

The Current

Halloween Edition



The Current

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Cover illustration by Kill Freeman, Michelle Kaufs-up-blood & Zachary Braaaaains Kraft.

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Bel-Nor house: former residence of "exorcist" boy

► **CANNIBAL CURRAN**
News Editor

The neighborhood of Bel-Nor that sits across the street from the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus has a secret sitting at 8435 Roanoke Drive.

The three-bedroom brick colonial house that stands there is the house that William Peter Blatty's novel "The Exorcist" (later made into a film) was based upon.

It was in this house where the beginning stages of the exorcism allegedly took place, to have been continued at the Alexian Brothers Hospital and St. Francis Xavier College Church on the Saint Louis University campus in downtown St. Louis, Missouri.

The boy and his family were living at the house in Bel-Nor before the exorcism had begun, making the house the last-standing remnant of the story as the church rectory and Alexian Brothers Hospital are no longer standing.

The first two weeks of the exorcism is said to have taken place at Roanoke Dr., where Jesuit priests Father William Bowdern, Father Raymond Bishop, Father William Van Roo and Father Walter Halloran attempted to free the young boy from the demon. There are few details regarding specifics of the process as all of the priests refused to talk about it, saying that it would be a violation of the boy's privacy.

Father Halloran, who died in March of 2005, was the only witness of the exorcism who would provide any sort of insight to what actually happened.

Halloran is said to have kept a detailed journal of the happenings or the exorcism,

but he would always stop short of providing any sort of detail that could help to identify the little boy who was allegedly possessed.

However, Halloran allowed author Thomas B. Allen to utilize his account of the exorcism (so long as he kept the boy's identity anonymous) in his book *Possessed: The True Story of an Exorcism*.

According to Allen, the family of the boy first became concerned when they heard "odd noises" at their home in Washington D.C., where they lived before moving to St. Louis.

The boy is said to have first been possessed on January 15, 1949, and freed of the demon on April 19th of the same year.

Although the possessed boy's identity still remains unknown, numerous efforts have been made to reveal it. In an article for the Riverfront Times, Allen said that a television show offered him a reward if he would release the name of the boy.

"Soon after the book came out, a television show offered me \$15,000 if I'd identify the kid," Allen said. "I passed on it."

Allen also said that while he was conducting research for his book, he sent the boy two letters and never received a response.

Allen said that since he "never heard back from him, [he has] to respect his privacy."

No credible media has ever reported the actual name of the boy, but in 1998 Mark Opsasnick researched the story and came to the conclusion that the allegedly possessed boy originally lived in Cottage City, Md., and came to St. Louis for "treatment."

Opsasnick published his



AHHHHH!-MAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

8435 Roanoke is where the events in the novel and movie "The Exorcist" occurred. "Some people came on Halloween to take pictures of the house," a neighbor said.

"findings" in *Strange Magazine*, and while he never specifically notes the child's name, he lets the reader know how he came to find it: using a trail of census reports, municipal directories and libraries.

The Riverfront Times followed Opsasnick's trail and came to the conclusion that the possessed boy was Ronald Hunkeler, nephew to Edwin Hunkeler and his wife who owned the house in Bel-Nor.

Ronald Hunkeler is said to reside somewhere along the East Coast. He is 74-years-old now, and is rumored to have selected the name of "Michael" for his first son after the "archangel who rescued him from Satan's clutches." Hunkeler returned to Alexian Brothers in St. Louis in August of 1951, but has not been back since.

UM-St. Louis students appear to have mixed opinions regarding the home of the possessed boy being so close to campus.

Jonas A. Kersulis, freshman, electrical engineering, said that since his arrival on campus he has not heard the rumors that the possessed boy was residing in Bel-Nor for the beginning stages of

the exorcism before being transferred downtown.

Sophomore Edwin Vance Butler, liberal studies, said that the only thing he really knew about the exorcism is that it was performed by Catholic priests, and the boy was rumored to have lived in Bel-Nor.

Because of the proximity to UM-St. Louis campus, numerous students select Bel-Nor as their place of residence despite the old house on Roanoke Dr.

Ryan Penfield, junior, business management, said that he is not concerned with the rumors regarding the house because he does not believe the boy resided there, although he knows he was treated in St. Louis.

Michael David Bittner, student at UM-Columbia and former resident of St. Louis, expressed a different opinion. Bittner said that he does not believe the exorcism ever actually happened in St. Louis, much less in Bel-Nor near the university campus.

"I'm not an expert, but I really don't think it happened," Bittner said. "I just think it has been exaggerated over the years."

WEATHER

MON. 60	TUES. 56	WED. 63	THURS. 63	FRI. 58	SAT. 58	SUN. 58
49	49	55	47	41	43	44

Night of the living swine flu patients

▶ CHRIS STEWED-HER
Asst. Design Editor

At first, general precautions were suggested in the face of the oncoming H1N1 virus. However, when the full, terrifying potential of the H1N1 strain was realized, stricter measures were taken. Hand sanitizers were installed in Oak Hall, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' primary dormitory building. Unfortunately, even this could not stop the infection from spreading quickly over the campus. As the rest of the world was swept up and even other Missouri universities inundated with the Living Sick, UM-St. Louis remained a safe haven where weary, uninfected pilgrims would seek shelter.

However, a campus-wide e-mail was sent out September 24, stating "We have had one case of H1N1 on our campus." Panic ensued. Before long, the unstoppable infection had claimed four more. Of these five, a chilling announcement was made that several of the Unwell were indeed students living in the residential facilities here.

"People should take proper precautions. I don't mind having hand sanitizer everywhere here," Chelsea Angle, sophomore, special educa-

tion BSED said. When asked if she was creeped out by the presence of the quarantined Unwell, Angle replied that she thinks the university measures make sense, saying that she just "[doesn't] wanna get sick."

Though panic seems to be spreading nearly at the rate of the ghastly virus itself, it will prove unfounded if Residential Life's protective measures hold up. Efficient steps have been taken, from the installment of the sanitizer stations to the designation of an isolation chamber. Residents who are confirmed as infected with H1N1 will soon be transformed into the Living Sick and transported to a special room where they are kept for the duration of their infection. There they are provided with all basic necessities and even brought fresh meals from the Provincial House Dining Hall.

