

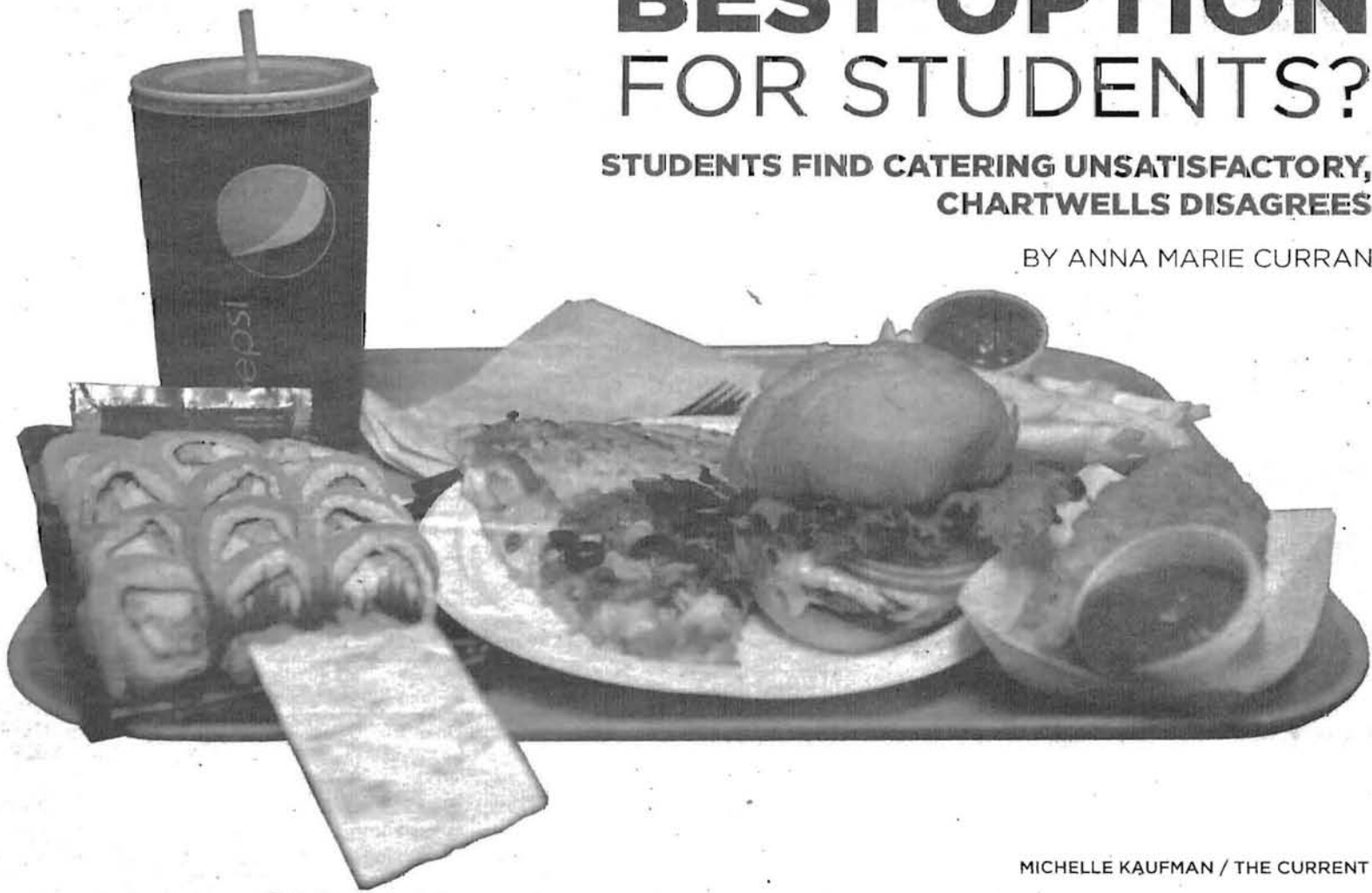
DEC. 7, 2009

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IS CHARTWELLS THE BEST OPTION FOR STUDENTS?

STUDENTS FIND CATERING UNSATISFACTORY, CHARTWELLS DISAGREES

BY ANNA MARIE CURRAN



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

Chartwells, the food provider for University of Missouri-St. Louis, is also the food provider for Saint Louis University and Missouri S&T. At UM-St. Louis, students can purchase food from Chartwells at numerous outlets including the Nosh, La Cantina Loca at the Pilot House, Provincial House Cafeteria, The Campus C-Store and Aromas Cafe.

Many students have complained that Chartwells has higher prices than comparative food providers in the area. However, Lori Liming, Chartwells coordinator for UM-St. Louis, said that Chartwells' prices are actually "set to be in line with local convenience stores and quick serve restaurants."

"In many cases, our prices are equal to or even below what you might be charged at a local convenience store or restaurant," Liming said. "For example, we are below prices on Qdoba at La Cantina Loca [and] our C-store prices are on target for Walgreens."

Liming said that the prices of sandwiches and grill items on campus are also priced competitively with local quick serve restaurants such as Quiznos, Jimmy John's and Dairy Queen.

Tim Bryant, junior, accounting, said that for the quality of the food prod-

ucts, Chartwells is too expensive. Bryant said that there is very little variety of food as well, and that "the only thing [he] ever really wants to eat is the burgers."

Maggie Schmidt, freshman, music, said that the quality of food at UM-St. Louis pales in comparison to other universities. Schmidt said that in her experience, different universities have had a better selection of food.

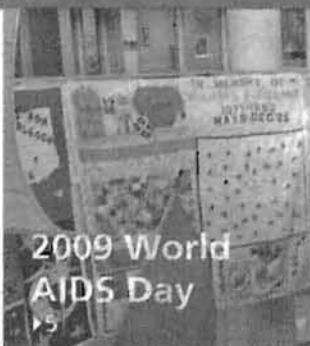
"I visited KU [Kansas University] over fall break and their food was amazing!" Schmidt said. "Plus they are open all day and provide breakfast, unlike [Provincial House]."

Bob Ross, technical services at Ward E. Barnes Library, said that he feels like on-campus dining is not reliable. Ross has been working at the University for 18 years and said that he feels like Chartwells gives up on new products before really giving them a chance to see if they are going to work.

"There doesn't seem to be any real consistency," Ross said, "They try things out [and then] they let [them] go."

See CHARTWELLS, page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE



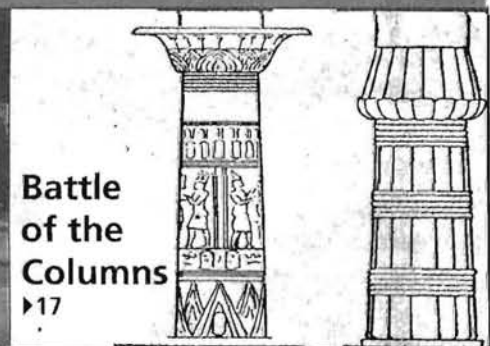
2009 World AIDS Day



Bingo!



'A Christmas Story'



Battle of the Columns

▶17

The Current

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1298

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FROM PAGE 1

Ross said that the hours of the dining outlets on campus can be inconvenient, and that the "hours are very limited" at many of the outlets. Ross cited the University's C-Store as being a particular problem because it is never open during the summer for faculty and staff to purchase food items.

Liming said that Chartwells also tries to work with students to ensure that products students want to see on campus have the chance to be implemented. Liming said that two years ago, Chartwells was "approached about the need for fair trade coffee to be offered on campus." She said that now the coffee at Aroma's Bakery and Oak Cafe offer fair trade coffee to students. Liming said that last spring they were also approached to bring more eco-friendly packaging on campus.

"We worked with various vendors to ensure that our water cups and salad containers are made from greenware materials,"

Liming said, "Additionally, our plates and to go containers are made from a paper bagasse [crushed sugarcane] materials which are also compost ready."

Liming said that Chartwells decides what new implementations to make or what new products to bring to campus based mainly on student feedback. She said that through student feedback provided "via [the] website, semester surveys, and comments," Chartwells tries to give the students what they want food-wise on campus.

"If students have recommendations for items they'd like to see on campus, we will do our best to bring them to UMSL," Liming said. Liming said that right now, Chartwells is working on bringing about a few changes to the cafeteria in Provincial House as well as the Nosh. She said that soon student feedback will be needed.

Student fee increases put to vote next semester

The SGA meeting this Friday had three unexpected guests, all of whom tried to convince the assembly to increase some student fees for the 2010-2011 school year. The deans: John Hylton, College of Fine Arts and Communication, Ron Yasbin, College of Arts and Sciences, and Juliann G. Sebastian, College of Nursing individually gave their two cents as to why the new fees are for a needy cause.

By Jessica Keil

College of Fine Arts and Communication

What fee?	A fee of \$27.10 per credit hour for special equipment and supplies in certain theater and dance courses.	
What courses?	TH DAN 1900, Intro to Theatre Technology TH DAN 2020, Acting for the Camera TH DAN 2250, Stagecraft TH DAN 2290, Drafting for the Theatre	TH DAN 3257, Makeup for Theatrical Productions TH DAN 3263, Scene Painting TH DAN 4020, Directing for the Camera TH DAN 2260, Intro to Costume Design & Production
Rationale?	The Theatre/Dance program needs maintenance, props, costumes, set pieces, disposable materials, and shop materials. "[These] classes are hindered without equipment and supplies," Hylton said.	

College of Arts and Sciences/College of Fine Arts and Communications

What fee?	A fee of \$4 per credit hour to hire four to five new advisors/retention specialists in the Advising/Retention Center in order to provide Developmental Advising. The fee would generate approximately \$320,000 per year.	
What courses?	All undergraduate courses taught in the College of Arts and Sciences and Fine Arts and Communication.	
Rationale?	Developmental Advising will better prepare students through their college career, help retain students and shorten their time in college. "Developmental advising is in some cases a reality check for students," Yasbin said.	

College of Nursing

What fee?	A 4.5 percent increase to the current credit hour fee, making it \$33.75 per credit hour to learn under an experience created by College of Nursing faculty and the Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV Prevention Training Center at Washington University. The fee would generate approximately \$700 annually.	
What courses?	N6530, Clinical Diagnostics for Advanced Nursing Practice N6739, Adult Primary Care I & II N6741, Family Health I & II N6743, Child Health I & II	N6746, Women's Health I & II N6978, Evidence-Based Clinical Nursing Practice N6950, Advanced Nursing Practice N6952, Synthesis Practicum
Rationale?	Costs of the STD program increased by 25 percent in FY09, and faculty time for clinical supervision also increased. The fee would help offset the increased expenses associated with the courses.	

ADDITIONALLY:
Fee: A 4.5 percent increase to the current credit hour fee, making it \$56.43 per course to equip and supply the new health assessment laboratory built for students in 2008-2009. The fee would generate approximately \$3,385.80 annually.
Courses: N6524, Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice
Rationale: A new lab was built for the nursing students; however the equipment it was furnished with is not new. "The equipment is getting too old [and we need to] generate funds for the replacements," Sebastian said.

WEATHER

MON. 40 32	TUES. 41 40	WED. 47 31	THURS. 40 29	FRI. 41 30	SAT. 45 33	SUN. 48 35
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English dept has hope in new emphasis options

► SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

The new curriculum for the bachelors of English degree will now offer several emphasis options for all English majors. Students will have the option to choose between ethnic and world literature, women's and gender studies, language and writing, theory and criticism, and creative writing emphasis areas, or a combination of several.

"We've never been able to do that here before," Mary Troy, associate professor of English, said. "Most other universities allow people to get a minor in creative writing and our English department has never been set up that way before, so now it is."

Each emphasis area can be achieved upon the completion of three classes (nine credit hours) related to the subject. Students have to take 39, but no more than 48 hours of English coursework to satisfy the major requirement.

Eighteen of those hours must be 3000 level coursework, and a minimum of 12 must be at the 4000 level or above.

"In the past—I know this because I teach the undergraduate creative writing classes sometimes—I've hardly ever had English majors in them; because English majors had to take so many other things, they could never take the creative writing class,"

Troy said. "It was very odd to me."

The English major curriculum has changed, but the coursework will not be lighter. It is arranged in a different way to allow students room to pursue up to 18 hours of English classes outside of the required courses to fulfill up to two emphasis areas. Students still have to take the required 2000 level coursework, as well traditional grammar, and nine hours of 4000 level coursework in British and American literature.

The emphasis areas must also be at 3000 and 4000 level, and students cannot use the same courses to satisfy both the distribution require-

ment and an emphasis area, according to the English department's website.

The department decided to change the coursework because they wanted to acknowledge that English is a broad subject, and also allow students the freedom to explore different areas of interest.

"It kind of reflects, I guess, the times, and that there are so many different possibilities that some people may want to be an English major and specialize in world literature, in African-American literature, in African literature, in Chinese literature, [or] in ancient Greek literature instead of just the traditional English from England," Troy said.

The new curriculum started just this year and students who are already majoring in English can add on an emphasis as long as they have completed or plan to complete the required classes within the major. Some students may find that they've already completed enough classes within the emphasis area to be able to declare it with their degree.

"I had a student who completed the [ethnic and] world literature emphasis requirement and didn't know it," Jennifer Mackenzie, associate professor of English and undergraduate advisor for the English department, said.

"She took a class as an elective and it ended up fulfilling

a requirement." Mackenzie helps students determine possible emphasis areas and what classes they would need to take to complete them.

In the future, the department foresees the addition of several more classes to beef up the emphasis areas.

"We really have to see where the demand is," Troy said. "Do people want world literature or do people want more creative writing? It's hard for us to guess.... We have some ideas, but still it's hard for us to guess until we figure out what people want."

In addition, students who are not English majors but are interested in getting a writing certificate can now pursue a creative writing certificate.

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If you know the news today, thank a journalist!

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Ahmad Aljuryed

HIV/AIDS has plagued mankind for decades.

Do you think that you will see a cure for HIV/AIDS in your lifetime?



"Yes, I think so because there are a lot of studies in this time about it. Also there is good news about that."

Shaddad Alamri
Junior
MIS



"Yes, advances in genetic engineering will eventually provide effective treatment. But more currently, Preventative measures must be more rigorously employed & advocated."

