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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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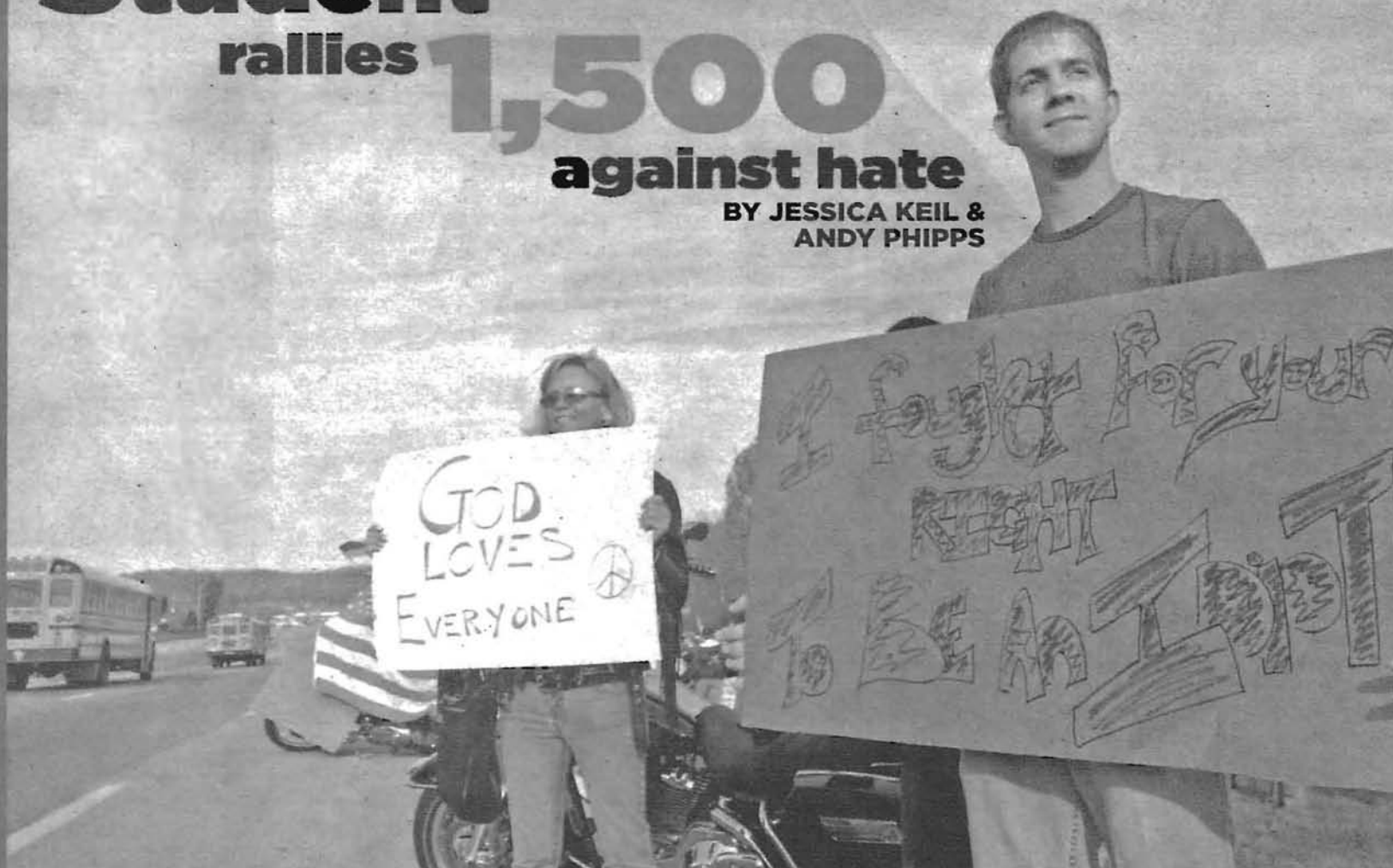
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NOV. 16, 2009

VOL. 43;
ISSUE 1296

Student rallies 1,500 against hate

BY JESSICA KEIL &
ANDY PHIPPS



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Outside of the Faith Community Church in Cedar Hill, Mo. a diverse group of protesters gathered on Thursday.

High school and college students, veterans, bikers and mothers united along Highway 30 to show support for America, American troops, homosexuals and tolerance. Local police estimated that at its highest the crowd reached 1,500 people.

Another protest raged five minutes down the road in front of Northwest High School, and the 60-member Westboro Baptist Church was at the helm.

Since the 1980s, the WBC has been outspoken in their condemnation of homosexuality in the U.S. In recent years the group has begun picketing the funerals of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, based on their belief that American service personnel are dying as divine punishment for American tolerance of homosexuality.

This summer, the WBC protested the funeral of Sgt. 1st Class Brian Woods, a graduate from Northwest High. The day of the funeral, the WBC congregated outside Northwest, holding their infamous signs reading "God Hates Fags." On Thursday, the WBC resumed their post in front of the high

school to raise the signs again.

Determined to divert attention from the WBC, Tyler Lawson, junior, accounting, organized his own protest in front of the Faith Community Church.

"We wanted to show the world that no one was going to come in to our community and tell us how to believe," Lawson said.

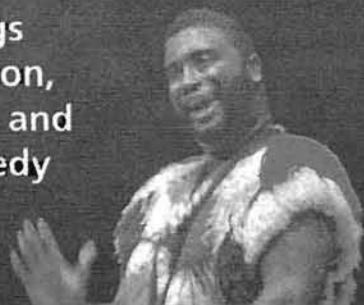
Also a graduate of Northwest High, Lawson began advertising the rally through Facebook. Gradually more people found out, including Joey Rumpell, the head of the Daughters of Brian Woods Foundation, and later the radio station 105.7 FM "The Point." Rumpell collected donations for her foundation during the rally, raising just under \$1,500 by the end of the day.

"The Point" made radio announcements about the counter-rally. "We are heading out there in full force and asking our Soldiers of WAR [to] come and join us as we broadcast live and try and get these people the HELL OUT!" their Web site said.

The "Soldiers of War" did attend the rally, but they were not the only ones. Residents of Illinois drove hours to show their support and UM-St. Louis students also took the mini-road trip to Cedar Hill. **► more on 2**

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The Current

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1296

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FROM PAGE 1

Ashley Bruce, sophomore, criminology, attended Northwest High School before UM-St. Louis and said the WBC's beliefs are shameful.

"I think it's a shame to say the least, if I were to choose words they wouldn't be appropriate because I just think that, yeah, they have their views, but they disrespect a lot of people and their country doing that, because they're fighting for [WBC's] freedom too," Bruce said.

Holding the counter-rally in front of a church was a way for Lawson and others to make the point that the WBC does not represent the

completely disagree," Humphrey said while chuckling, as if "completely disagree" was an understatement. "We don't really appreciate the image they portray about the church and God in general."

The WBC itself proved to be elusive during their visit to the St. Louis area, as they only stayed at any scheduled location for 40 minutes at a time.

Allegedly, three members of the WBC were arrested in Cedar Hill for assaulting members of a local Lutheran Church who were wearing angel wings to block WBC signs from the street.

"Christian people are supposed to love, accept, forgive. You're not supposed to judge..."

—Sandra Hoelter

views of the vast majority of Christians.

In fact, the WBC is not a part of any identifiable Baptist convention and is actually denounced by almost every religious sect operating in America today. Their picket signs and chants, which center on their tagline, "God Hates Fags," have earned them the distinction of being classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Christian people are supposed to love, accept, forgive. You're not supposed to judge, we've only got one judge," Sandra Hoelter said while holding a small American flag and a framed portrait of her son, who just finished a year's tour in Afghanistan with the U.S. military.

While also waving flags, Kris Humphrey, the head of Student Ministries at Faith Community Church, distanced his beliefs from the views of the WBC.

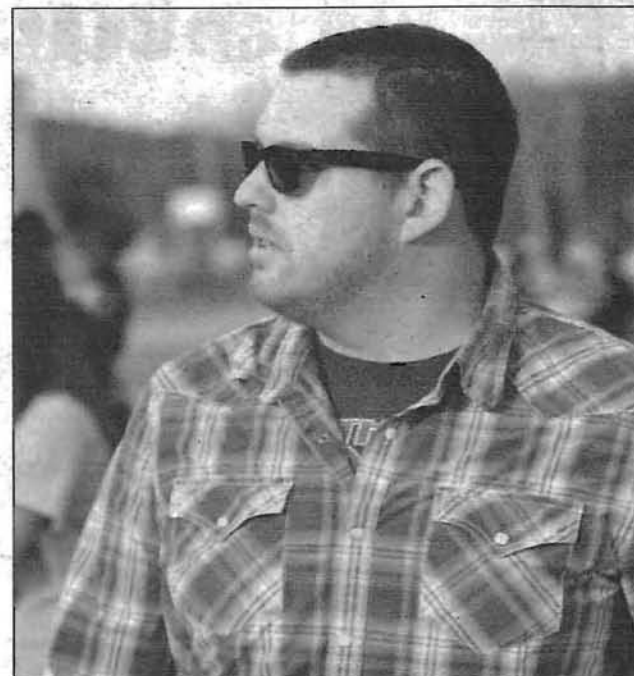
"Let's just say that we

Long after the WBC left Cedar Hill, counter-protesters remained outside the Faith Community Church. Josh Pfeffer helped organize the rally at the church.

Pfeffer, standing high above the crowd under a billboard displaying the church's name, made an announcement when the WBC left Cedar Hill. He pronounced that the group would "keep going strong" because their dedication to the cause lasted longer than a mere 40 minutes.

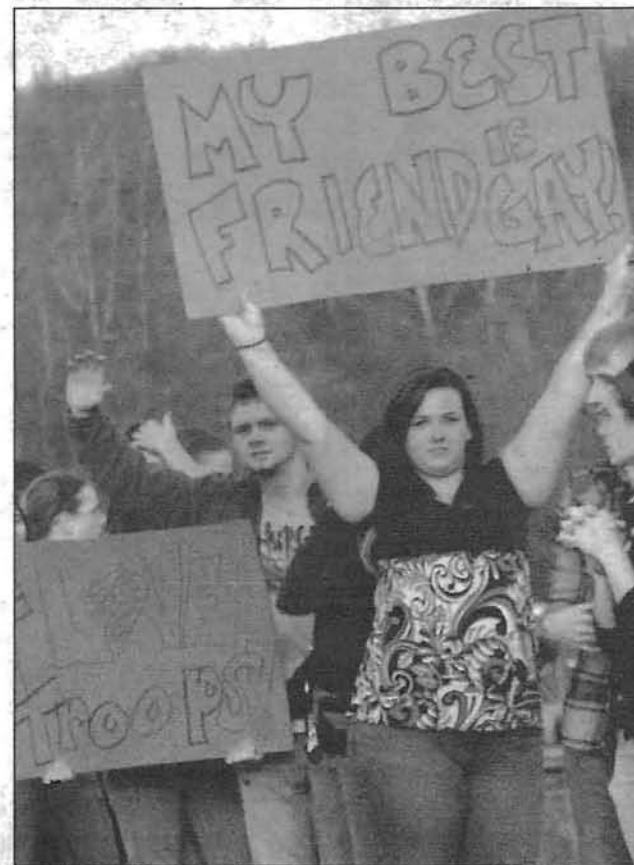
As the WBC traveled on to the Yeshiva Boys High School, a Jewish parochial school in Olivette, and the Jewish Community Center in Creve Coeur, picketing at a bowling alley, the assembly outside the Faith Community Center continued raising signs promoting love.

Lawson was so delighted by the turnout at his counter-rally that when asked to comment on the beliefs of the WBC he said, "As far as I'm concerned, they don't exist."



PHOTOS BY SOFI SECK/THE CURRENT

Tyler Lawson, junior, accounting, organized the counter-rally against the "God Hates Fags" protest held by the Westboro Baptist church last Thursday at Northwest High School. Lawson held the counter rally in front of the Faith Community Church.



The counter-rally against the Westboro Baptist Church doubled as a service memorial for a fallen soldier who had gone to Northwest High School. 1,500 people participated in the event that took place last Thursday, and nearly \$1,486 was raised for the Daughters of Brian Woods Foundation.

WEATHER

| MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. | SAT. | SUN. |
|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| 73 | 60 | 59 | 57 | 61 | 54 | 60 |
| 54 | 42 | 39 | 44 | 49 | 46 | 44 |

Budget challenges ahead

Restrictions to affect university activities

► SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

All UM System schools will face budget challenges for the 2010-2011 fiscal school year, according to Gary Forsee, the president of the University of Missouri System. On Oct. 28, Governor Jay Nixon revealed significant cuts in this year's Missouri state government budget. The university's core budget has always been protected through an agreement with the state to keep tuition rates flat, but because state revenue is down, it will be necessary to make cuts to programs outside of the core budget in order to meet budget restrictions.

"Our university's four campuses and health system must respond, anticipate and be innovative in finding solutions to the unprecedented level of change affecting higher education," a letter distributed by Forsee to state-wide leaders, said.

Forsee acknowledged that these budget restrictions were to be expected due to the dwindling U.S. economy.

"We have to deal with these budget issues directly, and do it in a way that makes sense for all of our constituents, and engage in our university community as we do," Forsee, in an Oct. 23 speech, said.

Right now, the state revenue is down by 10 percent compared to last year. The

budget cuts will be at about 5 percent, which translates into about \$3 million.

The UM System schools are currently 45th in per capita spending for the operating budget, near last in funding for per capita funding, and near the bottom in faculty salaries compared to other university institutions, the speech said.

There will be a number of "transformative measures aligned with our commitment to innovation and being part of the state's solution to addressing its socioeconomic challenges," Forsee said.

These transformative measures include convening regional forums to discuss new capital funding and revenue sources, working with the state to increase graduates in math, science, technology, and engineering, improving student-faculty engagement, and increasing college affordability.

These measures are designed to increase funding for UM System schools, increase state revenue growth by employing graduates educated in math and science, and make college a financially possible option for Missouri residents.

The 2011 fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2010, will be the start of the new budget restrictions for the entire UM System, including the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The university is ready to do its part by taking on

some transformative measures, such as filling less faculty positions, making class sizes larger, eliminating some administrative positions and potentially merging some departments.

"We're just going to do business differently," Thomas George, the chancellor for UM-St. Louis, said. "Perhaps [there will] be some units—I'm not saying necessarily academic—but some units and activities eliminated. We have areas in facilities, we have areas in student affairs, and we have to work through a process, so I can't say now because we're working through the process."

Campus activities will be the hardest hit with the new budget restrictions, but the student activity fee will remain the same for all UM System campuses.

"The governor would like to see student tuition and fees held flat, so the fee that applies to all students would not change," George said. "Now, having said that, there are individual fees—you know, certain courses, lab fees ... the College of Business Administration has certain fees for its courses. Its conceivable those could change, but we don't know that for sure. The fees that apply to all students across the board will be held flat."

Forsee will hold a town hall meeting at UM-St. Louis on Tuesday to address budget restrictions.

Winter Intersession

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Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Michelle Kaufman

Twitter has taken social networking to a new level.
What are your feelings on Twitter?



Katie Montibeller
Junior
Communications

"Personally, I don't have one. I think people are a little bit obsessed with it. But if you're into letting people know what you're doing 24/7, then that's your prerogative."



Nathan Zigo
Junior
Business Administration

"I have not used Twitter a lot but I prefer Facebook. Facebook does most the things Twitter does and more."



Shabbar Kothari
Junior
Business

"At first, Twitter seemed like a dedicated website to something very similar to the Facebook status feature. I wonder how interesting it is to follow an ordinary person's ordinary activities."

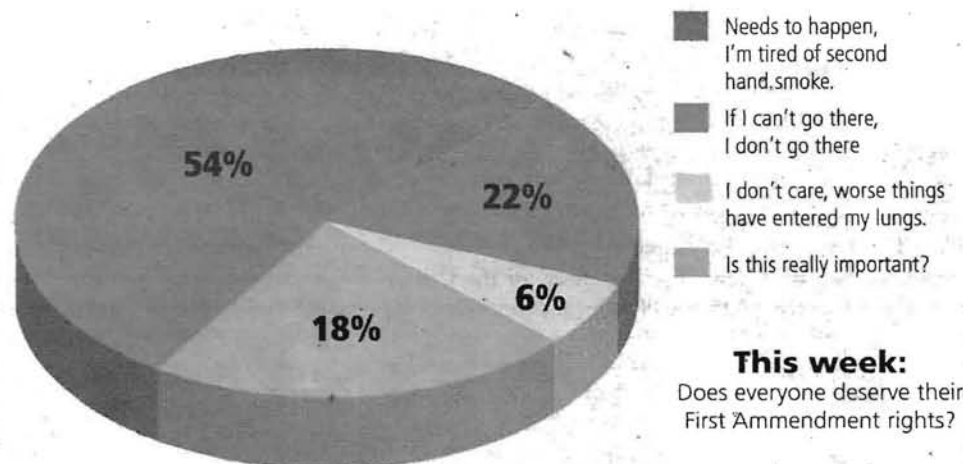


Sean Scott
Sophomore
Business

"I think Twitter is over-rated. Everyone is using it. There are too much Twitter-like websites. Facebook and Myspace are way better because it's easier to connect to everyone."

POLL

What do you think of the-smoking ban?



This week:

Does everyone deserve their First Amendment rights?