"They get breakfast (fruit, a muffin, water) and lunch (one meat dish, one starch dish, vegetable, a salad, and bottle of water)," Juanita Blanks, Charrwells staff member said.

Blanks went on to say that the meals are packed in disposable containers and then left at the front desk at Oak Hall. She said that the dormitory staff handles delivering the food to the infected

and the meal staff does not have "contact with the students" or know anything about who they are. Thus infected students are taken care of nutritionally, though they will soon most likely begin to crave far more insidious tastes.

Brains as well as brawn are being used to prevent the wider spread of the virus at UM-St. Louis. Beyond campus e-mails, Health, Wellness, and Counseling staff have tabled in the Millennium Student Center, given speeches to Oak Hall residents, distributed literature and displays on H1N1 and viruses in general, and cooperated with professors in semester policy stating that students exhibiting symptoms of the Unwell stay home without academic repercussions.

Careful pains have been taken to outline the specific symptoms of H1N1: avoid day-walkers who still seem normal and say that they only have colds, but are actually on their way to becoming the Living Sick.

The spreading infection thus far has been a comparatively minor presence on campus. This successful prevention speaks to the multi-pronged approach through which UM-St. Louis has prepared for and handled this unholy plague.

Winter Intersession

January 4-16, 2010

earn 3 credit hours in 2 weeks



The Current wishes you Happy Halloween and wants to encourage you to apply for the following open positions on staff:

Science/Tech/Business/Health Editor
Assistant News Editor
Assistant Features Editor
Assistant A&E Editor
Assistant Opinions Editor
Staff Writer

ce.umsl.edu/wi

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Michelle Kaufs-up-blood

What do you want to be for Halloween?



Jaime Schwartz
Senior
Spanish Ed

"My boyfriend is gonna be the Sham-Wow guy, and I'm gonna be the beaten up hooker from the news story. It'll be interesting to see if people actually get it."



Peter Cleveland
Freshman
Computer Sciences

"I'm probably going to be Dr. House."



Greg Bender
Senior
Sociology

"Captain Jack Sparrow or Jesus."



Brittni Brown
Sophomore
Accounting

"I don't dress up for Halloween because I go trick or treating with my baby brother and sister."

VERBATIM

"I tell my boyfriend I have been nominated for an Oscar, and he goes, 'That's nice, babe.' But I say I can get tickets for the World Cup and all of a sudden, I'm a goddess."

-Charlize Theron



"It's always nice to show a bit of butt. I don't think it was gratuitous here. I think there is a good reason for my nakedness in this movie."

-Gerard Butler on Law Abiding Citizen

"Is this bill all that I would want? Far from it. But when history calls, history calls."

-Olympia Snowe on Obama's new bill

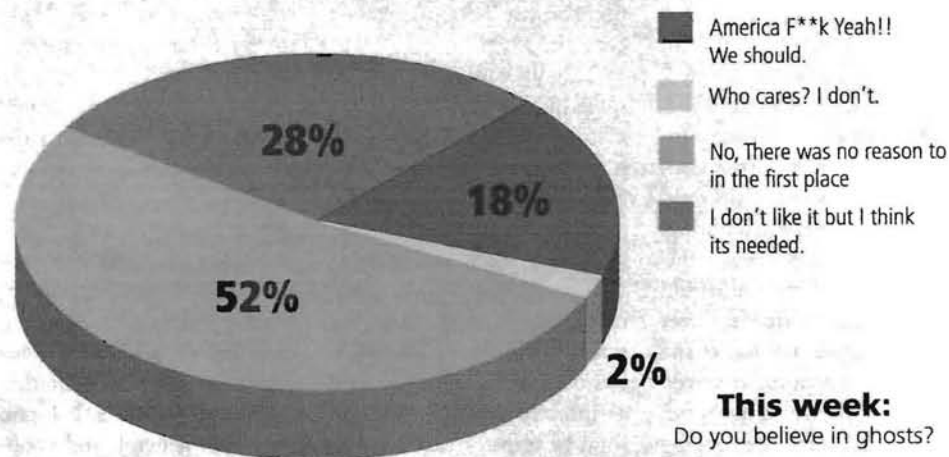


"Max wouldn't be invited to Winnie the Pooh's house, and if he had been, he wouldn't have gone."

-Maurice Sendak on his Where the Wild Things Are character

POLL

Should we be sending more troops overseas?



- America F**k Yeah!! We should.
- Who cares? I don't.
- No, There was no reason to in the first place
- I don't like it but I think its needed.

This week:
Do you believe in ghosts?

Answer at
www.thecurrentonline.com

CRIMELINE

Monday, Oct. 19

Stealing Over \$500.00 - Villa Music Building Sometime during the day person(s) unknown stole two musical instruments and other items. The instruments were stored in an office which was left unlocked during the day. There are no suspects in this incident.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Property Damage 1st Degree-Clark Hall and Social Science Tower Around 5:00 AM the morning custodial workers found several toilets in the Men's and Women's restroom damaged. It is believed to have occurred sometime overnight. In all incidents it appears that someone broke the lower portion of the ceramic/porcelain toilet base and bowl. The damage was limited to the toilets, however all of the affected units will have to be replaced and the restrooms affected will not be serviceable until the repairs are made. The UMSL Police are still investigating this incident and following up on all possible leads to identify the suspect.

Please report any suspicious activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 314-516-5155.

TRITON TIPS by Officer Gary Clark, campus police

A RAPPER'S LAMENT

Left my bag in the hall-
WRONG - WRONG - WRONG!
Thieves took it all-
GONE - GONE - GONE!
Got my cell, lap, and books-
TOOK - TOOK - TOOK!
Who done such a thing?
CROOKS - CROOKS - CROOKS!
My advice to thee-
SAY - SAY - SAY!
Is don't be like me-
HEY - HEY - HEY - HEY!
Keep your stuff in sight-
RIGHT - RIGHT - RIGHT!