Dean Obermark
Sophomore
Philosophy



"Yes I think we will see a cure for HIV/AIDS in my lifetime because I believe in research system and I'm sure that they will discover the cure for HIV soon."

Nattapon Nattigon
MBA



"I think science is progressing towards that and although I hope we get a cure soon, I doubt if we are that close to find a cure."

Kate Lilly
Sophomore
Studio Art

VERBATIM

"It was a mistake to make 'Drunken Fist', it was all about getting drunk to fight. It misled the audience."

-Jackie Chan
on his 1978 blockbuster



"I'll never see it and nor will I ever. I don't like vampires. I don't like the wolf that pops out of my TV"

-Miley Cyrus
on Twilight

"I've been cutting down on my smoking. Instead of having a cigarette, I'll swim or some do other healthy activity!"

-Johnny Depp

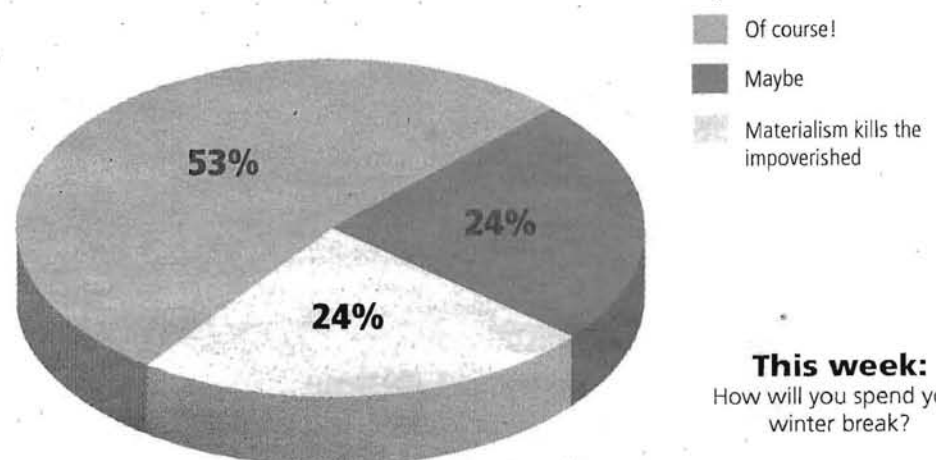


"Another player stepped on CJ's foot and he couldn't get his leg out of there and at the same time, somebody fell on it. It was freak."

-Steve Spagnuolo

POLL

Does everyone deserve their First Amendment rights?



This week:

How will you spend your winter break?

Answer at
www.thecurrentonline.com

CRIMELINE

Monday, Nov. 30

Burglary 2nd Degree/Motor Vehicle Theft - Seton Hall Garage

Person(s) unknown burglarized a garage in the rear of Seton Hall and stole a University owned van and a large quantity of tools from inside. The garage door was found open by the first employee arriving at work around 6:30 AM, and the burglary and theft were discovered shortly after that. The investigation revealed that once inside the garage the suspect(s) managed to get entry into the van and break the ignition out in order to start the vehicle; then load up the van with tools from the garage and leave. The van was later recovered in the City of St. Louis on a vacant street. The van was left with no wheels and tires, and all of the tools were also missing. The van was towed and later processed for evidence. All items retrieved from the scenes are being examined in order to try and identify a suspect(s).

Thursday, Dec. 3

Stealing Under \$500.00 - Arrest Millennium Student Center Bookstore

A student was arrested for stealing books from the bookstore. The suspect was observed by employees and on camera stealing books by placing them inside of his coat and concealing them from view. When the suspect realized he was observed by employees he removed the items from his person. The suspect was arrested by the UMSL Police and brought to the Police Station where he was processed for stealing and released pending the application of warrants. This matter will be referred to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys Office and also sent to Student Affairs for violations of Student Code of Conduct.

Friday, Dec. 3

Stealing Under \$500.00 - University Meadows Parking lot

Sometime between 8:30 AM on Wednesday 12-02-09 and 2:30 PM on Thursday 12-03-09 person(s) unknown stole the victim's front license plate from her parked vehicle. There are no suspects in this incident.

Friday, Dec. 3

Assault-Disturbance Mark Twain Gymnasium

During a "Step Show" event at the Mark Twain Building, a large disturbance and fight broke out inside of the building involving several juveniles and young adults. Two officers (who were working the event) tried to break up the fight unsuccessfully; the crowd was estimated at over 2,000 people. The officer was forced to use pepper spray to stop the fighting. After deploying the pepper spray, the fighting stopped and all suspects ran from the facility. Once outside, it appeared that several other fights were occurring stemming from the original incident. Surrounding Police Departments were notified and responded to assist the UMSL Police with the disturbance. Other possible suspects were also identified, but had left the area.

Science/Health

2009 World AIDS Day

Vaccine gives hope on World AIDS Day

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Health/Science Editor

This stuff still happens, it still kills hundreds of thousands of people all the time and we're getting closer on finding something for it," Justin Riddler, community liaison for PRIZM, said.

The "it" that Riddler refers to is the HIV/AIDS virus. Adding a new angle to the deadly dilemma is a new vaccine that could theoretically keep AIDS from killing hundreds of thousands more people. In the late months of this year, the vaccine moved from the realm of wishful thinking to that of a tangible possibility. The news that an HIV vaccination had been developed and tested arrived in time to cast a hopeful but complicated shadow over World AIDS Day.

To recognize World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, PRIZM acquired part of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to be hung in the rotunda of the Millennium Student Center. The quilt was begun in 1987 as a permanent but ever-growing memorial to those who lose their lives to the virus.

"The quilt is growing larger every

day," Riddler said.

The reason for this is reflected in the statistics of the damage AIDS has done to human lives. Since the 1980s, 25 million people have died from AIDS. According to UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, there are an estimated 33.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. UNAIDS also estimates that last year, 2.7 million people were infected with the disease and 2 million died from it.

"If we were to get the entire AIDS quilt in here, we would be covering the MSC ceiling to floor, every single wall, two or three times over with the amount of people who have died from AIDS," Riddler said.

In the face of this global pandemic, there is hope.

In September, American researchers released their research findings from a trial in which they used a new version of an AIDS vaccine in Thailand. The vaccine is actually a combination of two others that had failed in clinical trials. When given to a sample of 16,000 volunteers, it reduced the risk of being infected with the disease by 31%.

Though this is not an answer to the

problem, it does represent marked progress from the failures of previous attempts to test and create such a vaccine. Still, while some like Riddler see the vaccine as a great step toward protecting millions of people against the virus, they wish for nothing short of a cure for the millions who currently live with it today.

"It shows great promise that we are getting close to [the AIDS vaccine] but, I mean, we can't say 'oh, we've got this vaccine that looks promising and, y'know, it looks promising so we can put that in the back of our minds and we'll call it an early victory right now,' because then supporting finding a cure goes out the door; it still sits there, it festers and lingers," Riddler said.

PRIZM hopes that through their efforts, students will become more aware of the presence of HIV/AIDS and its impact, not just on the global scale but within their own lives as well.

"It's really just our hope that people start realizing this is something [they're] at risk for and this is something that is bringing the world to a halt," Riddler said.

A timeline of the global AIDS pandemic:

- 1884-1924:** The HIV virus is believed to have made its way from chimpanzees to humans during this time. Genetic evidence suggests that it has existed for over 14 million years.
- 1955-1969:** A handful of people around the world, from a British sailor to a 15-year-old boy in St. Louis, are treated for and die from mysterious symptoms later identified as AIDS. The cases go unnoticed for the most part.
- 1981:** The Center for Disease Control identifies a group of five homosexual men in Los Angeles mysteriously suffering from similar symptoms. After similar groups are discovered in other American cities, the press names the new virus GRID for Gay-Related Immune Deficiency.
- 1982:** After it is revealed that over half of those suffering with the disease are not homosexual, the CDC officially renames and identifies the virus as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- 1984:** Ryan White, a teenager from Kokomo Indiana, is diagnosed with the disease, which he acquired through a tainted blood transfusion. He is expelled from school, which draws massive attention to his case and the need for adequate HIV/AIDS education.
- 1988:** The first World AIDS Day is recognized on December 1st.
- 1992:** The first combinations of drugs that can give patients resistance to the virus are identified and used.
- 2005:** The Clinton Global Initiative begins a campaign to bring drug treatments to those suffering from HIV/AIDS in Africa, one of the hardest hit areas of the world by the virus.
- 2009:** Researchers in Thailand report a 31% success rate with a new AIDS vaccination.



AIDS Quilts displayed around rotunda in the MSC.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN/THECURRENT

Resistant swine

Mutated swine flu resists Tamiflu

► ANTHONY PADGETT
Asst. Sports Editor

It is once again winter-time and that means that flu season is here, too. For those who wish to take precautions against the flu there are three main options.

The first is getting the vaccination for the flu, which is the best route. The second choice is being prescribed Tamiflu, generic name Eselamivir, which is a pill taken orally, created by Roche Holding, a pharmaceutical company located in Switzerland. Tamiflu has shown the ability to prevent and shorten the flu illness but it must be taken within 48 hours of symptoms for the best results.

The third option is being prescribed Zanamivir, brand name Relenza, which is inhaled. The big health concern this winter is H1N1. Over 100 million people in 40 different countries have been given swine flu vaccinations this year.

The World Health Organization tried to quell fears recently about a new mutated strain of H1N1 and its resistance to Tamiflu. Dr. Keiji Fukuda, the main flu advisor for WHO, stated that the cases of a mutated form

of H1N1 are quite small and the public should not be concerned. "We don't know the full answer, but it is more likely that we are not seeing a major shift," Dr. Fukuda said.

Dr. Fukuda said that around 75 people in the world have a mutated form of the flu that is resistant to Tamiflu. In the last two months, two hospitals that have reported having patients with this feared flu strain are Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina and a hospital in Whales.

Both hospitals had patients who were being treated for cancer with radiation which greatly reduced their immune systems. These patients were found to be more likely to have a mutated form of H1N1 while taking Tamiflu.

Luckily, this strain does not appear to spread to people with healthy immune systems. Additionally, very few cases have resulted in death. Of the four patients at Duke University, three are still alive. Of the eight patients at the hospital in Whales, all are still alive.

On Wednesday, December 2, The John Hopkins hospital in Baltimore, Md. announced that two patients were treated

and released with a Tamiflu resistant form of H1N1.

WHO recommends that patients with weak immune systems not be prescribed Tamiflu, but instead Zanamivir.

Both flu medications, Relenza and Tamiflu, were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1999. Since then the U.S. has begun stockpiling the anti-flu medications in case of an epidemic. In April of 2009, the U.S. Director of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano confirmed that the federal stockpile of Tamiflu had reached 50,000,000 doses.

The current U.S. population is a little over 300 million which equates to the federal government having enough Tamiflu for 1 in 6 Americans. But Tamiflu requires more than one dosage to be successful. The common dosage of Tamiflu is twice daily for five days.

The U.S. government does have a good reason to be prepared for such an epidemic.

According to the Center for Disease Control, the flu kills around 36,000 Americans every year, with an additional 200,000 hospitalized.

5 ways to stay in shape over break

By Anna Marie Curran • News Editor

1. Stick to a routine

Try to get into a daily routine over break, albeit one less stressful than during the semester. If you work out four days a week during the semester, aim for three times and try to exercise at roughly the same time each day. Getting into a habit makes it easier to keep yourself motivated to stay active during the break.

2. Balance instead of deprivation

Denying yourself all the holiday foods you love is cruel and unusual punishment, not to mention sure to end in disaster. Just take into account the amounts you are consuming and it should not be a problem. For example, if you know there is a holiday party at night, try to eat healthier during the day to balance out the unhealthier party food you will consume later. In the end, it will balance out.

3. Get (a little) sleep

Studies have shown that lack of sleep is the number one reason people tend to pack on pounds during the holidays. With the stress that comes with the holidays, sleep

tends to be the first thing to go. Aim for a few extra hours of sleep than your body is used to each night and who knows, you may find you lose pounds during the holidays.

4. It isn't all or nothing

Too many people get into the mentality that if they "screw up" eating healthy, they should just eat whatever they want until after the holidays. Not only is this an unhealthy mentality to have, but it will make it harder to get back into shape after the holidays. Take each day one at a time, and don't look at the break as one endless period of dieting.

5. Do not psyche yourself out

Don't let worries of gaining weight keep you from enjoying your holiday. Recent studies have shown that on average a person gains roughly one pound during the holidays. True it may be one pound more than you want, but at the end of the day it is still just one pound, whether that equals a week of eating especially healthy after the holidays or working in an extra 30 minutes on the treadmill for a few workouts.

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Sports

No "I" in team

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**
Staff Writer

On the basketball court there are only five positions. As with any team sport, those positions revolve around and are linked to each other.

Without one the other is meaningless. Like a wristwatch, all the gears have to be working in unison.

Two positions that are linked in basketball are the #1 guard or point guard and the #3 post player or power forward. The point guard is sometimes called the quarterback and the power forward could be termed the running back.

On the University of Missouri-St. Louis Triton women's basketball team, two of the players who occupy these positions are team captain and point guard Kristi White, senior, accounting, and power forward Hailee Deckard, sophomore, secondary education.

"It is said that the point guard is supposed to be the coach's voice on the floor. I'm in charge, calling out what defense we're in or what play we're running," White said.

"As far as tempo [goes], I think the point guard has control over that. I can speed up the game or slow it down by pushing the ball or holding it and setting up a play."

When asked about the liberty she is given in running the floor from her head coach White said, "Sometimes I'll look over and she [Head Coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor] will say, slow it down. And Coach calls the plays."

"I like controlling the floor," White said.

"I'm responsible for relaying information to everyone, getting people in huddles during breaks in the action and stating what we need to do and what we need to fix."

Of her duties as a power forward Deckard said, "They are rebounding, being a cutter and kicking out, driving inside and shooting."

When asked to comment on how she and Deckard work together, White said, "It's kind of an eye contact or finger point. You know when you're looking at each other [that] you're starting a play. It's kind of one of those instinct things."