Answer at
www.thecurrentonline.com

CRIMELINE

Friday, Nov. 6

Stealing Under \$500.00 - Parking Lot E

Sometime between 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM person(s) unknown broke into the victim's vehicle while it was parked on Lot E and stole the victim's I-Pod, GPS Unit, Radio amplifier, and text books. The vehicle window was broken completely out. There are no suspects at this time.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Stealing Under \$500.00 - Social Science Building

Sometime between 1:30 PM and 2:40 PM the victim's purse was stolen. The victim advised that she left her purse unattended on the coffee counter in SSB, and realized it about an hour later. When the victim returned, the purse was gone. The victim later learned that her credit card was used to make a purchase at a local McDonalds. The UMSL Police are still investigating this case and reviewing video surveillance to try and determine a suspect.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Fugitive Arrest - University Meadows

A student was arrested in his apartment on an outstanding arrest warrant out of Chesterfield. The Chesterfield Police Department responded and took custody of the wanted subject.

Thursday, Nov. 14

Stealing Under \$500.00 - Benton Hall

Sometime between 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM the victim's wallet with contents was stolen from a classroom. The victim was participating in the Bridge program, and left her wallet in the classroom unattended for over 1 hour before discovering she didn't have it. When she went back to the classroom, it was gone. There are no suspects in this incident.

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

VERBATIM

"David Letterman and I are now brotherhood of the zipper chests."

-Robin Williams
on his heart surgery



"I think that you're being extremely inappropriate, and I'm about to leave your show."

-Carrie Prejean
to Larry King

"If we can't put solar power plants in the Mojave Desert, I don't know where the hell we can put it."

-Governor Arnold
Schwarzenegger



"We didn't destroy Mecca because we didn't want to have to deal with a fatwa."

-Roland Emmerich
on 2012

Science/Health

Renewing renewable energy

UM-St. Louis may receive grant for new research center

► **PATRICK CANOY**
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis may be the future home of the Center for Plant Lipid Systems. The university is one of a few finalists for a five-year, \$25 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

A collaboration of 16 different institutions presented their plans for the Center for Plant Lipid Systems. At the helm of this collaboration is UM-St. Louis's own Dr. Xuemin "Sam" Wang, an E. Desmond Lee endowed professor of biology and also the principal investigator at the Donald Danforth Science Center.

According to the press release, the Center for Plant Lipid Systems' overall vision is to provide an integrated, innovative program

of research and education to advance the nation's science and technology agenda by understanding the most energy-rich natural products in living organisms: plant lipids.

The effects of the Center will help out multiple areas of interest such as renewable energy, environmental stability, healthy food supply, and nutrition.

Research done at the Center will be "aimed at transforming the whole field of plant lipid research through gaining a better understanding of plant lipid systems," Wang said.

Every plant in the world contains oil and it is usually found in the seeds. In the vast majority of plants, the storage lipids are found in the form of triglycerides. These lipids may be found building up inside either of

the major forms of seed tissue: the endosperm or the embryo tissue.

At first, a plant stores its energy as carbohydrates, but during the process of ripening they turn these oxygen-rich carbohydrates into carbonic triglycerides. Then, during germination the process is reversed and the oil is turned back into carbohydrates. A single gram of oil will yield about 2.7 grams of carbohydrates.

These oils are in almost everything we eat: sunflower oil, peanut oil, olive oil, corn oil, and many more. The amount of plant lipids in plants varies drastically from around 70 percent in pecans to only about 0.1 percent in potatoes. These carbohydrates form the basis of our diet and they are also the least understood of all the major cellular components

in biology.

When the competition for the Center began, there were 250 groups competing. After a couple of elimination rounds the number dropped to 11. The National Science Foundation will fund five of these 11, Dr. Wang said.

"I feel that we provided a very convincing case," Dr. Wang said. "We have about 2-to-1 odds of receiving the award."

The awards will be presented at the White House in mid-February and the projects are planned to begin in June. If the Center is funded, UM-St. Louis will be the head institution. Partners include Monsanto, the Danforth Center, St. Louis Community College, Washington University in St. Louis, and several other universities from around the country.

Local doctors split on health care reform

► **CHERA MEYER**
Proofreader

It is no secret that there is a current debate on American health care reform. Whether you agree with the reform or not, there is a lingering question as to what exactly will happen if, or when, President Obama signs the bill. The bill's intention is to make health care available and affordable to everyone.

According to the current plan being proposed by Congress, if you already have health insurance you

may not notice many changes. You will still be able to keep your doctor and the plan you currently hold. If you do not have insurance and want coverage, the government-provided "Consumer's Choice" plan is intended to be affordable while also providing competition for current insurance companies, resulting in lower premiums.

The bill will prevent insurance companies from denying Americans coverage, regardless of age and pre-existing conditions. For those that must purchase their own insurance, affordable rates with quality plans will be available. Additionally, preventive health care would be offered at no charge to treat illnesses at the onset or help to avoid them.

Health care professionals seem to have different opinions on the pos-

sible outcome of the current health care reform bill and what it will mean for Americans and their families.

"I have seen patients struggle with current insurance plans," Dr. James E. Nahlik, a family physician who works at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Missouri Baptist Medical Center, said. "I agree that there needs to be change. What happens now is that people are failing to take care of themselves. They [need to] exercise, eat right, and avoid obesity. [Obesity] can lead to major, costly illnesses."

Nahlik said that a family doctor can coordinate and motivate Americans to have a healthier lifestyle, which can help patients avoid these chronic, possibly fatal illnesses as well as the high out-of-pocket expenses.

See REFORM, page 8

SCIENCE COLUMN

The climate change numbers game

This is a tale of two numbers: 350 and 450.

On Oct. 24, a series of international events focused on one of those numbers: 350, which is 350 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. To avoid catastrophic climate changes, that is the level of CO₂ that will be needed according to new observations on climate change.

The other number is 450 ppm atmospheric CO₂, the level earlier climate models suggested would be needed to avoid serious changes in global climate.

The planet has already warmed almost one degree Fahrenheit. Earlier climate data suggested that the world could tolerate a rise in temperature of two degrees without disastrous effects. To reach that level, climate scientists, including those working with the U.N.'s International Panel on Climate Change, calculated a requirement of limiting atmospheric CO₂ to 450 ppm.

But then something unexpected happened: Despite predictions that it would not occur for another 30 years, the Arctic Ocean was ice-free in the summer of 2007. It appeared that climate changes were happening at a faster rate than models predicted.

A new study by scientists, including NASA's James Hansen, examined newer data on climate change. Hansen's report said that maintaining a planetary environment "similar to the one on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted" would require setting a goal of 350 ppm CO₂.

People around the world, alarmed at this new development, organized international events on Oct. 24 using that new number. They are



Cate Marquis

urging leaders to replace 450 ppm with a new goal of 350 ppm for the maximum level of CO₂.

What do these numbers mean for global climate and a habitable world? The current level of CO₂ is 387 ppm. At the beginning of the Industrial Revolution it was 280 ppm. If nothing is done and we allow things to remain as they are now, the predicted level by the year 2100 ranges from 650 ppm to 970 ppm, according to the IPCC.

If levels without action could be as high as 970 ppm, then 450 ppm might look pretty good.

Obviously, allowing carbon levels to rise a bit more, instead of reducing them now, appeals to business. But faster than expected climate changes suggest that is not enough.

But there are tipping points. Certain climate changes can push the planet into an undesirable positive feedback loop, which we can do little to stop.

There are two kinds of carbon: present-day carbon, part of the carbon-cycle of life on Earth, and "fossil carbon," from earlier life on Earth.

When we burn fossil fuels like oil and coal, we add fossil carbon, extra carbon not part of our balanced carbon-cycle equilibrium.

See NUMBERS, page 22

NASA pulled back to Earth

Committee's report suggests redefinition of NASA's ambitions

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Science/Health Editor

The headline "Seeking A Human Spaceflight Program Worthy Of A Great Nation" may sound like a Craigslist post by some errant techno-beaurocrat, but it is actually the title of a 155-page report prepared by a select committee. The committee is tasked "to review the U.S. plans for human spaceflight and to offer possible alternatives" by helping NASA meet its lofty goals within its current budget.

After the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003, NASA sought to find a replacement for its aging spacecraft and redefine its goals and ambitions. The result was a new set of goals to be achieved through new spacecraft. By the year 2020, Americans were to return to the moon in new spacecraft launched on new rockets.

The keystones of what would become known as Project Constellation would be the Aries launch vehicles, which are two rockets that would be taller and more powerful than the Saturn V that carried men to the moon in the 1960s and 1970s, and the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle, a capsule like the three-man Apollo of the same era, except it would be reusable and would seat six astronauts.

The primary concern in developing this replacement hardware was having it ready to send astronauts to and from the International Space Station after the shuttle is retired. The original goal was to have it ready to fly by 2012, two years after the planned retirement of the shuttle in 2010. This would enable NASA to send crews to the ISS before it would be decommissioned in 2016.

However, skyrocketing costs and snags have put the project

"Can we get the public, who ultimately fund this endeavor, excited and supportive of such a project?"

—Dr. Erika Gibb,
Asst. Professor of Astronomy
University of Missouri - St. Louis

over budget and behind schedule. Currently, the Aries booster and Orion capsule will not be ready until 2015, and other hardware like the Altair lunar lander will not be ready until the

mid-2020s. In their report, the committee sought ways that NASA could meet its goals in an appropriate timeframe while keeping their budget in check.

This included some proposals, like extending the Space Shuttle program into 2011 or possibly even turning it over to private enterprise for operation. The committee also suggested keeping the ISS up and running for an additional five years.

There would also be a decrease of the in-development hardware in order to reduce costs and keep Project Constellation on schedule—all while increasing NASA's budget by \$3 billion over the next 3 years and returning Americans to the moon by the mid-2020s.

While select committees may be busy deciding the future of America's manned space program, it can be questioned whether or not Americans are behind it.

"Remember, President Kennedy gave a speech before Congress in 1961 where he stated that he wanted, before the decade was out, to safely land a man on the moon and return him to Earth. It took eight years to do so," Dr. Erika Gibb, associate professor of astronomy at University of Missouri-St. Louis, said.

"We already have much of the infrastructure in place, so it could be achievable to land more people on the moon by 2020. The question is: Do we have the drive and national motivation to do so? Can we get the public, who ultimately fund this endeavor, excited and supportive of such a project?" Gibb said.

In the end, whether or not the public is on board, the goals at hand can be accomplished.

"Manned space flight, I think, will be more about political and social means than science, at least in the near future. It will require long-term support from governments and possibly even private enterprise," Gibb said.

Women's heart disease rising

Prevention could save thousands of lives a year

► **JEN O'HARA**
Staff Writer

"Heart disease has just historically been viewed by women and men as a man's disease. Even the statistics say otherwise," Madelyn Alexander, the communications director of the American Heart Association, said.

A recent study showed that men's heart disease rates are fall-

ing while women's rates are rising. Men continue to have more cardiovascular problems than women, a study in the Archives of Internal Medicine said. However, the men's rates of heart attacks showed a 0.3 percent improvement, while women showed a 0.3 percent decline over the past 20 years.

Theories of the cause of the decline of men's heart disease include a greater awareness of the disease and greater prevention. These theories could also partially explain why women's heart disease rates are rising.

"I think that women are so busy, they're not taking care of themselves and they need to be sure they get their preventative test and screening with their physicians. It's really important for women to have a primary care physician and to work with them on their preventive screenings and tests," Darla Wertenberger, director of community outreach at St. Lukes hospital, said.

Because women have been taught to primarily focus on women's health matters, such as getting yearly mammograms and pelvic exams to prevent cancer, most of society has failed to raise awareness in other areas. Almost twice as many women die from a cardiovascular disease or stroke than they do from all other types of cancer, including breast cancer, the American

Heart Association said.

It was once thought that hormonal influences protected women from diseases until after menopause, but heart disease is increasing in middle-aged women. Studies have explored the factors that are most likely to have contributed to the increase in women's rates, such as obesity and stress.

"I think women's heart disease is increasing because women are becoming so occupied with work and families, which is a wonderful thing, but they are forgetting to take care of themselves," Kaitlyn Baum, a nursing student at St. Louis University, said. "Women are probably more hard-headed than men when it comes to their health, and ignoring the subtle signs of heart disease, [or] brushing things off as just a result of stress."

Baum is an example that women's heart disease can come in all shapes and sizes. Last July, she went through her third open-heart surgery. She is 21 years old.

"Women have different symptoms than men sometimes, and many times they don't talk to their physicians about the symptoms they're having, or the physician doesn't recognize it could be related

See **HEART DISEASE**, page 7

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Pfizer awards green chemistry

UMSL professor develops new chemical process, wins \$5,000

► ANDY PHIPPS
Science/Health Editor

Solar panels, wind turbines and hybrid cars are all ways that humanity has begun to "go green" as we face climate change and dwindling resources needed to keep our growing population sustainable. But the energy and automotive industries are not the only ones looking ahead to a future when we will have to do more with less.

In October, Dr Eike Bauer, assistant professor of chemistry at University of Missouri-St. Louis, received a \$5,000 Green Chemistry award from pharmaceutical company Pfizer.

"Green chemistry basically is a concept that avoids waste and [has] a minimum requirement of energy," Bauer said.

The Environmental Protection Agency defines green chemistry as being "characterized by upholding principles for preventing waste and chemical hazards in the work zone and environment, creation of safer chemicals, energy economy, and efficient biodegradation."

The EPA has defined 12 criteria necessary for green chemistry. One is the development of chemical catalysts that use less energy and are achieved with more organic, less volatile substances.

Dr. Bauer received his award for work in this field in particular. His research team at UM-St. Louis developed a previously somewhat unknown catalysis process that primarily uses a solvent composed of carbon and hydrogen. Solvents are very important in catalysis as they make the initial reaction occur.

Many chemical solvents that are used in current processes are toxic, but the solvents Dr. Bauer has identified are organic carbohydrates that are nontoxic. This helps in handling the waste that is produced by the catalytic process, which is easier to deal with when it is nontoxic.

"If you can change a process from a toxic solvent to a nontoxic solvent, that is going to be wanted because it protects the environment but also the people working with the solvent," Bauer said.

"They're faster, they perform at lower temperatures and at the end of the day just saves energy."

—Dr Eike Bauer,
Asst. Professor of Chemistry
University of Missouri - St. Louis

The process developed by Dr. Bauer also requires less of these solvents to make the reaction, which allows for the conservation of materials used.

Also key to the process is the amount of energy used in the process. Though the process developed by Dr. Bauer still

must be heated up to 90 degrees to perform its function, it still consumes less energy than other processes in wide use today.

"Saving energy is very important. In our department, saving energy is not a big problem because we use so little of it, but once it comes to large scale applications in industry it is very important and it saves money," Bauer said. "They're faster, they perform at lower temperatures and at the end of the day just saves energy."

Dr. Bauer will be using the \$5,000 to fund further research by his team. Currently, he is unaware of any manufacturing processes using his method.

"We show [the] industry new ways [the processes] can be performed and we certainly make sure that industries are aware of whatever we have [at UM-St. Louis]," Bauer said. "But, this process can potentially be interesting for certain types of drugs. But at the moment it's not applied in industry. It is still in a very preliminary stage."

On their Web site, Pfizer describes their Green Chemistry Award as being "a great way to develop sustainable, environmentally sound and cost effective processes—a win-win for colleagues, the community and our business." But it remains to be seen if Dr. Bauer's benefactor will be using his process anytime soon.

"I don't know if Pfizer is going to look into it. They have the material, they can take it if they want to but it is a little bit beyond what we do. We can not go out into the world and offer our process to pharmaceutical industries," Bauer said.



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"In America the President reigns for four years,

and Journalism governs for ever and ever"

Oscar Wilde

REFORM, from page 5

He said that he would not be pleased if the health insurance offered mirrored the Medicaid plan, but he is trying to remain optimistic that it will work out well for Americans.


Melia McCord, a certified physician's assistant at the Charlotte Anne Russell Medical Center, offered a different perspective.

"As a country, we need [to] change our system so that we cover the uninsured ... However, from a medical standpoint, I am not sure that the quality of care that is being proposed is really going to benefit our fellow Americans," McCord said. "Waiting months for routine screenings or outpatient surgeries isn't good care. To flood that system further is going to complicate good medical care."

One viewpoint that both health care professionals share is that Americans do need help in the area of health care coverage.

With insurance premiums climbing and the economy in the trash can, it is evident that many Americans are struggling. Cutting out insurance plans could appear to be a way of managing a budget in the short term, but unexpected accidents or other injuries could be much more costly in the long run by not only by affecting cash on hand, but potentially damaging a good credit rating if one were to get behind on paying medical bills.


Either way, it appears as if help is on its way, but it remains to be seen if it will be the right kind.



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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Tritons finish season with tough loss

► **ANTHONY PADGETT**
Asst. Sports Editor

Within the last couple of weeks, both the men's and women's soccer teams here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis ended their seasons much sooner than they had hoped.

The women's team played their final home game of the season at Don Dallas Field, on Nov. 4, against Washington University. The game was originally scheduled for Oct. 7, but due to bad weather conditions was postponed.

Washington University came into the game with a record of 13-2-1, was ranked eighth in the nation in Division III, and was riding a 14-game unbeaten streak.

The game would only be an exhibition for the Tritons though, as they had lost their final Great Lakes Valley Conference game on Oct. 25 against the No. 12-ranked team in Division II, Northern Kentucky.

