

10-19-2009

## Current, October 19, 2009

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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# The Current



THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS SINCE 1966 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.COM | VOLUME 43; ISSUE 1292 | OCT. 19, 2009

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Cross perspectives on H1N1

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Bean: Jon and Kate + 8 = unnecessary drama

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More and more comics!

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## News at Noon addresses child abuse

► CHRIS STEWART  
Asst. Design Editor

Megan Schacht, clinical assistant professor and clinical manager of Children's Advocacy Services, deals directly with victims of trauma and abuse.

"Child sexual abuse happens a lot more than is known," Schacht said at Wednesday's edition of University of Missouri-St. Louis'

News at Noon series, a set of informative and interactive events co-hosted by The New York Times and *The Current*.

"One in four girls and one in six boys experience unwanted sexual contact before [the age of] 18," Schacht said.

Peggy Cohen, the director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, welcomed participants into Meeting

Room A on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center for the event.

After helping themselves to pizza and beverages, attendees arranged themselves at a table where Schacht passed around copies of an article on a recent kidnapping case.

The case was that of Jaycee Lee Dugard.

See ABUSE, page 3



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Peggy Cohen, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and New York Times representative Norm Wave before Wednesday's News At Noon event.



CHERA MEYER / THE CURRENT

## A good turn rewarded

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and UM-St. Louis teamed up to congratulate Juan Bermudez, senior, mathematics, in a ceremony in the third-floor rotunda of the MSC. Last month, Bermudez returned a stolen Kindle he had purchased on Craigslist to its rightful owner, State Auditor Susan Montee. Bermudez was awarded with a new Kindle for his efforts.

## Business school ranked in top 301

► AARON HOLDMEYER  
Staff Writer

A few months ago, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' International Business School was ranked the 15th-best school for Undergraduate Business Specialties by U.S. News and World Report. More recently the whole business program received another ranking from The Princeton Review's release of their 2010 edition of "301 Best Business Schools." UM-St. Louis holds one of these 301 spots for 2010, however they were not given a specific number. To be fair, none of the schools are ranked in a linear fashion.

The numbers released by the Princeton Review are not ranked in the same fashion as the U.S. News and World Report. Instead of a numerical ranking, the schools are rated in several different categories. Those can range from best professors and most competitive students to difficulty of acceptance.

The Princeton Review describes their selection process as, "[surveying] more than 19,000 students at 301 business schools, in addition to collecting data from school administrators, to create 11 ranking lists."

See RANKED, page 2

## WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
67 49	69 52	69 56	56 46	51 43	49 41	59 44



## The Current

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1291

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# Recycling on campus improves

► JOHN DUNN  
Staff Writer

A report issued at the beginning of the month gives new figures for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' recycling program. Over 250,000 pounds of recyclable waste was collected in the last financial year, the highest volume since university records began ten years ago.

Despite a year-on-year decrease in both paper and cardboard recycling tonnage collected at the university individually, the overall weight of materials has increased 13.3% since last year, the result of a new 'comingled' collection scheme.

Craig Robinson is chair of the Green Campus Advisory Group, an organization that is committed to decreasing the university's impact on the environment. The organization is also responsible for integrating recycling into the UM System. Robinson commented on the new 'comingled' scheme, implemented in order to promote recycling.

"My intention is to go to a single comingled recycling stream and

[have] a second dumpster for the comingled recyclables at each building," Robinson said. "Once in place, I should be able to expand the indoor collections through better-labeled and marketed receptacles for them."

Robinson went on to say that while recycling had improved, there were still weak points. Robinson said that "steel recycling" was the "weakness" of UM-St. Louis' recycling. Robinson said that students living on campus do not currently have adequate facilities to recycle their steel.

The Green Campus Advisory Group has been looking into providing recycling points on South Campus, although there is currently no space for an outdoor dumpster, and only paper can be recycled.

"Many students in the Villa Residential Hall have expressed an interest in recycling plastics and aluminum, and the South campus kitchen surely generates a lot of plastic and cardboard," Robinson said.

See RECYCLING, page 16

# UM-St. Louis creates "Students of Service"

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN  
News Editor

On Sept. 1, the University of Missouri-St. Louis received a Learn and Serve America Higher Education grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The \$420,000 grant is being used to begin a program at the university entitled "UMSL Students of Service."

The idea for the program was developed from a collaboration between the College of Education and the Community Partnership Project, along with the Office of Student Life, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the School of Social work. Kay Gasen-Thenhaus, director for the project, said that all of the parties will "provide oversight" of the project over the next three years.

"UMSL Students of Service" will involve the participation of over 1,400 university students over a three-year period, with the total

amount of hours of community service exceeding 23,000 hours. Gasen said that the program will work to promote community service.

"UMSL Students of Service is a focused effort to both promote student civic engagement and contribute to the stability and well-being of the local community," Gasen said.

Gasen said that the program will focus especially on "increasing institutional capacity" at the university for community service, and engaging university students in a "range of service opportunities." Gasen also said that the focal point of the program will be on improving "critical housing and public education challenges" that have been worsened by the current economical situation. Gasen also said that while the grant will only last three years, the program will strive to find lasting ways to promote civic engagement in the community.

See SERVICE, page 16

RANKED, from page 1

Their approach is tailored to their goal of providing relevant information to prospective college students. They said, "We don't believe that any one business school is the best overall. Instead, we believe there is a best business school for you."

UM-St. Louis' business school received ranks for admissions selectivity and academic experience receiving 73 and 77 respectively out of a ranking from 60-99. Along with this empirical data, more anecdotal accounts from students were given from surveys taken. Written into their reports were anonymous statements from students. One student said that the small cohorts in the MBA program allows her "to feel more comfortable and enables [her] to take more risks (presenting, sharing ideas) than in a traditional class setting." On the other hand there were students who expressed frustration. For example, a student's discontent because of the lack of "real-world interaction." "I think my academic experience will be pure[ly] academic, without any real business insight," the student wrote.

Keith Womer, dean of the college of business administration, finds the ranking to be a significant accomplishment but not an overwhelming achievement. Womer finds that their accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business to be more noteworthy because only 570 schools are selected for this classification worldwide.

"The rankings are just indicators of quality, and the focus I think always ought to be on the quality of our faculty and the quality of our students, and the quality of our programs," Womer said. This focus seems to have paid off because the business program has achieved this ranking before and has consistently remained in the pool of 301 schools for several years. Womer finds that it is something they expect to achieve and that it is also a positive boost for current students as well as a signal for possible applicants.

"The obvious benefit is that it lets people know, from an independent source, some measure of quality about [our program]," Womer said.

Steve Burrows, Director of the International Business Institute, agreed with Womer's conclusion about the expectations of the business program. He said that numerous students select UM-St. Louis largely because of its rankings.

"When you ask students what attracts them to the International Business programs, they often mention the ranking as very important in their decision," Burrows said. "And when it comes to faculty or students, everyone wants to be with a winner, and being a winner attracts the best students and the best faculty."



## UMSL sees decrease in alcohol violations, increase in motor vehicle theft

The campus police department for the University of Missouri-St. Louis released a yearly report of campus crime statistics for the 2008 school year.

An email alerting students, faculty and staff of UM-St. Louis was sent containing a link to the website where the report can be found.

According to the report, 2008 saw an increase in overall aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft.

There were eight incidents of motor vehicle theft in

2008 compared to the four in 2007, and 13 in 2006. 2008 had the highest number of incidents of aggravated assault over the last three years (11 in 2008, 6 in 2007, and 2 in 2006).

According to the report, there was also an increase in drug law violations with nine being reported in 2008 compared to three in 2007 and six in 2006.

The number of arrests for "liquor law violations" decreased from the three reported in 2007 to one in 2008.

The report also showed that there have been no hate crimes committed on campus for the last three years.

Along with the report were definitions of each crime and the numbers for Emergency and Assistance personal. The report also detailed that theft was the most common crime in residential areas and urged students to take "necessary precautions," such as always locking their rooms and to "be aware" of their surroundings.

### ABUSE, from page 1

Dugard, eighteen years ago, was taken at the age of 11 and forced to live in a backyard shed behind the house of the couple that kidnapped her. In that time she had two children by her kidnapper. Her children grew up thinking that Dugard was their older sister.

The passionate dialogue spurred by the article led to an hour of round-table discussion on matters of abuse and the shared responsibilities of communities. One heavy topic of focus was Stockholm syndrome, the phenomenon that occurs when kidnap or hostage victims begin to identify or even empathize with their captors. Such phenomena occur in the fragile and traumatized minds of victims of extreme crimes.

One close-to-home case brought up was that of Shawn Hornbeck, the Missouri native who was held for five years before being recovered.

Schacht, along with the rest of UM-St. Louis's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), works directly with the victims of abuse as well as their families as they work through the process of readjusting.

"If a child is a victim of a crime, or witnesses a crime, we're on call to provide forensic interviews that can be admitted in court," Schacht said. Schacht also said that direct counseling and community work also fall under her purview. Citing the disturbing statistic that of the sexual abuse cases dealt with by the CAC last year—95-

98 percent of abusers were known to their victims—Schacht expressed the need to be educated.

Schacht and the CAC do as much to promote prevention as they do to help victims.

"Stranger danger education fails, and we can't keep using that when so many of these crimes are committed by individuals known to the victims," Schacht said.

Two representatives from the New York Times were among the participants prodding discussion points with questions regarding the responsibilities both of news media and of consumers of news media.

News at Noon will continue offering the discussion of provocative and timely issues, as well as pizza.

## CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in the 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.

In the Oct. 5 edition on page 1, the headline should read "Normandy family of 28 escapes house fire."

In the Oct. 5 edition on page 1, the photo caption should read, "Won Woo Hong rocks the Pilot House at this year's Big Man on Campus competition Wednesday. Matt Bono, senior, mechanical engineering, won the competition."

In the Oct. 5 edition on page 5, "Chancellor delivers State of University address" the student quartet name is misspelled. It should read "Dickson Quartet."

In the Oct. 12 edition on page 1, a printing error on some copies caused a headline to be omitted. It should have read "Painting for a good cause." The same error caused the temperatures in the weather section to be omitted. Both errors were corrected in a reprint, which is available in The Current's office, 388 MSC.

Let us know of any corrections that need to be made. E-mail us at [thecurrenttips@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrenttips@umsl.edu) or drop by 388 MSC.

# FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS... WEAR GELMETS.

**Nearly 90% of girls  
agree that hard,  
crusty, over-gelled  
hair turns them off.\***

\*National survey of 2,500 girls 18-24  
conducted by StrategyOne June and July 2008.

## GET GIRL-APPROVED HAIR

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# Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Jennifer Meahan

What do you think of PRIZM having its own drag show on campus?



**Sarah Lowe**  
Sophomore  
Photography

"I think it's great. It attracts a full crowd every year. Of course something like a drag show on campus will be controversial, but that's what makes it so successful."



**Dan Hawthorn**  
Graduate Student  
Psychology

"I think it's great. But, I also think it's a little sad that it is a big deal. It should really be an accepted part of life. No one would blink at another group's activities."



**Katherine Figueroa**  
Graduate Student  
Psychology

"I think this is a great idea. It would be a way for others on campus to express their individuality."



**Roxana Palmer**  
Junior  
Photography

"I think it's wonderful to support diversity and have a fun time!"

## VERBATIM

"The reality of it is that Fox News often operates almost as either the research arm or the communications arm of the Republican Party."

-Anita Dunn



"The idea is mixing intimate with epic at the same time."

-Spike Jonze on his new movie: "Where The Wild Things Are"

"And they called it an enemy...that is over-the-top language. We heard that before from Richard Nixon."

-Karl Rove on the Obama Administration's criticism of Fox News

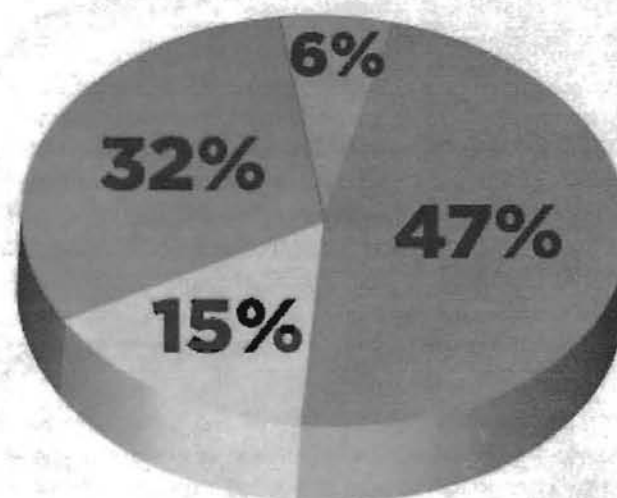


"I got bad news this morning. A friend passed away in a car accident, so everyone needs to drive safe."

-Stephanie Pratt hours before being arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence

## POLL

How do you feel about the Obama getting the Nobel Peace Prize?



- Amazing! He's a great president. The best ever!
- He got the what? Aren't we still in a war, or two?
- Who cares about the Nobel Prize?
- Too much, too soon.

## This week:

Should we be sending more troops overseas?

Answer at  
[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

## CRIMELINE

Wednesday, Oct. 14

**Fugitive Warrant Arrest - Oak Hall.** At about 10:00 PM while the UMSL Police were investigating a possible drug violation, a person was identified as having an outstanding warrant for his arrest out of Ferguson, Mo. The person was arrested and transported to the police station, where he was properly processed and released to the Ferguson Police.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort. Anyone with information concerning these, or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. Please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or 314-516-5155.

## TRITON TIPS by the UMSL Police Department

### THE PROBLEM

Bicycles are easy to steal by thieves of any age. Bike thieves can ride away on your bike and merge unnoticed into a crowd. An unsecured bike can be stolen in less than 15 seconds. Locked bikes can be lifted over sign posts they have been secured to. They can be taken when secured to movable objects. Bolt cutters can be used to cut a chain, cable, or padlock up to 3/8" thick.

### LOCK IT

Always lock your bike; even in the back yard, garage, or residential life area. Lock your bike with a U-shaped

bike lock or a hardened chain, cable, and padlock at least 7/16" thick. Put the bike lock through both wheels and the frame. Removing one of the wheels and taking it with you can further reduce theft. Secure bike accessories (helmet, tire pump, water bottle, contents of a seat bag) that can be easily removed.

### RECORD IT

Record the serial number of your bike. Engrave a unique identifying mark or name on your bike in an obscure location. Check with your insurance company to see if your bike is covered in case of theft. Take a photo of

the bike for identification.

### PARK SAFE

Park your bike in a safe, public area whenever possible. Store it in a secure area if not being used for a considerable time.

### REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

Suspicious behavior: loitering around parked bikes, tampering with bikes, transporting a bike with the wheels chained together, loading bikes into a truck, and carrying or "walking" a bike.

### IF YOUR BIKE IS STOLEN

Report it to the police at once.

# Science/Health

## Delivery of vaccine for swine flu

► SARAH HILL  
Staff Writer

After months of development, the vaccine for the H1N1 virus has been released.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the federal government has purchased 250 million H1N1 vaccine doses.

While the 250 million will be dispersed throughout the United States, early shipments are at a minimum.

"We received our first shipment about one week and a half ago," Craig Lefebvre, Public Information Officer for St. Louis County Health Department, said.

"We've received a total of three shipments at this point, but they have all been very small shipments given the size of our population. It's kind of the early shipments trickling out of the backseat. To give you an idea, there are nearly one million people in St. Louis County, and our first shipment was only 5,000."

Those in high risk groups for infections or complications with influenza will receive priority in the distribution of the vaccine.

This includes pregnant women, children 6-24 months of age, caregivers to children who are under six months of age, emergency responders and healthcare

workers, and those aged 25-64 who have an underlying health condition that could affect flu complications such as diabetes or asthma.

Vaccines will be given at locations that address these priority groups.

This includes offices of obstetricians and gynecologists, pediatricians and schools.

The St. Louis County Department of Health, among other health departments, is in the process of setting up public vaccination sites.

These are expected to be

Dr. Jeanne Zach, Manager of Infection Prevention and Control at Missouri Baptist Medical Center, said.

The H1N1 vaccine can be given at the same time with other vaccines.

The exception is administering seasonal live-flu vaccine.

"You can get the seasonal flu vaccine in one arm, and the H1N1 in the other. If you do the nasal vaccine, like you do the nasal flu mist of the seasonal or the H1N1, you're not supposed to get those together because they are live viruses," said Zach.

The vaccine will not cost to the public. However, there may be small administrative fees when seeing a private doctor.

"The vaccine itself will be free," Lefebvre said. It was purchased by the federal government. It is being distributed for free. We are prohibited by federal agreement to charge anything for this public health agency.

Having said that, some private providers, private physicians, clinics, etc., will be able to charge an administrative fee to cover their cost of delivering it."

Though the vaccine will prevent the public from attaining the H1N1 virus, health care professionals encourage basic health routines to further prevent illness.