"A lot of the time I look to see the match-up. If there is a smaller player guarding her I know to call a play where she can drive. If there is a bigger, slower forward on her, and my other guard is a good shooter, I might call a drive and kick. I pass to Hailee, she drives and then kicks the ball to the shooter," White said.

"Usually it is like making eye contact, and comes with working together. Like I know when she usually wants to kick it and stuff," Deckard said of her teamwork with White. As to their individual abilities White said, "I don't have a go-to move. We have point guard work-outs where we work on four or five different moves, but Hailee is known for her spin move and is good with both hands."

In their first two games White had 23 points and 8 rebounds, and Deckard had 22 points and 12 rebounds.

The Bulls had Scottie and Michael. The Lakers have Kobe and Gasol. The Celtics have Rajon Rondo and Paul Pierce. The WNBA's San Antonio Silver Stars have Becky Hammon, who has Sophia Young. The UM-St. Louis Triton women's basketball team has Kristi White and Hailee Deckard.

Early Christmas present for UMSL sports

Four high school players sign on as future Tritons

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Athletics Department recently announced it had received national letter of intent signings from four high school student-athletes in three different sports for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The national letter of intent early signing period was Nov. 11-18. During that time, any prospective high school student-athlete was allowed to announce their college intentions by signing a binding agreement to accept a scholarship offer from any four-year institution.

The first student-athlete to officially make her intention to attend UM-St. Louis next year was Kaitlin Sweatman, a basketball player from Owen Valley High in Gosport, Ind.

Sweatman, a standout 5'10" guard/forward, averaged 13 points, five rebounds, two assists and 1.5 steals per game last year as a junior, while helping her team to a 24-3 record and the Indiana Class 3A state semifinals.

After the season, Sweat-

man was named to the Indiana High School Athletic Association 3A State Tournament team and earned all-Western Indiana Conference (WIC) honors as well being selected to the Indiana all-state team. Sweatman's team won the WIC championship last year, and boasts a 46-8 record during her career at Owen Valley.

"We are excited about Kaitlin joining our program," Lisa Curliss-Taylor, UM-St. Louis head coach, said. "She is a strong player with natural ability and will help us at the three-four spots. She will also be coming from a very successful high school program and possesses the skills of knowing what it takes to win."

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball team also received its first NLI signing of the year when local standout Kevin Dwyer of Rockwood Summit High announced his intentions to become a Triton next year.

Dwyer, a 6'8" guard/forward, is a two-time all-Suburban South Conference and all-district honoree. Last year as a junior, he averaged

16.5 points and 9.0 rebounds per game, after averaging 11 points and five rebounds a game during his sophomore year. Summit High's scoring records indicate Dwyer is on pace to pass the 1,000-point scoring mark sometime this season and is also on track to graduate as the school's all-time leading scorer.

"As a coaching staff we like his versatility," Chris Pilz, UM-St. Louis men's coach, said.

"He will be able to play multiple positions for us. At our level, it's hard to find a player with his size and ability to handle the basketball. We are focusing on recruiting in the St. Louis metro area, so we are extremely excited that Kevin decided to stay close to home."

UM-St. Louis women's volleyball coach Trent Jones announced two NLI signings last month. The first came from Tabatha Albers, a 5'11" middle hitter from Mater Dei High in Breese, Ill. The second NLI signing was from Anna McNulty, a 5'9" setter from Roosevelt High in Des Moines, Iowa.

Albers led Mater Dei to a

state runner-up finish in the Illinois Class 3A state playoffs this year and a third place finish last year. During her two seasons as a primary starter for Mater Dei, the Lady Knights had an incredible 72-13 combined record.

"I am very excited that Tabatha has chosen UMSL," Jones said.

"She is an outstanding blocker and is a strong player in front of the setter. I am looking for her to step in right away and compete for a middle hitter spot."

McNulty was a four-year starter at Roosevelt High, earning all-conference honors each year, and was a first team selection during her sophomore, junior, and senior years.

"We are very excited to have Anna join our program," Jones said. "She is a technically sound setter who can deliver the ball and her abilities will allow her to run our offense quickly. Anna will give our team great energy and even more depth at the setter position."

UMSL Sports Information contributed some information for this story.

CEDDIE SAYS...

What's in a name? 'Eye Win' takes flag football tourney

I watched almost every one of the 19 Campus Rec Flag Football Games that were played this fall, and I would have never predicted that a team of first-year optometry students would come out of nowhere to win UM-St. Louis' coveted Flag Football Championship.

But that's what happened last Thursday when Eye Win defeated the Suicide Kings 21-19 in the Flag Football Championship game.

To their credit, the Eye Win guys brilliantly executed a superb gameplan of zone coverage on defense and short, quick passes on offense.

Having a good gameplan proved a key factor from the start, as Eye Win's defense stifled the Kings on their first drive.

Eye Win's best athlete, the tall Brandon, was credited with two sacks on that opening drive when he used his long reach and quickness to snag King quarterback Chris Cusumano's flag before he could throw.

Then Eye Win marched right down the field, completing

several short passes before quarterback Steven Branstetter, junior, optometry, scrambled in for a short touchdown run to make the score 7-0.

The Suicide Kings had two other drives in the first half, but couldn't do anything with them, as Eye Win refused to let the Kings break loose for any of the big plays the speedy Kings had been known for.

The Kings finally got a break when they forced Eye Win to punt late in the first half. Special team plays can often be the most dangerous in a flag football game because the only player running at full-speed is usually the player returning the kick. That often makes it difficult for defenders to grab his flag.

Knowing this, the Kings sent their fastest player, Carl Shelton, junior, zoology, back to return the kick. And Shelton didn't disappoint, racing through the entire Eye Win team for a dazzling punt return touchdown to put his team on the board.

See EYE WIN, page 16

First blood: Savage defeat mars perfect record

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team's historically successful unbeaten start to the season ended last Saturday, when the Tritons suffered a 74-65 loss to Great Lakes Valley Conference rival the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

The game was played at UWP's DeSimone Gymnasium in Kenosha, Wis., and was a see-saw battle from the outset, featuring six ties and nine lead changes. Neither team ever led by more than nine.

Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided, led the Triton at-

tack with 19 points and nine rebounds. Teammate Ryan Lawrence, junior, criminology, added 17 points and six rebounds, including a brilliant steal and layup that tied the score at 63 with 3:40 left in the game.

But UM-St. Louis never regained the lead, as UWP's Jeremy Saffold, who had a game-high 24 points, nailed a three-pointer with 3:03 left to put the Rangers back in the lead for good.

The loss was UM-St. Louis' first of the season, after starting the season 6-0 for the first time in the program's 43-year history.

The Tritons moved to 6-0 with a 73-62 win over

GLVC foe Lewis University last Thursday.

Point guard Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, was UM-St. Louis' leading scorer that night, posting 20 points and a career-high 11 assists for the Tritons. Teammates Redel (15 points), Lawrence (14 points), and Sam Buxton (10 points), sophomore, international business, also reached double-digits in what was both UM-St. Louis' and Lewis' GLVC opener.

That game was tied at half-time. But Beasley hit a three-pointer, and another jumper to open the second half that gave the Tritons a lead they would never relinquish.

Lewis pulled to within a point on a couple of different occasions early in that second half.

However, during a key stretch from the 16 minute mark to the nine minute mark, the Tritons held the Flyers without a single field goal, and stretched their lead to as much as 10.

A second field goal-less stretch from the four minute mark to just over a minute left allowed UM-St. Louis to extend its lead to its highest point, 14 points, with 1:49 left.

With final exams coming, the Tritons will mostly be practicing the next couple of weeks. Their next game will

be a home contest, this Saturday, Dec. 12, when they'll host Robert Morris College-Springfield at the Mark Twain Building at 3 p.m.

UM-St. Louis will get the entire week of finals off before hosting their next home game on Monday, Dec. 21, when Christian Brothers College (Memphis) will visit the Mark Twain for a 7:30 p.m. game.

The Tritons will then close the month with a Christmas trip to Lakeland, Fla., where they will play two games in the Holiday Inn South/Ledger Classic hosted by Florida Southern University.

When UM-St. Louis returns from Florida, they

will play two road games at Maryville University and at Missouri S&T before hosting its first two home games of 2010 against Northern Kentucky University (Jan. 7) and the University of Indianapolis (Jan. 9).

One important date fans should circle on their calendars is Thursday, Jan. 21. That night the Tritons will host GLVC rival St. Joseph's in their annual "Pack the Stands Night" promotion, when the team asks any and all UM-St. Louis students, faculty, alumni and fans to "pack the stands" by attending what both the men's and women's teams expect to be their biggest game of the year.

STAT BOX

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)
S. Indiana	4-0
Ky. Wesleyan	6-1
Bellarmine	4-1
N. 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
Ill. Springfield	1-0
Lewis	4-1
Saint Joseph's	3-1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	GLVC (W-L-T)
Indianapolis	5-0
Bellarmine	4-0
S. Indiana	7-2
N. 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
Lewis	1-3

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
Bellarmine	6-6	13-8
St. Joseph's	5-7	12-17
UW-Parkside	5-7	21-10
Missouri S&T	3-9	10-24
Quincy	3-5	6-20
Ill. Springfield	1-11	9-19
Maryville	1-11	4-21
Ky. Wesleyan	0-12	2-20

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Features

That's a bingo!

Students blow off finals week steam in savage south campus standoff



Eric Callaway, criminology, junior, gets into the game at a table of friends, Thursday.

► **CHRIS STEWART**
Asst. Design Editor

Touted as a “study break” event, the tone of the Residential Hall Association’s “Bingo Night” at the Provincial House on Thursday was markedly different from the welcome week events at the beginning of the semester that form bookend programming.

Bingo Night was a whole different competition that seemed to surprise even its sportiest partakers with its intensity, considering that it was, after all, bingo.

Maybe it was something in the water, or rather, the soda. Food was also a departure from the Chartwells fruit ‘n’ cheese plates well known to partakers of RHA programs.

Thursday night, attendants had a spread of chips, dips, cookies, sodas and other mind-altering substances guaranteed to replenish the fluids and invigorate the fighting spirit of the college youth.

A lone plate of celery

sticks lay on the table, a cruelly overlooked bastion of propriety at this savage night of sport.

Tempting the large crowd to the event (tables filled up and more were promptly heaved-hoed out by native strongmen) were four tables piled high with prizes. Most of these were woven goods procured from the University Bookstore.

Triton fans were no doubt in their own private Valhalla when confronted with the prospects of nabbing sweaters, shirts and even basketballs.

Some surely came for the prizes, but others were reached by the event flyer put out by the event’s organizers.

“I saw a sign in the elevator [in the Villa North residence hall] and my friends brought me down here” Rachel Lamis, professional year two, optometry said.

Optometry indeed was represented by a battalion of, apparently, their bingo finest. Lamis and her fellow table occupants, other optometry

students, were quick to point out their colleagues’ wins.

“She’s optometry too! That makes seven.” Lamis said.

By the end of the night, an astounding ten prizes had gone home in the nimble hands of would-be, ocular experts, including Lamis herself.

“And I was about to go home, too,” she said, cradling her new exercise ball. Still, victory did not come so easily for everyone involved.

“I wish I was more lucky in life; two of my friends won and I haven’t come close,” Shivali Desai, professional year two, optometry, said.

Desai, for all of her cosmic indignities suffered, would find her moment, eventually winning twice in the same round (the number caller oc-



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN

“Don’t blame me!” Susan Dibb, assistant coordinator, called out numbers at Thursday night’s Bingo Party.

asionally continued to call after the first winner if rounds were lasting a long time).

Mini-games broke up the standard bingo fare.

The so-called “Winner-Loser” game was announced every forty minutes or so, giving attendants a chance to stretch their legs.

In this jaunt, all players stood up and the number caller proceeded as usual, with players sitting down should they have on their

board the called number.

A hybrid of musical chairs and reverse bingo, it was complete when only one fortune-kissed individual remained standing.

There were repeated reminders that players must use only one board, occasionally accompanied by accusatively thrust fingers and yells of “cheater!”

Winners were applauded as instructed and led by the number-caller, but boos and

groans abounded as well throughout the evening as many a player came tantalizingly close to the sacred numerical alignment.

By evening’s end, all of the food and most of the prizes had been cleared and the electric atmosphere of competition had faded.

If Bingo Night is any indication, next week’s Trivia Night promises thrills untasted in this world for those brave enough to attend.

Tsunami survivors speak through photos



▶ JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

If a picture is worth a thousand words, the children of Sri Lanka have a lot to say.

A photo exhibit featuring images taken by children in Sri Lanka opened last week at Gallery Visio. In January 2009, five cameras were given to students from the Macaldeniya School to share amongst themselves.

They were instructed to take pictures of what they valued the most. Their photos inspired the "Kids with Cameras" event, and nearly four hundred people attended the opening reception.

The coordinator for the event, Dr. Jody Miller, professor of criminology and criminal justice, is also the coordinator for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Sri Lankan educational fund. She began this project as a civic engagement project in response to the 2004 tsunami to get others on campus involved in helping tsunami victims, and primarily with

Sri Lankan schools. The project developed into a continuing effort to support the impoverished population. A book of the children's photos entitled "Tea and Me" was put together to help raise money for the country.

"We started working with the school about two-and-a-half years ago, and we've done all kinds of great things," Miller said. "The book is really exciting, and the exhibition, because the photos are so gorgeous."

About 35 pictures taken by Sri Lankan children are displayed on the gallery's walls. Photos include pictures of children, family, friends and the elderly. They also include several shots of nature and the population's lifestyle in general.

The photos not only portray the world through the children's eyes, but give viewers a sense of Sri Lankan lifestyles.

"Their life, it's like, original compared to modern life; just very different," Gerry Xin, junior, finance and international business,

said. The pictures were taken by children under the age of 15, most of them around the age of 11.

"You know, most of these kids have never picked up a camera in their lives," Sara Keller, Gallery Visio director, said.

"And you know, just to see the amazing talent they have, just like shooting their friends and family and, you know, their surroundings without being bombarded by of what a good photo is supposed to look like. They can just shoot, you know?"

