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## Current, November 30, 2009

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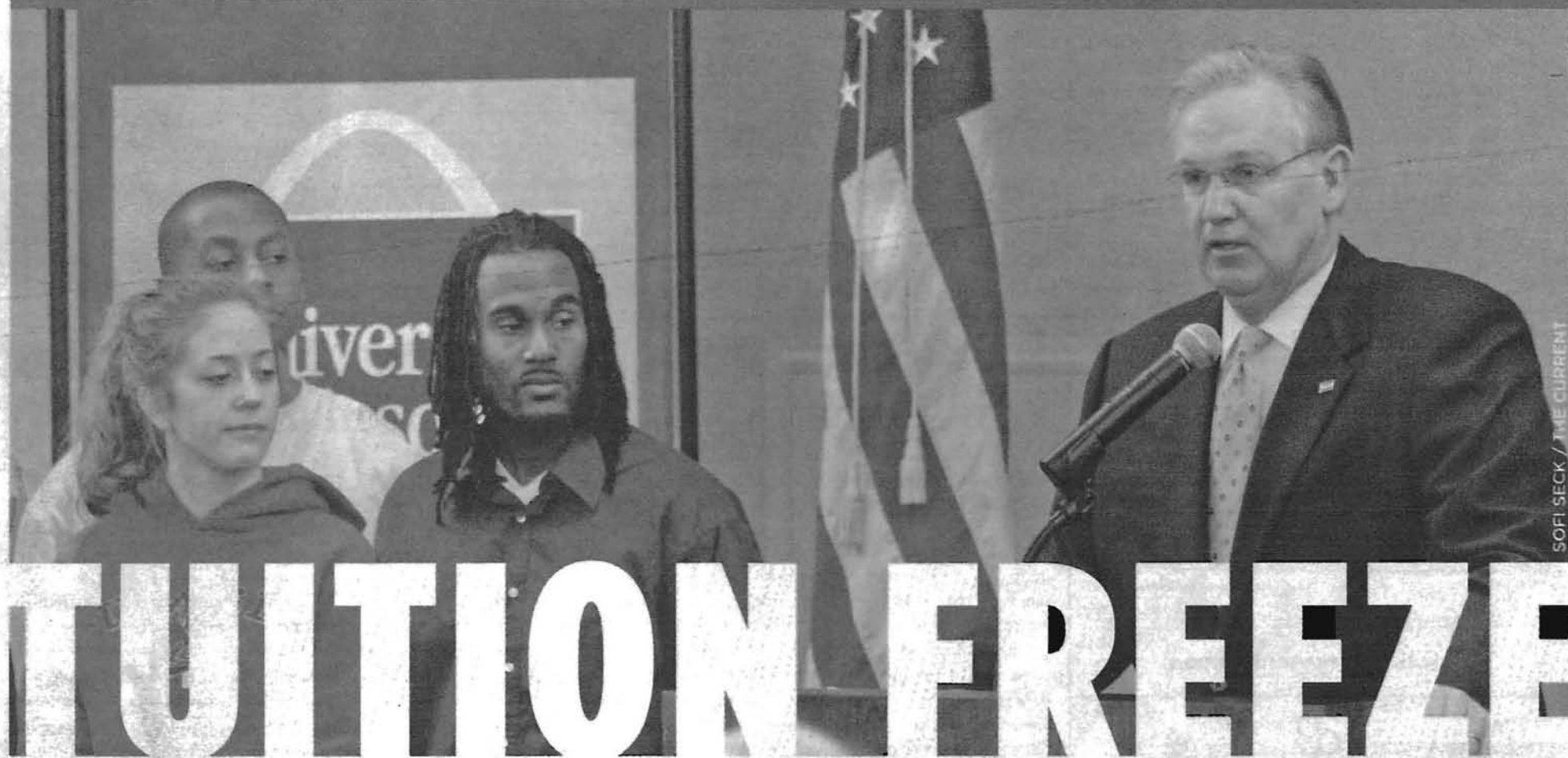
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# The Current

NOV. 30, 2009

VOL. 43;  
ISSUE 1297



► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
*Business/Tech Editor*

"Sometimes as governor ... you give speeches, and they're complicated, and people have a hard time figuring them out, but this one is really, really simple," Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said at a Nov. 17 press conference at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

For the second consecutive year, Nixon told in-state undergraduate students at Missouri's four-year public universities that they would not see an increase in tuition or fees.

Nixon said that the tuition freeze is part of the state budget that is being assembled to send to the Missouri Legislature early next year. It is part of a deal between the government and Missouri's four-year universities. The deal states that all such universities will receive 95 percent of their appropriations this year. This will translate to an estimated \$3 million shortfall in UM-St. Louis' budget.

While guaranteeing Missouri's public universities a majority of their funding, the tuition freeze is meant to aid students seeking higher education amid the ongoing economic

crisis. The "link between education and [economic] recovery is clear," Nixon said.

"We must have trained and educated workers who are ready to fill the jobs of tomorrow and move this economy forward," Nixon said. "Higher education institutions, like UMSL and the other public institutions across our state, are giving our students the education they need to do just that."

The average tuition increases at public universities nationwide has been 6.5 percent with some states posting increases as high as 17 percent, Nixon said. UM-St. Louis Chancellor

Tom George said that in relation to other states, Missouri has been treated "relatively very well."

"And that is because the governor understands that higher education is the key to the welfare of this state," George said.

Also in attendance was UM System President Gary Forsee. "There is no task more important than getting Missourians better educated and getting them on that path toward that four-year degree," Forsee said.

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## The Current

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1297

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## FROM PAGE 1

"It's a competitive issue for our state as we want better paying jobs for our citizens, and we know that a college graduate will earn more than twice that of a high school graduate during their lifetime," Forsee said.

Though he expressed gratitude to the governor for striking this deal for the second year in a row, Forsee said that the pact does not remedy many of the problems the UM System faces.

Currently, Missouri is ranked No. 47 nationwide in per capita funding for higher education. Although tuition in the UM system has risen 73 percent over the past decade, rising inflation has defeated the effectiveness of these hikes.

Governor Nixon said that while the

current agreement guarantees operating funds for universities in the interim, the funding needed for capital improvements, such as the renovations at UM-St. Louis' Benton-Stadler Hall that Nixon cut off earlier this year, may be a long time coming.

"We do not have the money right now ... the reason that those funds were not released was that they didn't exist," Nixon said. "In the short run of the recession ... we think that pushing forth students [and] maintaining the quality of these degrees is the best short term solution."

"I can't at this point in time say when those dollars will be available," Nixon said.



SOFI SECK/THE CURRENT

# Forsee reveals tuition decoupling of UM Campuses Town meeting addresses financial concerns

► CHRIS STEWART &  
 ANNA MARIE CURRAN

Wed., Nov. 18, Gary Forsee, president of the University of Missouri system, hosted a town-hall meeting in which he addressed the financial strains on all of the UM campuses. However, Forsee still attempted to reassure attendants of the measures being taken to deal with these strains and praising those who have pledged support for public education in these troubled times.

One of the most compelling new pieces of information revealed by Forsee was the fact that UM system curators have "conceptually agreed to decoupling" among campuses. According to the Budget and Planning Committee's report on Nov. 10, 2009, "currently the University of Missouri policy is to have the same basic undergraduate tuition for all campuses." Such a policy would quell the fears of those concerned that various fees at UM-St. Louis might be raised equivalent to UM-Columbia. Up until now, the two campuses "coupled" fee schedules have meant that UM-St. Louis has generally matched fee increases to compete with the larger campus, despite the differences in facilities and location.

Kyle Kersting, senior, finance major and chair of student senate said that in the report given by Professor L. Doug-

las Smith of the College of Business that tuition coupling is necessary because the "perceived relative quality of an UMSL education may be affected if it raises nominal tuition by a smaller amount than other UM campuses." Kersting said that he feels this is the university's attempt to avoid the perception that the four campuses of the UM system differ in the education with which they provide their students.

Kersting said that he feels students should be aware of tuition decoupling because he feels it has the potential to work favorably for them by providing a distinguishment between the campuses and the facilities and resources with which they provide students. Kersting expressed that while students at UM-Columbia and UM-St. Louis currently pay comparable rates and receive comparable educational experiences, UM-Columbia "offers far superior recreational and dining facilities, as well as a thriving athletics program."

"All of [the UM campuses] have the potential to offer a good education, but this does not account for the college experience that accompanies that education," Kersting said. "In essence I feel it is fair for UM-St. Louis students to question whether or not they should pay the same rate as the other UM campuses."

The meeting was held in the Cen-

tury Rooms of the Millennium Student Center on UM-St. Louis and began with Forsee giving praise to Gov. Jay Nixon who had addressed the university earlier the same morning.

"We have a governor that is incredibly committed to higher education—specifically public four-year education," Forsee said, going on to emphasize "access and affordability" which the state has made priority focal points in protecting education during a dire national economic climate.

Forsee mentioned Gov. Nixon's tuition freeze as an example of the state's dedication to education. Forsee added that this year had seen a fall enrollment increase of 22%, despite the various budget cuts the school has faced in the economic hardship. Forsee stressed that the tuition freeze has caused various checks within UM-St. Louis, such as the cutting of courses, a temporary campus-wide hiring freeze, cuts to staff, and a general sense of the need for fiscal frugality. Forsee did not mention such specific actions, but he did acknowledge such tough decisions being made across the system.

Referring to cost-cutting measures: "These actions—prudent, conservative, difficult, whatever you may call them—allow us to take more control," Forsee said.

### WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
50	61	47	40	41	45	48
38	40	31	29	30	33	35



# Faculty Open House focuses on excellence at UMSL

*Refurbished Senate opens its doors*

► SARAH HILL  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Faculty Senate, centered on research and quality of education, is now located in the center of campus.

Up until the spot was chosen and refurbished for the new Senate from May through August of this year, the Faculty Senate and University Assembly meetings were held in the JC Penney Conference Center on University of Missouri-St. Louis' South Campus. Considering that move entailed three months of labor, allowing walk-ins during an open house allowed many faculty and staff members to see the extended work complete. The new location, in room 507 of the SSB tower, provides easier access and more space economy than the JC Penney had previously.

Prior to redesigning the space, the new senate had been "three small rooms once used as training offices," Loy Harvey, the administrative assistant for Faculty and Staff and University Assembly at UM-St. Louis, said. Harvey's office is now openly connected to the Senate Conference room. As work progressed,

the senate transformed into one joined headquarters, clad with seasonal campus pictures from August Jennewein, UM-St. Louis photographer and part of Communications for the university.

Working from May until August on the move, Harvey "took on the work of two," Matthew Keefer, chair of the Senate, said. "The faculty senate chair wants to recognize Loy Harvey, as she went through all the files to see what needed to be archived."

Harvey said that she "had about 20 years of archival material to sort through and archive," before the new Faculty Senate office could happen. During the project, Harvey and Keefer also received assistance from John Mulderig, assistant to the provost for Financial Services, and Chancellor George.

To christen the conference room, faculty, staff, and students were welcomed from 2-4 p.m. for viewing on Nov. 19. Regarding the reasoning behind an open house, Harvey said she was "hoping that people will come up and see where we are now."

As members of faculty and staff visited the new Senate, quite a few shared opinions regarding the campus place-



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Matthew Keefer, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate/University Assembly, talked with guests at Thursday's open house at their new office, located in room 507 of the SSB Tower.

ment and aesthetics. "I think it is smashing and it is great that the senate is right in the middle of campus," Peggy Cohen, assistant provost for Professional Development, said.

"This is one super office, I'm green with jealousy. Loy deserves it though," Bernard Feldman, UM-St. Louis' associate dean of the engineer-

ing department and member of the IFC, said.

"It is beautiful, it's fantastic, I may move in," Paul Speck, professor in the Business College, said.

Keefer said UM-St. Louis takes pride in its academics and research, and that he is "happy because the administration supports shared government." Seen as a neces-

sary element for success, the shared government Keefer referred to includes faculty, staff and even student representatives as part of the dynamics of UM-St. Louis.

Due to the umbrella-like nature of the approach, the senate focuses on making the campus a more cohesive atmosphere for all parties involved. The Faculty Senate

features 40 members and the University Assembly's Committee features 69 members, 13 of whom are students and 40 of whom are also parts of the faculty senate. As they are functioning primarily for research, one of UM-St. Louis' main focuses, the Senate and committee's aim is "furthering the quality of education for students."

## Chancellor's survey could improve childcare needs on our campus

► JEN O'HARA  
Staff Writer

Currently, the UM-St. Louis childcare facility is licensed to have 80 children in attendance, and it presently stands at that limit. Due to a high response in childcare need, a waiting list application is on their website. On average, children who are under the age of 3 are on the waiting list from six to 12 months, while children from

the ages of 3 to 5 can get in within a semester.

"People get on our lists when they're ... babies and then they're still on the list when they're preschoolers," Lynn Navin, director of the childcare center, said.

The waiting list at the UM-St. Louis childcare center currently has 75-100 children under the age of 3, and approximately 50 children between the ages of 3 and 5.

From Nov. 5 to Dec. 4, a

survey among students, faculty, and staff is being conducted to determine if more, less, or the same amount of on-campus childcare is required by the UM-St. Louis population.

The survey is being led by the Chancellor's Task Force on Gender Issues, a group of students and faculty representatives that investigates and makes recommendations on gender-based issues. Because childcare is a family

issue, the Chancellors Task Force on Gender Issues investigates it.

"We try to look at any possible problems related to ...gender, or whatever the charge of the task force is, and just try and investigate those, and see if there is a problem and make recommendations, and we would make those directly to the Chancellor," Kathy Gentile, director of women and gender studies, said.

The Chancellor's Task Force hopes that there will be a large response to the survey so they can collect the data needed to prove whether there is greater need for childcare. "We want to see if there's a broader need, and if there is ... make some recommendations for meeting that need," Gentile said.

The Chancellor's Task Force on Gender Issues believes that more students will be interested in UM-St.

Louis if on-campus childcare options are increased. Gentile said that it would be a benefit especially for older students, and that she thinks there are a lot of students who are also parents.

"A lot of people, when they think about going back to school, they think about childcare, and if we could offer some that's quality and affordable."

See **CHILDCARE**, page 21



# Statshot

## UNDERCURRENT by Ahmad Aljurryed

With the recession at hand, the powers that be may consider raising our tuition. What would it take for you to pay higher tuition at UM-St. Louis?



"If the health insurance plan is better, if the Nosh food quality and choices improves, and if they added a fixed rate for the parking permit."

**Lucerna Huayana**  
Junior  
International Business



"We have to receive similar facilities, amenities, parking, and park as other colleges that have higher tuition"

**Chris Miller**  
Senior  
Physical Education



"I think we would have to have access to greater technology"

**Megan Smith**  
Sophomore  
Media Studies

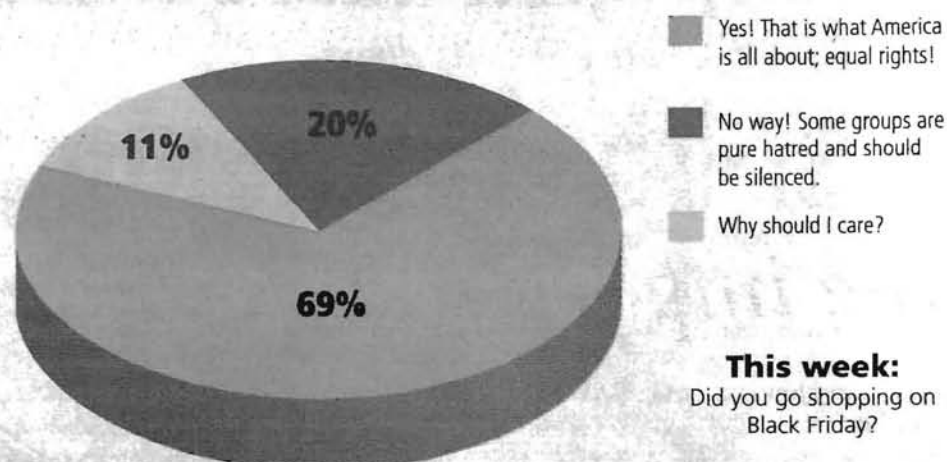


"I will pay the tuition they ask, as long as it remains the lowest tuition in St Louis Area"

**Ashley Ray**  
Senior  
Art History

## POLL

Does everyone deserve their First Amendment rights?