See VACCINE, page 12

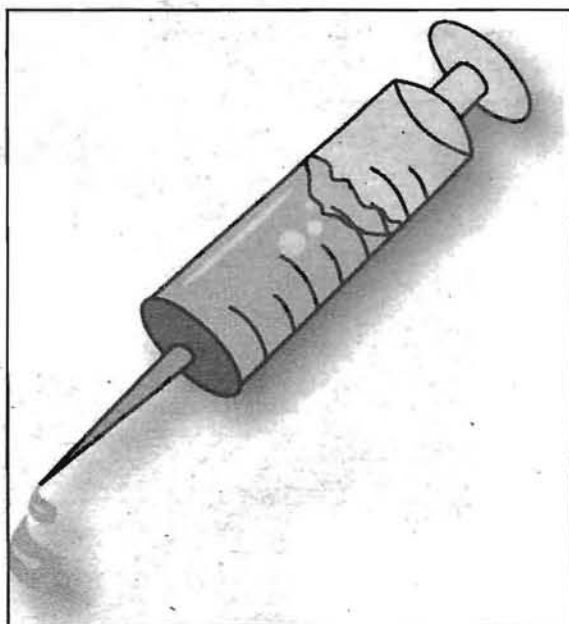


ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

gin appearing in the months of November, December and January. By that time it is expected that there will be enough doses of vaccine distributed for every American who wishes to be vaccinated.

"Healthcare providers of hospitals who provided the vaccine for their healthcare people actually had to sign a vaccine-provider agreement that we would only give it to the designated group that the CDC had designated for vaccine administration,"

## Cross perceptions on H1N1

► SARAH HILL  
Staff Writer

Regarding the current state of H1N1 on campus: "Concern is high," Dr. Kathleen Nigro, instructor of Women's and Gender Studies, said. "The administration asked us [faculty members] to give lenience," she said.

So far, five cases of H1N1 have been reported on campus, primarily among residents of the University Meadows.

Dr. Pamela Ashmore, chair of the anthropology department on campus also mentioned the administration's request for instructors to be lenient towards sick

students.

"The administration has asked the instructors with strict attendance, such as I have a strict attendance policy, to be more lenient," Ashmore said.

Regarding the need for documentation if illness occurs, Dr. Ashmore said that it is only needed if the student misses an exam or quiz.

Since this kind of request leaves room for students to take advantage of the sniffles excuse, she mentioned that instructors are actively "putting some trust into their students," though "there will always be students that will take advantage," Ashmore said.

In response to the situa-

tion, Ashmore has put more information on MyGateway. Her concern, however, is for the sick students who do not have internet access.

"Not every student has a computer at home, so that is going to be a lot of work that they will have to make up," Ashmore said.

Both Nigro and Ashmore agree that although the concern is high, the temperature inside some of the buildings on campus has been terribly low. Last week, one of the boilers that heats Clark Hall blew out, forcing some instructors to leave early from the inability to write.

See PERCEPTIONS, page 8

MEET DARREN. HE'S SIXTEEN GOING ON IMMORTAL.

**THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT**  
THE CIRQUE DU FREAK SHOW BEGINS

UNIVERSAL The Current

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**OPENS NATIONWIDE OCTOBER 23**



# Physics Nobel Prize honors three for advances in digital imagery

► **JOE SCHAFFNER**  
Staff Writer

The 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics was shared between three scientists. Dr. Charles K. Kao was awarded half of the award for his breakthrough regarding the transmission of light in the field of fiber optics. Dr. Willard S. Boyle and Dr. George E. Smith were awarded the honor for inventing the Charge-Coupled Device, a sensor found in digital cameras.

Fiber optic cables are a fundamental medium for modern communication net-

works that carry phone calls and facilitate high-speed internet connections. Dr. Eric Mazjoub, assistant physics professor, described the cable itself as a piece of prepared glass drawn into micrometers-thick cylindrical fiber.

"Signals are transmitted through the cable by sending light down the fiber and detecting it at the other end," Dr. Mazjoub said. "A fiber optic cable works by confining all of the light that initially enters the cable from leaving through the sides of the cable. This effect is called total internal reflection, and

without it the loss of light would prevent any signal transmission over any significant length."

The idea of using light to transmit data is not a new one. "They used to do it all the time in the navy with Morse code," Michael Shulte, associate professor of mathematics and computer sciences, said. Even the idea of using glass tubes to transmit information dates back to the 1920s.

However, all of these previous methods could only transmit light for short distances and at slow speeds. Dr.

Kao was awarded the Nobel Prize for showing that by using a wire with the correct chemical makeup, light could travel over much greater distances and with less loss of intensity.

The Charge-Coupled Device (CCD) was invented in 1969 by Dr. Boyle and Dr. Smith. In 2009, it is a major technology used by a vast portion of the population to convert images into digital signals.

CCDs work by converting light into a pattern of electronic charges in a silicon chip. This pattern of charges

is converted into a video waveform, digitized and stored as an image file on a computer.

"Their initial intention of the design was to find a way to transfer charges along the surface of a semiconductor, so they developed an array to capture electrons," Dr. Jingyue Liu, assistant physics professor, said. "It was soon realized that these arrays can receive electrons via the photoelectric effect. Through this device one can convert photons to electrons with a spatial registration. When the device is integrated with

a sensor, one can obtain electronic images."

CCDs have made it possible to produce images of weak stars and galaxies. The Hubble Space Telescope uses this technology.

According to Dr. Liu, CCD technology combined with nanoscience and nanotechnology is the reason we have better and cheaper digital cameras—they utilize the same technology.

"When we combine CCD technology with optical fiber technology we now 'see' images instantly worldwide," said Liu.

# Student underwent "slice and dice" to be trim and slim

► **SARAH HILL**  
Staff Writer

Weight loss comes in countless varieties, from calorie counting and exercise, to fad diets, pills and the good new-fashioned "slice and dice of internal organs," as Max Knocke, junior, English would say. Once weighing 405 at his peak, he described himself as a "victim of fad diets" along with many other unsuccessful attempts to lose weight.

"You can't just go in and say, I want to have gastric bypass. You have to have a psych evaluation, and you have to actually show a history of weight loss attempts, and even up until the day of the surgery they can still reject you," Knocke said.

In his case, his insurance company would not cover the gastric bypass, deeming it to be an "elected surgery."

This had to be a cash endeavor. From the medical perspective, he said that his doctor preferred that young people opt for the surgery. These patients would then "actively make the change," he said.

Doing this, Knocke went from a peak of 405 pounds to his current weight of 196 pounds and is still dropping. Regarding the change, he mentioned having a hard time finding clothes that fit. "I have reams upon reams of clothing that I have donated that I could make a tent out of and live in," Knocke said.

Understanding the process, the post-op bariatric patients run rather large

gastric vitamins have been produced to act in accordance with the danger of vitamin

from incision leakage, pulmonary embolisms, anemia and osteoporosis, according to Depaul Health Center.

The surgery itself is composed of three steps. First, the creation of a gastric pouch is made through the separation of a very small portion of the stomach. Then, the small intestine is divided below the duodenum and is reconnected.

This provides for proper biliopancreatic juices after the operation. The remaining portion of the

original stomach stays in the body, in front of the newly constructed stomach.

Patients are placed on a meal plan, given special bariatric vitamins to avoid vitamin deficiencies and are advised to avoid alcohol, sugar, carbonated beverages, bread and French fries along with a long list of other restricted foods and beverages. The meal plan varies in intensity over the course of a year. As the patients' healing progress continues, they are allowed to consume more complex foods which are preapproved for gastric bypass patients.

Understanding the extremity and occasional necessity of the operation, Knocke said "If you are one of those people that are actively trying to make the change and nothing has worked, this is something that has worked."

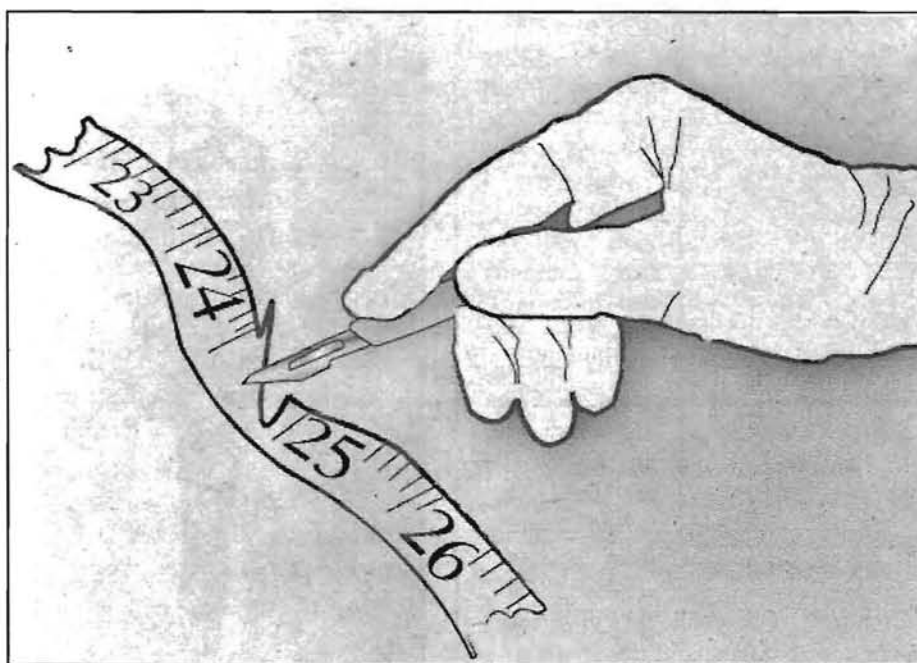


ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

amount of risks such as vitamin deficiencies, infections and blood clots. Special bar-

deficiency. Outside of this, post-operation yields risks such as peritonitis resulting

for proper biliopancreatic juices after the operation. The remaining portion of the

## The Current

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# Adverse effects of Adderall

## Will it get you hooked?

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**  
Staff Writer

With midterms approaching, pencils are sharpened, coffee is poured, and for some, Adderall is popped. Although often prescribed for ADHD, this prescription drug is also a popular stimulant used alternatively to reduce drowsiness and increase focus.

On the surface, this drug seems to provide a panacea for good grades. However, it could come at a cost.

Adderall has a relatively short history: It was introduced to the market around 1996 by Shire Pharmaceuticals. Yet amphetamines, the drug's core component, have been around for quite some time, and emerged in the 19th century mainly to enhance the performance of soldiers. There was noted use of these drugs during World War II and even more recently during the war in Afghanistan.

These historical uses have been overshadowed by the use of amphetamines for recreational purposes. This also exposes its dangers, especially when referring to speed and methamphetamines, drugs that essentially utilize the same chemical process as Adderall.

"Methamphetamines [are] really, in effect, no different than amphetamine. It's just more potent. When it gets to your brain, it's doing the ex-

act same thing," Robert Keel, professor of sociology, said.

Keel said Adderall is a central nervous system stimulant that has an impact on the production of dopamine, the "feel good" neurotransmitters in the brain.

"In the short term, with reasonable dosing, they improve your performances, cognitive skills, motor skills and they make you feel good," Keel said.

Keel leveled this out by adding that Adderall, "in a very classic sense ... [is] not addictive but dependency, if you will, is probably more significant."

"You get into cycles with central nervous system stimulants ... You take one, you feel good, and the when you come down the relative perspective is now you're not just normal, you're feeling bad and so the tendency is take another," Keel said. He also said that these cycles lead to tolerance issues, which escalate the dependency and eventually wear the body down.

Recognition of these detrimental effects can be seen in the Controlled Substances Act of 1971, which deemed amphetamines a Schedule II drug. The Act defines a Schedule II drug as one having potential for abuse, medical benefits and risk of addiction. What differentiates it from a Schedule I drug, the most potentially dangerous, is that while posing "a high

potential for abuse," it has "a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions." Under this legislation, the use of Adderall without a prescription is illegal.

"The medical field tries to be very careful at prescribing a drug for a legitimate reason, and any time you've got somebody taking that drug [for other reasons] ... you have the potential for abuse, if not considering it to be abuse to begin with," Dan Duncan, director of community services for the National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse in St. Louis and UM-St. Louis alumnus, said.

Duncan said this abuse exposes users to three risks: addiction, impaired judgment and the depression that results from coming down off a high. He said the last point is especially risky to those already predisposed to depression.

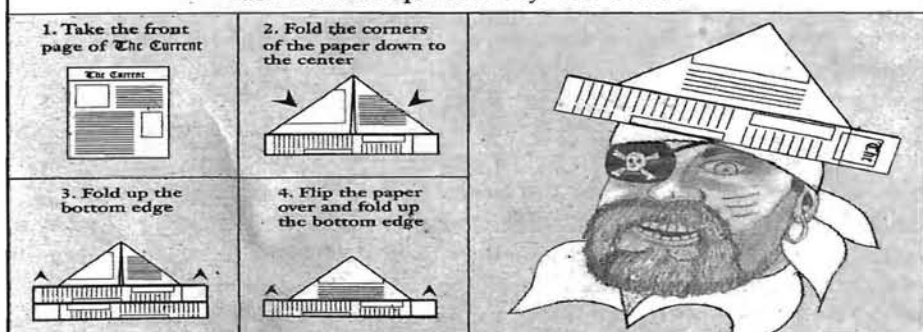
"I think the risk isn't worth it," Duncan said. "Can somebody perhaps rationalize that taking something and staying up late to be able to study and make a good grade? Yeah, they can rationalize that and maybe they do ... [However] there are other ways to do it, more natural ways and ways that make more sense and work out better for just about everybody."

## AXE HAIR WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below: GEL, CRUSTY, CLUELESS, DIRTY, SPIKES, FLAKES, GREASY, HARD, POOFY, CRISIS. Forward only. Horizontal, vertical and diagonal are all fair game.

Y	F	C	R	U	S	T	Y	D	Q
U	E	L	K	C	P	G	P	I	R
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O	G	R	G	N	M	T	S	A	B
P	I	A	E	E	K	U	I	B	T
A	C	L	U	E	L	E	S	S	N

How to make a pirate hat by: The Current



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**RELIEF**



# Cute Japanese robot (that will not kill you)

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
Asst. HSTB Editor

Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center was packed on Thursday night as University of Missouri-St. Louis students and members of the community gathered to learn about Japan's robotics industry from experts and experience it for themselves.

Robotics in Japan has become a growing industry, especially in the field of service robotics. These are robots designed to aid humans in day-to-day tasks, something that has become vital as Japan faces a rapidly aging population.

Yasushi Sumitani, director of technology at the Chicago, Ill., based Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO), said that Japan's elderly population has been increasing steadily. Currently, one in five Japanese are 65 years old or older,

and that number is expected to increase to one in three by 2030.

"In general, a human's physical functions are weakened as we get older and we come to need others help,"

"It is a vicious cycle and robots might be able to help," Sumitani said.

According to JETRO, the market for service robots is expected to expand over the next 5 to 10 years as more

tasks like play a violin or conduct an orchestra.

Also in attendance was Dr. Takanori Shibata, senior research scientist at Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. Dr. Shibata is the inventor of a service robot named PARO, which is currently being used worldwide as a working-therapeutic instrument.

PARO is an advanced robot modeled from a baby harp seal. The six-pound robot is assembled from over 200 parts and equipped with a range of

technologies, from voice and face recognition to sensors throughout its body that feel and interpret tactile interaction.

• See ROBOT, page 12



AHMAD ALJURYED/ THE CURRENT

The JETRO Robotics seminar took place in the MSC century rooms on Thursday. PARO is a seal robot, used to alleviate the behavioral disturbances of adults.

Sumitani said.

Added to this fact is the reality that as people grow older and rely on others more, and as the number of elderly people in Japan increases, dependable caregivers are in short supply.

Japanese enter their golden years. Sumitani showed photos and videos of service robots, from robotic braces for ailing limbs that provide extra strength, to Asimo, a humanoid robot from Honda that can perform delicate

PERCEPTIONS, from page 5

The administration at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville has responded similarly to H1N1's threat.

"[They are] posting signs on every door and in every bathroom; teachers were advised to give students a week off without penalty," Andy Klump, SIUE junior, plant biology, said. "Yet most of the instructors and students are completely unconcerned," Klump said.

Dissimilar to both institutions, Ranken Technical College remains strict in regards to attendance policies. According to Nick Buchheit, absences are unacceptable for the most part considering the necessity of in-shop learning, specifically within the eight-week courses. In turn, Buchheit said that instructors are "just telling the kids to get their shots," and exemplifying a less intense response to the virus.

The Center for Disease Control's website provides information and updates regarding the status of the virus. According to the CDC, H1N1's replicating ability is far more advanced than the seasonal influenza. The H1 part of the virus is used to en-

ter the cell, while N1 is utilized to disperse copies of itself out of the cell. The name "swine flu" relates to the original assumption that H1N1 resembled strains of influenza found in pigs. Science Daily and the CDC later reported the misnomer, titling H1N1 as a "quadruple reassortant" virus, which is structurally and behaviorally dissimilar.