The Tritons record on the year against GLVC teams was 4-9-1.

Only the top eight teams can qualify for the postseason.

As a result the Tritons were not eligible for the GLVC postseason tournament ending an 11-year streak.

Wash U. scored twice in

the first half and twice more in the second half against UM-St. Louis to win the game 4-0.

The Tritons would have only one shot which was on goal by Diana Torres, sophomore, international business.

Hannah Sayre, sophomore, business marketing, played the entire 90 minutes of the game and recorded one save while allowing the four goals.

Without the loss, the Tritons finished the year 4-11-1.

The real killer for the team this year was a lack of enough offense. In 16 games, the Tritons scored just 19 goals, while their opponents scored 37 goals against them.

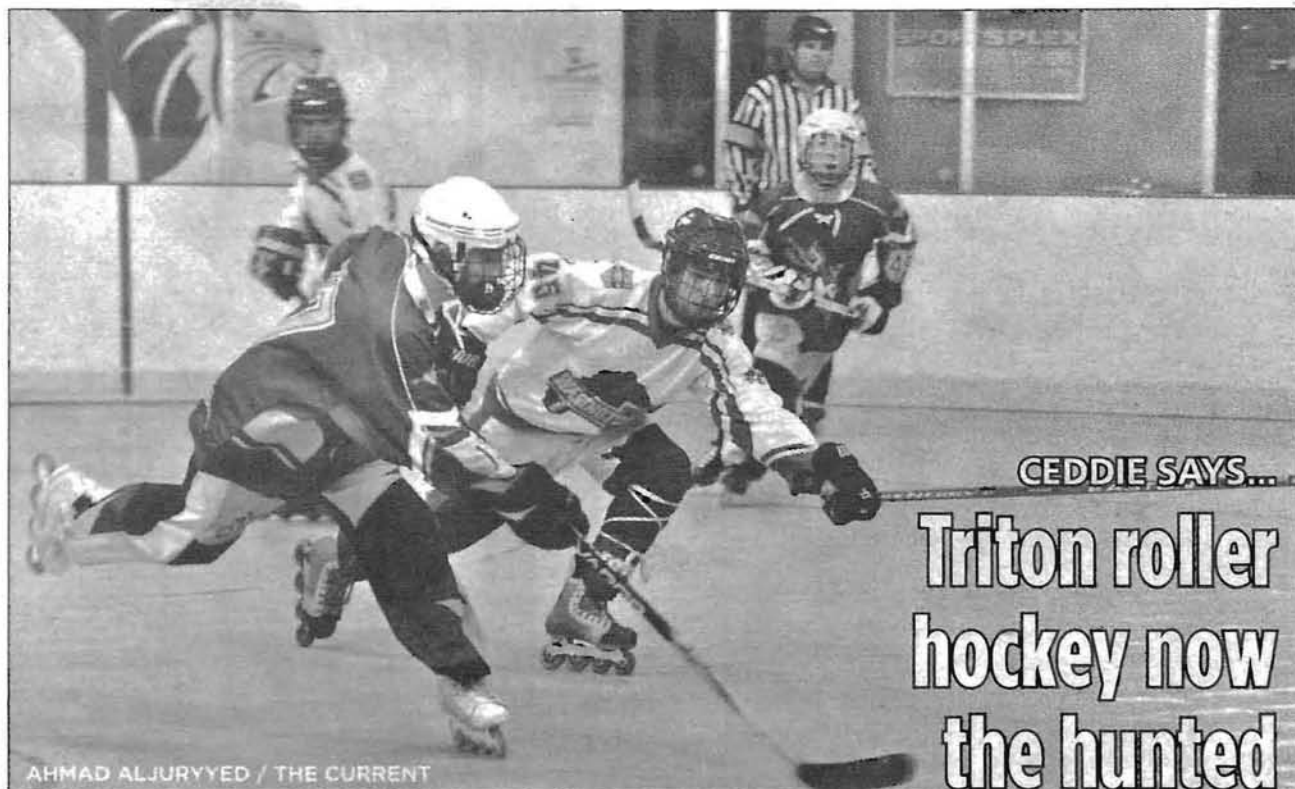
In other words, the Tritons on the season averaged 1.19 goals per game and their opponents averaged 2.31 goals per game. The team was shutout five times this season, and four of those were against conference teams.

Even with the losing record, there are numerous positive notes on the season.

The Tritons had a higher shots-on-goal percentage than their opponents with .521 to .479. In corner kicks the Tritons had 88 while opponents had just 66.

See **SOCCER**, page 12

SPORTS COLUMN



CEDDIE SAYS...

Triton roller hockey now the hunted

#17 Aaron Schulz drives the puck home during the 11-1 win for UM-St Louis Tritons hockey game against Wash U on Friday night at Omni SportsPlex in St. Peters.

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

For all the peaks and valleys of the 2008-2009 University of Missouri-St. Louis sporting year, only one Triton team was able to reach the ultimate mountaintop that is winning a national championship.

That team was the UM-St. Louis roller hockey team.

The Tritons defied all odds last season, but somehow managed to go 8-1 in the playoffs, which included a thrilling 5-3 win over seven-time defending national champion and archrival Lindenwood University in last April's final game, to win UM-St. Louis its first National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association title.

But Ceddie says ... that was last year.

This year, the Tritons are no longer the hunters stalking Lindenwood and others like so much big game prey. Instead, the 2009-2010 season will feature UM-St. Louis, as the team every other roller hockey squad in the country will be chasing.

This year's Tritons will be a new-look group. More than half of last year's roster and the entire coaching staff are no longer with the program. Those losses include longtime standout players Adam Clarke and Blake Propp, as well as sensational young player P.J. Tallo.

Tallo led UM-St. Louis in scoring last year, had a hand in all five goals the Tri-

tons scored in the national championship clinching win, and is widely considered the player who completely changed the national college roller hockey landscape when he made UM-St. Louis his college choice over Lindenwood in 2007.

This summer, Tallo decided to forego his remaining college eligibility and signed a contract to play with a professional team in Italy.

The Tritons will be hard-pressed to replace Tallo's production, 22 goals and 63 points in 27 games.

One player UM-St. Louis hopes will pick up some of the slack of losing Tallo is forward and returning leading scorer Danny Dwyer, sophomore, business. Last season, Dwyer was second on the team in goals (25) and third in scoring (40 points).

Other forwards returning for the Tritons this year include Jason Holzum, junior, physical education; Gus Maloney, senior, psychology; and Aaron Schulz, junior, business administration.

UM-St. Louis will also rely heavily on a player considered one of the best defensemen in the country in Andy Meade, senior, physical education. A three-time All-American, Meade dominated the back line for the Tritons last season, while also contributing to the offense with 20 goals and 36 points.

Meade will likely team with speedy Marty Gowdz, sophomore, business law, to form one of the nation's most formidable defense tandems this season.

But the player the Tritons will look to most often to keep the puck out of the net will be goalie Jimmy Steger, sophomore, education.

Last year, despite it being only his first year playing college roller hockey, Steger ranked among the nation's best goalkeepers in wins (19), shutouts (six), save percentage (.900), and goals against average (1.65). Those numbers were a key reason why Steger received several national MVP awards and honors.

The Tritons began their title defense late last month, and have already played 12 games this season.

Gowdz, in particular, has been fantastic for UM-St. Louis. He has easily been one of the best defenders in the country, while also ranking second on the team in scoring with nine goals and 17 points heading into last weekend's action.

The only Triton player who has been better is Dwyer, who might be playing at a national player-of-the-year clip. Right now, Dwyer leads the nation in several offensive categories, including goals (16), total points (27), and game-winning goals (three).

Steger is another player leading in national statistical categories. He leads the nation in goalkeeper wins, total saves, and save percentage.

If these three players can sustain their hot starts to the season, the Tritons will no doubt be playing in the national title game again for the third straight year.

Hooparama

Polls pick Triton men and women basketball teams to place third

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams were picked to finish third in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The Tritons, who return eight letter winners and two starters from last year's 14-13 team, received zero first-place votes and 40 overall points, finishing behind Rockhurst and Drury.

Rockhurst finished first in the voting with 13 first-place votes and 65 total points, while Drury came in second with two first-place votes and 50 points. Missouri S&T (31) and Maryville (14) rounded out the voting in the West Division. Bellarmine received 12 first-place votes and 64 total points to claim the division favorite spot in the GLVC East.

Northern Kentucky, the defending GLVC champs, finished second in the voting with three first-place votes and 52 total points, while Kentucky Wesleyan (35 total points), Southern Indiana (33), and Indianapolis (16) rounded out the East Division voting. Quincy University was selected as the favorite to take the North Division title.

The Hawks picked up nine first-place votes and 59 total points to edge Lewis in the voting. The Flyers received five first-place votes and 54 total points to finish second.

Saint Joseph's (45), which received

the final first-place vote, came in third ahead of Wisconsin-Parkside (23) and Illinois-Springfield (19). The 2009-10 GLVC schedule will begin on December 3. In a parallel event, the women's basketball team was also picked for the third spot in the GLVC North Division.

UM-St. Louis, which brings back 11 letter winners and all five starters, from last year's 7-21 team, received zero first-place votes and 36 overall points to finish behind Drury and Missouri S&T. The preseason favorite Panthers received 14 first-place votes and 66 total points to finish first in the voting, while S&T came in second with one first place vote and 52 points. Rockhurst (31) and Maryville (16) finished behind UM-St. Louis to round out the division.

UIndy, which was ranked fourth in the nation in the NCAA Division II preseason poll, received 11 first-place votes and 63 total points to earn favorite status in the GLVC East Division.

The Greyhounds were followed by defending GLVC champ Northern Kentucky, which received the remaining four first-place votes and 55 total points.

Bellarmine came in third with 37 total points, followed by Southern Indiana (29) and Kentucky Wesleyan (15) to

round out the division.

Quincy was picked the favorite to claim the GLVC North Division. The Lady Hawks, who finished with a league-best 16-1 conference record a year ago, received eight first-place votes and 58 total points.

Lewis came in a close second with four first-place votes and 52 total points, while Wisconsin-Parkside finished third with three first-place votes and 49 total points, ahead of Saint Joseph's (27) and Illinois-Springfield (14).

The 2009-10 GLVC schedule will begin on December 3. Each GLVC team will play the teams in its division twice and each team in the other two divisions once for an 18-game slate in

The top three teams from each division and three wild cards will advance to the 2010 GLVC Basketball Championship Tournament, which will be held over two weekends beginning in late February. The tournament semifinals and championship final will be held on March 6-7, at the TRAC, the state-of-the-art indoor sports facility on the campus of Illinois-Springfield.

East Division

Team - Total Points

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Bellarmine (12) | 64 |
| 2. Northern Kentucky (3) | 52 |
| 3. Kentucky Wesleyan | 35 |
| 4. Southern Indiana | 33 |
| 5. Indianapolis | 16 |

North Division

Team - Total Points

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. Quincy (9) | 59 |
| 2. Lewis (5) | 54 |
| 3. Saint Joseph's (1) | 45 |
| 4. Wisconsin-Parkside | 23 |
| 5. Illinois-Springfield | 19 |

West Division

Team - Total Points

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Rockhurst (13) | 65 |
| 2. Drury (2) | 50 |
| 3. UMSL | 40 |
| 4. Missouri S&T | 31 |
| 5. Maryville | 14 |

East Division

Team - Total Points

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Indianapolis (11) | 63 |
| 2. Northern Kentucky (4) | 55 |
| 3. Bellarmine | 37 |
| 4. Southern Indiana | 29 |
| 5. Kentucky Wesleyan | 15 |

North Division

Team - Total Points

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1. Quincy (8) | 58 |
| 2. Lewis (4) | 52 |
| 3. Wisconsin-Parkside (3) | 49 |
| 4. Saint Joseph's | 27 |
| 5. Illinois-Springfield | 14 |

West Division

Team - Total Points

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Drury (14) | 66 |
| 2. Missouri S&T (1) | 52 |
| 3. UMSL | 36 |
| 4. Rockhurst | 31 |
| 5. Maryville | 16 |

"We have a chance...we need campus support to do it"

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team is about to kick off its 2009-2010 season, and is looking to improve on last season's record and make it to this year's GLVC Tournament. The NCAA tournament is also on their minds.

"Our record was 7-21 last season and there are 21 teams to beat," head coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor said. "I want to beat everybody. That's all we're thinking about."

To do that, she and assistant coach Lora Westling instituted summer workouts for the players. "Before they left we had individual meetings on what we expected. Each individual knew exactly what they needed to perfect," Curliss-Taylor said.

The team's summer workout routine included alternating days of weight lifting and conditioning. The conditioning program involved 800 meter, 200 meter and 2 mile runs.

As to how the team returned from that

summer work-out routine, Curliss-Taylor said, "They came back in much better shape. Much more strength and much more speed ... The same thing applies to them mentally, because when you work hard you have a stronger mind set."

One reason to be excited about the Triton women's team is returning guard Lindsey Ransome, senior, communications. Last year Ransome connected on 34.3 percent of her three-point shots.

"I worked a ton on my ball handling," Ransome said. "I want to limit my turnovers. Everybody was in good shape. You can see they worked this summer."

Another reason for excitement is returning point guard Kristi White, senior, accounting, who ranks seventh in school history in assists. White added some of her extra work back at home by playing basketball against her father and brother. "[Her father] can shoot, he's pretty good. It helps to play against men. They're stronger and it was pretty intense."

Along with Ransome and White, the Tritons bring back nine other players from last year's team. Those players include: Montrice Coggin, senior; Kelly Carter, junior; Alisa Ndorongo, senior; Kiki Robinson, sophomore; Kelcy Hulbert, junior; Kelly Mitchell, junior; Caitlyn Moody, sophomore; Lacey Shalenko, senior; and Hailee Deckard, sophomore. All bring something special to the table and their own reason to come out and watch UM-St. Louis women's basketball this season.

"It's not just girl's basketball. We're not boring, we're exciting. We press, we will run. We have a lot of energy. And we have a lot of fun players to watch," Curliss-Taylor said.

Mitchell in particular was a standout on the team last year, shooting 41-plus percent from the field and 36-plus percent from three-point range.

"I spent extra time on my foot work," Mitchell said. "I want to be fast and quick." Mitchell also spent time playing games with White against White's father and brother.

Then, as with any team, there are the newcomers to the program, including sophomore KeAmber Vaughn, five freshmen including Brook Lair, Allie Hogan, Jessica Fransen, Deaven Omohundro, and an international student from China that the team hopes will be eligible to play next semester.

"We have a chance for the playoffs. We need campus support to do it. If they're sitting in their dorm room or apartment with nothing to do, get over to Mark Twain and support the team. I think they will really enjoy it. If our students are in there supporting our players, they will feed off of that," Curliss-Taylor said.

The Tritons will open the regular season tonight, Monday, Nov. 16, when they'll host rival Lindenwood at the Mark Twain Building at 7 p.m.

Some of the player information in this story was obtained from the University of Missouri-St. Louis's Athletic Department's records.

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On the road to victory, always looking for the next step

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

Coming off of its first winning season since 2006, the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team is looking to take the next step toward returning the program to its glory days.

And that next step is making the postseason.

The Tritons missed making the postseason by one game last year. One measly game. But head coach Chris Pilz is determined to get his group to the next level.

Making the postseason is an especially difficult task for UM-St. Louis, and it is at least more difficult than what it is for most teams around the country because the Tritons play in the toughest men's basketball league in the country: the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Last season, the GLVC had a nation-best nine teams finish the year with winning records, and six of those teams made the NCAA Tournament, which was also the most in the nation. There is no doubt that winning in the GLVC is

just plain hard to do.

"We play in a tough league," Pilz said. "Everybody's good. There are no 'gimme games.' You have to be improving every day, or you're going to get beat."

One player Pilz will look to help lead the Tritons to the promised land is sophomore point guard Beaumont Beasley.

Last season, Beasley didn't become a full-time starter until midway through the season, but still managed to lead UM-St. Louis in scoring at 11.0 points a game while shooting over 50 percent from the floor and ranking second on the team in assists.

"Beau's got a real good skill set," Pilz said. "And every day, he's been working on improving his skill set. He's a very good player."

Beasley's primary partner in the Triton backcourt will be the team's other returning starter, senior guard Jeremy Brown.

Brown made quite a splash in the local news when he enrolled at UM-St. Louis last year. The 6'1" combo guard had been playing professional baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization,

advancing as high as their Triple-A team in Las Vegas.

Injuries forced Brown to give up his baseball dreams. But that is when he decided to finish his degree, and hopefully play some basketball too.

Pilz was thrilled when he heard Brown was back playing basketball and looking for a team to join.

"He's a great, great athlete," Pilz said. "Every day we're working on getting him to use his exceptional strength and quickness to the best of his ability. When he lets the game come to him, he's really tough to defend."

Other returning players this season include: seniors Adam Fear, Adam Kaatman, and Cody Kliethermes; junior Ryan Lawrence; and sophomore guards Sam Buxton and Ryne Bechtel.

Kaatman, a 6'10" center, who is finally healthy after an injury-plagued 2008-09 campaign, Kliethermes, a 6'8" forward, and Lawrence, a 6'3" guard, are all expected to contend for starting spots this season.