### This week:

Did you go shopping on Black Friday?

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

## CRIMELINE

### Monday, Nov. 23

#### Recovered Stolen Vehicle

The vehicle reported stolen from UMSL back on November 2, 2009 was recovered in Country Club Hills. The officer from Country Club Hills reported that the vehicle had been parked in front of a vacant house in their city for the last 3 weeks. The vehicle's exterior was not damaged and only the door lock and ignition were damaged in order to steal the vehicle.

### Tuesday, Nov. 24

#### Stealing Under \$500.00 - Parking Lot D

The victim reported that sometime in the last Month or longer person(s) unknown stole the license plate tabs from the parked motor vehicle. It is not clear if the incident actually happened at UMSL or somewhere else, but as a matter of courtesy the UMSL Police Department took the police report in order for the victim to have the tabs replaced.

### Wednesday, Nov. 25

#### Stealing Over \$500.00 - Thomas Jefferson Library

The victim reported that he left his backpack on a table in the library unattended and went to use the bathroom and talk to a friend. When he returned to his table, his backpack along with his laptop computer, a calculator and miscellaneous items were missing. The backpack was later recovered in the Men's restroom of the University Center; all of the contents were stolen. There was possibly a suspicious person in the area of the library around the time of this occurrence that was asking to borrow a cigarette and may have been asking for money. The UMSL Police Department is asking if anyone saw a suspicious person in the library asking people for items to give them a call. This investigation is still ongoing.

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

## VERBATIM

"We were having fun, starting to relax, when we saw there was a wedding next door. We figured we'd crash it."

-John Travolta  
on hanging out with Robin Williams



"She's the perky one, with the microphone, with the questions,"

-Sarah Palin  
on Katie Couric

"The weirdest thing is just when people start crying."

-Kristen Stewart  
on Twilight fans



"I'm not only here to help present this film, but to drive a stake through Robert Pattinson's heart."

-Jim Carrey  
on New Moon

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## Post-Thanksgiving 2009

### *The impact of Black Friday on the economy*

► PATRICK CANOY  
Staff Writer

The most dangerous day of the year for Americans has just passed once again: Black Friday. Many Americans would not dream of leaving their homes the day after Thanksgiving for fear of being killed by rabid drivers or trampled by desperate shoppers bursting through Wal-Mart doors the moment it opens. "We were way busier this year, many more people were shopping and they were buying much more this year," Camela Prater, Sales Associate at Wal-Mart in Maplewood, said. "The most popular item has to be the \$198 laptop—it sold out within 15 minutes of 5 a.m."

The day after Thanksgiving is the traditional beginning of the holiday shopping season. The majority of the money spent by Americans on holiday gifts is spent in this 24-hour period

of shopping madness. Many stores open much earlier than normal ranging anywhere from midnight to 5 a.m. Retailers spend millions on advertisements telling the consumer of the phenomenal deals that they will have for one day and one day only. Advertisements for \$200 laptops, \$50 digital cameras and \$300 flat-screen televisions clutter the internet and run

**"You wouldn't catch me out there in those lines. No way."**

non-stop on TV for days before the sale begins.

Despite the dangers of this day, throngs of people begin showing up as early as the Wednesday before Thanksgiving in anticipation of cheap, doorbuster deals. People camp outside Best Buys, Wal-Marts and shopping malls before the nation's

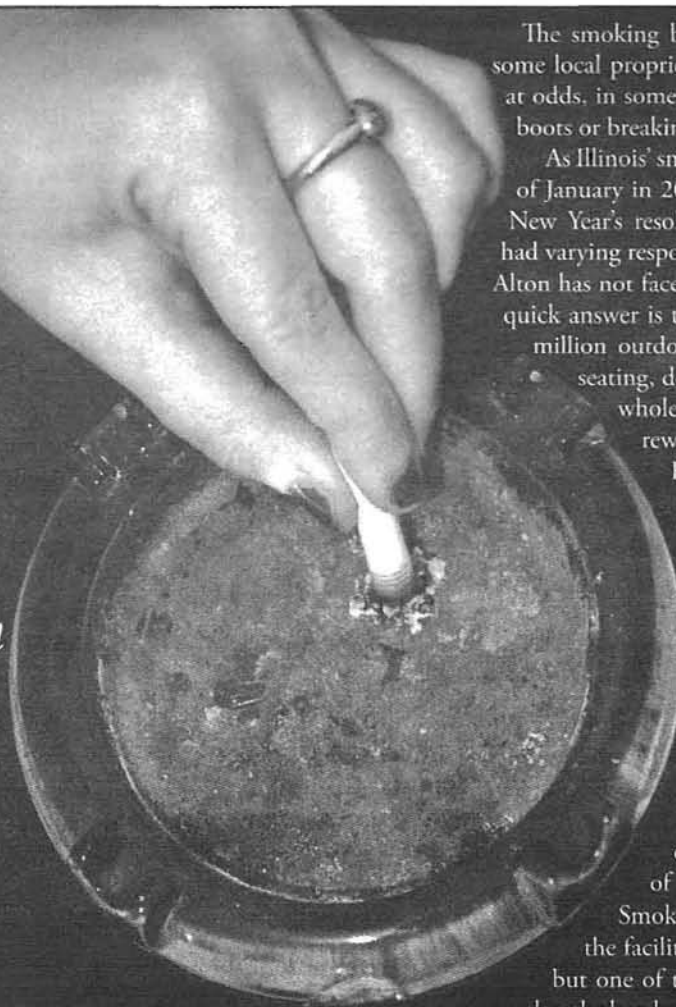
largest shopping spree begins. This year retailers began running ads for Black Friday much earlier than in the past and many feel that this helped to reduce the intensity and madness that usually ensues on this day.

Naturally, this spending of the masses generates an enormous impact on the economy. The origin of the name "Black Friday" comes from the fact that this is the day when retailers go from being in the red (losing money) to being in the black (making a profit). "Black Friday is good for the economy since people spend money, but it shows the ugly, materialistic side of the holidays," Samuel Brown, business, said. "You wouldn't catch me out there in those lines. No way." Retailers expected an even larger turnout than the 2008 Black Friday. Last year, retailers and economists expected to have extremely low sales compared to previous years due to the plummeting economy at the time. However, consumers spent \$10.6 billion in 2008 compared to about \$10.3 billion in 2007.

## Life loss VS. Profit loss

*The ethics of health and cigarettes in public*

► SARAH HILL  
Staff Writer



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

The smoking ban in St. Louis could have some local proprietors, patrons and legislators at odds, in some cases either shaking in their boots or breaking ground for expansion.

As Illinois' smoking ban passed on the first of January in 2007 fell in line with possible New Year's resolutions, local establishments had varying responses. Fast Eddie's Bon Air in Alton has not faced an upset in business. "The quick answer is that we responded with a \$1 million outdoor expansion—doubled our seating, doubled our business. It was a whole lot of risk for a whole lot of reward," Eddie Sholar, owner of Fast Eddie's, said.

Not everyone agrees however. "I saw less customers sticking around and drinking coffee after eating since they couldn't smoke with it," Nancy Redman, a former waitress at IHOP in Wood River, Ill.

Studio Blu in Bel-Ridge, Mo. was not as quick to assure that a loss of patrons has not occurred. Smoking had been allowed within the facility before the ban was placed, but one of the bartenders was uncertain that the ban had even been an issue for business up to this point since smoking was pro-

hibited.

A local bar patron and gas station attendant admitted that he does not like not being able to smoke in bars and is less apt to go to bars due to the smoking ban. It is currently not clear whether Missouri business owners will see a decline in the number of patrons.

"It has to hurt the economy in some way," Bonnie Stroup, a recent St. Louis University law school graduate said. "Either restaurants or cigarette companies would have to suffer. If less people are going to restaurants because smoking is not allowed, then business suffers. However, if people continue to go out, then they may smoke less overall in a day."

"You feel like you have leprosy, the way people treat you when you smoke," Another patron and cigarette smoker, Brian Sedgewick, said. "You also gotta understand that non-smokers' side of it too. It's unhealthy to be around smokers and most people don't like the smell. Their majority rules, so the lepers have to be cast away out of sight."

A study conducted in St. Louis by the Roswell Cancer Institute in 2008 focused on the use of ventilators in bars, analyzing the distribution of harmful chemical particulates in the air.

Contrasting the findings against samples taken from establishments where smoking was prohibited,

See Smoke, page 21



# Captains of Industry:

## Talking economy and investment blues with Alan Skrainka

► JOE SCHAFFNER  
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis alumnus Alan Skrainka has been a chief market strategist at investing advisory company Edward Jones since 1996. He has been quoted in nearly every major media outlet and also authors the firm's monthly publication "Investment Perspective," a collection of stock recommendations and market commentary.

*The Current: Could you talk a little about yourself and your life as a market strategist? Who is Alan Skrainka, so to speak?*

Alan Skrainka: I graduated from UMSL in '83. I started working at Edward Jones in 1982 as an intern. I asked a buddy of mine what he wanted to do for a living, and he said his uncle is a stockbroker and he made \$150,000 a year. I guess that sounded pretty good, so I signed up for an investments class at a high school in 1982, my senior year. It was taught by a woman who was a supervisor at Edward Jones.

She hired me part-time for \$3.50 an hour. McDonald's was \$3.65. A year later they offered me a full-time job and I've been there ever since. Today I serve in the same capacity, helping inves-

tors make great investing decisions.

*TC: What is the state of the economy currently?*

AS: This has been a tumultuous decade for investors. We had technology bubble bursts in the year 2000, and we're facing the worst financial crisis since the 1930s. I think we're starting to come out of it. We [Edward Jones] think the recession ended sometime this summer. We think a lot of support that has been provided by the government, especially the Federal Reserve, has been the right medicine to avoid a financial meltdown and to provide a foundation for economic recovery.

*TC: What major misconceptions of the economy are out there?*

AS: I think the biggest misconception that investors have is the idea that you can time the market. Our advice is based on investment principles, not investment predictions.

The three most important principles are focusing on quality investments, diversifying the portfolio, and holding for the long-term. That's a somewhat unique approach in today's financial industry where most of the focus is on trying to time the market, trying to guess what is going

to happen to the economy. You can't predict when bear markets are going to begin or when bear markets are going to end, it's better to just stay the course.

*TC: What about college students in particular? Will there be jobs available when we graduate?*

AS: The job market right now is tough. But it was every bit as tough in 1982 and 1983 when I graduated. The unemployment rate reached 10.8 percent in December 1982, which is even higher than it is today. So there are jobs available for students that have good grades and bring a variety of skills to the table.

There are jobs in the business world, in economics, certainly jobs where you have a strong science [and] math background. And we're a service economy today, and financial services, healthcare, technology seem to be the fastest growing areas.

*TC: Should we start thinking about retirement plans?*

AS: It's never too early to start investing. Save and invest, and stick to it!

In spite of our economic challenges, the U.S. economy has proved to be resilient in the long run. We recover from setbacks and learn from the experience.