All the photos are for sale for \$25, and 100% of the funds will go to the Sri Lankan Educational Fund. Also for sale is the book "Tea and Me."

It includes some of the photos shown in the gallery as well as ones not being shown.

Profits from the book will be used to start a vocational training center in Sri Lanka to start new employment opportunities that do not involve estate labor.

Miller hopes that the

pictures will speak to its viewers in a positive light.

"They show very clearly that they're living in very challenging circumstances," Miller said. "It shows the manual labor, the living conditions, and that sort of thing."

"But at the same time, they also really kind of capture the joys of childhood and ... things like the im-

portance of religion in the kids' lives, the importance of their families in their lives," Miller said. "I hope that the photos show a balance of those things. I don't want it to be an exhibition of 'Look at these poor, poor, poor children.'"

The exhibit runs through December 17 and is free and open to the public.



Holiday fest fundraiser "will continue for future years"

▶ ANNA MARIE CURAN
News Editor

Holiday Fest is a fundraiser that holds various events throughout campus to raise money and awareness for various charities. For the last 25 years, Holiday Fest has been hosted at University of Missouri-St. Louis. In a letter released to the UM-St. Louis community, Holiday Fest was said to be held because "with the holiday season soon approaching it is once again time to come together as campus community and help

those in need."

This year the donations were taken for Pagedale Family Support Center, St. Louis City and County Foster Care, and disadvantaged students within the Normandy School District. Donations were dropped off during regular work hours at the Office of Student Life in the Millennium Student Center.

Persons and organizations unable to drop their baskets off were encouraged to inform the office of Student Life before Wednesday, Nov. 25 so that the Office of Stu-

dent Life could then arrange to pick the basket up.

D'Andre Braddix, chief coordinator of Holiday Fest, said that the event has expanded beyond its initial function to collect strictly food items.

The items collected now vary greatly. This year, Braddix and co. asked for non-perishable food items, school uniforms, monetary contributions, hygiene products, and gently used and new toys for ages ranging between 3 and 17 years old.

People were also encour-

aged to volunteer their time at the Pagedale Family support Center to distribute the donations Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. until noon.

"Though we seek food donations every year, we add other items based on the needs of the community," Braddix said. "Otherwise, the event stays rather consistent from year to year."

The donation drive is open to everyone in the campus community, and according to Braddix, more than 40 campus departments signed up to participate this year. Also

unique to this drive is a collaboration with local business Dunham and Smith Agency to carry out a toy drive.

"We welcome any other outside groups to help donate to the cause, but we understand that many organizations and companies are being solicited by other charitable organizations and we do not want to take donations away from those endeavors," Braddix said.

This year the Holiday Fest events included the lighting of the Holiday Tree and the display of holiday artifacts in

the Nosh. Holiday Fest takes place between Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Students were encouraged to get involved and instructed to contact Braddix himself or to visit the student life website.

Braddix said that because of its success, Holiday Fest will likely be a continuing tradition here on campus.

"Holiday Fest has always been a success and will continue for future years," Braddix said. "Like always, we will use the needs of the local community to help shape what the event looks like."

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN/THE CURRENT

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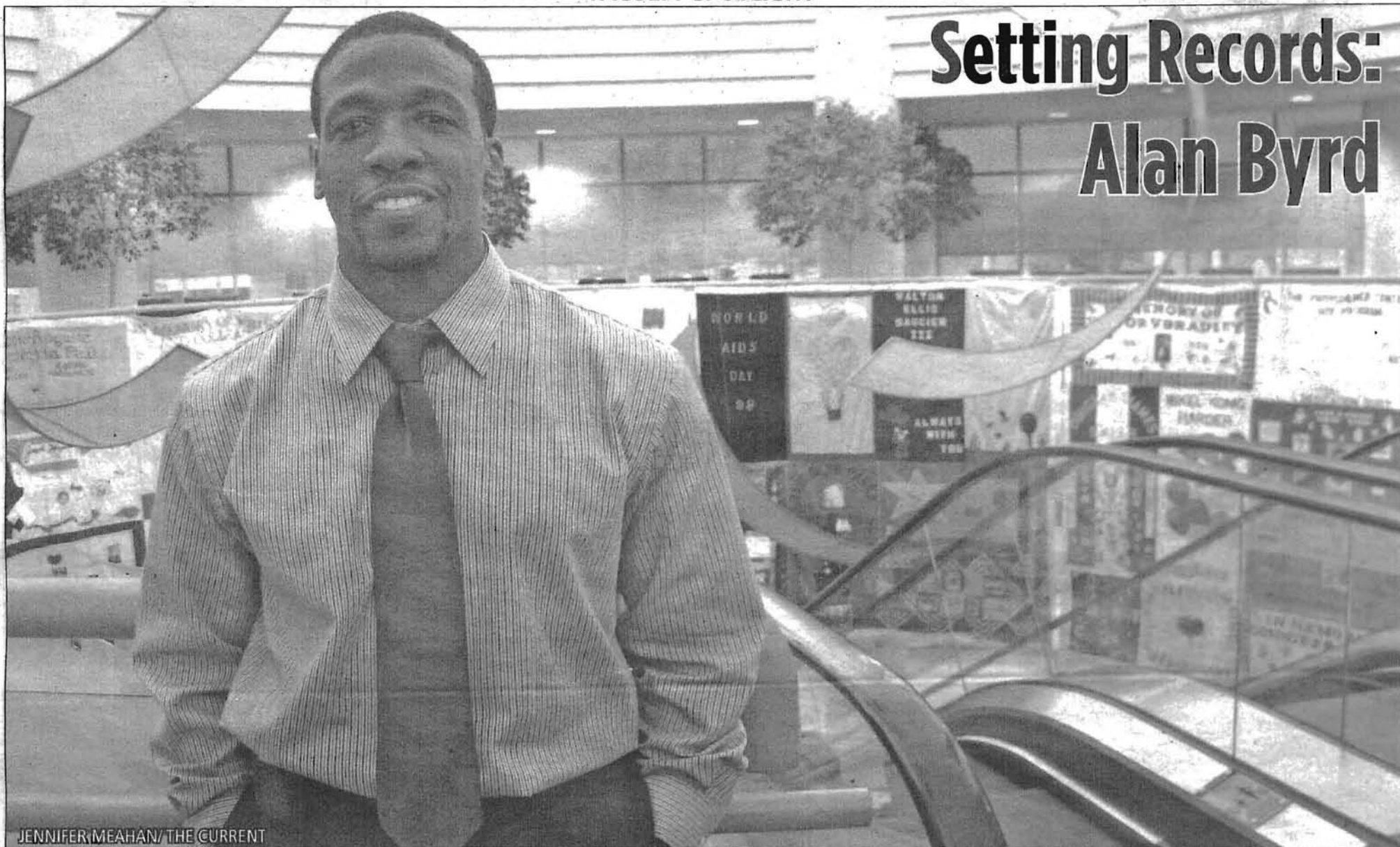
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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Setting Records: Alan Byrd



JENNIFER MEAHAN/THE CURRENT

▶ SEQUITA BEAN Features Editor

Alan Byrd is a native St. Louisan who spent nearly a decade at Southeast Missouri State University recruiting students and making sure they graduated. He intends to bring this same passion for education to the University of Missouri-St. Louis and help increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates.

The Current: What made you want to seek a degree in higher education administration?

Alan Byrd: I was a journalism major and I wanted to be a sports journalist. I did have opportunities to work for small newspapers, but I also had an opportunity to work in the Office of Admissions at my undergraduate institu-

tion. I really enjoyed what I did and I never really considered working in higher education because I really didn't know what I could do, but after working as a recruiter I definitely felt like I could make a difference after I saw the impact I could make on students. Once I gave admissions a try I definitely knew I was in the right place.

TC: You lived in Cape Girardeau for almost a decade, what made you want to come back to St. Louis?

AB: I was born and raised in St. Louis, so the ultimate goal always was to return home. The reason I left Cape [Girardeau] was because for one, I wanted to get my Ph.D. I actually went to Kansas City with my fiancée and enrolled in the doctoral program at UMKC.

My goal was to finish my doctoral program and then come back to St. Louis to look for jobs. Fortunately, my brother called me one day and said, "Hey, did you see that UMSL has a director of admissions opening?"

So I saw that as an opportunity that I couldn't pass because when I graduated from UMKC there was no guarantee there would've been an opening. I saw this as a good opportunity, especially since I'm pretty invested in the St. Louis community.

TC: How has your upbringing shaped the man that you've become today?

AB: Everything that I do is because of my upbringing. The reason I have such a passion for education and helping students is because I had a unique educational ex-

perience. I started off in the St. Louis public schools and then I got bussed out to West County for the desegregation program. I saw two different worlds. St. Louis is so segregated both racially and economically, so when I saw the way people in West County lived compared to the way I lived, I wanted to know why. I saw education as an avenue in order for me to live a better life.

It definitely worked out for me and now I want to make sure that every student has an opportunity. I want them to know that your life has everything to do with you taking school seriously and making the best of your opportunities.

TC: What are your plans for UM-St. Louis admissions in the future?

AB: UMSL is a unique type of institution. When you have a major metropolitan research institution in the middle of the city, the dynamics are different compared to all of our competitors ... we offer a different type of experience.

The one thing that I want us to do is to not accept being a commuter campus. My goal is to increase freshman enrollment, and in order for us to do that we have to do a lot of things differently. We have to create a residential environment that's appealing to freshmen. We have a lot of students who just go to class and go home, and that's not good for retention.

We need more students on campus and engaged in activities, more students at the games, and more social op-

portunities for our students outside the classroom. I see a lot of potential at UMSL but we will never reach our full potential if we keep doing what we're doing.

TC: What is your favorite movie and favorite musical artist of all time?

AB: The one movie that had the biggest influence on me is Malcolm X by Spike Lee. I read the book, but when I saw the movie I really felt like I had a sense of responsibility to really make the most out of my life.

As for my favorite artist, I'll have to go all the way back and say Stevie Wonder. He has produced so much meaningful music over a time span.

Other than Michael Jackson, I don't think anyone has ever done that.

L4D2 IS BRILLIANT



COURTESY / VALVE

"Left 4 Dead 2" better than original in every way

When Valve announced "Left 4 Dead 2" back in June, the "Left 4 Dead" community was thrown into chaos.

"How dare you release a sequel only a year after the first game!" some outspoken community members cried. "It will never be as good as the first! A year is not enough time to make a good game!" But they were wrong. Oh, how they were wrong.

"Left 4 Dead 2" is the perfect sequel, very nearly the perfect game. It improves upon its predecessor in almost every way.

The "Left 4 Dead" series follows four survivors through their struggles to stay alive in a world where a rampant virus outbreak has created the zombie-esque "Infected."

"Left 4 Dead 2" takes this concept south this time around, as the survivors make their way to New Orleans to be evacuated to safety. Nick is a sarcastic gambling man who, despite the ongoing apocalypse, is wearing a white suit. Coach is a former high school football coach (naturally), whose affinity for food is frequently riffed on by the other survivors.

Rochelle is a broadcast journalist and, sadly, the least fleshed-out character. The last survivor is Ellis Savannah, a young mechanic with a penchant for NASCAR, bib-overalls and telling inane stories about his friend Keith at the worst possible times.

The game features five full campaigns: Dead Center, a Dawn of the Dead-esque shopping mall; Dark Carnival, a circus full of incredibly-creepy-clown Infected; Swamp Fever, a Southern shantytown full of mullet-wearing Infected; Hard Rain, quite possibly the best campaign in the game; and The Parish, an intense, balls-to-the wall romp through New Orleans culminating in a magnificent bridge-crossing finale.

Hard Rain takes survivors through the shattered remains of a subdivision, to an abandoned sugar mill and then across a field thick with crops—and then the rain really lets fly.

Once it begins pouring, the survivors have to make their way back the way they came, through the rain-drenched field, past the now-flooded sugar mill and submerged subdivision. It is brilliant.

All five of them are fully playable from the outset as single-player campaigns, online multiplayer campaigns, versus matches (with 4 survivor players fighting 4 Infected players), survival rounds (4 survivors players trying

to last as long as they can against the horde), and scavenge rounds.

Scavenge is new to the "Left 4 Dead" series and is kind of like a hybrid of Survival and Versus, with 4 survivors fighting against 4 special Infected to collect 16 gas cans scattered around the map before time runs out.

The "Left 4 Dead" series is known for, among other things, its iconic special Infected. The sequel is no exception, featuring the triumphant return of the Hunter, Smoker, Boomer and the Tank, as well as introducing three new ones: the Spitter, the Jockey and the Charger.

On top of that, Valve has upgraded their revolutionary Director AI to a 2.0 version, which means the game better anticipates players' actions and directs the flow of the game.

Sadly, there are still a few bugs that should have been ironed out before the game shipped. The game is prone to crashing, particularly in the middle of a tense moment.

"Left 4 Dead 2" is the perfect sequel in every way: it has more content, more gameplay modes, more guns, more everything. Those naysayers who thought "Left 4 Dead 2" would never be as good as the first were completely wrong.

Valve has a real contender for game of the year here. The kicker is that it only took them a year to turn it out.

A—Andrew Seal

Chimaira starts near riot

Pop's rocks 24/7, and last Friday night was no exception at the Sauget, Ill. club. On a dark and stormy stage, replete with cancerous fog, seizure-inducing lights and every mullet-sporting poseur imaginable, nu-metal group Chimaira thrashed their way through a 35-minute set, featuring material from their recently released album, "The Infection."

The CD, released on Ferret Records this past year, feels like a step in a new direction for the band's oeuvre, which involves a nu-death metal sound constructed to give only some semblance of "metal" without actually owing anything to the genre itself. But "The Infection" stands apart from their previous offerings in that there is more of a fundamental groove being maintained behind the apparent sonic-madness.

