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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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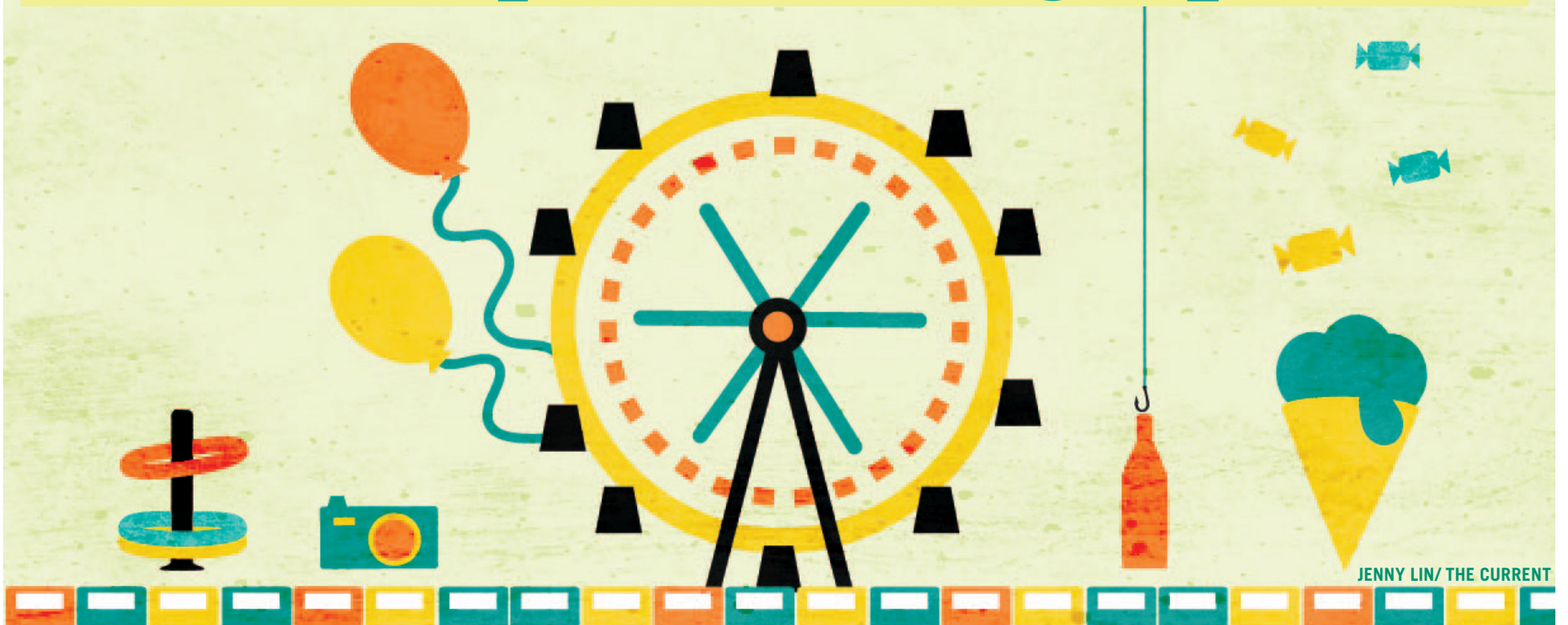
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VOTE!

SGA ELECTIONS THIS WEEK. Read about SGA debate - page 3

Mirthday is coming April 17



RACHELLE BRANDEL STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri-St. Louis will be celebrating one of its most anticipated events of the year on April 17: Mirthday.

The annual event includes a carnival with exciting rides and an array of booths where people can find entertaining games and learn about UMSL clubs and organizations. The carnival and booths will be found in Parking

Lot D on the south side of the Millennium Student Center.

The day will end with a bang as Neon Trees and Grouplove perform with Capital Kings in the Anheuser Busch Performance Hall at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$5 for UMSL students with ID, and they can be purchased at the Touhill ticket office (314-516-4949) or online at touhill.

org. The booths and carnival rides start at noon, and the concert begins at 7 p.m.

Many student organizations are doing exciting things this year. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is attempting to have a "Piano Smash" fundraiser, with proceeds going to VH1's Save the Music Foundation. The UMSL Gospel Choir will be giving away "school survival kits" to help students survive the rest of the year.

The Model United Nations will have a photo booth where students can take pictures with internationally-themed props. The Japan-America Student Association will give students the opportunity to try on kimonos and have their names written in Kanji on bookmarks.

The Delta Zetas will be "pie-ing" a Delta Zeta for charity. The UMSL Minority Student Nurses Association will be painting faces

and will also have a classic plastic duck pond. Many other UMSL clubs will be there with classic carnival-style games.

To get UMSL students even more excited, The Current is presenting a full list of the student organizations' games and activities, listed alphabetically. Make sure to get out, have some fun and get a Mirthday shirt from the University Program Board booth.

MIRTHDAY BOOTHS

Zeta Tau Alpha: Sucker Pull! Pick a sucker with a colored bottom to get a prize!

PRIZM: Tye Dye a shirt from this year's Drag Show!

Chemistry Club: Chemistry Pong and Bowling! Throw a ping pong ball into different sized beakers and even try your hand at bowling!

UMSL Athletics: Athletic Sponsors will be handing out promotional materials!

Concrete Lounge Theater Club: Dart Balloon Throw! Pop a balloon and win some candy!

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: Minute to Win it! 3 different games and only a minute to win a prize!

Associated Black Collegians: SPLASH! Paint a picture using water guns to win a wristband!

Delta Sigma Pi To bring some awareness to MS, players will play basketball!

Sigma Tau Gamma: Washers! Play a relaxing game of washers with some friends!

Helping Hands Student Organization: Bean bag toss! Toss a bean bag onto rungs to earn enough points for a prize!

Sigma Pi/Office of Student Life (Greek Life): Bag Toss! Get all three bags in the hole and get a pair of sunglasses!

Campus Advance: Minute to win it! The fastest person during each challenge wins a pair of Cardinal Tickets!

Young Activists United UMSL: A Game about Student Loan Debt!

Alpha Phi Omega: Raise money for Nicaraguan Youths by buying a Pulseras bracelet! Each bracelet will be \$6; \$5 going to the project, and \$1 going to the Alpha Phi Omega Organization!

Student Financial Aid: Financial Aid Jeopardy! Answer questions correctly & win some candy!

Alpha Xi Delta: Finish the Lyrics to songs to win a prize!

UMSL Sustainability Office: Learn about Recycling!

International Business Club: An International facts/news Jeopardy! Answer a question right & get a prize!

International Studies & Programs: Take on foreign language tongue twisters and Brazilian Tag!

Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity: Diversity and Civil Rights trivia!

Ad Corps: Spin the wheel and correctly guess a company's name from hearing their slogan and win a prize!

Criminology & Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association (CCJ GSA): Hit a target with a Mini Nerf gun and win a prize!

Career Services: Match jobs to famous people before they became famous!

Colleges Against Cancer: Ring Toss!

Catholic Newman Center: Blinko! Slide a disc through the maze and get a prize!