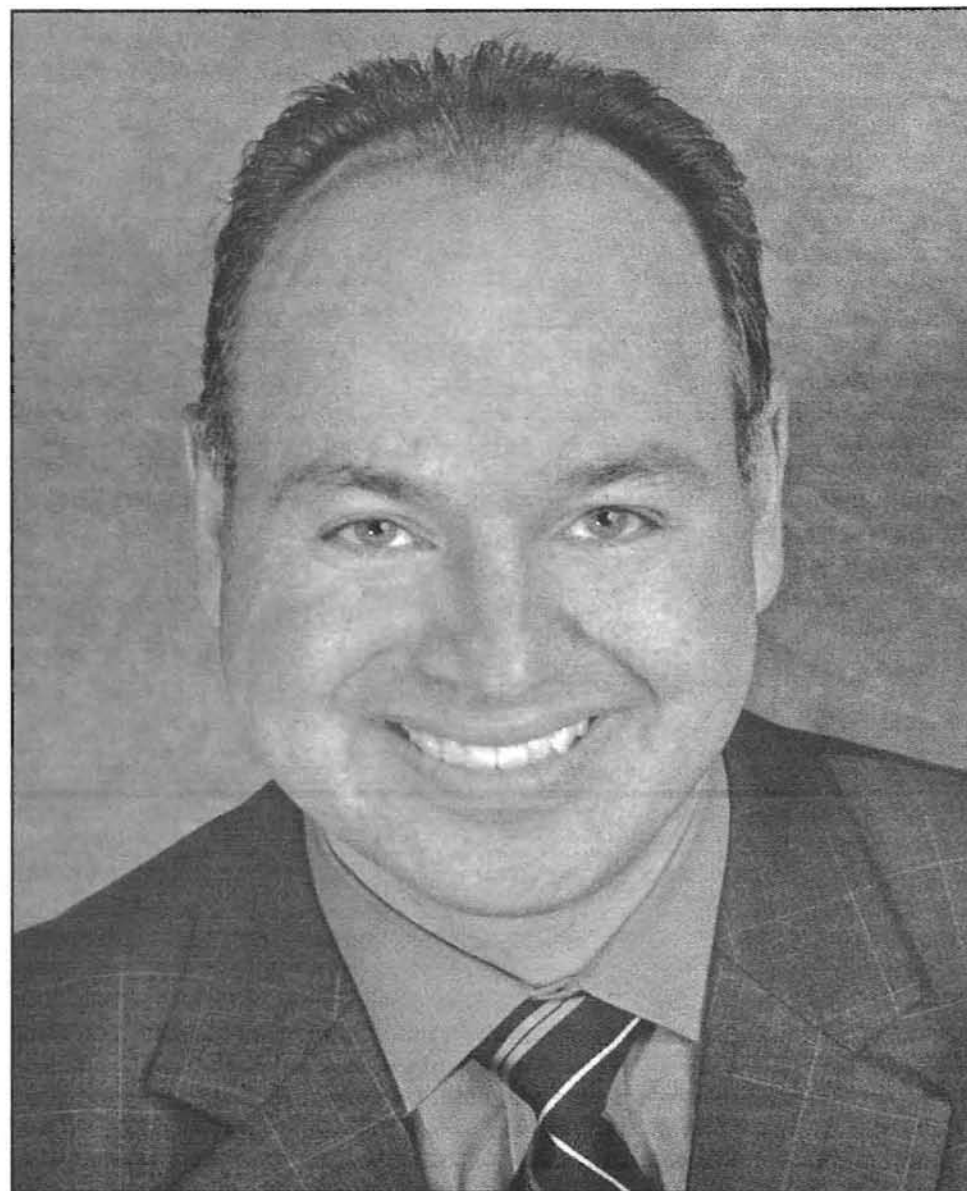


Photo Courtesy of Alan Skrainka



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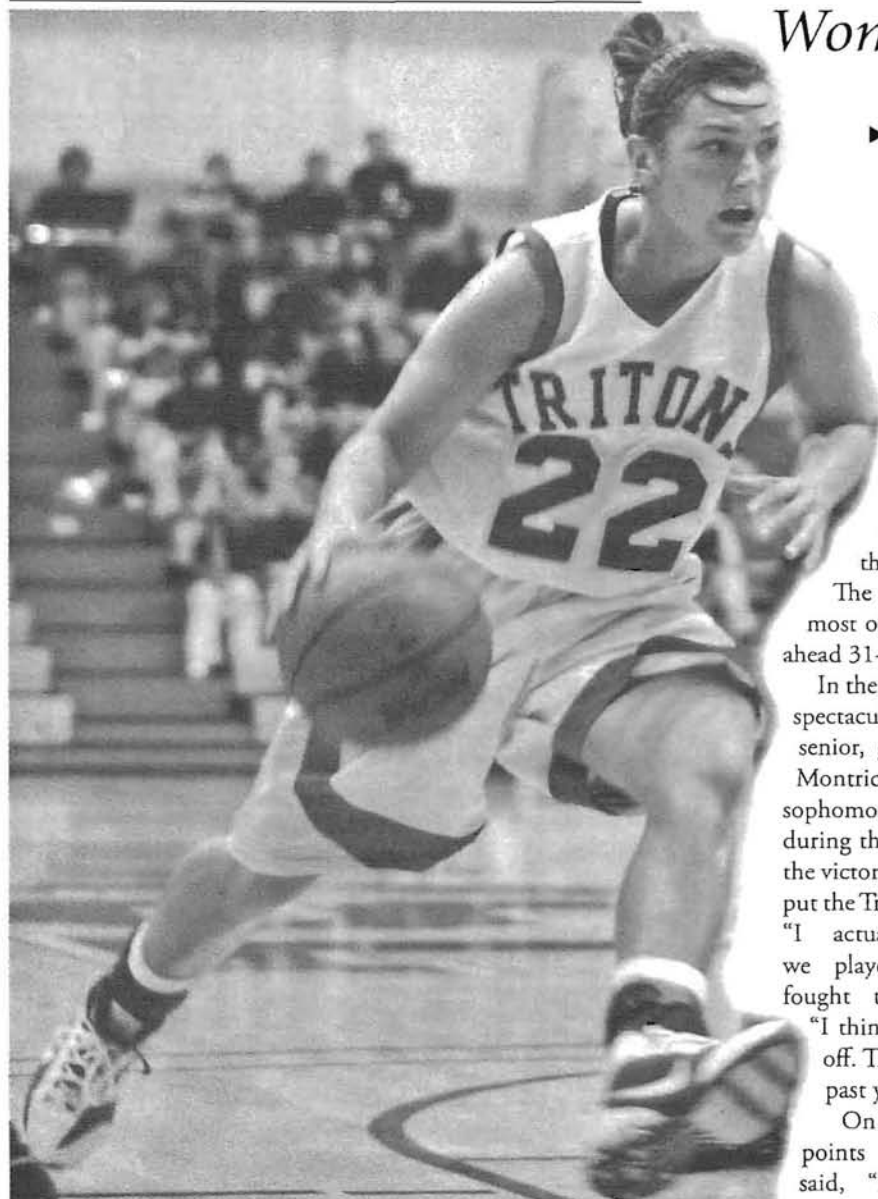
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**Anthem**

## Win one and lose one

*Women's basketball brings mixed results*

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**  
Staff Writer



AHMAD ALJURYED/ THE CURRENT

#22 Kristi White driving it home against McKendree Nov 19 at Mark Twain. UM-St. Louis lost by a thread, 65-63.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Triton women's basketball team opened its 2009-2010 campaign at home with two games the week of Nov. 16. The first game was against Lindenwood University, the second was against McKendree. They won one and lost the other. "Lindenwood is a very quick team. They play up tempo the entire game. Our goal is to keep their points below 55 points. They have scored 92 and 85 points in games so far this year," head coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor said. The contest was in favor of Lindenwood through most of the first half, which ended with Lindenwood ahead 31-30.

In the second half the Tritons kept working away with spectacular efforts by: team co-captain Kristi White, senior, guard; Hailee Deckard, sophomore, forward; Montrice Coggins, senior, guard and Caitlyn Moody, sophomore, forward. Coggins drained two free throws during the closing minutes and White had 10 points in the victory. Moody's closing shot off an assist by Deckard put the Tritons ahead for good. The final score was 62-60. "I actually wasn't pleased overall with how we played, but I was pleased with how they fought through and got the win," Taylor said. "I think it's just nice to see our experience is paying off. That's a game we would not have closed off in the past years," White said.

On her performance in the game of 10 points and the two big free throws Coggins said, "I'm satisfied. I usually don't make that

many and those [free throws] were big plays." The next game was against McKendree on Nov. 19. "They have explosive guards and the strongest post players we have seen this year. We are going to have to get back on defense because they will run it," Taylor said of McKendree.

It was almost all McKendree in the first half of this contest with the half time score totaling UM-St. Louis 25 and McKendree 30. The second half was much better for the Tritons with them scoring 38 points, but it still was not enough. They fell by a score of 65 to 63. One real bright spot in the contest for the Tritons was the three-point shooting of Kelly Carter, junior, guard. Carter had four three-pointers in the game, with three of them in the late minutes of the second half. "[Carter] made huge, huge shots for us in the second half. She was huge for us," Taylor said.

"I guess I was feeling it, I guess. [It's] just one of those things," the modest Carter said.

There is an old saying in sports: If you never say you lost a game because of the officiating, you will never lose another game the rest of your life. In the final few tenths of a second of the McKendree game, KeAmber Vaughn, sophomore, forward, was under the offensive goal with the ball for an attempt to put in the tying points. She was knocked to the hardwood by an opponent. In all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam, what happened would be called assault and battery, but it was not called a foul on the UM-St. Louis basketball court. The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team is currently in the midst of a five-game road trip. They return to home court on Thursday, Dec. 10 to play GLVC opponent Quincy University at 5:30 p.m.

## Tritons Triumph *Four players named to all-GLVC team*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

The Great Lakes Valley Conference league office announced that four members of the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team were selected to the all-conference team.

Middle hitter and 2008 GLVC Freshman of the Year Weslie Gaff, sophomore, accounting, and outside hitter Erin Higgins, sophomore, early childhood education, were named to the all-GLVC First Team. Outside hitter Liz Cook, junior, education, and libero Carolyn Holstein, junior, business, were Second Team all-conference selections.

The Tritons finished the season with a

21-11 overall record, and an 11-3 mark in league play, which was good enough for third place in the GLVC this year, but could not get past emerging rival Southern Indiana in the first round of the GLVC Championship Tournament. The loss was a disappointing end to a remarkable season for the Tritons, which was punctuated by the four players being named to the all-conference team. Gaff, who was also recently named First Team All-Midwest Region was a repeat choice for the all-GLVC First Team, her second such selection to both teams in her two years as a Triton.

This season, Gaff led UM-St. Louis in hitting percentage (.332) and blocks (122), and ranked third on the team in kills (275). Gaff

was named the GLVC Player of the Week following the final week of the regular season.

Higgins, the GLVC Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 12-18, received all-GLVC honors for the first time in her career after finishing second on the team in kills (308) and hitting percentage (.246), while ranking third on the team with 70 blocks.

Cook was a repeat selection to the league's second team, having earned the honor last year. She led the Tritons in kills for the second straight season (338), while recording a team-best 1,038 kill attempts—the ninth best single season total in program history.

Cook, who was the lone Triton to start all 32 matches, contributed in other areas as well, ranking second on the team with 30 ser-

vice aces and 263 digs, while recording nine double-doubles (kills-digs) and double-digit kills in 19 of 32 matches.

Holstein was another first time all-GLVC selection. She earned the honor after leading UM-St. Louis with 37 service aces and 595 digs. Her dig total led the GLVC in 2009 and set a single-season UM-St. Louis record, smashing the previous record of 492 digs.

Holstein reached double-digit digs in all but two matches this season, had 16 matches of 20 or more digs, and two matches of 30 or more digs. The 5'7" Holstein ranks seventh all-time in UM-St. Louis history with 1,150 career digs and eighth with 93 career service aces.



# Tritons 5-0 for first time ever

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team completed its best beginning to a season in the program's 43-year history last Saturday, when it held off Upper Iowa University, 70-65, to move to 5-0 for the first time ever. The Tritons had been 4-0 twice before in their history (1966 and 2005), but they'd never seen 5-0 until last Saturday's win over the Peacocks in Fayette, Iowa.

Guard Ryan Lawrence, junior, criminology, scored a career-high 20 points to lead UM-St. Louis in its historic win over Upper Iowa. Teammates Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, and Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided, added 19 points and 11 points, respectively, as the Tritons won in the final minute despite leading by as many as 15 with less than three minutes left.

With 2:33 left, UM-St. Louis led 66-51 and looked as if they had the game wrapped up.

But Upper Iowa scored the next 14 points of the game to pull to within 66-65 with 12 seconds left in the game. The Tritons didn't rattle though, as Beasley and teammate Jeremy Brown, senior, physical education, both made both of their free throws in the final seconds to secure the win. Saturday's effort against Upper Iowa marked the second time this season Lawrence reached the 20-point plateau in a week. Just seven days earlier, he established his career-high of 20 points in a UM-St. Louis 81-64 win over West Texas A&M. That victory was the second in a two-day sweep for the Tritons, who also knocked off the host school, Southwest Oklahoma State University, at a showcase event in Weatherford, Okla.

Beasley had a breakout performance in those two contests, leading UM-St. Louis in

scoring in both those games. He had his own career-high, 26 points against SWOSU, then had 23 points against WTAMU the following day.

For the season, Beasley is leading the Tritons in scoring at 21.8 points a game. His most scintillating performance may have come in UM-St. Louis' most recent home game, Nov. 24 against Truman State. That night, Beasley scored 14 of his game-high 25 points in the second half, including back-to-back three-pointers and two breathtaking off-balance shots in the lane, as the Tritons rallied and eventually pulled away in the final five minutes, for an 89-83 victory over the Bulldogs.

Brown and Lawrence were also key contributors against Truman. Brown had 21 points, while Lawrence added 19, as UM-St. Louis won its 16th straight home non-conference contest. The season began for the Tritons, on Nov. 18, with a blowout win at the Mark Twain, over Blackburn College, 89-69. UM-St. Louis led its home opener almost from start-to-finish, trailing only once at 13-10.

Adam Kaatman, senior, accounting, a 6'10" player who missed most of last season with a back injury, came off the bench to lead UM-St. Louis in scoring that night, tallying 19 points on six of seven shooting for the Tritons. UM-St. Louis will begin its Great Lakes Valley Conference schedule this week, when they travel to play road games on Thursday at Lewis University, and Saturday at Wisconsin-Parkside.

Following those contests, the Tritons will play their only two home games of December at the Mark Twain Building. On Saturday, Dec. 12, UM-St. Louis will host Robert Morris College at 3 p.m. Then on Monday, Dec. 21, the Tritons will host nationally-ranked Christian Brothers at 7:30 p.m.

Check us out online at:

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

## STAT BOX

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)
S. Indiana	4-0
Ky. Wesleyan	6-1
Bellarmino	4-1
Northern Kentucky	4-2
Indianapolis	2-2
UM-St. Louis	5-0
Drury	4-0
Rockhurst	3-3
Missouri S&T	2-3
Maryville	0-3
Quincy	5-0
Illinois-Springfield	1-0
Lewis	4-1

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)
Indianapolis	5-0
Bellarmino	4-0
S. Indiana	7-2
Northern Kentucky	3-1
Ky. Wesleyan	3-2
Drury	4-2
Missouri S&T	2-1
Maryville	2-2
Rockhurst	2-3
UM-St. Louis	1-4
Quincy	6-0
UW-Parkside	3-1
Ill. Springfield	2-2

### 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



# Features

## Loving arms

*The fight against depression, addiction, and suicide*



JENNIFER MEAHAN/THE CURRENT

► JEN O'HARA  
Staff Writer

Thousands of people pulled out markers and pens and labeled "Love" on their arms November 6, 2009. Since 2006, an annual movement has been slowly coming to the forefront as more people join in and participate.

"To Write Love on Her Arms" began as a solution to help a friend, and slowly has become a movement against depression across the nation.

Jamie Tworokowski, the founder of TWLOHA, had a friend who was suffering from drug addiction, depression and had attempted suicide.

After his friend had been denied entry into a treatment center, they collaborated and wrote her story to share, and created t-shirts in order to raise money for her treatment.

The story was first placed on Myspace.

Within months, the site received thousands of responses, including those

who were suffering from depression or had had suicidal thoughts.

TWLOHA continues to post blogs on Myspace, in addition to their TWLOHA website, and responds to thousands of messages, encouraging those going through depression to seek help.

"We're just trying to encourage people not to be alone, you know, just to reach out to a friend. Maybe to a counselor, or to step into treatment just to get the help we need and just learn that life goes a lot better when we don't go alone," Tworokowski said.

Information from the World Health Organization shows that five to ten percent of a population at any set time suffers from depression.

According to the Uplift program, 18.8 million of these are Americans eighteen years and older.

"Depression is when someone goes through a group of symptoms. You'll see emotional changes, be-

havioral changes, and sometimes even physical changes" Dr. Emily Hamilton said, counseling psychologist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"Depression is more chronic and ongoing, so almost everybody feels sad some of the time, but if you're feeling sad, more days than not a couple weeks at a time, really low, that's when I think you're feeling depressed rather than sad."

Two-thirds of all those suffering depression do not seek help. "The one thing I would be crazy not to advocate is counseling," Hamilton said.

"Counseling is a great thing to help you out of it."

Almost four years since Tworokowski began what was an attempt to save a friend, the idea has expanded into a non-profit campaign.

Over half a million people are members on TWLOHA's Myspace page. Bands such as Switchfoot, Paramore and Underoath have participated in promoting the movement, donning

T-shirts that say "To Write Love on Her Arms"

"Initially, we just tried to raise money to pay for Renee's treatment, and then the messages kept pouring in, we kept selling t-shirts, and eventually we, pretty early on, had to switch gears and not only funding her treatment, but look at becoming a charity, you know, becoming a bigger thing," said Tworokowski.

Thousands of people now participate in "To Write Love on Her Arms" day by writing the word "Love" on their arms, as a way to display it to others.

The hope is by showing the word "Love" on arms, others will question what it stands for, which will further promote the cause.

Tworokowski was recently nominated for the MTV Good Woodie award, an award given to those who have shown a dedication for a social cause.

Tworokowski is the first person ever to be nominated that is not an artist.

## Winter intersession offers quick credits

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN  
News Editor

Once a year at the University of Missouri St. Louis students take a month off to enjoy the holidays and warm their hands by the fireplace, sipping cocoa—that is, at least most of them do. Some choose to stay in school over break and either catch up, or get ahead on their credits.

UM-St. Louis offers students the opportunity to receive 3 credit hours in two weeks through participation in winter intersession. Winter intersession goes from Jan. 4-16 2010. The number of classes offered are organized separately by each college at the university.

According to the website,

the college of Arts and Sciences offers the most classes, 16, while the colleges of nursing and business only offer one class each. The level of the class also varies between colleges. University students began registration for the 2010 winter intersession on Nov. 2, 2009. The deadline for students to register for a class is Jan. 2.

However, students just looking to apply to UM-St. Louis must be accepted before they can enroll in a class for winter intersession. While many consider winter intersession to be a good deal credit-wise, there are some for whom it is not a feasible option.

See **WINTER**, page 10

## Students in service at UM-St. Louis

► MATTHEW B. HENRY  
Staff Writer

There is an expression that it is better to give than to receive. Also, many say it is great to give back to your community.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis there are many ways in which students can incorporate volunteering into their life. A plethora of individuals are ready, willing and able to help students succeed at volunteering.

Megan Hill is one of those individuals here at UM-St. Louis who is dedicated to helping individuals incorporate service. Hill's office is on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center within the Student Life complex. "I actually work for AmeriCorps\*Vista

which is sometimes described as the domestic Peace Corps," Hill said. "It's within an organization called Missouri Campus Compact, and the bottom line is to fight poverty."

"I graduated from Drake University with a bio-chemistry degree, and there were two organizations I was involved with in service," Hill said. "I knew that I wanted to take a couple of years off and serve others before entering grad school, so I came home to do this."

There are many organizations on campus actively involved in service from the Student Nurses Association all the way through to the Greek societies with their philanthropies and service projects.

