

The Current

BIOPIC 'AMELIA' IS GORGEOUS BUT BLAND

See Film, page 18

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS SINCE 1966 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.COM | VOLUME 43; ISSUE 1294 | NOV. 3, 2009

INSIDE

Smokeless cigarettes reviewed

See Science/Health, page 5

Interview with coach Chris Pilz

See Sports, page 10



Russian-taught music instructor spotlighted
See Features, page 14



It's a Thai revolution at the Touhill!

See A&E, page 17

Gay equality starts here

See Opinions, page 22

More and more comics!

See Comics, page 27

INDEX

News	2-3
Statshot	4
Science/Health	5-8
Sports	9-12
Features	13-16
A&E	17-20
Opinions	21-24
Classifieds	25
Puzzles	26
Comics	27
What's Current	28



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Christopher Shafur, freshman, computer science, showed up as a pirate and participated in the Halloween Contest Thursday, sponsored by University Program Board.

H1N1 vaccine arrives

► **MARK WEBBER**
Staff Writer

Students who have shown flu-like symptoms are isolated and receiving supplies from the University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services such as thermometers. Chartwells has been delivering meals to their rooms.

Soon they will get vaccinations.

According to the University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services, University of Missouri-St. Louis has received H1N1 vaccinations and has begun

administering to students.

It was expected that UM-St. Louis would be receiving the vaccination sooner.

However, the University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services claims to be unaware of how the Missouri Department of Health makes their decisions when handing out vaccinations to schools.

The university has a total of 300 vaccinations and is first giving the vaccinations to students on a priority basis.

See H1N1, page 12

'Freedom without Walls'

Events mark 20th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall

► **CATE MARQUIS**
A&E Editor

A screening of the documentary "Freedom without Walls" and a discussion with the film's director launched a series of campus events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

On Nov. 9, 1989, the fall of the Berlin Wall, a barrier that separated East Berlin in communist East Germany from West Berlin (part of democratic West Germany), was one of the events that marked the end of the Cold War.

The screening took place Thursday, Oct. 29, 3-4:30 p.m. in Room 331 of the SSB.

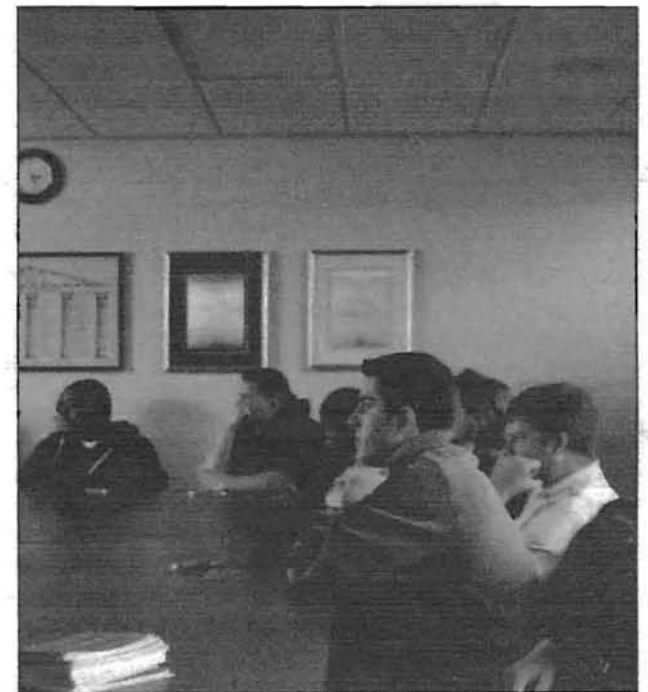
The documentary's director and producer, Robert E. Frye of Bolthead Communications Group and the German Information Center's Dr. Bernd von Muenchow-Pohl, former West German diplomat and University of Missouri-St. Louis professor of political science, were introduced by Dr. Joyce Mushaben, professor of political science and research fellow at the Center for International Studies.

An audience of about 25

people listened as Mushaben set the stage for the documentary by giving a quick recap of some of the events that led up to the fall.

Mushaben said this was the same year as the Tiananmen Square democracy protests and other peaceful actions launched by mostly young people. She said that while their East German parents saw the communist system as an improvement on the Nazis, these young people had no memories of the Nazis and were eager for change.

See BERLIN, page 3



CHERA MEYER / THE CURRENT

November marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. UM-St. Louis students watch a video in remembrance of this historical event.

WEATHER

TUES. **57**
42

WED. **56**
36

THURS. **54**
41

FRI. **59**
48

SAT. **62**
50

SUN. **61**
47

The Current
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1294

EDITORIAL

Editor-in-Chief.....	Jessica Keil
Managing Editor.....	Matthew Hill
News Editor.....	Anna Marie Curran
Features Editor.....	Sequita Bean
Science/Health Editor.....	Gene Doyel
Assistant Science/Health Editor.....	Andy Phipps
Sports Editor.....	Cedric Williams
Assistant Sports Editor.....	Anthony Padgett
A&E Editor.....	Cate Marquis
Opinions Editor.....	Andrew Seal
Copy Editors.....	Stacy Beckenholdt, Rebecca Nuckolls
Staff Writers.....	Patrick Canoy, Aaron Holdmeyer, John Dunn, Matthew B. Henry, Sarah Hill, Jen O'Hara, Bridget Ryder, Joe Schaffner, Mark Webber

DESIGN

Design Editor.....	Gene Doyel
Assistant Design Editor.....	Chris Stewart
Photo Editor.....	Sofi Seck
Assistant Photo Editor.....	Michelle Kaufman
Page Designers.....	Zachary James Kraft, Phil Freeman
Staff Photographers.....	Ahmad Aljuryyyed, Jennifer Meahan, Chera Meyer
Web Editor.....	Zachary James Kraft
Illustrators.....	Jeffrey Grossman, Paul Maguire, Cody Perkins

BUSINESS

Business Manager.....	Dan Pryor
Advertising Director.....	Christina Lee
Distribution Manager.....	Claire Beeman
Training Director.....	Chris Stewart
Adviser.....	Charlotte Petty

www.thecurrentonline.com



The Current is the student newspaper at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, printing weekly through the fall and spring semesters on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions, and restrictions apply. *The Current*, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of *The Current* and/or its policies. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of *The Current* and may not be reprinted, reused, or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of *The Current*.

The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. *The Current* edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

CONTACT US

Address	388 MSC, 1 University Blvd Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom	314-516-5174
Business/Advertising	314-516-5316
Fax	314-516-6811
E-mail (General)	thecurrent@umsl.edu
E-mail (Advertising)	thecurrentads@umsl.edu
E-mail (Employment Inquiries)	thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
E-mail (Tips)	thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Twitter	umslcurrent

Campus bicycle theft on the rise

Students join KarmaArmy to stem trend

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

According to Sergeant Tom McEwen, bike theft at the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus is beginning to become more of an issue. McEwen explained that in the last few weeks, bike theft all around the St. Louis area has increased, including on the campuses of St. Louis University and Washington University.

McEwen said that while UM-St. Louis has not made an arrest regarding bike theft yet, Washington University has made several arrests and that they are continuing to investigate some of the other cases.

McEwen said that there is no particular place on campus that is more or less safe than another, just that stu-

beefed up lock. [It] takes more effort but [is] more effective."

Bike theft is increasing not only at UM-St. Louis and other universities in the St. Louis area but around the nation as well. Because of this, an organization called "KarmaArmy" has begun a web based alert-system to help raise awareness in a person's community when their bike or other piece of recreational equipment, such as skis or a snowboard, is stolen.

Howard K. Brodwin, managing director for KarmaArmy said that KarmaArmy allows users to create profiles describing their gear. If something is stolen, then users are able to send out an alert to other users in their area to be on the look out for whatever was stolen.

"[It's] definitely not about vigilante justice, it's about information,"

"[It's] definitely not about vigilante justice, it's about information."

—Howard K. Brodwin, managing director for KarmaArmy

dents should be prudent. McEwen suggests students use a "beefy" lock and do not leave their bikes overnight. McEwen said that by leaving a bike somewhere overnight, students "increase the amount of time someone has to steal the bike."

McEwen said that the campus police department suspects someone has been cutting the locks or cables students use to secure their bikes with a bolt cutter. He said that the method being used is one of the reasons it is so difficult to catch the people involved as it only takes a moment for a bolt cutter to cut through whatever the student was using to secure his or her bike. McEwen said that the police department is trying to increase surveillance of areas where bikes are being kept as well.

"We're trying to keep an eye on the areas where the bikes are locked but we can't be there all the time," McEwen said. "What we would recommend is that someone use a

Brodwin said. "We want to really share this information with anyone and everyone who can help recover an item."

Brodwin also said that "everything is free" as well. Aside from the alert system, the website also provides tips on how to prevent theft and will soon come to include a GPS and radiofrequency ID technology that will be available for installation. This aspect of KarmaArmy will be the business part. Brodwin said that the main goal of the organization is to help pull people together in the community in a joint effort to prevent and recover stolen recreational gear.

"I think more than anything we're trying to get people together to kind of help each other," Brodwin said. "I think it's important for people to combine and have the power of many which technology can help us to do. We want to help people understand what they can do to prevent having an item stolen."

SGA MEETING RECAP

The October Student Government Association meeting was gavelled to order at 12:32 p.m. last Thursday, with officers providing updates about SGA business and introducing a bylaw to the constitution, defining members at large within the organization.

- Mosley outlined Be The Match's work to representatives. A non-profit organization that helps people find bone marrow and stem cell transplants, Be the Match offered their services to campus organizations interested in recruiting students as donors.
- Stallings reminded representatives that organizations must provide accurate rosters in order to avoid suspension. Rosters must be provided by Nov. 13 to avoid suspension.
- Hill reminded representatives that UM-St. Louis has designated November as a month of service. Student Life has set up several service dates and encourages as many student organizations to participate as possible.

Following the announcements, SGA officers updated representatives about their offices.

- President Grace Marie Ritter announced that The Big Event for 2010 has been scheduled for Saturday, May 1 at the Missouri Baptist Children's Home. Ritter also announced that proposed student fees would be reviewed at the Dec. 4 SGA meeting.
- Vice President Greg Meyer asked representatives to provide comments and concerns about possible physical changes to the Millennium Student Center and Chartwells. He announced that the next parking and transportation meeting would be held on Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. at a location yet to be determined. Meyer also announced that he was seeking 20 applicants to the athletics committee and six people to join the elections committee.
- Comptroller Dan Rosner updated representatives on the SGA budget. The organization began the year with a budget of \$103,400 and had spent \$15,439, leaving \$87,960 in available funds, but added that some bills from Homecoming had not yet posted.
- Student Court Representative Matt Bono announced that parking appeals had decreased.

The Current would like to apologize for the late release of this week's issue. Due to travel complications, our return from the Annual Collegiate Press convention in Austin, Tx. was delayed and paper could not be produced in time. Please send comments to thecurrent@umsl.edu.

Call to serve largely unheeded

Low attendance does not waiver Students of Service volunteers

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

Sitting on a table in room 315 of the MSC, small fliers with the caption "A Call to Serve: Will you answer the call?" above a ringing phone waited to be picked up. On Wednesday morning, judging by the low attendance at the first informational meeting for University of Missouri-St. Louis' Students of Service, a lot of these were not being taken.

Having just received a Learn and Serve grant worth \$420,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service this meeting was intended to begin fulfilling a portion of the grant.

Megan Hill, an AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer who is helping coordinate the project, explained that while the grant is mainly focused on education, foreclosure prevention and financial literacy, another facet is the creation of a student leadership team. Hill explained this as being a group of students who "drive service initiatives amongst the general student bodies."

"It's not an official student organization at this point," Hill said. "It's just kind of a

team of students interested in getting the word out about service within the parameters of the grant."

"The student group is also ... institutionalizing the project so that it's sustainable over a long period of time, because it makes sense for UMSL to develop relationships with the municipalities right around it," Hill said.

Along with generating awareness and sustainability, this group also holds the power to distribute small grants to student organizations willing to serve in the Normandy area.

"A student organization would come to the team with an application to work with a non-profit in the area and that team would delegate the money..." Hill said. "I think there are seven of those starting January that are going to be dished out."

Wednesday's meeting was the initial starting point of this team, yet only three students attended. Even though the turn-out was low, those helping to get the organization off the ground are confident in its success.

"I think once the projects become more concrete ... there will be more interest

from students." Kay Gasen-Thenhaus, director for the project said. "What we're hoping to do is launch some projects during November Month of Service...[these] are some concrete ways that I think this month students can see ways to get involved, and we'll just continue to build from there."

She explained that one of the projects is going to be a property clean-up of a house that fell into disrepair due to foreclosure, and also, weather permitting, on Sunday they would be doing work in St. Vincent's Park.

Shea Kelly, one of the students attending the meeting, said they are still working to build interest in the program among students, and that those already participating are "showing incredible enthusiasm."

Hill mentioned that she had received a lot of positive email correspondence about participation, however scheduling conflicts regarding Wednesday's meeting arose with the majority of them. In hopes of gathering a larger crowd, another meeting has been scheduled for next Thursday at noon in the SGA Chambers.

BERLIN, from page 1

The short documentary focused on personal views of people in Berlin 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The film featured archival footage and present-day interviews with Germans who were present when the Wall came down, comments on changes in Berlin since then, and the views of young people who were too young to remember the East Germany/West Germany divide.

After the screening, Frye spoke about the making the documentary and von Muenchow-Pohl spoke about life in West Germany before and after reunification. They then took questions from the audience.

"What I hope is that students can relate to this story, even though it is very different from their lives and environment, but sort of understand the not only political but also the human dimension in all this. And really that peaceful change for the better is possible and that one should not take any situation as a given fact but that things can actually change for the better," von Muenchow-Pohl said.

"I met someone from Germany who was here actually working. The eastern Germans are so motivated. They recognize their past but they are not defined by it. They are their own people," Em McGarry, junior, psychology, said.

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

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

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

GET GIRL-APPROVED HAIR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**AXE
HAIR CRISIS
RELIEF**

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Sofi Seck

The King of Pop, Michael Jackson passed away on June 25, 2009.
What do you think of a movie coming out so soon after his death?



"I think its F***ed up. He was a good guy and and they won't let his memory rest in peace"

Daniel Braik
International Business
Junior



"They are just trying to get more money out of his image"

Yeocun Park
English Education
Junior



"I think that they are just trying to make money for his death."

Ahmad Alghamdi
Information Systems Management
Freshman



"I think that its a good way to remember his good times. I do think that its kind of soon. They could have waited for a few years."

Kaitlyn Hatcher
Business
Freshman

VERBATIM

"He has machine guns that come out of his butt, but they're not uncomfortable for some reason, and it's no big deal. Which fascinates me."

-Kristen Bell
on *Astro Boy*



"I would rather have a prostate exam on live television by a guy with very cold hands than have a Facebook page."

-George Clooney

"I find it hard to believe that nobody in your government knows where they are and couldn't get them if they wanted to. Maybe they're not gettable. I don't know."

-Hillary Clinton
on terrorist leaders in Pakistan

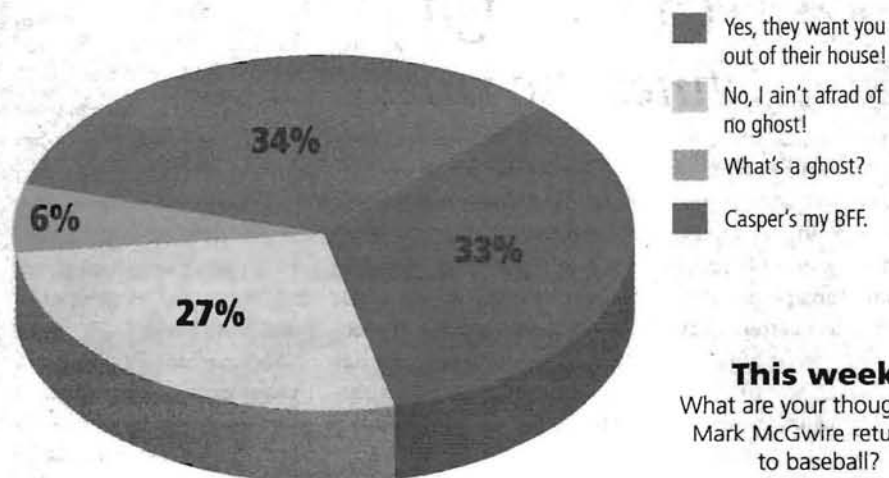


"Baz, you're asking me not to ride a motorbike for nine months, it's like asking me not to listen to music, I can't do that."