Office of Transfer Services: Transfer Trivia! Answer trivia and complete a task for prizes!

Pierre Laclède Honors College and Student Organization (PLHCSA): Stand up a bottle with only a fishing pole to win a prize!

Gallery Visio: Face painting, portraits, and raffle!

Hispanic Latino Association: Name as many flags as you can for prizes!

Political Science Graduate Student Organization: Bean bag toss! Hit a political figure for prizes!

Cashier's Office: Play a game and get some candy!

UMSL Athletics: Get a Snow Cone!

UMSL Libraries: Guess some trivia about a president!

Residential Life and Housing: Toss toilet paper into a toilet for prizes!

UMSL AOSA- College of Optometry: Toss a stuffed ball through the pupil of a large eye for prizes!

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What's Current

“What's Current” is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject “What’s Current.” No phone or written submissions.

Monday, April 15

SGA Election

First day of voting in the Student Government Association election. All voting is online and continues through April 19. See article in The Current for list of candidates and last weeks’ debate. For information, contact the SGA Election Committee at elections@umsl.edu.

Israeli Culture Week: Israel Memorial Day Tables

Israeli Culture Week begins with Israeli Memorial Day. Jewish Student Association offers fun Israeli stuff, noon - 3 p.m. at table on MSC bridge. For information, contact Deborah Medintz at 954-319-6661.

Monday Noon Series: A Spring MFA Fiction and Poetry Reading

University of Missouri-St. Louis MFA students read selections from their work, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. at 402 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Novelist John Dalton, director of the MFA program, will introduce the readers. For information, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

Graduate School Research Fair

To celebrate Missouri Graduate Schools Week, the Graduate School and Sigma Xi will co-sponsor the annual Graduate Research Fair to recognize graduate students’ research, 4 - 5:30 p.m. in the MSC Third Floor Rotunda and Century Room C. For information, contact Mary Ellen Heckel at 314-516-5898.

Julia Sakharova violin concert

Free concert by violinist Julia Sakharova, the new member of the Arianna String Quartet, with pianist Alla Voskoboynikova, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center’s Lee Theater. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949

Tuesday, April 16

Israeli Culture Week: Professor Rochester Discussion

Israeli Culture Week celebrates Israeli Independence Day with a discussion by Professor Rochester, “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict at 65: Will it ever end?” noon - 1 p.m. MSC 316. For information, contact Deborah Medintz at 954-319-6661

Salute to Business Achievement Awards Presentation & Reception

2013 Salute to Business Achievement Awards Presentation and Reception, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in MSC Century Rooms, recognizes alumni of the College of Business Administration who have demonstrated exception personal and professional accomplishments to UMSL, their profession and/or their community. For information, contact Celeste Marx at 314-516-4738.

Wednesday, April 17

Mirthday 2013

UMSL’s annual daylong Spring carnival featuring booths and games from campus organizations, next to MSC. For information, contact University Programing Board members at 314-516-5531.

Attitudes & Mobility Loss in Aging

Learn about preliminary findings from an ongoing UMRB-funded study on mobility transitions in aging, noon - 1:15 p.m. in 427 Social Sciences/ Business Bldg. For information, contact Becky Pastor at 516-5277.

Mirthday 2013 featuring Neon Trees

The University Program Board is proud to present Neon Trees and Grouplove with Capital Kings, 7 p.m. in Touhill PAC’s Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall, as part of the 2013 Mirthday Celebration. Limit four \$5 tickets per UMSL student ID. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Thursday, April 18

Rock Gym 101

Campus Rec’s one-day rock climbing class at Upper Limits Rock Gym in St. Louis, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Program includes rental gear, two hours of instruction, and unlimited same-day climbing after the class. Cost: \$10.00 (Refundable Deposit) Must register before Friday, April 12 at Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office, 203MT at 314-516-5326.

Sigma Xi Talk, Peter Marina, Department of Sociology

Prof. Peter Marina, Department of Sociology, will present a talk based on his research and recently published book titled “Getting the Holy Ghost: Urban Ethnography in a Brooklyn Pentecostal Tongue-Speaking Church,” noon - 1 p.m. in Clark Hall 206.Sponsored by UM-St. Louis Chapter of Sigma Xi. For information, contact Keith Stine at 314-516-5346.

Bachmann Book Series

The Bachmann Book Series, sponsored by the College of Business Administration, presents John Bachmann, senior partner at Edward Jones, interviewing David Steward, author of “Doing Business by the Good Book: 52 Lessons on Success Straight from the Bible,” 1:30 - 4 p.m. in MSC Century Rooms. For information, contact Jane Ferrell at 314-516-5883.

Israeli Culture Week: Israeli Dance Session with Rachy

Israeli Culture Week continues as the Jewish Student Association presents Israeli folk dancer Rachy, as we dance Israeli-style and celebrate Israeli Culture Week, 7 - 9 p.m. in MSC Pilot House. For information, contact Deborah Medintz at 954-319-6661.

Friday, April 19

Psychology Department Colloquium

J. Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS, Professor of Pediatrics, Indiana University School of Medicine, speaks on “Sexual Modesty and Sexual Health Of Adolescent Women,” 9 - 10 a.m. in 121 Research. For information, contact Jean Mayo at 314-516-5393.

Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival 2013: Monterey Jazz Festival

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour features bassist Christian McBride, vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater, saxophonist Chris Potter, trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire, pianist Benny Green, and drummer Lewis Nash, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill PAC Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Saturday, April 20

Citizen Science Conference

Citizen Science Conference, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. in JC Penney Conference Center, is a way for you and your students to learn about animals, plants, science and conservation by participating in real scientific research. Fee: \$39, includes lunch. For information, contact Diana Rehagen at 314-516-6590.

Texas Hold’em Tournament

No Limit Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament, 7 - 10 p.m. in Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center. Donation of \$40 is recommended and will get you 5,000 chips to start. Food and beer included with donation. Fundraiser for Campus Rec. For information, contact Larry Coffin at 314-516-5124.

Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival 2013: Doc Severinsen band

“The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson” house band, Doc Severinsen and His Big Band in concert, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill PAC’s Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Sunday, April 21

Basile: Greek comedy concert

Comedy concert, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill PAC’s Lee Theater, by Emmy-nominated comedian Basile, who was raised in a Greek home but grew up in an American society. Basile is perhaps best known for his critically acclaimed comedy series Growing Up Greek in America. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Monday, April 22

UPB’s Plant it for the Earth-Day

Planting your own organic fruit or vegetable plant does much more than you think. Not only do you create something for your living space, but also help the earth by growing your own produce and cutting down on pesticide and GMO use. Come by the MSC patio, (Pilot House if raining) at 11 a.m. to get in on this good idea. For information, contact Scott Morrissey or other University Programing Board member at 314-516-5531.

MO Secretary of State Kander visits UMSL

SHARON PRUITT
MANAGING EDITOR

Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander visited the University of Missouri – St. Louis on April 10 for a discussion on his prior military service and current political career. The event was held at 1:30 pm in Century Room C and was hosted by The College of Arts and Sciences and the UMSL Veterans Center. Topics of discussion also included campaign and ethics reform, and veteran employment.