And you'll be all right-
DAY - AND - NIGHT!
If you see any suspicious thing-
TIME - TO - LOOK - ALIVE!
Call the campus po po
FIVE - ONE - FIVE - FIVE!
Tell 'em what's going down -
JUST - THE - FACTS!
And we'll have a safe town -
TO - THE - MAX!
That's the end of my tale -
THAT - AIN'T - NO - LIE!
So fare thee well -
BYE - BYE - BYE!

Terrifying health care debate rages on

► CHRIS STEWED-HER
Asst. Design Editor

News at Noon, a programming partnership co-sponsored by two journalistic organizations, is hitting its stride after its second week this semester.

The program seeks to create a dialogue environment among the students and faculty members that attend the open event.

The close-quartered table discussion format suits the purposes of News at Noon, whose topics are inherently timely and often controversial.

This week's topic kept to that format, with the discussion labeled "Health care Reform: Killing Peter to save Paul?", which was based around the content of an article that appeared in Tuesday's New York Times.

Susan Feigenbaum, professor of economics, led the discussion, which followed the few minutes allotted to let attendants arrive, eat pizza (provided by the Times), and read over copies of the article that Feigenbaum distributed.

The article described recent increases to the average monthly cost of Medicare, which is above \$100 for the first time.

Recent increases in the number of people eligible for Medicare and the demand for a wider range of



SCREAMIN' SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

On Wednesday, News at Noon was held discussing the issue of health care in the MSC. Professor Joyce Mushaben, political science, attended and talked passionately about the topic.

procedures were described as causes of this increase.

This has led to concern over the possibility of a public option being proposed, as Medicare is a current example of government-run health care.

After this brief period, Feigenbaum introduced herself and said that this discussion would begin with an interactive demonstration.

Three attendants, alumni, were selected to sit in a row of chairs arranged at the front of the room.

The three people to their right and left were designated teams.

"Anyone remember The Match Game?" Feigenbaum asked, and explained the setup of the exercise.

The three alumni were then asked questions about healthcare, Medicare, and the proposed health care bill

currently being debated.

Their answers were matched against the answers of the teams on either side.

The exercise led to a discussion regarding the misconceptions concerning health care and specifically the proposals of the White House's bill.

The article and exercise opened the possibility for a wide range of topics, all of which are currently subjects of the heated partisan debate, whether in formal "town hall meetings" or blogosphere comment boards.

Feigenbaum spoke at length on these matters, pausing frequently to address the questions and comments of attending students, alumni and faculty members.

See DEBATE, page 29

No ghost stories found in the history of Provincial House

► AARON HELLFIRE
Staff Writer

Walking through South Campus at night could provoke a spooky feeling. Taking a turn toward the Provincial House might inflate this fear. With its large windows and aged architecture, the building looks like the perfect place to be haunted. However its history provides an antidote to these possible fears.

Prior to the Provincial House coming under the ownership of University of Missouri-St. Louis, it provided a home for the Province of the Daughters of Charity. This religious order has its roots in France, and after coming to the United States, the order expanded. "The story of the sisters here in St. Louis actually begins in 1828," Carolie Prietto, provincial archivist for the Daughters of Charity, said.

"Four sisters came from Emmetsburg [Maryland] to start the first Catholic hospital West of the Mississippi ... by 1910 ... the American province had gotten too big to manage from Emmetsburg," Prietto said. "It was decided by superiors in Paris to create a second American province to be headquartered in St. Louis."

In 1914 the ground was broken and building began. The firm Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett, designers of the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, made the plans for the Provincial House. They modeled it after the Hampton Court Palace in Great Britain, utilizing the architectural style known as Norman Gothic. This technique is visible in "the [building's] height, the intricate stone trim, the lancet windows, the clock tower, the crenelated roof, [and] the

arched entrance," a pamphlet written by Sister Frances Mary Rutt said. She said another example is the hammer beam ceiling made out of solid oak in the chapel.

"It is as if man is reaching out from this material world to grasp the spiritual," Rutt said. "One cannot help pausing in wonder at the skill of those who constructed it."

During the time it was being built the sisters stayed in the St. Vincent's Asylum, which is now Castle Park Apartments. An interesting literal connection exists between St. Vincent's and the Provincial House. A tunnel filled with pipes was created for the purpose of transferring heat from the hospital. This explains "an erratic pattern" of graves in the Marillac Cemetery, Rutt said.

See PROHO, page 12

CORRECTIONS

The Current regrets that sometimes in the making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made.

In the Oct. 12 issue of *The Current*, in the article 'Students with Talent,' there were a few inaccuracies. The fundraiser was for the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation Emergency Eyeglasses Program, not the Missouri public school system. In addition, Nicole Pogue is the secretary of the UMSL chapter of the National Optometric Student Association, not the National Optometric Association.

In the Oct. 19 issue of *The Current*, in the What's Current section, the Political Science Academy's meeting was on Oct. 29 not on Oct. 22. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Let us know of any corrections that need to be made. E-mail us at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu or drop by 388 MSC.

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Business/Tech

Tools of the ghostly persuasion used to find spooks, goblins, and ghosts

► **SARAH "HOUSE ON HAUNTED" HILL**
Staff Writer

Crashing Halloween festivities, ghouls, ghosts, specters and poltergeists bring on the spook, while human curiosity and insecurity aids in obsessing over the afterlife.

Due to this, paranormal manifestations are extensively studied, utilizing special equipment for detecting energy from beyond the grave and outside of the holiday.

As defined by Michael A. Thalbourne in "A Glossary of Terms Used in Parapsychology," the paranormal is "any phenomenon which in one or more respects exceeds the limits of what is deemed physically possible on current scientific assumptions."

Considering that ghosts do not reside within the realm of scientific explanations, parapsychology is the investigation and analysis of this par-

ticular type of phenomenon. Utilizing various techniques for detection, parapsychologists attempt to identify the seemingly intangible entities known as ghosts.

The Society for Paranormal Investigation in the United States lists the basic necessities in paranormal research: durable yet comfortable footwear, a map of the prospected area, a first aid kit, bug repellent, a utility vest or belt, gloves, a wrist watch, flashlight, batteries, identification, a cleaning cloth, a notepad with a clipboard, and a Polaroid instant camera.

Along with this more advanced equipment—such as camcorders, EMF detectors, walkie talkies, GPS and binoculars—are listed as part of a ghost hunter's gear.