See **BASKETBALL**, page 20

STAT BOX

MEN'S SOCCER

| Team | GLVC (W-L-T) | Overall (W-L-T) |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Drury | 13-1-0 | 18-1-0 |
| N. Kentucky | 11-3-0 | 15-4-1 |
| Lewis | 10-3-0 | 13-3-1 |
| UW-Parkside | 8-4-2 | 13-5-2 |
| Bellarmino | 8-5-0 | 11-5-1 |
| Quincy | 7-5-1 | 9-8-2 |
| Missouri S&T | 7-5-1 | 7-7-1 |
| UM-St. Louis | 7-5-2 | 9-7-2 |
| St. Joseph's | 6-6-2 | 9-7-2 |
| Indianapolis | 6-7-1 | 8-7-2 |
| Rockhurst | 6-8 | 8-10 |
| S. Indiana | 5-9-0 | 6-10-1 |
| Ky. Wesleyan | 2-11-1 | 5-13-1 |
| Maryville | 1-12-1 | 1-15-1 |
| Ill. Springfield | 0-13-1 | 1-14-1 |

WOMEN'S SOCCER

| Team | GLVC (W-L-T) | Overall (W-L-T) |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| N. Kentucky | 12-2 | 16-2 |
| Bellarmino | 10-2-1 | 13-2-1 |
| Quincy | 10-2-1 | 13-4-1 |
| Indianapolis | 11-3 | 15-4 |
| Drury | 10-3 | 13-6 |
| UW-Parkside | 9-3-2 | 11-4-3 |
| S. Indiana | 7-5-2 | 9-8-3 |
| Rockhurst | 6-7-1 | 7-10-1 |
| Missouri S&T | 5-8-0 | 5-9-1 |
| Lewis | 4-8-1 | 5-9-2 |
| Maryville | 4-9-1 | 5-11-1 |
| UM-St. Louis | 4-9-1 | 4-11-1 |
| Ky. Wesleyan | 4-10-0 | 7-11-1 |
| St. Joseph's | 2-12 | 3-14 |
| Ill. Springfield | 0-14 | 2-14 |

SOCCER, from page 9

The high number of corner kicks this year is the result of first-year head coach Bobby Lessentine's introduction to a new play style this season which emphasizes constant pressure.

In eight games at Don Dallas Field this year, the Tritons accumulated an attendance of 1,823. On average over 200 people attended every game. In eight games on the road, the total attendance was 1,193, less than 150 people a game.

Many of the leaders of the team are seniors and will not be returning next season. Two players tied for the most goals on the season with five, and they were Caitlin Farrow, senior, international business, and Anne Nesbit, senior, criminal justice. Both Farrow and Nesbit also led the team in shots and shots on goal.

Amy Bohm, senior, business marketing, another player that will graduate in the spring, led the team in wins as goalie, with a record of 2-5 with three shutouts.

VOLLEYBALL

| Team | GLVC (W-L) | Overall (W-L) |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Lewis | 12-0 | 26-3 |
| Indianapolis | 11-1 | 30-1 |
| UM-St. Louis | 9-3 | 19-10 |
| N. Kentucky | 9-3 | 19-10 |
| Rockhurst | 8-4 | 19-12 |
| S. Indiana | 7-5 | 15-13 |
| Drury | 6-5 | 15-12 |
| Bellarmino | 6-6 | 13-8 |
| St. Joseph's | 5-7 | 12-17 |
| UW-Parkside | 5-7 | 21-10 |
| Missouri S&T | 3-9 | 10-24 |
| Quincy | 3-5 | 6-20 |
| Ill. Springfield | 1-11 | 9-19 |
| Maryville | 1-11 | 4-21 |
| Ky. Wesleyan | 0-12 | 2-20 |

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Features

UMSL grads make crafts more 'Rock and Roll'

► STACY BECKENHOLDT
Copy Editor

"It's not your grandma's crafts" is the tagline for the "Rock and Roll Craft Show," an event organized and participated in part by University of Missouri-St. Louis students and graduates. Some of the items that you might find at this year's show include old postcards reworked as notebook covers, plastic bags woven into purses and wallets, and nuno-felted scarves.

Hosting its sixth event Nov. 27-29 at the Third Degree Glass Factory on Delmar Boulevard, RRCS has been listed in the Riverfront Times as the "Best Craft Exhibition in Saint Louis" and noted on CNN.com in 2007 as a "don't-miss budget travel opportunity."

Jessi Cerutti, a 2005 UMSL-St. Louis printmaking graduate, was crafting with

friends Krista Durlas, Sharlene Kindt and Heather Disnesky when the idea to have a show was born. Using the parking lot of a retail space that Cerutti ran with her then-husband in St. Louis, each vendor was allotted one parking space to display their wares.

"I was amazed at the response we got for the first show—we had 50 vendors," Cerutti said.

She and the other organizers decided to host the show again the following June and November, with the number of participating vendors increasing to 70 and 80, respectively.

Sara Keller is a 2006 UMSL-St. Louis photography alumna who has been involved with the show since June 2006 as both a crafter and organizer. Keller is now one of seven stockholders in the incorporated Rock and Roll Craft Show.

"Our fourth show reached 99 vendors, so we all got excited and said 'Let's just keep going and see how big this thing can get!'" Keller said. "Last year we had 120 vendors and it was just too much, so this year we limited it to 101."

Through trial and error, organizers have focused on making their now annual show unique.

"A bonus for me is that you don't have to stand by your stuff," Dana Plonka, business/accounting, alumna (1986), said. This is because RRCS is arranged like a department store, with items near similar ones.

Local bands play outside for the entertainment of shoppers, and each day has its own theme.

The day after Thanksgiving is opening day and carries the title "Red Carpet Black Friday." This year, the first 100 shoppers will be

treated to "VIP treatment [and] goodie bags," according to Rockandrollcraftshow.com. The cost to get in on Friday is \$15 (\$3 on Saturday and Sunday).

After starting as a craft vendor in the fourth RRCS, Connie Boone has since participated in other area shows, but still holds RRCS as her favorite.

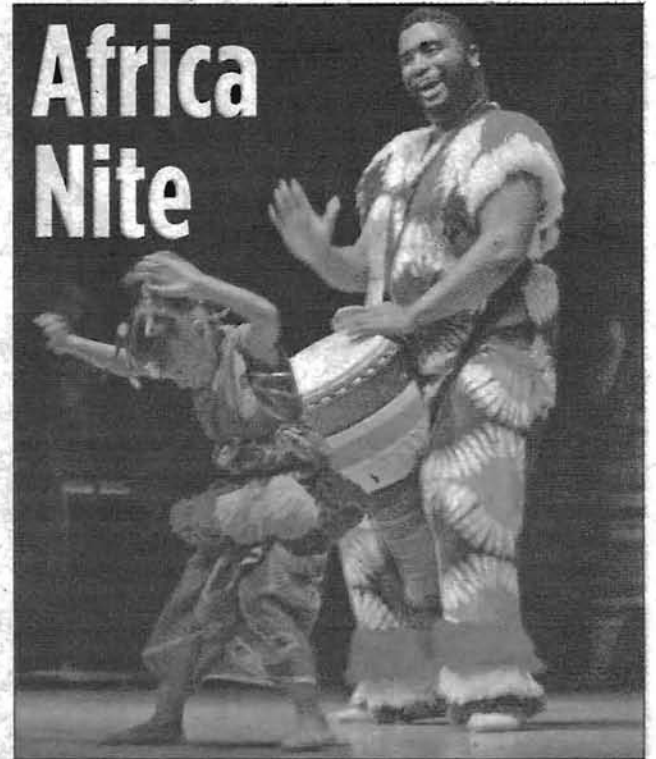
"I get giddy looking forward to the coming show," Boone, a former UMSL-St. Louis student, said.

Beqi Brenkhorst, a vendor and band participant at RRCS, agreed with Boone.

"I met tons of artisans and crafters like myself who had labored for years in basements, attics, dens, backyards and garages," Brenkhorst said. "For the first time since I'd started, I didn't feel like such an oddity for working for myself."

See CRAFTS, page 25

Africa Nite



MATTHEW HILL / THE CURRENT

Performers from the Afrikilolo Dance Group at this year's African Nite, sponsored by the Pan African Association.

Annual event brings fashion, food and comedy

► SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

The pulse of "Mother Africa" roared with pride during the Pan-African Association's annual "Africa Nite" celebration. Students, faculty, members and alumni were exposed to African dance, poetry, comedy, fashion and food. Ghanaian-American stand up comedian, Michael Blackson, also known as "The African King of Comedy," hosted the event.

The night started off with a lecture from Dr. Niyi Coker, E. Desmond Lee professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He spoke about the seriousness of the current state of Africa. "As the students here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis put together [the] Pan-African student organization, the African world continues to be ravaged," Coker said. "It is your time now students; it is your generation that must stand up to the corrupt leaders of Africa and say 'enough is enough.'"

After Dr. Coker's speech, a documentary was shown entitled "The Real Africa" where American students asked African students about stereotypes of Africa. "Do y'all have electricity and indoor plumbing?" a student asked in the short film. The questions were mostly met with laughter while the African students explained that the stereotypes are often misunderstood and do not represent the entire continent.

Other students were shown pictures from three different cities and asked which one they thought was Africa. Two were of developed cities with skyscrapers, and the third one was from a seemingly impoverished village. Some of the students immediately stated the impoverished city was Africa, while the developed cities were elsewhere, but the impoverished city belonged in South America, and the African city was one of the developed cities.

See AFRICA, page 25

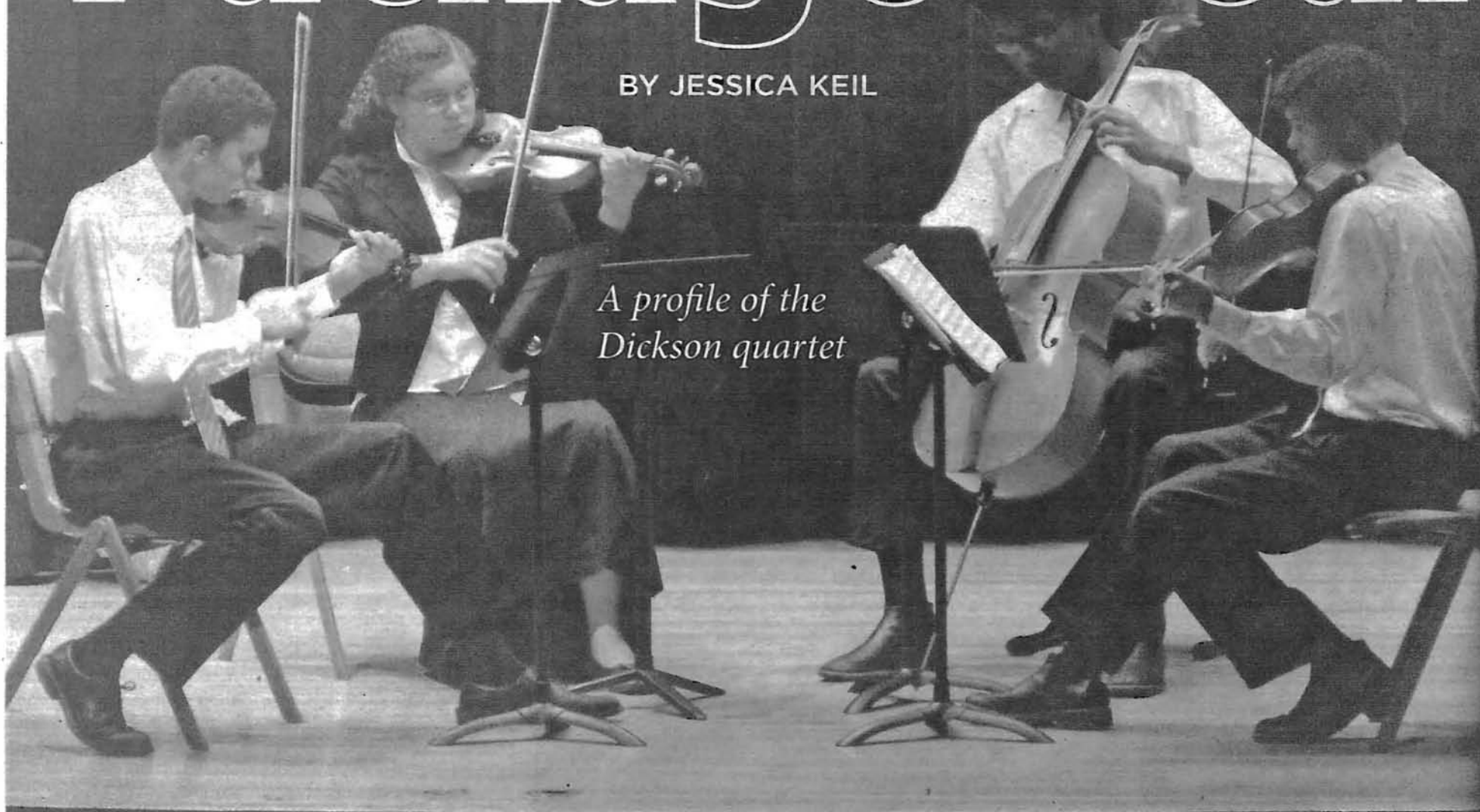


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Package Deal

BY JESSICA KEIL

*A profile of the
Dickson quartet*



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

"The Dickson Quartet is an ensemble comprised of 4 siblings-Brandon, Ashley, Benjamin and Daniel-who recently made the move from Washington state to St. Louis to pursue their undergraduate degrees studying at the Pierre Laclède Honors College and with the members of our acclaimed faculty here, the Arianna String Quartet. It is highly unusual for 4 students to enter any collegiate institution as a preformed ensemble, but even more remarkable for them to be part of the same family! The recruitment of the Dickson Quartet to the University of Missouri-St. Louis is emblematic of the national visibility our department of music has developed, and a clear indication of the quality of students and young artists now coming to study on our campus."

-Glen Cope, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Dickson family is the Von of the 21st century. With 12 children who all play at least piano or another instrument, musical ability must run in their blood. Three years ago when they were teenagers, four of the siblings—Brandon, Benjamin, Ashley and Daniel, started a string quartet. When University of Missouri-St. Louis's own Arianna String Quartet scouted the young musicians, the whole family packed up and moved to St. Louis.

The Dickson children started playing music early in life. The oldest Dickson sibling, at a ripe age, is struggling to choose a primary instrument.

Her youngest, well, she doesn't know what she wants," Ashley said. "She wants to play cello, but she played violin before, so she's working on it still (laughs). Yeah, she's a curkie."

Early, the four quartet siblings started playing their instruments together at a young age. At 17, 19 and 21-years-old (Benjamin and Brandon are twins), the siblings say they want to focus on playing their skills on an international level.

Right now [the Arianna String Quartet] is focusing on getting our skills to grow more than just playing skills," Daniel said.

Studying at UM-St. Louis, the siblings realized that although strong as a quartet, all the practices may have hurt their individual skills.

There is the thing of knowing each other is going to do, that cohesiveness, that harmony with each other, which is downfall because you then end up of go on cruise control of challenging each other," Benjamin Dickson, freshman, viola player, said. "While we are [instead of] trying new things, we just go with what's worked instead of experimenting with what could be."

It is where the Arianna String Quartet, the nationally acclaimed St. Louis resident quartet of UM-St. Louis faculty, lives. The Arianna gives individual lessons to each Dickson once a week. Additionally, the Dickson family gets coaching once a week from a member of Arianna.

The Dickson Quartet did not come to UM-St. Louis as amateurs. They were coached in their home state of Washington for years, and once a fan of theirs turned a piece they performed into a dance routine.

"We played Shostakovich's string quartet number 8 for our personal recital that we had," Daniel said. "This lady was like, 'Well I run a dance company so if I put together a dance for it, will you guys play it for them?'... And so she put it together and we played as part of a dance performance."

Also, the Dickson Quartet even has a Web site, TheDicksonfive.com, where others can look them up and book performances. On the website it lists information about the quartet, like the fact that their repertoire includes hymns, inspirational music and select movie themes.

All four siblings are attending the Pierre LaClede Honors College and since moving to St. Louis have performed in quarter competitions, multiple master classes, school orchestra events, and the chancellor's State of the University Address. The three male siblings are even planning on starting a quintet choir with two other friends they met in class.