See **SERVICE**, page 10



# 'Got tuition?' examines affordability

► SEQUITA BEAN  
Features Editor

The National Education Association has launched a campaign called "Got Tuition?" where campaign volunteers travel around to different universities across the nation in an effort to get signatures from students who support the cause.

Their cause? To "bring the issue of college affordability and the long-term impacts of student debt to the forefront of our national debate," according to their website gottuition.org.

They have already visited several Missouri universities including UM-Columbia, Maryville University and Harris Stowe State College.

The non-partisan group also took their campaign to Ole Miss during the presidential debates last year hoping their appearance would encourage the candidates to bring up college affordability in their discussion.

Missouri lawmakers have

recently voted in favor of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

The act will decrease the interest rates in subsidized student loans in half from 6.8% to 3.4%, increase the Pell Grant maximum amount for the neediest borrowers, and create a loan forgiveness program for public sector employees.

Democratic representa-

**"It's not right, it's not fair."**

**-Jason Roberts**

tives unanimously voted in favor of this new act, while republican representatives did not.

Still, the act received a majority vote, not to mention overwhelming support from students.

"The government should help students with their loans after graduation because they use money on things that aren't always useful for the people," Kendra Hicks, junior, communications said.

Sam Jones, freshman, undecided, feels the same way.

"I personally think it's great ... that way more students can go to college," Jones said.

"The only bad thing is if every college is affordable, there won't be any competition, but the government should help out—especially since President Obama thinks American intelligence

needs some work."

The idea of affordable colleges and debt forgiveness seems to win over most students, but still some feel that the notion is unjustifiable.

"It's not right, it's not fair," said Jason Roberts, senior, media studies.

"The money has to come from somewhere. Students shouldn't attend a college they cannot afford to begin with.

Everyone is always looking for a bailout, we need

to pump the brakes on excessive spending and take responsibility for the bad choices we make."

Based on a research study conducted by the United States Department of Education, 400,000 college qualified high school graduates do not attend college because they cannot afford it every year.

Also according to the study, 43% of students from moderate income families with earnings between \$25,000 and \$50,000 are unable to attend four-year institutions.

The NEA encourages students, graduates and parents to share stories of their struggles with student loan debt and tuition on their website.

"Their examples will show policymakers why paying for higher education shouldn't become a path to permanent debt or bankruptcy," written in a statement from their website.

## UMSL technology uncovered

► AARON HOLDMEYER  
Staff Writer

From installing software on laptops, plugging in ethernet cables and attempting to log into MyGateway, University of Missouri-St. Louis students have to be at least somewhat knowledgeable with current technology.

For some, this knowledge is easily acquired and applied, thus making their digital experience a smooth ride. However a majority of students have other priorities that do not include knowing how to set up a firewall on their desktops.

Luckily for them, UM-St. Louis Information Technology Services provides them with a solution.

This solution includes multiple services ranging from classroom tech setup, networking the university, providing a support center to address problems for members of the campus, to many others.

"[We want] to provide technology support to the

faculty, staff, and students at UM-St. Louis," Mary Fowler, director of user services, said.

"What we want to do is help people get whatever they need done through helping with technology."

"I want you to be able to go to any lab, any classroom, any place and have the computer work," Fowler said.

"Some day I envision it like when you go turn on the lights, you don't go, 'Oh is the electricity on?' It's just such a part of the day today that you don't have to think twice about it, but we do."

With this sustainable experience being their number one priority, the IT staff is continually challenged by several variables in the complex equation of IT.

From ensuring that their networks have solid security to educating faculty members on how to maximize their usage of online classrooms, the IT staff must be able to adapt.

See TECH, page 20

### SERVICE, from page 9

"We have about 45 organizations we work with on a regular basis and approximately 20 of them do something with either youth or children, which are our biggest areas of service support," Hill said.

"One of the biggest is Big Brothers/Big Sisters; we have so many students here doing that."

An organization on UM-St. Louis' campus that is very involved in service is "Alpha Phi Omega," the service fraternity. "Our tenants are leadership, friendship and service," Shea Kelly, junior, biology and president of Alpha Phi Omega said. "This is a fraternity but our main focus is service."

"I've been involved

for three years and presently we have about 40 members," Kelly said. But don't let that word fraternity fool you. "We are co-ed," Kelly said. "As we say at Alpha Phi Omega, some of my brothers are sisters. We are about 50/50 in area of gender membership break down."

"We have a service event every weekend," Kelly said. "We also keep in contact with Megan so we can help out with special projects like MLK Day."

Relay for Life, which is through Colleges Against Cancer, is another very active and fruitful service organization here on UM-St. Louis' campus. "It is a 24-hour event here at UMSL while

similar events are done around the world," Ashley Gilpin, junior, criminology and chairwoman for UM-St. Louis' Relay for Life chapter, said.

"Last year the St. Louis area chapters raised \$814,198.00 during their events with UM-St. Louis' chapter bringing in just under \$29,000.00," Gilpin said. "It's a 24-hour walk-a-thon and a great way to raise money to fight cancer."

"Volunteering is probably one of the best things you can do and not only for other people but for yourself," Hill said. "It sets you apart from your peers; you are giving back, and now is the time to do it. I'm here and I can hook you up with an organization."

### WINTER, from page 9

International students who return home for the holidays or students looking to pick up extra hours at work during break find that they do not have time for the two-week classes.

Yuki Takashima, senior, international business said that she initially had a lot of interest in taking a class during winter intersession.

As an international student, Takashima planned on taking an online class to get a few extra credit hours to lighten her spring semester.

However, after seeing the classes available during intersession, she realized that there

were very few online classes that would be beneficial to her major.

"I wanted to take [an online class] so it'll be easier next semester [because] I'm graduating in May, but they don't offer many online courses and I'm going back home for the break," Takashima said.

Fees for winter intersession courses are the same as courses during the fall and spring semester. Students who are in-state residents receive a lower rate than students who are considered out-of-state residents.

If a student has scholarship money available for the spring

semester, this money can also be applied to the winter intersession if they choose to take a course.

In some cases, there are also scholarships made available for the winter intersession as well.

For more information on winter intersession at UM-St. Louis and the specific courses that will be offered, visit the university's website for continuing education. There is a list of available courses.

Takashima said that since she will not be able to get ahead in credits over break she will "just have to try harder next semester."

HAVE A HOT TIP ABOUT A CAMPUS FEATURE? LET US KNOW BY SENDING AN E-MAIL TO THECURRENTTIPS@UMSL.EDU

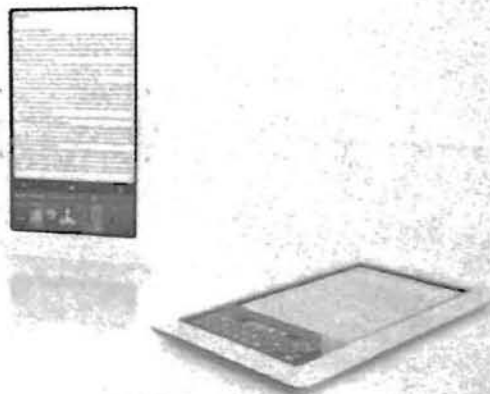
# Top five Christmas gadgets

► Jen O'Hara  
Staff Writer

*Looking for some stocking stuffers for your favorite technophile? Here are five suggestions you might want to check out.*

## 1. Nook

This nifty little device allows books to be at hand without the back problems that result from carrying 20-pound books everywhere. The nook allows over 1,500 eBooks, newspapers, and magazines on 2GB storage. Need more? Invest in the MicroSD card and expand to up to 17,500 titles. The nook has a battery life of approximately 10 days, so feel free to take it on road trips.



## 2. Olive 4HD

For the person whose CDs take up more room than anything else, Olive has made lives easier. The Olive 4HD holds 20,000 high definition tracks. With the touch screen, finding a favorite song or an artist is very simple. Think jukebox meets the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## 3. Polaroid Pogo Instant Digital Camera

A modern take on the classic Polaroid camera! The Pogo digital camera allows picture takers to take, view, edit, and print 2x3 color shots in under 60 seconds.



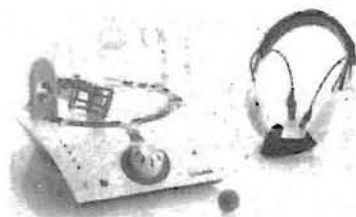
## 4. Livescribe Pulse Smartpen

The Livescribe Pulse Smartpen contains an infrared camera at the tip that captures everything written or drawn with it. It also contains a microphone and built-in computer that remembers everything written.



## 5. Mindflex by Mattel

For the inner jedi, Mattel has designed a brain-powered gadget. Put a headset on and use brainpower concentration to control a ball. The game includes different challenges such as getting the ball through the hoop or over and under different objects on the board.



Winter Intersession

January 4-16, 2010

earn 3 credit hours  
in 2 weeks



[ce.umsl.edu/wi](http://ce.umsl.edu/wi)



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

# Educating for action

► SEQUITA BEAN

Features Editor

As an associate professor of history and education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Dr. Laura Westhoff has also served as co-author and lead historian on many Teaching American History grants.

She has been involved with several major publications including *The International Journal of Social Education*, and *Women's History Review*. Her current research, "Educating for Activism" inspired her to look at mid-century social reform, democracy, and also women's history.

*The Current:* What made you want to become an educator?

Laura Westhoff: I've wanted to be an educator for most of my life. I've just been passionate about history and I wanted to pass that along. I think it's really exciting to share what I find exciting about history and about asking questions and about seeking the world.

*TC:* Why history?

LW: I love history because for me it helps me understand. It helps us understand the human condition, the way the world is, and how people operate. So I find it an immensely useful discipline for understanding all areas of humanity.

*TC:* You're on the editorial board for women and social movements, a resource for students about women and U.S. history; what has working on that project been like?

LW: It's really opened my understanding of all aspects of U.S. history because one of the things that historians end up doing is focusing fairly narrowly on one period era of history, and being on that board expands my opportunities to understand women's history across all of U.S. history. It also gives me the opportunity to work with other historians across the country and their research.

*TC:* What inspired you to get into your current research, "Educating for Activism?"

LW: This project grew out of questions that developed as I was finishing my first book on social reform at the turn of the twentieth century. How do people become active, political agents and attempt to shape the world around them? What in their formal and informal education influences their democratic activism? My research led me to look at a few individuals to explore in this new work [such as] Myles Horton, Dorothy Day and Fred Ross. I'm using those people through a collected biography to explore those questions about knowledge, activism and social problems.

*TC:* What is the educational value you hope to instill in your students?

LW: History is a really valuable subject for democratic participation and that's really the most important thing I hope to get out of them.

It helps us both understand the U.S. and the context for how the U.S. has framed its actions [and] its domestic policy, and individuals have shaped their actions and participated in public and private life, as well as how our nation has acted.

I see the educational value to give us an understanding to how we can be more critical analysts and critical thinkers as democratic citizens.

*TC:* What do you do in your free time?

LW: I spend time with my family, and friends, hike, explore St. Louis with my sons, travel when I have the chance, knit, and watch Madmen and Cardinals baseball.

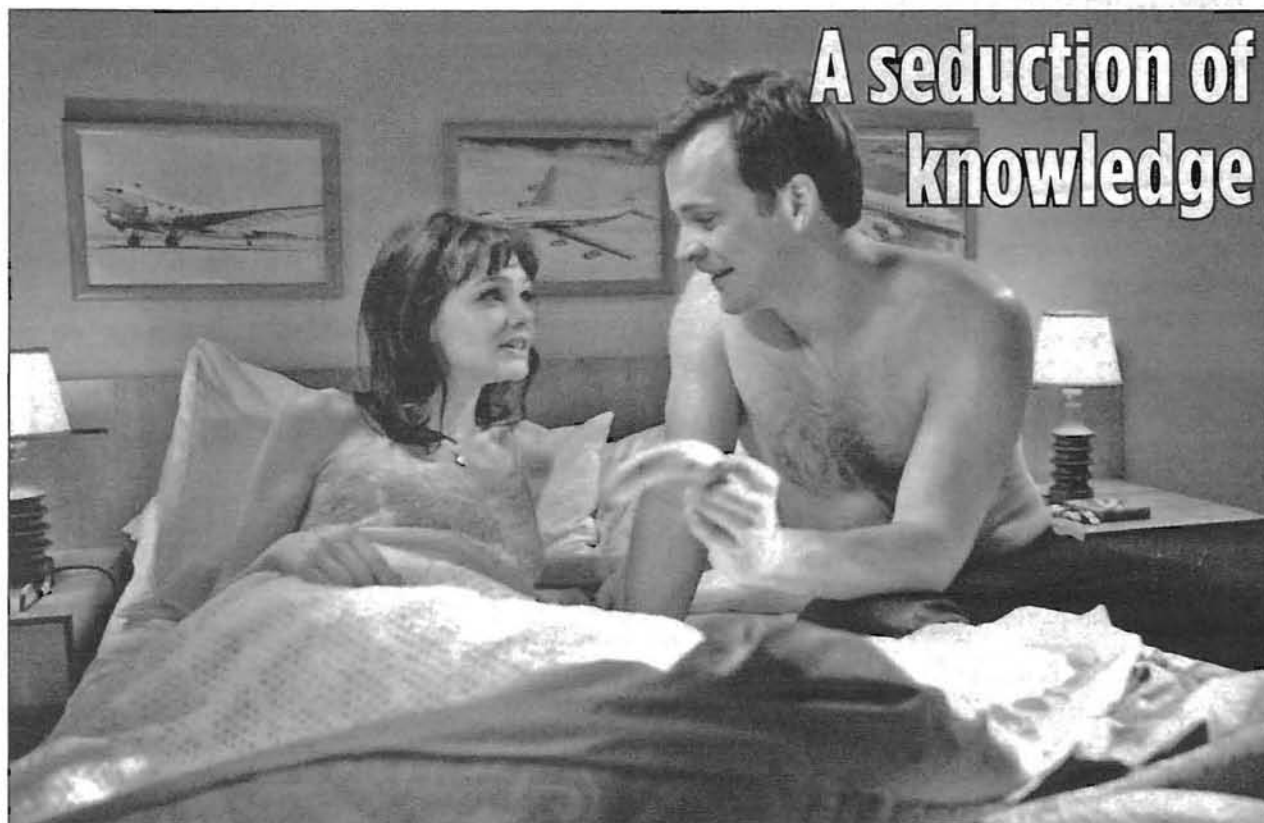
*TC:* What is your favorite thing about UM-St. Louis?

LW: The thing I enjoy most is working with the broad range of students I encounter here. There is just so many different kinds of students with different backgrounds. I really enjoy the diversity of the student body.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT



## Dr. Laura Westhoff



## A seduction of knowledge

Carey Mulligan and Peter Sarsgaard star in Lone Scherfig's "An Education." Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving sexual content, and for smoking.

### 'An Education' one of year's best films

There are many ways to get an education, whether through school or life experience. That is a major theme in the excellent film "An Education," starring former St. Louisan Peter Sarsgaard and gifted newcomer Carey Mulligan.

If you are a fan of "Mad Men," this early '60s set British film will seduce you as well. In fact, "An Education" is one of the best films this year. Starting with a screenplay by Nick Hornby, director Lone Scherfig has crafted a visually beautiful, intelligent film around a coming-of-age story that garnered prizes and won over audiences at Sundance.

In early '60s London, bright but sheltered teenager Jenny (Carey Mulligan) is dazzled by a smooth, cultured 30-year-old man. Handsome, worldly David (Peter Sarsgaard) is different from anyone in Jenny's world, like an enticing open door to cultural riches and an exciting adult life. Gifted, precocious, and on her way to Oxford, Jenny lives a restricted life at an exclusive girls school that is just within reach of her modestly middle-class, culturally-narrow parents (Alfred Molina and Cara Seymour). David seems exciting

and exotic; he is a Jewish man in her Church of England life, with knowledge of art, travel and fine wine, and he is someone who drives a sports car and spends weekends in Paris.