Formed in early 1998, the band is a six-piece from Cleveland, Ohio, and their long-standing camaraderie is evident in the way they

own the stage. Mark Hunter heaves vocals into the microphone in long shovelfuls of breath; dark, odious growls that make one believe they are attending a devil's ho-down or entertaining a lively conversation with Cerebus. Lead guitarist Rob Arnold, the only guy with long hair (these bands have to have at least one, right?) shreds with the best of them and drummer Andols Herrick reminds the crowd what real drumming is about, flexing his double kick pedal at break-neck speeds. Matt DeVries on rhythm guitar, Jim LaMarca on bass and Chris Spicuzza on keyboards, samples and backing vocals, fill out the band.

At times the band comes across as a poor man's Clutch, allowing the listeners to groove to the smell of marijuana wafting in from the green room but never letting their darkest moments become too machine-like and mindless.

See CHIMAIRA, page 16

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

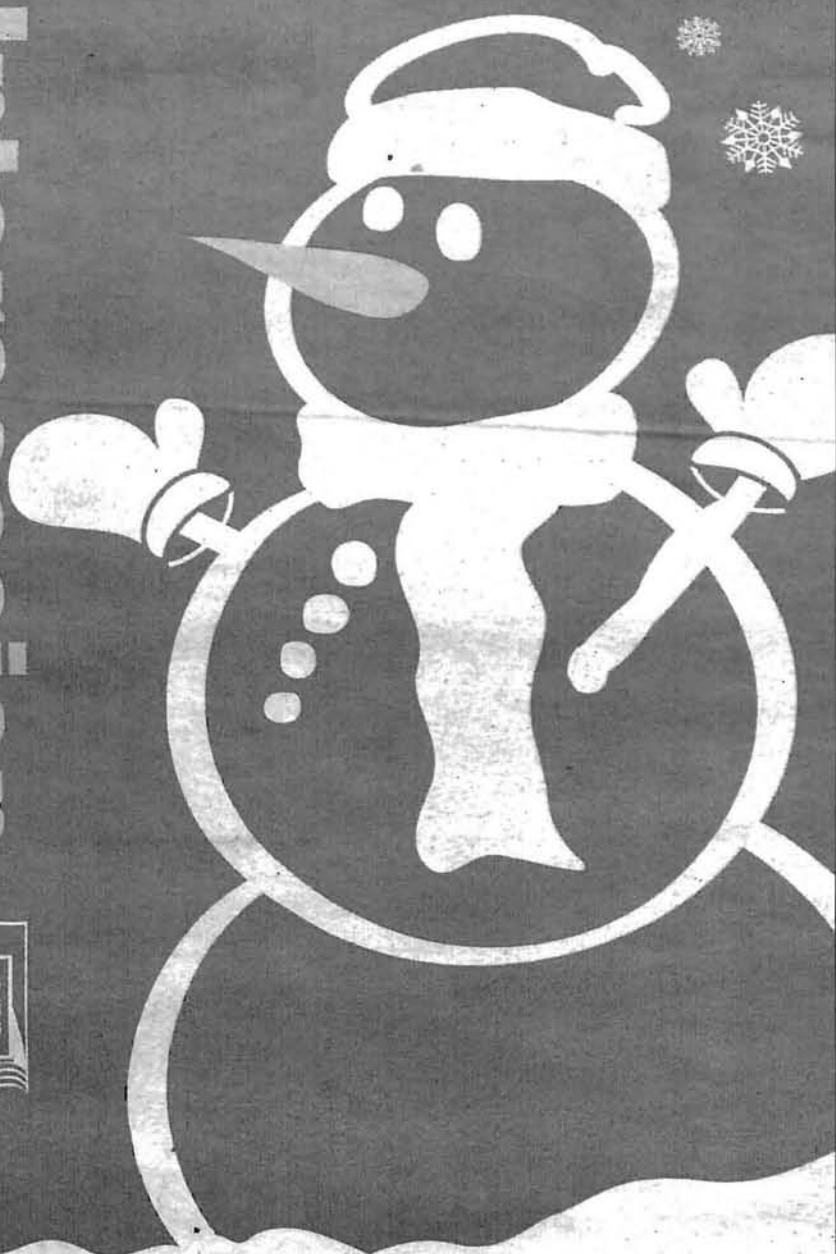
The Twilight Saga: New Moon. Vampires not juicy enough for you? We've got wolvey men! Still not enough juice? Hot wolvey men! Still craving a drink of sweet juicy juice? Hot Native American Wolvey Men! Yet further juice doth ye desire? Main hot Native American Wolvey man is underage! What's the matter—can't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

Armored. Oh yeah (cue metal riff). It's on. Matt Dizzy Dizzillon, Miznorpheus, and Skeet Ulrich. Are The Black Eyed Peas in the room? Cause this heist thriller bringing some serious boom boom pow. Brace. Your. Balls. **C**—Chris Stewart.

Everybody's Fine. Something happens to actors, even the finest of actors, at a certain age. They start to feel their own mortality and thus decide that they need to make movies about aging individuals facing their own mortality. When this goes right, we get "Venus" or "The Straight Story". When it goes...less right, we get "Everybody's Fine" which does manage to earn that adjective in regards to most aspects of its filmmaking and acting. If only it were called "Everybody'd Deep" or "Everybody's in The Least Bit Original". **C**—Chris Stewart.

WINTER INTERSESSION

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COURTESY / LIONSGATE

Rated R for child abuse including sexual assault, and pervasive language.

'Precious' will Push you to the edge

"Precious" must have been a hard film to market. Here is the sales pitch: it is a story where the only thing more painful to watch than the main character's systematic abuse is the grotesque portrait of an America often swept under the rug. What do you think of Natasha Bedingfield in the background of TV spots? As it stands, cable ads feature an odd hodgepodge of images from the film's fantasy moments intercut with real life scenes in an ugly duckling narrative. The ads end, inexplicably, with the sound of various characters angrily yelling "Precious!" as if dark secrets in her life echo in the shadows of her uplifting journey. In reality, the film is the opposite.

"Precious" tells a powerful and disturbing story based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire. The film is gritty and ugly, barely shying away from scenes of rape, incest and child abuse. Precious is our hero, a sixteen-year-old girl who is pregnant with her second child and, as our story opens, is kicked out of public school because of this. Both the film and novel give us a real person in Precious, running far from traditional heartstring-tugging images of innocence abused. Precious is often angry and even apathetic. She steals. She passes on rough treatment to the sweet kid in her apartment complex who just wants to play with her. At first, our only glimpses of her true joyful self are in fantasy sequences when she is a superstar with light hair, fawned over by paparazzi and flanked by shirtless young men. These sequences usually occur at the height of Precious' abuse, most of which is by her mother, played by an utterly shameless (in a good way)

Mo'Nique.

Things change for Precious when she begrudgingly enrolls in an alternative school for the gifted (she has a natural aptitude for math, thanks to her crush on her white math teacher whom she dreams will marry her and take her away). There her new teacher, Ms. Rain, slowly begins to bring Precious out of her shell.

The film is shot with more visual flare than might be expected in such a rough story but, overall, the camerawork makes way for the acting. In the title role, Gabourey 'Gabby' Sidibe makes all of the right choices, not giving us much until we register every smile and hint of laughter, finally realizing the sweetness and compassion within Precious. This sweetness is never shoved down our throats nor does it suddenly appear in some caterpillar-to-butterfly transformation. Rather it is slowly coaxed out by those around Precious and by her determination to be a good mother to her new child.

Sidibe will be nominated for an Oscar for her acting and so will Mo'Nique, who gives a guttural performance that makes words like "brave" and "raw" seem trite. Her portrait of a savage, abusive, tragic wounded monster culminates in an astonishing final scene where we finally, once we catch our breath, get a picture of how someone as damaged as Precious could turn out, should she make all of the wrong choices. Precious makes the right choices, gets slapped around for it and makes them again. That is why we are compelled to love her, human as the film jaggedly shows her to be. **A-** —Chris Stewart

'A Christmas Story' is a perfect holiday treat

The Rep plays Santa placing 'Christmas Story' under theater-goers' tree

As holiday treats go, it is hard to beat "A Christmas Story," the dryly funny '80s movie about Christmas from a kid's eye view in the 1930s small town Midwest, with a tongue stuck to frozen flag pole, a relentless bully and weird little younger brother, and a boy in glasses pining for a Red Ryder BB gun.

Now the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis offers up a new treat: a stage version of the charmingly quirky kid-centric holiday movie which, best of all, is not a musical.

The stage version retains the child's perspective, the humor, and the charm of a trip back in time to a radio-dominated childhood where Christmas was the best day of the year.

Actor Jeff Talbott provides hilarious narration on-stage as the grownup counterpart to Ralphie (Jonathan Savage), the glasses-wearing Indiana boy dreaming of that Red Ryder air rifle. As Ralph reminisces about childhood days of radio adventure series with secret decoder rings, magazine contests and comic book ads for air rifles that your mother says will "put your eye out," we see scenes

of Ralphie's world played out before us.

As the excitement of Christmas builds, Ralph scampers around the stage, setting the narrative groundwork for the scenes in comic fashion.

We meet Ralphie's best friends, confident Schwartz (Jarrett Harkless) and little Flick (Taylor Edlin), who seems a magnet for bad luck, especially at the hands of the coon-skin cap wearing bully Scut Farkas.

At school, we find Helen (Sarah Koo), the smartest girl in the world, Ester Jane (Julia Schweitzer), with long curls in hair ribbons and velvet-trimmed coat, and teacher Miss Shields (Susie Wall) who is exacting about margins.

At home, Ralphie's younger brother Randy (Caden Self) seems to be always hiding under something and The Old Man, Ralphie's eccentric Dad (Jeff Gurner), is bedeviled by the neighbors' barking dogs and a balky furnace. Ralph's ever-cheerful Mother (Marnye Young) is always cooking meatloaf and knows the answers to all the questions for the contest quizzes her husband fills out.

Ralphie's dream is to get a Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas, the one he saw advertised in a kids' magazine.



COURTESY / REPERTORY THEATER OF ST. LOUIS

He fantasizes about being the cowboy action hero Red Ryder rescuing damsels in distress and saving the day, just like in the radio and movie serials.

And as the holiday approaches, Ralphie cooks up schemes for getting his wish, even though his mother's response to the idea of a BB gun was that he would put his eye out.

The play does a wonderful job of translating the movie to stage under director John McCluggage. The use of the narrator, who scampers about the stage providing access to Ralphie's inner life, his action-hero fantasies and other dreams are played out with

great fun and some clever staging.

Everybody in the cast brings great comic energy to their roles, especially the adults whose roles are the most bizarre in this kid-centric reality.

Susie Wall is especially fun as the teacher in her fantasy scenes, wearing a huge medallion of Shakespeare while praising Ralphie's essay and in a scene with "Wizard of Oz" touches. The kids do a great job as well, with Jonathan Savage playing Ralphie as the calm center of sanity in the pre-Christmas excitement and all the cast playing their roles with just the right touch of comic exaggeration. **A** —Cate Marquis

Stereophonics play it safe, disappoint on latest album

Stereophonics, the Welsh rock band, recently released their seventh studio album, "Keep Calm and Carry On," in the past month.

The band, originally formed in 1992 in Cwmaman, Wales, is formed of Kelly Jones (lead vocals and guitar), Richard Jones (bass and background vocals), Javier Weyler (drums) and Adam Zindani (guitar and background vocals). The original drummer for the band was Stuart Cable. The name is rumored to come from a World War II poster recently gaining popularity.

"Keep Calm and Carry On" begins with the electronic sound of "She's alright," introducing the album perfectly and pulling the listener in with decent hooks

even if the lyrics are somewhat repetitive.

A few strategically placed distorted guitar riffs pull the song together. Another song on the album and lead single, "Innocent," is saccharine-sweet pop, almost too sugary to swallow. A notable track, the song has a catchy beat and chorus that practically dares you to try to stop your foot from tapping, albeit not quite the raspy rock 'n' roll sound characteristic to Stereophonics.

"I Got Your Number" is a track worth a listen or two but probably not destined to make its way onto anyone's most-played list. The track is filled with more fuzzed guitar lines and an overly simple chorus that is slightly recited by a few creative verses. An-

other song on the album worth a few plays is "Uppercut," which sounds like an inferior (but still decent) cousin to "Dakota," highlighting Jones' gravely voice and pretty good instrumentation.

If there is anything notable to be said about this album, it is that Stereophonics provide a great deal of contrast between songs, sticking the gritty guitar lines of "Trouble" next to the relaxed (and slightly melodramatic and generic) mood of "Could you be the one." The contrast demonstrates the versatility of the band but it also highlights the tracks on the album where the band really seemed to fall flat. Some of the songs seem to be half finished, with the potential to be something great but cut short, ei-

ther from laziness or reluctance to taking risks.

For a decent album, this latest work of Stereophonics definitely makes the grade.


However, as a whole, the album falls short. The album plays it safe in all the wrong parts, providing a taste of something new and inspiringly different with the occasional great song only to slip back into the mediocrity of some of the others. A solid album, "Keep Calm and Carry On" will probably be an album listened to in pieces rather than as its own work. The album as a whole does not flow well and listeners may find their money better spent on singles from the album rather than the product as a whole. **B-** —Anna Marie Curran

SWEET JAMS

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

1 "Bad Romance" 
Lady Gaga


GaGa's new single shows a willingness to go into fully bombastic pop monster mode. The lyrics still play to her shallow, crass absorptions, but she will throw a dirt-soaked hook at you like nobody's business. If there's no meat, you may as well pile on the savory sauce.

2 "Tik Tok" 
Kesha

"Tik Tok" is a grating tribute to all that is profoundly silly in pop music today. She's Britney without a heart, GaGa without a libido, Stephani without talent or sense of fun. But then again, she's so damn young that these things may fade when she hits puberty.

3 "Empire State of Mind" 
Jay-Z

Papa J is back and arrogant as ever, proclaiming himself "the new Sinatra" in the opening passage of "Empire," a new single with Alicia Keys that reminds us how strong hip hop used to be when it was based on simplicity and, yes, sentimentality.

4 "Fireflies" 
Owl City

Owl City is still going strong, peddling that weak-weak to the masses who cut their teeth on his treacherous image of "high on life" romanticism and love in the fresh dewey grass. And where will this lead our children? Why they'll grow up thinking life is enjoyable! And love real!

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.