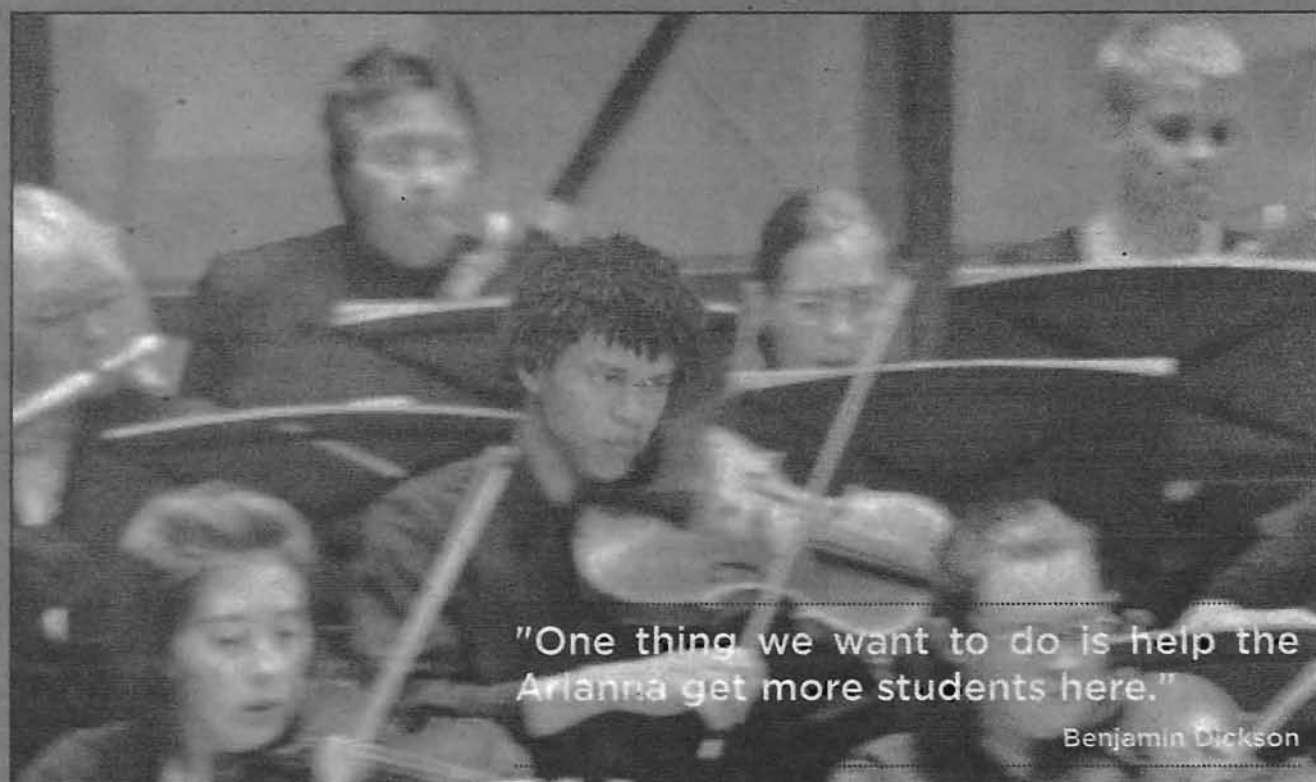
"We were looking at our calendar the other night and we were like, 'Whoa!'" Brandon Dickson, freshman, violin performance said.

With so many scheduled upcoming events, the Dicksons barely have time to breathe, let alone think of plans for their futures.

However, the siblings do want to help the Arianna String Quartet bring more music students to UM-St. Louis in order to help the university get a conservatory classification.

As for life after UM-St. Louis? Brandon said the Arianna suggested finishing school and applying to be string quartet faculty somewhere. Ashley mentioned teaching. Benjamin wants to continue playing in a string quartet of any kind, and Daniel plans on getting a doctorate degree in piano performance and becoming a full-time performer.

The only thing that the siblings know for sure is that no matter what their futures hold, as long as music and family are involved, they will be content.



"One thing we want to do is help the Arianna get more students here."

Benjamin Dickson

AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Benjamin Dickson (above), playing violin in the University Orchestra. Benjamin and Brandon (not pictured) are the oldest Dicksons in the Dickson Quartet, the two are twins and both 21-years-old. "I think one thing that we want to do is to help the Arianna get more music students here to the school because I think we're only like 30 music students short of being called a conservatory, so I think that is one of our goals, to bring more music students to UMSL," Brandon said.

Daniel Dickson (below) playing cello in the University Orchestra. Daniel is the youngest Dickson in the Dickson Quartet at just 17-years-old. Although Daniel plays cello in the quartet, his main instrument is actually piano, and he plans on double majoring at UM-St. Louis in both cello and piano. Later, he hopes to obtain a doctorate degree in piano performance. "I would like to be a performer," Daniel said of his plans for the future.



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Glen Anderson

Builds sets for the Touhill

► SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

Glen Anderson is an assistant professor of technical theatre and design at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His work has appeared in "Light and Sound America," "Dance Teacher Magazine," "Muse Magazine" and on the cover of "Southern Theatre." He has trained in both American and European theatrical design philosophy and has worked with theatre groups all around the country.

The Current: How did you get into scenic design?

Glen Anderson: It's a family business. My father was a scenic designer, so as a child I watched him. Eventually I got into it. I actually started as an actor and the fam-

ily was quite disappointed when I got into scenic design. They wanted me to be an actor.

TC: Your resume puts you all over the U.S. How did you end up in Missouri?

GA: I grew up in Kansas, and I always said when I started my teaching career that I wanted to start in the Midwest. When I was at the University of Florida, a professor I had told me that his key to incurring graduate students was to get them from the Midwest. He felt that we had a better work ethic ... I think we do possibly have a different view on life in the Midwest; we see things differently.

I feel like I can relate to people



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

Mr. Anderson in the wood working area of his basement shop in the General Services Building, which houses much of the scene design and construction material for the Theater & Dance department.

here, that's why I came back to teach in the Midwest. I feel comfortable here, and I really like the size of [UM-St. Louis].

TC: What was your favorite set to work on, and what was your most difficult?

GA: The hardest set that I ever

had to do was a set I did for my thesis, and I don't think it was [because] it was so difficult, it's more because I'm my own worst critic. [The set] had to be documented and several professors were to go over every inch of the paperwork, so I really beat myself up over anything that didn't seem quite right. I had to go back and do things over that didn't seem quite perfect. It was not necessarily the hardest set, but I have a need

to have things at a certain quality level. [My favorite set]—that's hard.

I look back and once I'm detached from [the set] completely, then I feel good about it. There are things that I've done—near cutting edge pieces that were exciting.

TC: What do you hope your students take away from your classes?

GA: That's hard to say, I have several different students and I think everyone needs something different from the class. Not everyone needs the same thing from me. I want to inspire them to do their best whether it be scenic design, lighting design, or anything. Even if they don't enjoy the course, I want them to feel like it's something they can understand and can be interested in.

TC: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

GA: I think my favorite thing about teaching is inspiring. I'm passionate about what I do, and I'm passionate enough that I really want to share that. I think everyone can attain value from what I do and learning about the art of theatre.

TC: What is something quirky about you that your students don't know?

GA: I don't know, my students know a lot about me. My students don't know that I actually started off as a child actor ... and I also grew up on a farm and I raised sheep!

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Complexions | Dance St. Louis opens season at Touhill

Like a string of pearls, a row of white lights hung high over the stage. Below, a row of pale-costumed dancers, another string of pearls, stood far back on stage. As the music began, the dancers advanced downstage, gradually breaking up into smaller groups, like a necklace pulled apart.

A string of pearls is what "Complexions" truly was.

The dance concert opened Dance St. Louis' 2009-2010 season on Friday, November 6, at the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Anheuser-Busch Hall, with performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.

The Complexions Contemporary Ballet was founded by Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden, both alums of the Alvin Ailey Dance.

The underlying bedrock of each dance that evening was ballet but sprinkled with yoga and other athletic elements.

Music leaned classical and staging was minimal, with few props, simple costumes and mostly white lighting, which kept the focus only on the dancers.

That they riveted the audience's attention despite the lack of usual flourishes says much about the remarkable nature of the performance.

The evening began with "Hizzy Fits," described in the program as high-voltage dances about emotion in relationships. It started with that strand of dancers, all eleven in the troupe. No props, only some fog floating above the stage to soften the white lights. Dissonant, disconnected piano music was matched by angular, jerky dancing, but as the music grew melodic, morphing into Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, the dancers' movements became fluid, graceful and balletic. Dancers who had been separate paired up. As the pace

approached frantic, so did the dancers' twisting, leaping movements in a perfect harmony of music and movement.

It was a breathtakingly perfect piece that set the standard for the outstanding evening.

After the first intermission, the dancers returned with a set of short pieces. "Gone" featured Clifford Williams, Joo Hwan Cho and Philip John Orsana, in a dance set to a haunting, traditional/blues tune sung by a woman accompanied only by rhythmic clapping. Again, the dancers' ballet-based, yoga-like movements completely matched the music in the most striking way. Another trio, Natalia Alonso, Simon Silva and Patricia Hachey, danced next in "Mirror Me," a lushly romantic piece. A short excerpt from "Momentary Forever" followed, danced by Juan Rodriguez and Natiya Kezevadze to music by Handel, and then "Two Men," an excerpt from "Dear Fredric" with music by Chopin, danced by Edgar Anido and Gary W. Jeter II, both beautifully done.

The high spot was "Moonlight," a solo performance by Desmond Richardson, the only piece with props—a chair and a bouquet of red flowers—with red lights casting a pattern on the stage floor. The tone was sweetly sentimental, like a romantic daydream, a piece that showed off the gifted Richardson's skills and remarkable gracefulness.

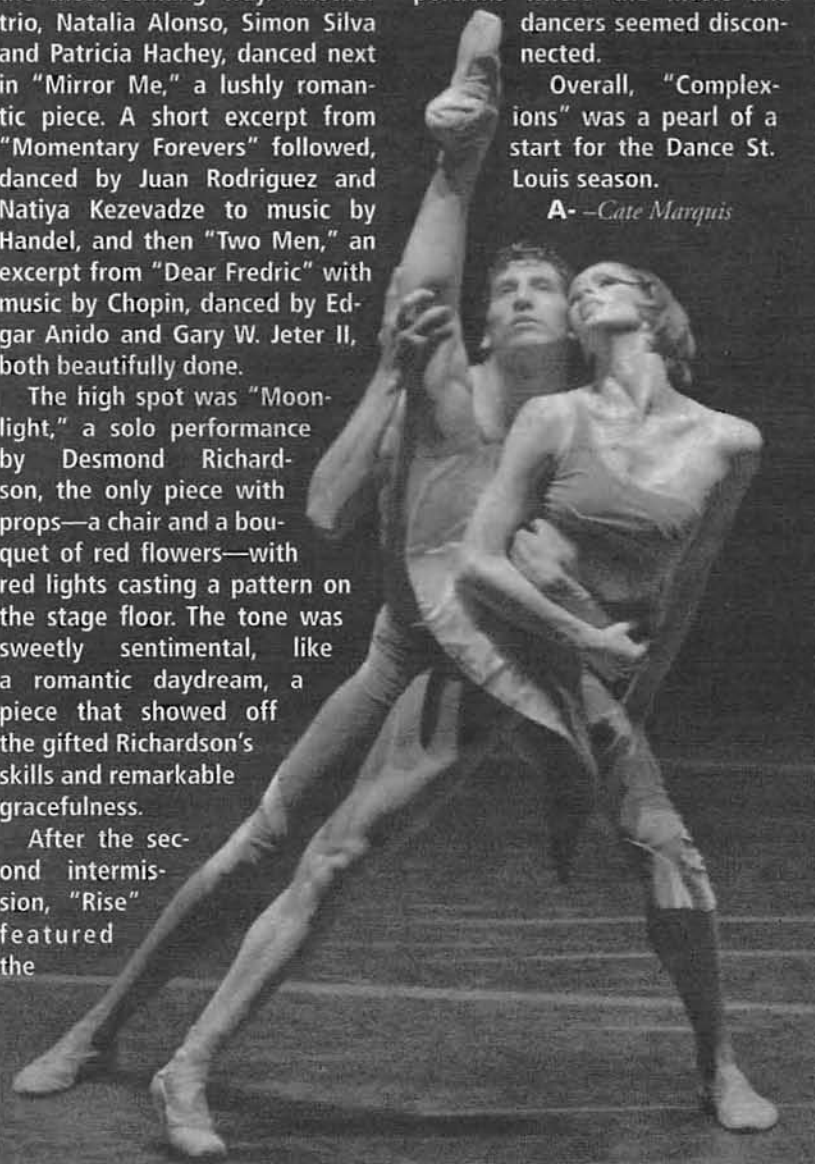
After the second intermission, "Rise" featured the

whole troupe dancing to music by U2. Given the evening so far, expectations were high when the dancers appeared, clad in more elaborate costumes in shades of red and orange, and lighting to create red patterns on the floor. It began with an electrifying feat, a single spotlight dancer running in place at an increasingly frenetic, accelerating pace to opening of "Where the Streets Have No Name," which brought gasps and thunderous applause from the audience.

Yet, the rest of "Rise" was more uneven, moments of pure synchronous poetry alternating with portions where the music and dancers seemed disconnected.

Overall, "Complexions" was a pearl of a start for the Dance St. Louis season.

A- —Cate Marquis



Mundane surrealism

Comedian Steven Wright stumbles through two hour set at Touhill

"The reason I'm so laid back is because I smoked a lot of Ritalin in high school," comedian Steven Wright said as he meandered across the stage at the Touhill Saturday night.

Wright is possibly best known for his bit parts in some seminal movies of the past 20 years: the psychiatrist who treats Robert Downey Jr.'s character in "Natural Born Killers," the guy on the couch in "Half Baked," and of course, the dry, mundane voice of a DJ at radio station K-Billy in Quentin Tarantino's first film "Reservoir Dogs."

But these cameo appearances are not the reason for Wright's celebrity and certainly not why he managed to nearly pack both levels of the lower theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Since the 1980s he has made a brand of his deadpan delivery of observational non sequiturs.

With a throaty voice that sounds like he has taken too many bong hits to match his shabby appearance and profoundly existential one-liners, Wright laid the path that led other comedians like Mitch Hedberg to stardom.

During a two-hour set, Wright wandered across the stage delivering pithy one-liner after dry, pithy one-liner, stringing together the occasional story out of them that sounded more like beat poetry raps when told than jokes.

He also occasionally stopped to pick up an acoustic guitar and strum out a song.

See MUNDANE, page 20

Trailer Park

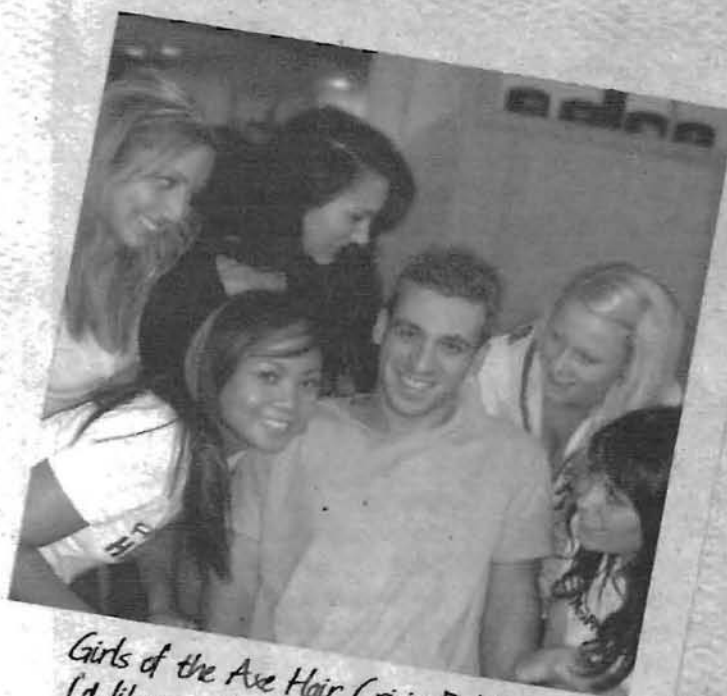
Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

2012. Emmerich Smash! German-born director Roland Emmerich is at it again, destroying America for the third time via slick digital camera, CGI effects, and untold millions of budgeting. Something this fun to make should be, at very least, fun to watch. Since John Cusack stopped being fun about 12 years ago and Amanda Peet has never been fun we're screwed by way of main characters, but wait— is that a world monument collapsing/exploding/ imploding/burning/being swallowed up by the earth over there? Why I do believe it is! B- —Chris Stewart.

The Box. Richard "I made Donny Darko!" Kelly's tepid, dumb, dull attempt at a thriller ends up being a moral quandry pitched as a creepshow curiosity. Cameron Diaz and James Marsden both have their place in this world, but it is not in this awful movie. C- —Chris Stewart.

Where the Wild Things Are. Maurice Sendak's beloved children's book gets the big-screen treatment by visual virtuoso director Spike Jonze. The film's success on several levels is undeniable and it's sure to transport you to a nostalgic dreamscape where anything is possible. That is, if you can bare to see a timeless book given a permanent "2009 hipster" stamp and an Arcade Fire soundtrack. B —Chris Stewart.

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Spectacular effects are all '2012' has



COURTESY / COLUMBIA TRISTAR MARKETING GROUP

If you are going to see the environmental apocalypse film "2012" solely for the special effects, you are headed in the right direction. If you are lured to "2012" by star John Cusack and with hopes of story and acting, you have made a wrong turn.

"2012" is all about the visual effects, which are in fact spectacular. But the story is familiar and thin, characters exist mostly to run from things and provide some ironic comic relief, and

there is a minimum of real humanity in this overlong two-and-a-half-hour movie. The premise about the Mayan calendar predicting the end of the world is mostly used to get the destruction rolling.

Director/writer/producer Roland Emmerich destroys iconic buildings and national and religious symbols around the world with wild abandon, tearing apart cities and landscapes with jaw-dropping earthquakes, volcanic

eruptions and tsunamis like you have never seen. On a far larger scale, the destruction is at times reminiscent of footage of the devastating Asian tsunami and, disturbingly, of 9/11 when bodies in long shot fall from destroyed skyscrapers.

Everything is on the biggest possible scale, and shots are from a great distance, so we can see California falling into the ocean, for example, but the director populates his destruction with

enough human figures so that this film is not for the kiddies.

While all this visual stuff is technically awesome, the story that frames all this wholesale computer generated devastation is less cutting-edge.

The global disaster begins with a silly story about magically transformed neutrinos from the sun targeting and heating up the Earth's core.

