he did not support an increase in gun control, whereas Obama said that he would allow it when it involved assault weapons.

Romney has managed to give the citizens of America someone that they can rely on, but more importantly, he has given them a reliable and realistic way to achieve those goals over the next four years.

### Obama campaign superior to rival's

It is without argument that Obama ran a better campaign this year. Let's start with what Obama did right to put himself on top.

First, he clarified his position on same-sex marriage. By doing this, Obama didn't just become a public supporter of gays; he also reaffirmed his support for not only the majority, but the minority, too, for a right that has too long been denied them.

*Obama and the Democrats may have painted Mitt Romney as a rich white guy who knew absolutely nothing about the working poor, but Romney didn't do much to change the image.*

Second, he played the Clinton card. Bill Clinton is still one of the most beloved characters in America. Obama has, on a number of occasions, highlighted how he is doing what Clinton did in the 1990s to bring back the America we remember and has also been endorsed by Clinton.

Third, he blamed Bush, as he rightly should. No one stops to remember the despicable situation he walked into four years ago: America went bankrupt because

of two wars and a deficit well over \$1 trillion in 2008, and the lack of regulation in the financial market led to a credit crisis at the beginning of his term. Obama reminded people of these facts.

Obama also benefited from his opponent's bad handiwork. Obama and the Democrats may have painted Mitt Romney as a rich white guy who knew absolutely nothing about the working poor, but Romney didn't do much to change the image.

He was reluctant if not foot-dragged into releasing his tax records, a regular part of any campaign. Openly accepting funding from superpacs definitely didn't help him. He was a giant hypocrite when he stormed around the country with his doom-and-gloom rants about how Obama was trying to control individual health care when he implemented a similar program in Massachusetts.

Painting his face orange "to relate" on Univision really didn't come across too well, either. It was disgusting, an act that insinuated that Hispanics voted for Obama because he was a person of color.

But most importantly, he chose Paul Ryan as his running mate. Choosing a name synonymous with his infamous budget doesn't brew well with senior and middle-aged voters, who are nervous about their social security and Medicare. In the end, it doesn't matter if he goes on television and says he's not touching these entitlements or that he actually wants to help the working poor; Romney's track record and his campaign speaks louder to voters. Fortunately, Obama's does, too.

## Unsolicited Advice column Missouri shouldn't vote for coal

HALI FLINTROP

*Opinions Editor*

Just one week to go until the election and politics have taken over everything, even my drive home on Highway 170, during which I only wanted to rock out. Unfortunately, a boring billboard interrupted my good time by criticizing President Obama's energy efforts and instructing Missouri to vote for coal.

Okay, first of all, coal sucks as an energy source to vote for. Voters should vote for things that they actually believe in. And nobody—nobody who does not have money invested in coal, that is—believes in coal. It is clear that coal is not a long-term solution for American energy. It is merely a smoggy, dirty and nonrenewable problem. Missouri may still need coal, but we should vote to pursue energy sources that are sustainable and truly clean, like solar or wind energy.

It is unfortunate that we have to use coal until the long-term solution is determined, but a long-term solution is a necessity, and it is clear that coal not the answer. Missouri needs to move forward and look to the future; we have no business voting for an artifact of the past.

Missouri should not vote for coal; it's that simple. Who wants to vote for something that causes black lung?

And then there is the fallacy of criticizing Obama on energy while at the same time encouraging Missourians to vote for coal. Obama pushing the nation to leap into clean energy (after so many successful nations have already leaped, I might add) is not something to be criticized. Seriously, it must be awkward for America to explain the black smudges on her dress, her incessant wheezing and her embarrassingly old-fashioned energy practices when she goes to parties with solar-powered countries. Truly, Americans should be a bit ashamed for missing the clean and progressive energy train. Missouri



should not screw up our opportunity to finally improve ourselves this year by voting for coal.

The only glaring problem with Obama's energy policy is his unwillingness to condemn coal. He has said that we can work on developing "clean coal" technology. If we Americans had our common-sense hats on, we would scream back that there is no such thing as "clean coal." There may be comparatively cleaner ways to use coal, but ultimately, coal is dirty. A dirty, dirty source of energy.

And even after this, the billboard is still offensive. Why? Oh, just its attempted manipulation of pride residents might have for the state of Missouri to convince them to vote for coal. Something about the tone of the billboard seemed to say that if you love Missouri, you love coal. If you're an evil resident who wants Missouri to go up in flames, you won't vote for coal, and you don't deserve to live here. That is a very gratuitous evaluation of the billboard, of course. But its tone was still irksome.

Hopefully, Missouri does not fall for it.