What H1N1 is similar to another type of influenza that reached pandemic capacity in 1918. Documents from government archives about the virus revealed that this pandemic claimed over 34 million more casualties than WWI. Like this virus, H1N1 affects the lungs more effectively than normal influenza strains. Children and the elderly were most at risk for contracting the illness in 1918, but currently H1N1 seems to primarily affect people 25-years-old and younger.

With lenience, abuse can occur and the UM-St. Louis faculty has, in turn, extended themselves based on faith in students, but campus concern, whether necessary or futile, should help students to be more considerate of one another and instructors.

# They call her Ardi and she pushes back human ancestry

► **CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E Editor

Ardipithecus Ramidus is an early hominid (or hominin, as the researchers prefer) species that is tantalizingly close to the human/chimpanzee split. "Ardi" is the nickname given to a remarkably complete 4.4 million-years-old fossil skeleton of a female Ardipithecus found in the Afar Rift region of northeastern Ethiopia, the same region that has yielded so many other remarkable fossils.

The Ardipithecus genus to which Ardi belongs may have given rise to the Australopithecus genus to which Lucy

(Australopithecus Afarensis) belongs. The fossil skeleton includes feet, pelvis, arms, hands, skull and teeth—just about everything a paleoanthropologist could hope for. Ardi was taller than Lucy, also unexpected, at about 4 feet.

Along with Ardi, the researchers uncovered bits of 35 other individuals, giving them a richer sampling of the species than a single individual. Another unexpected thing is that Ardi does not look much like an ape—she looks more human than that, although she is still a mix of characteristics, neither human nor ape. This leads to the intriguing thought that it

may be chimps that diverged more from a common ancestor.

One of the most startling findings is that it appears that this early ancestor walked upright. The expectation had been that hominids this far back would be knuckle-walkers, using the arms as chimps do in walking. It had been thought that walking upright evolved with a move from a forest to an open savannah environment, like the kind Lucy lived in.

Other fossil evidence found with Ardi suggests that she primarily lived in a forest environment. Ardi used all four limbs to climb trees,

with an opposable big toe on her foot, but did not swing from trees as apes do. Her canine teeth are somewhere between human and chimp in size and not the expected chimp-like appearance.

There are skeptics among paleoanthropologists about the researchers' conclusions about upright walking. Ardi is very early in this stage, and crushed pelvic bones and flat feet—without the arch that Lucy and modern humans share—leave the door open to other interpretations.

Ardipithecus Ramidus is not the earliest hominid found for the human branch of the family tree. It is also

not the common ancestor of humans and chimpanzees, our closest living ape relatives. Because the Ardi fossil is so complete and from so soon after the split between chimpanzees and bonobos, it offers further evidence of a common ancestor while yielding insights on early human evolution.

The big news was published in the October issue of the journal "Science." The issue had 11 scientific papers from the international team of 47 scientists that worked on the find over the past 17 years. Usually, one has to be a member for full access to the AAAS' online version of

"Science," but for this big story the journal is allowing free access to all the Ardi materials with registration. You can go to <http://www.sciencemag.org/ardipithecus> to read all the articles for yourself. There are plenty more intriguing details in the Ardi papers published in Science, making it well worth checking out more fully.

No one expected Lucy to be dislodged from her role as the human ancestry's find of the century, but Ardi appears to have done it. What is more intriguing is that there may be more big finds to uncover in the Afar region.



# Sports

## The "Big Three" ends golf's season Volleyball failed to Crossover

► **MARK WEBBER**  
Staff Writer

Entering the last tournament of the fall season, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's golf team had just accomplished what may be considered the greatest feat in their history. If the victory left any doubts of how good this Triton team is, their latest bashing of the competition at the Lewis Mixed Fall Classic will surely convince.

In Lockport, Ill., on Monday and Tuesday, the Tritons finished in first place by a convincing 26-stroke lead over Quincy University.

"We now know we can play and beat just about anyone we face," UM-St. Louis women's golf coach James Earle said. "At the Lewis event, we were the clear favorite and just had to survive the elements."

Yet, a 26-stroke win is certainly more than just surviving.

Amie Koerner, senior, and Shweta Galande, freshman, finished in a tie for first place, individually, along with Quincy University junior Carrie Lambkin. Each shot a 161 score.

Clara Vila, junior, shot just behind her two teammates to score a 164. The

finish put her in fourth place and put three Tritons in the top five for the tournament.

Despite such a strong statement from what Coach Earle calls his "Big Three," like last week, it took big efforts from 10th place finisher Chelsea Kellogg, freshman, and 13th place finisher Carly Ball, junior, to secure the win.

"The girls feel a real sense of pride and accomplishment, and they should," Coach Earle said.

While the NCAA rankings have yet to show where UM-St. Louis is placed, the way the Tritons have played the past couple of weeks and how they have improved over the course of the season might give some fans high hopes, but Coach Earle is not sure the NCAA ranking will truly reflect his team's worth.

"It's a funny thing, the NCAA rankings, and how they work," Coach Earle said. "Regardless, I feel we are playing at a level of a top-ten team in the nation."

Interestingly, Coach Earle pointed to the weather as possibly the biggest hurdle as they closed out the season.

"This tournament had the worst weather of the fall and we played in it quite well," Earle said. "We are going to

see bad weather all spring and it was good to get a preview of the challenges that we are going to face in the second half of the season."

As for the spring, Coach Earle expects more of the same thing that has been witnessed this fall. He expects great play from his "Big Three" and feels that a fourth and fifth player will be emerging that will propel the team to more record breaking scores.

All have shown promise this season by stepping up at times to help out the team. Right now it seems like any of the other team members not included in the Big Three are capable of taking those fourth and fifth player spots.

Meanwhile, fans of the UM-St. Louis women's golf team can only speculate. The team, itself, will be taking a break.

"As a coach you would still want to keep playing, but the weather we played in at Lewis made the transition to the off-season a lot easier," Coach Earle said. "They deserve the much-needed break. Competitive golf is very taxing mentally and it's time to focus on our studies and recharge our batteries for the spring push to the NCAA Regional."

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

When the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team left campus for Lansing, Mich. last Thursday, it was hoping that a good weekend showing at the GLIAC/GLVC Crossover Tournament would improve its overall season resume and show the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee that the Tritons belonged in the national championship tournament at season's end.

Unfortunately, UM-St. Louis' hoping did not translate into enough good playing, as the Tritons went 1-2 at the Crossover, with a win over Northwood University and losses to Ferris State University and Grand Valley State University last Friday and Saturday at the Aim High Indoor Sports Complex in Lansing, Mich.

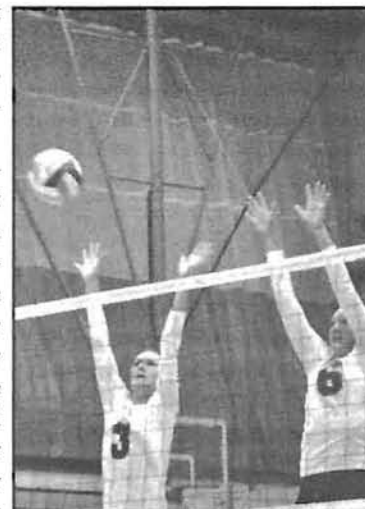
The GLIAC/GLVC Crossover Tournament has become an important event for any team in the Midwest region with hopes of earning an at-large bid to the NCAA National Championship Tournament. For the national tournament, the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee only gives bids to the teams it deems the eight best in each region.

So it is imperative that all 15 GLVC teams, all 12 GLIAC teams, and the three conference independents that play in the Crossover do well and show the tournament selection committee that they belong in the national title hunt.

Last season, UM-St. Louis finished third in the GLVC, with its best record in more

than 10 years, yet was left out of the national championship tournament because the tournament selection committee determined the Tritons did not have enough wins over other Crossover participants.

That is why UM-St. Louis wanted so badly to do well last weekend. And the Tritons got off to a flying start, with a 25-23, 18-25, 25-15, 25-15 win over Northwood last Friday.



FILE PHOTO / THE CURRENT

Outside hitter Erin Higgins, sophomore, early childhood education, and last week's GLVC Volleyball Player of the Week, had another fantastic performance in the win for the Tritons. She had a team-high 12 kills, including several powerful finishes, to lead the UM-St. Louis offense.

Teammates Liz Cook, junior, education, and Kayla Kinzinger, junior, education, also gave strong efforts against Northwood. Cook posted her team-best eighth double-double of the season, with 10 kills and 10 digs, while Kinzinger had 36 assists.

Kinzinger had one of our best efforts of the season in Friday's second match of the day, a 25-12, 25-27, 21-25, 25-21, 13-15 loss to Ferris St.

The 5-foot-8-inch setter from New Athens, Ill., had 50 assists, and was the main reason why three Triton players had double-digit kills against the Bulldogs.

Higgins had 12 kills, her sixth straight match with double-digit kills, while teammates Sarah Eisnagle, senior, art history/graphic design, and Weslie Gaff, sophomore, accounting, had match-highs of 16 kills and 15 kills, respectively, to lead the Tritons.

The final match of the weekend had to be the most disappointing for UM-St. Louis. The Tritons had an early lead in the first set against Grand Valley St., but somehow lost their rhythm, and never got it back in a 17-25, 17-25, 20-25 loss to the Lakers.

The conclusion of non-conference play for UM-St. Louis means the Tritons' tournament resume will include regional wins over Northwood and GLIAC leader Hillsdale University, but will also include losses to GLIAC No. 2 Ferris St., and middle-of-the pack teams Grand Valley St. and Ferris St.

That might not be enough to earn an at-large bid. The only way UM-St. Louis can assure itself a spot in the national tournament is to win the GLVC Postseason Tournament next month.

The Tritons, who are 16-9 on the season and are tied for third place in the GLVC standings, will start down that path to postseason with road matches at Missouri S&T and Maryville University this week.

UM-St. Louis's next home match will be Friday, Nov. 6, at the Mark Twain Building, when it will host Bellarmine University at 7 p.m.

### UPCOMING GAMES

#### MEN'S SOCCER

Oct. 23 at BELLARMINE*	LOUISVILLE, KY	2:30 pm (EST)
Oct. 25 at N. KENTUCKY*	HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KY	2:30 pm (EST)

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Oct. 20 SIU EDWARDSVILLE	DON DALLAS FIELD	7:00 pm
Oct. 16 at BELLARMINE*	LOUISVILLE, KY	3:55 pm (EST)

#### VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 24 at MARYVILLE*	ST. LOUIS, MO.	3:00 pm
Oct. 30 at SOUTHERN INDIANA*	EVANSVILLE, IN.	7:00 pm



# Four wins in a row: it's time to finish out the season, lets go to work

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**  
Sports Writer

Entering last week, the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's soccer team had a record of 5-5-2. Winning all three games this week would help greatly in gaining a spot in the GLVC tournament.

Their opponents were Upper Iowa on Monday, followed by two GLVC games: one on Friday against Southern Indiana, with the finale Sunday, which was Senior Day, and one against Kentucky Wesleyan.

And winning all three is just what the Tritons accomplished. Their record now stands at 8-5-2.

In the game against Upper Iowa, the first goal of the game came at the 25 minute mark of the first half. Blair Spencer, senior, business marketing, scored off of a free kick feed from Johnny O'Mara, sophomore, business marketing. That made

the score 1-0.

Next came two goals by Jack McKenna, junior, mechanical engineering. His first goal came with 30 minutes left in the second half, with a pass off Chris Clarkin, senior, accounting.

"Clarkin was in the midfield and made a perfect pass and I put it into the goal by the right post. I feel it was my biggest goal of the game," McKenna said.

His next goal came less than a minute later off of an assist by Alex Agne, junior, communications. Those two goals increased McKenna's goal total to a team-leading

five.

Upper Iowa's only goal came with about 10 minutes remaining.

The final score was 3-1 in

Friday night's game brought about UM-St. Louis's second victory of the week, a 2-0 shutout and second shutout of the season.



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

#10 Blair Spencer fights for possession during Tritons vs Ky. Wesleyan game.

favor of UM-St. Louis.

"We controlled the game start to end. We had good ball possession and finished our attempts," Dan King, head coach, said.

The first goal of the game was by McKenna with about seven minutes remaining in the first half, his sixth of the season.

UM-St. Louis' goalkeeper

Tim Boruff continued his excellent goaltending with six excellent saves in just the first half.

The final goal came with about 36 minutes remaining in the second half, when Spencer walked a ball all the way into the net. That made the score 2-0 and was UM-St. Louis's third victory in a row.

"We did what we needed to do. We needed to score first. We got a shutout. As we talked in the preseason our defense is the core, and when you shut a team out, you're going to win," King said.

The Sunday game was Senior Day and turned out to be another 2-0 shutout victory for UM-St. Louis.

UM-St. Louis's first goal was scored by Spencer with about 29 minutes remaining in the first half. O'Mara netted the other goal on a shot from about three meters out on the right with around 45 minutes remaining in the sec-

ond half.

"We did what we talked about. We controlled the ball and got the first goal," King said.

When asked for a comment on four wins in a row, King said, "We don't talk about streaks."

Because it was Senior Day, King wanted to offer these words to his departing seniors: "I want to wish them well after they leave the school here... I know they're great student athletes, which is really what my program is all about. You come in here and play some competitive soccer and walk out the door with that degree."

UM-St. Louis will close out the regular season with road games at Bellarmine on Friday and Northern Kentucky on Sunday. A victory in either, or certainly both, would clinch a spot in the GLVC Tournament for the Tritons for the first time since 2006.

## Women's soccer racks up their fourth win this season

► **ANTHONY PADGETT**  
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's soccer team at the University of Missouri-St. Louis played their third home game in five days yesterday. The Tritons had strong performance during these three games and went 2-1.

On Wednesday, the Tritons faced Maryville at Don Dallas Field. Despite Maryville taking a 1-0 lead in the 15th minute, the Tritons came out on top. The Tritons tied the game at the 20th minute when Anne Nesbit, senior, criminal justice, and Sarah Stone, senior, physical education, passed the ball down the middle of the field to Caitlin Farrow, senior,

international business, who scored her fourth goal of the season.

Farrow finished the game with another goal in the second half at the 50th minute. Nesbit scored the final goal of the game at the 65th minute off a head ball from a corner kick by Jesa Jenkins, sophomore, physical education.

Nesbit has five goals on the season and is currently tied for the most goals on the team with Farrow. The Tritons won the game 3-1, securing their third win this season.

On Friday, the Tritons hosted Southern Indiana 6-7-2 overall and 5-5-1 in the GLVC. The Tritons would lose the game 1-0. The Screaming Eagles scored the

game's only goal at the 26th minute. A free kick 30 yards out on the left side crawled past the Tritons goalkeeper, Hanna Sayre, sophomore, business marketing.

Sayre played the entire game and recorded three saves. Southern Indiana outshot the Tritons 13-9, and had more shots on goal with five to the Tritons three.

Yesterday at Don Dallas, the team hosted Kentucky Wesleyan, 4-8-0 GLVC record, ranked 11th, just one spot higher than UM-St. Louis. It was senior day and the seven seniors on the team were recognized prior to the game's start.

Amy Boehm, senior, business marketing, played the entire game recording four

saves while posting her third shutout of the season.

The Tritons played excellent soccer all 90 minutes. They showed great patience in finding an open pass in any direction.

"One of our main focuses was short simple passes to the feet," Tritons head coach Bobby Lessentine said.

The team needed to bounce back after their 0-1 loss on Friday. Fortunately for the Tritons they were on the winning side of a 1-0 game.

Jenkins scored the lone goal of the game at the ninth minute. Danielle Dahm, senior, business, got the assist and lured the Panthers goalie out of the net, giving Jenkins an open shot on the net.

Although the Panthers had more shots in the first half with 8 to the Tritons 5, the Tritons came out in the second half determined to score at least one more goal. The Tritons ended the game with 17 shots, seven on goal, while the Panthers had 15 shots total and four on goal.

Lessentine said the team had played "really well the last three games" and he was "proud of the team the last three games."

On Tuesday at 7 p.m., UM-St. Louis will host the final game of its current four-game homestand against SIU-Edwardsville. SIU-Edwardsville plays in Division I and has an overall record of

1-8-1.

The Tritons will close out the regular season on Wednesday, Nov. 4, when they will host a re-scheduled game at Don Dallas against crosstown rival Washington University. First kick that night will be at 7:30 p.m.



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## CEDDIE SAYS...

## Flag football is a good bet

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS  
Sports Editor

Some of y'all thought I was joking when I wrote about how much I enjoy watching the Campus Rec Flag Football games here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Ceddie says ... I'm here to tell you, I'm not joking.

I have been hangin' out at the Mark Twain rec field watching the games every Tuesday, and every week the games are so comical and compelling. They are easily as much fun as any of the varsity sports played here on campus.

The best part of watching the guys in this league is how hard they compete. I enjoy the trash talk and the laughs, but even better is watching the effort these guys give.

I love that they care so much. It may not be the NFL or the NCAA, but no one in either of those leagues cares as much, or plays as hard, as the players in the Campus Rec Flag Football League.