At the age of 31 Kander is the youngest statewide elected official

in the country. During his visit he discussed the intersection between military and public service and the many ways he has been able to relate being a veteran to public service.

Kander was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2008, and garnered 70% of the vote during the 2010 re-election, effectively keeping his seat, before running for Secretary of State in 2012. He has been Missouri Secretary of State since November 6, 2012.

“I was here to do something, not just be something,” Kander said. Kander, whose father was a police

officer and mother a juvenile probation officer, comes from a service-oriented family. He has an extensive military past preceding his political career that includes service in the Missouri Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. During his 2006 tour in Afghanistan, Kander served as a Military Intelligence Officer, unveiling corruption within the Afghan government.

“In our society, we should muster the courage to do what’s right, not just what’s easy,” Kander said.

“I was happy to see veterans and non-

veterans alike show-up to the event, as well as university administrators that include Chancellor George, Dean Yasbin and Dean Womer,” said Ryan Barrett, Interim Director of the UMSL Veteran’s Center. “Secretary Kander is an extremely down-to-Earth individual who seems very committed to moving Missouri forward, regardless of political ideology. His comments on initiatives to include ethics reform, veteran employment, starting small businesses and reforming the voting processes were enlightening.”

During the discussion Kander also

addressed questions from audience members, a number of whom were veterans themselves.

“Secretary Kander is definitely someone we would love to welcome back to speak again,” said Stephen Thomas, student worker in the Veteran’s Center. The UMSL Veterans Center is located in room 211 of Clark Hall. The center is available for any veterans who may need assistance navigating academic and civilian life, and includes a lounge where veterans can gather or study. For more information, contact the center at 314-516-5705.

SGA debate April 10 preceded this week’s election

SHARON PRUITT MANAGING EDITOR
& **ALBERT NALL** STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association debate took place in the Century Rooms on April 10 at 4 p.m. Cate Marquis, Editor-in-Chief of The Current, served as moderator for the pre-election event that gives students a chance to learn about the candidates who are running for Student Senate and Executive Committee positions for the 2013-2014 school year. Among the 16 candidates competing for the 13 open seats of the Student Senate, Courtney Hayes, junior, political science; Matthew Krah, senior, biology; Krista Liebrum, senior, social work; Devon Roberson, sophomore, English; David Serati,

junior, engineering; and Michael Weaver, senior, biology, participated in Wednesday’s debate.

During the debate, it became evident that most candidates were in accord when it came to many issues, such as affordability.

“The most urgent issue facing students today is a universal issue: affordability and financial aid,” Hayes said, adding that financial aid was one of the reasons she chose to attend University of Missouri-St. Louis. “I do think that financial aid and even student government need to be more proactively involved in teaching students about financial literacy and

how they will be able to afford their education, because education, I think, is a right, and I think everybody should understand the consequences of taking out student loans and should understand all of the options that are on the table for them. I think the most important issue for UMSL students is financial literacy and affordability — to be able to go to school here.”

Krah views tuition as an urgent issue facing students today. “I don’t think it’s a right for people to go to school, though — I think it’s something that should be earned, so I think the best way to handle lowering tuition would be to increase merit-based scholarships,” Krah said before introducing parking as another issue.

“People have a lot of trouble finding

parking, and they’re paying \$300 a semester for a parking pass and they still can’t find a parking spot. And with that new rec center, we’re going to lose a parking lot,” Krah said, adding that there’s not enough housing for students. “We have a lot of ... empty land at UMSL, and I think it’d be of great use to build another apartment complex or dorm.”

Liebrum spoke out about student involvement on campus. “I would like to encourage students who are not affiliated with any organization to come to the [SGA] meetings and voice their opinion,” Liebrum said. Liebrum, who has worked in the Welcome Center, is used to working with diverse populations and believes her experience will help her serve the

student body.

“I would like to bridge the gap between the student body, SGA and administrators,” Liebrum said. If elected, Liebrum would also like to inspire other students to join the SGA.

Roberson advocated for a more environmentally-conscious campus. “I want to see more recycling bins on campus. Right now, we do not have a very environmentally friendly campus, with paper towels in the bathrooms instead of hand driers, which just creates waste, and no recycling bins anywhere,” Roberson said. “I pick up a newspaper each morning and I have nowhere to put it except a trash can, unless I’m finally able to find a recycling bin somewhere or just take it home.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.

Jubilee Flashback

ALBERT NALL STAFF HISTORIAN

page 14 **CURRENT** April 15, 1982

Larson signs three recruits for '82-83 basketball women

Jim Schnurbusch

Mike Larson, head coach for the basketball and softball Riverwomen squads, has announced the signings of three women for the 1982-83 Riverwomen basketball team.

Larson landed junior college performer Georgia Hinson and high school standouts Lisa Plamp and Gina Gregory.

Hinson will be coming to UMSL after playing one year at the junior-college powerhouse for women’s basketball in Missouri, Moberly Junior College. She joins UMSL standouts Sandy Moore and Renee Skaggs, both of whom also played two seasons at Moberly.

Hinson is a 5-foot-11 forward who saw limited action in her freshman year at Moberly. Her high school statistics, however, indicate a solid performer, able to score and play defense. Playing in the northwest section of Missouri at Carrollton High School, Hinson, in her senior

year, led the team in scoring average (24.0), field goal percentage (56 percent) and rebounding, bringing down 250 for the year.

She was named to the All-Conference team three years, made the All-District squad and second-team All-State in her senior year at Carrollton.

Gina Gregory comes to UMSL from the Montgomery R-2 School in Montgomery City, Mo. Gregory is a 5-foot-9 all-purpose player, having seen action at the post, guard and forward positions.

In high school, Gregory led the team in scoring with a 20.8 points-per-game average. In her junior year, the young forward put points through the hoop at a 17.3 per-game clip.

Gregory gained first-team All-Conference and All-District honors in her junior year while in her senior year, she repeated the All-Conference performance and placed on the second-team All-District squad.

Ben March, Gregory’s high school coach, said his player is a



Gina Gregory

Gregory, a 5-foot-9 guard from Montgomery City High, averaged 20.8 points this past season. She is a two-time All-Conference performer.

sound ball handler with a good shot. He also noted Gregory’s rebounding and aggressive style of play as strengths.

Finally, Larson, with the help of women’s Volleyball Coach Cindy Rech, brought in local standout Lisa Plamp. Plamp played four years of varsity basketball and volleyball for the Hazelwood West Wildcats. She will play both sports at UMSL.

Plamp will bring height to the



Georgia Hinson

Hinson, who played this past season at Moberly Junior College, averaged 24 points a game in high school. She will have three years of eligibility remaining.

Riverwomen volleyball and basketball teams as she stands 6 feet 1 inch. In volleyball, Plamp plays the power striker spot and in basketball, the recruit played center for Hazelwood West. There she averaged 13 points per game.



Lisa Plamp

Plamp, a 6-foot-1 center from Hazelwood West, will play volleyball and basketball at UMSL. She averaged 13 points this past season for the Wildcats.