-Ewan McGregor

POLL

Do you believe in ghosts?



- Yes, they want you out of their house!
- No, I ain't afraid of no ghost!
- What's a ghost?
- Casper's my BFF.

This week:

What are your thoughts on Mark McGwire returning to baseball?

Answer at www.thecurrentonline.com

CRIMELINE

Monday, Oct. 26

Stealing Under \$500.00 - Stadler Hall

Sometime between October 19, 2009 and October 26, 2009 person(s) unknown stole the victim's bicycle. The victim advised that his bike was secured to a bike rack with a chain; however the perpetrators cut the chain and stole the bicycle. The bike is described as a Maroon in color "Next" brand men's bicycle. There are no suspects in this incident.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Stealing Over \$500.00 - Daughters of Charity Building, South Campus

Sometime between 5:00 PM on Friday 10-23-09 and 9:00 AM on Wednesday 10-28-09 person(s) unknown stole some copper wire and guttering from a construction project on South Campus. The UMSL Police are still investigating this incident; no suspects at this time.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Property Damage - Benton Hall

Around 6:30 PM an exterior window on the Benton Hall Building was broken. The window is approximately 3' X 10' and will cost about \$1000.00 to replace. The window is in a hallway, and is believed to have been broken out from the inside. A classroom down the hall was occupied at the time, and they heard the glass break, but no one saw how the window was broke.

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

Know something we don't? Tell us!
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

Science/Health

Where there's smoke A new electronic cigarette redefines the rules

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**
Staff Writer

In the midst of recent torrential downpours, most smokers on campus have been forced inside.

Naturally, unless they want a soggy cigarette, their nicotine fix must be put on hold. Yet technology has transformed tobacco products, this time into electronic cigarettes.

An electronic cigarette is made up of a plastic tube that holds a battery, heating element and a cartridge of nicotine.

A sensor is activated when a drag is taken which heats up and vaporizes the nicotine for inhalation by the user. No smoke is inhaled or exhaled.

The benefits of this product seem obvious, however, an ongoing debate between

the FDA and the manufacturers of these products has blurred this conclusion.

A news release issued in July by the FDA stated that "laboratory analysis of electronic cigarette samples has found that they contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze."

However they also made clear that, "because these products have not been submitted to the FDA for evaluation or approval, at this time the agency has no way of knowing, except for the limited testing it has performed, the levels of nicotine or the amounts or kinds of other chemicals that the various brands of these products deliver to the user."

Other than the presence of carcinogens and dieth-

ylene glycol, the main concern of the FDA is the product's attraction to youth and its possible ability to addict younger generations.

After the FDA came out against the e-cigarettes, NJOY, an Arizona based company that manufactures and sells e-cigarettes, released a technical review of the FDA's report.

They found that the methods used by the FDA were inconsistent and that their conclusions contradicted their approval ratings of other tobacco products, mainly the Nicotrol Inhaler.

"All of the tobacco-associated impurities found

in NJOY products were 'present but at less than the level of the Nicotrol inhaler [manufacturer] specification' according to the FDA report," they stated.

NJOY also stated that all of the chemicals flagged by the FDA were under limits of qualifications. Besides the ongoing debate about the danger of toxins present in the e-cigarettes, the level of nicotine in the cartridges can itself present a danger.

"The warnings they give with that, depending on the level of nicotine you have in there, one puff could be considered smoking an entire cigarette worth of nicotine.

So they are basically saying typically that little cartridge ... is going to be a whole pack worth of cigarettes ... so it's not like you can just puff on it a lot like a cigarette." Katie Moore, health educator at the University of Missouri-St. Louis said. Moore added that an overdose of nicotine will induce sickness.

However, the health issues do not seem to be the main reason why this product has not become a popular hit with smokers.

The initial price can be daunting. Starter packs can range from \$70 to around \$200, depending on the

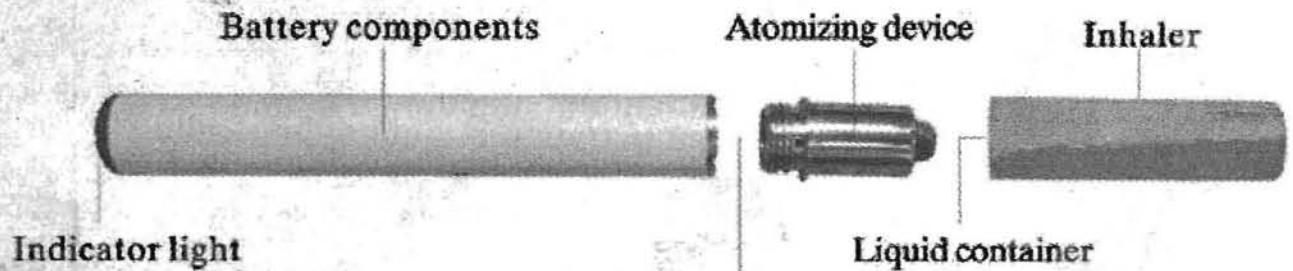
amount of nicotine cartridges that it comes with."

On NJOY's website they claim that by using their products they could cut your cost in half.

Yet with the current spike in tobacco taxes it is not sure if the e-cigarette can circumvent these laws.

Either way Mike Miller, business management major, found e-cigarettes to be appealing.

Braving the rain for a smoke, he said if he were to buy one "it would be more of a health investment, because I enjoy smoking but I need to quit."



Note:
Unscrew by turning to the left
Screw by turning to the right

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ALLCAM.BIZ

Got a tip on a new story for our science, health, business, and technology section?
Send it to www.thecurrenttips@umsl.edu



- Birth Control Services
- Emergency Contraception
- HPV Vaccine
- Annual GYN Exams
- STD testing & treatment
- HIV testing & counseling

Come to us in confidence
— with confidence.

Planned Parenthood
1.800.230.PLAN | plannedparenthood.org/stlouis

Health coverage made easy.

We offer health coverage for:

- Individuals without Group Coverage
- Independent Contractors
- Dependents and Students
- COBRA/Alternative
- Self-Employed
- Small Businesses

Solutions with choices are easy, just call

David Jackson
314-923-5531 or 800-541-4254
www.davejackson-insurance.com
David.Jackson@anthem.com



David Jackson
Authorized Agent

An Anthem Insurance Company. 50 member in the Kansas City area. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield are the trademarks for Anthem Insurance Company. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield logos are the trademarks of Anthem Insurance Company. All and certain states. Anthem Insurance Company is not a member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield logos are the trademarks of Anthem Insurance Company. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield logos are the trademarks of Anthem Insurance Company. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield logos are the trademarks of Anthem Insurance Company.

Anthem



PHOTOS BY CHERA MEYER/ THE CURRENT

Irem Kurtal Steen led the 'News at Noon' discussion.



Carmen Young-Ellis, freshman, accounting, voices her opinion at the News at Noon series last Wednesday in the third floor of the MSC. The topic at hand was the meeting of natural selection and divine purpose.

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE DISCUSSION.

Human intelligence: questions of divine origin and natural change

Latest 'News at Noon' tackles the great debate over intelligent design and natural selection

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Asst. Science/Health Editor

Science and religion collided in a spirited debate at the third installment of News at Noon, an open forum for discussion of the news between students and faculty, that is sponsored by The Center for Teaching and Learning, *The Current* and The New York Times.

The topic for last Wednesday's discussion, "Designing the Human: Could Human Moral Sense Be the Result of Both Natural Selection and Divine Purpose?" was led by Irem Kurtal Steen, associate professor of philosophy at University of Missouri-St. Louis.

One of Steen's classes attended the discussion in lieu of their regular lecture, in which they had been discussing similar topics.

Central to the discussion was an opinion written by Robert Wright for The New York Times in August, titled "A Grand Bargain Over Evolution."

The article explores the possibility that the differences between science and religion, particularly between the two extremes in both camps (scientifically objective atheists and creationist Christians), can be reconciled through Darwin's theory of evolution.

The theory has long been a large standing between these two ideologies, especially when the argument has been made

from the religious side that evolution cannot account for the human sense of morality.

"There are atheists who go beyond declaring personal disbelief in God and insist that any form of God-talk, any notion of higher purpose, is incompatible with a scientific worldview.

And there are religious believers who insist that evolution can't fully account for the creation of human beings," Wright said.

In the op-ed, Wright said that both sides have a common ground: the concept of a "higher purpose" in biological design.

This "higher purpose" is admitted by even the most atheistic scientists like Richard Dawkins, and religious groups recognize such a higher purpose anyway.

If both sides recognize this common ground, they could move toward reconciling their differences, Wright said.

Following an overview of the article by Steen, attendees debated the material. For the most part, attendees struggled with the concept of human attributes like morality as being part of the evolutionary climb of human beings.

"If it looks like other changes in the species over time, and you can give a story about how it helps the species adapt, then that gives you reason to think that there is a natural reason for it," Steen said of criticism over whether or not the

two thoughts were reconcilable.

Other attendees brought up the darker side of human morality in discussing its place in evolution, especially when considering how different cultures have different morals.

"There are some advanced societies around the globe, several in Asia come to mind, where the way business is done is not the way that we're accustomed to doing business and we would look at it and say, "That's unethical, that's immoral," one of the attendees said.

"But if we look at your business moral ethic and your social ethic, they are coming together globally into their own separate code," Allison Dreith, senior, political science, said.

"I think that society right now really needs to come together," Hannah Lee, sophomore, business, and one of Steen's students, said.

"I guess today that you could really hear the differences."

Overall, Steen was happy with the outcome of the debate, especially among students from her class that attended.

"More people spoke than usual [in class]," Steen said of the discussion.

"Some of the usual speakers opened up too, but people who had never said anything before in my class spoke, so that shows that there is something right about this format."

UMSL researchers examine aging and intelligence in new co-op study

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**
Staff Writer

The aging process can sometimes present cognitive challenges to tasks once simple when young.

Some experience mild memory loss while others experience more acute symptoms such as dementia or Alzheimers. While these experiences affect many individuals, the reasons behind them are still a mystery.

Researchers from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Washington University, Brown Medical School and Harvard Medical School have teamed up to investigate this process in what is called the SMART Study (Study of Memory and Age Tractography).

Starting in 2007, the SMART Study received its funding from a grant from the National Institutes for Health.

The author of the grant and the lead coordinator of the effort is Robert Paul, UM-St. Louis professor of psychology. While the other campuses help with analyzing data, UM-St. Louis coordinates "all the details of ... the subjects and running through the cognitive battery and orchestrating their time in terms of the neuro-imaging," Paul said.

The study recruits volunteers, aged 50 to 80, to participate in a four-year observation.

"They start year one and get the scan, they go through the memory testing and other kinds of tests, and then we see them annually," Paul said.

"They come back into UM-St. Louis [and] we go through another round of cognitive testing ... and then in year four, when they come back, they get a pretty comprehensive set of tests and they have their brain scanned again."

Over the span of these four years, the researchers will look for biomarkers that link to cognitive ability.

"We don't understand the real biological processes behind cognitive aging," Paul said.

"So if you don't understand

the mechanisms, it is very hard to intervene and support really good cognitive aging in the absence of understanding the mechanisms that change it."

We're looking at these neuro-imaging signatures to see if we can find really good biological links or clues to what this phenomenon of cognitive aging is really about," Paul said.

Located on Washington University's campus is a tractographer, which works in connection with a MRI and allows researchers to see these biomarkers.

"Normally, when people look at an MRI, they're looking at where water content is at in the body. What tractography does is not so much look to see where water is at but how is water moving in a tissue," Paul said.

Tractography allows for the rendering of data acquired by the MRI into more complex images.

"What tractography does, is not so much look to see where water is at but how is water moving in a tissue."

This benefits the study because they can trace water movement over neurons in the brain, which allows for the rendering of high quality images for the study of cognitive aging processes.

As the group continues to investigate the cognitive aging process, they hope to increase the length and scope of the study.

"The grant will end in 2012 and we've had a really good success in retaining the people that have come through to be included in the study," Paul said.

"We would love to be able to continue this grant and get further funding to extend the follow up window so that we can actually track these individuals over a 10-year span."

"If we can do that it really extends that window of when we might be able to find transition points between healthy normal aging to less healthy aging."

COMMENT AT
WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.COM

HEALTH COLUMN

Kicking the habit or just going digital?



Jen O'Hara

The world recently stumbled upon the electronic cigarette. This new invention gives the pro-smoking part of the world their nicotine fix while providing a smoke-free atmosphere for the rest of the population.

Having practically grown up in bowling alleys, I was exposed to an enormous amount of cigarette smoke from before I could walk up until the age of 18. The fact that relatives in my family have experienced health complications due to cigarette smoking, and that I suffered minor health complications due to second hand smoke could be the reason I vowed never to touch a cigarette.

We live in a free country, so I am not one to lecture and hold contempt against anyone who smokes. However, the invention of the e-cigarette allows non-smokers like myself to avoid the negative effects of smoking.

It is estimated that 46,000 non-smokers die every year

due to second hand smoke. Also, 150,000 to 300,000 children under 18 months of age suffer from lung infections because they live with a smoker, and 1 million children develop asthma from smoking effects.

With an electronic cigarette, health problems for those who currently experience second hand smoke should decrease.

Also, for the environmentalists out there, if all or even some smokers made the switch to electronic cigarettes, there would be fewer butts on the side of the road to pick up or worry about.

Electronic cigarettes are good for the smokers, too. These cigarettes do not contain dangerous chemicals or ingredients like tobacco, so health problems involving the lungs and heart most likely will decrease.

Of course, there is a downside. Addiction is never good and the electronic cigarette supports nicotine addiction. Plus, there has not been any large testing or studies done on effects of these e-cigarettes, so there could be an underlying health problem that would result from using them that is just as bad as or even worse than real cigarettes.

In addition, they are electronic. This means one day, someone who uses e-cigarettes will reach in their bags or pockets for a fix and

will find the battery is dead. Most smokers who need the nicotine will submit to going out and buying a pack of regular cigarettes for the day.

I was not one who would tattle on little John or Jane in high school for lighting up in some secluded area during break, but when I have teenagers of my own one day, I will be perfectly honest in saying I would smack them silly if I caught them smoking.

With this in mind, I do not like the idea of electronic cigarettes because they will be much easier to hide than regular cigarettes.

Also, now that e-cigarettes are becoming the latest thing, celebrities and models are already starting to promote them.

We all know from observation and experience how much children, teenagers and even adults are influenced simply because they want to be liked.

With the e-cigarette, we are almost promoting that it is perfectly OK to smoke. The argument, "Hey, it is not as bad as a real cigarette, right?" could almost be compared with, "Hey I'm smoking weed, but it is not as bad as cocaine, right?"

I have mixed feelings about the e-cigarette. At this moment, however, if it is not hurting me or someone I care about, power to the people.

AXE HAIR WORD SEARCH

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

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

Brought to you by **AXE**
HAIR CRISIS
RELIEF



Reading between the labels: what makes a smart choice?

► JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

The Smart Choice program began as a quick-read for food consumers who don't have the time to properly research nutrition.

To aide confusion among people, smart choice labeling consisted of labeling products that are a healthier choice for consumption with a green check mark.

On the side of the check mark are a calorie indicator and a number for servings-per-container.

This program was designed to encourage healthier eating habits for those unsure of, or for those who did not have time to check a nutrition label.

Despite just coming into the market scene this past summer, there is discussion of pulling the program out all together or revising it.

Recently, problems with the regulations of what is considered a smart-choice-label food have caused certain brands donning the label to question whether or not they should continue supporting the program.

Reasoning behind this is a conflict on lax nutritional requirements that companies do not wish to be associated with.