'Everybody's Fine'

Not a comedy but true-to-life family drama

Even when you are all grown up, the desire to please your parents and make them proud often remains.

The ads and movie trailer make "Everybody's Fine" look like a family comedy with a Christmas theme, Robert DeNiro and Drew Barrymore in a too-familiar, heart-warming family comedy, a role that seems to be becoming a DeNiro staple.

But that image is false. Although "Everybody's Fine" has comic moments and a final scene at Christmas, this film is actually a well-crafted drama, well-acted and surprisingly true-to-life, about a far-flung modern family.

"Everybody's Fine's" story of grown children still trying to please their widowed father reverses director Kirk Jones' previous film equation, yielding a drama with comic touches. Jones' successful, previous films were the comedies "Waking Ned Devine" and "Nanny McPhee," but both comedies featured dramatic messages and warmth under the laughs. Jones wrote those two scripts but he adapted the screenplay for this one from the original Italian 1990 film, "Stanno Tutti Bene" ("Everybody's Fine"), directed by Giuseppe Tornatore ("Cinema Paradiso").

When his children cancel, one by one, on a family gathering, recent widower Frank Goode (Robert DeNiro) decides to take an impromptu road trip of surprise visits to his grown children scattered around the country. The father, who spent his life working in a factory, is proud of his accomplished, successful children, particularly those in the arts. As he shows a fellow train passenger photos, he talks about his sons Robert (Sam Rockwell), the classical musician, and David (Austin Lysy), the artist, and his daughters Rosie (Drew Barrymore), the headlining Vegas dancer, and Amy (Kate Beckinsale), with a successful husband and her own advertising career. Frank offers an image of a perfect family, but the fact that no one visited the ailing older man makes us wonder what is missing from his version.

A family picture far less rosy than the initial portrait emerges, but one with more warmth than suspected. This film offers strong drama but avoids overblown sentiment, in a story that will resonate personally with many in the audience. The drama focuses on the aging father's efforts to understand and connect with his grown children, with more focus on the son and daughter played by the gifted, too-



overlooked Sam Rockwell and Kate Beckinsale, in a rare break from vampire and werewolf action roles.

It is a delight to see DeNiro return to a dramatic role and, not surprisingly, he fully delivers as Frank, a man who loves his children but does not connect. More unexpected is Kate Beckinsale's well-crafted, layered career-

woman Amy.

"Everybody's Fine" is not a flawless film but its cast creates a realistically-flawed family and director Jones skillfully avoids the overly-sentimental pitfalls that sink so many family dramas. In "Everybody's Fine," both realism and heart win out.

B -Cate Marquis

CHIMAIRA, from page 13.

One gets the impression that the very term "heavy-metal" is being redefined and, as the crowd becomes an unstoppable wave of motion, the die-hard fans leap into the maelstrom of the pit beneath the stage, swinging their arms Townsend-style and throwing each other back and forth.

The band rocked out favorites like "I Hate Everyone" and "Nothing Remains," and had the crowd screaming along, begging for more. Camera phones flashed. Metal-horns flared. Cans of over-priced Stag were chugged, honoring the metal band with one of the darkest names in Greek mythology.

Chimaira are currently on tour with fellow metal-teers Whitechapel in support of '80s revivalist metal-heads Trivium (who rocked so hard, they blew a fuse. True story.) The tour will continue overseas in the United Kingdom and Australia in early 2010.

B+ -Kevin Korinek

EYE WIN, page 7

The Kings missed on the point-after attempt though, and still trailed 7-6.

It looked like that would be the score going into halftime, but Brandstetter found an open teammate in the back of the end zone for a touchdown on the final play of the first half.

After the touchdown, Eye Win decided to go for two, and got it on another pass into the end zone.

The teams traded turnovers to start the second half,

and it seemed like the Kings had a chance when Shelton broke loose for another long touchdown run. He converted his own two-point conversion pass to pull the Kings to within 15-13.

All the momentum was certainly on the Kings' side at that point, but Eye Win refused to be denied on its next drive. Brandstetter completed six passes on the drive, including a short throw for a touchdown with 1:44 left.

Eye Win was ahead 21-13

and elected to go for the one-point conversion. If they had gotten it, it would've put the game away. But the Suicide King defense stiffened and denied the point-after.

The clock ticked down to 20 seconds when Shelton ran around the left end and into the endzone to make the score 21-19. But that was as close as the Kings would get, as Eye Win's defense swarmed Shelton's pass, forcing a drop and securing the championship for the Eye Win guys.

BATTLE OF THE COLUMNS

This week, instead of our usual Opinions Section, we're presenting eight columns for you to choose from. Head to www.thecurrentonline.com and vote for your favorite, although "Foreigner's Corner" and "Tech Column" aren't in the running.

The columns with the most votes will continue on next semester.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Good science, bad science *Lack of understanding has created a gap between the media and science*



Cate Marquis

Recently, there was a disturbing report on a mainstream news program.

What was disturbing was not its content, but that it was being reported on a prime-time news program rather than circulated through blogs, e-mail forwards and by right-leaning talk shows.

The report was about e-mails between scientists discussing some findings on global warming.

The e-mails were hacked into by individuals who think global warming is a hoax.

The non-scientists who obtained the e-mails were circulating them as proof that global warming is not really occurring but is a hoax by a vast scientific conspiracy.

What the news report really showed was a profound lack of understanding about

how science works, both on the part of the e-mail hackers and those reporting the story.

Science is, perhaps, like sausage-making.

Scientific facts do not leap cleanly and wholly formed out of the earth.

Often scientists discuss among themselves the significance of raw data and what analysis is needed to discern the facts underlying that data.

One of the things that scientists might discuss is whether to include anomalous results, or occasional "outliers" that seem not to fit the rest of the data.

Outliers might tell you something significant or they might be random noise that muddies an analysis.

These kinds of discussions take place all the time, not because scientists want to fudge the data but because they want data to accurately reflect what is really going on.

Any scientist reading this e-mail exchange would see it for what it is: ordinary back-and-forth discussion.

But to the non-scientist, especially someone who believes scientists conduct their work in the same manner as business people or is prone to ascribe them evil motives, it is possible to misconstrue the discussion.

Nothing is more important to a scientist than their reputation and the trustworthiness of their data.

In the business world, things like cherry-picking information for reports, framing information in the most advantageous light and even fudging facts, are unremarkable, even forgivable and forgettable, conduct.

In science, honesty and accuracy is everything.

A scientist who fudges the facts has committed a career-ending offense.

But even if these particular scientists were engaging in questionable behavior, the enormous amount of data and the consensus of thousands of scientists on the meaning of climate data remains.

The report did have a brief clip of a scientist saying the whole thing was a non-story that no one would take seriously, which raised the question about why it was getting such attention.

But the report seemed far more interested in the thrill of scandal-mongering than in accurately reporting facts to the public.

This is not a good trend in our media coverage of science.

FASHION COLUMN

Tipping the fashion scales: Let's talk weight



Sequita Bean

Weight is the most controversial issue in fashion. It's debated to tears by people on both sides of the discussion and there is never a winner. This issue is so old and people are tired of talking about it, but it's always up for discussion until something changes.

Back when Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell reigned supreme, being super-thin meant you weren't being fed well at home, or that your high metabolism damned you.

Being lean became the new black when naturally thin British model Twiggy hit the scene in the mid 1960s. Her arrival was met with criticism from people concerned that her instant popularity provoked an unhealthy body image among women at just 91 pounds. Her look was regarded as a fad, however Twiggy mania swept the world and she is now regarded as one of the most iconic models of all time.

We never did bounce back to the way beauty was before Twiggy; in fact models got thinner and designer clothes got smaller.

This was really in during the '90s with the heroin-chic trend that Kate Moss helped popularize. Things stayed the same until plus sized models Mia Tyler and Crystal Renn started giving top models a run for their money. Now curvy and plus-sized women have trendy clothing options, and designers are loosening the belt buckles on their clothing sizes.

Nevertheless, we're still at a place where having larger models is an issue with some designers and fashion critics. The most famous plus-size-model hater is Chanel creative director Karl Lagerfeld. Lagerfeld himself used to be heavier, losing nearly 100 pounds in a year. The outspoken designer has always been open about his dislike of curvy women, even going so far to say that supermodel Heidi Klum was too big to be a runway model.

Top model Gemma Ward is the latest to fall victim to the weight issue. After the untimely death of her close friend Heath Ledger, Ward fell off the fashion planet and secluded herself to her home. Almost two years after her sabbatical, pictures of Ward resurfaced. She was 25 pounds heavier and almost unrecognizable.

The media pounced on her. Rude headlines like "Gemma Ward is fat and she knows it" and "Gemma Ward: Roll Model" were on countless newsstands and blogs across the globe. The negative attention hurt the model so much that she released a statement on November 9 that she will no longer model.

How did we get to a point where embracing natural weight became such an issue? Despite what some may think, a lot of models are not naturally thin and they have to work to maintain their physiques. Models of all sizes should be able to command the runway. The sole purpose of modeling is to display clothing to consumers and convince them to purchase the clothes, so having different variations of models makes sense to fit the differences among consumers.

There is too much elitism when it comes to fashion. There is no purpose of holding a model to a standard of beauty that is nearly impossible to achieve. The people who are making the rules that models must be tall and super thin are not tall and super thin themselves (see Karl Lagerfeld). Luckily, the recent boom in plus-sized-fashion revenue has gone up, so let's support models of all sizes. Our economy needs it, and so does the self esteem of consumers.

Social Awareness 101



Stacy Beckenholdt

I love to people watch, and the sociologist in me loves to analyze situations and (mis)beliefs that I once took for granted.

For example, many will argue that girls and boys naturally gravitate toward specific colors, but the decision to feminize pink and masculinize blue was consciously made after WWII in an effort to bridge the gender gap. Prior to WWII, pink was considered masculine as it was a watered-down version of red.

This and other (mis)beliefs are commonly but incorrectly attributed to the biology of our sexes. I have put together an introductory list of (mis)beliefs to start you on your path to social self-awareness.

(mis)Belief #1: Males are naturally more aggressive than females.

If you have spent time with young children, you know that girls hit, kick, bite and scream just as much as boys.

However, at around the age of 3, parents begin to

discipline girls to control their anger while boys are allowed more freedom to express themselves aggressively.

This is understandable, especially if the parents already believe that their sons' aggression is natural and immutable.

(mis)Belief #2: Girls are naturally catty.

Piggy-backing on #1, girls have to learn different ways to express their anger, and gravitate to the power of harshly chosen words.

Combine this with the ideal of girls staying clean and pretty—it takes too much time to restyle hair, so physical contact with the enemy is a no-no (you have seen Jerry Springer and the flying hair weaves, right?).

(mis)Belief #3: Men are visual.

Last time I checked, everyone I know is visual, but of course this refers to men's desire to gaze upon us lovely ladies.

Well, I would be more visual too if the majority of billboards, magazine covers, television commercials, horror films and music videos were laden with buff men posing and dancing for my entertainment. Let's face it: opportunities are designed differently for boys and girls.

Coupled with male encouragement and female discouragement of sexual expression, conditioned responses are understandable. But make no mistake: Ladies enjoy seeing hot guys

too.

(mis)Belief #4: Women hate sports.

Female fans love sports just as much as men. Unfortunately, the majority are never invited to participate, be it pickup games of soccer in the schoolyard or attending hockey games with brothers.

Typically, girls are steered in different directions, where their interests for other things grow.

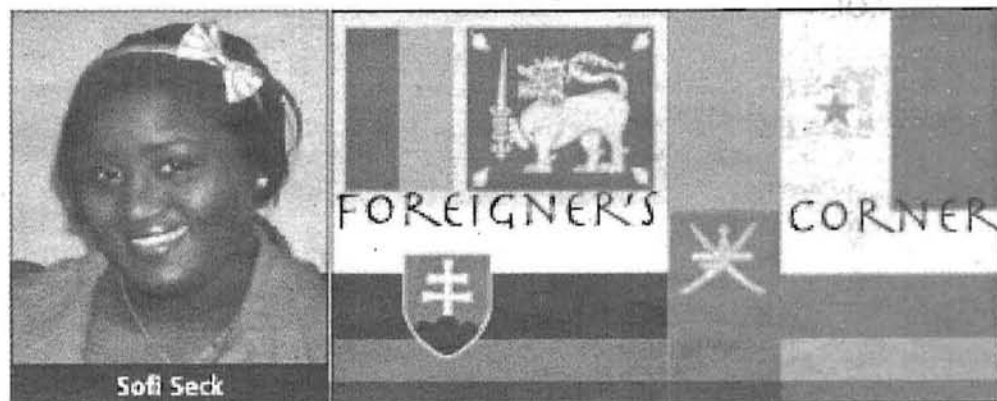
When I interviewed Riverwomen soccer players for my thesis, each said they got into sports because their fathers encouraged them to participate, and they ultimately benefited from their involvement by receiving university scholarships.

Opportunities and social education—which begin at home—make us who we are today, but we box ourselves and others around us in when we make uneducated assumptions about people based on their particular sets of plumbing.

My uterus has yet to prevent me from fixing my cars' brakes, and testicles truly do not make cooking and dusting impossible.

With a bit of introspection and awareness, we can all begin to make significant changes. I recently witnessed the fruit of my labor when my 17-year-old daughter grabbed tools from the trunk of my car to change a flat tire.

And she did so without messing up her hair.



Sofi Seck

A farewell to columns'

Lately I have been thinking a lot about the last 4 years of my life. I can hardly believe it, but I've reached the final week of my college career. All of the grades, papers, tests, professors and late-night studying are coming to an end.

All that remains are a few frantic days of finals and a diploma-receiving ceremony. This has been a week of coming to terms that sadly, not every relationship lasts forever.

With a week left of classes, boxes are abandoned, questions are unanswered and there is an unclear future frightening the hell out of me.

My mind fights to keep those thoughts from intruding with daily life that walks me steadily towards graduation.

Over the last few years I have become everything I have always wanted to be—accepted, lively, funny, sexy, smart, thoughtful, artsy, crazy fun and wickedly good at new things.