After the games last week, I listened to the post-game talk by members of the Midwest Maulers. The Maulers weren't really happy with themselves after last week's game. They had played a great first half but a terrible second half, and eventually lost to one of the new teams in the league called the Suicide Kings.

I consider myself a Midwest Maulers fan. They're one of the veteran teams in the league, and are always a fun group to watch, win or lose. Nobody talks more trash or has more fun than the Maulers.

I enjoyed playing against them and beating them in last year's flag football championship game, so I can freely admit that I am rooting for the Maulers to win it all this year.

However, they are going to have their hands full. A couple of the teams in the league this year look really good.

The Suicide Kings are 4-1 and have several guys that can run and catch. Their only loss is to three-time defending champ Sig Pi, which is also 4-1, but the Sig Pis just aren't the same team now that star QB P.J. Tallo is playing hockey in Italy.

Another new team called Eye Win has won three in a row, and might have the best defense in the league. The Free Agent team has got unbelievable speed and is the only team to beat Eye Win this year.

Tuesday's games are the final games of the regular season, and heading into it, every team has something on the line. There are a couple of teams that will be battling for the final playoff spot, while the top teams will be looking to improve their playoff seeding.

I expect all three of Tuesday's games to be pretty good. The Maulers will start the day off with a game against the PE Gongshow. The middle game will feature the Suicide Kings against the Free Agents—who needs this win to secure a playoff spot—and the final game will pit Eye Win against Sig Pi in a showdown for the No. 1 seed in the playoffs.

I don't plan to miss a minute of it, so I am already planning on leaving Professor Tucciarone's Promotions class early that day so I won't have to.

That might make some of you think I have gone crazy, but you'd be wrong—I have always been crazy about football.

That's what makes this league so great: I finally found a bunch of guys who are as crazy about the game as I am.

## STAT BOX

## MEN'S SOCCER

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)	Overall (W-L-T)
Drury	11-0-0	14-1-0
N. Kentucky	10-2-0	13-2-1
Lewis	9-3-0	11-3-1
UW-Parkside	7-2-2	12-3-2
Bellarmine	7-4-0	9-4-1
Missouri S&T	6-4-1	6-5-1
UM-St. Louis	6-4-2	8-5-2
Quincy	6-5-1	7-7-2
Rockhurst	6-6-0	8-8-0
St. Joseph's	5-5-2	8-6-2
Indianapolis	5-6-1	7-6-2
S. Indiana	3-9-0	4-10-1
Ky. Wesleyan	2-10-1	5-12-1
Maryville	1-10-1	1-13-1
Ill. Springfield	0-12-1	1-13-1

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)	Overall (W-L-T)
N. Kentucky	10-2-0	13-2-0
Bellarmine	9-2-0	11-2-0
Quincy	9-2-1	11-4-1
Drury	9-3-0	12-4-0
Indianapolis	9-3-0	12-4-0
UW-Parkside	7-3-2	8-3-3
S. Indiana	6-5-1	8-7-2
Rockhurst	6-5-1	7-7-1
Missouri S&T	5-6-0	5-7-1
Maryville	4-7-1	5-9-1
UM-St. Louis	4-7-1	4-8-1
Ky. Wesleyan	4-9-0	7-9-1
Lewis	3-8-1	4-9-2
St. Joseph's	1-11-0	2-13-0
Ill. Springfield	0-13-0	2-13-0

## VOLLEYBALL

Team	GLVC (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Lewis	8-0	21-3
Indianapolis	7-1	26-1
UM-St. Louis	6-2	16-9
N. Kentucky	6-2	16-9
Rockhurst	5-3	14-11
St. Joseph's	5-3	11-14
Bellarmine	4-4	10-6
Drury	4-4	12-10
S. Indiana	4-4	11-12
Missouri S&T	4-5	9-20
UW-Parkside	3-5	18-8
Quincy	3-5	6-16
Ill. Springfield	1-7	8-15
Maryville	1-8	3-17
Ky. Wesleyan	0-8	2-20

## ROBOT, from page 8

face and voice and responds to its touch and commands. PARO not only remembers its owner but also its interactions with them. For instance, if PARO does something that the owner does not like and is hit in punishment, the robot remembers this and adjusts its behavior accordingly.

PARO robots have a lifespan of 15 years or longer, which Shibata likened to the average lifespan of a dog. Since it was developed in 2003, PARO has been put in

wide use around the world as an alternative to pet therapy and a companion to the elderly and ill.

Dr. Shibata showed videos of PARO owners in Japan and around the world interacting with their robotic companions and cited a study showing that dementia patients who interacted with PARO robots were able to communicate better.

The robots are to be introduced commercially in the U.S. this year at an estimated price of \$6,000.

"I think that because of the price, the first adopter or customer may be institutions or hospitals," Shibata said.

"For individuals it may be a little expensive, but after a while people may think it's worth [it]."

A PARO robot was on display at the presentation, and afterward attendees mingled with each other, the robot and its inventor.

Jason Tasso and Jane Nagel, seniors, graphic design, were intrigued by PARO and its practical implementations.

"I think that it's cool that they're using it for rehabilitation kind of situations," Nagel said.

"I think it's kind of funny that it's a baby seal and not like, a land creature," she added, saying that she would love to be able to own one.

"It's just a cool concept that it's just a baby seal rather than some other robot," said Tasso. "I'm fascinated by that."

## VACCINE, from page 5

"Stay informed. Use cough and sneeze etiquette," Zach said.

"Clean your hands often with soap

and water or alcohol-based hand cleaners. Avoid close contact with people who are sick."

The CDC does not predict a shortage of the vaccine; however, supply and demand are unpredictable.

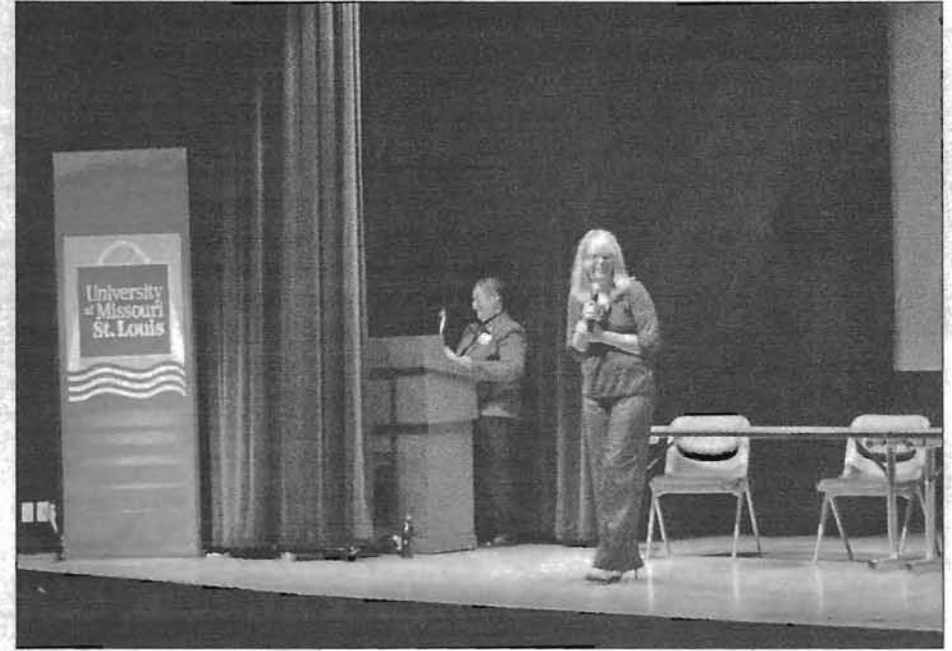
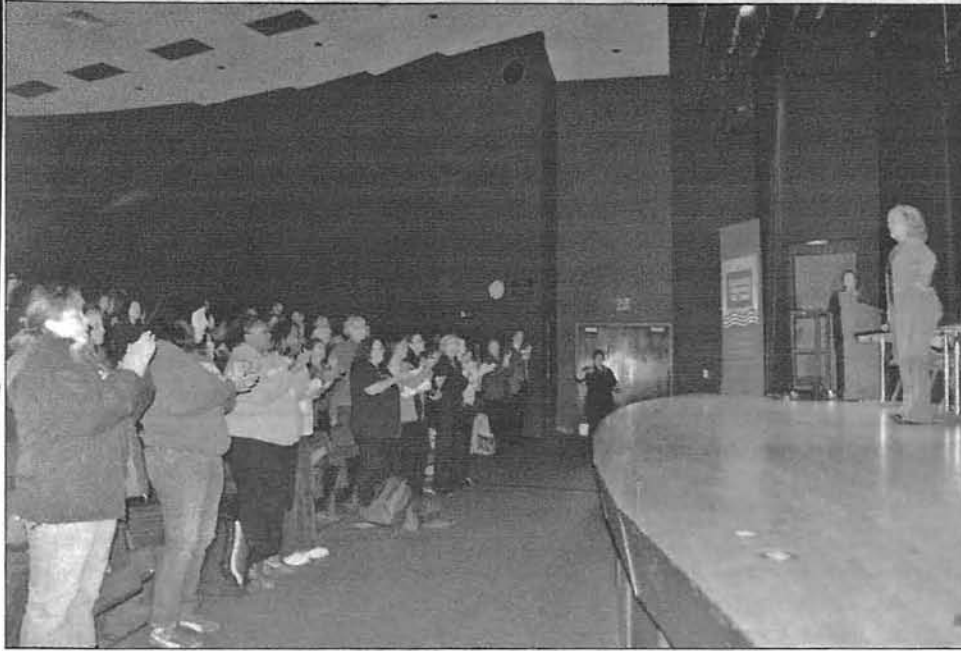


Between you and me, David,  
**The Current**  
often seems to be acting as nothing more than the operating arm of the Thomas George administration...



# Features

## SIN BY SILENCE



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Documentary filmmaker and subjects bring "Sin by Silence" to campus

Brenda Clubine, one of the women incarcerated while being filmed for the "Sin By Silence" documentary, got support from the audience on Wednesday. In the film, Brenda was released from prison last year after spending more than two decades at the California Institution for Women. She created the Convicted Women Against Abuse group, which is the only support group of its kind led by inmates.

Oliva Klaus, the Director/Producer of the documentary "Sin By Silence," thanks the audience in the J.C. Penny Auditorium on Wednesday. "Sin By Silence" is a 50-minute long tear-jerker that tells true stories of women incarcerated for killing their abusive husbands. The women were placed in the California Institution for Women, and have grown from the experience after creating a support group called "Convicted Women Against Abuse."

## Pan-African Association reveals variety of cultures

► AARON HOLDMEYER  
Staff Writer

Political headlines these days seem to introduce only dark stories about the troubles and trepidations coming from the continent of Africa. These stories eventually create superficial and depressing images of what the West imagines Africa to be.

There is an organization at the University of Missouri-St. Louis that provides an alternative to the dismal headlines by educating the public about the positive side of African culture that is often not publicized.

The Pan-African Association was founded around 1998 through a dialogue between students who wanted "to talk about the common roots of Africans and African-Americans. As a result of that, they wanted to continue that conversation. They wanted to form an association," Rochelle DeClue, assistant director of Multicultural Affairs, said.

However, after a few years of activity, the original organization fell dormant because the majority of their members returned home to Africa after graduation. Eventually it was revived by then-student Bridget Member-Meneh.

She inquired about an organization for African students and DeClue encouraged her to look into the papers remaining from the previous association.

Meneh was helped by the Pan-African Association's present

advisors, including M.K. Stallings, coordinator for the office of student life, professor Niyi Coker Jr., and E. Desmond Lee, professor in African/African-American theater.

Stallings said he finds the organization critical because "We don't often think about the cultural differences within a so-called race. We often understand how it operates for, let's say, Italians or Jews, in terms of white skinned people. We don't often think about that for Africans. So what [the Pan-African Association] does is bring about cultural awareness."

Their secretary, Elizabeth Ayo-Vaughn, sophomore, biochemistry and biotechnology, said that the association provides her a way to more easily adapt to American culture while still being able to maintain her Nigerian heritage.

"There were some Africans who lived here for a while and [by] meeting them ... [it helped me] adjust a little bit to what life is like here in America," Ayo-Vaughn said.

The group has not only provided a gathering point for African students to share their cultures and community away from home, but it also provides a place for cross-cultural interactions for students having no relation to Africa.

This can be seen in the popularity of the events they host.

The newly revised PAA adopted a tradition of the early organization, "Africa Night." Now it is their main event of the year.

The event will be held at the J.C. Penny building on Nov.

11. It typically attracts around two hundred to three hundred participants. A variety of African cultures will be presented through food, dance and interaction among students.

DeClue said that this is an effective way of educating people. "To see, to hear, to participate is very important—you experience culture, which includes food and language and expressions, whether they be dance or artistic," DeClue said. "It is important that those dynamics be incorporated in our presentation of a culture, because you get a better feel for what it's like and you learn more."

Ayo-Vaughn said that she finds this cultural assimilation to be critical.

"It also helps to build your intellect, so you're not just ignorant about the world out there," she said.

The main attraction this year will be Michel Blackson, a Ghanaian-American comedian who integrates his culture into his comedy.

The association's ability to attract crowds and bring in top talent shows the strength of the organization.

This is an achievement considering that the number of African students is relatively low compared to other international students.

For the fall 2009 semester, out of the 954 international students (either permanent residents or visa holders), only 91 are from African nations.



## Winter Intersession



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## Staff Spotlight



Daniel R. Rust

Asst. Director for Undergraduate Program Development

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

► SEQUITA BEAN  
Features Editor

Dr. Daniel Rust is the assistant director for Undergraduate Program Development at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

His interest in air travel and how it has changed over the years is highlighted in his new book, "Flying Across America: The Airline Passenger Experience."

*TC: You were educated in Idaho for your bachelor's, master's, and doctorate. What brings you to Missouri and UM-St. Louis?*

Dr. Daniel Rust: The Center for Transportation Studies [at UM-St. Louis] is what drew me here. They were looking for someone to start an undergraduate program in transportation studies.

I was trained in transportation history, so I took the job.

*TC: They did not have a program like that at the University of Idaho?*

DR: No, it was transportation history [that] I did there. Then I got my Ph.D. in U.S. history, with a focus in transportation history, particularly.

*TC: What got you interested in transportation studies?*

DR: I've always enjoyed transportation, especially aviation. I initially wanted to be an aircraft designer, then aerospace engineer. Then I decided that my love

of history and aviation combined those two. I really enjoy it and I love what I do.

*TC: What is your book, "Flying Across America: The Airline Passenger Experience" about?*

DR: It was a lot of fun to write that book. It's first-hand accounts of people as they participate in air travel [during] the 1920s to the present day, from how awful it was with the loud noise and the vibrations, and pretty high accident rates, to [flights] being a very elegant Sunday dress-up kind of event, to today where it's kind of like taking a train. People just get on and go.

*TC: What are your plans for the transportation studies department?*

DR: I'd really like to grow the minor. We have a minor in transportation studies that we've had since 2005, and it's open to any major through the College of Business.

There are two required classes and students choose three electives.

It has been very interesting to see the broad range of people pursuing the minor in transportation studies, and I hope to see that develop and grow within the coming years.

*TC: What is the focus of your Introduction to Transportation course?*

DR: We cover all the modes of transportation, from motor carriers, water-

ways, rail, air, to pipelines, and basically how they operate. We also look at how they got to be how they are today, and some other current procedures and operations of the modes. I [also] teach an Aviation in American Life class that is more history and also combines some business.

We talk about everything from art to literature to advertising and the evolution of aircraft.

*TC: What is your favorite thing about teaching at UM-St. Louis?*

DR: I like the class size, it has been very good here having a smaller class size, I like that.

It's also great to work with the students here ... I've been very impressed with the students and I enjoy interacting with them. Their curiosity is gratifying. They really want to learn.

*TC: How do you like being in St. Louis? Is it very different from Idaho?*

DR: Yes! It's very different. I miss the mountains and the pine trees and the summer dry air. The humidity in St. Louis is the thing to get used to in the summer.

The climate is what has been different, but the people are very wonderful.

I like St. Louis. It's fun to be in an area that has major league sports teams with a rich history in transportation.



# Holding on to your dollars

► JEN O'HARA  
Staff Writer

Saving and stretching the American dollar is an important goal these days, and there are a number of ways to save and be financially aware as a college student.

A general precaution however is the distinction between self-control and buying things that are actually needed.

"Learn two four-letter words: want and need. And if it doesn't pass the test of being a need, don't buy it," Nancy Ferriss, a certified financial planner, said.

For items students need, like books, clothes and groceries, there are alternatives to shelling out more money than needed. Textbooks especially do not always need to cost full price.

Online sources such as <http://www.half.com> or <http://www.amazon.com> often offer used books at a discounted price.

At the end of the semester, students can sell textbooks back to the bookstore on campus, or can sell them online to earn cash for books they will not use again.