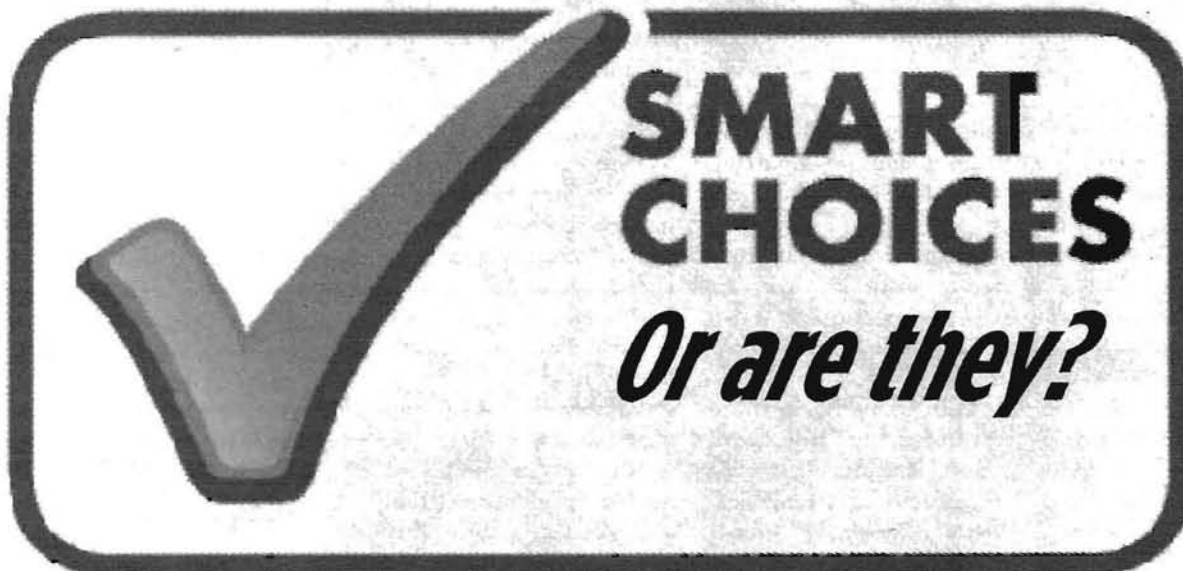
Nutritionists around the United States often expressed the requirements for displaying a green check mark on products as too loose.

A well-known example is Fruit Loops, which bears the smart choice label because of low calories and fat, but consists of forty percent of sugar in their ingredients.

Several believe smart choice labeling does nothing more than create false advertising for consumers.

"I do not agree with food labeling. For me, they are very misleading and usually are served for marketing purposes rather than really talking about or revealing true information," Dr. Josephine Lee, nutritionist, said. "There's a lot of influence on marketing. They do not serve the purpose of really informing the public"

Foods with the smart-choice label were made in different qualifications



for different products.

"The controversy is because you add extra vitamins and minerals to something, so it qualifies in one area, but it's still not really healthy because it has so much sugar or whatever," Deborah Zorensky, registered dietician, said.

"It qualifies maybe to put a checkmark on Milano because there's no trans fat, so they put 'no trans fat' on Milano.

If it's less than .5 for a serving, then it could be called

zero trans fat.

If you eat two servings of cookies—which I imagine a few people would eat more than one serving of Milano cookies—now, you're getting trans fat."

One of the more noted arguments concerning the smart choice label is cereal. Primarily because a number of children are easily influenced via cartoon commercials to like a certain brand of children's cereal.

"When I talk with stu-

dents in nutrition class about one of my pet peeves [they] are what I call the 'kiddie cereals'—the ones that are marketed for small children and then advertised on children's television shows and that sort of thing," Professor Jean Nelson, college of nursing, said.

"Some of those cereals may be healthy choices in terms of being fortified with vitamins and minerals, and maybe some have fiber. Maybe they don't. But for the most part, the ones that are

marketed for children have a ton of sugar."

Several nutritionists are in agreement for a readjusting in the requirements for a green check mark label, or a removal of the label altogether as not to confuse people.

"It should be revamped," Zorensky said.

"The whole thing needs to be revamped. But, that's not where the money is going right now, so, we're probably not going to see that real soon honestly."

Marijuana laws to continue chilling out?

► SARAH HILL
Staff Writer

According to a report from the San Francisco Chronicle, it would be more beneficial to utilize time and money for more important situations, rather than busting the suppliers of medical marijuana dispensaries. The federal government did exactly that when the U.S. Department of Justice told U.S. attorneys not to prosecute medical marijuana dispensaries or patients using the substance within the bounds of individual state's laws.

But for states that allow medical marijuana, the pro-

cedure for assessing need varies from "physician to physician," according to Richard Rosenfeld, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. There is a common perception that complaining of an ailing back could get someone a medical marijuana card.

"Television makes it look easy," Rosenfeld said. "Provision of marijuana for prescriptions is only a very partial form of full decriminalization."

"In one sense many places already have decriminalized Marijuana," Richard Wright, professor of Criminology and

Criminal Justice at UM-St. Louis, said. Considering the "already thinly stretched federal budget," Wright posed that currently enforcing the drug laws may be more about "how much of the scarce enforcement you want to devote," to this kind of matter.

According to Wright, decriminalizing marijuana "where medical marijuana is allowable," eliminates one of the many factors leaching federal resources. If medicinal marijuana were to be legalized, Wright believes consumption will increase, "similar to the prohibition of alcohol."

"We have such limited

experience with out-right decriminalization laws," Rosenfeld said. He also mentioned the decriminalization of marijuana in Holland, noting that there was "no increase in the Dutch population" regarding consumption.

"It's very difficult to know, but if I were to guess and that simply a guess, levels of use would rise modestly," Rosenfeld said, regarding whether or not consumption would increase if marijuana was decriminalized in the U.S. Rosenfeld also postulated that marijuana consumption would taper and return to a previous level.

"There are many facets

around that question," Jodi Meisenheimer, senior, English said, but added that there may not be an increase "not because of legality, but because of price." Legalizing marijuana would make it a public and taxable commodity, one that could just as easily empty a wallet.

Contrasting Meisenheimer's view, Eric Gates, a freshman in the culinary arts program at Forest Park Community College, suggested that, "People would buy more ... because they [could]."

As the illicit drug market stands, it is considered an "informal economy," accord-

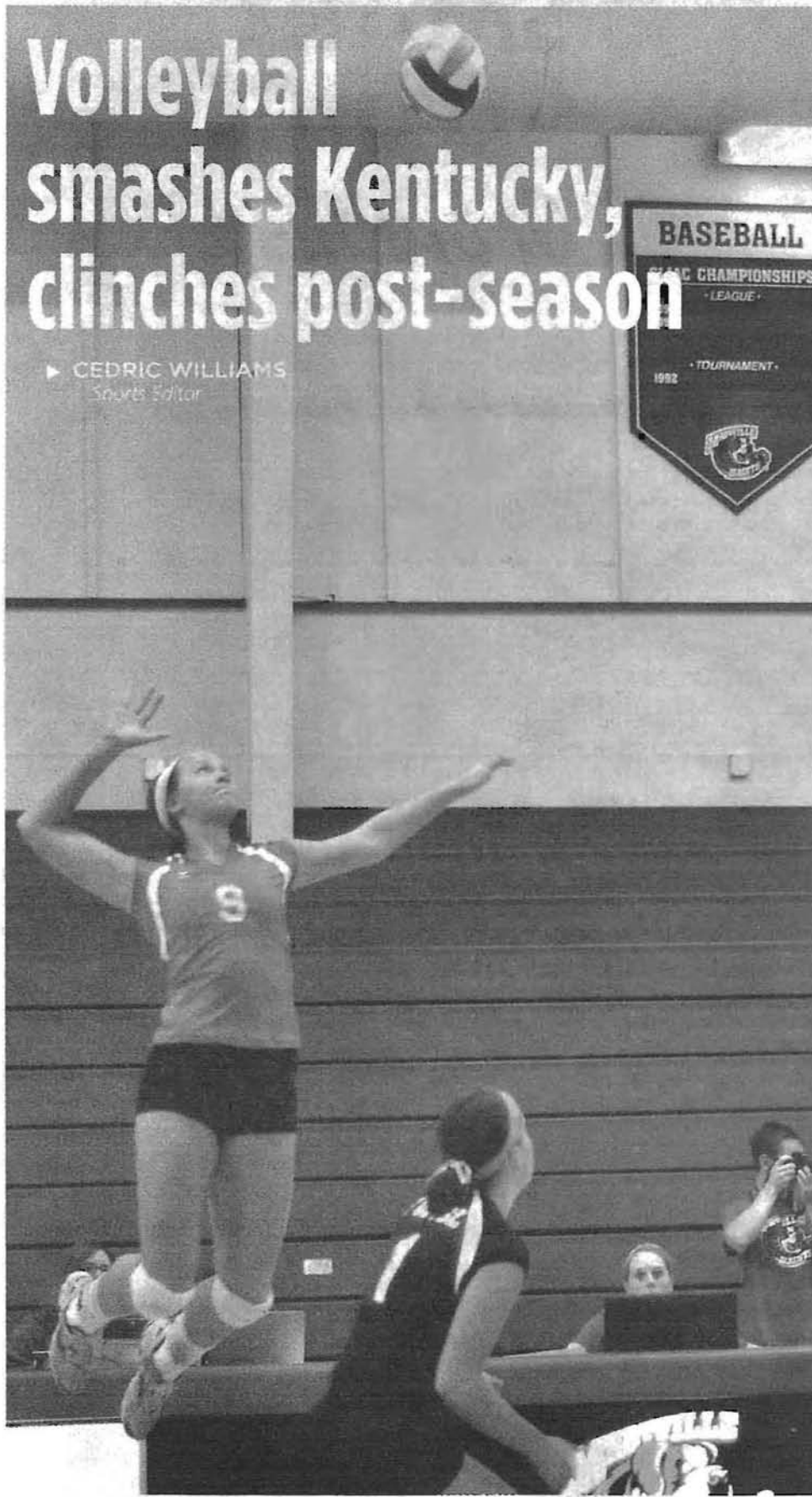
ing to Wright. In the case of the marijuana market, the concern resides in lack of proper regulation. According to Wright, there are "no ways to formerly handle disputes" in an informal market. A situation between two parties in a black market situation could lead to a disagreement and in order to solve the issue "one of the ways is violence, but not always," says Wright. "Disputes in legal markets have formal mechanisms to deal with that."

Currently, Illinois awaits the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act to go to vote in the Illinois General Assembly.

Sports

Volleyball smashes Kentucky, clinches post-season

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Erin Higgins, sophomore, early childhood education, against Maryville on Saturday.

Heading into last weekend's action, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team needed just one win to clinch itself a spot in the 2009 postseason.

After a loss on Friday at Southern Indiana, the Tritons got the win they needed with a three games to none sweep at Kentucky Wesleyan on Saturday.

Sarah Eisnaugle, senior, art history/graphic design, had a match-high 10 kills to lead the UM-St. Louis offense, while top defensive specialist Carolyn Holstein, junior, business, raised her GLVC-leading dig total to 554 on the season, with a match-high 11 digs against the Panthers.

Triton setters Kayla Kinzinger, junior, education, and Samantha Martley, junior, biology, shared the passing duties for most of the match, with Kinzinger totaling a match-high 23 assists and Martley adding 13 of her own as UM-St. Louis defeated Wesleyan by scores

"I thought today we had a good practice," Jones said after last Thursday's workout at the Mark Twain Building. "That was the best practice we had in probably two weeks. But we won't really know what it means until [we play Southern Indiana.]"

The Tritons got off to a roaring start against Southern Indiana. They won the first game in that match 25-17. But soon after, UM-St. Louis fizzled and lost the last three games 22-25, 22-25 and 21-25.

The key element in that very close match was probably UM-St. Louis' hit percentage, which got progressively worse throughout the match.

In the first game (the one they won), the Tritons hit a sizzling .433 percent. But in the second, third, and fourth games, UM-St. Louis' hit percentage went down to .219, .196 and .114, respectively.

Weslie Gaff, sophomore, accounting, had a match-high 17 kills for the Tritons. Liz Cook, junior, education, and Erin Higgins, sopho-

“Sarah Eisnaugle, had a match-high 10 kills to lead the UM-St. Louis offense”

of 25-14, 25-20 and 25-12.

The victory raised UM-St. Louis' overall record to 19-10, and gave them a 9-3 mark in the Great Lakes Valley Conference play this season. The Tritons are currently in third place in the GLVC, and with two matches left in the regular season, could finish no worse than seventh.

That means UM-St. Louis has assured itself one of the eight spots available in next week's GLVC Championship Tournament. Winning that tournament would give the Tritons their very first GLVC title, and would earn the team an automatic bid to the NCAA National Championship Tournament. Even if UM-St. Louis does not win the GLVC tourney, a good showing at the event might be enough to sway the national selection committee into giving the Tritons an at-large bid into the national tournament, which would be the program's first NCAA Tournament berth since 1995.

UM-St. Louis volleyball coach Trent Jones said he is not even thinking that far ahead. He, instead, is more interested in how his team is playing in the here and now.

more, early childhood education added 14 and 10 kills apiece.

Kinzinger had a big night setting up her teammates with a match-high 43 assists, while Holstein led the defense with a match-high 22 digs against USI, notching her 16th 20-plus dig night of the season.

This weekend, the Tritons will close out the regular season with two home matches at the Mark Twain Building. On Friday, Nov. 6, UM-St. Louis will host Bellarmine at 7 p.m. in a match the Knights need to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Then on Saturday, Nov. 7, the Tritons will take on Northern Kentucky at 3 p.m. The match that day will be one of the most important of the season because the winner will likely clinch the third seed at the GLVC Tournament.

That becomes important because it would, in theory at least, earn that team a more favorable pairing in the first round of the tournament, while also offering the chance to avoid likely top seed Lewis until the championship round.

Head coach Chris Pilz is energized

men's basketball postseason interview

► ANTHONY PADGETT
Asst. Sports Editor

The men's basketball team at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is getting ready to open its season. On Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., the Tritons will host Blackburn College at the Mark Twain Building for their season opener.

Chris Pilz is the current head coach of the team and is entering his seventh year. His overall record in six seasons is 65-98, but the team has definitely improved and performed better than the record states.

The Current: Why did you come to UM-St. Louis to study? Chris Pilz: I liked St. Louis city and wanted to be teacher. The education program here is excellent. I also wanted an opportunity to play basketball.

TC: Before coming to UM-St. Louis, you coached high school basketball at Hazelwood Central, Senath-Hornersville and Salem. What is the difference between coaching high school and college?

CP: There are a lot of similarities that made the transition easy for me. A major difference is that college players are more developed athletes and the overall speed of the game is quicker. In high school I was a teacher and a coach, but here at college I no longer teach and instead focus on basketball.

TC: You once played basketball for UM-St. Louis and were a great player. You are the third all-time scorer in school history with 1,677 points. Do you think that helps in gaining your player's trust? CP: Playing is one thing and coaching is another. If you have studied the game and played it, you have a good grasp of it. Many great basketball coaches were never players. My experience as a player does help me as a coach, but they are still two different things.

TC: Is this year's team capable of competing for a title? CP: I think we've got our program back to where it's very competitive. The guys have worked hard during the off-season on a daily basis. I think we are on practice 23 this afternoon. Great team who listens and take advice.



Tritons Basketball Coach Chris Pilz
Courtesy www.umsltriton.com

TC: You have publicly stated how the non-conference schedule this year is one of the most challenging since you have been here. How does playing tougher teams help the Tritons? CP: At this level, everyone is good. We've strengthened our schedule, which helps us with recruiting. [There are] no easy games, [we] have got to enjoy every win and respect every opponent. Hopefully the returnees know that you have to have a short memory. Take it one game at a time.

TC: What is your long term goal here at UM-St. Louis? CP: I take a lot of pride in our university. We want to graduate our players and become as competitive as possible, [and] we are heading in that direction.

citylights church

**CASUAL: AWESOME
DRESS: MUSIC
RELEVANT BIBLE TEACHING
GREAT COFFEE**

YOU'RE INVITED

WEEKEND SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES @ 11AM

CITYLIGHTSCHURCH.COM FOR DIRECTIONS & MORE INFO

TC: Has the recent recruitment been a success? CP: Yes, at the end of every off season you have to evaluate and solve your weaknesses. Low post scoring, low post defense, and rebounding were weak for us. Through our last recruiting class we

have solved these major issues. We had to get some guys who were hard workers and knew how to practice. We needed players who would come in every day and were coachable.