The audience can see the sly craft that under-age Jenny misses in the 30-year-old David's smooth seduction. His smooth maneuvers, including "chance" meetings with Jenny and manipulating her parents by exploiting their fear of appearing anti-Semitic, open a door to a new kind of education.

There are equal parts "Lolita" and "Svengali," and maybe a dash of "Breakfast at Tiffany's," in the starting premise of "An Education," but this outstanding film plumbs unexpected depths. It explores issues of coming of age, arrested development, the different kinds of education and the acquisition of wisdom. The story turns in unexpected directions and offers real, fully developed characters. Like "Mad Men," it is set in a pre-feminist era, but change is on the horizon, which provokes reflection on experiences that shape one's life and offers real meat for post-film discussions.

This compelling story is greatly aided by nuanced acting. Newcomer Carey Mulligan is a scene-stealer with a mix of naivety and beyond-her-years intelligence. Peter Sarsgaard turns in one

of this year's most subtle and powerful performances as the complex David.

Alfred Molina is wonderful as Jenny's father, whose narrow view of life allows him to see nothing but Oxford in his daughter's future.

The cluelessness of her father and mother betray their own limited experiences. Olivia Williams is unrecognizably dowdy as Miss Stubbs, one of Jenny's teachers, while Emma Thompson is the brisk headmistress at her private school. On the other side, Dominic Cooper plays the charming Danny and Rosamund Pike plays polished blonde Helen, David's sophisticated friends whose presence adds to his magic. The whole ensemble works beautifully together.

The visual appeal of the film is great, capturing perfectly the stylish, Audrey Hepburn-fashionable look of the early '60s. But the film has remarkable photography throughout, focusing in on faces at emotionally crucial moments and in visually contrasting her parents' middle-class world and apartment with David's spacious digs, sports car and apparently posh lifestyle.

This is one of the must-see films of the race-to-the-Oscars awards season. "An Education" is now showing at the Hi Pointe Theater. **A**—Cate Marquis

## Hilarity for a good cause

### 'Christmas from the Heart' is pure Dylan

"Please take this away from me before I lose any more respect for the man," a Current staff member said after hearing the second track of Bob Dylan's newest offering, "Christmas in the Heart," the singer-songwriter's 34th studio album.

Such a knee-jerk reaction is not surprising, as Dylan is known for throwing punches. Take for instance his 1970 album "Self Portrait," for which a Rolling Stone reviewer famously started his review with the line, "What is this shit?"

Known for his esoteric opacity his entire career, this latest seasonal offering only backs up what have been some odd public outings by the legendary performer.

Since 2006 Dylan has done a radio show, "Theme Time Radio Hour," on XM Satellite radio, where he selects and DJs songs around a theme, like coffee, shoes or jail. Recently, a woman in a working-class New Jersey neighborhood called police to report an old man in a hoodie loitering around, looking for the house where Bruce Springsteen wrote "Born in the USA."

The man was Bob Dylan. Weeks later, he announced that he had been contacted by several major auto manufacturers about possibly lending his raspy voice to their cars' GPS systems.

But what do you expect from a man who at the height of his glory in the 1960s poured a bottle of whiskey over his head in front of reporters?

"Christmas in the Heart" reveals, if anything, that he is in on his own joke, and for a good cause.

See DYLAN, page 16

## Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon.** Vampires not juicy enough for you? We've got wolvey men! Still not enough juice? Hot wolvey men! Still craving a drink of sweet juicy juice? Hot Native American Wolvey Men! Yet further juice doth ye desire? Main hot Native American Wolvey man is underage! What's the matter- can't handle the juice? **F**—Chris Stewart.

**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/implosion/burning/being swallowed up by the earth over there? Why I do believe it is! **B-**—Chris Stewart.

**Disney's A Christmas Carol.** You may balk at the idea of an ultra-slick CGI version of Dickens' beloved classic novel. So let us just remind you that, hey, this could be the same faithful-yet-innovative stroke of genius that Disney's "Polar Express" was a couple of years ago. Right? Right? **C**—Chris Stewart.



# Big dreams come true in 'Little House on the Prairie'

Last week, the Guthrie Theater production of "Little House on the Prairie, the Musical" made a visit to St. Louis' Fabulous Fox Theater, running between Nov. 24-29. Based on the semi-autobiographical "Little House" book series written by Laura Ingalls Wilder over 70 years ago, the transition of this much-loved tale of a young girl's life on the Western plains brought tears, laughter and ultimately a standing ovation from enthusiastic audience members.

Loosely-interpreted into a television series that ran from 1974-83, Wilder's third book lends its name to both the TV series and musical. The musical used elements from both the book and the television series to create an interesting and somewhat new take on the much-loved stories.

The play opens with the journey of the Ingalls family to De Smet, S.D., in the early 1880s. "Pa" Charles (Steve Blanchard) wants to take advantage of the U.S. government's offer of free land to any citizen who could build, maintain and remain on a homestead for five years.

While dreams of land ownership are chased by Pa, "Ma" Caroline (Melissa Gilbert), a former school teacher, desires an education for her daughters. Ever-responsible eldest daughter Mary (Alessa Neeck) possesses a calm and pleasing nature, and wishes to follow in Ma's footsteps by becoming a teacher.

A rebellious young girl in tattered play-

clothes, Laura (Kara Lindsay) has no interest in domestic chores or education, preferring instead to help her father work the land. She is intrigued by fast horses and instigates rowdy behavior in school to the dismay of her teacher, Miss Eliza Wilder (Meredith Inglesby). Youngest daughter Carrie (Carly Rose Sonenclar) is a mixture of her sisters, doing as she is told but struggling to focus in school.

Covering the first three years the Ingalls spent in De Smet, an enemy is found in the town's resident rich girl, Nellie Olsen (Kate Loprest), who snidely refers to the Ingalls sisters as "country girls."

Love blossoms between Laura and Almanzo Wilder (Kevin Massey), and Mary loses her eyesight as a result of scarlet fever during their first, very harsh winter.

Possibly the biggest draw for the audience was the actress Melissa Gilbert, who played the lead role of Laura on the television series. The audience's enthusiasm was revealed in the hearty applause they gave upon her first stage entrance as well as her final bow.

"Little House" as a musical worked well, with music reminiscent of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and "Oklahoma!" Unlike "Be Our Guest" in "Beauty and the Beast," the song-and-dance numbers were not complicated or grandiose, bringing instead a down-to-earth feel that reinforced the simplicity of life on the prairie.

Additionally, in place of stagehands, the



COURTESY / FOX THEATER

actors made all of the frequent set changes, nearly each one taking place in full view of the audience.

A method used by smaller theaters that cannot afford to hire additional crew members, this added to the small-town feel of the musical by paralleling the hard work of the characters with the hard work of the actors.

The timing of the production with Thanksgiving may have been cleverly planned or a simple stroke of scheduling luck as the story's

message corresponded with a day devoted to family and giving thanks. If attendance is an indicator, it may have been a welcome reprieve from the often negative and over-the-top subjects of so much that is deemed entertainment today.

Although the interpretation of the decades-old stories was different or new for many fans, all-in-all it successfully pulled in the many elements which make up a musical. **B+** —Stacy Beckenholdt

## Local band Humdrum is humming along

Antarctica, a new venue on South Gravois, is an old, snow-white building with no names and no flyers, just white-painted brick and a white-painted door. If you blink, you might miss it.

Playing Antarctica on Nov. 20 was St. Louis rock-quartet Humdrum, including Dan Meehan on vocals/guitar/bass, Paul Maguire on vocals/guitar/bass, Phil Strangman on delay pedal/piano/guitar/vocals and Mic Boshans on percussion/vocals.

Upon arriving and seeing a handful of stragglers standing around the door, one wondered if there was some kind of secret handshake to get inside. Then the truth comes out: a lapse in paying the electric bill. The band was sitting outside in the cold because there were no lights. They must have been sitting for there some time because their

pepperoni pizza had just arrived and they began devouring it intently while waiting for the owner to return and install a generator. After roughly an hour, a generator was properly installed and connected to the stage lights, amplifiers and instruments, leaving the rest of the club an ice-box Caravaggio. But, somehow, nothing was lost.

The only light came from the stage-lights propped toward the band, casting their gargantuan shadows dancing on the walls behind them. In fact, it was almost like actually being near the South Pole.

Cold and very dark, the club had a mysterious and lonely atmosphere. When the band was finally set up, juiced with power and pizza, plugged-in and tuned-in, they started their first song. They did not even need the generator. Humdrum generates their own electricity and their own current. Their much larger, shadowy-counterparts loomed behind them, a void simply needing to be filled.

Though the band's name implies some-

thing dull and insipid, the band is anything but. The quartet borrows largely from The Shins, a kind of floaty, effervescent pop that shines the shoes and tips the service. The acoustics were unreal: nothing but a garage-style room with cement walls and floor and curious fold-down rows of stadium seating lining the perimeter of the floor beneath the stage. The band members have long-toiled the music scenes of St. Louis and they have enough experience to pull this off. Mic beats furiously at the drums and Phil pounds keys. There is nothing like it.

They appreciate the ethics of keeping voice a major structure to the song, and The Beach Boys come to mind. They are characterized by indie flare, acrobatic vocals and infectious melodies, and they talk about psychedelic, out-of-body experiences, relationships with the mystical, and the questioning of unreasonable heights. They are the grandchildren of Brian Wilson, and it is indie-pop at its finest.

Humdrum is already floating in space.

Their self-released CD "Invisible Man" was recorded by Ryan Wasoba of So Many Dynamos. The mix is definitely in the right place but needs drum levels to be thicker and louder. So much of the sound is ethereal, space-chords and floating harmonies, and the drums are the band's only anchor.

"Kaleidoscope" is by far the best track, both musically and lyrically: "The sad song you can't stop singing/I am the ringing in your ears."

Track nine, "I'm In Love With a Mermaid," approaches the realm of Spoon's driving pop but guitarist Paul Maguire soft-steps lyrics. The fifth song is in danger of driving into the oncoming traffic that is Weezer; the melody is not interesting, the lyrics are mundane. They would be wise to stick to their own voice.

For having no electricity and being in deep South St. Louis, there were a number of people digging it, smiling, tapping their shoes and humming along to Humdrum. **A-** —Kevin Korinek



# City Seeds sprouts eccentric gallery

► AARON HOLDMEYER  
Staff Writer

Walking around the fourth floor of the Social Sciences Building, one may stumble upon an eccentric photo exhibit. Hanging outside of the doors of the Public Policy Research Center are several photographs and poems belonging to an exhibit named "City Seeds Urban Farm." Upon first glance, these do not seem to be of professional caliber, however a quick read into their story will provide a rather unique lens through which to view them.

The individuals who took the pictures and wrote the poems were clients of the St. Patrick Center, a St. Louis establishment that provides services to homeless people. They partook in a photography and horticulture class that was aimed at teaching several skills, not only in photography but also in sustainable urban agriculture and dealing with common problems that accompany homelessness.

Prior to the participants venturing into snapping pictures, they picked a pen and expressed themselves through poetry. Their



CHERA MEYER / THE CURRENT

Photographers of all experience levels produced artwork for the PPRC Photography Project, "City Seeds Urban Farm," located in the Social Sciences Building. Participants in the project backed by St. Patrick's and Gateway Greening were able to have a "professional" portrait done, while other shots were of a more "behind-the-scenes" nature. The cloudy skies provided excellent diffusion for the photographers which made the greenery stand out beautifully.

task was to describe the contrast between how they perceived themselves and how the world identified them. These poems provided the heart to the exhibit and really showcased the spirit of the artists. They confronted difficult issues ranging from racism, homelessness and self-esteem, with a crisp and precise prose.

One poem stood out in particular. The author, Raymond Savage, captured the core message of the photographs and the purpose of the class. His poem finishes by saying, "Someone said that what we do for ourselves will die with us, what we do for the world and others is immortal." Not only do

these individuals live up to this credo by furthering a more sustainable St. Louis through their gardens, but also their photography provides an example for generations to come.

Their photographs range from self-portraits and aesthetic city shots, to capturing the hard work that goes into nurturing their garden. While the images are lacking in consistent compositional control, the content is really their driving force. Be it an abstract pile of work tools to a worker gazing out into the city surrounded by his growing garden, these photos have a cinema verite feel that is expressed in their use of natural

light and their unconventional, even if non-purposeful, composition.

Their documentary feel and purpose reveal an aspect of the artist that is often lost in highly-stylized photography today. It is obvious that these were taken by amateurs. However, instead of detracting from the overall appeal, they inject a vigor that should be inspirational to other residents of St. Louis.

These often forgotten citizens gave something back to their city not only in terms of "green" produce but also in capturing the spirit of a city that has not given them much.

# Native American wordsmith

► SARAH HILL  
Staff Writer

As he read from "War Dances," his latest book of poems, to a full house at Mad Art Gallery, Native American author Sherman Alexie provoked laughter and a lot of thought.

Relating thoughts about how the audience's heritage affected his own heritage, Alexie chose some offensively executed jokes and well played follow-ups for his method. The evening proved that he was more than enough

of a comedian and energetic speaker to keep the audience in tune, while popping open a few minds due for rowdy exposure.

The comedic nature continued throughout the reading, which was more like a stand-up routine as Sherman Alexie made the audience laugh and clap for his performance of personal perspective. It was embellished in a way, as all stories are.

Referencing a place can signal the recognition of a personal lesson within the Native American culture, and it is the aspects of the place which relate to the characteristics of the lesson.

Alexie, often questioned on the validity of his stories, uses this kind of concept in a written fashion. Painting a moving mental and physical picture for the reader, Alexie re-

lates memories in a way that the lessons come across more distinctly through exaggeration and fabrication. Rendered by a language artist and superb storyteller, his work is, then, "true even when it is not true," Alexie said.

Covering poems and stories on his alcoholic father, a situation that brought Alexie a large amount of mental stress throughout his upbringing, he related humorous anecdotes about his boyhood and lessons in sex. Switching into what he called the "Rez" accent, Alexie recounted a tale of how he, along with cousins and young male friends, were told by a drunken father about the place on a woman's body that he liked to call "a little man in a boat."

See ALEXIE, page 21

## SWEET JAMS

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

1

'Bad Romance'  
Lady GaGa

So I hear the Large Hadron Collider is up and running. How long was it down-like 14 months or something? And did you hear about the new breakthrough in Multiple Sclerosis treatment? Could change the lives of millions of people. Pretentious? Moi?



2

'Tik-Tok'  
Ke\$ha

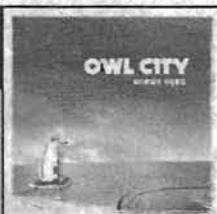
It's happened. I've heard this song so many times that I love it. Love it! Now if these damn boys would stop blowing up my phone I could finish my pedicure and go get my swagger on at a club or something, pronto.



3

'Fireflies'  
Owl City

I saw a thing last night where a couple was attacked by Africanized killer bees. All I could think about the whole time was the dire implications of what would happen if ten thousand lightning bugs gave someone a hug. Also I thought of "My Girl" and cried a little.



4

'Replay'  
Iyaz

My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody. My shawty's like a melody.



5

'Meet me Halfway'  
Black Eyed Peas

The Black Eyed Peas are fairly fun, fairly talented, fairly harmless. This new pop ballad is a hooktastic love song with a kick-ass video that demonstrates that the Peas still value creativity and fun without sacrificing heartfelt sentiment.





# Gallery 210 exhibit deconstructs America

► JOE SCHAFFNER  
Staff Writer

Throughout the semester, conspicuous red boxes holding clothing were seen scattered throughout campus. The "artist" Jesus Macarena-Avila was using the clothes to build a display at Gallery 210 as part of his exhibit "All-American."

Jesus Macarena-Avila's multi-media art exhibit "All American" opened Oct. 22 in Gallery 210's room A and runs through Dec. 5.

The clothes were arranged into 10 or 12 pyramids.