Clothes can often be found cheap. Stores such as Marshalls, Goodwill and T.J. Maxx offer clothes at discounted prices. When buying clothes, think more about quality and avoid clothes that will not last long.

"Buy simple, classic clothes that will last for a long time. For example, buy a pair of black loafers, not three different types of heels, because the black loafers will go with all kinds of outfits," Ferriss said.



"If you need to have one pair of heels for a dressy occasion, have it be very simple and classic. Simple and classic [clothes] always look classy and never go out of style. And you can buy those at the discount store."

Using coupons and buying in bulk at the grocery store are also two sure ways to cut back on budgets. Buy foods that are filling and will cease hunger for long periods of time.

"I find stuff that really sustains me well ... I will buy a trail mix bag that's like thirty cents for the entire bag, and I just grab a handful of that ... and that will fill me up," Melissa Marcus, freshman, biochemistry and biotechnology said.

Keeping track of one's finances and staying out of debt are important as a college student as well. Use cash and debit cards, and avoid credit cards.

"A debit card makes the

most sense. You buy something on a debit card, and it hits your bank momentarily, [whereas] a credit card is the most dangerous thing someone could own because every thirty days, they want money. If you're only paying the minimum, you'll die with that credit card balance," said Boyd Atteberry, the president of Financial Planning Consultants. Budgeting and keeping track of financial expenditures are also advised.

"There's a bunch of great free software out there about budgeting now. You have some that are online. Sites like <http://www.statefarm.com> will help you budget to try to figure out where your money is going," Kevin Pierce, State Farm agent, said.

"If you need a road map to get out of debt, you need to know what is going on now and where all of your money is going."

HOPE IS IN SESSION

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS  
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND MEDIA STUDIES  
PRESENTS

THE  
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DAYS  
OF  
JUDAS  
ISCARIOT

BY STEPHEN ADLY GURGIS

51 WEDNESDAYS  
53 THURSDAYS

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# Campus Rec has something for everyone

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**  
Staff Writer

At the Mark Twain Sports Complex is a department of the University of Missouri-St. Louis named Campus Recreation.

Their motto is "Something for everyone," Pam Steinmetz, manager of campus recreation, said.

"Campus Recreation is involved in the areas of intramurals, wellness classes, Rec-Treks [off-campus student outings], open recreation and special events," Larry Coffin, director of campus recreation,

said.

"Previously, everything I did was for campus recreation and then in the last two years I started doing more things for athletics."

The wellness classes include exercise courses like spinning, Pilates, Zumba, kickboxing and more," Coffin said.

"We only use professional instructors. All of our classes are taught by certified instructors and it's our number one priority."

Wellness classes cost \$45 per semester for students and \$60 for faculty.

"You aren't limited in what classes you can take or how often. You can mix them up," Coffin said.

The RecTrek activities include skiing at Hidden Valley, paintball and hayrides, all with transportation provided.

Other activities include a bowling and pizza party, and demolition ball with laser tag.

"New this year will be a canoe trip on the Meramec River," Coffin said.

The amount of spaces available for each activity varies, but generally 50 to 100 participants are allowed. There is a nominal cost to

participate.

Another area that campus recreation is involved in is hosting outside organizations, such as Bike and Build.

During the summer, Bike and Build travels across the country in teams to raise money for affordable housing and to help build houses.

"It's a three year old program and we provide a place to shower, do laundry and a classroom to crash in," Coffin said.

Campus recreation also has intramural sports.

"I'm in charge of intramural programs—the schedul-

ing, coordination, promotion of them," Steinmetz said.

Besides the normal intramurals, such as volleyball, basketball and flag football, campus recreation also has ultimate Frisbee.

"And now we have arena football, and it's big," Steinmetz said.

Susan Dibb coordinates intramural teams.

Because one of her supervisors wanted more interaction with students who live on campus, her office is located in the Provincial House.

"The [resident assistants] know me. I'm next to the

Dining Hall and can send out group e-mails. We have several more teams because of my being here. It's helped out a lot," Dibb said.

When asked why she feels Campus Recreation is so successful, Steinmetz said, "We use our group strengths to provide all the activities. We know each other so well because we've been working together so long."

She added, "Susan is a go-getter."

"Larry is go, go, go for students and Pam just goes above and beyond," Dibb said.

## Face to Face: an Israeli and Arab student peacefully debate politics, discuss differences

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
Asst. SBTH Editor

*Editor's Note: The two subjects asked to remain anonymous. Their names have been changed to Sara and Hagar.*

In the courtyard outside of the Social Science Building, Sara, an Israeli student, reminisced on her adolescence.

"I was a senior in high school, and I remember getting on a bus thinking, 'you know, it might explode,'" Sara said.

Since 1948, when the state of Israel was established, fighting between Jews and Arabs has been ongoing. Both sides have laid claim to a small parcel of land, and both assert ownership.

The U.S. involvement in the region has tried to find a peaceful solution, but the hostilities have dragged on.

During a 2006 conflict,

Sara's parents were evacuated and their neighbor's house blew up. "It's normal, but it's not," she said.

The day before, an Arab student, Hagar, gave her opinion of the conflict in the Middle East. "I feel that Israel's people are racist," she said. "They just feel like it's either [Israel] or the Arabs."

The idea was to get two students from each side of the conflict in the region, an Israeli and a Palestinian, to discuss the differences between them.

On a Wednesday morning in *The Current's* office, the two sat down for a discussion. The discussion was slow and courteous for a while, but it did not take long for fireworks to be ignited.

Both condemned Iran's nuclear program, though Sara's response raised Hagar's eyebrows.

Sara: They are not the right people to have the bomb, they're proving all the time that they are not stable, that they're not supported by their people and it's very scary.

Hagar: But, let me make the point here of the double standards with how the United States deals with such issues, like Israel having a nuclear bomb.

S: Israel has no intention of using their bomb. Ever.

H: But why are they developing such weapons?

S: For protection.

H: Then why can't Iran be developing them solely for protection also?

S: It's true, they probably are, but they have proven to be unstable, Israel has proven to be stable.

What followed was an hour and thirty minutes of debate about Mideast politics. Both questioned the

legitimacy of the other's government and international organizations, as well as whether either side was really committed to peace, and who had a legitimate claim to the land.

H: Anytime the Arabs are willing to do any peaceful negotiation, Israel will just do as they did in Gaza a few months ago, they will just go back a few steps.

S: But, for eight years rockets have been...

H: Don't tell me about the rockets.

S: Oh, 'don't tell me about the rockets?' For 8 years Israeli kids and elderly around Gaza had a life of terror with bombs falling on their heads!"

H: Sometimes I see these [bombs] like a bug, like a mosquito that will not let you sleep, that will tell you 'I am here, you cannot stay and

rest...' How [is] the reply by killing 1,500 people? Fifteen hundred civilians. Half of them were women and children. Is that a fair reply?"

Hagar then produced the UN reports about alleged Israeli war crimes in the Gaza conflict, including the use of white phosphorous mortars. Sara dismissed them.

S: Israel does not accept this report as fact.

H: Why, because it is not agreeing with them?

S: No, because it has false things in it. The UN 'Human Rights Committee' has proven over and over again to be completely biased, to be completely untrue."

The debate raged, but after the table pounding ended, Hagar and Sara stood and shook hands. Despite their differences, they both hoped that peace would become a reality, somehow.

"Just because our ideas are different, that doesn't make me hate you or you hate me," Hagar said.

Sara agreed, and said, "The only thing that keeps people going is the hope and belief in peace."

Out in the hallway, the two paused and began talking.

Their mood lightened and their body language opened as they discussed school, family life and being strangers in our strange land.

Smiles returned to their faces and as they parted ways, one could not tell that the rhetorical dramatics of the past hour had taken place. Taking the escalator down from the third floor of the MSC, they were two students, two human beings—both hoping for a peace that may prove impossible to find.

### SERVICE, from page 2

"A key component of the grant is to develop systems and support for community service and service-learning activities at UMSL that will continue beyond the life of the grant," Gasen said.

Charles Schmitz, Dean and Professor of Counsel-

ing and Family Therapy, said that the program will work to "imbed" community service even further into the curriculum of the university, especially at the College of Education. Schmitz explained that the College of Education already does some "service

learning" through the implementation of internships and student teaching, but that through the new program the college will be "attempting to increase the number of student interns placed in Normandy and assist families and children in our counsel-

ing center." Schmitz also expressed that the College of Education is pleased to team up with the numerous areas of UM-St. Louis that have worked to create the "Students of Service" program.

"We are delighted to partner with the School of Social

Work, the Public Policy Research Center, and the Community Partnership Project," Schmitz said. "We are proud of the level of collaboration we have achieved to help our neighbor, the Normandy Public Schools."

The fact sheet for the pro-

gram says that "UMSL Students of Service" will be headed by a Community Advisory Committee. This committee will have representatives from community organizations as well as community residents to help carry out the overall goals of the program.



# Arts & Entertainment

## History's worst sinner on trial, history's best minds take the stand

"The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" could easily have fallen into the trappings of the kind of overly ambitious, high-concept projects, in which young writers try to condense everything they feel about the world into one package.

The label "ambitious" certainly holds true, with the two-act serio-comedy tackling debates as specific as "Did Freud's cocaine habit affect his work?" and as broad as "Can we reconcile an all-powerful God with known reality?"

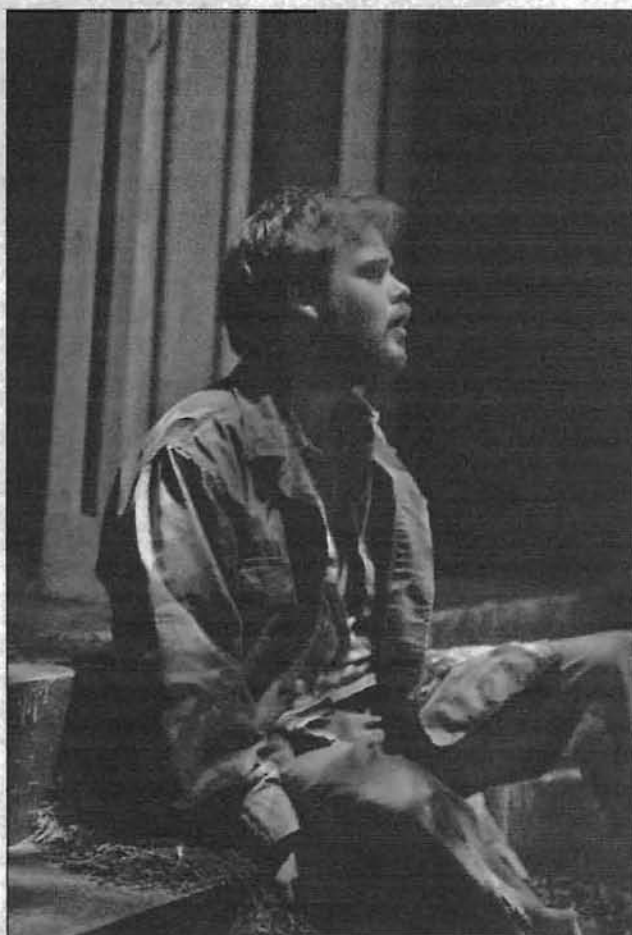
The play "Last Days of Judas Iscariot" was presented by the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis with three performances spanning October 15-17 in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The format of the play is nifty, the kind of concept that a writer immediately realizes has the potential to be a damn good story.

In what is essentially a metaphysical courtroom drama, a plucky, young, liberal defense attorney vies with a sleazy sycophantic prosecutor for the considerations of a Purgatory courtroom judge (Dario Musumeci).

The defense attorney, Cunningham (Katie Vandegriffe), is trying to appeal the eternal damnation of Judas Iscariot, though she, the superficially erudite prosecutor and the (under)world weary judge have their own cosmic agendas, most of which revolve around the reason they themselves are still stuck in purgatory.

The Lee Theater, the smaller space in the Touhill



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Judas Iscariot (Sean Green) awaits his trial. "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot," a production of Theater, Dance, and Media Studies, runs Thursday through Saturday at the Lee Theater.

PAC, had been tailored to the show. Instead of ascending rows of seats facing a stage, the stage space was in the center with seating on both sides of it.

The stage consisted primarily of the courtroom space: two podiums (one for each lawyer), a pulpit for the judge and a row of chairs on one side for the jury.

Behind the lawyers rose a wooden staircase where, at intervals, Saint Monica would narrate, introducing characters and offering expositions to move the story along. Monica, along with several other characters, was

a purposefully anachronistic street-smart urban update of the real individual, speaking in hip-hop slang, rapid-fire obscenities included.

A host of biblical and historical figures joined Monica as visiting witnesses testifying for or against Judas.

Often times their testimony played to both sides.

Unexpected witnesses, from Sigmund Freud to Mother Theresa turn up, all performed in finely-tuned, one-dimensional takes on the characters, which suit the play's needs well.

See JUDAS, page 20

## Monday Noon series brings the voice of violins

Geoffrey Seitz, a local "violin business" veteran who has been part of the St. Louis business community for over 30 years, delivered last Monday's Noon Series presentation.

Seitz discussed the evolution of the current violin's design and its development into business.

Both informative and humorous over the course of his presentation, Seitz mentioned the Amati family's contribution in the violin's peak around 1710, the design alteration and quality of Stradivarius' work, Jacob Steiner's successful return to the old design, and even the Japanese recreation and distribution of violins during WWI.

Following this up with a short demonstration of the construction process of a violin, he closed with audience inquiries. Seitz explained that the first violins dated back to 1530 and featured a prominently wider design, allowing more sound to reverberate within the instrument.

This produced a less intense resonance, a quality preferred by small groups. Prior to the influence of Stradivarius, the Amade family pioneered a strong amount of the world's initial violins, viols and violas.

Jacob Steiner's later and popular violin was similar to the Amati family's wider-bodied violin, with a taller arch on the instrument's bottom.

The earlier and wider design favored by Amati and Steiner was preferred in more personal settings, even though Stradivarius' design is considered to be the most successful in history.

Seitz went on to talk about Stradivarius' thinner design, which produced concert hall quality sound. At the time, it was an almost unnecessary amount of quality considering the lack of concert halls. It was not until the 1800s that the Stradivarius violins could be appreciated by larger audiences attending the newly established theaters of music. Mentioning the violin's later addition of a taller finger board, Seitz explained the success of simply gluing a longer neck onto a previously short-neck Stradivarius violin. Upon his death in 1737, Stradivarius still had 60 violins unsold, leading Seitz to joke that even the world's greatest violin maker could not sell all of his violins.

The violin professional also touched on the French Revolution and its impact on the masses' ability to hear music for the first time, and the impact of the American Revolution and Industrial Revolution on violin sales and accessibility, as Seitz explained the construction of the violin economy.

He began with explaining singular violin makers in the early 1500s taking orders from a middle man representing towns' moderately

close by, then transitioned to guilds, and explained business as the final and current step.

When WWI silenced the violin production in Europe, most of the violins distributed were Japanese. Suzuki's copy of Steiner's model, which he made before the turn of the century, was mass-produced to pick up the slack.

Still a quality violin, Seitz explained that collectors seek these violins for their character.

The construction of the violin itself was explained first by illustrating the quartering process of a tree. The horizontal-arching grain assists in strengthening the wood and also produces more beautifully-finished violins.

Seitz explained that two pieces of wood are often fused together with horsehide glue—the only glue that Seitz believes should ever be used on violins—and then fitted with stencils and cut to the violin's signature shape.

It is then chipped down with several varying-sized planes.

"Sandpaper is rarely ever used when making a violin," Seitz said as he illustrated the use of a "finger plain" to smooth the violin's back.

Bowing the ribs by use of a hot iron, Seitz finished his demonstration with a how-to on scroll making and questions from the audience. **A**—Sarah Hill

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**A Serious Man**  
Michael Stuhlbarg, Richard Kind  
Focus Features, R

COURTESY / FOCUS FEATURES

The Coen brothers' new film, "A Serious Man," is seriously funny but it is the darkest of comedy. It is an early contender for Oscar gold and one of their funniest and darkest films. It is a throwback to the Coens' earlier darkly comic works, somewhere between "Fargo" and "Barton Fink," with a bit of "The Big Lebowski," but with a distinctly Jewish sense of humor.

Set in 1967 in the Minneapolis suburban Jewish community where the Coens grew up, it is a time of cultural calm before the counter-cultural storm of more radical times sweep over the midwestern community. "F Troop" is on the TV but Jefferson Airplane's song "Somebody to Love" is on the transistor radio.

Larry Gopnik (Tony-nominated actor Michael Stuhlbarg), a physics professor at a local college, is an ordinary man who is blissfully drifting through life in the suburbs with his wife Judith (Minneapolis-based actress Sari Lennick), teen-aged daughter Sarah (Jessica McManus), son Danny (Aaron Wolff), who is preparing for his upcoming bar mitzvah, and Larry's unemployed older brother Arthur (Richard Kind), who sleeps on their couch.