TC: Do you have anything you would like to say

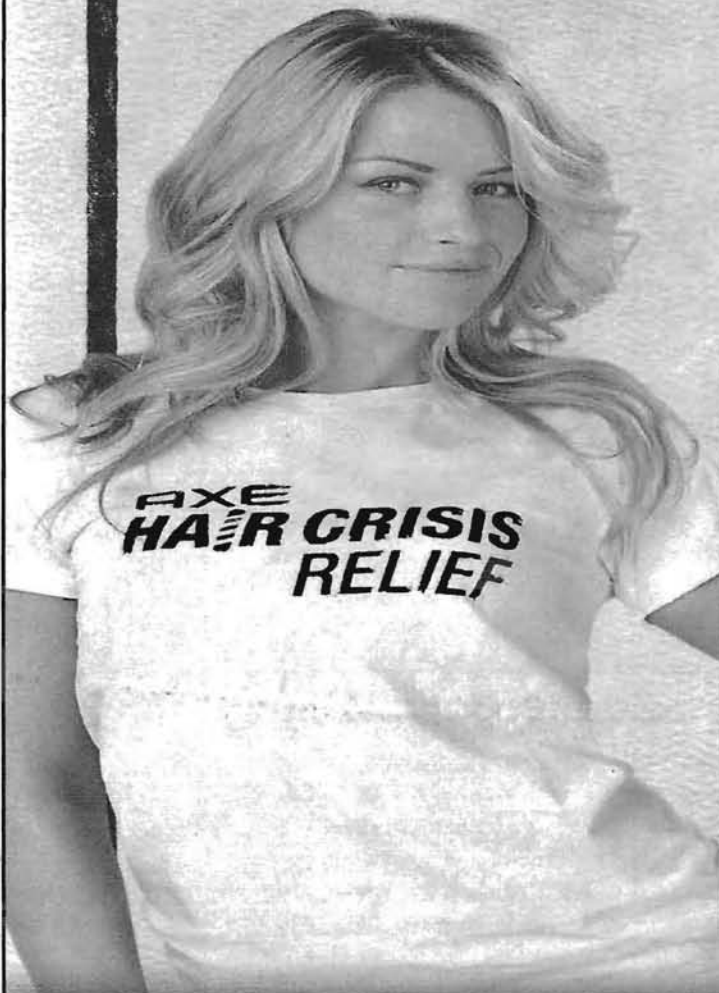
to all the UM-St. Louis basketball fans out there?

CP: We're just looking forward to the season and invite everyone to come out and watch. The fans will enjoy seeing how our team plays the game and our effort.

MENS BASKETBALL | SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 02	at Missouri State (exhibition)	Springfield, Mo.	7:05 pm
Nov. 14	at Murray State (exhibition)	Murray, Ky.	7:00 pm
Nov. 18	BLACKBURN	ST. LOUIS, MO.	7:00 pm
Nov. 20	at Southwestern Oklahoma State (SWOSU Classic)	Weatherford, Okla.	5:30 pm
Nov. 21	vs. West Texas A&M (SWOSU Classic)	Weatherford, Okla.	1:30 pm
Nov. 24	TRUMAN STATE	ST. LOUIS, MO.	6:00 pm
Nov. 28	at Upper Iowa	Fayette, Iowa	2:00 pm
Dec. 03	at Lewis*	Romeoville, Ill.	7:45 pm
Dec. 05	at Wisconsin-Parkside*	Kenosha, Wis.	3:00 pm
Dec. 12	ROBERT MORRIS	ST. LOUIS, MO.	3:00 pm
Dec. 21	CHRISTIAN BROTHERS	ST. LOUIS, MO.	7:30 pm
Dec. 28	vs. St. Joseph's (Holiday Inn South/Ledger Classic)	Lakeland, Fla.	5:15 pm (EST)
Dec. 29	vs. Florida Southern/Lake Erie (Holiday Inn South/Ledger Classic)	Lakeland, Fla.	5:15 pm/7:30 pm

MAKE BAD HAIR A THING OF THE PAST.



AXE HAIR CRISIS RELIEF CENTER

**AXE Hair is offering Mizzou guys
FREE HAIRCUTS,
SHAMPOOS & STYLINGS
at Varsity Clips from
Nov 2nd – 6th**

GIRLS – you know the guys we're talking
about. Urge them to attend.

GUYS – a few minutes of your time could
improve your game forever.

AXE
HAIR CRISIS
RELIEF



WHERE: 904 Elm St .
(next to Cold Stone Creamery)

WHEN: Mon 11/2 – Fri 11/6 daily

WHO: University of Missouri
male students

WHY: Because girls care about your hair
more than you think

GET GIRL-APPROVED HAIR

SUPPORT THE CAUSE. VISIT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AXE
AND CLICK ON THE AXE HAIR TAB

Volleyball "superstar" leads Tritons to great heights

Cook honored to lead Tritons

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis volleyball standout Liz Cook, junior, education, would like to clear up some things about why a certain reporter keeps calling her "superstar" when he refers to her in his stories.

Cook wants you to know that she did not invent that nickname, and she never asked that witty, charming and extremely good-looking reporter to start calling her that.

What actually happened is that reporter happened to be an avid fan and follower of Missouri state high school volleyball. He knew that Cook was considered one of the Kansas City area's top players when she was in high school, and he liked reminding her of her "superstar" past, especially when she started winning player-of-the-week awards as an outside hitter for the Tritons.

Cook said she finds the nickname amusing, but also said she has received more than a little bit of ribbing from her teammates.

"Yeah, they tease me about it a lot," Cook said. "But I'm cool with it. We all tease each other about stuff all the time, especially if I play bad. Then, they're like 'What?! She's a superstar!'"

Cook might get the last laugh though, should she make the GLVC all-conference team again this year.

Last year, she was named to the all-GLVC team after leading UM-St. Louis to its first GLVC West Division title, while also leading the team in almost every hitting category, including kills, kill attempts and hit percentage.

"I was really excited when I heard that," Cook said. "I felt like it was an honor."

This season, Cook seems like a shoo-in to make the all-conference team again. Heading into the final week of the regular season, she once again leads UM-St. Louis in hitting with 310 kills and a 2.8 kills per set average.

Both those numbers rank among the very best in the GLVC, and should be more than enough to earn Cook a spot on the all-conference team. But Cook is worthy of all-league recognition for

other reasons as well.

She very rarely leaves the court, is the only Triton player that is not part of some type of regular rotation in and out of the lineup, and also happens to be one of the team's best defensive players, ranking second on the team in digs (250) and fourth in total blocks and solo blocks.

"Liz is just a really consistent, all-conference type player for us," UM-St. Louis volleyball coach Trent Jones said. "She tries hard every day and gives us a good effort whenever we have a match."

Jones might be the foremost expert on Liz Cook the player. The two have known each other for a very long time.

Cook played on the same high school team as Jones's younger sister, and Jones, who is also from the Kansas City area, tried to recruit Cook when he was an assistant coach at Washburn University in nearby Topeka, Kan.

"I knew that as soon as I got here, I could pencil Liz in as a starter and feel comfortable with that," Jones said. "It was nice having one less



thing to worry about, knowing we had a player like Liz on our team."

For all the "superstar" talk, Cook is actually very critical of her own play this year, and said she probably played better last year.

"I don't think I've played as well as I did last year," she said. "I don't really know what to chalk that up to. We're trying to figure it out. But I have a feeling [the whole team] is going to start playing really good."

The entire Triton team will need to start playing their "superstar" best real soon, with two difficult opponents, Bellarmine and Northern Kentucky, coming to visit the Mark Twain Building this weekend.

STAT BOX

MEN'S SOCCER

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

WOMEN'S SOCCER

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

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

H1N1, from page 1

Students who are receiving the vaccination first are considered high risk. These students have deficiencies to their immune system, have asthma, are healthcare workers, spend considerable time with children aged 6 months or younger such as those working in the child development center, or live in close quarters with others.

Students considered priority are also women who are pregnant. Pregnant women, however, are recommended to receive the vaccination at DePaul or St. Johns Health Centers because of concerns about the vaccination ingredient thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative. Pregnant women are urged to receive the vaccination because they are considered a key-risk group for H1N1.

People between the ages of 18 and 24 are also considered at high risk for H1N1. Since the population of students in this age group is quite high at a university, students who can receive the vaccination at another location outside of UM-St. Louis are encouraged to do so. However, any student who is considered at risk will not be turned away as long as vaccinations are still available.

Marie Mueller, the University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services Clinical Coordinator, strongly encourages students to receive the seasonal flu shot. "Because of new concern over swine flu, students seem to not realize that the seasonal flu is actually more deadly," Mueller said.

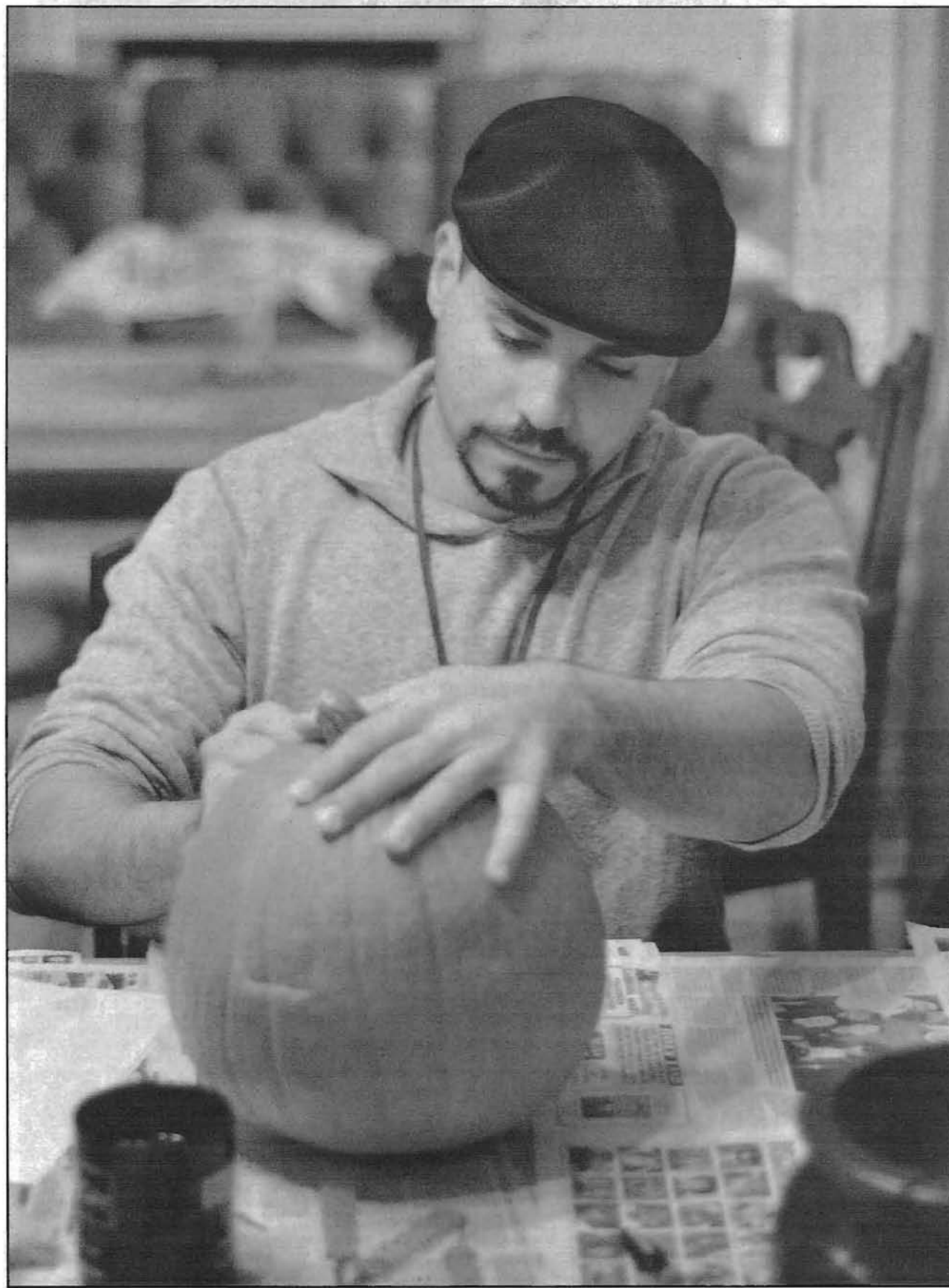
While the H1N1 vaccination is administered to students at no cost, the seasonal flu is given for \$20 and is administered as a nasal mist rather than as a shot.

Mueller would like students to practice a good offense against the flu by using hand sanitizers, distancing themselves with a range of three-to-six feet from others who show possible signs of sickness, and covering up coughs.

Students who would like to receive either the H1N1 vaccination or the seasonal vaccination or both can do so by calling the Health, Wellness and Counseling Services at 314-516-5671 and setting up an appointment. However, walk-ins will also be accepted. Also, any students with questions or concerns are also encouraged to call. The department's hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

Features

Carving (pumpkins) with Catholics



AHMED ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Jesus Diaz, Doctoral, Education, participated in the Pumpkin Carving contest in the Catholic Newman Center on Tuesday.

► SARAH HILL
Staff Writer

Vivid signals of a white winter lay in a remarkably staggering array of the autumn color palate across the lawn of the Catholic Newman Center where a pumpkin carving contest was held last Tuesday night.

The contest featured designs like the Godfather, skulls, spiders, moons with bats, and even the "Not the Mama" baby from the 1990's sitcom "Dinosaurs." The pumpkins were separated into three categories for judgment: classic, scariest, cutest, and most technical.

Huddling around the long table in the Catholic Newman Center's dining room, a dozen students carved pumpkins while cracking jokes at one another, expressed frustration, laughed, smiled, and ate various desserts.

This year's winning CNC jack-o'-lanterns were: a cat sitting in front of a moonlit window, by Trist Derwiler, senior, accounting for "the cutest" category, and a sinister skull condemning "WC 09" by Rita Quiggle, junior, nursing, in "the scariest" category.

Christine Bono, senior, pre-architecture, created a hauntingly detailed representation of a skull and won the award for most technical.

Although the winner of the classic award did not wish to be mentioned, an honorable mention should go out to the only pumpkin which was not judged. A depiction of Ted Mosby in "How I Met Your Mother," was strikingly well done.

The Catholic Newman Center annually holds carving contests, followed later in the week with the "Haunted Garage," a popular local attraction put on by the students from the CNC.

Pastor Bill Kempf has been the director at the Catholic Newman Center for ten years now, and has seen the "Haunted Garage" evolve over the years. He explained that it now hosts 300-400 tours annually.

Kempf noticed that there are two types of tours, the "safe" tour, which consists of the "monsters waving at you when you pass," and the "no holds barred" tour, which can be "however scary" the students want it to be over the course of the tour's one minute duration.

Matt Hubbard, junior, history, is one of the CNC's members and is also an aspiring cinematographer. He has a penchant for zombies and was in charge of this year's "Haunted Garage."

While carving his massive pumpkin into a likeness of the Godfather, he admitted that pumpkin carving is not a valued talent to employ when battling zombies.

Last year, Hubbard utilized St. Ann's Parish in Normandy for a zombie film he titled, "Z-Day: Invasion of Normandy."

"I will never go into battle with the hordes of zombies with this little pumpkin carving knife," Hubbard said.

Elizabeth Derwiler, the CNC's full-time campus minister, has been overseeing the pumpkin carving event for quite a few years.

"The kids seem to really like it," Derwiler said. Along with this, Derwiler mentioned the CNC's upcoming candle light vigil for homeless children on November 5 and noted that "all students are welcome."

This welcoming sentiment is held for all of the CNC events, and even for students simply needing a safe place in between classes.