Plamp won second-team All-Conference honors her sophomore and junior years in volleyball and her junior and senior years in basketball. In her senior year of volleyball, Plamp was named to the first-team All-Conference squad for volleyball.

Battle of the Bands raises money for charity



The winners of the Battle of the Bands fundraiser.

SARAH MYERS/ THE CURRENT

ALBERT NALL STAFF WRITER

The Battle of the Bands, which was part of the University of Missouri-St. Louis 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration, took place on April 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Pilot House. The event was sponsored by the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, the Student Government Association and the University Program Board. The event offered free food, T-shirts and entertainment, as well as raffles and attendance drawings.

By hosting the Battle of the Bands, PLHCSA raised money for Lydia's House, a charity providing support services for women and children.

"PLHCSA needed some help with fundraising for Lydia's House, and through a friend we made some contact with the UPB and the SGA, who were more than willing to help with our project," Katie Kratzer, senior, criminology, secretary of PLHCSA, said.

To determine the winner, audience members voted for their favorite act by donating money on behalf of the band. The band that raises the most money during their performance was pronounced the winner.

The competition began after brief remarks by Laura Moore, a volunteer coordinator and representative of Lydia's House. Moore also acted as judge, along with Jessica Bleile, president of PLHCSA, and Bob Bliss, dean of the Honors College.

St. Louis songwriter and guitar-

ist Jack Nations performed during the competition. Nations is releasing a new extended play, "Breathe Underwater," with local producer Rich Harris. The CD is expected to be released online, and hard copies will be sold at shows.

Nations performed a popular hit in the U.S. and U.K. by Ed Sheeran, "The 'A' Team." Afterward, Nations performed two more songs, "General" and "Honeymoon," the latter of which is featured on his new CD.

"Nations' performance [is] very satisfying and makes you sit up and pay attention. With the routine's great texture, it makes you want to go for a drive," Moore said during judging. Bliss commented on Nations' great passion, stellar guitar strumming and alto voice.

Pianist R. Hannah brought a romantic vibe to the competition. Hannah performed a song by Stevie Wonder and an Irwin Gershwin classic called "Love is Here to Stay," which he performed a cappella. He also performed a song of his own creation called "Going Home."

"Going Home" had great emotion and was beautiful. It was like watching a river flow. This song took me to places I did not expect to go," Bleile said.

Following Hannah's performance, capitalism entered the Pilot

House in the form of the duo Capitalism Strikes Again. The pair from Truman State University featured Aaron Seidel on bass and vocals and Andrew Harrington on the guitar, vocals and the drum machine. They were folksy on the final song, emitting great stage presence, jumping on the amplifiers and leading the audience into clapping. According to Moore, Capitalism Strikes Again expanded their musical horizons akin to Pearl Jam. Moore went on to say that a bigger venue would have done them more justice.

The 16-member Chemistry Graduate Student Association Orchestra & Glee Club was quite quirky in white jackets, bow ties and dark glasses. They played a variety of instruments that ran the gambit from the xylophone and the tambourine to various forms of drums and saxes. They began their performance with a rendition of the Monkees' "I'm a Believer." Later, they performed a rendition of "Do You Want to Dance?" that was folksy and whimsical.

When the votes of the competition were announced, the Glee Club garnered donations of \$225 to win the Battle of the Bands competition and hoist the championship trophy. In all, the Battle of the Bands raised a total of \$495.71 for Lydia's House.

SNAP
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OR LESS**

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Special pricing available only at the Touhill Ticket Office with a valid UMSL student ID.

Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival:
Monterey Jazz Festival
April 19
FREE

Arianna String Quartet:
Voices of Spring
May 3
FREE

Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival:
Doc Severinsen
April 20
FREE

Contemporary
- Saint Louis Ballet
May 10 & 11
\$10

Basile: Greek Comedy
April 21
FREE

The Improv Shop
May 15
FREE

University Wind Ensemble
April 24
FREE

Spring to Dance 2013
May 23-25
\$15

Alarm Will Sound: 1969
April 26
FREE

Variety Show brings diversity

SHARON PRUITT MANAGING EDITOR

The International Student Leadership House, or iHouse, hosted their second annual Multicultural Variety Show in the Pilot House from 4 to 7 p.m. Performances ran the gamut from poetry to singing to dancing; the night included a demonstration of both the Haitian Congo and traditional hip hop dance, along with heartfelt musical performances on guitar. A wide variety of cultures were present in the many different artistic forms of expression performed onstage.

As emcee, Francois Domagni maintained the electric energy of the night, ushering the crowd through African and Indian dances and Chinese, Korean and Spanish singing. In an act that encapsulated the spirit of the event, a multicultural cover band used multiple guitars, a piano and a ukulele to perform a bilingual cover of the Disney classic "Under the Sea."

A dazzling, colorful multicultural fashion show was the last performance of the night. Participants hailing from all corners of the globe strutted their stuff onstage, showing off both traditional and modern clothing from West Africa, India, the Philippines and more. The night drew to a close with a raffle, and a few selected lucky audience members took home candy and other prizes.

"It was really fun. It went way better than I had anticipated. We had a really good crowd," Vanika Spencer, student leader of the iHouse, said. Spencer is one of three student leaders of the iHouse who led the event. The other student leaders were Hyeonhak Jang and Domagni. Student leaders act as liaisons between the university and the international community. Spencer, Jang and Domagni worked together with a variety of student organizations on campus to host, plan, sponsor and secure perform-

ers for the event.

"We all are a part of different organizations on campus, and we reached out to those organizations to find out who we could get to perform, different people to invite, that kind of stuff," Spencer said.

Organizations involved included the China-America Corner, the Korean Student Organization, International Friends, Ki Alpha and the African Student Organization. The involved organizations helped with publicity, funding for the event and raffle prizes for audience members.

The variety show indeed attracted an audience as diverse as its performers. The Pilot House contained a lively crowd for the duration of the event.

"We want students to understand that there is a lot of culture at UMSL and that the International House is a hub station for that. So we want people to come and visit us. We want people to come and be involved in our events, because ... the whole point of the International House is to fuse international students and American students together, so that's our mission."

On April 21, the iHouse will be visiting the Earth Day festival in Forest Park. They will be leaving from the University Meadows Apartment Buildings at 1:30 p.m.

"The best way to get [in contact with us] is to e-mail us or stop by the house. We're always home. We have office hours. You can just knock on the door and come hang out with us. That's what we're for," Spencer said. "You can come study, use the Internet, come chill."

iHouse is located at 8026 Natural Bridge Road, next door to Normandy United Methodist Church and Preschool.

[On sale dates may vary.]

VISIT TOUHILL.ORG/STUDENTTIX

UMSL

Gosling mesmerizing in 'Place Beyond the Pines'

CATE MARQUIS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ryan Gosling delivers a haunting performance as a carnival motorcycle stunt driver longing to connect with his young son in the drama "The Place Beyond The Pines." The film is about the bond between fathers and sons, but also about choices made, longing and regret, events that echo through generations and the power of secrets.