See 2010, page 20

Reaching new heights of musical theater at the Fox

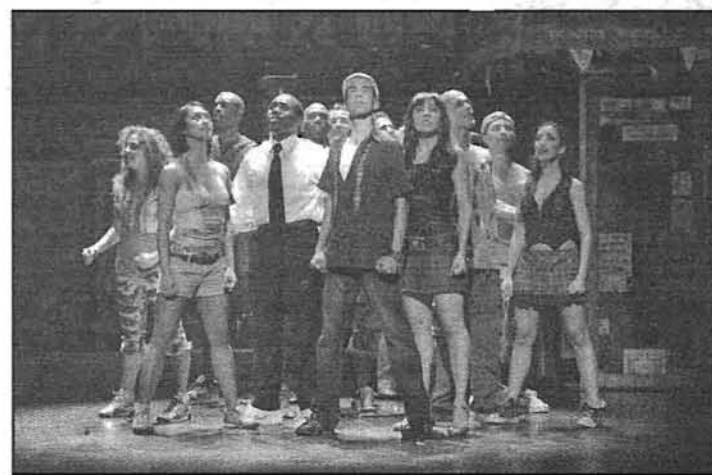
"In the Heights," the 2008 Best Musical Tony award winner, is "West Side Story," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Rent," but has enough Latin flava' to distance itself from all three. Set in present-day New York's Washington Heights and centered around a small community of primarily Latinos, the musical touches on themes of poverty, city life, culture, death and education, but at its heart it is about dreams, hopes and the community that makes a place a home. It is showing at the Fox Theater until Nov. 22 and is an upbeat musical filled with a tirelessly energetic and capable

cast.

Indeed, "In the Heights" is similar to other musicals because of its setting ("Rent," "West Side Story"), its main cast consisting of idealist 20-somethings ("Rent") and thematic elements such as tradition or racial communities ("West Side Story," "Fiddler on the Roof").

However, the musical still manages to stand apart from its predecessors and masters the fine line between paying homage to the greats in Broadway past without ripping them off.

In fact, this is seen in the opening number called (three guesses



COURTESY / COLUMBIA TRISTAR MARKETING GROUP

as to why) "In the Heights," when Cole Porter is quickly referenced between lyrics rapped by the show's protagonist, Usnavi (Kyle Beltran). The hip-hop influence in the show is ever-present, with Usnavi or his cousin Sonny (Shaun Taylor-Corbett)

often rapping instead of singing, and instead of seeming extraneous to the theater stage, the raps manage to be a revitalizing upgrade to traditional Broadway libretto.

See HEIGHTS, page 20

SWEET JAMS

This week's top 5 iTunes downloads as reviewed by The Current's Chris Stewart

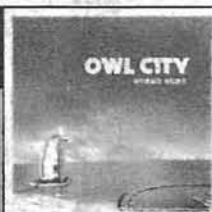
1 'Need You Now' Lady Antebellum

Fairly pedestrian piano-guitar mellow pop. Three nice young folks with romance in their hearts, minor chords on their minds, and expertly unremarkable results, music-wise. Maybe next time Lady Antebellum will take a cue from a certain other Lady. Crazy sells.



2 'Fireflies' Owl City

Have you heard? Since Owl City announced that they would be playing at the Pageant a flock of quirky woodland creatures have fashioned a rainbow palace out of the dreams of adventurous young children. Go see for yourself, I'm not making this one up.



3 'Bad Romance' Lady GaGa

Lady GaGa is someone who has dedicated their life to the creation of art that seeks to enlighten and edify. Call her the Ghandi of music. Google the lyrics to "Bad Romance", the 743rd single from her debut album. Go on, do it. Now weep for your children.



4 'Replay' Iyaz

My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy. My shawty's like a meoldy.



5 'Tik-Tok' Ke\$ha

I think that Ke\$ha is actually a self-aware ironic genius creating an extended satire about the shallow nature of entertainment and the dilemma of trying to thrill an audience in our morbid, masturbatory culture. Also she went to Ju-liard. But, um, her music still sucks.



HEIGHTS, from page 19

Additionally, although some racial tensions appear in the play—for instance when Benny (Rogelio Douglas Jr.), a non-Hispanic, seeks the blessing of Nina's (Arielle Jacobs) father Kevin (Daniel Bolero) and is denied—the play does not revolve around such tensions as a musical such as "West Side Story" does.

Actually, political topics such as racism rarely materialize in "In the Heights," which might be the assumption with the story centering on a Latino community.

Instead, the play focuses on the positive happenings in Latin communities, and educates the audience of the

familial culture that communities of immigrants, or persons of similar backgrounds, invoke. This approach does not resonate as ignorant but more so as a refreshing variance to the norm.

Also, the Spanish language is used throughout the show, with musical numbers even titled in Spanish, for example, "Paciencia y Fe," or patience and faith, sung by Abuela Claudia (Elise Santora). The use of Spanish is not at all alienating, it actually serves to further immerse audience members in the lives lived by the inhabitants of Washington Heights.

"In the Heights" probably will not invoke any serious

conversations about racial equality or start any controversy at the Fox. The show will, however, leave audiences with a new-found appreciation for Latin and other communities living in the United States.

For those audience members who are Latin-American, the show will lend a deeply-rooted meaning, one that might be lost on other St. Louisians.

Nevertheless, "In the Heights" will certainly give all audiences leaving the Fox Theater that gift of toe-tapping, toothy-smile type happiness, no matter their culture, race or creed. **A-**

—Jessica Keil

Visit www.thecurrentonline.com for The Current's interview with 'In the Heights' star Natalie Caruncho

MUNDANE, from page 17

Wright's observations and remarks included that he thought it was odd that only one company makes the game Monopoly, that you never see advertisements for string, and that he is writing an unauthorized autobiography and when it is published he will sue himself.

"I'm addicted to placebos," Wright said. "I could quit anytime."

Surrealism is the key to his humor. "I once went fishing with Salvador Dali," Wright said as he shuffled across the stage. "He used a dotted line. He caught every other fish."

According to Wright's jokes, his interactions with everyone, from his third grade teacher, police officers

and the owner of a map store whom he asked if he had anything that was not a top view, have all ended in tears on their part. The effect of being in the audience that night also had the power of reducing a person to tears, not from laughter but from boredom. Wright's shtick holds up well if it is a cameo bit in a movie or TV show appearance, but as a two-hour stage set it becomes as monotonous as his voice.

By the end of the two hours, Wright was very much the stoned friend or pot dealer who outstays their welcome, telling addled stories that do not make any sense but merit a chuckle or two, and strumming absentmindedly

on a guitar. But with two hours to fill, Wright's humor turned from the happy banter he is known for to an uncomfortably dark rant on suicide, death, arrest, sex rejection and disappointment.

Toward the end of his set, the comedian wandered off stage all together. "I just remembered, my mother told me to never talk to strangers," he explained.

During the long interlude between his explanation and return to the stage the audience chuckled merrily. But when Wright came back, he offered perhaps the best analysis of his act in his own words: "I'm insane, you just think it's a show." **C+** —Andy Phipps

BASKETBALL, from page 12

One new player the Tritons expect to be a big performer for them this year is Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided. Redel is a 6'7" power forward from Webster Groves who transferred to UM-St. Louis this year after starting for rival Central Missouri State's 30-5 Final Four

team from last year.

Other new players to the program include Meramec Community College transfer Eddie White, junior, and Alonzo Wickerson, junior, as well as freshmen signees Jonathan Carter, Nico Oestbye, Lance Cannon, and Vinnie Raimondo.

The Tritons will open the season this Wednesday, Nov. 18, when they will host Blackburn College at the Mark Twain Building. UM-St. Louis will host another home game on Tuesday, Nov. 24, when they will take on rival Truman State. Both games are set to tipoff at 7 p.m.

2010, from page 19

This leads to a melting and loosening of the Earth's crust to create all of those spectacular earthquakes, tsunamis and other geological effects.

The human side of the tale is largely recycled from a host of other disaster movies, including this director's "Day After Tomorrow" and "Independence Day," going back to the "Poseidon Adventure" and "Airport," and good doses of other special-effects Armageddons. Characters are two-dimensional and most of what the actors do is provide some entertaining humor that riffs on current events.

What story it has is mostly silly and preposterous, and the human side is rather thin. In fact, the film has an extra half hour to try to

build in some human feeling with a dramatic rescue that is more predictable than dramatic.

The cast is actually better than the movie's thin plot. John Cusack plays divorced father Jackson Curtis, a not-too-successful science fiction writer who picks up his two kids for a camping trip in Yellowstone—just where you want to be in a geologic upheaval. This kind of sly humor is woven throughout the movie, providing plenty of comic ironies that are the main role for the character in this film.

Woody Harrelson plays conspiracy theorist Charlie Frost, while Chiwetel Ejiofor plays the geologic scientist who alerts the U.S. government to the impending destruction. Danny

Glover is the decent U.S. President Thomas Wilson, with his daughter played by Thandie Newton, while Oliver Platt plays his efficient chief of staff, who has a Dick Cheney type plan to save only the executive branch of government.

There are throw-away bits about the rich, privileged and spoiled brats, Tibetan monks, construction workers and overlooked Indian scientists, money over people, secrecy and conspiracy, all of which is fun but which does not really form much of a plot.

"2012" is worth seeing if your major reason for going is to see spectacular special effects. If you think there should be something more, you will be disappointed. **C-** —Cate Marquis

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Opinions

End the hate

This past week a world-renowned hate group visited the St. Louis area to spread their messages of discrimination and intolerance. The Westboro Baptist Church, the source of this message, has been called many things over the years: intolerant, homophobic, racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-American among others. They have been labeled as both hate group and a cult by such preeminent organizations like the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The WBC's modus operandi is to travel the nation, spreading their perverse interpretation of Christianity, which is that "God Hates the World". They believe that their God kills soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to punish America for its tolerance of homosexuals and picket their funerals holding hate-spewing signs. The group also protests stores that sell Swedish built vacuum cleaners because of the country's tolerance of homosexuality and believes that President Barack Obama is the antichrist.

In addition to these warped beliefs and practices, the 60 member congregation (Primarily comprised by family members of WBC founder Fred Phelps) believes that the end times are at hand and that they are the only people righteous enough to pass into heaven. Though their name suggests that they are akin to mainstream Baptists, they are not. If anything, their theological beliefs are more akin to the extreme Calvinism of the 16th century. WBC members believe in 'divine elec-

tion' which is the idea that God chooses who will be saved and who will be damned. They take this to mean that they will be saved and that the rest of us are damned.

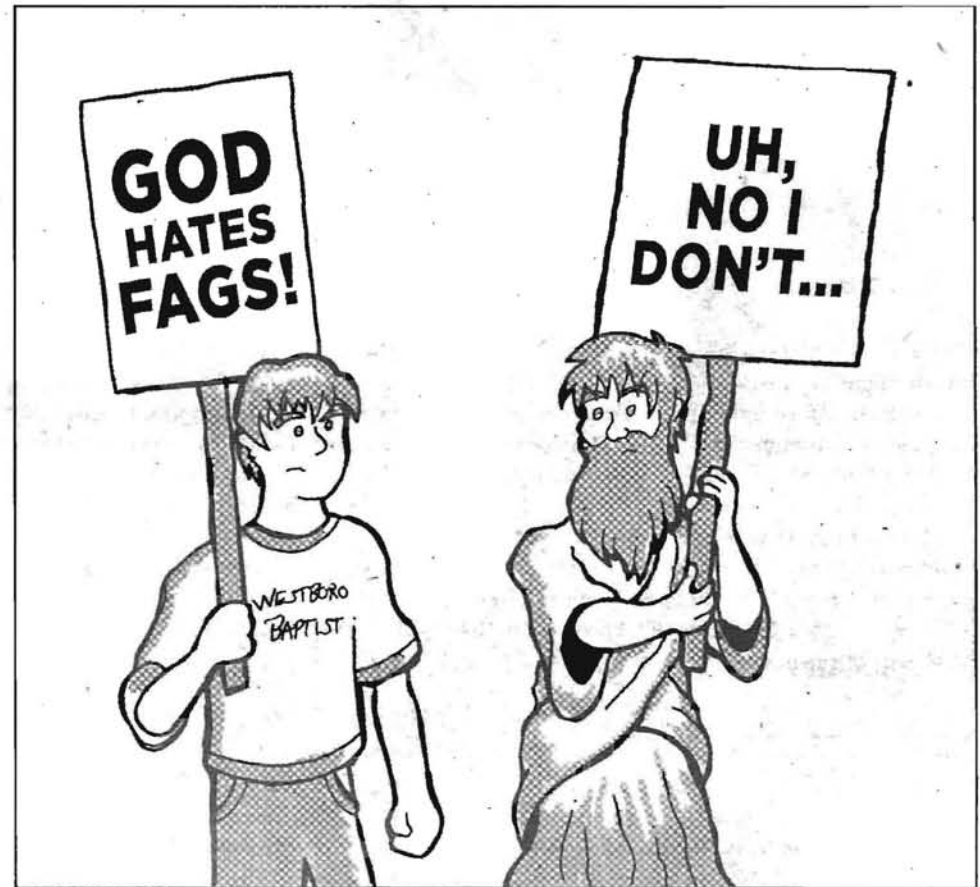
The Current believes that the members of the WBC defame all Christians as well as all other people of faith that believe in the concept of a just and loving God. We are not sure which deity the WBC is referring to when they mention "God": but we do not think it is that God of Christianity, the Hebrews, or of Islam, who is mentioned in their religious texts as being all-loving and all-forgiving. The WBC's belief in a God that is a vengeful and terrible spirit; with no love spared for anyone or anything except his predestined few is wrong.

We also believe that possibly the worst thing about the WBC is not its "anti-everything" stance or its misguided, offending attempts to make people aware of their impending damnation. It could be that they are destroying their own children by exposing them to their extremism.

WBC members routinely bring their children to their events to hold up signs reading "God Hates Fags" and "God Killed Your Kids". These children are being indoctrinated with hatred at an incredibly young and sensitive age. We wonder what kind of a childhood are the so-called parents of these children providing their offspring?

Bringing children along and forcing them to participate in things they cannot possibly

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board:
Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Anna Marie Curran • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel
Anthony Padgett • Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal



PHIL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT

comprehend, or have an opinion of does not bode well for their future.

It is indeed a testament to America's First Amendment and free speech laws that this group is allowed to spread their message of hate and negativity. We at *The Current* hold these same rights close to our hearts as we use them to report the news and inform the pub-

lic. But we absolutely abhor the WBC's use of that same right to promote an ignorant and bigoted agenda.

While we believe that this group deserves the same rights as anybody else, we do not believe that they or their message has a time or a place, anytime or anywhere except buried deep in the garbage pile of history.

In a dying industry, a local resurrection

This past week saw the reemergence of an old stalwart of local journalism when it was announced that the St. Louis Globe-Democrat would be returning to publication. Granted it will be an online-only format, but we at *The Current* find this to be a surprising and encouraging development.

The Globe-Democrat brand has an interesting past in its previous print format. For thirty years it worked in stride with its rival, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The Globe-Democrat ran as the morning paper while the Post-Dispatch was distributed in the afternoon. Interesting to remember that there was a time when newspapers were the main way people got their news, necessitating such a setup.

Ultimately, the changing media landscape caught up with the paper. In 1986, the Globe-Democrat ceased publication in the face of declining readership in the St. Louis media market and a stagnant economy. Ironically, it is during such a similar environment in the media and the economy that the Globe-Democrat will return to the St. Louis media market.

It remains to be seen if the revitalized Globe-Democrat editorials will be as politically conservative as their old print addition. The Globe has announced that they will run Pat Buchanan's syndicated column. Coincidentally it was the Globe-Democrat who gave a young Mr. Buchanan a job as an editorial writer in 1961, jump-starting his career.

In terms of editorial slant, the Globe-Democrat was often the rhetorical response to The Post-Dispatch's more liberal editorial page decades ago. And while it is always good to have both sides of any issue covered, preferably in the same paper, we at *The Current* hope that the editorial opinions of this new media stay just there.

Regardless, with news media outlets downsizing, merging or shutting down all together it is comforting to hear that there are people out there who are willing to put in the time and energy as well as people willing to invest the capital needed to make a venture like this one, which has the potential to become an outlet for local media, happen.

The new Globe-Democrat will

join The St. Louis Beacon as purveyors of the free, online-only news sites that focus on local issues. It will have a rather large pool of talented and experienced local journalists to pick from to staff their ranks (compliments of the Post-Dispatch layoffs).

They have already named Rob Rains, a veteran sportswriter and author to be their sports editor. It will be interesting to see who else they will add to their masthead before the new news site officially goes online December 8. Ultimately it really doesn't really matter how people receive their news. Whether it is in printed form or electronically, it is that they have access to it that matters the most. The Globe-Democrat will be a welcoming addition to the local news.

The powerful few

Fox News head Murdoch wants you to pay for your digital news



Andrew Seal

I have a confession to make—I am a kleptomaniac. I never thought I was, but apparently, I am.

At least according to Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch is the CEO of News Corp.—better known as the man behind Fox News. He is quickly making a new name for himself, however, as a strong proponent of the “paid news” business model.

“Paid news” is the idea that people should pay for the digital news they consume; just as you have to pay for a newspaper subscription in order to read the newspaper, Web sites should start charging for access.

On a basic level, it does make sense—if you have to pay a subscription for a newspaper, shouldn't you have to pay for access to that paper's Web site?