There was nothing particularly bifurcating between them; each appeared to be a jumbled mixture that any child could potentially have accumulated over the years. This was part of the charm of the exhibit. Macarena-Avila was on a mission to blur differentiating characteristics.

That, and the obsession with clothes. Nearly every photograph placed in the room displayed clothes in some odd combination. Boxer shorts were superimposed with an old tube sock in a particularly memorable photo.

A note from the artist to clarify this vestimentary element of the exhibit was included: "The clothes and photographs interpret the cultural and physical aspects/elements of a reconstructed 'American' landscape. Since clothes are coming from a variety of communities and even from my colleagues and friends, I want to explore the 'melting pot' as a myth and deconstruct the mainstream definition."

Another prominent feature was a makeshift message board that encircled the room. Someone, perhaps the artist, wrote starter words like "Community," "Family," and "Self-Expression" on it. From there, markers were handed out and anyone that came to the exhibit had free reign to create a masterpiece or destroy one.

Predictably, the responses ranged from profound interpretations to capricious surfeiting. On the same sheet of paper that someone had questioned the role of drugs, violence and poverty, another had asked whether the reader preferred "Cards or Cubs," and another drew a pair of orbicular constructions that looked suspiciously like breasts.

And it worked fine. It was certainly fun to look at how the society at UM-St. Louis could have such vast differences in interest, and yet still be a part of the same "sheet of paper," so to speak.

That said, there were fundamental problems with the exhibit.

An artist handing his audience a blank sheet of paper and telling them to create art is somewhat offensive. The artist is supposed to have the improved eye for humanity, not the audience. It is like entering a coloring contest and asking the judges to color in the pages for you.

Secondly, for all of the pluralistic charm that Macarena-Avila's exhibit showed off, it still stunk of a certain kind of subjectivity. At one display several comics and books about art were put inside. The immediate and practical reaction was to wonder where Paula Deen's cookbook was. That, or from where the census came that gave Macarena-Avila the idea that America read books about art.

See AVILA, page 21

DYLAN, from page 13

The first thing you see as soon as you open up the album is a pin-up picture of a Betty Paige-esque sexy Mrs. Claus, and 100 percent of proceeds from U.S. sales of the album go to Feeding America, a charity that distributes food to families in need.

The music is pure Dylan, and that means folk music in its truest sense. After all, what is a bigger part of our folk tradition than holiday music? Backed by his touring band and a choir, he delivers exactly what you would expect from a Christmas album recorded and produced under his now-ironic pseudonym Jack Frost: traditional lyrics, classy music and scratchy Tom Waits-like vocals.

There is an emphasis on that voice though, as there are no layers of musical texture to hide it when singing time-worn traditional tunes.

Haggard and bare, it makes sure to remind you that this man is no Bing Crosby, and that is the point.

The result is nothing less than hilariously profound. Really, who would not want to hear the man who sang "Subterranean Homesick Blues" and "Like a Rolling Stone" sing Christmas carols like "Silver Bells" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"?

But, this raises more questions than answers. For instance, why did Dylan not do "Silent Night" or "Feliz Navidad?" What about "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus?"

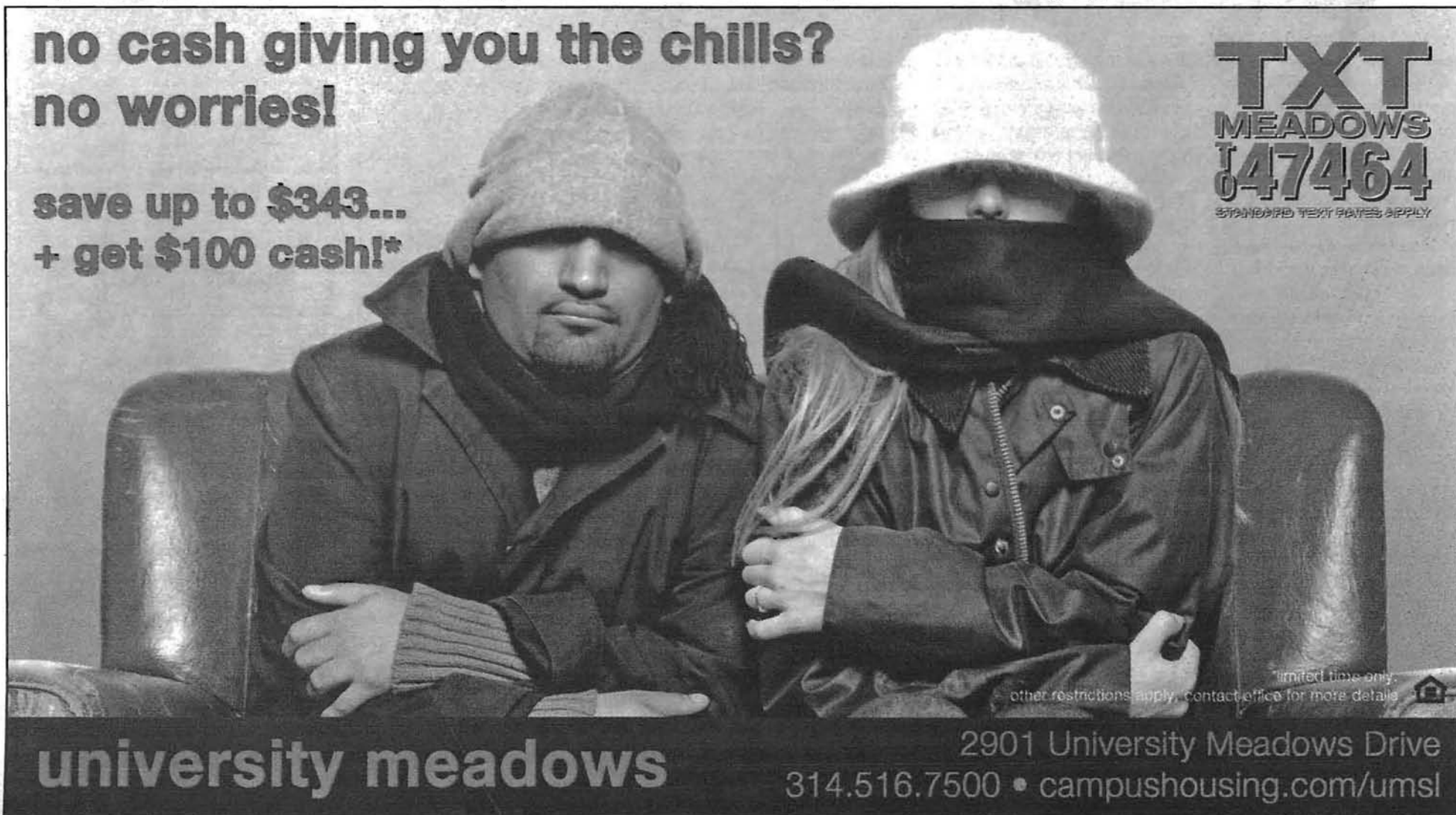
OK, the man still has plenty of dignity, and that is why he did not. Still, the album is nothing short of a gem in terms of pop culture. It is the definitive singer-songwriter of the past three generations doing what was once known as the cheapest cop-out album a major artist could do, all in the name of a good cause. Give it an "A," for style, hilarity and compassion.

A —Andy Phipps

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## Surviving Black Friday *America's biggest sale brings in the bucks*

Black Friday is a name that retailers like because it is a time that they can (hopefully) move their books from the red of not making money, into the black of profitability.

It is also a term that the naysayers of capitalism and all-around cynics used to help describe our country's mad rush of consumption.

Last year, Black Friday had a different and more macabre meaning when Wal-Mart employee Jdimytai Damour was crushed to death by a frenzied mob of shoppers. A man actually perished in America's mad rush for savings.

Thankfully, none of that happened this year. This year's Black Friday was a bit more subdued than last year's—the crowds were still there, but the ravening bargain hunting was not quite as fervent.

It can go without saying that this is the time of the year that people appear to be more concerned about living in a peaceful world and a cordial coexistence with their neighbors.

Retailers seemed to have taken notice that things had gotten out of hand and took measures to prevent other occurrences like the one that took the life of Mr. Damour.

This year Wal-Mart started putting out their heavily reduced 'door-busters' on the sales floor randomly starting at midnight, the logic being that there would be fewer people to stamp when a certain item went on sale. Since there were no deaths reported this year, one can assume this tactic was successful.

Since there were few, if any, deaths as a result of Black Friday frenzy before 2008, it could be argued that this was an unnecessary step to take. The death of a customer or employee on Black

Friday had more to do with poor planning of the retailer than the frenzy of consumers in the first place.

*The Current* begs the question to be answered of why everything has to happen in this one day?

Granted there are the 28 days of shopping between Black Friday and Christmas Eve, so why is there a need for all of the greatly reduced loss-leaders to be offered the first day?

Not only that, but in the first six hours of that day.

The pressure that retailers put on customers to pack their stores (and in turn not their competitors) in the opening minutes of business that Friday causes people to have unnecessary mob mentalities.

Because of this mentality, craziness ensues. For instance, two people want the same item and there's only one left—punches are thrown.

Because violence is never the answer, *The Current* has some suggestions to avoid these holiday shopping nightmares.

This holiday season, we should all try to embrace the "holiday spirit"—the giving nature we should be celebrating.

Next time we want to fight over the last \$5.99 DVD, we should be the bigger person and let the other person have it. If that does not work, try and see if another store has the same item and will price-match it.

We should remember that queues are there for a reason. People need to learn to wait their turn!

If you simply cannot wait, or have more pressing matters, ask an employee if the store can hold your merchandise



PHIL FREEMAN/ THE CURRENT

disse until you return for it.

Most department stores have a 24-hour hold policy, and sometimes that can be stretched if you ask the store manager.

On busy shopping days, employees are running around the store like mad, stocking this and grabbing that. People frequently stop them to ask questions. If you cannot find someone to help you in the store, be patient—they'll get to you. It helps to be near a cash register, too—

standing in the middle of the merchandise craning your neck for assistance doesn't seem to help.

Another suggestion—if you have an item to return that you purchased on previous day, do not try and return it on a day like Black Friday or Christmas Eve. Most stores have a 90-day merchandise return policy, so just wait a couple days. You will still get the same amount of money back if you come back on a less busy day.

Overall, we should all remember that the employees at these stores are people too, with feelings and frustrations like everyone else.

Just embrace that holiday spirit and thank those fellow countrymen who help you and ring you out. If you are feeling especially jolly, strike up an actual conversation while they ring your stuff out; it will make everyone's day better. It does not have to be anything deep, but simple things like inquiring how

their day is going or saying

"Wow, today's crazy, how're you holding up?" helps employees feel like actual real-life people, not mindless puppets with scan guns.

It has been said that the world would be a better place if everyone had to work a Christmas retail shift once in their life. *The Current* doesn't know about that, but we do know that a little compassion will make everyone's holiday happier and more pleasant.



# Rogue politics

## *Palin and Schwarzenegger dip into the dubious tactics of modern name-callitics*



Chris Stewart

This just in from the Too Good to be True desk: a recent feud between California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and San Francisco assemblyman Tom Ammiano has culminated in a gubernatorial veto memo in which the first letter of each line spells what is perhaps the most common and

the possibility that Schwarzenegger has resorted to such foolish (albeit creative) and childish means of expressing frustration, it would seem that public decorum is all but extinct from our modern era of American political discourse.

It may be flogging a dead horse to mention the deterioration of cable news networks into pandering, sappy, embarrassingly lopsided propaganda machines (equally egregious on both sides) driven by self-obsessed pundits who shout, cry, spit, and call for revolution.

Still, when such pundits exhibit arguably more influence over everyday Americans' conversation than politicians themselves, it must make it more tempting for representatives to express themselves in the same pointless and petty manner.

Obama has not been innocent of this.

While overall he has done a superb job of keeping cool, level-headed and avoiding the partisan blubbery, he has let undignified remarks slip.

His calling the police officer who arrested Dr. Gates "stupid" was the wrong word choice for the president,

direct obscene two word phrase, beginning with a certain four-letter word and ending with "you".

Schwarzenegger's office promptly stated that the "hidden message" is "a coincidence." It is so compelling however (there are no extra lines or letters) that upon first glance it appears to be a hoax. The veto, issued on Oct. 12, reads as follows:

"I am returning Assembly Bill 1176 without my signature.

For some time now I have lamented the fact that major issues are overlooked while many unnecessary bills come to me for consideration. Water reform, prison reform, and health care are major issues my Administration has brought to the table, but the Legislature just kicks the can down the alley.

Yet another legislative year has come and gone without the major reforms Californians overwhelmingly deserve. In light of this, and after careful consideration, I believe it is unnecessary to sign this measure at this time."

-Governor Schwarzenegger's suspiciously aligned Oct. 12 veto letter

The PDF of that veto was taken from <http://www.msnbcmedia.msn.com>, but the story, broken by the San Francisco Chronicle, has been picked up by a slew of syndicated publications.

As for the feud portion of the veto, that growing theory comes since San Francisco assemblyman Ammiano recently pulled a Joe-"you lie, Obama!"-Wilson moment at a Democratic Party fundraiser in San Francisco. When Schwarzenegger made an unexpected appearance, Ammiano called out a number of rude remarks, including the much-discussed "kiss my gay ass."

In remembering Wilson's outburst and now realizing

for instance.

It is not that he cannot have opinions, or even that I disagree, it is just that he needs to remain an adult voice in a political landscape of bickering children.

The same goes for Schwarzenegger, Ammiano, Wilson, and the rest.

There is a time and a place for everything.

Let's keep our official forums just that: places where we can try to professionally deal with the very real problems that for many people who are suffering, poor, sick, and discriminated against, are no simple shouting match but rather serious daily issues.



Andy Phipps

These past two weeks it has been hard to miss former Alaskan Governor and Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, with her appearing everywhere from "Oprah" to the cover of Newsweek magazine, which we still do not know if she reads, even after that hard-hitting Oprah interview.

This media coverage was due to her memoir, "Going Rogue: An American Life," which had become a runaway bestseller before a single copy even left the guarded warehouses where they were kept after the first run had been printed.

Indeed, the publisher of the memoir kept the book under total lockdown prior to its release. The warehouses where it was kept were guarded and journalists were not given advance copies for review. However, the Associated Press refused to be deterred.

The wire service literally went on a crusade to get a copy of the book before it would be officially available to anyone else aside from Palin and her ghostwriter. According to an internal memo that the AP circulated to staff members, "the AP had owned the story from the start," and "was determined to get the first copy."

They ultimately did when a small bookstore somehow received their shipment early and put the books on the shelves five days early. They bought a copy and then gave it the literary review nobody else had.

Actually, that last statement is a misnomer. What the AP actually did with the book, to quote them directly, was that they "ripped it

from its spine and scanned it into the system so it could be read and electronically searched." Within 40 minutes of their electronic fact check of the text, they had leads on misleading information in it, which they broke as a news story picked up by many news outlets.

The AP gave themselves a glowing review of their journalistic legwork in this internal memo and possibly rightfully so, though I believe that their methods here may be in need of some questioning themselves.

I am by no means an admirer of Sarah Palin.

I have yet to actually meet anybody in person who is, but if I do, I will weep uncontrollably like Glenn Beck out of general despair for my country, though in a genuine vein.

However, I genuinely question the motives of the AP in this instance for two reasons.

One is that whether they had gotten their hands on the book early or not, the fact check and review would have not been that dissimilar to shooting fish in a barrel.

On the campaign trail last fall, Palin was notorious for her spinning and general detachment from reality when it came to the facts. In this light, many of the inaccuracies that the AP cited in her book were the same old inaccuracies she had uttered before, both on the campaign trail and after.

Second, I wonder how much of the AP's fervor in getting ahold of a copy of the book was fueled by a genuine journalistic quest for facts, or if it is just them giving in to Palin's warped status of celebrity. While they deserve credit for tracking the book down and tearing it apart, the book was a hot topic, as is its subject.