Still, there is other high-tech gear to be found in any professional ghost hunter's tool box.

As any scientist knows, tools of the trade are beneficial to success. According to the Atlantic Paranormal Society's website, the Tri-field EMF detector "independently measures/detects electric field and magnetic fields and



IMAGE OF RECORDED WHITE NOISE

is properly scaled to indicate the full magnitude of currents produced inside a conductive body."

Since the energy associated with ghosts is said to alter these fields, the Electro Magnetic Frequency detector is a handy piece of technology for parapsychologists.

Albeit with most technology, unrelated environmental factors can alter electromagnetic frequencies, causing the readings to be skewed.

"Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are invisible lines of force that surround

any electrical device. Power lines, electrical wiring, and electrical equipment all produce EMF," according to the Atlantic Paranormal Society. Misinterpretations are common amongst paranormal investigators who are still beginners, and can still occur even in seasoned parapsy-

chologists.

Thermal scanners can differentiate the temperature within the room and relay data according to its analysis. By analyzing the variance in temperature, the thermal scanners are able to manifest imagery. Depending on how it appears, parapsychologists can deduce the presence or absence of a thermal being.

One tool in particular appreciated by paranormal investigators is the NightRunner 1000. A multi-faceted tool functioning specifically for paranormal research, this instrument features a built-in EMF detector, a side-mounted flashlight, camcorder with night vision, thermometer for indoor and outdoor use, a compass, and an auxiliary face light.

According to the Society for Paranormal Investigation, although the EMF meter is subpar, the NightRunner 1000 is widely utilized. How-

ever, with integrated tools, the individual tools can suffer a stilt in quality.

As part of almost every study, there is room for error. The Society for Paranormal Investigation offers a tutorial, covering the mistakes associated with investigation.

Lack of research and technology prep work, insufficient battery power, unsuccessful documentation, poor choices on where to set up the investigation station, and improper conclusions drawn from inept skills with technology are all factors which cause failure in studies.

Currently, the state of Missouri does not have a recognized paranormal investigation society.

Perhaps a few spooks over the upcoming Halloween may frighten a few interested students into becoming founders.

Coming back from the dead: hope for a thawed future

► **AARON HELLFIRE**
Staff Writer

Technology has continually advanced throughout time. It now provides us with a longer life span than a person living just a few decades ago, so one might assume that it would continue to get better and our longevity would continue to increase. At least this is the assumption that people like Ted Williams and other "patients" of cryonics prescribed to.

The basic principle of cryonics is the freezing of a human body in hopes of possible reincarnation by future medical breakthroughs. Simply put, if you are not brain

dead, then there is a theoretical chance that your memories and personality can be reinvigorated if medicine and technology can save the rest of your body.

Cryogenics is another name for this, however it is also shared with the scientific study of extremely low temperatures. For instance, scientists' pursuit of 0 Kelvin—the state of matter where there is absolutely no atomic movement—would be relegated to the study of cryogenics.

On the other hand, cryonics deals mainly in theories and a trust in future technology. The latter is mainly what cryonic firms endorse and utilize in their work.

"Cells and organisms need not operate continuously to remain alive. Many living things, including human embryos, can be successfully cryo-preserved and revived.

Adult humans can survive cardiac arrest and cessation of brain activity during hypothermia for up to an hour without lasting harm," Alcor Life Extension Foundation, self-proclaimed world leader of cryonics based in Scottsdale Arizona, states on their website.

However, they admit that this is still theoretical and that technology has not allowed them to reverse the process of freezing. To this day no human being has ever

been revived from a deep freeze.

Yet this does not hamper their work. With their focus on future technology, they suggest it is only a matter of time before this is reality.

"It is now possible to foresee specific future technologies (molecular nanotechnology and nanomedicine) that will one day be able to diagnose and treat injuries right down to the molecular level," Alcor states. "Such technology could repair and/or regenerate every cell and tissue in the body if necessary.

For such a technology, any patient retaining basic brain structure (the physical basis of their mind) will be viable

and recoverable."

While the science is not there yet, a few people are still inclined to invest a considerable amount of money into freezing their dead bodies. Alcor charges roughly \$150,000 for full body preservation, and as of September it has 88 bodies frozen in storage.

Ann Stefan, University of Missouri-St. Louis psychology professor, teaches a class on the psychology of death and dying. When asked about reasoning behind an individual's participation in cryonics: "Unfortunately, we don't have access to psychological research that can help answer that question," Stefan

said. "Cryogenics is still more science fiction than reality in the eyes of most individuals, and there are no published studies that I could find on factors that influence attitudes towards cryogenics or plans to use cryogenics. So, we don't really know."

Stefan also pointed out that "Death has been, and continues to be, a primary fascination in all known cultures, including our own ... there are a variety of sociocultural influences on our understanding of death, including family, school and peers, and mass media." Based off this, society's allure to cryonics' functionality is not so far-fetched, even if the science is.

Fangs, blood and make-believe

► **JINXED JEN O'HARA**
Staff Writer

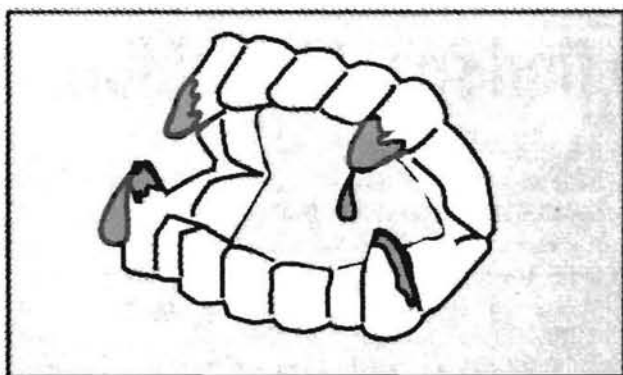


ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY BRAAAINS KRAFT

Halloween is most notorious for the wardrobe people wear during the celebration, in addition to spooky occurrences and getting a cavity from eating candy.

Among a number of costume and Halloween novelty shops in St. Louis is Johnnie Brocks Dungeon, a year-round costume shop located in Hampton Village and in downtown St. Louis.