The film is directed by Derek Cianfrance, who also directed Gosling in "Blue Valentine." Gosling plays Luke, whose discovery that he is the father of a young son brings unexpected emotions to the surface. Bradley Cooper plays Avery Cross, a rookie cop with a young son whose life is

changed by a split-second decision. The lives of the two characters are intertwined and wrapped around Cianfrance's riveting drama.

When Luke's traveling carnival returns to Schenectady in upstate New York, he tries to reconnect with Romina (Eva Mendes), who he met the year before when the carnival passed through. The discovery that he is the father of her young son, Jason, has a profound affect on Luke, who wants to be there for his son and provide for his family. Robin (Ben Mendelsohn) hires Luke as a mechanic at his run-down backwoods shop but soon suggests bank robbery as a quicker road to cash.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 6.



Ryan Gosling as Luke and Eva Mendes as Romina.

ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA/FOCUS FEATURES

Purity Ring equally spooky and sexy

DAVID VON NORDHEIM A&E EDITOR

Grade: A

Canadian duo Purity Ring made their second outing in St. Louis at The Plush last weekend, following a September performance in the more cramped confines of The Firebird. Consisting of vocalist Megan James and producer Corrin Roddick, Purity Ring had one of 2012's surprise successes with "Shrines," an intoxicating blend of R&B studio sensibility and cryptic, otherworldly themes and lyrics. It all makes for a heady listen in a home listening environment, with oversized headphones to capture every ghostly echo and synthesized moan of the dense production. Great studio technique does not always translate to the stage, of course, and given that the vast majority of Purity Ring's sound comes pre-arranged, their live show has to be all the more spectacular to compensate for the missing thrill of live instruments. Fortunately, James and Roddick's dynamic stage presence and elaborate set pieces completely captured the seductive appeal of "Shrines," a dark, immaculately arranged strain of underground dance music that is largely beyond convenient description.

Purity Ring is an integral part of a nascent Canadian electronica scene, a movement whose de facto leader remains the now-ubiquitous Grimes. Although they lack the same rabid critical following as these two acts, Purity Ring's supporting act, Blue Hawaii, certainly fits well within this recent trend of synthesizer-happy Canucks. Adopting the same set-up as Purity Ring, Blue Hawaii's immaculately coiffed mastermind, Raph, arranged the live mix while vocalist Agor handled the stage theatrics. Much like Purity Ring, the group's music was washed out, experimental club music with the added appeal of an occasional steel drum or ukelele sample, a gimmick that makes the promise of their exotic name surprisingly literal.

After roughly an hour of intermission (The Plush doubles as a

nightclub, making the wait between acts considerably more bearable than at indie dungeon Firebird), Purity Ring took to the stage as the opening strains of "Ungirthed" pulsed through the crowd. On their website, indie imprint 4AD describes Purity Ring's live performances as "a lived synaesthesia that transcends the pitfalls often associated with live electronic-based music." This proved to be an entirely apt description. During their set, James wandered through the haze of the fog machines, barefoot, swinging a strange, lantern-like device around her head and bearing more than a passing resemblance to the hooded hermit from Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" single.

To his immense credit, Roddick entirely overcame the supposed pitfalls of live electronic-based music. He deftly arranged the production live, distorting and screwing samples to create an entirely different mix than the one witnessed on the album. The set pieces were especially inspired: his deck was overrun by a series of strange, bulbous lanterns that pulsed with light when struck by his drum sticks, a feat he performed in perfect sequence to his accompanying drum machine. The sparsely-lit stage was flanked by series of cocoons, giving the performance a mystical vibe that completely captured their equally eerie and enticing music.

The group crawled through their set list with wordless grace, performing the entirety of "Shrines" in no clear sequence. Highlights included the resplendent "Lofticries," a surprisingly effective cover of former pop rap superstar Soulja Boy's "Grammy" and of course, the group's breakaway hit, "Fineshrine." As the swarm of young bodies bumped and grinded under the pulsing paper cocoons to James' cryptic advances ("Get a little closer, let it fold/Cut open my sternum and pull/My little ribs around you"), 4AD's promise of a "lived synaesthesia" was fully delivered.

UMSL dancers soar in 'Kinetic'

CATE MARQUIS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The University of Missouri-St. Louis' Department of Dance presented the Spring 2013 student dance concert, "The Kinetic Chamber Project," April 11-13 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater.

The lively program offered UMSL student dancers and choreographers along with performances by professional dance troupes Banyan Dance Theatre, Consuming Kinetics Dance Company and Grand Center Arts Academy. The program was directed by Rob Scoggins, assistant professor of dance, and Todd Weeks, adjunct professor of dance. Costume design was by Felia Davenport, assistant professor of theater, with lighting effects by Glen Anderson, assistant professor of theater.

The Lee Theater was mostly full

for the Saturday night performance. Student dancers included Belicia Beck, Kevin Lee, Colleen McGowen, Julien Southerland, Kaycee Williams and Ally Wolf.

The evening opened with "Inside the Box," choreographed by Dale Robinson. Six dancers took the stage surrounding a large, white, open-sided box. The dancers wore tight red costumes adorned with geometric shapes. The music was techno, "Lemontechno" by Blast! The dancers engaged in frantic, playful modern dance, weaving in and out of the box, playing with its illusion of walls. At a slower point in the music, two dancers used the box in a graceful, romantic pas de deux before being joined by the rest of the troupe as things returned to the frenetic pace. The overall impression left was of playfulness and energy.

The next piece, "Man-Made," was the first of two solos. It was also a kind of one-man show, with Jeffry Mitchell providing choreography, costume design and dancing. Set to music by Jerry Martin, "The Morning Commute," Mitchell's dancing was as muscular and confident as the Americana-style music.

"Body and Soul," choreographed by Beck, was a duet between her and Wolf. "Body and Soul" was one of the most beautiful pieces in the evening, set to "In This Shirt" by the Irrepressibles. Dressed in matching loose, ragged, short pale pink dresses, Beck and Wolf mirrored movements or lifted each other in an energetic, passionate dance. At one point, the leaping dancers moved so fast, they seemed fly around the stage. The piece ended with enthusiastic applause.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.



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Debates

"I've seen [tuition] rising at other institutions, and someone else mentioned before that the reason they came here is because it was affordable ... We need to keep it that way because it is something that keeps students coming to UMSL," Roberson said.

During the debate, Serati stated that career outlook is important to him. "There should be more emphasis on getting underclassmen familiar with career services so that when that graduation date comes, they're not lost and just trying to start from scratch," Serati said.

Serati would also like to see

more students get involved and suggested a student forum wherein students could voice their opinions and communicate directly with administrators.

Weaver believes that student government should seek to engage the student body. "There's a great opportunity here, and students aren't taking advantage. Part of that's probably because they're uninformed. They need to be made more aware of this organization," Weaver said.

"Coming into student government, I'd like to create an initiative for members of the student

government to go out and actively outreach to other people," Weaver said.

Also participating in the SGA debates on Wednesday were those running for executive positions. Running for president, vice president and comptroller are Bennett Felton, junior, secondary education; Gustavo Perez, junior, music; and David Amistead, respectively.