Do they do this to every political autobiography that comes out by any political figure of any stature? I hope so for their sake, and if this is not the case then I think that the AP just shot off a lot of journalistic bullets killing the fish in that barrel.

And they didn't do it from a helicopter either...

**"JOURNALISM LARGELY CONSISTS OF SAYING  
'LORD JONES IS DEAD' TO PEOPLE WHO NEVER KNEW  
THAT LORD JONES WAS ALIVE"**

**-G.K. Chesterton**

# Extended library hours at UMSL are overdue



Anna Marie Curran

As a student at University of Missouri-St. Louis, I feel I am given access to some of the best resources for a top-notch education.

We have a city library on campus, internationally rec-

ognized professors, and an international business program (among other degree programs) that continues to grow in prestige.

However, there is always room for improvement and I vote we start with the libraries on-campus... or at least with the hours they are available for use.

When I first came to UM-St. Louis I was surprised at the handful of times students were able to study in the libraries on campus.

Obviously, I realized that not all campuses had libraries open to the campus community 24/7, but it was surprising that a university like

UM-St. Louis had such meager pickings for study time at the library, which I found (and still consider to be) very disappointing.

UM-St. Louis has built its reputation as a "commuter school" where all students can come for an education, meaning that the fresh-out-of-high-school freshmen can share a biology class with a mother-of-two who has returned to school for her degree.

I expected the libraries and their hours of operation to fit the needs of all the students, not just the ones who had enough time during the day to get all of their work

done.

I expected hours that would accommodate both the student working her way through college with two jobs and the student who unfortunately, found himself with obnoxiously loud neighbors who always seem to be having their parties the night before an exam.

I didn't expect to find strict hours with library techs who glare if a student spends one minute on the computer past when the computer lab of the library closes, but that was what I discovered as the norm for UM-St. Louis.

I understand a common concern associated with 24-

hour libraries: the students will procrastinate and sleep-deprive themselves.

While I see how this could be perceived as a consequence of more flexible hours, I don't think that it is 100 percent accurate.

Closing the library at 10 p.m. instead of midnight is not going to promote students starting their homework any earlier.

To me, having such restricted library hours seems like it would have a negative effect on students.

For example, instead of starting a paper a day early because the library closes at 10, why not just skip classes

the day before their paper is due to score an extra couple of hours in the library?

Restricting the hours students have access to the study-conducive atmosphere of the library can have no desirable effect.

In my opinion, if UM-St. Louis wants to continue attracting more and more students, as appears to be the trend with enrollment, the university should consider implementing a 24-hour study area on campus.

In the very least, hours could be extended around and during finals week out of consideration for the extra work students will have.

## Killing Fields: *Landmines still killing children around the world*



Andrew Seal

Here is a word association: What's the first thing that you think of when you hear the word "landmine"?

Is it children? If it is not, it should be.

Every year around the world, dozens to hundreds of children are killed and maimed by these insidious explosive devices.

Sadly, landmines are one of the biggest culprits for the

worldwide death and maiming of children, according to the United Nations Children's Fund's web site.

Everyone is vulnerable to landmines, obviously, but children more so than adults. If an adult comes into contact with a mine, there's a possibility of serious injury or the loss of a limb.

Children, however, due to their small stature, are more likely to die or lose multiple limbs.

The design of the mines themselves poses problems as well.

The old Soviet 'butterfly' mine buried by the millions in Afghanistan typically looks like some kind of toy to children.

In Iraq, Kurdish children have used round mines as improvised wheels for toys, and in Cambodia, B40 anti-per-

sonnel mines are often used for games.

Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia have the highest number of undiscovered landmines in the world, as well as a combined 85% of the world's land-mine casualties.

By itself, Angola has "an estimated 10 million landmines and an amputee population of 70,000, of whom 8,000 are children," according to Unicef.

Past presidents have declined to sign any international treaties regarding the banning of landmines or additional funding for the location and removal of these little destroyers.

When Barack Obama was elected last year to be the President of the United States, he ran on a platform of Change.

Change in government, particularly changes in governmental policy.

Change from the disastrous Bush-era of U.S. isolationism, Cowboy-ism and well, Bush-ism.

Last week, a spokesman for President Obama said that "This administration undertook a policy review ... and we determined that we would not be able to meet our national defense needs nor our security commitments to our friends and allies if we sign this convention."

Really? "Friends and allies"—like the North Atlantic Trade Organization?

The same NATO whose member nations have all signed the treaty except for the United States?

Surely not those friends and allies. Of the major nations, only the U.S., Russia

and China have not signed this treaty.

Of those three, one is a former Super Power who seeded an incredible amount of landmines into a small Middle Eastern country, one is a totalitarian Communist government, and the other is a nation reviled by smaller countries for its unfriendly stances and power grabs.

With all of the firepower the U.S. commands (Tomahawk cruise missiles, tactical "bunker-buster" nukes, JDAM smart bomb guidance systems), surely we can do the humane thing and disarm ourselves of landmines.

They do far more trouble than good, and are and should be a relic of a bygone time.

Back then, most wars were fought between two clearly-defined opposing forces

instead of between a well-armed military power and hide-and-go-seek guerilla insurgents.

Landmines harm innocent civilians more than they harm enemy forces.

In a time of war against faceless foes, landmines have no place.

The U.S. is supposed to be trying to change its image, to be less Team America, World Police, and more mindful of fellow countries.

We're trying to be a leader, a role model for smaller, up-and-coming nations. In this case, though, the U.S. is lagging sorely behind.

Sure, we spend a paltry sum in the name of disarming landmines, but this action is worthless without us committing to end our use of them.

Think of the children.



## SCIENCE COLUMN

# Are bullies born or made?



Cate Marquis

Are bullies born or made? Bullying is a growing problem in American schools and has been linked to school shootings and suicides. Tackling this problem has remained an elusive task.

While parenting was once given the greatest blame, research now indicates that genetics may play a larger role. A 2007 study by researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College in London and at Duke University, published in *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, found that 61 percent risk of being a bully and 73 percent of risk of being a victim could be attributed to genetics.

The study used 1,000 pairs of twins as its sample and found that 12 percent had been bullied and 13 percent frequently bullied others.

The researchers noted that there is a great deal of research that shows strong links between psychological traits and genetic influence.

The picture is less clear for cases where children join in bullying in an effort to direct a bully's attention away from themselves.

Bullying can mean physi-

cal intimidation, violence or verbal abuse, and while bullies are more likely to be boys, girls bully as well.

Bullies usually have authoritative personalities and the behavior tends to run in families with authoritative parents, who are demanding, directive and unresponsive, according to a survey of research presented by a University of Cincinnati graduate student in sociology at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. In other studies, bullying has been linked to sleep disturbances such as sleep apnea.

It has been assumed that bullies respond coldly to their victim's suffering, but one study indicates they may enjoy inflicting pain.

Research conducted by University of Chicago and published in *Biological Psychology* in 2008 used Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) brain scans to look at the responses of eight 16 to 18-year-old aggressive boys.

When the aggressive boys watched a video clip of someone hurting another person, the scans showed increased activity in an area of the brain associated with rewards, while a non-aggressive control group did not have this response.

According to a study published this year in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, "Individual Characteristics and the Multiple Contexts of Adolescent Bullying: An Ecological Perspective," several factors increased bullying

in teens. These included frequent TV watching, lack of teacher support, a school environment that enables bullying, and parents or schools with low expectations.

Interestingly, having friends and a social support network of peers increases the chance of bullying in teens with that tendency.

Research indicates that traditional school anti-bullying responses, such as classroom discussions and school posters, are largely ineffective. One reason is that students identified by adults as bullies may not see themselves that way.

Teens who do not see themselves as bullies because they only 'sometimes' bully, others or have good grades or success in sports, may not consider school message bulletins as being about them, according to research presented at the 2009 meeting of the American Sociological Association by Brent Harger of Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania.

However, remaking the school environment to promote empathy does help reduce bullying.

Creating an environment that is not conducive to bullying, giving bullies positive reinforcement for empathetic behavior, removing peer group support and helping the victims to deal with bullying will all help reduce the problem.

Virtual reality games can also help victims learn to deal with bullies, according to one study.

"It's a balancing act between security, speed and user friendliness," Brad Bilyeu, system support analyst, said.

"I think it's exciting to work in a place where change

"I'm actually more mo-

tivated by the weird ones or the ones that all the conventional types of fixes don't work," Bilyeu said.

Along with the peculiar cases, Bilyeu finds that students provide a strong stimu-

## FASHION COLUMN

# Don't quit your day job, Lindsay

*A disastrous opening proves what we already knew*



Sequita Bean

The fashion world is still snickering weeks after "actress" Lindsay Lohan's debut as artistic advisor for the legendary fashion house Emmanuel Ungaro at Paris Fashion Week.

The president of Ungaro, Mounir Mouffarige, hired Lohan weeks prior because he felt the line could use her youthful outlook, and even that was met with much dismay from fashion critics.

Nevertheless, Mouffarige stood by his choice of Lohan and paired her with Spanish designer Estrella Archs for Ungaro's Spring 2010 collection.

An "embarrassment" is what fashion bible *Women's Wear Daily* called the debut. During the show, models strutted one by one down the runway wearing cheesy hot pink, orange and sparkly dresses, no shirts with heart shaped pasties covering their nipples and derrières, and dresses cut so short one model's butt cheeks were hanging out of the bottom.

There was no couture that Ungaro is known for,

not even one floor-length gown. Afterward, Archs and Lohan took their final bow while audience members sat in shock at the presentation. Archs was stone faced, pulling Lohan who reluctantly took the stage with a bucket of tears in her eyes.

Fashion critics ripped her to shreds.

Lindsay is placing the blame on the label, saying that everything was rushed and put together last minute. You don't say?

Everything that came down that runway looks like it could be found at Forever 21, or worse, Dots.

Emmanuel Ungaro himself was appalled, but there is nothing he can do about it because he sold his legendary brand in 2005.

It must make him sick to have his namesake label collapse under the weight of heart-shaped pasties, glitter and t-shirt length dresses. Unfortunately all he can be is mad, and all we can do is laugh.

Can you just stick to acting Lindsay?

Acting and fashion really are two art forms that are in no way related, and you can't just throw on a Zac Posen dress with some Louboutins and consider yourself a fashion know-it-all.

This is an industry filled with blood, sweat and tears and you haven't earned the right missy.

Mouffarige thought that having Lohan on the team would get Ungaro the press

it needed—it succeeded, but I have a feeling it isn't the press he was looking for.

Why did he think Lohan was a good choice to begin with?

She hasn't been a "hot" celebrity since after her first stint in rehab.

For the past couple of years, the girl has been creating better punch lines than fashion lines.

Her movies have been horrible, her image is shattered, and let's not forget she is looking like a Pillsbury Toaster Strudel these days with her overly tanned skin. She is the Joan Rivers of our generation and won't go away even if we beg her to.

This is what happens when fashion houses leave their vision in the hands of celebrities.

It's true that celebrities sell clothes: that's why it's a good idea to dress them. However, giving them creative control over an entire fashion line is ridiculous and should be met with knee slapping laughter.

It was revealed early last week that Lohan will continue her position as creative advisor for the brand and will show another collection at the Paris Fall 2010 Fashion Week.

Designer Stella McCartney has also just announced that pop singer Leona Lewis will be designing a collection under her namesake label this spring.

Let's cross our fingers on this one.

TECH, from page 10

"It's a balancing act between security, speed and user friendliness," Brad Bilyeu, system support analyst, said.

"I think it's exciting to work in a place where change

is a part of our every day life," Fowler said. "It's a commitment to learning. I think everybody here is committed to learning and staying on top of the changes."

"I'm actually more mo-

tivated by the weird ones or the ones that all the conventional types of fixes don't work," Bilyeu said.

Along with the peculiar cases, Bilyeu finds that students provide a strong stimu-

lus for his eagerness to learn. "[Students are] using alternatives like Linux," Bilyeu said. "I started just getting into it on my own time, just so I'd have some basis of what it was, [and] how it worked."

In the month of October alone, the support center received around 1,877 individuals looking for solutions to their tech problem. "This is the nature of technology," Bilyeu said.

"We can buy the most expensive hardware, put the most expensive software on it, have a team of highly paid consultants configure it for us ... [but] at some point its going to break."

# Classifieds

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## 700 MISCELLANEOUS

### Shop the Staff Association Holiday Bazaar!!

This year its on Dec. 3rd from 10am – 2pm in the MSC Century Rooms.

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

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### CHILDCARE, from page 3

I think that would be an incentive for some people to come to school here," Gentile said.

Navin said that while the survey has had some response, the number of people taking it could be improved. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, but

could have lasting effects on childcare at UM-St. Louis.

"I just really, I think that high quality childcare made available to UMSL faculty, staff, and students just allows everybody to do their jobs a little bit better and they don't have to worry about their child," Navin said.

### ALEXIE, from page 15

His father informed them, in a drunken reservation accent, that they had to just "flick it" right and a woman would "love you." Sherman Alexie explained to the audience immediately after this that he received an e-mail from a woman who attended an earlier reading that said, "Flick is a violent and patriarchal word." He responded that although his "knowledge was limited," he did remember an earlier occasion in his life where a woman specifically told him to "flick it." She responded with, "You're funny."

Topics like cockroaches, earwax, hearing loss, kindles, chainsaws and the loss of limbs were included. One particular story about the holidays related how a few of his friends

would go to their families' houses for the holidays and return almost irreparably broken every time.

In response to this, he would ask his friends "Why?" He then told the audience that if a person does not get along with his or her tribe, get the "hell away" from that tribe and find or create a new tribe.

Among Alexie's books sold during the show were "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," "Toughest Indian in the World," and "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven," to name a few. Overall the reading by Sherman Alexie illustrated his multi-faceted talents as a wordsmith.

### AVILA, from page 16

At times the exhibit even embraced a monistic point of view. The "Talking Lips" display was nothing more than a video tape of two random pairs of lips telling their life story. The result was schizophrenic not only because two different stories were vying for attention at the same time, but because the rest of the room showcased a merging culture,

not the isolated and singular one that the lips described.

Of course, these are small issues. No one can deconstruct all the time. Overall the "All-American" was eye-catching and whimsical. Its finer points even came disturbingly close to representing a full-blown microcosm of middle America.

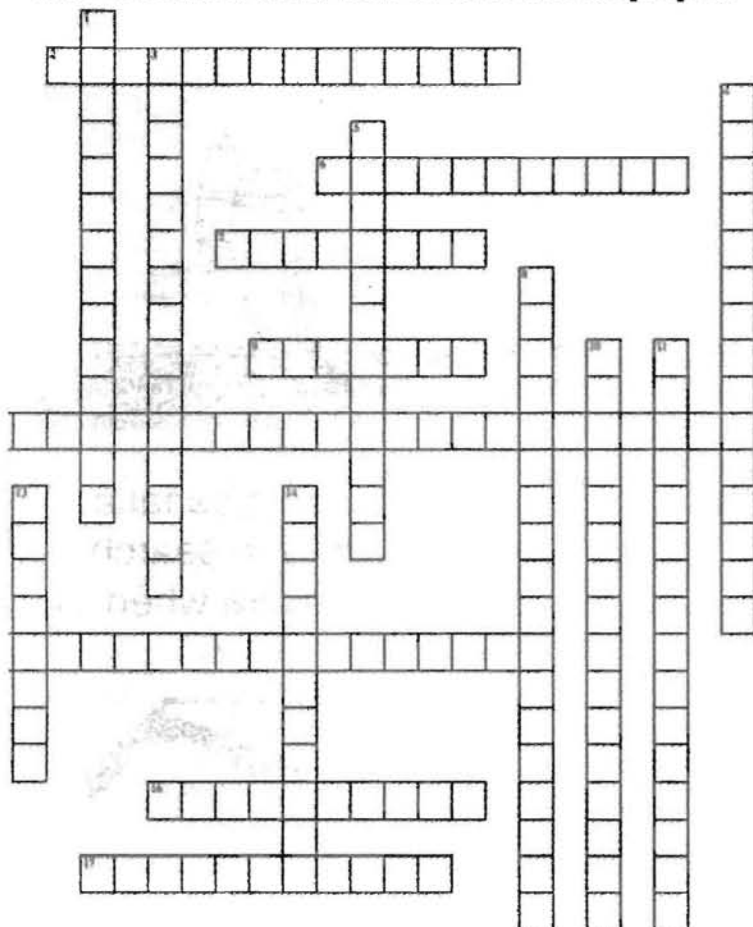
### SMOKE, from page 5

the air quality in the bars which allowed smoking contained six times as many particulates. This report, although not an aspect of the affect on the economy, supports the legislation behind banning smoking in enclosed public venues as even ventilators in use placed nonsmoking patrons and even employees at risk.