Murdoch is one of paid news' staunchest supporters. He spoke a little over a month ago at the World Media Summit in Beijing, China. His message there was clear: if you want to read news, you are going to have to pay for it.

“Of course there should be a price paid for quality content,” Murdoch said. “Yet large media organizations have been submissive in the face of the flat-earthers who insisted that all content should be free all the time.”

Ouch. That is harsh.

“The aggregators and the plagiarists will soon have to pay a price for the co-opting of our content,” Murdoch said. “But if we do not take advantage of the current movement toward paid-for content, it will be the content creators ... who will pay the ultimate price and the content kleptomaniacs will triumph.”

There we have it. I am a content kleptomaniac, simply because I frequent sites like news.google.com, cnn.com, news.bbc.co.uk and nytimes.com to get my daily dose of news. All of those sites do not require users to register with or pay for use of the site before they can read an article.

If Murdoch has his way, that will change. The problem is that he is going about this the wrong way. “Content creators” should be paid for the work they produce, but trying to force people to pay for them simply will not work.

The New York Times tried that up until a few years ago. Most of their Web site used to be locked down behind a “pay wall”—that is, certain sections were available only to paid subscribers.

The Times eventually recanted this stance and opened wide the doors to their site, deciding that the revenue gained from a yearly subscription fee would not be as large as the potential revenue they could make from a free site with an increased ad presence.

Sure enough, as soon as the “pay wall” was removed, the Times' Web site started receiving more page views, which in turn got them more money from advertisers.

See MURDOCH, page 23

Gods among men: our celebrity obsession



Jen O'Hare

If I hear one more time how awesome the guy from Twilight is or how much of a shame it was that Michael Jackson died, I might go nuts and shave my head, Britney Spears style.

Not really. But peoples obsessions with celebrities are annoying. Don't get me wrong, I think it would be cool to meet Blink 182 or Will Smith, who I do not think has failed in any one role he has played.

However, I do not have celebrity posters covering every inch of my wall, I refuse

to stand in line for a week to purchase tickets to anything, and I barely know the names of members of bands I like.

Why are people so gung-ho over celebrities? Why do people find themselves knowing more about a celebrity than their best friend? As much as I liked Michael Jackson's music, I do not understand why certain people swore to end their life when he died. Personally, I felt sad, but I did not know the guy.

It is fascinating to me when someone becomes so obsessed with celebrities that they can not only give me their full names and ages, but can also divulge the stars' favorite things to eat, their views on love, and the quantity and names of their pets.

Granted, I do not see as many people ripping a star's clothes to shreds or stalking them across the country, as was the fad in the mid-

1990s. However, that could be argued to be a result of increased security for celebrities and the easy access to their information on web-sites like Omg.yahoo.com or Tmz.com.

People treat celebrities like they are gods. Yet, all of them were born the same way the rest of us were, and some even had “normal” up-brings. Why was Jessica Simpson's weight gain the biggest news one month?

Or that someone slipped up on a photo shoot and did not edit out Kim Kardashian's cellulite? Unless Jessica's weight gain or Kim's cellulite have the capability to implode the earth, who really needs to care besides them?

The media has over-exaggerated certain people to make them seem untouchable. Reading something in a magazine, seeing it on the big screen, or hearing it on the radio does not make it true. A majority of the time, things are altered to make

celebrities seem above us “commoners.”

If you looked online hard enough, or actually sat down and talked with certain celebrities, you would see their unaltered image and find that their personalities do not always match your expectations. Who we may have judged a flawless and philanthropic person could, in reality, be an average-looking jerk.

If we really want to worship people, should we not focus on people that have actually made a bigger impact on our world than just being eye candy?

Why aren't more people obsessed with Nelson Mandela, Amory Lovins or Suraya Pakzad?

I am not suggesting that we should stand outside their doors and have their phone numbers on speed dial, but it would make a lot more sense to me to admire these people than certain others.

NUMBERS, from page 5

Right now, a lot of fossil carbon is locked up in permafrost. As the permafrost thaws, that carbon is released, in the form of methane, a more potent global warming gas than CO₂, to the atmosphere. And there are oceans. Now, they absorb excess carbon but as they do, they lose this ability to act as a carbon sink as they become more saturated.

Fortunately, the world already has dealt effectively with two major environment threats: CFCs that were harming the ozone layer and acid rain from sulfur dioxide emissions.

We have the tools, we just need to act. But our actions must be effective, and not ineffective gestures. Real-world climate data indicates allowing CO₂ levels to raise to 450 ppm is not an effective strategy, no matter how politically appealing. The number we need is 350 ppm.

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SEX COLUMN

Turn on the Lights:

"What is a good way to speak with your sexual partner about hygiene?" -Doing the Dirty with Someone Dirty

DDSD has brought up a very important point when it comes to sexual hygiene. We call it 'doing the dirty,' because it pretty much is. Think about it. We exchange fluids, we sweat ... and the smells! Sex would seem pretty foul to us if we weren't into that sort of thing.

As Americans, we place a high importance on hygiene: you should smell good, look good, and then, feel good. However, there are always people who miss out on the memo.

What then should you do when you come across one of these people? Well, there are a few options.

Option 1: Dump them

This is the easiest way to deal with the problem, DDSD. If you aren't too deep into the relationship just yet—lose their number. You know you've done it before.

However, the circumstances have to be right. Don't go dumping someone you work with and who you will have to see five days a week, 9-5. That would make for some awkward water-cooler gossip.

This does not work for everybody though. If you like the person and still want to continue with him/her—or if you think it would hurt their feelings—there are other options.

Option 2: Head-on collision

Say to them, "Last night when I was going down on you, I was picking hair from my teeth for five minutes. Can you please shave?"

Whether the concern is their '70s style au natural pubic hair that is gagging you, or they don't keep their foreskin clean—just be honest about the issue. Maybe your girl isn't fresh down below and needs to see a doctor about that possible yeast infection. Any of these are legitimate reasons to speak with your partner.

No one should have to deal with anything unpleasant when they are having sex. This is the most direct way to deal with the problem, and leaves no room for miscommunication or misconceptions due to indirect hints.

Option 3: The soft and pink approach

Some people cannot be direct about any awkward issue, no matter what. If this is you DDSD, all hope is not lost. There are ambiguous ways to hint to your partner and skirt the awkward conversation about bad hygiene.

For example, suggest taking a shower together if you like a clean and fresh person to have sex with. Simply push until he or she gives in, but be coy and tactful about it. Once he/she starts to notice that every time you all get down to business you are suggesting a shower, your partner will catch up.

Sadly, interventions on public landscaping are not as subtle. It is much more difficult to be indirect when asking a partner to shave or trim their nether regions. Being creative is required for this option. You could mention that a friend was talking about how erotic sex feels when the couple is shaved. Stress the "we" on this one by saying, maybe we should try it.

There are a variety of options here for dealing with the issue at hand, depending on the situation. I always suggest the direct version, unless you are not into your partner enough to deal with the problem. If your partner does not feel like accommodating your request regarding their hygiene, he/she may not be worth the time.

Nick Bishop is a senior working on his bachelor's degree in psychology, and is an active sexual minority researcher at the undergraduate level. All information given in this column should be taken only at face value, and any major decisions regarding your sexual, physical, or emotional health should be discussed with your medical doctor or mental health professional.

The university Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services, located on the first floor of the MSC, is available to assist any student with issues concerning mental or physical health and wellness, and can be contacted at 314-516-5711.

The advice given in this column is not intended to promote or discourage sex, promiscuity, or infidelity. The advice given to one individual may not be the best advice for another due to possible contrasting circumstances.



Nick Bishop

FASHION COLUMN

The expensive art of looking cheap

Once upon a time, wearing multiple layers of clothes was reserved for those who circumstantially lived outdoors. That's right, homeless people. However, in the last five years or so, homeless men and women have inspired the "homeless chic" trend. The trend consists of wearing as many layers as fashion deems necessary while simultaneously looking effortless and not tacky.

Other areas of the trend include wearing a bunch of layered looks that appear to be unkempt, or disheveled.

The culprit—I mean creator of this trend—is none other than Mary-Kate Olsen. Ever since paparazzi snapped pictures of the famous twin exiting a Starbucks back in 2004 with a venti latte and about six outfits on at once, layering has become the new, well, non-layering.

Since Mary-Kate, designers from Jeremy Scott, to Michael Kors have cashed in on the layering trend. Even stores like Forever 21 and American Eagle have made layering styles and look books for us regular folk. "Homeless chic" is everywhere on everyone, and quite honestly I'm quite tired of it.

Don't get me wrong—I actually like the trend, and it's appreciated now when it is done correctly. It takes a special sort of fashionable person to pull off the look without actually looking homeless.

The problem is that first, it is called "homeless chic," which is extremely offensive because in real life there is nothing chic about being homeless.

There is an even bigger problem with designers making fortunes in the name of one of our coun-



Sequita Bean

try's biggest problems. The homeless live on the streets, disgraced from society, but there is a desire to dress like them? There is something unequivocally wrong with that notion.

Michael Bastian designed a homeless chic line for Bergdorf Goodman for the Fall/Winter fashion season 2009. Just one of his "homeless" looks—a t-shirt, two button-up shirts, sweater, fringed shorts and knee-high socks—costs a whopping \$1,800. That does not include the banged-up looking oxfords the mannequin was sporting.

The sweater is purposely dingy and the shorts even have stains made on them.

Michael Bastian has a brilliant eye for design, and is credited for bringing "true Americana" back to men's fashion, but he is taking this trend way too far. It's not just him, either.

It is the same with companies like Attus Apparel using real guns to shoot holes in their shirts and jeans to make the ripped and dingy look more realistic. Their shirts alone are \$100 a pop, and they are sold-out on the company's website.

The real question is: how did we get to a place where looking homeless was cool?

Someone needs to call out the fashion industry.

See FASHION, page 24

MURDOCH, from page 22

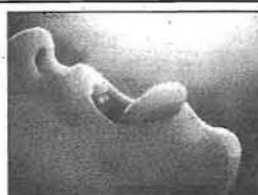
So far that is the best way to approach the idea of "who pays for the news"—advertisers, of course. It just makes sense.

Murdoch, on the other hand, has decided that his online readers are a bunch of "flat-earthers" and "kleptomaniacs".

Last week, he threatened to stop Google from indexing any and all of News Corp.'s Web sites, including foxnews.com and wsj.com. "We'd rather have fewer people coming to our Web site but paying," Murdoch said.

Really? This idea of "paid news" has been tried before. It is a terrible idea, and the only thing Murdoch and News Corp. will achieve by enforcing this ridiculous policy is driving traffic to news Web sites that are free to read.

Like the New York Times, for example.



Have you had your dose
of The Current today?

The other college

Disappointed with North Campus professors? Try the honors college

The Pierre Laclède Honors College may be one of the best parts of University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The College represents the diverse body of students who comprise it, allowing each of them a niche off the beaten path of a typical university experience and a chance to receive a liberal education. Although many students are deterred by the extra work in the Honors College, the advantage I have received from my own participation has exceeded the drawbacks.

My real appreciation for the Honors College came after I asked for help from a professor for a business class.

I have never being great with numbers (and it was a math related course), I thought I would seek help early to avoid falling behind in a class I was already worried about doing poorly in.

I caught my professor in the hall one day and asked him if there were tutors for his class.

With a dubious look he told me that if I needed help so soon in the semester I might as well drop the class.

Apparantly, according to this particular professor's logic there was no way I would pass if I was asking for help three or four weeks in.

Call me crazy, but I never realized seeking additional help on something was a sign that I'd fail a class.

In the Honors College it is the contrary. In every Honors class I have taken so far, I have been encouraged to email the professor if I had any questions.

Not only will the professor remember who I am when they read the email, but they will actually respond!

To me, communication is one of the most important aspects of an education.

It is difficult to fill the requirements of a class if you are not sure what they are, or to write a paper on a topic you do not really understand.

Knowing that the lines of communication are always open helps to put a student at ease.

To say all the teachers in the Honors College are fantastic would be an exaggeration, but there are some truly exceptional teachers who will not only remember your name, but respond to that frantic email you send at 5 a.m. the night before your paper is due, or not laugh at your first attempt at a 15 page research paper, and instead help you fix it.

Those are the teachers who assign readings that you do



Anna Marie Curan

not mind reading because they actually are interesting, or give you an extension on your paper because they understand you have one due in another class at the same time.

In comparison with main campus, it seems like the teachers actually care and are there to help you, not just for a paycheck.

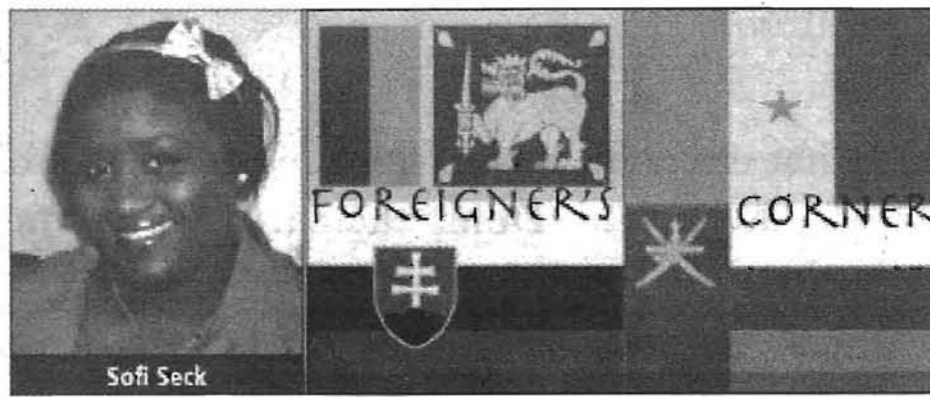
True, a paper that was four pages on main campus will be amped up to six or seven pages in the Honors College, but it seems a small price to pay for a professor who actually cares.

After all, that paper may have been a couple pages longer, but at least the professor recognizes who the person is when it comes time to hand the papers back.

See an Honors College professor you had last semester in the hall and want to say hello as you rush to class? Good luck getting to class on time, they'll probably interrogate you on what has changed since they last saw you.

See a main campus professor you had yesterday and want to say hello?

You probably should start with your name, major and what class they don't remember you taking from them.



Sofi Seck

Slaves 'R' us

The more I read and learn about this topic, the more I realize that human trafficking is nothing more than the 21st century's take on a very old practice: slavery.

Human trafficking is the gaining of people by deceitful means—such as force, fraud or trickery—while planning to exploit them.

Usually, traffickers smuggle illegal immigrants into the United States with the promise of a better life waiting for them on the other side.

Nearly all countries around the world are subject to these crimes.

What needs to be done is to target the criminals who abuse these hopeless people and to protect and help victims of trafficking, many of whom tolerate unbelievable acts in their try for a better life.

Every year millions of people are trafficked around the globe.

They find themselves in places like sweatshops, farms, cocoa plantations, mines and rock quarries, as well as a variety of other settings.

Countless others are bought and sold into the sex industry where they are used as sexual objects for prostitution, pornography

and nude dancing. Some are even sold as "brides."

Why does this happen? Poverty, prejudice, gender discrimination, as well as an acceptance of violence against women and children all come into play.

Lack of appropriate legislation and political will to address the problem, limited immigration policies and globalization of the sex business are all big players in the root causes of trafficking.

One of the biggest problems is that there is a market for slaves in today's society, and as long as there is demand, there will always be a supplier wanting to get paid. Sadly, human trafficking has become one of the fastest growing enterprises in the world.

But credit must be given when due, and compared to other nations, the U.S. has done quite a bit in trying to stop trafficking.

"Over the past few years, the U.S. has committed more than \$400 million to anti-trafficking efforts around the world," noted on the Times of India web site.

"Last year alone [2007], the U.S. spent \$95 million for projects in 101 different countries. That is in addition to the \$25 million spent on programmes to fight human

trafficking in the US."

The United States Department of Justice has said that Long Island is one of many places across the country where trafficking human beings is out of control.

What needs to be done is simple—world leaders and community groups need to find a way to stop it. Through enhanced and increased training, law-enforcement agencies can make greater progress in finding and rescuing the victims and arresting the criminals.

So what can you do as an individual? You can send letters to your government partitioning them to take greater steps to stop these tragedies.

You can spread the word about what is happening to innocent women and children in your own country as well as abroad.

One of the best ways to fight this global crime is to bring light and visibility to the issue and share information about it.

It is unsettling to learn that people in your community are being abused and are restricted from their basic human rights, but it is more unsettling to know the facts and still do nothing about it.

FASHION, from page 23

The more the thought of this marinates, the more insolent this trend is.

Could you imagine being homeless on the street wearing every item of clothing you own because you have no closet to put them in, and someone walks past you emulating your forced style all in the name of fashion? What a slap in the face, especially if it is one of those Michael Bastian \$1,800 pieces.

Mary-Kate is not to blame for this trend. The industry is to blame. Designers create clothes, stylists implement them, and celebrities sell them to the public—it is the law of fashion reciprocity. Mary-Kate was more or less being herself that day her photo was taken outside of that Starbucks. This trend may not be hurting the homeless, but it is not helping them either.

If you know the news today, thank a journalist!

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Hard hitting news



AFRICA, from page 13

The point of the documentary was to show the audience that Africa is not entirely distressed, much like American media portrays it to be.