All is not well, as Larry discovers when his wife sud-

denly announces she wants a divorce. Judith plans to marry one of the couple's friends, the supremely-confident Sy Ableman (Fred Melamed), whom she considers a more "serious man" than the passive Larry. She even wants Larry to go through the additional steps to obtain a ritual Jewish divorce, so she and Sy can marry in the faith.

In a way, this is the Coens' most personal film. Not only is "A Serious Man" set in 1967 Minneapolis in the Jewish community where they grew up, but it is also the only one that specifically involves their religious traditions or touches on issues of faith.

Joel and Ethan Coen, who share screenwriting, directing and editing credits as always, set a dark, ironically funny tone for this film from the start.

The film opens with two quotes: "Receive with simplicity everything that happens to you," from a medieval rabbi, and a lyric from the ever-present Jefferson Airplane song, followed by what seems to be a cautionary Jewish folk tale in Yiddish.

Poor Larry is a good guy, trying to do all the right things, no matter how bad things get. Judith may not consider him "a serious man" but Larry is certainly more successful than socially-awkward Uncle Arthur, who has

a host of problems including a cyst on the back of his neck that needs constant care. His hours in the bathroom frustrate appearance-obsessed teenaged Sarah. At Hebrew school, Danny secretly listens to Jefferson Airplane on his radio during class or smokes pot in the boys' room. At home, he is watching "F Troop" on TV.

One absurd disaster piles onto another for beleaguered good-guy Larry until Larry begins to wonder if there is a meaning, a message from God, behind all this.

The worse things get for poor Larry, the funnier "A Serious Man" gets, like a huge, dark, cosmic joke. Roger Deakins' vivid, dream-like photography is stunning, deepening every scene with a palpable sense of meaning or foreboding. The script is a tour-de-force, aided by outstanding acting from the gifted Michael Stuhlbarg, who has to walk a fine line to make Larry a likeable, sympathetic character instead of simply a luckless victim. Other performances from the mostly-unknown, even local cast are sparkling as well.

The Coen brothers have crafted a brilliant film in "A Serious Man," a masterpiece of blackest absurd comedy. It is among their funniest and best works, a heavy contender of Oscar nominations this season. **A** —Cate Marquies

## The Stepfather

Penn Badgley, Dylan Walsh  
Screen Gems, PG-13

"The Stepfather," a re-make of the original 1987 film, can be summed up in three words: gratuitous panty shots. If you are a fan of scenes involving teenage girls' lower halves, then go see "The Stepfather."

You will certainly get your fill, because the main character's girlfriend goes through three different swimsuits and two different sets of bras and panties during the film.

That is not to say there is not something for the ladies, too. If man-flesh is your preference, the main character seems to be shirtless more often than not, so there is that. Sigh.

The near-nudity is not the real horror here, however. If you are not necessarily a huge fan of seeing teenagers in various states of disrobement and prefer things like coherent plots and main characters whose faces do not look like chiseled stone, well, you are out of luck.

Perhaps it is the contrite

and contrived plot. David Harris ("Nip/Tuck's" Dylan Walsh) is the titular stepfather, a serial killer who suavely charms his way into divorced/widowed women's lives. Once he is in, he proceeds to brutally murder the entire family before slipping away to his next family of victims.

After an opening scene showing some Christmas-day slaughtering, the film progresses to show Harris charming his way into the lives of Susan Harding (Sela Ward) and her two young children.

Er, three children, that is. The main character, Susan's teenage son Michael (Penn Badgley) arrives about 10 minutes into the movie, which does not bode well for the film. Even Badgley's character knows the movie is going to be terrible, and he is embarrassed to be seen in it.

What occurs for the next part of the film is standard horror movie fare. Michael has an uneasy feeling about his new stepfather, and he tries to convince everyone about it before it is too late.

Move along, folks—this has been done time and time before, and frankly, Shia LaBeouf did it better in "Disturbia."

There is a scene where Michael cries unconvincingly. As mentioned before, with a face made out of chiseled stone, it ended up looking more like a rock leaking water than a raw human emotion.

Naturally, the body toll slowly begins to rise near the middle of the flick once a neighbor discovers that Mrs. Harding's fiancé looks an awful lot like a man recently shown on "America's Most Wanted." Of course Harris kills her off, and once Susan's divorced husband starts asking questions, he is promptly killed off too.

There is no tension here that is not created merely by creepy dialog and pumped-up suspense, which is a shame. The audience already knows the stepfather is a killer thanks to the opening scene, and the entire movie is spent waiting for the ax to fall. Yawn.

See STEPFATHER, page 20

## Also in Theaters

**Paranormal Activity** Oh this movie thinks it's so "Blair Witch." Ten years after that twig-snapping good time raked in gobs of cash with a nothing budget, "Paranormal Activity" is giving it a run for its money. Made for around \$10 and utilizing a non-traditional viral marketing campaign, the movie is steadily opening in more and more cities around the country including, now, our own dear St. Louis. So go stick it to the man by shelling out your eight dollars to support the little horror movie that could. Besides, it's actually pretty scary, and you'll never forgive yourself if you see "Couples Retreat." **B+** —The Current's *Secret Movie Insider*.

**Couple's Retreat.** Vince Vaughn has got too be getting to old for this, and yet it's almost like "Fred Claus" and "Four Christmases" didn't teach him a lesson. Maybe he's mad at us because people still occasionally recognize him on the street as Norman Bates in Gus Van Sant's 1998 re-make of "Psycho." **B-** —The Current's *Secret Movie Insider*.

**Whip It.** Ellen Page, hyper-lovable star of "Juno" warms audiences' hearts again in this heart-warming joyfest about a lackluster lass who finds her inner pizzazz in roller derby. Drew "bubblegum" Barrymore directs this winning little gem sure to blah blah blah. **B-** —The Current's *Secret Movie Insider*.

**Toy Story.** The first feature-length film entirely in CGIs, "Toy Story" still has a good look, good jokes, good songs and a great villain in Syd, the sadist teenager whose comeuppance will bring a smile to the face of even the most hardened Lynch fans out there. In 3-D and shown as a double feature with "Toy Story 2" in many theaters. **B+** —The Current's *Secret Movie Insider*.



# Dethklok, Mastodon celebrate Rocktober at the Pageant

Last Tuesday night, the Pageant in the Delmar Loop changed. For one awesome night, it became more than a mere venue. It became a temple of rock, and the hundreds who packed into its hallowed halls all worshipped at the altar. For one

night, the Dethklok/Mastodon tour was in town, and it rocked.

Far be it from this reviewer to critique the tenets of rock, but some of its priests are more skilled than others, if you know what I mean.

The evening began with



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Dethklok was the featured band at Metalocalypse last Monday night at the pageant in the Delmar Loop.

High on Fire, a heavy metal band from Oakland, California, founded by the illustrious Matt Pike of "Sleep" fame.

The music was solid, if not actually good, and the lyrics were intelligible. One complaint: just because the stereotype of a heavy metal frontman that sings shirtless exists, does not mean it should be duplicated.

Following the borderline-decent High on Fire was Converge, a mix of hardcore punk and extreme metal from Massachusetts. Imagine Linkin Park trying to do Black Sabbath, and you will have a good idea of what they sounded like.

Perhaps Converge rubbed this reviewer the wrong way because of the screaming and whining of Jacob Ban-

non, the band's frontman. Or perhaps it was because it seemed like Bannon's sole purpose was to bound about on the stage like it was an inflatable moon bounce, and grunt into the mic.

Rock may not be as strict as other, lesser kinds of music, but if you do not sing or play an instrument, why are you in the band?

At least Bannon realized that Converge was lucky to be along on the tour—he incessantly thanked the audience in between bouts of mic grunting.

Converge was easily the weakest band of the whole night. Suffice to say, the rock gods were not pleased.

Luckily, those nebulous, spiked-bracelet-wearing spirits would be appeased by the next set, performed

handily by Atlanta natives Mastodon.

Their acid-trip-inspired set coupled with their strong, melodic style of rock seemed to mesh into a kind of dream-like state where time had no meaning. That, or it was the acrid smoke from the pothead standing a few feet away.

Regardless, Mastodon put on a great show. The rock gods must have been pleased indeed, maybe even enough to forget about Converge. Maybe.

After Mastodon's set, the stage darkened and the real show began. Dethklok launched into the live version of their rapid-fire theme song, and things only got more awesome from there.

See DETHKLOK, page 25

## ITUNES TOP 10 DOWNLOADED SONGS



**01 3**  
*The Singles Collection*  
Britney Spears

**02** Party in the USA  
*Party in the USA*  
Miley Cyrus

**03** Fireflies  
*Ocean Eyes*  
Owl City

**04** Whatcha Say  
*Whatcha Say*  
Jason DeRulo

**05** Met me Halfway  
*The E.N.D.*  
The Black-Eyed Peas

**06** Down  
*Down*  
Jay Sean

**07** Who Says  
*Battle Studies*  
John Mayer

**08** Replay  
*Replay*  
Lyaz

**09** Paparazzi  
*The Fame*  
Lady GaGa

**10** I Gotta Feeling  
*The E.N.D.*  
The Black-Eyed Peas

## Dutch cello octet shows Spanish flair

The Touhill Performing Arts Center played host to visiting musicians from across the Atlantic on Sunday Oct. 11.

While named after the Dutch city famous for Rembrandt and canals, the Amsterdam Cello Octet is unique as one of the world's few cello octets. For their St. Louis performance on Sunday, this diverse group of young musicians—whose ethnic origins span from Eastern Europe to Spain—was joined by Dutch soprano Charlotte Reidijk.

The Amsterdam String Octet, originally named the Conjunto Ibérico, is known for their renditions of Spanish and South American Music. Their most recent Touhill performance was no exception. The Octet played a selection of songs from Brazil, Argentina and Spain, with the exception of a piece by the Czech composer, Da-

vid Popper. The Amsterdam Cello Octet proved themselves worthy of their exceptional international reputation.

The performance took place on a bare stage, but the iridescent purple taffeta blouses with long, arched tails worn by the female cellists brightened up the stage.

The Amsterdam Cello Octet opened with "Tres Cancões de Beiramar," written specifically for the Amsterdam Cello Octet by the composer Marlos Nobre.

The passion, romance and pathos of these three songs, rooted in the culture of their Brazilian origins, set the stage for a powerful performance.

Charlotte Reidijk's clear, vibrant, mature voice did justice to the varied moods of the songs.

The next two pieces, "Company" and "Mishim," were excerpts



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

The Amsterdam Cello Octet plays at Touhill Sunday afternoon, with special guest, Charlotte Reidijk, Soprano. The unique Octet performed pieces written by Marlos Nobre, Philip Glass, David Popper, Heitor Villa-Lobos, to name a few.

from the works of composer Philip Glass who has been a frequent and generous collaborator with the Amsterdam Cello Octet.

Both these pieces were originally written for a play and a film, respectively. The skill of the octet and the weaving melodies of these two works made a musical description of the deep hu-

man experiences and emotion they were first written to express.

The third piece, "O Antiphonen," was a takeoff on Arvo Part's work "Sieben Magnificat Antiphonen," originally a piece for a cappella choir by the composer. "O, Antiphonen" was filled with all the deep undertones of a Gregorian melody. It

achieved Part's ideal to create songs without words.

From "O Antiphonen," the concert continued its calm strain into "Requiem," a composition from David Popper, originally written for the funeral of his good friend and publisher Daniel Rather.

See OCTET, page 25

What's your favorite album?  
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# Distracted?

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Concentrating?*

*Disorganized?*

*Absent  
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Forgetful?*

*Irritable or  
Impatient?*

*Trouble With  
Relationships  
or Work?*

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## Tom Sawyer paints another fence at Touhill

From Friday until Sunday, the Variety Children's Theater presented "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The Broadway adaptation of Mark Twain's classic novel had all the fixin's (as they might say in Hannibal), including a fence needing whitewashing and a fantastic live orchestra.

The plot itself is unremarkable compared to the cast.

Alongside a slew of professional actors including Christian Probst (Tom Sawyer), who has preformed in national tours and appeared on a couple of DVDs, and James Anthony (Injun Joe), who will feature in "Up in the Air" with George Clooney, were a number of children with disabilities.

These children were the true stars of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," as they proved that it is possible to dance with the best of 'em while seated in a wheelchair, or to crack a joke that evokes laughter from the audience despite having a learning disability.

Because of this, the smiles on the cast members' faces shown brightly and were infectious.

Also a treat for the audience was the play's set. With a backdrop of the Mississippi River, the set transformed from an outdoor view of the small Hannibal town, to the creepy graveyard where Doc Robinson is murdered, and later to the labyrinth that is McDougal's Cave.

Stand-out numbers in the play included the innocent

love song "To Hear You Say My Name," sung by Tom and Becky Thatcher (Berkea Goings) and the poignant "Angels Lost," sung by Aunt Polly (Zoe Vonder Haar), Judge Thatcher (Beak Frederiksen) and company.

However, the upbeat group numbers from the whole cast such as "Ain't Life Fine" or "Hey Tom Sawyer" were always engaging, foot-tapping fun.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," is a familiar tale, but the Variety Children's Theater kept the show fresh and not once during the performance did it lag.

All-in-all, the warm atmosphere, brilliant actors and energetic children made "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" a show to remember. **A**—*Jessica Keil*

### JUDAS, from page 17

The first act of the play struggles somewhat in trying to reconcile the light and often-humorous tone with some of the weightier issues dealt with.

For instance, Joey Walsh's performance as prosecuting attorney El-Fayoumy was consistently hilarious, perfectly pitched and even subtle beneath its exuberance, but it ended up stealing scenes whose topics of debate should be enough to hold the audience's focus on their own.

The second act reconciles this issue for the most part, allowing for passages that more effectively blend the

humor pathos, and debate. El-Fayoumy's character and performance are subdued simultaneously by the entrance of Ben Watts' deliciously precise and hypnotically entertaining Satan, or Lou (short for Lucifer), as he is known.

The ante is constantly upped in the play as power shifts back and forth from character to character and scathing logic is used to dig both at theological quandaries and each character's defenses.

The theme soon emerges: our constant philosophical need to question is inevitably trumped by our basic emotional interactions.

It takes "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" a moment to find its stride in communicating that theme, but overall the cast is incredibly strong with several scene-stealing performances.

By the final passages of the play, the sharp script and layered performances have earned a level of potency put to use in the unexpectedly moving final scenes, in which the script lets down its defenses and takes risks, stripping away humor and giving a glimpse of the truly ambitious accomplishments of this production. **B**—*Chris Stewart*

### STEPPFATHER, from page 18

At its most basic, the plot of "The Stepfather" seems eerily reminiscent of "The Uninvited," which came out earlier this year.

At least that movie had some real mystery to it though—was the stepmother the killer or was she innocent? Unfortunately for this movie,

there is simply no mystery.

The movie's finale is rather lackluster and something this reviewer will not reveal here.

Suffice it to say it is awkward and does not quite make sense due to a large plot hole.

There is a subgenre of horror movie called the "B"

movie. "The Stepfather" is more like a "D" movie. The film is mindless, barely even deserving of the "horror" moniker.

If you have to watch this movie, bring along some funny friends and have at it, "Mystery Science Theater 3000"-style. **D**—*Andrew Seal*

# Opinions

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.  
Signed opinions articles reflect the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of *The Current*.

## Limbaugh should not be surprised about Rams bid

Despite the controversial nature of American politics, it is sometimes the people who comment on them that are controversial themselves. By now, anyone remotely interested in St. Louis sports knows about the recent hullabaloo regarding national pundit Rush Limbaugh and the Rams.

Quickly, a recap: Limbaugh was a member of a multi-person group that had placed a bid to purchase the St. Louis Rams. Led by St. Louis Blues owner Dave Checketts, the group approached the Rams about a possible deal two weeks ago.

Checketts's group is one of several bidding on the Rams,

the only one to be named and the only one to come under national scrutiny.

When it became known that Limbaugh was a member of the group the backlash was instant.

Many individuals came out against Limbaugh, the Reverend Al Sharpton and Jim Irsay, the owner of the Indianapolis Colts, among them.

Though Limbaugh was only a limited partner and would only own a small part of the team, the backlash caused Checketts's group to drop the radio pundit.

This came the day after Limbaugh vowed on his show that he and Checketts's

group would fight through the backlash together.

"It has become clear that his involvement in our group has become a complication and a distraction to our intentions," said Checketts in a statement.

"As such, we have decided to move forward without him and hope it will eventually lead us to a successful conclusion."

Some of the anti-Rush sentiment was fueled by one of Limbaugh's statements from his short stint as an NFL analyst in 2003: "I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL," Limbaugh said during an ESPN Saturday Night

Football broadcast.

"The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well."

The backlash from that ill-fated statement made ESPN force Limbaugh to resign. It was clear that the NFL and its players did not think too highly of his comments and one would think that would have soured him on the NFL.

But no.

Limbaugh does not seem to understand why so many people were opposed to his involvement in the bid for the Rams. His response to being dropped was to comment (naturally) but not to defend himself, or fight the decision as he previously said

he would.

Instead, he decided to lament how the decision to remove him did not bode well for the future of the country. "This is about the future of the United States of America and what kind of country we're going to have," Limbaugh said.