Voting for all positions will be open online April 15-19 on the Student Life website. For a more complete listing of candidates, contact Jessica Long-Pease at 314-516-5291.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.

'The Place Beyond the Pines'

The film also stars Rose Byrne as Cross' wife, Jennifer. Cross is the son of a respected local judge (Harris Yulin), and she clearly expected him to follow in his father's profession. She is increasing unhappy with her law-school-educated husband's dangerous career choice, especially since the birth of their son, AJ, and is uncomfortable with his rough-edged fellow cops, particularly the shady, forceful Deluca (Ray Liotta).

This film has some of the gritty style and realism of Cianfrance's "Blue Valentine." However, "The Place Beyond the Pines" has a grander scope. Gosling brings a far more astounding performance, so much so that the film seems haunted by his character, even when he is not on screen.

Gosling brings all his forces to bear on this role. The self-confident, self-contained, brash Luke is the kind of supremely skilled man other men admire. Yet he is gradually seized with such a desire to be the father he never

had himself, so that the longing transforms him with frustration. Although Romina is pleasant to Luke and even seems to drawn to him, she is adamant about giving her son the stability she thinks her present lover Kofi (Mahershala Ali) offers and Luke does not. There is a particular moving scene where the forlorn Luke sits at the back of a church, after following the three of them there. A nearly palpable wave of regret and longing silently passes over Gosling's face, expressing the anguish of his soul, in a remarkable scene.

The action sequences are gripping, pulse-pounding stuff, with a kind of edgy realism few films capture. Skillful, artistic cinematography by Sean Bobbit gives the film a stately beauty despite the characters' meager lives, an almost painterly quality that gives the film a feel of grandeur at times. Moody lighting transforms locations into something magical.

Two scenes take place in a dark, lonely pine forest. The film was shot on location in Schenectady,

N.Y., which translates from Iroquois as "the place beyond the pines." But the dark, deep forest is a location fraught with meaning in fairy tales and myths and serves a symbolic role here, as well.

Bradley Cooper demonstrated his talent in the recent "Silver Linings Playbook." While Cooper delivers a fine performance here, as does the rest of the cast, it is really Gosling's film.

The two tales of the outsider Luke and insider Avery are eventually tied together in a single incident. They form a sort of three-part film of human consequences, with the story of the two sons forming the third tale. The film's ending leaves one with a sense of sadness, but of fate fulfilled, like a mythic tale.

"The Place Beyond the Pines" is a bold, suspenseful, moving drama, worth seeing for Gosling's fine performance alone but with so much more to offer. It is now playing at Plaza Frontenac Cinema and Tivoli Theater.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.

'The Kinetic Chamber Project'

Next was the playful "A La Mode," performed by the Grand Center Arts Academy and choreographed by Lindsey Hawkins of MADCO. With French-accented spoken word sampling from the '50s and '60s by Dimitri from Paris, the dancers first appeared in back-lit silhouette before launching into a lively Swinging Sixties a la Mad Men vibe, strutting about in bright orange and lime green.

The program took a more serious turn next with "Mere (mother)," choreographer Arica Brown's mediation on losing her mother at four and being raised by her grandmother. It was also the most daring piece of the evening, opening with three dancers who all seemed to be shirtless, a man flanked by two women; all three facing away from the audience. The dance was tender and emotionally touching, expressing mutual

support by dancers leaning on each other throughout.

After intermission, things resumed with the clever "Facebook Bash," choreographed by Scoggins. Dancers called out common "Facebook" terms such as "like," "poke" and "friend" while dancing around the stage.

"Attitude," choreographed by Brown, used a hip-hop score by that includes bits from Ludacris, Nicki Minaj and Kanye West for dance with a hip-hop style. Strobe lights and use of black lights added to the club feel.

"Broken" by choreographer Jason Flodder, used suspended picture frames to isolate three dancers, Beck, Robison and Wolf, who moved in and out of the frame to the music of Sigur Ros' "Vaka."

Banyan Dance Theater told the story of the forced migration "Guinea a Ayiti (African to Haiti)."

Three women dancers appeared first in African costumes, then grabbed and held aloft a long chain, before transforming their costumes into Caribbean dress, to convey the story of slavery. Kimberly Phillips, in white dress, sang an island-inspired tune as the piece concluded.

The last piece of the evening was a series of five short dances, appropriately titled "Vignettes." Highlights included "Odd Man Out," a kind of danced musical chairs, and "If Only I Hadn't," in which a dancing couple in silhouette upstage acted out the chilling outcome if the flirting couple downstage actually connected. The piece ended with "Soliloquy," a moving solo by Wolf, which ended the evening with enthusiastic applause.

SIMPLY BEAGLE

COMIC BY LEE SELLARS



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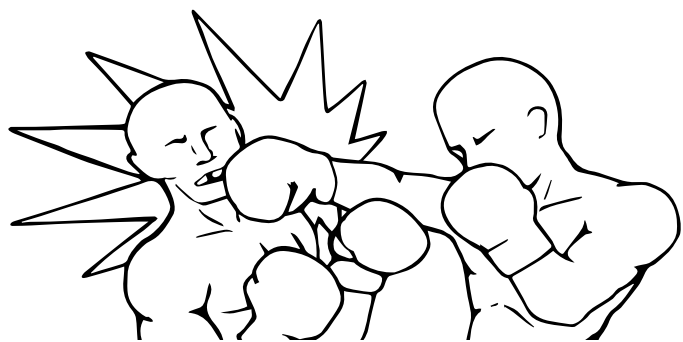
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POINT/COUNTERPOINT



CHRISTIAN KESSLER/THE CURRENT

Civilians should be able to own assault firearms

One of the most prominent issues being tossed around Congress today is the concern over the safety of civilian assault weapon possession and whether or not it should be outlawed. Many try to oversimplify the subject in favor of their viewpoint. “Guns don’t kill people; people kill people” is one of the most popular unofficial lines advertised by voters and gun rights supporters. Then there are those who bleed citizens dry of their sympathy by continually referencing Newtown and the Colorado theater shootings, acting as if there aren’t people suffering these kinds of tragedies daily elsewhere in the world.

These occurrences are unfortunate, but banning the ownership of assault weapons will take them away from the people they may one day save. And many agree that the constitutional right to bear arms shouldn’t be revoked, but rather revised to outlaw civilian possession of assault weapons. However, such ratification would defeat the purpose of the Second Amendment, which gives us the right to bear arms in personal defense from tyranny.

Thanks to the ban on automatic weapon possession, assault weapons or semi-automatics are the closest thing to military-grade weapons that American civilians are legally allowed access to. Should the government ever lose its sense of purpose and begin to implement a tyrannical regime through military force, as is the style of most governmental takeovers, assault weapons are the best chance a civilian has for self-defense, especially considering that they are disadvantaged by their civilian status and lack of training and equipment.

Furthermore, assault weapons provide incomparable aid in self-defense. Some believe that in terms of self-defense, a handgun should suffice. However, that doesn’t account for all of the dangers associated with living in America. People riot, gang wars occur in the streets and looting happens nationwide. Waiting 20 to 30 minutes for police presence, assuming they will actually be dispatched upon call, is not feasible when under fire.