"Not just Catholics, we welcome all religions," Derwiler said.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Alla Voskoboynikova

Music instructor hopes to bring her Russian teaching to UM-St. Louis students, Touhill audiences



CHERA MEYER / THE CURRENT

► BRIDGET RYDER
Staff Writer

Alla Voskoboynikova, native of Russia and Coordinator of Piano Studies, performed throughout Europe with the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater before immigrating to St. Louis. On Tuesday November 3, she will be performing at the Touhill Performing Arts Center with violist Yuly Ilyashov and cellist Natasha Rubinstein.

The Current: Tell us about your upcoming concert.

AV: Every year I try to put together one or two chamber music recitals. I play a lot with St. Louis symphony musicians and freelance musicians, so last year I organized a huge recital called "Spectacular Chamber Music." This year it's called "Mendelssohn Commemoration" because 2009 is the 200th anniversary since the German composer's birth.

TC: What was life like in Russia?

AV: My father was in the military and my mother was school teacher. I graduated first from [a] music college, which was in a smaller town near Moscow, and then I went to that huge conservatory of music (Gnessins Academy of Music) which was so demanding and so hard to

get in. I can compare it with the Julliard. I spent five years there. I graduated from there and then I went to Ukraine. I was working for Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater. I played a lot. We toured a lot. We went to Italy and Spain and Yugoslavia and Czech Republic. It was great, but at that time Russia [was] broke, so it was going through a lot and people suffered economically. It was getting worse and people decided to go. My family decided to go, too. I didn't want to go ... I wanted to run because I wasn't sure how it was going to work out. Luckily, I had cousins who had immigrated here maybe 30 or 40 years before we did, so they knew what we suffered.

TC: How did you rebuild your music career?

AV: I started to communicate with people. I played at one place and at another place. I met one or two musicians and they told me "you need to contact people," so I called Barbara Lieberman [pianist at the St. Louis Symphony].

I played for her and she liked what she heard. She helped me a lot—meeting people and making friends. Then I got this position.

TC: How does teaching music in the Russia compare with the U.S.?

AV: In Russia, the system is very strict. It was

a communist country, so discipline is everything there. My teachers were incredibly demanding and strict. They make people work. They wouldn't say, "Oh this wonderful," even when it was wonderful. You learn how to be a strong person and to hear something not very nice from your teachers. But you know why they are doing it—they want for you to get better and be more competitive.

Here it's more open. I think they [the teachers] are a little more relaxed. What can I say? Free. But I teach just like my teachers in Russia taught me because that is what I know. I think it works. I have some really good students. I think the best thing is to have the Russian background and then to learn from what is going on here to be able to use both. Both [teaching styles] are wonderful and they become even better when they work together.

TC: Who is your favorite composer?

AV: Usually my favorite is the one whose work I am working on now.

Without hesitation, Tchaikovsky is my favorite composer even when I am not working on Tchaikovsky. I find his music the most deep and profound, passionate and melodic.

Students meet, dine with community counterparts

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

Last March, University of Missouri-St. Louis implemented a program that allows students and alumni to interact.

The program is called "Dinner With 12 Strangers" and consists of six students and six alumni who meet at a restaurant of the alumni's choice.

The idea for the program came from Michelle Kilper, who is on the University Relations staff.

The Alumni Association's student

engagement committee was "exploring possible programs and events where alumni and students could interact," Michael J. Finkes, alumnus participant in the program, said.

The "Dinner with 12 Strangers" program had already been implemented at another university, but the committee saw the "potential" it had if put into action at UM-St. Louis.

"The potential for a successful 'Dinner with 12 Strangers' [program] at our university was apparent to the committee," Finkes said.

"We modified, and continue

to modify, the program to fit our circumstances." Finkes also said the program was perfect for the university because UM-St. Louis is always on the lookout for new alumni-student interaction opportunities.

UM-St. Louis has a unique situation in that 70 percent of UM-St. Louis graduates live in the St. Louis region, providing "a circumstance for alumni/student interactions that most universities don't have," Finkes said. Finkes said the program has significance because the alumni can offer advice and their experiences with

current students of the university. The program offers both students and alumni numerous benefits, Finkes said.

"The benefit to the students seems obvious," Finkes said.

"The benefit to the alumni is the feeling of sharing and of making a difference in a student's career."

Crystal Santomour, senior, biology, was one of the first students to attend a "Dinner with 12 Strangers" event.

See DINNER, page 15

YOU LOOKED!

THIS COULD BE
YOUR AD!

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CALL
314-516-5316

Bowled over

"I don't give [a] chance to my competitors"

▶ SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

On Wednesday night, Campus Recreation hosted a bowling party for University of Missouri-St. Louis students. Susan Dibb, coordinator of recreation and intramurals for Campus Recreation was in charge of the event.

"Last year was our first time having the bowling party," Dibb said. "We had such a great turnout, we decided to do it again." Dibb holds a bowling league in the daytime, and last year she decided to start the bowling party because she felt the students would enjoy the less competitive atmosphere.

The event was held at North Oaks Bowl, which is down the street from the university on Natural Bridge at Lucas & Hunt. About 25 students came out of the rain into the dimly lit bowling alley, stood in line for bowling shoes, and conversed for a while before the bowling games got underway. While chomping

of the first round of pizza and soda, (courtesy Campus Recreation), most of the students admitted they did not know how to bowl.

Michael Ashley, junior, information systems, said he came out because he needed some relaxation from exams. "I thought it was a good way to spend time with my friends," Ashley said. "We all pay for [these activities] with our activity fees, so why not?"

There were about 16 lanes reserved for UM-St. Louis students. Soon everyone broke up into groups and the bowling games commenced. In the beginning there was little competition, rather just laughs when one of the students missed or had a gutter ball. After a while, the trash-talking got underway and the friendly competition began.

Gabriel Santos, senior, international business and marketing, said that he was going to win his bowling game. "For sure I'm going win. I don't give [a] chance to my competitors," he said while laughing.

The students' cheers drowned out the noises at the bowling alley each time someone bowled a strike or a spare. Even with competition turned up a notch, some students still bowled gutter balls, and the scoreboard screen displayed a sad bowling ball as the balls got close to the pins and slid over to the side into the gutter.

"I'm probably going to win," said Ashley. "It's not that I'm good, it's just that my friends are really bad."

Friendly competition aside, the students enjoyed the night away from studying for exams. Despite early technical difficulties, such as the electronic scorecard on one of the lanes malfunctioning and one lane not working, the students had a good time.

This event was part of Campus Recreation's Rec-Treks, an ongoing series of outings for UM-St. Louis students. Their next one will be lazer tag and demolition ball on November 12 at the Adrenaline Zone in St. Charles, MO.

DINNER, from page 14

Santomour said it was an "amazing experience," and that the alumni had a wealth of knowledge to offer to students.

"I learned a lot from the alumni," Santomour said. "The backgrounds of the alumni and students were all different so it offered a lot of different perspectives on the conversation topics."

Santomour said she was surprised at the level of interest the alumni had in the students. She said it was great that the alumni cared and that they even offered tips and insight into helping out the students.

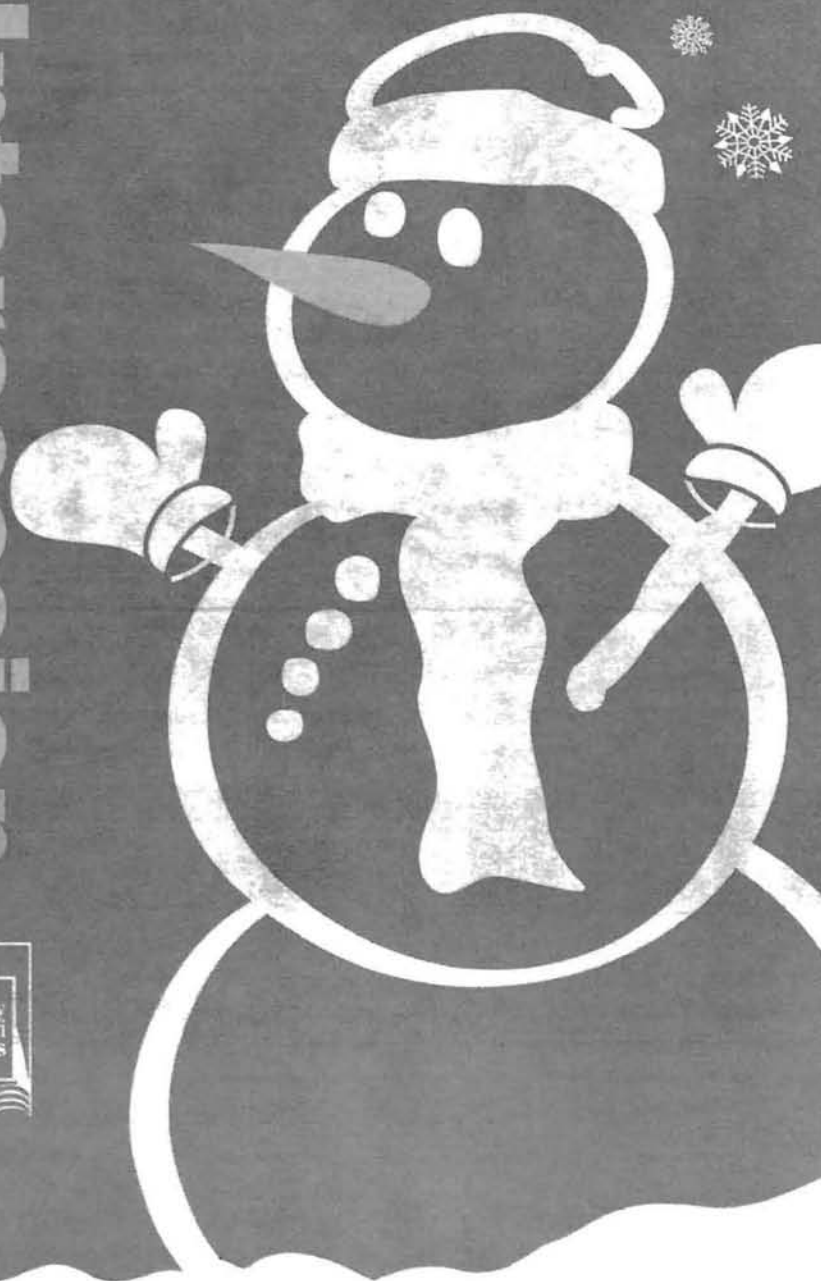
"I never thought that the alumni really cared, but they wanted to know everything ... about our majors, our goals, how we were planning to get there, and [they] offered valuable insight and offered tips to help us out," Santomour said.

Santomour said that anyone who is interested in being added to the waiting list for the program can contact Michelle Kilper at Kilperm@umsl.edu.

WINTER INTERSESSION

January 4-16, 2010

earn 3 credit hours
in 2 weeks



ce.umsl.edu/wi

The Current says:

Let us know what you think of campus events!
thecurrentonline.com

Huge campus tree crowned state champion

Tree tended by Daughters of Charity wins Dept. of Conservation title



PHOTO BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

Stephanie Thompson, senior, international business and marketing, watches on as Jay Fish, program director of CHERP, measures the diameter of the shingle oak tree Friday. The tree is on the South Campus of UM-St. Louis and is the newly crowned state champion for the species.

► **SEQUITA BEAN**
Features Editor

On Friday, October 23, the Campus Environment Research Program, also known as CHERP, got certified measurements from the Missouri Department of Conservation for a large shingle oak tree.

The tree is located in the Daughters of Charity Cemetery located on the University of Missouri-St. Louis south campus, about a quarter mile from the new nursing garage.

The tree was measured for eligibility to become the new Missouri state champion.

The American Forest Association maintains a data-

base of large trees and there is a champion tree for each species.

Each state maintains a similar database for the trees located within the state.

The champion is determined by the circumference around the tree (at 4.5 feet off the ground), the height from base to top, and the average of the crown spread, which is how wide the branches are. The total gets put into a calculation to determine a tree number.

"I'm not sure of the exact number [to beat]," Jay Fish, program director of CHERP, said. "I think it's 263 to 265 points. We calculated it to be 1 point above."

The students of the CHERP urban ecology class discovered the shingle oak during a class project earlier this semester.

They measured the tree using a height measurer called a clinometer and a diameter tape.

Mark Grueber, urban forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation arrived to officially measure the shingle oak to determine its eligibility to become the Missouri state champion. The circumference of the tree totaled 11 feet, 5.5 inches, 114 feet in height, with the average crown spread of 8 feet bringing the total to 272 points.

The shingle oak beat the current Missouri state champion by seven points.

Stephanie Thompson, one of the students in the CHERP urban ecology class, was at the ceremony to witness the victory. Thompson, who is a senior majoring in international business administration, has also been looking into the trees outside of the Millennium Student Center with her class partner.

"We're trying to make it greener by taking away a lot of the ground cover, I guess, and by putting more trees out," Thompson said.

Current ecological data from the United States Forest Service indicates that shading

by trees can make a big difference in the cooling load in the summertime for the air conditioners.

Thompson and her partner have already mapped each tree near the MSC using GPS and put it in a database.

"That will be some baseline ecological data to help the university make some decisions to be a little more green on campus," said Fish.

This summer, two UM-St. Louis students in the CHERP program suggested to the university to plant a prairie at the beginning of south campus where the old hospital used to be.

"The students took their project proposal to the chan-

cellor and cabinet and it was the first time in 26 years students had ever made a presentation to the chancellor and cabinet," said Fish.

The students hope that the ecological benefit of planting the prairie will persuade the university to begin doing it.

"I think [the university] is very interested in becoming a green campus because they recently found out that it's about \$5,000 an acre to mow grass here, and a prairie only has to be mown once a year or once every other year, Fish said.

"There will be significant savings, plus changes into how water comes off and other eco-systems benefits."

Arts & Entertainment

Classical revolution

Thai musicians, dancers bring notes of culture to Touhill



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Students of Phranakhon Rajabhat University, along with four members of faculty, employed their talents in an attempt to bridge cultural gaps and share the expression of art at “Thai Classical Music and Dance” Friday and Saturday at the Touhill.

Opened by the presentation of a handmade, drizzled-glass replica of Thailand’s Royal Barge to John Hylton, University of Missouri-St. Louis Dean of Fine Arts and Communication, the show was followed by Dr. Tanom welcoming his musicians and dancers onto the stage. Aided by the narration of a young woman clad mostly in gold-colored attire, the show unfolded into ten separate songs/performances, and was divided into a two-part show. Inspired by India’s early influence on the developing culture of the Thai people, a lot of the color choices, instruments and styles are evolved versions of India’s initial sway in Thailand.

Through demonstrating this evolution, the audience experienced aspects of Thailand’s talents through the country’s developing years. The narrator explained the pieces before they

were played, which helped to make the experience more fulfilling. As the dancers isolated specific parts of their body in concordance with single instruments in the ensemble and with the other dancers, it was clear that this type of dancing requires a strong deal of focus.

Almost synchronizing to the sounds of varying types of plucked bow, woodwind, and percussion instruments, the dancers exemplified beauty and grace executing patterns on stage. With costumes featuring shimmering stones and bright colors, the dancers pranced across the stage in blue, green, orange, pink, yellow, red and purple.

The songs, although long, were extremely technical and well-executed, allowing the audience to differentiate the twelve instruments simultaneously. Although a bit overwhelming, the instruments blended into a less intense yet collective melody.

By far, one of the best performances featured an audience interactive dance featuring characters of Thai folklore.

Representing a white monkey named Hanuman, the only

male dancer of the troop dressed in a poufy gold and beige costume with a shimmering clown-like mask.

The mermaid of folklore, Suphana Matcha, was pursued by the young monkey. While attempting to grab members of the audience to make her jealous, the dancer showed his comedic performing skills.

Spotlights flew around the small theater of the Touhill, followed by crescendos and diminuendos of laughter.

Another performance, featuring the musicians and dancers clad in varying and brightly-colored silk, both delighted the eye and the ear as the performers helped the audience immerse themselves in vibrancy of Thailand’s musical world. The song’s upbeat tempo, musical complexity and variation in costumes came together to make the song a royal success.