After the documentary, Michael Blackson strolled onto the stage backed by vibrant African music wearing traditional African garments and no shoes. "These are my low top skin shoes," Blackson said. The audience roared with laughter as he recounted his experience of coming to America in the 1980s. "When I first came to America it was all about light skin, muscles and curly hair," Blackson said. "I fit none of that. My hair was so nappy I had to take a Tylenol just to comb it." He also joked that since Barack Obama became president he hasn't paid any bills. "The mortgage com-

pany called me [and said] 'Where is your mortgage?' I said I'm waiting on my stimulus package; Barack said I didn't have to pay nothing."

The Afrikilolo Dance Group later entertained the audience with traditional African dance from the Ivory Coast and Mali.

One of the group's drummers performed a solo, while dancers from every age group danced vibrantly to the beat of the drums. Collective "awws" filled the crowd when a five-year-old girl came onto the stage to perform. The girl wowed the audience and left the stage with a standing ovation.

The audience also enjoyed poetry readings and a fashion show with African inspired pieces. The mood remained light when the models led an

impromptu dance-off at the end.

Throughout the night, audience members were awarded with goodie bags when they correctly answered trivia questions. However, the big prizes of the night came through the raffle where people who purchased tickets were entered into the drawing.

The third-place drawing was for an iPod, second place was a digital camera, and first place was a Nintendo Wii console.

"I really like the dancing and the comedian of course," said Tamar Hodges, sophomore, nursing. "It wasn't just a show; you learned a lot of new things about Africa."

The proceeds of Africa Nite will be donated to combat hunger in Africa.

CRAFTS, from page 13

Several vendors and stockholders also agree on one thing: they are not in it for the money.

"Sometimes I think about all the time I spend in crafting stuff and how it breaks down in dollars per hour;

I'm basically giving the stuff away," Aaron Lester, nursing, alumnus (2007), said. "I do it because it's fun and it's very ego stroking to have people like my art. It's [also] great for networking and meeting new friends."

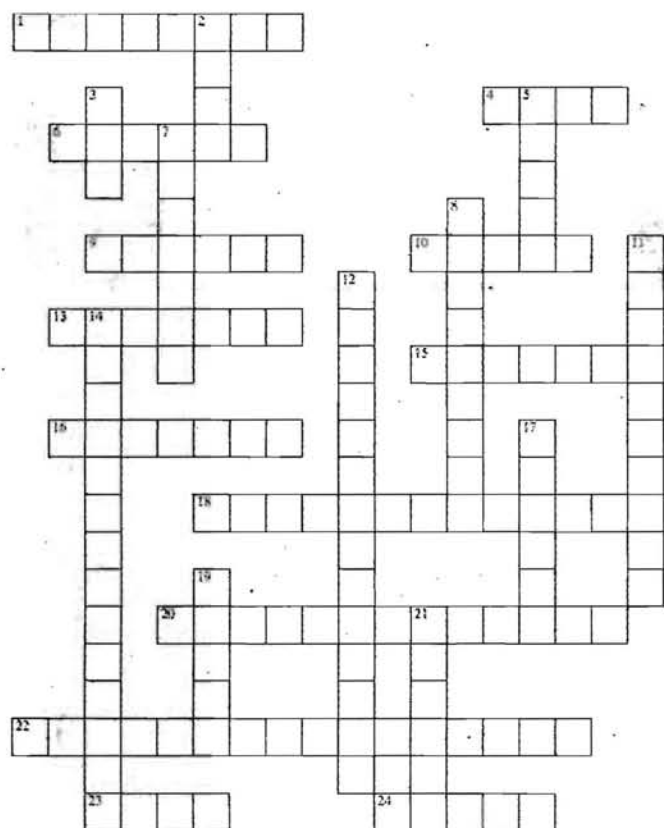
By providing the community an opportunity to bring together creators and consumers of original, handmade crafts, the Rock and Roll Craft Show is one example of alternative ways students can use their degrees.



Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

40 years of Sesame Street



ACROSS

1. Comedian who talked with Elmo about skin color
4. Is fascinated by pigeons
6. Appeared as host of "Family Food"
9. SNL cast member who played "Max the Magician"
10. Longtime consumer advocate who appeared in 1988
13. Italian tenor who sang Elmo goodnight
15. Civil rights activist who recited a poem
16. "Abby _____"
18. The number-obsessed Muppet
20. It ain't easy being green
22. Garbage man who carries Oscar's trash can
23. "Superbad" star who gave Elmo a fake mustache
24. Former Secretary-General of the UN who helped defuse a conflict between the Muppet monsters

DOWN

2. Red, furry, three-and-a-half year old monster
3. TV chef who baked pumpernickel bread
5. Sang about his "Rubber Duckie"
7. Actor who portrays Big Bird
8. The Muppets took this in their second movie
11. Jets quarterback who appeared as a guest
12. Big Bird's first movie
14. Lives in a garbage can
17. Confident, but shy blue monster who almost never uses contractions
19. Sang an adaptation of her song 1,2,3,4
21. Created The Muppets

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You may find yourself wanting to go your own way this week, but try to at least consider other people's points of view when making decisions; they might see something you're missing.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Look forward to a week full of friends and positive change. You may encounter a few small hurdles, but if you can rein in your stubbornness and learn to go with the flow, you'll be fine.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Communication will come easily to you this week, providing a good opportunity for you to clear the air between yourself and a friend you've been having trouble with lately.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Your creativity shines this week and gives you a way to reduce stress, as well as helping you to think in new ways and find adventure. Don't be afraid to do something different.

LEO

(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

You're feeling much more confident and lively than usual, and this energy will inspire others as well. You'll be getting a lot of attention this week. Take some time to yourself if needed.

VIRGO

(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

Trouble appears in your personal life this week, as the people closest to you seem to be the most opposed to your plans and ideas. Take a firm stand and do what you need to do.

LIBRA

(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

This week will be full of social interaction, but don't overbook yourself. Remember that you have work to do and responsibilities, and act accordingly. Try to balance work and play.

SCORPIO

(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

You're feeling a lot of pressure this week to make changes to your life, and some of them may actually be helpful. If you're having any doubts, though, just do what feels right for you.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Your financial situation may cause you some tension this week, but your troubles will soon be behind you. Keep your eyes open for any opportunities that come along.

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

If it seems like nothing is going your way right now, don't worry too much. You'll hold things together with your usual aplomb and come out the better for it very soon.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Unclutter your life this week. Sell, give away, or just throw out things you don't need. This applies to relationships too. If it's just not working out, it may be better to bring things to an end.

PISCES

(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

You'll be on the receiving end of a whole lot of attention in the next few days, so it's more important than ever to be on your best behavior if you want to avoid embarrassment.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★

(Medium)

Last week's answers

Last week's rating:
Easy

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

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

**Check back next week
for solutions to sudoku!**

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the A's in the message, and so on. (Hint: P=S)

EIY QSPOUYPP ZR CFYMOVC
OP QSPOUYPP

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

Comics

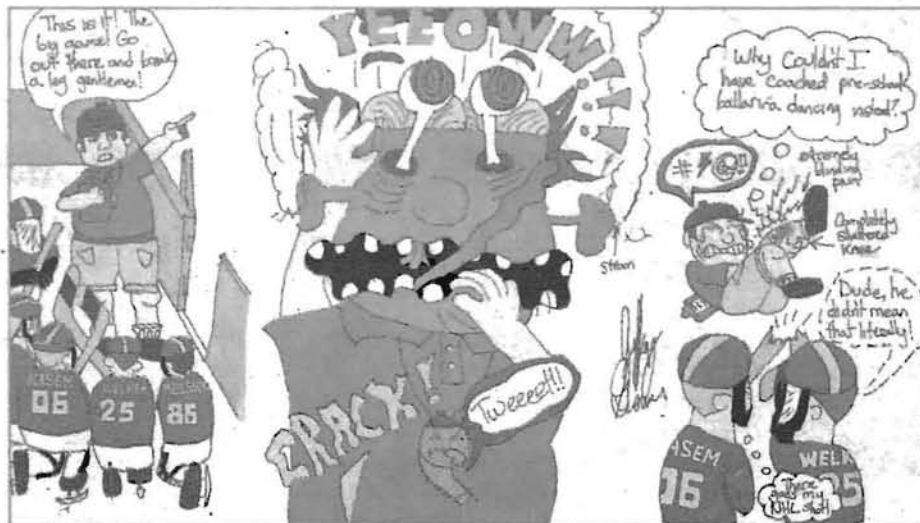
MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



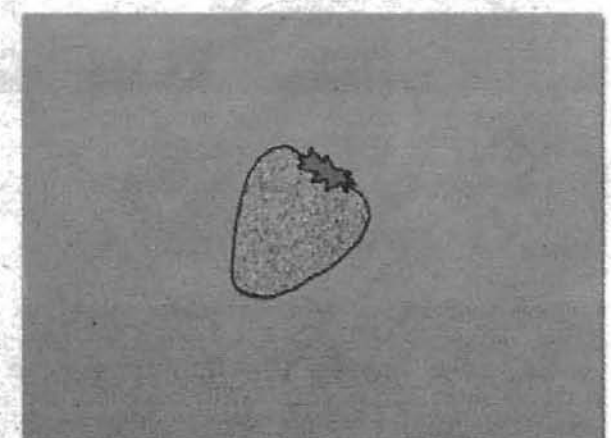
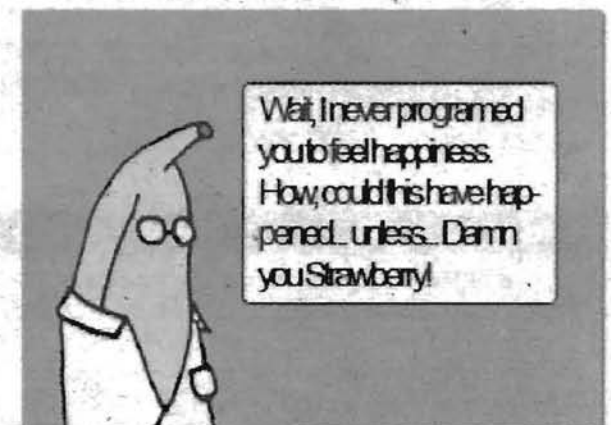
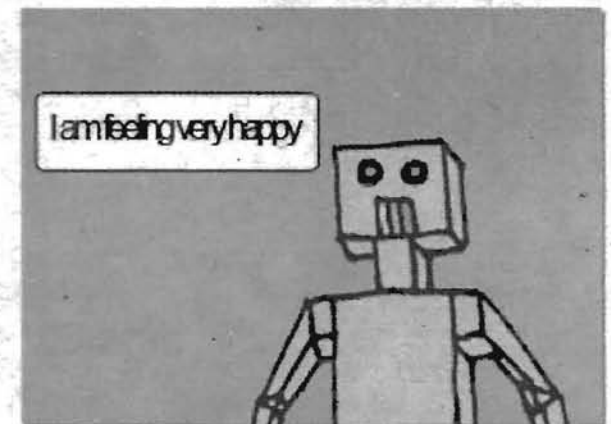
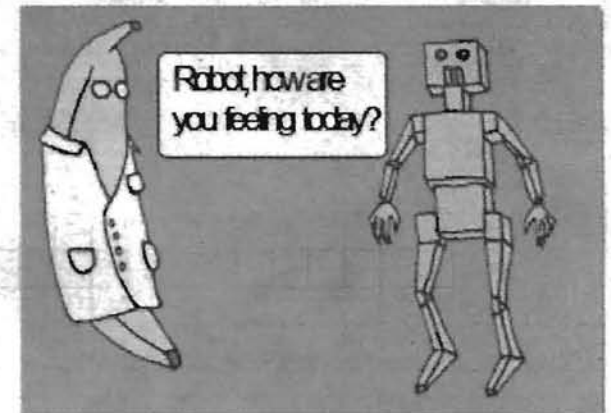
Good Guys by Phil Freeman



RANDOM MINDS by Jeffrey Grossman



Bananas #20 by Paul Maguire



CAN YOU DRAW THIS WELL?

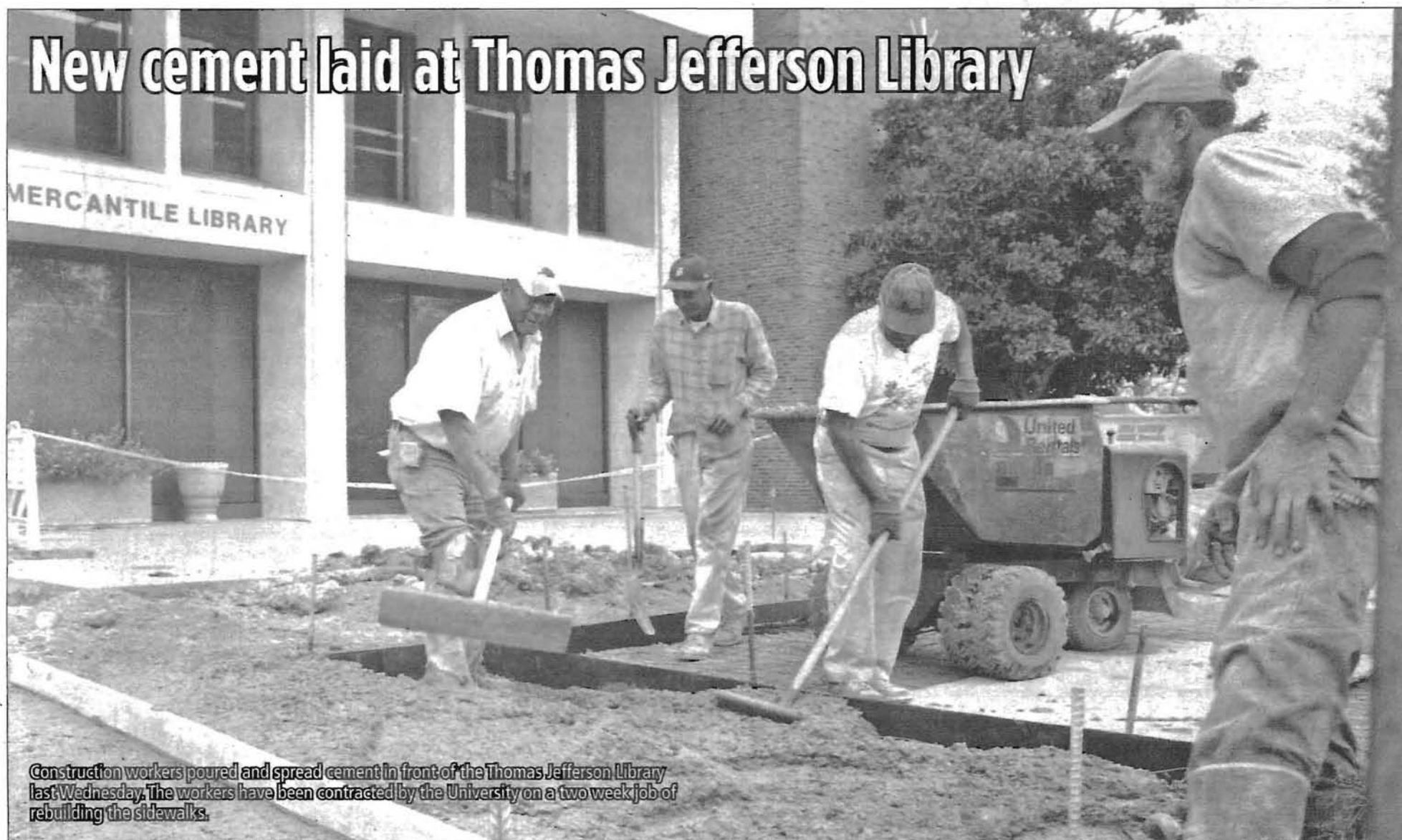
(or better?)

Apply to be a Current cartoonist!

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 with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

New cement laid at Thomas Jefferson Library



Construction workers poured and spread cement in front of the Thomas Jefferson Library last Wednesday. The workers have been contracted by the University on a two week job of rebuilding the sidewalks.

SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Monday, Nov. 16

Challenge of Plant Exploration and the Process of Discovery Thomas B. Croat, curator of botany at the Missouri Botanical Garden, shares exciting tales of danger and discovery exploring the tropics of the world, as he describes his hair-raising experiences in the course of collecting more than 9,700 plant specimens, hundreds of which were new to science. Located in 222 J.C. Penney Conference Center, from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

It's About Time! (Management) Learn how to improve grades, improve your quality of life and divide time between work and recreation. This workshop will help you examine how you spend your time and how you might be able to become more efficient in your role as a student. Located in 100 Lucas Hall, the Center for Student Success, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

International Study Abroad Dialogue program and how it has affected their perspective of diversity. The program is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations and Center for International Studies. Located at the Benton Hall, Room 241, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM. For more info contact Linda Sharp at 314-516-6807.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Noon at the Nosh Come hang out with your favorite staff members from the CNC, can't wait to see you! Located in the Nosh, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM For more info contact Liz Detwiler at 314-385-3455.

Conversations about Teaching & Technology: Organizing Online Informal discussions designed to introduce colleagues to the essential ingredients for developing effective blended or fully online courses. Co-sponsors: ITS Faculty Resource Center and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Located in at 100 Marillac Hall, Technology and Learning Center, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. For more info contact Cheryl Bielema at 314-516-4508.

Thursday, Nov. 19

UPB General Meeting Description: Want to have a voice on what events come to campus? Come to UPB general members meeting and have your voice heard. Located in MSC 316 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For more information contact UPB at 314-516-5531.

Online Courses: What you know might just get you an "A" This workshop is intended to give you a comprehensive look at online learning. 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.