Missourians suck it up, say a wheezy goodbye to coal in this election and figure out what we're going to do about the future.

## Student Abroad column 'Kawaii' cute hurts Japanese women

RACHELLE BRANDEL

*Staff Writer*

"Kawaii" is a term that every Japanese person knows and that all students of Japanese have arduously studied throughout their college careers. Kawaii literally translates to "cute," but kawaii is a way of life for many Japanese people, and it is an image and existence that many strive for. We can try and compare it to America's endeavor to be sexy, but even that does not fully explain kawaii. Kawaii has a darker side than one would think, as it continues to contribute to the sexism we see within Japan.

Kawaii can first be described as an image. All Japanese girls attempt to make their image cute, and all boys pursue a cute woman. A foreigner can see this simply by looking at the styles of Japanese women. Not only is the Japanese woman always 100 percent put together, from clothing to makeup, but no matter her style, she makes the viewer want to squeal, "Cute!" Clothing with frills is incredibly popular in Japan, as are clothes that are fuzzy or poofy. Oversized shirts that stretch to the knees and short skirts are made to make the wearers look smaller, almost like the wearers just decided to wear their daddies' clothes.

One popular trend that I can't understand is grown women wearing socks with lace tops that in America only very young children wear during Easter. Much of this trend relates back to the young girls portrayed in manga and anime and the attempt of Japanese women to look like them as their popularity increases among Japanese men.

Kawaii is a model and necessity. Many Japanese boys will tell you they like a cute girl, but none will comment on the benefits that being kawaii can bring to a woman. If you've ever heard a Japanese woman speak or watched anime that's subtitled instead of dubbed, you know that Japanese women make their voices extremely high-pitched and extend their words to an almost annoying point. By making her voice higher, a Japanese woman is considered not only cute, but also agreeable, honest and weak. She's considered dependent but also



pleasant, qualities that men in the workforce and home of Japan want in a female. Women with low voices are thought to be independent, stubborn and not agreeable, and many Japanese people think that deep-voiced women will be unable to marry or find good jobs. What it comes down to is that kawaii is what's needed for a Japanese woman to succeed in her life.

Kawaii has overtaken Japanese toys, art and merchandise. In Japan, Barbie has long been bested by Hello Kitty! who strives to look more cute than her sexy plastic counterpart. Art such as Murakami Takashi's works boast the large eyes and small bodies of kawaii standards. And anime and manga are a huge force that push kawaii forward.

The reasons for and opinions about kawaii are constantly under discussion and can't be pinned down to one simple idea. But while kawaii is just another thing that gives Japan its uniqueness, it continues to hold back its women by making them strive for an ideal that is neither empowering nor helpful to society as a whole. While the image of kawaii is not bad in and of itself, the dependency and weakness it promotes among women is holding women back in a detrimental way. While the view of women in America as striving for the sexy goddess is no better than kawaii, at least advocating sexiness arguably promotes a sort of feminine strength.

There is no doubt in my mind that it is kawaii that is continuing to push Japanese women back into subservient roles and away from gender equality.



# Comics & Games

## SIMPLY BEAGLE

Lee Sellars



## BRAIN DEAD

Zach McDaniel



## JUST A COUPLE DRIFTERS

Christian Kessler



## THE UMSL MATH CLUB PRESENTS: PROBLEM OF THE MONTH

Uriah Heep wishes to invite 19 of his close associates to a humble Thanksgiving feast. His humble round table can accommodate “only” 20 people, so counting himself that works just fine. But the Micawbers, a family of four, must be seated together. In how many distinct ways can this festive group be seated?

Submit your solution by Nov. 16. Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month Nov. 5. **THERE WILL BE PRIZES.** Submit solutions to R. Dotzel in Express Scripts Hall 329.

September problem solved by: Emmett Wilson, Susan Novak

Please note: Math Club talk by Al Stanger on Nov. 5 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Clark Hall 205. Topic: Calendar Calculations.

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

### CRYPTOGRAM

YOU CAN'T FIND ANY OXYGEN FROM OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT TO GET IN THE AIRCRAFT, BECAUSE THE WINDOWS DON'T OPEN. I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY DON'T DO THAT. IT'S A REAL PROBLEM. — MITT ROMNEY

### SUDOKU

4	2	1	8	3	9	6	7	5
6	3	7	1	5	2	9	8	4
5	8	9	6	7	4	3	1	2
7	9	8	3	1	5	2	4	6
3	4	2	9	6	7	8	5	1
1	5	6	2	4	8	7	3	9
8	1	3	4	2	6	5	9	7
2	7	4	5	9	3	1	6	8
9	6	5	7	8	1	4	2	3

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