However, Phranakhon Rajabhat University’s freedom of expression, as shared with the UM-St. Louis campus last weekend, was a lesson in the development of a musical Thai culture, through artistic immersion. **A-** —Sarah Hill

Biopic 'Amelia' is gorgeous but bland

"Amelia," the biopic about early aviator Amelia Earhart starring Hillary Swank, Richard Gere and Ewan McGregor, is a very pretty film with lovely aerial photography, dreamy stylish 1920s and 1930s period fashions, and elegant period decor and architecture. But as gorgeous as "Amelia" looks, the film itself is a bit bland.

Director Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding") certainly nailed the casting for her film "Amelia." Hillary Swank looks enough like the blonde, tom-boyish and pretty Earhart, a tall and thin young woman who had a striking resemblance to Charles Lindbergh, the then wildly popular aviator who had been the first man to cross the Atlantic solo in 1927.

The film does start with the contest to find a woman to duplicate Charles Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic feat, begun as a sort of stunt in this era of early feminism that followed women getting the vote in 1920.

What the film fails to note, however, is the role Earhart's physical resemblance to Lindbergh played in her being picked for the mission and the media's fascination with her.

The film does note Earhart was actually a passenger on that flight, although technically in charge as

captain, and that her experience as a pilot was limited at that time.

Richard Gere plays publisher George Putnam, Earhart's manager and husband, and Ewan McGregor plays Gene Vidal, father of the novelist Gore Vidal, a wealthy aviator who shares her passion for promoting air travel and more.

Those who know nothing about Earhart will learn the basics of her story. The film does a fair job of covering Earhart's career and does not shy away unpleasant facts, such as the commercialism she and husband/promoter George Putnam engaged in. It was the kind of publicity that Lindbergh had shunned but that the public was eager to embrace.

The film even shows some cases where the attractive and famous Earhart was given favorable treatment over better female pilots, all in the name of promoting women in aviation.

However, Earhart's well-known navigational shortcomings are hardly touched on, even when the film reaches her ill-fated attempt to fly around the world and her mysterious disappearance over the Pacific.

But the real focus of "Amelia" is on romance: the romance of flying and of her love life. It takes a dreamy,



COURTESY / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

'Amelia,' starring Hillary Swank, Richard Gere and Ewan McGregor. Directed by Mira Nair. Rated PG for some sensuality, language, thematic elements and smoking.

romantic view of Earhart's relationship with the much older publisher George Putnam, although it does toss in some feminist independence for Earhart. Earhart's relationship with fellow pilot Gene Vidal, and a warm relationship with his young son Gore, forms a romantic triangle that is too much Hollywood catnip for the filmmakers to resist.

The film's photography is stunningly beautiful with breath-taking aerial shots, wonderful and colorful 1920s and 1930s sets, and gorgeous period costumes and architecture.

The visual packaging is plush, lush and a treat for the eyes of anyone taken with the romance of this period and the aviator's story in particular.

Yet wrapped up in all this pretty packaging, the plot is rather standard biography. We really do not feel we learn anything new about Earhart or even get inside her head or heart, except in the most standard of fashions.

The acting is fine and Swank, Gere and McGregor all create appealing characters, but the script

lacks a needed spark of originality. Before the film was released, there was a lot of promotional chatter about this being "the first Oscar worthy performance of the year," but while the acting is fine, those promoters must missed some acting performances already generating Oscar buzz this year, such as Christoph Waltz's head-turning supporting role in "Inglourious Basterds."

Overall, "Amelia" is a very pretty film but otherwise a rather ordinary biopic about an America icon. **B-**
—Cate Marquis

Also in Theaters

Saw VI Another Halloween, another Saw flick. New this time? Blatant political references, mostly to our ailing health care system. Not new? Everything else. **D**—The Current's *Scary Movie Insider*.

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

Law Abiding Citizen. Poor Gerard Butler. The guy seems like a perfectly nice fellow, a handsome Scottish import who first came to America to seek his fortune making perfectly respectable movies like "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Dear Frankie." Before long, however, sleazy directors were asking him to strip down and speak Spartan and calling it a casting session. Next thing poor Gerard knew, he's stuck in movies involving savagely torturous scenes. And that was just in "The Ugly Truth." Now, it's "Law Abiding Citizen," in which Butler finds himself locked in a virtual reality deathmatch when...wait, what? That was "Gamer"? Oh we give up. **C-**—The Current's *Scary Movie Insider*.

This is It: the last chance to see MJ

Michael Jackson's "This is It" movie produces much more than expected. The film highlights Jackson's rehearsals for his planned 50-date comeback tour in London. Viewers also got a behind the scenes look into the planning and production of the tour, all of which Jackson was extremely involved in.

Jackson's background dancers started the film telling the audience how grateful they were to be able to work with the musician. They all praised him for revolutionizing dance and most of them became teary-eyed when they

reflected on their journey and how happy they were for the opportunity. Next we got to see the auditions and watched as Jackson himself hand-picked the dancers.

One of the first full numbers was Jackson's 1996 single "They Don't Care about Us." His production team recorded four background dancers wearing military-like suits doing the song's choreography behind a green screen. The finished product showed the dancers, now multiplied into 11,000 using technology, on a large screen behind Jackson and his danc-

ers on stage. The simulation was made to look like Jackson was leading an army, like his video for the song.

Jackson also re-created the video for his 1988 hit "Smooth Criminal." The opening sequence to this performance was also filmed behind a green screen. The scene was set in 1920s Chicago, like the video, and followed Jackson as he ran from gangsters. Viewers got to witness Jackson filming the sequence in his iconic white suit and hat.

See THIS IS IT, page 25

EOTO leads masquerade at Old Rock House

Halloween started early this year, with the freakishly fun holiday ever-present at the Old Rock House on Oct. 28 for the Loyal Family Costume Ball, an event that featured bands EOTO, J. Public and Blown Speakers.

Most of the people piling in through the doors were costumed and ready to party. Costumes ranged from the Joker to Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz," and from sexy vampires to the Cookie Monster.

The headliner for the event, EOTO, is a live improvisational breakbeat/drum 'n' bass/trip hop project, or at least that is what their MySpace says. The band is composed of Jason Hann and Michael Travis, the two percussionists from the String Cheese Incident. When String Cheese Incident broke up a few years back, these two gentlemen started jamming together for fun and they really enjoyed the sound that developed, thus EOTO was born. They pride themselves on the fact that their live show is 100 percent improvised and nothing is pre-recorded. It is a spectacle to witness live. Since EOTO's inception, they have been playing shows continually across the

country and music festivals as well.

EOTO has also just released a new album titled "Fire the Lazars!" that is only available at shows now but will be made available for download after the tour is finished.

The opening act, Blown Speakers, is composed of members from Messy Jiverson. They blended a wonderful melody of improvised psychedelic, dance and straight up rock 'n' roll music. The guitarist, bassist and keyboardist rotated between songs, keeping a fresh sound. Each had their own style and it was cool to see them switch it up live on stage and still keep such a solid connection with the rest of the band.

There was a long intermission before EOTO finally graced the stage. At 11:30 p.m., these two gentlemen began their three hour, two-set performance. Immediately glow sticks began snapping, and the tightly packed crowd on the dance floor, full of a wide variety of freaks in and out of costume, began dancing and waving around the glow sticks and other things that sparkle. Jason Hann handled all the drumming for the band, and with his live looping station he could produce

several beats and then play them all simultaneously. On the other side of the stage stood the barefoot Michael Travis, who was practically surrounded by his musical instruments and other equipment. Travis held down the keyboards, bass guitar, and six-string to make up the other half of the band. It was awesome to watch them do all this live. Travis is constantly moving around, pushing pedals with his bare feet, layering on different keyboards, playing guitar or bass, and mixing everything live for the audience's listening pleasure.

The Old Rock House sits on the edge of downtown St. Louis at 1200 S. 7th St. near Soulard. The venue is two stories, with a bar on each floor and a balcony to view the stage from above. The building is a staple of the beautiful architecture of the area. On Wednesday nights, Steve Ewing, former singer from The Urge, holds a basement party with some of his friends and plays a wide variety of cover songs and some stuff from The Urge.

The show ended at 2:30 a.m., but the party was still going strong for many of the audience members. **B-** —Patrick Canoy

SWEET JAMS

Here are the top five iTunes songs and exactly what The Current's Secret Music Insider thinks about them.

1) "Fireflies" by Owl City. This sappy MySpace sensation is doing his damndest to sound like diet Death Cab For Cutie. This includes lyrics like "I get a thousand hugs from ten thousand lightening bugs" and music that sounds like the soundtrack to an outdated video game.

2) "Party in The USA" by Miley Cyrus. Miley is all grown up and desparate for us to know that she is running with the big dogs, namely (and she is not afraid to name them in the song) Britney Spears and Jay-Z. Kind of makes us want to party in some other country.

3) "Replay" by Lyaz. A fairly run of the mill new hip hop track. Listen for yourself or skip down to number four for our pick of the week.

4) "Empire State of Mind" by Jay-Z. That's right, it's our pick of the week. Because we have to pick one each week, and also because hey, who can hate Papa J. He knows catchy.

5) "3" by Britney Spears. She's back and she's discovered a new and exciting twist on music or sex. Guess which one? Go on guess? That's right the music is as god-awful as ever, but this time Miss Spears is here to announce her discovery of threesomes. Yes, that's the "3" the title refers to. What's that noise? Humanity weeping? I think so.

new budget submission process for student organizations!

Monday, November 2- 8-9am, 4:30-5:30pm

Tuesday, November 3- 8-9am, 1-2pm, 5-6pm

Wednesday, November 4- 5-6pm

Thursday, November 5- 2-3pm, 4:30-5:30pm

Friday, November 5- 10-11am, 3-4pm

Monday, November 9- 8-9am, 1-2pm, 5-6pm

Tuesday, November 10- 2-3pm, 5-6pm

Thursday, November 12- 8-9am, 4:30-5:30pm

Sign-ups are in the Office of Student Life



please have your representative attend one budget workshop.

Questions? Email Dann Rosner at djr356@umsl.edu

Clarity, quality, precision

Concert, Symphonic Bands show how to perform

When the University Concert Band's performance started, it seemed as if you were in a movie theater with surround sound. Twenty-three members took up seats in the audience area.

Both the Concert and Symphonic Bands put on very impressive performances of their pieces with clarity, quality and precision. The bands performed nine pieces of music at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, starting with the University Concert Band performing four pieces: "Symphonic Fanfare" by Franco Cesarini, "Pentland Hills" by Major J. H. Howe, "Of Honor and Valor Eternal" by Ayatey Shabazz and "Rain" by Brian Balmages.

Gary Brandes conducted for three of the pieces and Elisabeth Baird was guest conductor for the piece called "Rain."

"Rain," a year-old piece that was the third performed, displayed the musicians' great talent and was conducted superbly by Baird.

"Rain" is a wonderfully mellow piece that opens slowly with the musical instruments in

the rear of the band. As the music builds in volume, the clarinets and trumpets come in and then drop off.

Next the flutes arrive. It tells a story of the coming rain storm, its arrival and departure. It was as if you could see the storm coming, then smell the dirt, first getting wet and all of the sudden the torrential down pour, which was followed just as quickly by the storm ending and moving on.

After the intermission, the University Symphonic Band came out and performed five pieces: "Army of the Nile" by Kenneth J. Alford, "Concerto for Trumpet" by Alexander Arutiunian, portions of "Four Scottish Dances" by Malcolm Arnold and "Bonaparte" by Otto M. Schwartz, and "Ghosts" by Stephan McNeff.

The stand-out was "Bonaparte," of which they played seven minutes of its total 14 minutes.

It starts with the echoing of beating drums, and the trombones build as if you are watching the French Army march off to war. It mu-



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

The University Concert and Symphonic band with conductor Gary Brandes performs "Symphonic Fanfare."

sically expresses Napoleon's rise to power from obscurity, ascent to greatness and then his last battle and defeat, Waterloo.

The portion that contains the Waterloo battle involves the orchestra playing an Austrian march, a Russian theme song and "God Save the Queen" simultaneously to depict the world of army's arrayed against Napoleon at Waterloo.

The encore piece was not listed on the pro-

gram but it is one so beloved in the United States. "Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Phillips Sousa has for many years been performed by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops on National Public Television on July Fourth.

It was a rousing and fitting end to a beautiful performance filled with marches, battle music and music about great military individuals. **A**—Matthew B. Henry

GEORGE CLOONEY JEFF BRIDGES EWAN MCGREGOR KEVIN SPACEY AND GOAT

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

NO GOATS, NO GLORY.

IN THEATRES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th!

OVERTURE FILMS The Current

INVITE YOU & A GUEST TO SEE

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

Log on to thecurrentonline.com TODAY, November 2nd to find out how you could win a screening pass for two.

www.themenwhostareatgoatsmovie.com

Prizes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Employees of all promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible. One adult-two pass per person. This film is rated R for language, some drug content, and brief nudity.

'Lucidity' is a hot, beautiful mess

Frustrating gameplay distracts from amazing story

Oh LucasArts, what happened to you?

During the '90s, you became known for your "Star Wars" related video games. In fact, you became a little too known for them. As a studio you rarely branched out into new intellectual properties.

The company that had been known and loved in the '80s for their quirky and fun adventure games had turned into "that Star Wars Company." Thankfully, you realized that you were stifling yourself, and you decided to branch out in the new millennium.

But then you churned out things like only-for-kids "LEGO Star Wars" and "LEGO Indiana Jones" games, not to mention the not so decent "Fracture."

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "lucidity" as "easily understood; complete-

ly intelligible or comprehensible." LucasArts, however, defines it as a downloadable game for the Xbox 360 or PC.

And sadly, LucasArts's latest game "Lucidity" is anything but completely intelligible ... or playable, for that matter.

"Lucidity" revolves around Sofi, a youngster who dreams of adventure. The game opens up with a scene of Sofi and her Nana. Sofi is in bed, reading a book while her grandmother knits across from her. From there, the young girl drifts off to sleep, and then we join her in her dreams.

The entirety of the game takes place in Sofi's dreamscape but in a bit of a twist, the player does not control Sofi directly. Instead, the player is in control of protecting the girl. During each level, she skips steadily from one

side of the screen to the other, and it is up to the player to protect her by placing various items in her way to lift her above obstacles and save her from nightmare creatures.

The gameplay is an interesting mix of the classic old school "Lemmings" game and, oddly enough, "Tetris." The items the player can use to save Sofi include planks, shoes with springs on them (think trampoline), stairs and fans, among others.

LucasArts should be commended on their art direction for this game. "Lucidity" is displayed beautifully in 2D, with some 2.5D creatures. Truly, even screenshots cannot do this game's visuals justice. The beauty of the game in motion is undeniable. Sadly, the gameplay does not back up the gorgeous visuals.

See LUCIDITY, page 25

Opinions

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

Partially fallen McGwire to redeem himself as coach

This past week saw the re-emergence of Mark McGwire back into the world of Major League Baseball.

He decided to end his eight-year exile by returning to the club where he received his greatest fame: the St. Louis Cardinals. He comes at the invitation of Tony LaRussa, the man who has coached him almost his entire professional career and one of the few to publicly stand by him throughout his turbulent retirement.

It was a surprising move that Mr. McGwire has decided to return to the nation-

al pastime, one that has so many fans who despise him for his supposed professional betrayal.

But it should come to no surprise that he returned to the city whose fans will give anyone a standing ovation, no matter their past sins (Matt Holiday after he lost game 2 of the this years division series for example). Mr. McGwire will find sanctuary in the cathedral that is Busch Stadium with Father LaRussa to look over him.

We at *The Current* believe a person is innocent until proven guilty. This is not a

new concept, but it is one that is difficult to practice. Mr. McGwire has been surrounded by accusations and rumor since his retirement in 2001. His testimony, or lack thereof, in front of a congressional committee in 2005 did nothing to help his situation and he quickly became somewhat of a recluse.

That, while ignoring rumors and accusations until they go away may work for average citizens, but silence is of no use to a celebrity. While it could be argued that he would have been better off to give answers to their ques-

tions and have a day of it; the embarrassing testimony that he gave was more bad advice from his lawyers than anything.

There could be more to this hiring than meets the eye. McGwire mentors hitters in the off-season including the aforementioned Holiday. So his hiring could be a preemptive move by LaRussa to entice the free agent Holiday to sign a long-term deal with the Cardinals. It would be a genius move if it pays off.