"This is the latest assault on people who believe in rugged individualism and liberty and freedom who threaten the whole notion of state control tyranny and central authority which is typified by the Obama administration and the Democratic Party."

We think that Limbaugh is missing the point.

He was not dropped be-

cause he is a supporter of liberty and freedom, nor was he dropped because he is a conservative. He was not even dropped because he verbally persecutes anyone and anything that does not ascribe to his worldview.

He was dropped because of the hateful and intolerant things he has said in the past.

Limbaugh, you are more than welcome to express your opinions and freely expose your intolerances to the American public—indeed, you do it on a daily basis.

But please do not act surprised and question the future of America when your negative comments come back to haunt you.

## Opinions versus facts

It started when Anita Dunn, White House communications director, said that Fox News is like "a wing of the Republican party."

In the ensuing media firestorm, Fox executive Michael Clemente said that it was "astounding" that the administration could not differentiate between news and opinion programs.

*The Current* feels that this is not just a matter of Fox News and the White House bickering over the presentation of the news, but that this is evidence of a larger, more dangerous issue in the media: the blurring of the line between fact and opinion.

In newspapers, the distinc-

tion is generally black and white.

There is usually a section labeled "News" and usually an editorial section with articles labeled as "Opinions."

The standards of fact and opinion are fairly obvious. But the situation on cable news networks, like Fox or MSNBC, is a bit more complex.

Shows like *The Glenn Beck Show* and *Countdown With Keith Olbermann* have little or no warning that their shows are opinion.

Even *South Park* has a warning at its front end describing it as satire.

And then there is the larger problem of media literacy. In

a comment to a recent opinion printed in *The Current*, "mary" said that "[Glenn] Beck has been able to prove everything he has reported." This is in contrast to Beck himself who states that he is "not a journalist."

Beck only espouses his views on the current political landscape, and while his opinion may be based partially on fact, the opinion itself is not.

While Beck has a responsibility to back up what he says with evidence for him to be taken seriously, the purpose of his speech is to convince, not to inform.

This is not the case with a traditional news anchor like

Brian Williams or Charlie Gibson.

Most Americans learn about the difference between fact and opinion in elementary school.

They are handed worksheets with sentences and are charged with the task of choosing whether each sentence is fact or opinion.

*The Current* feels that part of America needs to relearn this lesson.

Furthermore, *The Current* feels that people in general need a dose of media literacy training, an infusion of questioning sources and a desire for truly objective news reporting.

With Fox spewing out

right-wing biased programming and MSNBC doing the same for the left, fans of each respective channel mindlessly parrot what they see and hear.

They do this with little skepticism and little to no research as to what might actually be the truth.

And then again, we also believe that reporters might need to relearn some lessons as well.

While reporting always has its inherent slant—reporters are human and subject to their own thoughts and feelings—journalists could go a long way to rid the airwaves of bias by remembering one of the most basic principles of journalism.

This principle would be objectivity.

All too often 24-hour news networks fill their time slots by letting personalities ramble about the news.

They offer their opinions with those of chosen experts who, more often than not, agree with their host or are so outrageous that they're opinions eclipse those of the host in craziness or bias.

Before the public can begin separating opinion from fact, the media must do this for themselves.

By making clear that the opinions offered by their on-air personalities are exactly that, opinions.

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# Viewpoints

## Jon & Kate + 8 = unnecessary drama

Someone please call the pause police on the ridiculousness that is Jon and Kate. Ever since Jon's alleged affair earlier this year, we have been bombarded with news stories of their antics.

First, let's give them credit. When the alleged affair first came out, both Jon and Kate would only tell news reporters that they were seeking the help of their pastors and would deal with their issues privately. Great!

Then people who "know" them came out the woodwork to comment on the drama going on behind the scenes. Not so great. Instead of them continuing to deal with their issues privately, they both took to news sources to air dirty laundry about each other.

Tisk, tisk. The madness continued—and got worse. It was Jon mostly running to media outlets and telling America how Kate was the spawn of Satan.

Then he started claiming verbal abuse from Kate. If you have ever seen the show *Jon and Kate Plus 8*, then you know Kate was not exactly Mrs. June Cleaver when it came to the way she treated Jon.

Even though some of the things she said made me shake my head, I would hardly consider her overbearing tone verbal abuse. Granted, none of us know what goes on when the cameras are turned off.

Kate is no Mother Theresa

either. She has done her fair share of media bashing; the only difference is that she has gotten a ridiculous amount of support from women.

Women are currently sympathetic to her situation and they see past her antics because they identify with her pain.

Yes, all of us women should identify with a mother of eight, riddled with plastic surgery, and who makes \$22,500 each time her family graces our television screen.

Recently, Kate went running to Entertainment Tonight when she discovered that Jon had allegedly withdrawn \$230,000 from their joint bank account, leaving her only \$1,000.

Kate then went on to say that because of the alleged withdrawal she cannot feed her eight children.

Does Kate Gosselin not know about the family box of chicken for \$9.99? In all seriousness, something has to give. We keep seeing these adults go back and forth through media outlets so much that we have to wonder if they are actually talking to each other in person.

What about the kids? Throughout the drama their show still airs on TLC. When TLC announced that they were axing Jon from the show, suddenly Jon wanted to stop production. Really Jon? This late?

All it took was for him knowing that his cash flow would stop for him to realize



Sequita Bean

the show may be damaging to his children, or maybe he doesn't care about the welfare of his children; maybe pulling the plug was for monetary reasons only.

Whatever the reason, I say this is a good start, and since then, Jon has halted the divorce proceedings according to *In Touch Weekly*.

This is truly interesting since he was seen recently on *Good Morning America* saying he despised her.

Now he is saying that he wants to sit down with Kate, go through their problems and resolve things. This revelation came about after Kate broke down on a recent episode of the show and he saw "how much the divorce was hurting her."

Cue Dr. Phil?

Let us hope the Gosselins stay off TV so they can work through whatever they need to work through, because in the end it is not about money or fame but their children.

I bet if they dealt with their problems more privately they might accomplish something.

## Facebook: Time to Log Off

Whether you love it, hate it, or really could care less about it, it is undeniable that Facebook is here to stay.

In light of that fact, it is important to have a serious conversation with yourself about the way you want to use Facebook.

The original intent of Facebook was to connect college students and allow them to contact each other. It has evolved beyond that, however—it is now a social media platform for all ages, and it can be many different things.

You can use it competitively, challenging your friends to beat your latest high score in Zuma or work with you on your farm in *FarmVille*, or you can still use it to contact friends—"Hey, I lost my phone, everyone Facebook message me your numbers!"

What got me thinking about how I use and interact on Facebook, however, was a simple poll.

A half-friend of mine (you know, the friend of a friend that you kind of know but not really all that well) responded to the user-created poll "Do you think abortion should be legalized?"

It is an innocent question, if not a little misguided. For example; abortion is already legal, so maybe it was mistyped and the creator was asking if abortion should be illegalized?

I'm not sure. It really

does not matter.

My half-friend responded "no" to the poll. Again, not a big deal.

He is very Catholic, so of course he would be against abortion.

It also did not bother me that he had responded to the poll three times ... in a row.

What so offended me and made me reconsider the whole idea of using Facebook was the picture that accompanied the poll.

The poll creator had chosen an extremely graphic picture of an aborted late-term fetus, covered in blood with very clearly recognizable features.

Logging onto Facebook to check up on my friends after a long day only to be assaulted with three pictures of an aborted fetus is, well, simply too much.

I'm pro-life in general, and it is not like I have not seen these kinds of pictures before. I have attended the annual pro-life march in Washington D.C. before, and these kind of graphic horrors are commonplace there.

I just do not need to see them unless I choose to, and with Facebook, I have no control over that. Sure, I can "hide" certain friends if I want to see less of them, but there is no option to turn off all the useless newsfeed posts about "this friend voted 'no' in this poll" and "that friend just got 75k in



Andrew Seal

Bejeweled Twist!"

As a group, young Americans are coming to rely far too much on online social spaces like Facebook and MySpace.

We post far too much about ourselves online.

Thanks to detailed profiles, I can know almost anything about someone else before I have even communicated one word to them. I can know their favorite movie, their favorite quote, and that they have worked as a journalist for six years.

That is why I have decided to "just say no" to Facebook.

I am pruning all of my contacts by getting rid of all my "half-friends." The only people I should be friends with on Facebook should be those I talk to regularly.

I am removing all of my personal information beside contact info—from now on, if you want to know more about me, you will have to actually talk to me.

Facebook should supplement your social life, not be its replacement.

## The Current is now hiring the following positions:

Assistant  
News Editor!

STBH Editor!

Assistant  
A&E Editor!

Assistant  
Features Editor!

# Midterm-inally ill?

Fried brains, energy drinks, hovercrafts, and more: how to survive the trickiest time in the semester



Sarah Hill

ing suspicion that part of my own brain has already been sautéed, plated, decorated with spiraling carrot peels and sprigs of parsley and then consumed as a delicacy by the great academic monster.

It is because of this missing part of my brain's mass that the undeniable loss of physical self preservation has occurred.

Hovercrafts fueled by assorted stimulus and stress chemicals somehow keep us from frying alive, but the academic monster remains ravenous. A few mishaps or poorly timed moves can trigger ejection and everything can hit the pan.

Too much focus makes my eyes feel closer and closer to

reaching the inevitable point of popping out, and I fear it is only a matter of time before they too will sizzle.

I am being eaten alive. As it turns out, coupling coursework with outside responsibilities and a social life can and will wreak havoc on your body.

So I am biased. I believe that eating proper and nutrient-rich meals, drinking adequate amounts of water, keeping up on sleep, avoiding stress and staying active will make life better.

Yet at the same time, life happens, and even I forget to abide by these rules.

Yet barreling through the semester, I barely have time to make the bed in the

morning let alone take care of myself. Students need to be more conscious of the dangers resulting from severe exhaustion, dehydration or malnourishment.

I would wager that fighting illness is probably going to be easier if students aim to keep their bodies and minds healthy.

School can easily deliver the ol' one-two, adding a stutter to my step, but exhaustive overextension is more like Mohammed Ali's "Rope-A-Dope."

Fatigue is a disadvantage, and the latter ends in a knock-out. Being awake, alert and healthy is necessary for our breed of fighters.

Otherwise, we may take

a strong shot to the jaw and a harsh blow from smashing the floor.

Sizzling against the academic grill, situated cleverly alongside the ring, bits of brains are cooked to a crisp. Once this occurs that they can be utilized as salad toppings in the Provincial House.

UM-St. Louis' Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority and Health Services hosted "Think Pink" week from Monday through Friday of last week.

With the goal to bring health and breast cancer awareness to campus, ZTA had their annual "Best Chest" competition, campus consultations with Jenny Craig and Bare Minerals, and a free mammogram bus.

According to their service chair, Brittney Morris, senior, business and psychology, ZTA's week attempted to make the campus more aware breast cancer's threat and offer healthier lifestyles as avenues for avoidance of illness.

Either way, practicing what is more easily preached is tough.

Talking about diseases and how to avoid them will not be found beneficial unless we put that information into application.

In order for our brains to operate at maximum efficiency, our bodies need to be treated accordingly.

Respecting yourself, coincidentally, may be the best remedy.

## RECYCLING, from page 2

Jeremy Klipsch, junior, psychology and anthropology, lives in the University Meadows Apartments on South Campus and would like to see more facilities for recycling in the complex.

"I would definitely recycle more if I had the option to in the Meadows," said Klipsch. "I can't see many people tak-

ing all their waste to North Campus every day."

When asked how Robinson and the team encourage UM-Saint Louis students to recycle their own waste, he responded by saying that the best way to promote recycling is to make it readily available to students at numerous locations on campus.

"I don't aggressively 'market' recycling to the students."

He said, "The best way is to offer a recycling option at every location one can throw something away."

Julie Kreis, founder of the Environmental Ventures Organization, a student group on campus, is pleased with

the results the report shows.

However, she thinks that students can do more to limit their impact on the environment.

Kreis would like to see more recycling receptacles on campus for student use.

"For example, once, I wanted to recycle something I had in my hand, but I had

to go out of my way to find somewhere to do it on campus," Kreis said.

"Unless you're dead set on recycling its easy just not to bother."

Many people, Kreis suspects, would just throw it into the nearest trash can instead of going out of their way to recycle.

There is also a plan to bring in a limit to student printing with a quota for the semester that cannot be exceeded.

This is all part of an effort to reduce the initial use of paper of campus.

Kreis said that "People need to think before they press print. Reduce, reuse then recycle, in that order."

## You said it

***"I'm glad they're both okay, though presumably pretty shaken up. Thank heavens the driver wasn't speeding."***

**- Pam, on "Pedestrian struck by car on campus"**

***"This album is very fresh, with a set of songs that one can listen to over and over."***

**- Aaron, on "This is Energy's EP falls very, very short"**

***"The real fact is there is nothing positive about illegal immigration."***

**- Bettybb, on "Illegal immigration: let's talk about it"**

***"Maybe it's time to stop handing out those no-strings-attached billions and let business fall back on the same free enterprise system that they endlessly praise."***

**- DHFabian, on "Net neutrality will save the internet"**

Make your voice be heard. You can go to [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) and comment on every article in this and past issues.



# Opinions

## Forget about 'Fat Talk'

*The following is a guest column submitted by a staff member at University Health, Wellness, and Counseling.*

"I hate my knees."

"I have man shoulders."

"I need to lose 10 pounds."

"You look great, have you lost weight?"

"I am so fat."

What do these statements all have in common?

They are all examples of "fat talk."

Fat talk refers to the statements made in everyday conversation that reinforce the thin ideal and contribute to women's dissatisfaction with their bodies.

Unfortunately, these kinds of statements are frighteningly familiar to most American women.

We hear them all around us—at the gym, in the locker room, among our friends—and while spending time with family members.

These statements are problematic because they reinforce the idea that women need to look a certain way in order to be healthy, namely to be extremely, perfectly, unattainably thin.

In addition to the impossibility of achieving a body type that only 2% of American women naturally have, and the only one we see portrayed in the media, this talk hurts us in other ways.

Millions of American women are losing time, energy, creativity, money, self-esteem and connectedness every day in their endless pursuit of the thin ideal.

The notion that American

women and girls might be able to look like the images we see in the media is false and unhealthy.

Furthermore it causes us all to lose out on the more important aspects of ourselves.

We now know that 81% of 10-year-olds are afraid of being fat, and 51% of 9- and 10-year-old girls feel better about themselves if they are on a diet.

In addition, more than 66% of women aged 18-25 would rather be mean or stupid than be fat, and over 50% would rather be hit by a truck than be fat.

At the same time, as many as 10 million females are suffering from anorexia or bulimia. That is more than are suffering from breast cancer.

This is clearly a societal problem, and one that we need to start talking about.

We have a serious, lifelong issue with body image. Why are we our own worst enemy?

Why do we continue to punish ourselves and to try to attain something so unhealthy and limiting?

The week of October 19-23, Fat Talk Free Week focuses on the healthy ideal.

The healthy ideal looks different for everyone and focuses on how one feels, not how one looks. Fat talk is destroying us and our spirits.

We have to break this habit of fat talk and challenge these conversations when we hear them.

What can you do to participate?

1. Choose one friend or

family member and discuss one thing you each like about yourself.

2. Keep a journal of all the good things your body allows you to do like sleep well and play sports.

3. Make a pact with a friend to avoid fat talk. When you catch your friend talking negatively about her body, remind her of the pact.

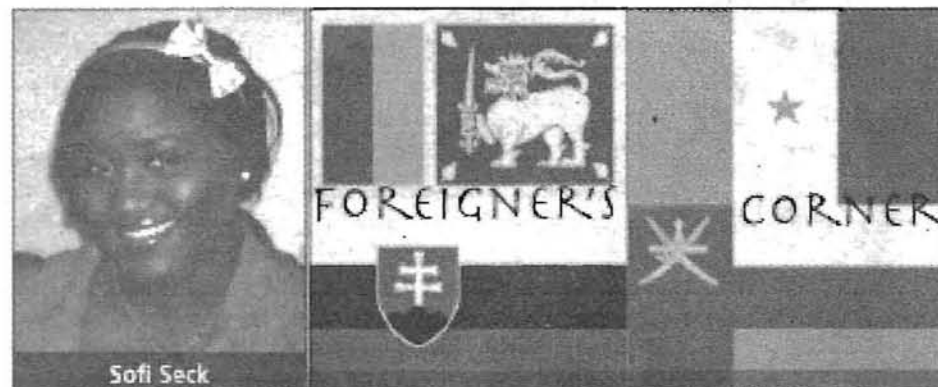
4. Make a pledge to end complaints about your body, such as "I hate my legs." When you catch yourself doing this, correct yourself by saying something positive about that body part, such as, "I'm so glad my legs got me through soccer practice today."