During the Halloween season, Johnnie Brocks opens temporary stores throughout St. Louis to expand their Halloween stock.

Johnnie Brocks first opened as a costume, novelty and party shop in 1983. Before becoming a party shop, it was a gift shop that opened in 1929.

"I believe it was [the owner's] great-grandfather [who] opened a card store downtown, and it kind of grew from there," Lauren Rodriguez, general manager of Johnnie Brocks, Hampton Village, said.

"Eventually it turned into a Halloween store, and because they used to do a big Halloween party at the Brocks' house, they also started selling Halloween merchandise since they were so into Halloween."

The primary store and the downtown warehouse store are open year round. While Halloween is the most popu-

lar time of year, Mardi Gras is the second-most popular at the stores which sell merchandise with no relation to Halloween.

During other holiday seasons, they sell costumes that correlate with them, such as Santa outfits for Christmas, Easter Bunny wear, and leprechaun attire for St. Patrick's Day. Also sold for seasonal celebrations are accessories such as wigs, hats, novelties, makeup and props.

Because it is principally a party store, Johnnie Brocks also sells general celebration items. Examples include bachelorette party supplies, such as boas, tiaras, and risqué items for adults.

There is also a 21st-birthday section of the store which holds items such as shot-glass necklaces and sashes.

Prices on costumes generally range from \$8.99 for value-price costumes to \$249 for theatrical-quality costumes. Rental costumes can cost in the thousand dollar range to purchase.

Preparations for Halloween take almost a year to plan.

"That's my favorite time of year, going to the conventions and the Halloween shows to do the buying for the next Halloween," Rodriguez said. "We start that in December, so we start going to New York and Las Vegas to buy [the products]."

Most employees find working at Johnnie Brocks to be interesting and fun. A worker at the Hampton location described having fun putting together a "swine flu" costume, consisting of a pig costume and kleenex.

"My personal favorite thing is being able to be creative and help people come up with costumes," Craig Stanfill, assistant manager of Johnnie Brocks, west county, said.

Johnnie Brocks has been around for several decades, and with party enthusiasts in the St. Louis area, will be around for many more to come.

Internet privacy a lost realm

► **SARAH "HOUSE ON HAUNTED" HILL**
Staff Writer

The bubbles of toil and trouble form to burst as Facebook unintentionally assists stalkers sub-cultural development. As a product of the information age, social networking sites create an easier path for stalkers to acquire information that is not meant for prying eyes, yet this information, intruded upon by internet prowlers, is conveniently provided by the stalked.

With most services, creating a profile—age, sex, locale, hobbies, and media interests—allows the new user to construct a mask and costume to be worn in the inter-webular world.

Finishing the profile and confirming your status as a Facebook member allows this masked version of the individual and all his/her information to be displayed to the online friends who agree to be friends.

Therein lies the problem. Today, when person A meets person B in the real world and both have Facebook, a friend request appears in their future. Yet sometimes people are not trustworthy and do not illustrate this until later in the game.

UM-St. Louis' Student, Kelly Hilker, sophomore, nursing, related a personal Facebook-stalking experience. As part of a group of ten girls whom a male and fellow student consistently asked on dates: "This guy was seriously creepy, so of course we all kept saying no," Hilker said.

After realizing that most of the girls had Facebook pages, he created a profile and "requested us, but all of us denied him." She explained that she "personally got about 10 requests from that profile."

Denying the requests ended up being futile, as the

Facebook stalker resorted to creating profiles under aliases and then requesting again. Although it did not work, it led to further obsession. According to Hilker, at one point the male described one of the girls meticulously on his page as a response to a "Perfect Girl" questionnaire.

"I don't see this particular person as very threatening," Hilker said. "It never went any further, but I can see how people are easily stalked on [Facebook]."

Negative situations involving other students and Facebook, such as pictures taken in precarious positions and then posted onto Facebook can also lead to embarrassment, uncomfortable entanglements and regrets.

"People don't realize the serious potential danger," Hilker said. "Even making information public such as your work or school could tell total strangers a lot about you."

According to the Tech at MIT and the Oregon Business Report, universities—especially graduate

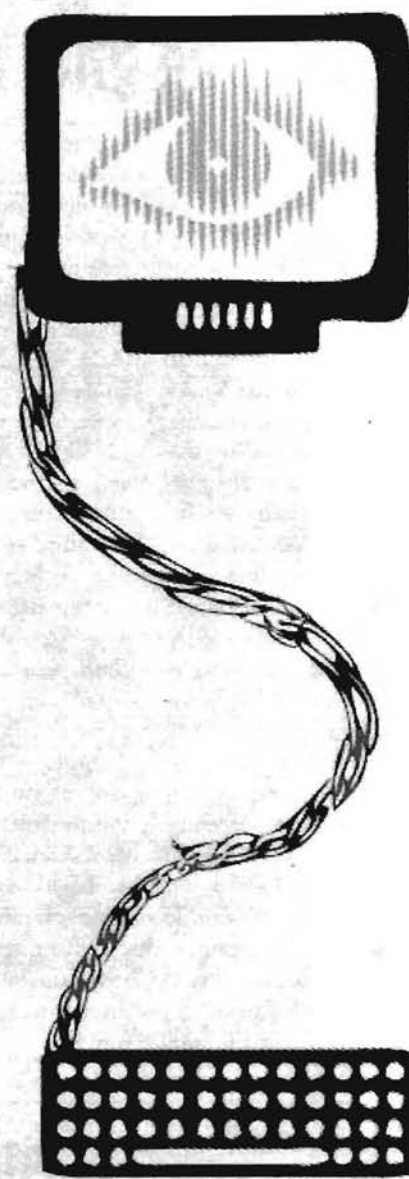


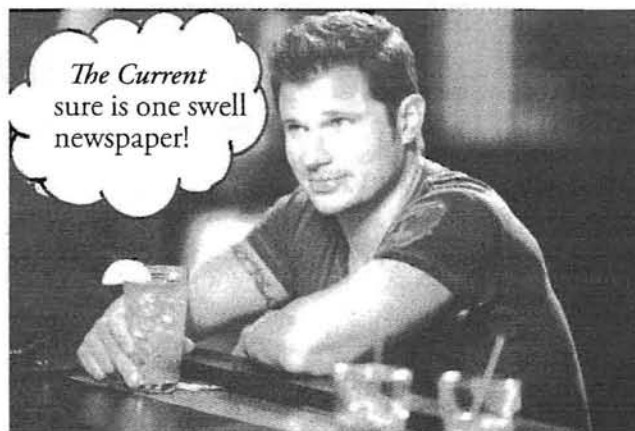
ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY BRAAAINS KRAFT

schools—and employers are making judgments based off of Facebook and similar social-networking sites.