To Mr. McGwires detractors, and there are many, he

represents the decadence of the juice ball era along with Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa (his one time rival for the home run title) and Jose Canseco. And it is Mr. Canseco's accusations that have been the most detrimental towards Mr. McGwire's credibility as an all-natural hitter.

And while Mr. Canseco's credibility can be called into question itself, he should commended for confessing. However, he did so in the form of a book. One could say he was more concerned with collecting the advance and that trying to clean up

the game was a by-product he profited from.

If quality evidence surfaces of Mr. McGwire's use of performance enhancing drug use during his playing days, he should be relieved of his current job and his records as a player removed from the books.

But, until that happens, we must treat him like any other person who has fallen under the guise of accusations that he believes to be false; take his word on it until we're proven wrong. We would only want the same for ourselves.

One more giant leap for mankind?

Early last week, the tallest rocket to stand on a launch pad at Kennedy Space Center since the Saturn V rockets that carried American astronauts to the moon 40 years ago was ready to launch. At 327 feet tall, the Aries I-X prototype was meant to be the rocket that would carry the replacement to the aged Space Shuttle to the International Space Station, the moon and beyond.

But as it stood there waiting to be launched, to see if it would possibly be safe enough to put live human beings on top of in the future, the possibility of these dreams becoming a reality

had already fallen into jeopardy.

Just days before the Aries I-X launch, a committee tasked to assess the future of America's manned spaceflight program had released a report suggesting that NASA scale back its ambitions in order to make due with their current budget allotment.

This would mean abandoning the development of the Aries rocket, delaying the development of the Orion capsule that is slated to replace the Space Shuttle and possibly even abandon the 2020 deadline to land astronauts on the moon and build a base there, a stepping stone

in sending men to mars.

The committee has suggested alternatives, such as contracting with private enterprise to put astronauts into low-earth orbit, sending cheaper unmanned missions to the moon, Mars and nearby asteroids as well as conducting long duration, fly-by, manned missions of the same heavenly bodies if the budget were to permit it.

We feel that such decisions are incongruous with the basic purpose and, dare we say, spirit of the historical US space effort. Our history of space exploration is not one governed by the same logistical considerations that are

applied to other broad and expensive government programs.

There has always been an unwritten but fully understood subtext to these missions that has nothing to do with monetary return or even fiscal practicality.

Our manned spaceflight program is in a large sense the final living progeny of humankind's only universal fundamental desire: to explore, to understand, and to achieve beyond our seeming limitations.

The spaceflight program stands alone in that its gains are essentially confined to the intangible wealth of knowl-

edge and progress. These may be hazily defined ideas but there are many testaments to their continuing potency and universality.

International space efforts have been some of the most successful large-scale projects undertaken. Far off of the earth, common ground has been found in the desire to understand the universe we occupy.

As an added bonus, much of our technological progress today was built on the foundation of technologies developed originally in order to get an American on the moon and bring that person back alive. This was some-

thing that we managed to do six times, albeit at a staggering cost, but what we got back out of the effort technologically was staggering: new high tension metals and alloys, microprocessors and semiconductors, hydrogen fuel cells and solar panels and not last but not least, Tang.

Furthermore, our efforts united the world in inspiration.

We feel that the scaling down and privatization of these programs would mean a sad and telling shift in our national goals. Let's hope that we are allowed to keep our head in the clouds a little longer.

Have an opinion of your own? Want to share it with the world? Want to sue Phipps? ----->

Do it all at:

www.TheCurrentonline.com



Viewpoints

Fight for gay equality starts here

After 11 long years, perhaps now Matthew Shepard can finally rest in peace. In 1998, the 21-year-old Shepard was robbed, brutally tortured, pistol-whipped, tied to a fence and then left for dead.

All because he was gay.

The night before he was brutally murdered, Shepard went to a bar. He got a ride home from two men, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, who pretended to be gay to gain Shepard's trust. Once he was in their vehicle, they drove him to a remote area and then brutally murdered him.

The Wyoming native was killed that night because of his sexual orientation. McKinney and Henderson are currently serving consecutive life sentences without parole in Wyoming. During their trial, it was discovered that the two men had decided in advance to specifically rob a gay man.

Whether it was to "beat him bad enough to teach him a lesson, not to come on to straight people, and don't be aggressive about it anymore," as McKinney's ex-girlfriend said, or even just to rob him, there is no doubt that Matthew Shepard was killed simply because he preferred men over women.

Last week, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law.

The HCPA will give "the Justice Department the pow-

er to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence where the perpetrator has selected the victim because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability," according to a press release on the Human Rights Campaign's Web site, www.hrc.org.

The Justice Department now has "the ability to aid state and local jurisdictions either by lending assistance ... [or] by taking the lead in investigations and prosecutions of violent crime resulting in death or serious bodily injury that were motivated by bias," according to the same press release.

In the years after his death, Shepard's mother Judy has become a crusader for gay rights. She has been around the country more than once, talking to anyone who will listen about her son and the fight for gay rights and equality.

The HCPA is a good start—but it is not enough. Protecting homosexuals from intolerance is all well and good, but it is not true equality, not yet. Congress is still dithering on the Employee Non-Discrimination Act, something that would protect everyone and anyone from being discriminated against by their employers based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

After passing ENDA, Congress should think about



Andrew Seal

repealing the atrocious and insulting Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA, a bill signed into law 2 years before Shepard's death, declares that states do not have to recognize marriages between people of the same sex, even if they were legally married in another state. It also established the federal definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman.

When Congress is done destroying DOMA, the next thing to go should be the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. Luckily, DADT would be mostly taken care of if ENDA was passed, but it should still be struck down. The fight for gay rights in this country is ongoing. The passage of HCPA is just the beginning.

Last week, President Obama helped Judy Shepard get a little more closure on her son's death. Something good has come from such a vicious act born of hatred and intolerance. The country is finally one step closer to "all men are created equal," but we still have a long way to go.

Repercussions of the "Native" taboo

November is the National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage month. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal culture and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native people." Approved by President George Bush in 1990 in a joint resolution, the entire month of November was dedicated to honor or acknowledge the people who were here first. Roughly ninety years earlier, the Boy Scouts of America, guided by the influence of a Seneca Indian, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, were the first to publicly designate a day for the "First Americans."

Yet even as I should focus on the rich culture of the American Indian and Alaska Native people, it is the price paid by the American Indians for simply getting in the future's way that compels me to reflect.

As the American industrial and technological machine transformed the earth, it steam-rolled over the earth-sustaining traditions of the American Indians. Fueled by foreigners forcing Christianity, this global monster had been forged in the fires of western destruction. Falling subject to the microbial expansion, weaponry, and intolerance, the natives of the land were forced to vacate their homes, live in smaller, less accommodating areas, and warm themselves with

small pox-laden blankets. Yet as the years passed, the natives attempted to continue the traditions of their people while the government continued to oppress their nation. One specific attempt to counteract the government's unjust treatment was the 1968 creation of the American Indian Movement.

Upheavals and replants by the U.S. government lead to poverty and disparity on the reservations. Creating AIM was aimed towards raising morale in the people, while giving them a voice, and also defending them when necessary. Leonard Peltier joined AIM after realizing how desperately his people needed "warriors" willing to defend their rights and honor. Yet it was this leap into manhood which led him into extradition.

The scene is set in 1975 and two FBI agents driving separate vehicles and dressed as civilians proceed to follow a red truck into South Dakota's Oglala Reservation where Leonard Peltier was residing. Considering that a heated political battle over Native American rights and traditions between the natives and with the government was exploding across the FBI's persistent radar, sending two agents in plain clothes could be entrapment. In doing this, the FBI allowed two Caucasian agents to waltz into a semi-warzone. Continuing to follow the red truck, undeterred shots opened the game. The prosecution's



Sarah Hill

witnesses shifted on the "how," "when," and "why." Ultimately, it seemed that an undetermined number of American Indians were involved.

But "the FBI always gets their man," and when two of their own were shot, the FBI named Peltier amongst the murderers. The men in the situation's initial red truck left immediately after the agents were shot, allowing the repercussions to fall upon the remaining gun-wielding AIM members. After a few were tried and received "Not Guilty" verdicts, Leonard Peltier became the FBI's last chance to enact reparation. Drawing the dots and then connecting them outside of the lines, the verdict was based on faulty ballistics, incredulous witnesses, and the FBI's need for public redemption.

The wounds inflicted by the hands of our forefathers seem to be bleeding this people into physical and cultural genocide, and as we continue to watch the costs unfold with desensitized eyes, we trade in connection for bias and sever the bond to our own humanity.

Mad about something
we've said?
Tell us!

www.thecurrentonline.com



If you know the news today, thank a journalist!

True fanaticism or misogyny? Women in sports deserve better

I am so excited to be part of a city that produced the best national football team of 2009. We won the freakin' championship after a mind-blowing 10-0 season!

I know what you are thinking: "The Rams are not even close to claiming a national championship!" Well, my self-proclaimed lovers of sport, maybe it is because each member of the team to which I am referring is (presumably) equipped with a uterus.

Funny thing, that little uterus. It would appear as if that alone causes local media and sports fans to look the other way, even in light of such a tremendous accomplishment. A city that

is as proud of sports as St. Louis should beg forgiveness and bow heads in shame for this "little" oversight. The St. Louis SLAM, one of 48 all-female football teams in the Women's Football Alliance, has earned the right to be noticed and respected.

So why are females in sports so often overlooked? Why isn't personal accomplishment enough without being forever compared to the abilities and accomplishments of testosterone-abundant humans? The focus should not be that male athletes are different from female athletes (another debate altogether), but that athletes are different from non-athletes. Fans experience

the same emotions as players, with rushes of adrenaline, excitement and anger shared between a team and its fans. However, what makes athletes different from spectators is their willingness and ability to fight the battle on a field or court.

So while males may still dominate professional sports, a majority of their fans are out of shape, aging spectators sitting on the sidelines. The differences between fans and athletes are far greater than the differences between members of the Rams and SLAM. They may be women, but I would wager a month's salary that any single member of SLAM plays the game far better than the majority of

chip-eating couch athletes.

Studies have shown that by the ripe old age of five, boys know that if they show interest in activities designated as "girl stuff," they could be mercilessly teased by their peers, and therefore learn to carefully choose the "right" books to read, toys to play with, and cartoons to watch. The message is that boys' activities deserve more attention than girls' activities. Although it is generally more permissible for girls to do boy things than the other way around, this could be attributed to a girl "reaching up" while a boy would be lowering himself to partake in a girl activity that he would enjoy.

The socially-constructed rule that males are superior to females may be at play (no pun intended), so I ask you: Is your tough-as-nails male ego such a delicate front that an act as simple as attending a WFA event threatens your masculinity? I would wager that as tough as some men claim to be, their knees would buckle at the mere thought of giving outward support to a women's football team.

In a town where you can not throw a quarter into a crowd without hitting 10 sports fans, it appears that the self-designation of "sports fan" is a misnomer, as the subject of one's fanaticism may not actually be based on athletic ability but on biolog-



Stacy Beckenholdt

ical anatomy. It simply does not make sense to discount or completely ignore a nationally recognized team for committing the offense of having the wrong set of plumbing. Luckily, the WFA continues to grow and succeed; it is just a shame that so many of you are missing it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I recently attended a conference on the UMSL campus and during a break picked up the Oct. 12 edition of The Current. In this issue I read about "A Funkin Good Time", ie, PRIZM's annual Drag Show in the Century Room.

First off, I am no Bible Thumper, preacher, upright Bush conservative, old fogie or moralizer. But having said that, I was heartsick. What a

poor reflection of this proud campus, the students that attended and the students that "performed". Reading about a "barrage of R-rated humor" and the distribution of "free condoms and lubricants" I went from mildly angry to sad. To the performer Siren I say, you are better than the picture I saw on page 13 and God has something much better in mind for you than this particular "talent".

To the organizations who sponsored this (RHA,

GLBT, Alpha Phi Omega, etc), shame on all of you for thinking this particular even has some kind of entertainment value. As an outsider who maybe doesn't understand your culture, it is still very, very sad. You are examples to young people who read the paper and your exhibition was disturbing.

John D. Mackey
1240 Bell Mar Lane
Lexington, Ky.
859-272-8181



Current Co-ed

Covering the student body since 1966

UMSL always welcomes transfer students, especially when they are as attractive as this issue's Current Co-ed. She is Brigitta Sanocki, a freshman. Brigitta, who is majoring in German and French, was born in Germany. The pretty brown-haired green-eyed co-ed is a transfer from Forest Park Junior College.

Photo by Don Pearline

Columns

SEX COLUMN

Turn on the Lights: “What are the pros and cons of spitting and swallowing semen?” -Wants To Swallow

Because of the ambiguity of this topic to the general public, I felt compelled to answer WTS's question specifically. One of the best benefits on the penetrator's side of oral sex is the fact that the poor guy does not have to be constantly sentient of an untimely "release."

The constant preoccupation with ejaculation causes a lot of tension. During oral sex, I promise the last thing that a person wants to have on their mind is offending their partner while they are down below.

When someone swallows during oral sex, it can be physically and emotionally satisfying to the man and there is no anxiety about an untimely ejaculation.

There are definitely cons to swallowing. However, many of these cons are related to unprotected sex rather than spitting.

There is a chance that when swallowing, the receiver of oral sex will receive pathogens from any STIs that the penetrator has, but the amount is negligible.

However, by the time a man ejaculates in the receiver's mouth, he or she has already been exposed to those pathogens since the first oral or genital contact. The best

way to get around this situation is to practice safe oral sex with a condom and/or ensure that the sexual partner is clean, tested and monogamous.

There are health benefits of swallowing a healthy man's semen. The average load of "man juice" is about 5 calories a teaspoon, and with the average man releasing about three teaspoons worth of semen, that is 15 calories!

In addition, these 15 calories are not empty calories. They are filled with sugars, proteins, calcium and other vitamins and minerals.

Another very important ingredient is testosterone. Testosterone is the sex-drive hormone in both men and women. Therefore, swallowing can beget more swallowing, no matter who is taking it in.

Some people prefer not to swallow because of the flavor. One way to get around this is to consume pineapples and pineapple juice.

Some say eating citrus fruits also improves the flavor of semen, but no studies have proven this yet.

Cutting down on toxins that one's body absorbs is another well-known way to "flavorize." Quitting smoking, increasing fruit and veg-



Nick Bishop

etable intake and a decreasing one's intake of unhealthy foods will decrease the toxins in the body.

Some people experience nausea after swallowing. This nausea is not due to the contents of the semen, but is more likely related to the psychological issue of "conditioned taste aversion," a form of classical conditioning that occurs naturally in people and animals to decrease the chances of eating spoiled or poisonous foods. Some people who become nauseated while performing oral sex (usually due to the gag reflex) consciously or unconsciously attribute that to the semen. I would say that if this is a problem for you, visit a psychologist.

That way, you do not have to live life dodging "man squirts" for the rest of your adult life.

Nick Bishop is a senior working on his bachelor's degree in Psychology, and is an active sexual minority researcher at the undergraduate level. All information that is given in this column should be taken only at face value, and any major decisions regarding your sexual, physical, or emotional health should be discussed with your medical doctor or mental health professional. The university Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services, located in the First Floor of the MSC, is available to assist any student with issues concerning mental or physical health and wellness, and can be contacted at 314-516-5711. The advice given in this column is not intended to promote or discourage sex, promiscuity, or infidelity. The advice given to one individual may not be the best advice for another due to possible contrasting circumstances.



Sofi Seck

There is nothing honorable about killing

To kill or not to kill: Is that ever a question?

For as long as I can remember, I have heard the phrase "honor killing" being thrown around. It is usually used referring to someone who killed a family member. A more general definition of an honor killing is the murder of a family by one or more fellow family members, where the murderers believe the victim to have brought dishonor upon the family or community.

My question: is there ever anything honorable about killing another human being? Of course the answer is always no, but then why is it that some communities condone it? Are honor killings a Muslim problem?