Then I realize: I'm not as accepted, lively, funny, sexy, smart, thoughtful, artsy, crazy fun, or as wickedly good at anything as I thought I was, but that lady next to me probably is. Once I acknowledged that, I realized and accepted that I'm not so bad off myself and began to truly enjoy college life.

I have done all that I wanted at UMSL. I have ignored my advisors when they told me that I could be a great lawyer, gave up dreams of being a ballet dancer, an astronaut, a professional hockey player, a painter, a doctor, a stripper, a teacher, and the first female/non-American president of the United States. But no big deal—I found new dreams and still held on to the one where I change the world.

I have fallen in love with love, then realized that it was make-believe.

I have made amazing friends, and then lost them on the count of stupidity. I have made amazing friends.

I have tried, failed, learned, changed, grown and did all the jazz that comes with college life, then unexpectedly fell into myself.

I have enjoyed all of the crazy/beautiful times I spent at *The Current* and appreciate having had the opportunity to know and work with incredible people.

Through these relationships, I have learned so much about the kind of person I am and the kind of person I do not want to be.

I will miss *The Current* and the relationships that I have built there. I will miss the parties and the hustle and bustle of it all, and I will greatly miss this university and the people who made it home for me.

Honestly, who knows what lies in the future? This might be goodbye, or just the beginning of a whole new chapter for me. There is always grad school.

My wish is that all international students follow my lead, and have as much fun while in The States as possible.

Step out of your comfort zone, then expand it by miles.

So I sit here and struggle on my last few sentences, still thinking about how to say a proper goodbye to this chapter.

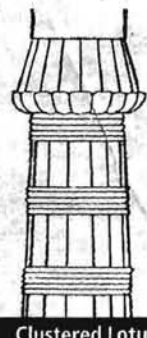
I cannot help but be so very appreciative that I am void of words for everybody and everything.

So I cheat by ending it the way I began—the only true way to say goodbye: don't.

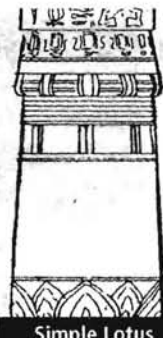
Know
your
columns



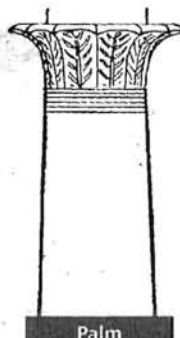
Campaniform



Clustered Lotus



Simple Lotus



Palm



Hathor-headed



Curran



Seal



O'Hara

MUSIC COLUMN

Coming to a museum near you: CDs and records



Anna Marie Curran

One of the oddest things I encountered during my Thanksgiving Break was the ghost of my favorite CD/Record store in my hometown, Lake Ozark, Mo.

Not the biggest of towns,

the one CD store monopolized all the music business when I was growing up.

Throughout junior high, my friends and I would spend every meager babysitting check we received on the newest albums out, ensuring we had a complete collection of music.

The store, "Music for Less," closed several years back right around the same time iTunes, Limewire and YouTube were beginning to make it big.

A new company has moved into its spot at the mall, but I still feel a twinge of nostalgia when I see navy sweaters and corduroys in the

display window instead of music posters and aisle after aisle of albums.

I remember the first CD I ever owned; embarrassing as it may be, it was the Hanson's first album (you remember, I'm sure ... "Du wop ... wop wop ...") or something along those lines) and at the time it was my most cherished possession.

A Christmas gift from my sister, that piece of plastic went everywhere I went, whether it was spinning in the walkman I found laying in one of my dresser drawers—a forgotten prize from a forgotten event—or playing in the background of one of

my parent's cars while they exasperatedly told me to turn it down (to which I rarely obliged.)

It seems strange to think the next generation of listeners will memorize their first favorite album on YouTube through hundreds of plays on a video instead of from a car stereo.

I miss the days of flipping through rows of albums at a record store and then facing the agonizing deliberation of deciding between several different ones.

However, nostalgic as I may be for the age of CDs, I still realize the potential the changing music industry

holds.

I've heard numerous times that all the money in the music industry is shifting to the live show.

The availability of the music to fans is surely important, but it is beginning to gain the reputation of a flyer to promote the live show than the feature product itself.

"You used to sell plastic and vinyl. Now, you can sell interactivity and souvenirs," Seth Godin, a music writer, wrote in his column.

As Godin points out, this is the only way to make it in the business anymore.

Reaping profit from performances and using digi-

tal music to promote seems backwards when one is used to the inverse, but when thought out it makes sense.

So the age of CDs may be over but it seems like another one is coming in that has the potential to be just as impressive.

With the bulk of an artist's salary coming from their live performances, artists are sure to step it up and provide a quality show.

Personally, I am intrigued to see the next way the top dogs (and maybe even the newbies) find to keep us interested in the music business, and the new music and artists they have to offer.

MONEY COLUMN

'Tis better to save: *How to keep a little cash around in a season of giving, and more*



Jen O'Hara

With the holidays right around the corner and the economy tight on our wallets, we are all looking for ways to save when it comes to gift buying.

Here are a few tips to make the most of your dollar this holiday season.

Sweets and Treats: Most everyone has a sweet tooth, and this is probably the easiest, cheapest way to give out several gifts.

Get bags of candy or whip up some cookies or brownies.

To add a personal touch, wrap them in plastic and place the goods inside a coffee cup or basket or on a decorated plate.

Compare and contrast: Consumers may not find the lowest price for an item on the first shopping trip.

Even if they do, how do they know it is the cheapest? Compare prices with other stores through ads and include quality comparison.

Back away from the credit card: Probably the top payment method, especially

around the holidays, is the credit card.

This is the most dangerous thing to do because it can quickly get users into debt.

While the "swipe now, pay later" system seems easiest to do, avoid this by planning ahead and start a "Holiday Savings" account at your bank.

Get together with friends: Most are taking a punch with the economy as it is. With your friends, decide on a spending limit. This way, everyone gets something, and others are not feeling guilty for not stepping it up.

Fun ways to spice this up include Secret Santa or Rob your Neighbor. Also, you can team up with friends to get a mutual friend a bigger gift.

Coupons: Often times, people do not realize there are coupons for things outside of food.

Check the newspaper, entertainment books, and online to see if stores have any available.

Bundle gifts: The trouble many people face is trying to give gifts to each of their ten siblings and their spouses. Why not bundle gifts?

With this idea, you are both buying and stressing out less. For example, instead of trying to figure out what your brother, his wife and three kids all want, give them a family movie night.

Pick out two or three family movies, add some popcorn, hot chocolate mix and some "theater" candy, and

bundle it in a basket.

Size matters: Parents, children are not going to care if \$2 or \$2,000 are spent on gifts.

With most kids, bigger is better. Consider large items such as sleds or easel art kits. Also, do not try and show how much love is there by piling up the gifts.

I promise they will love you just the same.

Be sentimental: In the end, the holidays are never about who gets or spends the most. Handmade gifts never go wrong.

Think about personalized calendars, holiday decorations (wreaths, tree skirts, etc) and framed handprints of little ones for the grandparents.

There are literally hundreds of ideas online and in craft-books at local libraries.

Think ahead: Budget and make a general list of the people you want to buy gifts for and what you are buying them.

Several people often forget they already bought someone something, or lose track of how much they are spending.

Wrapping Paper: Who can afford five plus dollars on a single roll of wrapping paper? Get creative- use comics from the newspaper or have kids decorate brown paper grocery bags.

Gift giving need not break the bank.

With a little creativity, an inexpensive season can be fun and memorable for all.

SO... HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR? BE HONEST.
I MEAN, WE KNOW YOU'RE OUR FRIEND, BUT REALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOURS, The Current

TECHNOLOGY COLUMN

Copywrong: new technology leads to absurd new laws



Andrew Seal

A few weeks ago, 22-year-old Samantha Tumpach was thrown in jail for two nights for recording her older sister's surprise party.

The party took place during a screening of "New Moon," the latest entry in the "Twilight" series.

Naturally, Tumpach wanted to record the occasion for posterity—and not the whole event, just the singing of "Happy Birthday" and a few videos of her sister and friends clowning around before the movie started.

Instead, she found herself charged with "one count of criminal use of a motion picture exhibition," an article in the Chicago Sun-Times said.

Granted, she acknowledged there were clips of the movie on her camera—totalling about 4 minutes. She claimed that they were only there because she was trying to figure out her new-ish camera.

She was arrested after managers noticed her and called the police.

You read that right. Instead of politely asking her

to stop—call it a warning, if you want—the managers immediately called the police, and after Tumpach was taken into custody, the managers insisted on pressing charges.

It seems like a bit of an overreaction, but it makes sense. By failing to report a possible copyright infringement, the managers could have risked their jobs.

But failing to act like a compassionate human being by offering a warning? That falls squarely on the shoulders of the managers. Now Tumpach is facing charges that could land her in jail for three years.

On top of that delightful little nugget is that as a convicted felon, Tumpach would lose her right to vote, her ability to work with children, and her right to hold public office. Oh yeah—and any job she applied for that required a background check? Boom. Felon.

All that, plus three years for four inadvertent minutes of a crappy teen vampire-romance flick.

Granted, she should not have been fiddling with her camera as the movie started, but the facts in this case are fairly obvious: she was not trying to record the movie on purpose.

The proof is in her camera: It is a digital still-frame camera with added video support. Real 'cappers use straight-up pure video cameras to get the highest quality possible in a camcording. Also, they do not do their capping right in

front of the managers.

This poor girl is going to be railroaded by the Motion Picture Association of America for a crime she did not commit. This is, quite simply, moronic.

This is hardly the first time that the MPAA or its sinister cousin, the Recording Industry Association of America, has pulled dirty tricks like this.

They seem to think that crucifying innocent, everyday common people will somehow force the 'cappers/rippers/copiers to stop. The people recording and releasing cam copies of movies could care less about Samantha Tumpach.

Newsflash, guys: "making an example of" people not even remotely tied to the camcording scene will not work. Now, catching a major and well-known 'capper in the act—that's a start.

These outdated and draconic copyright laws need to go. I am all for protecting the rights of content creators, but when those same laws are used to harass and destroy a young woman's life and her future? That's sick.

The theater managers need to drop the charges, and Tumpach should walk free. MPAA, try going after the people that are hurting your business, not the ones buying tickets and supporting it.

Now, about singing "Happy Birthday" (a copyrighted song) in the theater (a public space), well, you are on your own for that one, Samantha.

POLITICS COLUMN

Franken's fight against rape: And the bizarre right-wing backlash



Andy Phipps

I cannot for the life of me think of any person or group of people on Earth that I would label as being "pro rape" except for convicted rapists—who are obviously very keen on the idea.

So I was incredibly surprised when I found out this week that 30 Republican senators had been pegged as such after they voted against an amendment to the defense-spending bill proposed by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN).

The amendment dealt with people working as sub-contractors for U.S. government contractors (for example, employees of KBR—a subsidiary of Halliburton that has done work in Iraq and Afghanistan) who are often forbidden by their contracts with the parent company to file suit against co-workers for sexual harassment or assault.

Often, the only outlet for them is to seek arbitration within the company, which in cases of sexual assault mean that they never see their day in court and are denied justice.

Franken drafted and proposed the amendment after learning about the case of Jamie Leigh Jones, a 19-year-old former employee of KBR who was allegedly drugged, raped by multiple male co-workers and locked in a shipping container.

She was unable to take her case to court because of stipulations in her contract. For their part, the 30 male Republicans that voted against the amendment (including Missouri's Kit Bond) did not explain their reasoning very well.

Overall, they backed their votes against it because they thought the amendment would be unfair to sub-contractors who are unaware of such stipulations in contracts from their parent companies.

Another argument was that the amendment would be difficult to apply as law as many of these companies and the offenses themselves would take place outside of U.S. legal jurisdiction.

But it was Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama (R-AL) who possibly made the initial partisan move when he claimed on the senate floor that the amendment was a political move by Democrats aimed solely at Halliburton, a company many consider synonymous with greediness after their no-bid Iraq contracts during the Bush administration.

Ultimately, the amendment passed and became part of the bill, but the backlash against these sena-

tors from the left was harsh. Within a day of the vote, there was a website, republicansforrape.org and left-wing pundits on television were loosely throwing the "pro rape" label around.

As soon as the branding began, the GOP attempted to fire back, though their response was something akin to an angry whimper. According to politico.com, these senators are upset that Franken has not come to their defense in the face of the criticism that has been hurled against them for voting against his amendment.

"I don't know what his motivation was for taking us on, but I would hope that we won't see a lot of Daily Kos-inspired amendments in the future coming from him," Sen. John Thune said in reference both to Franken's amendment and a liberal blog that had nothing to do with the issue.

But, I have to ask what these senators expected. When it comes down to it, this does not look like a trap that Sen. Franken set for them, but it might as well have been.

Even though there are hairy legal issues that the amendment's application as law will bring up, the protection it will provide women is needed.

Regardless of what you may call these senators, they voted against protecting women. And no matter what, any protection of them is better than none at all in my book.



"In my professional opinion, these dreams mean that you are sexually attracted to *The Current* and will not find true peace of mind until you pick it up and make sweet read to it all day long."

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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, or call 516-5316.

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The U is looking for new DJs for the Spring Semester 2010! If you are interested, please email umslradio@umsl.edu or visit umslradio.com for more information!