Employees within smoking establishments were "exposed annually to fine particle air pollution levels 2.7 times higher than the safe annual limit established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," according to the Roswell Cancer institute's study.



## The decline and fall of the Newspaper



2. This Ohio city daily was closed along with its companion paper the Kentucky Post.
6. Syracuse University's student paper stopped publishing their Friday edition.
7. Missouri paper covering Independence and Blue Springs stopped printing on Mondays.
9. Student paper at Howard University switched to on-line only.
12. Longtime daily, owned by the Church of Christ, Scientist, switched to being a weekly newsmagazine.
15. The Denver daily that closed in February 2009
16. Revived in 2002, this New York paper recently shut down again.
17. The other Detroit daily that ceased some of its home deliveries.

1. University of Minnesota newspaper that stopped its Friday edition.
3. Longtime Chicago daily that closed twelve of its suburban papers.
4. The paper in Newton County, Mississippi ended its 107 year publication.
5. Former Madison daily, now in a joint agreement with the Wisconsin State Journal.
8. The professional newspaper at the world's oldest journalism school dropped to printing two days a week.
10. Kansas paper now only on the web.
11. Detroit paper that ceased home delivery to four days a week
13. This national newspaper shut down its international edition.
14. \_\_\_\_\_-Intelligencer. This Northwest newspaper is now only on the web.

**ARIES**  
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Things may be difficult with your family this week, but keep your spirits up and don't get involved in anyone else's drama. The weekend will bring plenty of time to relax with friends.

**TAURUS**  
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You've been hyper-emotional lately, and it's beginning to wear you out. Try to put aside your own troubles for a while to help a friend and restore peace to both of your lives.

**GEMINI**  
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You thrive on challenges, and you'll find plenty in the next few days. The added pressure will also bring a much-needed burst of energy to your week. Perhaps it's time to tackle a project.

**CANCER**  
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Take charge this week. You're full of bright ideas right now, so don't be afraid to share them. You'll have more than a few people on your side, and you'll easily overcome any problems.

**LEO**  
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

A difficult decision looms in your future. Don't over-think it. Instead, focus on making the wisest choice, and remember that you don't need to explain yourself to anyone.


**VIRGO**  
 (AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

This week will be a productive one. You'll get a lot done, but actions you take now could affect your life in the long term, so proceed with caution and seek advice if you're feeling unsure.

LIBRA  
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Someone you consider a friend might not be acting in your interest this week. Cultivate an awareness of others' hidden motivations, but don't be overly suspicious of those around you.



**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Although it's against your nature, you may need to swallow your pride and request a favor sometime soon. If life gets rocky, don't be afraid to ask friends and family to help you out.

 **SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)


Any cynical feelings at the beginning of the week are only temporary. By the weekend you'll be seeing the silver lining to every cloud. Share some of that optimism with friends.

**CAPRICORN**  
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

You'll have a lot on your plate this week, but be prepared to drop it all at a moment's notice when an unexpected event arises. Be patient; your hectic schedule will settle down soon.


**AQUARIUS**  
 (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Your life is feeling a little out of control these days, and now is the time to address that. Contemplate steps you might take to get things back on track, and then take action.

 **PISCES**  
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Give serious thought to your goals and what's standing in the way of achieving them. Use your free time this week to come up with new ways to accomplish the things on your to-do list.

### This week's rating:

★ ★ ★

(Hard)

## Last week's answers

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

**Last week's  
rating:  
Medium**

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

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: Y=O)

GRYOFB CKSN WYXOI MKX'D LEI  
RKZZSXOCC CSWZVI NSNX'D UXYG  
GROBO DY OY CRYZZSXO

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.

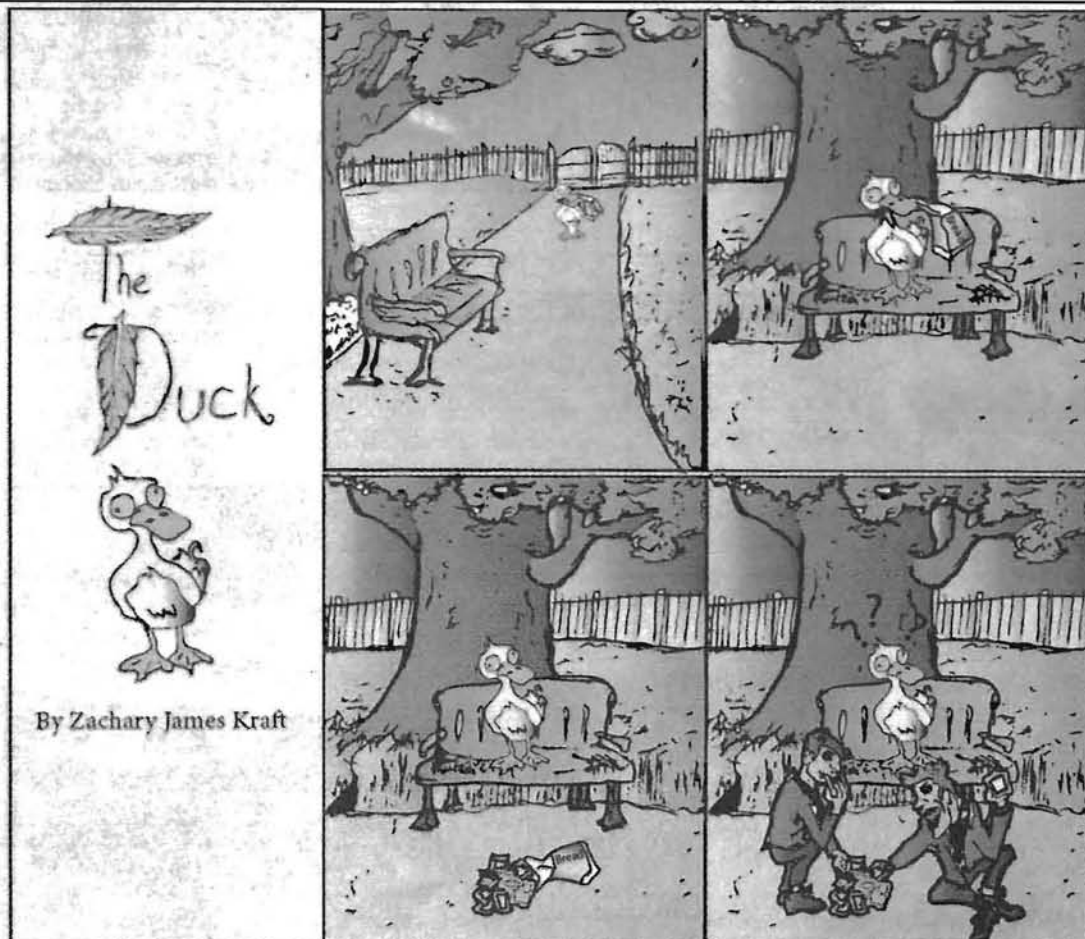
**Check back next week  
for solutions to sudoku!**

# Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



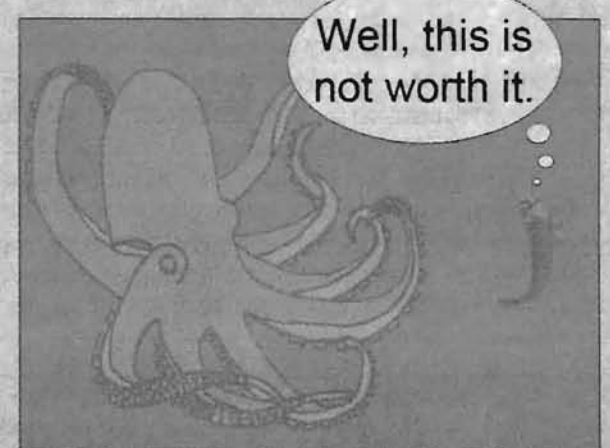
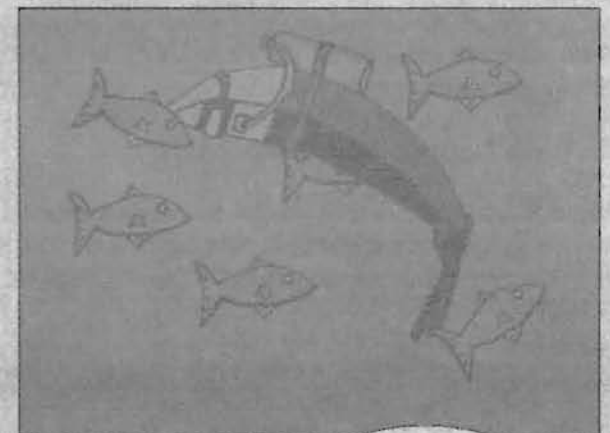
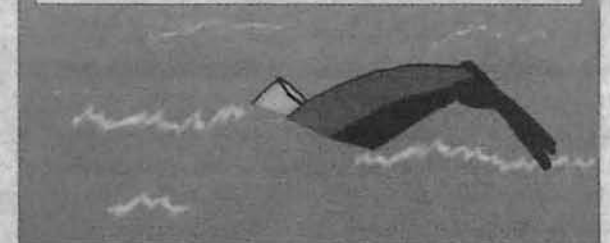
**Good Guys** by Phil Freeman



**Bananas #20** by Paul Maguire



The adventurous banana was on his way to search for sunken treasure when...





# What's Current

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

## Monday, Nov. 30

**One-Night Volleyball Tournament** Hands up for volleyball! This Campus Rec volleyball tournament is actually two tournes, a men's and a women's, played in one night. Please register in advance at the Campus Rec Office. Team & individual sign-ups welcomed. Located in the Mark Twain Gym at 7:00 PM. For more information contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain at 516-5326.

## Tuesday, Dec. 1

**2009 Holiday Fest** With the holiday season soon approaching it is once again time to come together as campus community and help those in need. This year's Holiday Fest will take place December 1st- December 7th. On Monday, November 30th, we will display Holiday decorations in the NOSH in the Millennium Student Center in anticipation of the arrival of food baskets and donations from offices, organizations and individuals across campus. Please visit the Student Life website to find out how to get involved.

**Effective Studying: Facts and Myths about Memory** Learn more about how memory works and some tips that can be put into practice to improve recall. Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal setting for studying, concentration, reading a textbook, and test-taking skills. Located in 100 Lucas Hall, the Center for Student Success, from 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

## Wednesday, Dec. 2

**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 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

## Thursday, Dec. 3

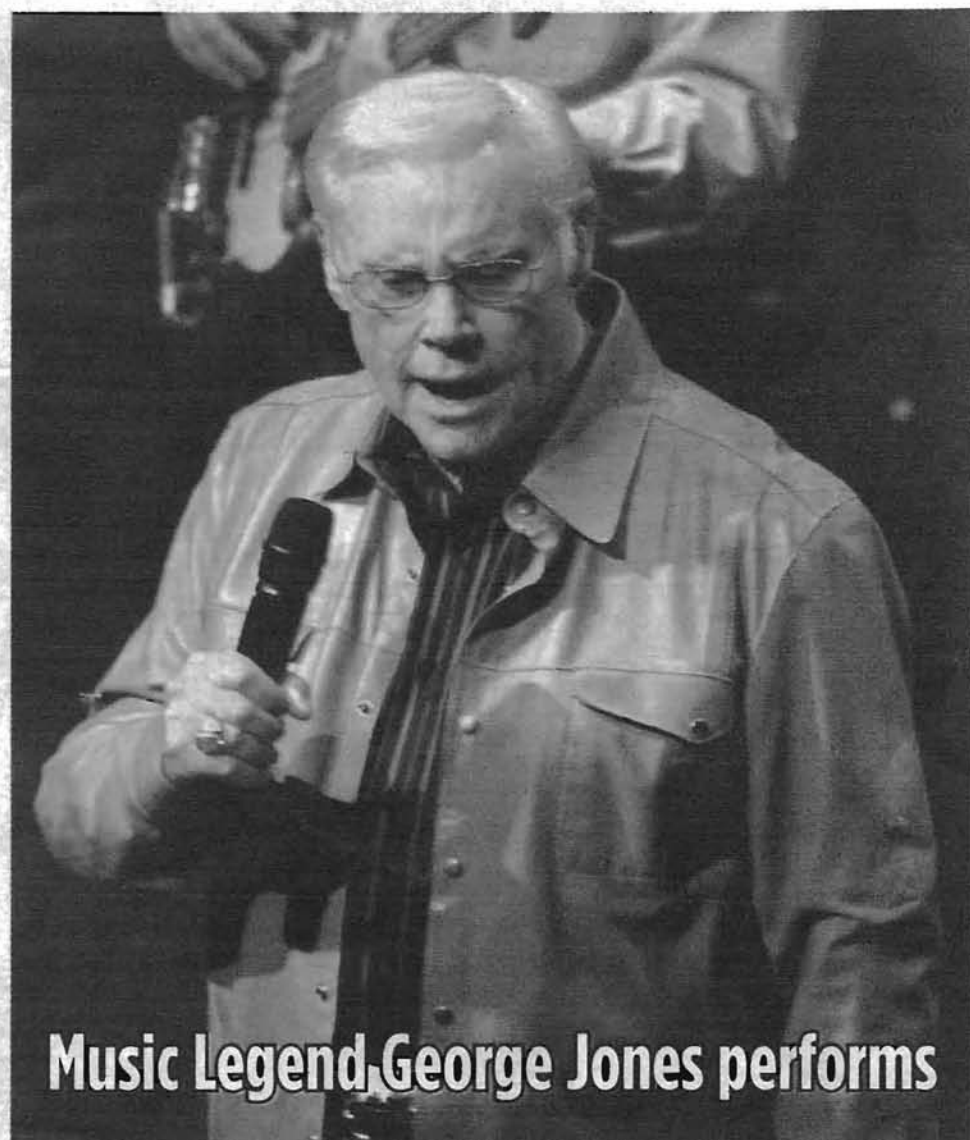
**UPB Theater: The Hang Over** UPB brings you the final Free Movie of the year. Come have fun with UPB free popcorn and drinks. Located in the MSC Pilot House, at 2PM. For more information contact Darren Nesbitt at 314-516-5531.

**Bingo Study Break Party** Sponsored by Campus Recreation. Take a break from your studies and join us for fun, food, and great prizes! Best of all, it's free! Bring friends! Located at the Provincial House on South Campus, from 7:00 PM to 3:30 PM. For more info contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain at 516-5326.

## Friday, Dec. 4

**Effective Studying: Facts and Myths about Memory** Learn more about how memory works and some tips that can be put into practice to improve recall. Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal setting for studying, concentration, reading a textbook, and test-taking skills. Located in 100 Lucas Hall, the Center for Student Success, from 1:00 PM to 1:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

**Power of Retention: Best Practices for Student Engagement** This program will acquaint faculty and staff with the student experience at UMSL by reviewing data on student retention and engagement and focusing attention on strategies each of us can use to contribute to the campus goals to recruit and retain outstanding students. Located in 126 J.C. Penney Conference Center, from 1:30 PM to 5 PM. For more info call Yolanda Weathersby at (314) 516-5460.



## Music Legend George Jones performs

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