Perhaps a life lesson will inevitably occur as the friends pile up, and the friends of those friends can see your information by verbal and sometimes visual proxy.

This might mean learning that accepting friendship with someone can go in both positive and negative directions.

Scavengers desperate for some sort of sustenance keep careful gaze and suddenly one friend becomes two as curiosity often provokes the lurkers to request extended friendship.



The Current sure is one swell newspaper!

Normally we'd tell you to stay out of it, Nick Lachey, but this time, you keep right on going, brother.

The adventures of the FrankenMac

Hello I'm a GRAAGHAHHA!

► RICHARD MILLHOUSE
PHIPPS & ZACHARY
BRAAAAINS KRAFT

Darkness crept over the land, and a feeling of fear filled the people hearts as the FrankenMac was born. Yes, that's right- ordinary PC laptops and desktops are changing into Macs and some crafty geeks are building their own out of generic parts; much like the monsters in the story by Mary Shelley.

Since Apple introduced Macs with Intel processors (the same processor that lies at the heart of every Windows PC) hackers have been fiddling with Mac OS X and have been successful in getting it to run on homebuilt or off-the-shelf PC's that would normally run Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Psystar is one company building and selling these FrankenMac's. Their cheapest "hackintosh" goes for about \$599 and has similar specs to a late model iMac at about a third of the cost.

The average profile of a FrankenMac is to cultivate the choicest parts, from the motherboard to the graphics card and get them to run

Mac OS without bugs. Now some may enjoy these changes and even encourage Frankensteins to roam the land, but Apple isn't happy about it. They are currently suing Psystar for distributing their operating system on unsupported software.

The motivation in the computer world to continue this trend is small at the moment but in the future could easily become the norm. Imagine a future when a customer goes to an electronics store and are asked if they would like their computer with Mac OS, Windows or both operating not just on Apple or Dell computers but either.

The influx of this is very understandable as customers demand for customized and personalization is the mode of operations for modern technology companies.

Consumers look for what appeals to their individuality, everything from the color and design of a computer to the energystar rating the device receives. A FrankenMac is the next step that people are asking for. An obvious response from ardent Mac users is that their computers

are far better, and the same is said by PC users. As one can see though, they are two sides of the same coin and even if Mac's were to change into PC's and visa versa, gains could only be positive.

Computer users of all types can be comforted in the fact that all the changes are for breeding the most perfectly conceivable computer. The FrankenMac does have all the bells and whistles of the MAC OS implanted into it, that is for sure.

Although on the hacker side of it they can show up funny errors like when looking at the Mac's specs you will receive blanks where processors names should be, the fun is in the searching for fixes to these quarks. For the meantime, the war between Apple and PC companies will continue, with both advertising that they are different and favored better.

So we can all relax for now, eat our halloween candy, sit in front of the tube in a dark room, and wait for those funny jokes about operation system differences we all love so much. Like: Hello I'm a FrankenMac!

FIRE BAD!

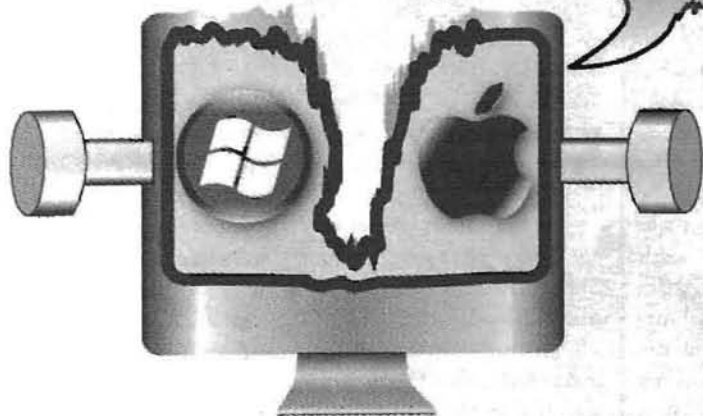
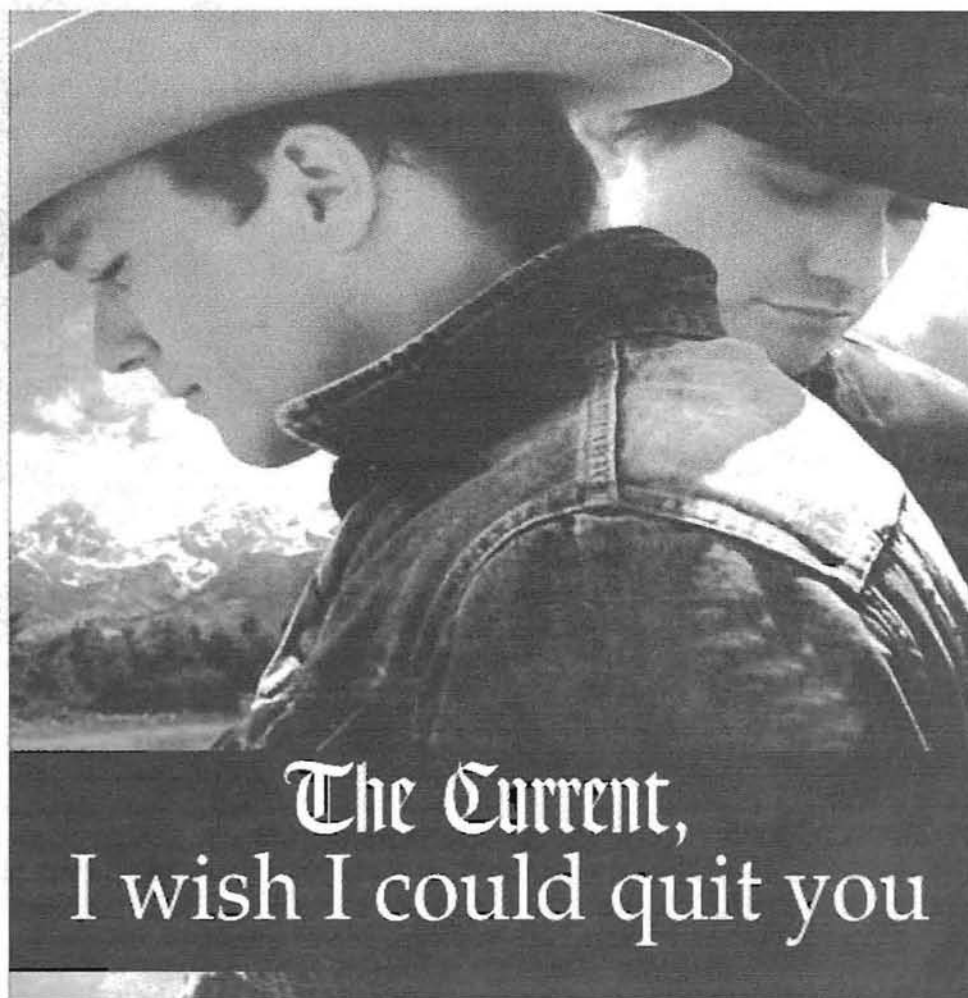


ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY BRAAAAINS KRAFT



The Current,
I wish I could quit you

Book Fair

Institute for Women's and Gender Studies



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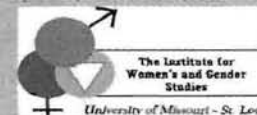
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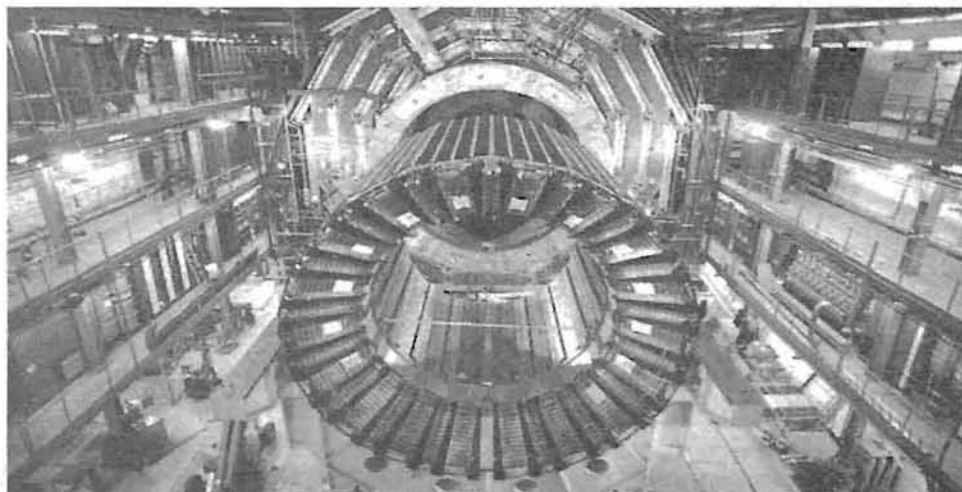
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Top 5 scariest technologies

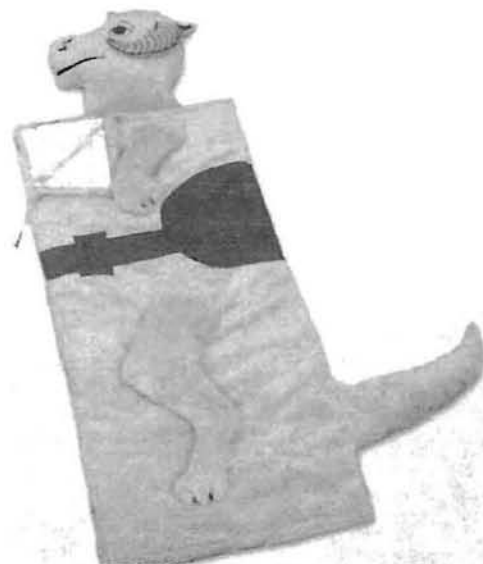
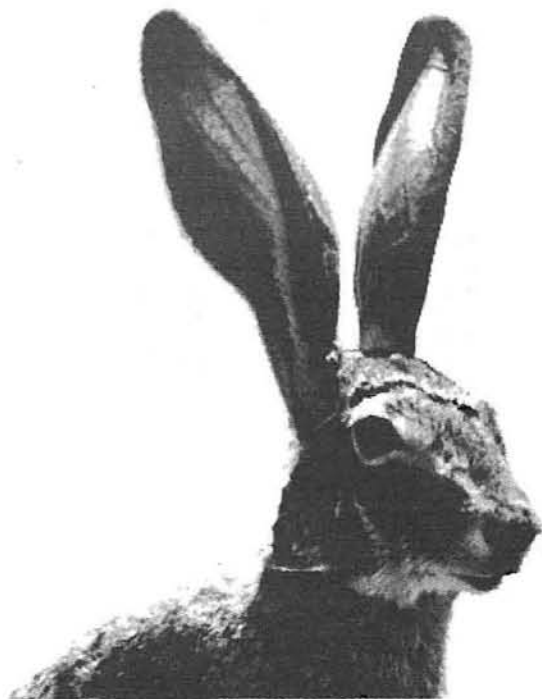


COURTESY / NASA

1) The Large Hadron Collider: As if the mere possibility of creating a miniature black hole that could consume the planet from the inside out is not enough, now the LHC is being sabotaged from the future. Well-respected physicists Holger Bech Nielsen and Masao Ninomiya have published papers that indicate that the reason the LHC

has not been able to work is because the hypothetical Higgs Boson particle that scientists hope to create with it "might be so abhorrent to nature that its creation would ripple backward through time and stop the collider before it could make one," according to an article in the New York Times. Future Particles? Damn Nature, you scary!