Whenever I hear of honor killings, it is in relation to Muslim families. Let me just start by saying that Islam does not recognize any killing as honorable. In fact, Islam does not allow any killings at all, but clearly there has been a large fallacy in western society that honor killings are directly connected to Islam. There has never been any approval of any killing in Islam, whether for honor or retribution, as

all life is considered sacred in Islam. These crimes are being conducted wrongly in the name of Islam. This gives the public a very negative, stereotypical and wrong view of what Islam is about.

That said it would be wrong of me to bury my head in the sand and deny that honor killings do occur in the midst of some Muslims and those of other faith communities.

The U.N. estimates that up to 5,000 honor killings take place every year. They happen all over the world including rural India and urban North America. Muslims, Sikhs and Christians are guilty of the act, but in the media it is Islam that is most often linked with this cruel and indefensible crime.

If you think about it, an honor killing is simply murder without trial, which is contrary to Islam. Islam values the holiness of human life, as the Holy Qur'an says that killing one innocent human being is like killing all of humanity.

So why do such dreadful events still occur? Let's take the example of the Muslim man recently given a life sentence for cutting his

daughter's throat after she began dating a Christian. This is a tragic story of conflicting cultural differences. But a devout Muslim who knows their religion properly would absolutely never take another life. In truth, such things have nothing to do with true faith. The father's embarrassment of his daughter dating a Christian drove to him to kill her in belief that that would clean the family name.

The problem of honor killings is not of morality or that women maintain their own personal virtue. It is a problem of control, rule and hatred of women who, in these cases, are looked at as nothing more than possession to the family. Without a doubt, the state of women around the world to this type of violence will only stop when these ways of thinking are challenged and actually dealt with. These criminals are simply carrying out the global tradition of suppressing women.

Honor killings are a problem, but not a religious one, and there is absolutely nothing honorable about killing another human being.

Have you had your dose
of The Current today?



Classifieds

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

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

200 TRANSPORTATION

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your transportation needs, including ads selling cars, trucks, vans, campers, boats, trailers, motorcycles and more. Call 314-516-5316 to place your ad today!

300 EMPLOYMENT

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your employment needs, including help wanted, sales positions, office positions, internships, child care wanted, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

400 FOR SALE

4 bdr, 2 1/2 bth, 2 car garage beautiful home for sale at 4004 Roland, Pasadena Hills, see on the web <http://www.cb Gundaker.com/search/advanced/detail.jsp?mnum=90045234&type=res> or call 314-226-5655

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

500 SERVICES

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

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

600 RENTALS

Normandy Apartments: Walking distance from UMSL.

1 Bedroom \$435.00

2 Bedroom \$505.00

Spacious floor plans /on-site laundry facilities

Call Penny @ 314-276-5923 or email at penny.crawford@greystonepartners.com

Maryland Apartments:

Beautiful floor plans

Studio \$499.00 (Special rate)

1 Bedroom Loft \$799.00 (Special rate)

Call Penny @ 314-276-5923 or email at penny.crawford@greystonepartners.com

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

700 MISCELLANEOUS

Trivia Night to benefit the Sisters of the Good Shepherd,

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

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

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

Cash prizes, giveaways, beer, soda and snacks included

Contact: Pat Williams 314-381-0120

Amnesty International RoCK 4 Darfur, 2nd Annual Benefit Concert.

On Saturday, November 7th from 7:00pm to 10:30pm in the MSC Pilot House, you can help aid the victims in Darfur by attending an awesome concert! Bands Lucid in Obscurity and Rhyme or Reason will be performing. Popular Jamaican food will be served. ALL of this for only \$5 at the door! Proceeds will be given to Amnesty International-USA to help stop the conflict.

Please contact Rachele at rkzx6@umsl.edu for more info!

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

THIS IS IT, from page 18

After the sequence played on the screen, Jackson and his dancers practiced the performance on stage.

There was also another remake of Jackson's greatest hit, 1984's "Thriller." His dancers donned zombie costumes and recorded the opening sequence to the song behind a green screen with Jackson, and his tour director Kenny Ortega directing them.

Jackson also rehearsed some of his old Motown hits when he was with the Jackson 5 such as "I Want You Back" and "I'll Be There."

Other songs performed include "Billie Jean," "Heal the World" and "Jam."

There were funny moments such as the conversa-

tion between Jackson and his musical director Michael Bearden, in which he told him to let the opening music to "The Way You Make Me Feel" simmer. Bearden then suggested to Jackson to allow him to throw some "booty" in the music.

Jackson's love for the environment also played a huge role in the film. He expressed his concerns for the negative way the environment was changing several times, and encouraged his staffers to "do the right thing" when it comes to preserving the earth. The movie ended with the group holding hands, with Ortega leading them in prayer. The movie faded out to a picture of Jackson with

the words "King of Pop" printed underneath. Jackson's newest song, "This is It" played while the credits rolled.

Despite reports and rumors about the film, there are no body doubles of Jackson, no shaky cameras, and no footage of past concerts to fill up space on the film. Jackson is there from beginning to end, and audiences will see just how involved the singer was in the planning of this would-have-been-huge event.

This movie is definitely a must-see for Michael Jackson fans. Even though this is not the actual concert, Jackson's on-screen presence will capture audiences from beginning to end. **A**—*Sequita Bean*

LUCIDITY, from page 20

Though items are placed to save Sofi, the sequence they come up in is random. Sometimes (often) the right item does not come up, and Sofi is either killed by a monster or falls off a cliff. Too often a puzzle that seems easy (get Sofi safely past a monster) and easily solved (place stairs) is circumvented by poor item rotation (spring shoes, a plank, and more

spring shoes).

To call it frustrating is an understatement. On some of the game's later levels (there are 27 in all), the game is downright vicious and rage-inducing. A game about a girl and her grandmother should not have caused the amount of expletives that came out of this reviewer's mouth.

The story is very sweet, and offers a poignant view on

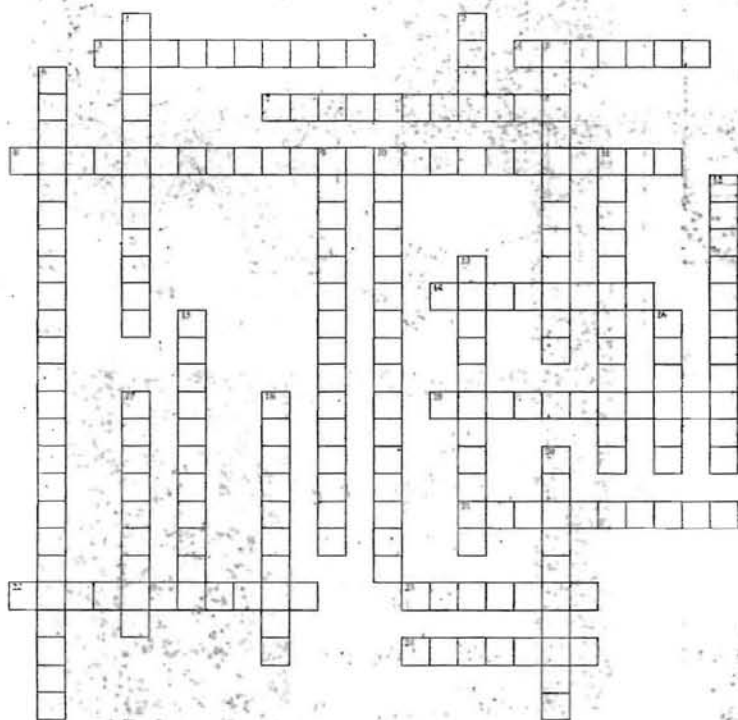
loss. It is a fascinating view into the psyche of a little girl, and the visuals are amazing. That it is backed by frustrating and trying gameplay is a real shame.

LucasArts, you may have not recaptured that magic that made your early games so special but you have a start, but hey—at least it's not another "Star Wars" game. **C**—*Andrew Seal*

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD by Chris Stewart

The Berlin Wall and The Cold War



ACROSS

3. Communist Bloc countries were referred to as this by the West.
 4. The satellite that launched the Space Race.
 7. Political and economic reforms enacted by Mikhail Gorbachev.
 8. East Germany's proper name.
 14. Kennedy "Ich bin ein _____."
 19. Mayor of West Berlin when The Wall went up.
 21. What Reagan labeled The Soviet Union.
 22. The famous gate located in Berlin.
 23. American backed rebels in Nicaragua.
 24. Famous Berlin vehicle and pedestrian checkpoint.

DOWN

1. Allied reconstruction effort enacted after World War II for Germany.
 2. Leader of Yugoslavia from 1945-80
 5. Period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia during 1968.
 6. West Germany's proper name.
 9. Radio station set up by the west to counter communist propaganda
 10. Reagan "Mr. Gorbachev, _____!"
 11. George F. Kennan wrote this famous article in 1947, also known as the X Article.
 12. Russia's Vietnam
 13. Missouri College that has a section of The Wall.
 15. Phrase coined by Winston Churchill to describe the Eastern Bloc
 16. Initially governed West Germany with the United States and United Kingdom.
 17. Khrushchev "Whether you like it or not, history is _____."
 18. Name given to the no-mans land in between the wall.
 20. Polish opposition movement in the 1980's.

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
A difficult week lies ahead, but conflict early on will eventually give way to compromise. Keep in mind that these challenges are for the best, and can only help you in the end.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
A friend or loved one will give you ample opportunity to resent their happiness this week. Instead, you'll surprise them by genuinely sharing in it.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
This is a good week to make a new start in any area of your life. It may be easy for you to become over-ambitious. Don't bite off more than you can chew.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)
Difficult issues seem manageable in light of the positive energy you'll be feeling early in the week. Hang on to that positivity to get you through the week.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)
Take time out to talk about your feelings to those you're close with to help figure out what's really going on.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)
Your emotions are running high this week, so make time to relax, but make sure that you don't take others for granted while dealing with your own problems.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Friends and family usually love your idealism, but certain people might find it grating during the week. Don't try to force your optimistic outlook on others; they won't take it well.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Don't panic if life is feeling chaotic. Instead, find some time to figure out what's contributing to the confusion, and start narrowing your life back down to the basics.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
You may feel unusually withdrawn and solitary this week. Give yourself time to recharge but remember that this weekend will be best spent in the company of friends.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Trying to find a balance between work and play will be difficult this week. Don't be too hard on yourself, though. You'll quickly make up anything you momentarily put aside.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Why not shake up your usual routine over the next few days? A new hobby or a trip somewhere you've never been might provide the boost of energy you've been missing.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
It may seem as though your friends and family are involving themselves a little too much in your personal life, but be tolerant. They're just trying to show that they care.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★★★

(Very hard)

Last week's answers

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

Last week's rating:
Hard

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

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: K=E)

C'R UXP EKVK

PX PWOL WTXMP

PEK ZWJP

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!

Check back next week for solutions to the crossword and sudoku!

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



Good Guys by Phil Freeman



RANDOM MINDS by Jeffrey Grossman

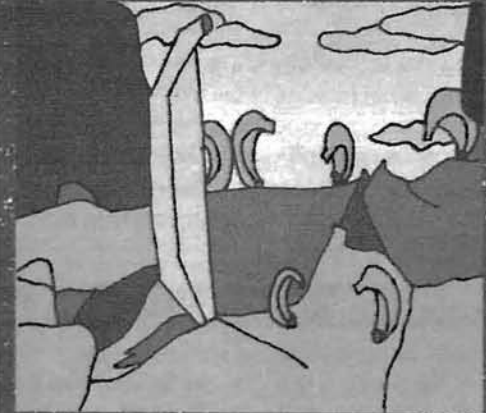


CAN YOU DRAW THIS WELL?

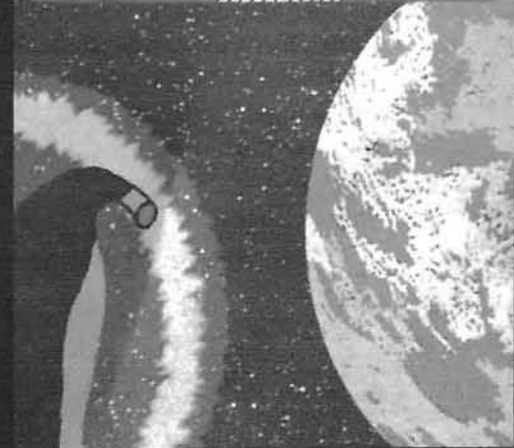
(or better?)

Apply to be a Current cartoonist!

PAUL MAGUIRE'S
BANANAS:
a space odyssey



"Will you stop, Dave? Stop, Dave. I'm afraid. I'm afraid, Dave. Dave, my mind is going, I can feel it."



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, Nov. 2

High School Confidential Dan Younger, photographer and professor of art at UM-St. Louis, discusses his latest work, a documentary project about an abandoned high school in St. Louis. Located in 222 J.C. Penney Conference Center, from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

Teaching in a Technology Classroom This informative training session is for those wishing to know more about how to get the most out of the Technology Enhanced Classroom Experience. Topics for discussion include: using the Instructor computer, controlling the projector, accessing your files while on or off campus, specialty software/hardware available, controlling the student computing environment, data/file management, using various media, and more. Located at the Benton Hall, Room 241, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Intramural Basketball Contests Campus Recreation is sponsoring two basketball skill competitions this week, a hot shot tourney and free throw contest. Competition will take place in the Mark Twain Gym, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. These fun basketball contests are free and open to students and fac/staff. T-shirts awarded to top shooters. Drop by any of the four days and give it your best shot! No advance registration is necessary. For more information contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain at 516-5326.

The Major Challenge: Choosing a Major That Fits Who You Are Do you love your major, think you chose someone else's by mistake, or wonder if you'll ever find one that's right for you? This workshop can save you time, money and most of all, frustration. We'll debunk common myths such as, "There is one right major for me," and "A major is the same as a career." You'll learn how to identify majors and career paths that are a good fit for your personality, interests, strengths, and values. Students may follow up with a coordinator for individual assistance. Located at the 225 MSC - Center for Student Success, from 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

News@Noon - Rise of the DINO's (Democrats in Name Only) Join us for free lunch and great discussion as Professor Brian Fogarty facilitates a conversation about conservative Democrats in Congress. Located in 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. For more information contact Megan Hill at 314-516-4031.

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

How Does your Personality Work? Understand yourself and others better by learning how you prefer to focus your attention, take in information, make decisions, and manage your life. Identifying these preferences can help you get the most out of your college experience and life in general. You will be sure to have an "Aha!" moment. Located in 225 MSC - Center for Student Success, from 8:30 AM to 9:15 AM. For more info contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Approximately 120 women attended the Women's Networking Series on Thursday in the century rooms of the MSC. About half of the women were professionals from various fields including business, media and technology and others worked in numerous segments of non-profit organizations. Students were matched according to their majors and career aspirations to tables with women already in those careers. The series is to enhance the knowledge and networking skills of women students.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Biracial Identity, Mental Health, and The College Experience Dr. Matthew Taylor, from the Psychology Department, will present his talk "In From the Shadowlands: Biracial Identity, Mental Health, and The College Experience." There is no registration required. Located in 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success, from 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

Texas Hold-Em Tournament Put your poker face on and join us for Campus Rec's annual tournament! This free event will be held tonight at 7:00pm at the Provincial House on South Campus. Players of all skill levels are invited to participate. Don't miss the party! Great prizes! Free Pizza! Participants must register in advance. Hurry, table space is limited! Located in the Provincial House on South Campus, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. For more info contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain at 516-5326.

Friday, Nov. 6

SVOSH Kickball Tournament Register in Student Life Center or e-mail: dltpr6@umsl.edu. The is a 7 person Minimum per team, \$15 to register Prizes to winning team and "Best Team Theme" Funds raised will go to sending optometry students abroad on vision saving mission trips! Located at the Rec Fields South of Mark Twain Center, at 1:00 PM. For more information contact Dawn Tank at 920-216-2761.

Home Volleyball Match Home volleyball match vs Bellarmine University. Join us at the Don Mark Twain Gymnasium and root for your Tritons! Gametime is 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenberg at 314-526-7016.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Home Volleyball Match Home volleyball match vs Northern Kentucky. Senior Day! Join us at the Don Mark Twain Gymnasium and root for your Tritons! Gametime is 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. For more information, call Rick Gyllenberg at 314-526-7016.



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*

Read more event listings online at www.thecurrentonline.com