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Take over my lease at University Meadows and I will pay your deposit + \$100
Call 314-724-4279 or ask for APPT. 433 Gary Rizzolo 008290380


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700 MISCELLANEOUS

December 9, 2009, Work-in-Progress Presentation


"An Analysis of the Motto Adduced by Wittgenstein for the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus", Thomas P. Knoten, BA, JD, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, 3:30 pm, Dean's Conference Room, Third Floor, Lucas Hall, free, (314) 516-5631

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



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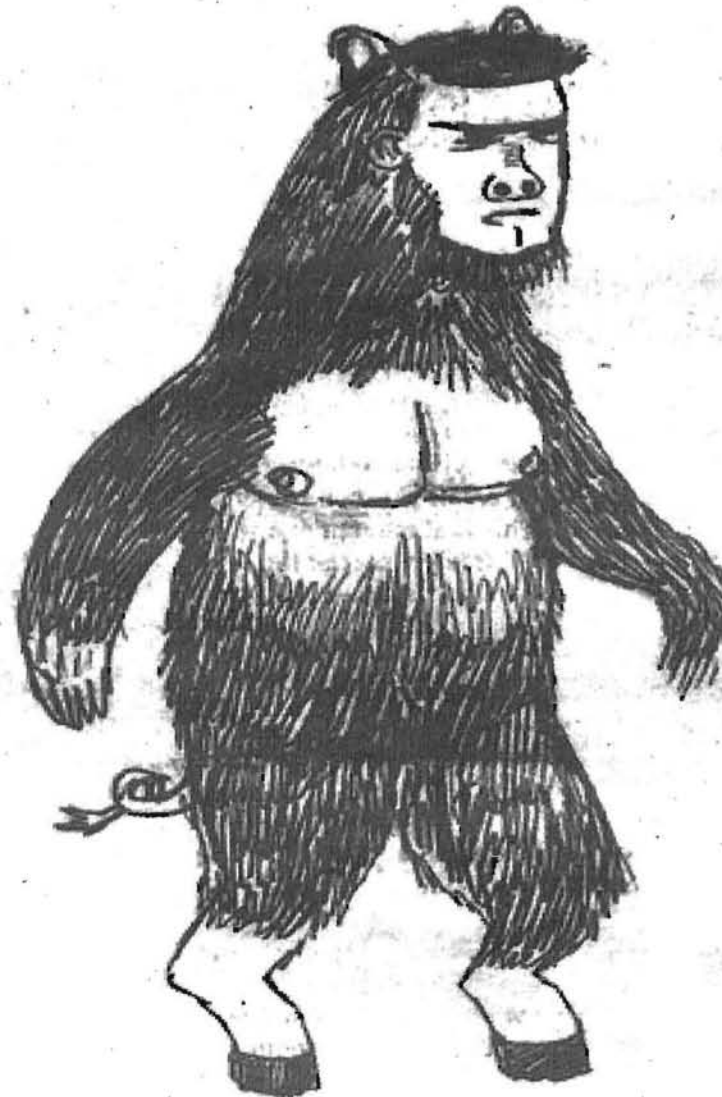
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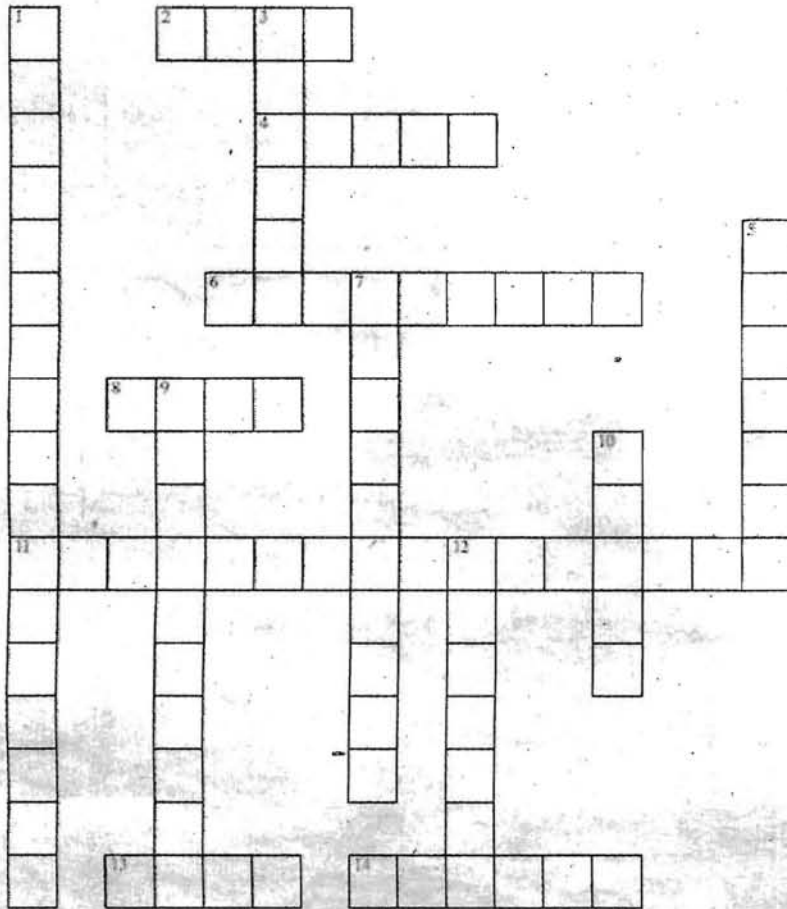
MAN BEAR PIG



The Current takes you serial, even when no one else does. Know of something super serial going on around campus? Send it to us at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2. African country with an estimated oil reserves of one billion barrels.
- 4. Neighbor to 11 Across.
- 6. Large producer of organic coffee in Asia.
- 8. It's Arabian Oryx Sanctuary became the first site ever deleted from UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2007.
- 11. 3rd largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 13. Ranks fourth in the world in oil reserves with 115 million barrels.
- 14. 90% of its population engages in agriculture.

DOWN

- 1. Its city Bajos de Haina was included on the Blacksmith Institute's list of the world's 10 most polluted places.
- 3. Produces more than 2 million barrels of oil a day.
- 5. Set to be the world's leading uranium producer in 2015.
- 7. Home to numerous hydroelectric dams, including the world's highest.
- 9. Island nation that targets eco-tourists.
- 10. Poorest country in the Americas.
- 12. One of the largest rubber and timber producers in Africa.

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

If you've been putting something off, now is a good time to make big decisions or begin work on a new project, but beware of resistance from those around you.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

The stars will give you a head start on any hard work in the beginning of the week, so stop procrastinating and get down to business.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

This week is a good time to take stock of your life, and whether you're happy with the direction it's going. It may also present an opportunity to improve various aspects of your love life.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Proving that you have what it takes to control your own destiny is important to you, Cancer, so be aware of any opportunities to bring change to your life.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

You've been feeling even more creative than usual recently. Keep tapping into this burst of inspiration and use it to push toward your goals.

VIRGO (AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

This could be a defining time in your life, so try not to be overcome by worries and self-criticism that could stand in the way of success.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

This week you may come across an opportunity for a fresh start in your career, so be alert and unafraid to take chances. Now is an excellent time for more spiritual journeys.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

It's time to work on keeping both feet on the ground. You're very prone to living in your own head, and though that lends itself well to your creative drive, it will be unhelpful to you this week.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Take care at work as a possible conflict may occur with someone who does not appreciate your typical enthusiasm and high spirits.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Continue to make changes to your life about any number of things. You may be presented with the opportunity to re-commit to something you've been neglecting lately.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

You may be feeling inspired to re-start an abandoned project. This will be a positive move for you and for those around you.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Travel and adventure are very likely for you in the near future, so keep those bags packed. While at home, though, you may be noticing that you're happier with your living arrangements.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★★★

(Very hard)

Last week's answers

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

Last week's rating: Hard

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

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the A's in the message, and so on. (Hint: S=T)

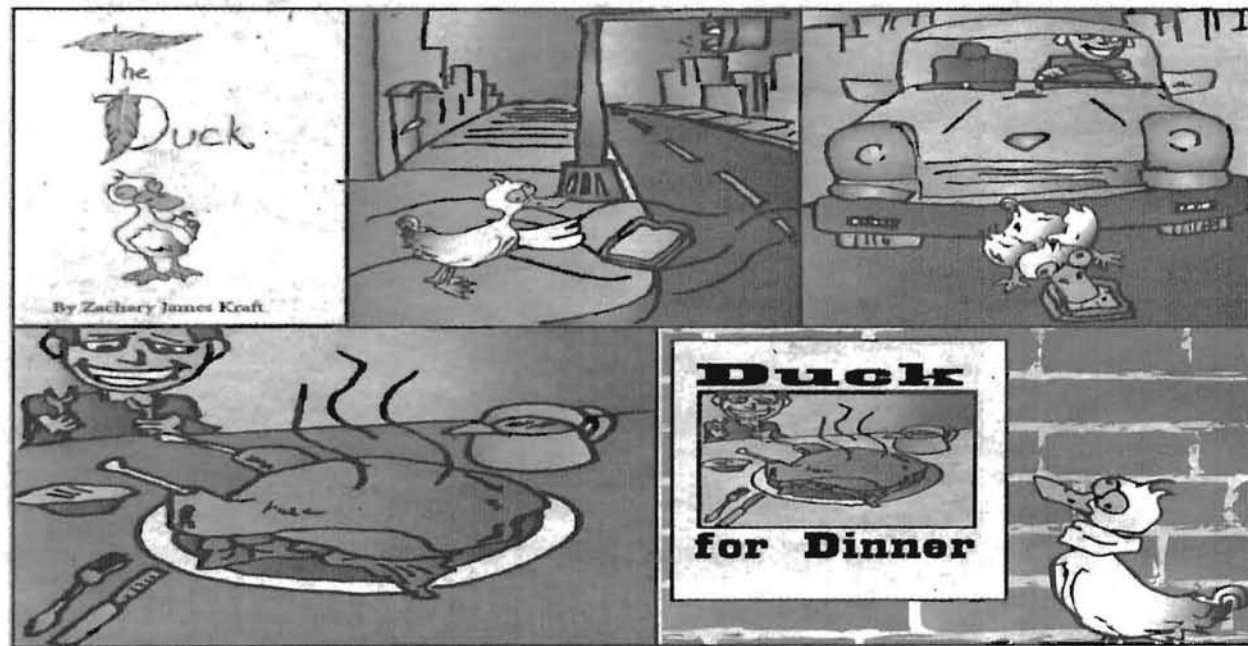
E LU PYWBEWPTR SCLS YVO
QTPVOESH EQ LS QSLIT EW
LXACLWEQSLW LWR ZLIEQSLW

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.

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



Good Guys by Phil Freeman

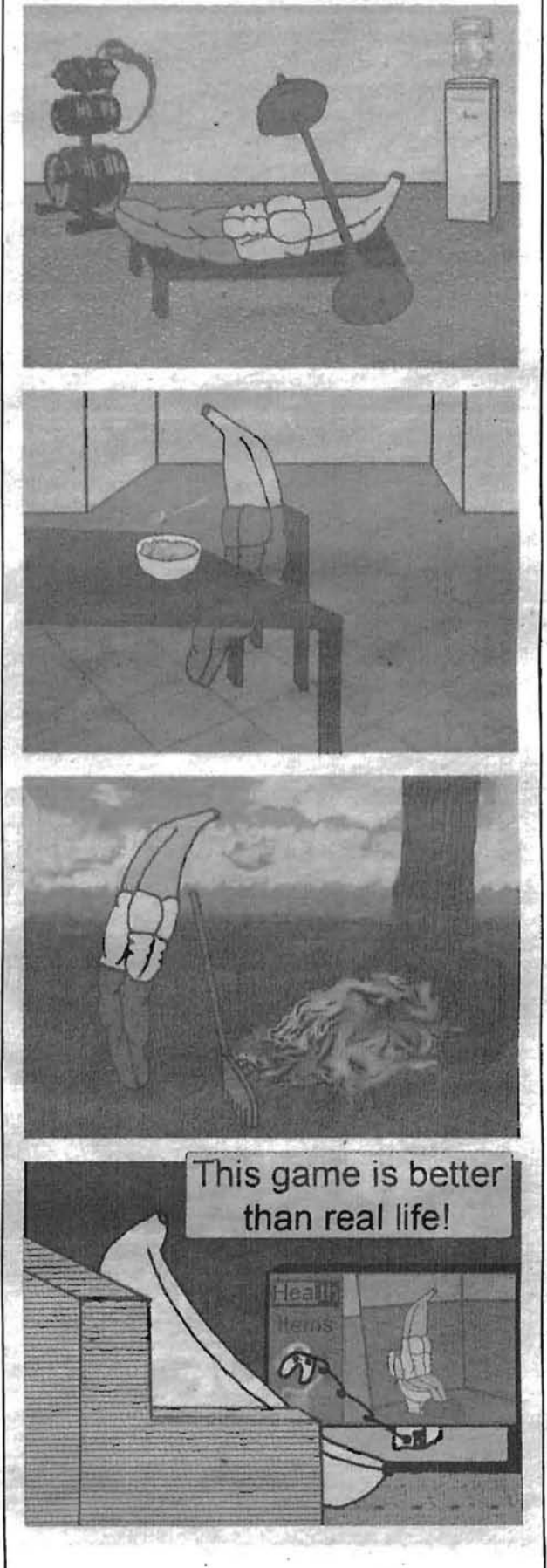


RANDOM MINDS BY JEFFREY GROSSMAN



Comics

Bananas #22 by Paul Maguire



What's Current

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

Monday, Dec. 7

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.

Coed Wallyball Tournament Tonight is Campus Recreation's 3-on-3 Coed Wallyball Tournament: Wallyball is a fun, fast-paced game of volleyball played in a racquetball court! Fun for everyone, regardless of skill! A & B Divisions. Teams Must register in advance at the Campus Rec Office. Located in the Mark Twain Gym at 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain at 516-5326.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Annual Holiday Concert Enjoy an evening of well-loved holiday music at this performance of the University-Community Chorus, University Singers, Vocal Point, and University Orchestra at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Touhill Performing Arts Center from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. For more information contact Ashley Paterson at 314-516-5948.

Friday, Dec. 11

Conversations about Teaching & Technology: Customizing Course Informal discussions designed to introduce colleagues to the essential ingredients for developing effective blended or fully online courses. Co-sponsors: ITS Faculty Resource Center and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Located in the Mark Twain Gym from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. For more information contact Cheryl Bielema at 314-516-4508.



Holiday Jazz Performance

SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Charles Clements, sophomore, music, performed with fellow members of the UMSL Jazz Ensemble last Monday at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This was a free concert for the UMSL community Presented by the UMSL Department of Music.

So, do you think your band rocks?



Then you should enter *The Current's* **BATTLE OF THE BANDS!**

If you have a band and would like to participate, drop off a sample CD at MSC 388. You can also send us a link to your band's website at thecurrentevents@gmail.com



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE, PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*