5. The next time someone gives you a compliment, rather than objecting, take a deep breath and say "thank you."

6. Join in the campus events this week sponsored by University Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services. Visit [www.umsu.edu/services/counselor](http://www.umsu.edu/services/counselor) for more information about the events being held this week.

7. Visit [www.endfattalk.org](http://www.endfattalk.org) to view the national website and sign the pledge to ban fat talk.

*Emily Hamilton is a licensed psychologist at University Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services, located at 131 MSC.*



## Africa is getting screwed, again

Last Thursday, the UN concluded that Africa's largest lake, Chad, is shrinking at an incredible rate.

You might be thinking "So what? It's just a lake," but this lake borders on Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria—one of Africa's most populated countries—which means that more than 25 million people are facing tragedy.

The Lake Chad basin is one of the most important cultivation heritage places in the world. Biodiversity, migratory birds, fisher people and farmers all need the lake to survive.

I was surprised to hear this; I mean, Africa does not produce a significant amount of greenhouse gases, but our lakes and rivers are drying up.

Actually, according to the UN, the disappearance of the lake has very little to do with global warming but more about the human actions related to climate variation put together by the ever-growing load of an increasing population.

Originally, the Logone and Chari rivers emptied into the lake, but decreased rainfall and damming of the rivers means that only half

of the water that used to get to it actually reaches the lake now.

This, along with the spread of the Sahara desert into the area, means that the lake will be completely gone in the near future. Some say within the next 20 years.

The condition that the Lake Chad Basin is in is one of the most significant untold stories of recent times. The lake was once one of the largest water bodies on the planet, but since 1963 the lake has shrunk by 90%. Animal populations have gone down in extreme levels, and many larger mammals such as giraffes, striped hyenas and sitatunga—swamp-dwelling antelope—are now considered extinct in the area around the lake. Needless to say, plant life is virtually non-existent at this point.

The lake's fisher people have also been significantly affected by the decline of the lake. It has been mandatory for Pastoralists to shift their herds to the wetter south, putting them and their herds in clash with farmers.

There are serious environmental problems to compete with: soil salinization, growing water demands for irri-

gation, loss of fisheries and an increase in poverty.

So what can be done to stop this?

One way is by artificially putting water under the surface on the lake. The problem with that is where would the extra water be taken from?

I am thinking that damming the Oubangui River at Palambo in Central African Republic and channeling some of its water through a crossable canal to the lake would probably do the job.

I cannot pretend to know how much time and money that would take, or any of the politics that would go into this, but I am willing to bet that whatever the cost, it is completely worth the price of saving the lake and all of its resources.

Something has to be done immediately to overturn this if the livelihoods of this area are to be protected.

This lake reinforces my belief that when it comes to ecological changes, the future for some places already exist through resources that can be found somewhere else in the world.

The big question is: does the rest of world care enough to save this lake?

Check us out on the Web.  
[TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

# Classifieds

## 100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your announcements, including legal announcements, wedding announcements, lost & found items, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 to place your ad today!

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## 300 EMPLOYMENT

### LIFEGUARD

CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS needed for UMSL Indoor Pool: Monday-Thursday 11:30AM-2:00PM. \$8.00/hour. Apply in the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain, 516-5326.

### Test Proctors Wanted

Now hiring proctors for occasional TOEFL exams on campus. Earn \$50+ per exam for easy work in a comfortable environment. Experience with international students helpful. Contact us at [stl@els.edu](mailto:stl@els.edu) or 314-516-4625 for more details.

## 400 FOR SALE

**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your selling needs, including textbooks, clothes, pets, computers and much more! If you need to sell it, sell it here! Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

4 bdr, 2 1/2 bth, 2 car garage beautiful home for sale at 4004 Roland, Pasadena Hills, see on the web [http://www.cbgrundaker.com/search/advanced/detail.jsp?mls\\_num=90045234&type=res](http://www.cbgrundaker.com/search/advanced/detail.jsp?mls_num=90045234&type=res) or call 314-226-5655

## 500 SERVICES

**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for people advertising services, including home and lawn care, business services, roofing, siding, cleaning, tutoring, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

**Speeding ticket? DUI? Car Accident? Drug/MIP Charge?** Contact Mike Dalton at The St. Louis Metropolitan Area Law Firm to get a STUDENT discount. Mike is a practicing attorney and a fellow UMSL student! [mjd3d9@gmail.com](mailto:mjd3d9@gmail.com) or 636-734-1012

## 600 RENTALS

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1 Bedroom \$435.00

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Spacious floor plans /on-site laundry facilities

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Classified ads are **free** for students, faculty and staff. Other rates vary. To place an ad, please send your ad (40 words or less), your name, and student or employee number to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu), or call 516-5316.

## 700 MISCELLANEOUS

### BOWLING ANYONE?

Join Campus Rec's BOWLING DOUBLES League (Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00PM, Sept 16-Oct. 21) at nearby North Oaks Bowl. Only \$2/week for 3 games. 2 people per team. Register in the Rec Office, 203MT, 516-5326.

### Trivia Night to benefit the Sisters of the Good Shepherd,

Saturday, November 14th, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

St. Ann Church, 7530 Natural Bridge (half mile east of UMSL)

\$15 per person or \$150 table of ten

Cash prizes, giveaways, beer, soda and snacks included

Contact: Pat Williams 314-381-0120

**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for most anything at all. If your classified doesn't fit into the above categories, simply request an ad in the Miscellaneous Section. Some restrictions may apply. Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

### DETHKLOK, from page 19

Lighters were lit and horns were thrown up as series creator Brendon Small, drummer Gene Hoglan, guitarist Mike Keneally, and bassist Bryan Beller rocked the audience's collective face off.

Dethklok was the best part of the night, as expected.

Via the giant screen behind the stage, the audience periodically interacted with

the band's animated versions and during each song, its respective music video played.

Small and company destroyed expectations—the live versions of songs such as *Murmaider* and *Hatredcop* were even more epic than the album versions and the incredibly talented Hoglan, Keneally and Beller were superb.

Add on top of that Mastodon's excellent set and High on Fire's "okay" set, and the rock gods must have been beside themselves.

This reviewer went home deaf in one ear and with his left hand temporarily frozen in the act of throwing up the horns. Rock on. **A-** —Andrew Seal

### OCTET, from page 19

With "Seite canciones populares españolas," the concert took a brighter turn. Charlotte Reidijk again joined the octet, and gave brief explanations in English of each song.

These seven songs varied from a charming tune about a Moorish cloth to a lullaby to a song about unrequited love. Reidijk and the octet made a great combination exploring all the Spanish passion of each song.

After the intermission, the concert continued with "Fandango" by Madrid composer

Cristobal Halffter. The Amsterdam Cello Octet explored well the subtleties of this instrumentally complex piece.

The second-to-last piece consisted of excerpts from an Argentinean concert suite, "Ballet Estancia," by Alberto Ginastera, inspired by the life of the Argentinean cowboys called gauchos.

The concert ended with "Bachianos brasileiras no. 5," the only piece originally composed for eight cellos.

Beside the passion and quality of the music, simply watching the performers add-

ed another dimension to the concert. With their bodies moving with the movements and rhythms of the notes, the music seemed to come from within them, especially as they added bits of percussion to the music by tapping their cellos.

The quality of the performance of the internationally acclaimed Amsterdam Cello Octet was certainly one of the highlights of the Touhill Performing Arts Center season and something to look forward to next year. **A-**

—Bridget Ryder

### The Current is seeking applications for the following positions:

STBH Editor

Assistant News Editor

Assistant Features Editor

Assistant A&E Editor

Staff Writers

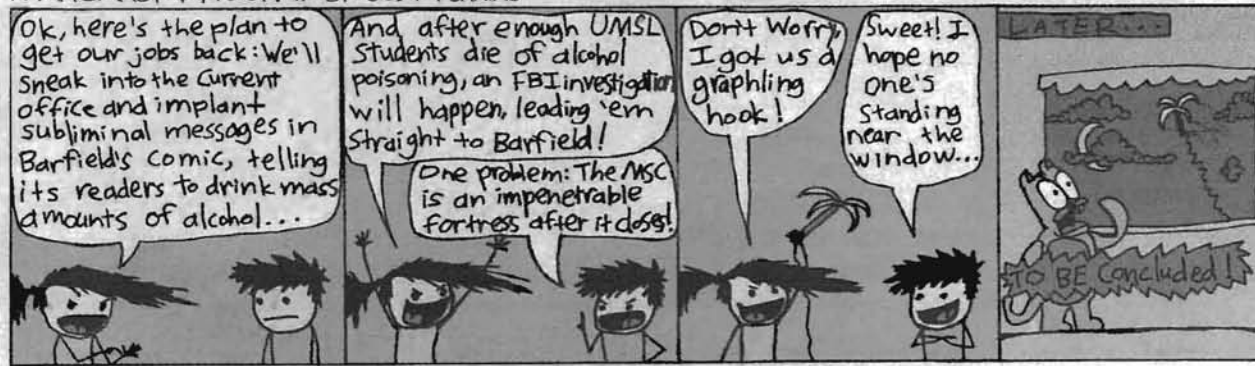
Drop off your cover letter and resume at 388 MSC today!



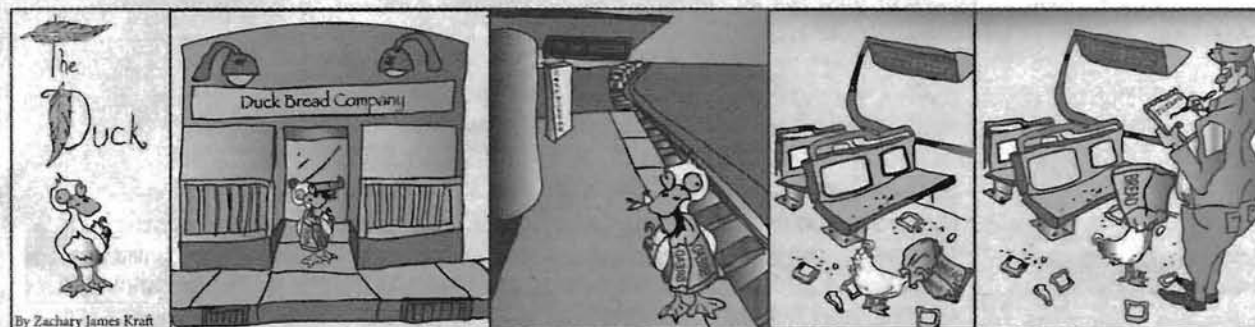
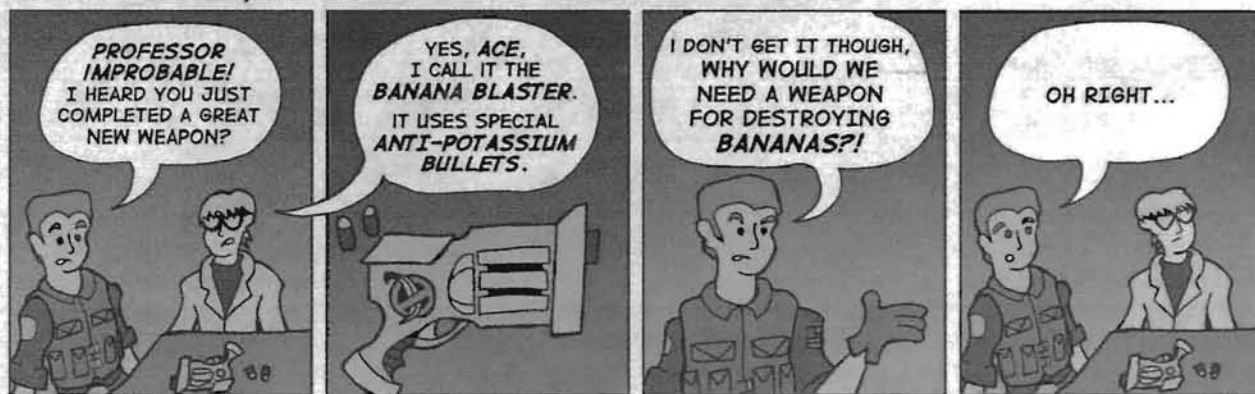


# Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



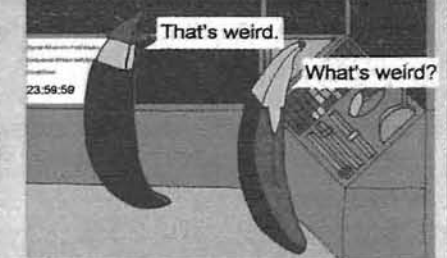
**GOOD GUYS** by Phil Freeman



Bananas #16

by Paul Maguire

Light-years away from Earth, the two heroic bananas were exploring the unknown.



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(or better?)

**Apply to be a Current cartoonist!**

**Perks include:**

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- Pay for your comic
- Throngs of screaming fans

**If interested, drop off an application with some samples of your comic at 388 MSC!**



# What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. First-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

## Monday, Oct. 19

**Motivating Your Way to Success: Avoiding the Burnout** Come and discover how to identify academic burnout and the strategies that will help you succeed in college. Changing habits (learning to study more, working out, etc.) can be difficult. Learn to use techniques to keep yourself motivated and to reach your goals. Located in 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success, from 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

**Smith Mentoring Project** Daniel L. Rust discusses his book *Flying Across America: The Airline Passenger Experience*, which traces the colorful evolution of air travel and brims with first-hand accounts from celebrities and ordinary Americans. Located at the J.C. Penney Conference Center, Room 222, from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

## Tuesday, Oct. 20

**Ghost Hunters: An Evening with Jason Hawes & Grant Wilson** The University Program Board is proud to host an evening with TAPS co-founders and stars of the popular Syfy reality show "Ghost Hunters" Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson. Jason and Grant will talk about their investigations, share some of their best stories, and answer your questions. Two tickets are FREE to each UMSL student with a valid student ID through the University Program Board. UMSL Faculty & Staff and the general public may purchase tickets online at [www.umsl.edu/studentlife](http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife). Located in the MSC Century Rooms, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact the University Program Board at 314-516-5291.

**It's About Time! (Management)** Learn how to improve grades, improve your quality of life and divide time between work and recreation. Located in 225 Millenium Student Center, from 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

**Home Soccer Game** Home men's soccer game vs SIU Edwardsville. Join us at the Don Dallas Soccer Field and root for your Tritons! Game time is 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenborg at 314-526-7016.

## Wednesday, Oct. 21

**Effective Studying: Facts and Myths about Memory** Learn more about how memory works and some tips that can be put into practice to improve recall. Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal setting for studying, concentration, and test-taking. Located in 225 MSC - Center for Student Success, from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

**News@Noon - Health Care Reform: Killing Peter to Save Paul?** Join us for free lunch and great discussion as Professor Susan Feigenbaum leads us through today's health care debate. Located in the MSC Century Room A from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. For more information contact Megan Hill at 314-516-4031.

**SAAC Chili Cook-Off** Come taste chili from each UMSL athletic team. \$2 buys unlimited tasting. Proceeds go to the Make A Wish Foundation. Located at the University Meadows, beginning at 7 PM. For more information contact Carly Maddock at 309-258-3135.

## Thursday, Oct. 22

### Political Science Academy

Special guest speaker will be Dr. Martin Rochester, Curator's Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science, UMSL and author of "U.S. Foreign Policy in the 21st Century: Gulliver's Travails."

Located in Rochester's home in Clayton. Maps available in 347 SSB - beginning at 7:30 PM.



CHERA MEYER / THE CURRENT

Colorful exhibits celebrating El Dia de los Muertos are on display in the Fine Arts Building. El Dia de los Muertos signifies the third death in Latin American culture. The first death is the physical death. The second death comes when the body is lowered into the ground. The final third death occurs when there is no one left to remember the deceased. This celebration of the dead is to make sure no soul goes forgotten making the third death nearly impossible.

**GLBTQ Month Discussion Panel** Discussion Panel on Gay Marriage and Families. All are welcome to this civil discussion. Located in the SGA chamber at 12:00 p.m. For more info contact MK Stallings at 516-4833.

**Online Courses: What you know might just get you an "A"** Are you thinking of enrolling in an online course, but you are not sure what an online course is and if it is right for you? Or, have you already enrolled in one and just want to learn how to succeed in it? Located in 225 MSC - Center for Student Success, from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

## Friday, Oct. 23

**Lunch and Learns about Academic Service-Learning** Learn the nuts and bolts of integrating service-learning into a course. Academic service-learning helps a community non-profit meet an organizational need while creating an applied learning experience for your students. Located in MSC Century Room A, from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM. For more information contact Peggy Cohen at 314-516-4508.

**Fall Hayride & Campfire** Tonight is the Campus Rec Hayride and campfire! A cookout with hotdogs and s'mores is included. The cost is only \$5 for students and transportation is provided. Advance registration is necessary. Located at the Old Halls Ferry Stables from 6:45 PM to 10:45 PM. For more information, the Campus Recreation Office at 314-516-5326.

**Home Soccer Game** Home men's soccer game vs Southern Indiana. Join us at the Don Dallas Soccer Field and root for your Tritons! Game time is 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenborg at 314-526-7016.

Read more event listings online at  
[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)