People need real weapons to be protected from real dangers.

Civilians shouldn’t be able to own assault firearms

Assault firearms were not originally created for civilian use but for use by those in active service of the U.S. military. While many civilians may enlist to be part of an army, not all individuals are suitable to serve their country. There is a reason why civilians need to pass basic training to enter the military. Civilians who have not been through the training that is necessary to brandish any weapon, especially an assault firearm, are a danger to themselves and other civilians.

An assault firearm has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and two or more of the following: a folding or telescopic stock, a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon, a bayonet mount, a flash suppressor — or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor — or a grenade launcher.

Not many civilians have been properly trained to handle an assault firearm that would have a grenade launcher attached. Not many civilians have the means to get their hands on the grenade launcher, let alone the proper training to handle

one.

If a civilian is not a member of the military, then they do not have any business handling a firearm that is made specifically for soldiers of the military. There have been numerous occasions when an individual who had not ever been a member of the military was able to get their hands on an assault firearm and went on to harm or even kill many other innocent human beings.

There should be a universal law that restricts individuals who are not capable of handling assault firearms from owning any kind of assault firearm. In addition to the universal law that needs to be proposed, any individual caught with an assault firearm who is not qualified or capable of handling the assault firearm should be arrested and sentenced to one year in federal prison and banned from owning any type of firearm for the remainder of their life. Instituting these laws would prevent many civilians who are not trained to properly handle and maintain an assault firearm from getting their hands on one.

COLUMN *The Chopping Block*

Seeing ‘green’: Top-down solution needed for climate change

HUNG NGUYEN OPINIONS EDITOR

Since the entrance of Al Gore onto the environmental issues scene and the nuclear-scale ripple of so-called “initiatives” to save the rest of the world from a “Day After Tomorrow” winter or “2012” flood, very little has changed.

“Going green” and “environmentally-friendly” are slapped on storefronts and advertisements across the nation, cheapened to a mere check-box by companies peer-pressured into being more “sustainable.” These projects will not save the earth.

People genuinely feel better about themselves when they print less from the computer or recycle because they feel like part of the solution and not the problem. But with few exceptions, oil is still subsidized to keep people at the pump, and automobiles are still on the freeway around the clock, pumping far more emissions into the air than printing a few extra pages. The sad fact is that even as an individual makes some choices that are helpful to the dying earth, these choices make them feel less guilty, unaware or even justified in making other decisions that may not be so sustainable.

Declining a plastic bag for a grocery purchase but transporting those groceries home in your car does not constitute much of a net gain in terms of a carbon footprint. While education and greater aware-

ness has indeed motivated businesses and individuals to lean more in the direction of more green sources for products and services, the culture has not changed.

This is not to say that there has been a net loss, though. These actions have indeed helped with the problem but it is very much outpaced by other causes of warming, which are primarily from industry and vehicle emissions. A more strategic plan is needed to transition manufacturers from their current practices to more sustainable ones, including the products they make.

Don’t tell researchers to cut down on producing waste when regulators are afraid of tightening the screws on manufacturers who use public water sources as their thermal reservoirs. Don’t say that every step counts when it takes too long to invest in gradually changing the culture of mass production in this country to better vehicles, electronics and agricultural practices.

We can’t fork out trillions of dollars for companies and individual entrepreneurs to make overnight changes in this economic climate, which is not feasible even if there was money for it. Gradual changes in policy governing practices and incentives for change are what is needed. The highly popular “freconomics” principle now touted everywhere is true in this case as well. People respond to incentives.



There is little incentive to drastically invest in more sustainable practices, so companies and individuals don’t try as hard. The apocalyptic deluge and human extinction are “only” decades away. There is much money to be made and life to live until that time comes, so let’s not bother, right?

Some changes have been seen during the Obama administration, with energy initiatives leading to slightly improved vehicle emission statistics and fuel efficiency. The science is not quite there to perfect all industrial processes to be as efficient and clean as the ideal, but regulation and incentives should be aimed at improvement. Manufacturers and agriculture should show some progress that is carefully monitored and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. People should continue to partake in local and regional efforts to help the problem, but what will really change the predicament the world is facing is a much more systematic, top-down solution.

COLUMN *Student Abroad*

Culture shock on coming home

RACHELLE BRANDEL
STAFF WRITER

After going abroad, people told me that I wouldn’t be able to go back home. They didn’t mean that I would literally be stuck in Japan, but rather that my experiences would change my views and perceptions of my home culture.

When you experience a new culture, the minutest differences can sometimes end up being the elephants in the room. It can be an experience that’s both intriguing and uncomfortable.

While I was in Japan, I never felt like a part of the culture. In Japan, it’s quite common for foreigners to feel this way, and even the Japanese believe that a foreigner cannot ever truly understand or be a part of them. But I was able to experience my perceptions and views slowly changing as they were introduced to new ways and views of life. I felt things that I hadn’t felt before, and I didn’t know how to explain it to friends and family back home. How can you explain color to the blind or music to the deaf? I began to wonder if I would ever feel a part of something again.

My first few weeks home were

awkward. When you’ve been surrounded by people who have similar features, seeing so much diversity feels strange. Little children captivated me for almost a week; I was used to seeing straight black hair and cute, tiny eyes, so wavy blond-haired and big-eyed children were like albino squirrels to me.

Another shock was the plain directness that people used in their speech. I was used to people being extremely polite to me all the time. When I went out shopping for the first time, the cashier simply said, “Hi,” which shocked me speechless. In Japan, someone who works in any section of the service industry gives what we would consider to be excellent customer service. It wouldn’t matter if you were in a high class restaurant or simply McDonald’s; you would never receive only a “hi.” You would get, “Hi, how are you today? Welcome to our restaurant. What can I get for you?” Even after being home for over a month, I still get slightly befuddled when I don’t get perfect customer service.

I’m also not used to discussing popular issues anymore. I used to enjoy having discussions and de-

bates about politics and popular issues, but while in Japan you simply didn’t talk about anything that might make a person uncomfortable. Most Japanese people refused to talk about the issues even if you assured them you were okay with it. It became such a “thing you didn’t do” that words like “politics” took on the feeling of swear words. Ever since I’ve come home, I’ve been okay with talking about such issues, but if I happen to upset someone or make them feel uncomfortable, it ends up feeling like a huge social wrong, even though others only see me expressing my values and beliefs.

Since coming home, at some moments I do feel like a bit of an outcast, but most of the time it’s not so bad. Instead, the experiences I have had have made me feel more compassionate and understanding about the differences I find in other people. I’d like to believe that I’ve become a better person thanks to my experiences abroad. Hopefully, I can use what I’ve learned and felt to help those around me and my own culture.

Dorsey a winner for UMSL in first career start

LEON DEVANCE SPORTS EDITOR



Dorsey with the team after the win.

LEON DEVANCE/THE CURRENT

For the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's baseball team, every step forward in the 2013 season has resulted in two steps backward.

Against visiting Pittsburg State, UMSL played a fundamentally sound game, scoring two first-inning runs en route to a 3-0 victory in the first game of

a double header. UMSL's record went to 12-14 with the split. Pittsburg State is now 20-14.

According to the UMSL website, UMSL took advantage of Pittsburg State's starting pitcher George Brandecker, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first. Lucas Matecki, senior, business, led off

the bottom of the first with a walk. Matecki scooted to third base on Brandecker's wild pitch. Tyler Bungee's, junior, undecided, RBI double plated Matecki. Nolan Craig, senior, finance, scored UMSL's second run of the inning on another wild pitch from Brandecker.

UMSL tallied another run in the sixth as Bungee lined a single. Cody Garlington, junior, undecided, sacrificed Bungee to second. Paul Moritz, freshman, accounting, ran for Bungee and scored when Paul Richmond, junior, media studies, bounced a single through the infield. Kyle Renaud, senior, communications, pitched the final two innings for the save.

In the nightcap, UMSL kicked the baseball around behind starting pitcher Chris True, sophomore, business management. Pittsburg State scored four runs and UMSL committed two errors in the third inning, trailing

4-0. UMSL committed another error in the fifth inning, and this, along with Pittsburg State's three hits, led to a 7-0 lead for Pittsburg State. UMSL rallied for two runs when Garlington roped a two-out single that plated Justin Lois, junior, business marketing. Taylor Holman's, senior, liberal studies, single scored Michael Budka, junior, physical education, for the final run to make the score 7-2.

UMSL baseball coach Jim Brady said that Nick Dorsey, sophomore, education, who tossed a six-hitter, pitched a crisp game and will take the ball again.

"Nick Dorsey, for his first time starting, threw a nice ballgame. He was especially good because he threw strikes, mixed his pitches well enough to keep the batters off balance and stayed ahead of the hitters in the count and kept the ball down. Dorsey provided a big lift for us today. Some-

times you go into a game with an unknown or X factor and need someone to step up," Brady said.

Dorsey said that he was nervous before the start. "I was worried because this was my first start as a pitcher. I just tried to hit my spots and concentrate on winning one inning at a time. I just tried to relax and let whatever happen and not psych myself out," Dorsey said.

Dorsey, who pitched five innings, needed to escape jams in the first two innings before settling down. Brady said the key for Dorsey was that he was able to make his pitch when he needed to record outs before Pittsburg State was able to do damage at the plate.

"The defense stays on their toes when you stay ahead of the hitters, throw strikes and keep the ball down. That's when you have a good chance to win," Brady said.

MOVIE REVIEW:

'42' tells Jackie Robinson's story

CATE MARQUIS EDITOR-IN-CHEF

In a sport full of heroic tales, there is none more heroic than Jackie Robinson's. While other baseball heroes pitched perfect games or hit the most home runs, Jackie Robinson did something amazing beyond the game: he broke the color barrier in major league baseball.

And it's amazing it took so long for this story to become a major motion picture.

Whether you are a baseball fan, a history buff or just a lover of a good heroic story, "42" is a winner. "42" was the number on Robinson's uniform and a number since retired from all baseball teams. It re-emerges every year in the All-Star game as a tribute to Robinson. The release of the film on April 12 was timed to be close to Jackie Robinson Day, April 15, the sixty-sixth anniversary of Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier.

In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford) set out to break the color barrier that separated black and white baseball teams. As is often told, Branch Rickey hand-picked young Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman) for this ground-breaking task, because he knew Robinson had the inner strength to stand up to the wave of prejudice he would face with both restraint and dignity. Robinson proved him right and then some.

"42" is big, colorful and unabashedly heroic. What it is not is gritty realism, a film that gets to the man behind the Jackie Robinson legend. That is for another film. This one tells the tale of the legend, a story that might be called corny except for the fact that it is true.

The story's ending is familiar even to non-baseball fans, so the strength of the story is all in how it is told. Nicole Beharie plays Jackie's wife Rachel, and their story as a young couple adds a nice romantic touch to the boys club cast of characters. Christopher Meloni comes on strong as Brooklyn Dodgers manager Leo Durocher, who lays down the rules for the team. Andre Holland plays Wendell Smith, the black sports writer assigned to chronicle Robinson's story, who is in the process of breaking his own color barrier. In

the film, Smith serves as a kind of guide for Robinson through the pitfalls of dealing with the public and the press. The cast is rounded out with Lucas Black, Hamish Linklater and Ryan Merriman as teammates PeeWee Reese, Ralph Branca and Dixie Walker, respectively.

The film sports some splendid photography, re-creating legendary ballparks now vanished, and wonderful, thrilling baseball action sequences. Period details are perfect, capturing fashions and a sense of time and place in a way that adds authenticity and helps bring the story to life.

"42" is an inspiring, feel-good movie about a real American hero. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is director Brian Koppelman never lets actor Boseman play Robinson as anything but perfect, a limit that makes the character feel a little one-dimensional. The nuances of Robinson's struggle fall to other characters, particularly teammates like PeeWee Reese. The film is often emotionally heavy-handed, turning up the inspiring music in dramatic scenes and having cartoonish bigots fall a little too easily, when you know that wasn't so. Some people seem a little too tolerant, a little too quick to give up lifelong hatreds. Robinson is a rock; it is his teammates who undergo struggles accepting him. The film does include some awful name-calling — including the n-word — and one scene of threatened violence, but overall, the film sometimes makes it look easier and over more quickly than you know it was.


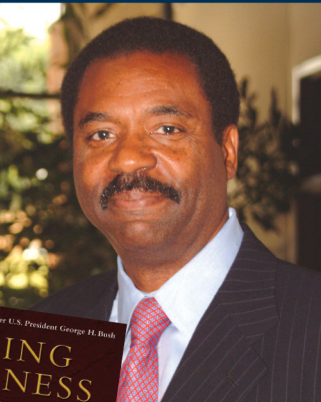
Still, these are all minor flaws in a movie that rightly celebrates a real-life hero. Despite its Hollywood flair for hitting the right buttons, the fact remains that "42" is good, inspirational entertainment, an uplifting film about a hero who deserved to be the star of a major motion picture. Apart from the language issue, "42" is a film parents should want to take their kids to see. It is such a slice of history and underdog Americana, an old-fashioned, feel-good true story too rarely seen.

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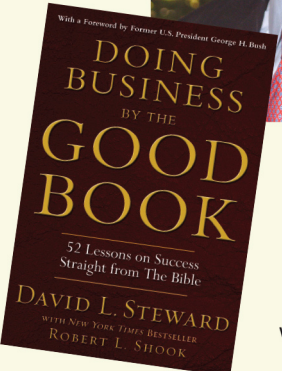
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52 Lessons on Success Straight
from the Bible"**

David L. Steward is chairman and founder of World Wide Technology, a market-leading systems integrator and supply chain solutions provider. Steward serves on the Board of Curators for the University of Missouri System and is an active board member of many St. Louis organizations.





A book signing and reception will follow the program.
RSVP to 314-516-5789 by Tuesday, April 16.