3) In Stockholm, the rabbit population has reached a critical level. Adorable little stray pet bunnies and wild rabbits are all over the place, making a mess of the city's parks. For the Swedish, there is one way to thin the population: Hunt them, kill them, freeze them, and then turn their corpses into biofuel to heat the city. Aw yeah—can you smell what the Swedish Chef is cooking? Smells like bunny. Unfortunately for the citizens of Stockholm, the 3,000 rabbits that have been killed so far this year have not been enough to heat the entirety of the city. Thankfully, Stockholm also ships dead cats, cows, deer and horses to the incinerator. Stay warm this winter, Sweden, and stay classy.

TAUNTAUN SLEEPING BAG
/COURTESY THINKGEEK.COM

4) Call it Star Wars: The Nerds Strike Back. This sleeping bag is in the shape of a Tauntaun, the very kind of creature that Han Solo slices open and stashes Luke Skywalker inside in the beginning of the fifth Star Wars movie. ThinkGeek, an online store full of anything and everything geeky and glorious, originally created this bodacious bodybag as an

April Fool's gag. The response and demand for it was overwhelming, and ThinkGeek got to work on making the dream a reality. A few months later the finished product was available—complete with miniature lightsaber zipper pull and plush internal organ lining for that authentic experience. But does it smell like the inside of a Tauntaun, too?

COURTESY / BURGER KING
JAPAN

2) Two all-beef patties, special sauce, cheese and lettuce? Pfft. As if. How about seven all-beef patties? Now that's a burger. Microsoft and Burger King have teamed up to create the Windows 7 Whopper, a 1,000 calorie artery annihilator. This baby packs so much blocked-vein death that eating it instantly makes the average Japanese citizen look like an obese American, and it makes the average obese American dead. Thankfully, this Emperor of Burgers is only available in Japan for seven days to commemorate the worldwide launch of Microsoft's new operating system, Windows 7. Seven burger patties? It's like millions of arteries suddenly cried out in terror and were suddenly silenced.

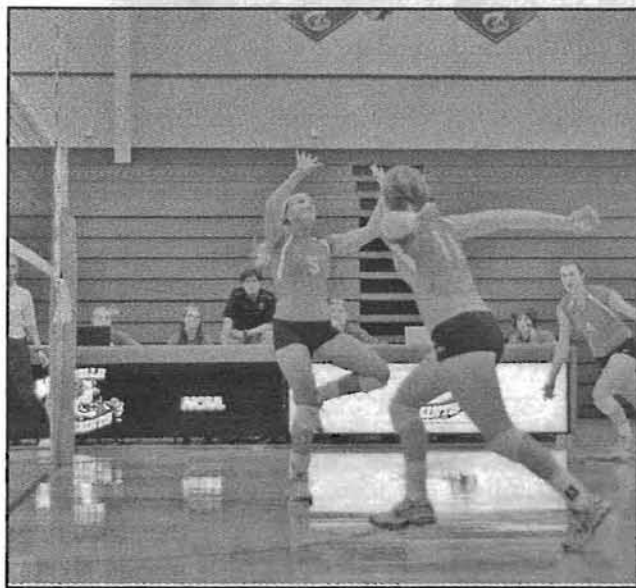


COURTESY/GIZMODO.COM

5) The very latest in faux fashion for the aspiring vampire-to-be. From the makers of the ultra-nerdy Mana Energy Potion energy shots comes Blood Energy Potion, a four-hour long energy boost in a convenient IV bag. Now you, too, can look like a vampire trying to control your homicidal bloodlust. Blood Energy Potion contains "iron, protein and electrolytes", and is supposedly the same color and consistency of real blood. Why drink a lame regular energy drink when instead you can look like you just stole a bag of sweet red nectar from a Red Cross blood drive?

Sports

Triton volleyballers prevail against Maryville army of the damned



5 Samantha Martley, junior, biology, pushes the Tritons towards victory against Maryville University.

► **CEDRIC KILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

Even though his team had just finished off its second win in two games this week, University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball coach Trent Jones could not hide his frustration with the suddenly zombie-like play of his Tritons.

"I don't really know what the problem is," Jones said. "We're not playing very well right now. We're not playing like ourselves, and if this continues, we're going to get ourselves beat."

On the stat sheet, last

week's wins over GLVC rivals Missouri S&T and Maryville, look nice. The Tritons are 18-9 on the season, and 8-2 in league play.

Watching in person, the UM-St. Louis volleyball team didn't look anything like the championship squad many believed them to be heading into this season.

"About the only thing I can say (that is positive) is we had two road wins in the conference," Jones said. "Anytime you can do that, it's a positive, but that's the only positive right now."

The week began for the Tritons on Tuesday, with a

trip down to Rolla, to take on Missouri S&T.

The Lady Miners came into the matchup with UM-St. Louis with a 9-20 record, and had lost seven of their previous 10 matches.

This should have been a dominant win for the Tritons. Instead, S&T pushed the match to five grueling sets before UM-St. Louis was able to claim a 20-25, 25-23, 25-21, 22-25, 15-13 win.

Liz Cook, junior, had a match-high 19 kills, and teammate Weslie Gaff, sophomore, added 18 kills as the Tritons outhit the Lady Miners 70 kills to 59.

A big reason for UM-St. Louis' hitting edge against S&T was the superb passing of setter Kayla Kinzinger, junior, who matched her season-high with 57 assists.

It was a nice win for the Tritons, but not nearly as crisp a performance as Jones would like to see.

Then on Saturday, UM-St. Louis visited cross-town rival Maryville. Once again, the Tritons won the match, by scores of 25-23, 18-25, 25-17, 25-18, but did not seem to be playing very well.

"You're right, we're not playing very well," Jones said.

"Like I said, I'm not sure what it is. Hopefully, we'll have four good days of

practice—Monday through Thursday—then be ready to go on Friday."

The Maryville match started pretty well as the UM-St. Louis jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first set, but the Saints rallied to tie and even held several leads in the first set, as their very loud and boisterous crowd seem to fire up the Maryville team.

The Tritons eventually won the first set, but were just dismal in the second set, which only seemed to give Maryville even more momentum.

That was when Jones turned to his bench, hoping that playing more of the reserves for more points than usual would provide a little spark.

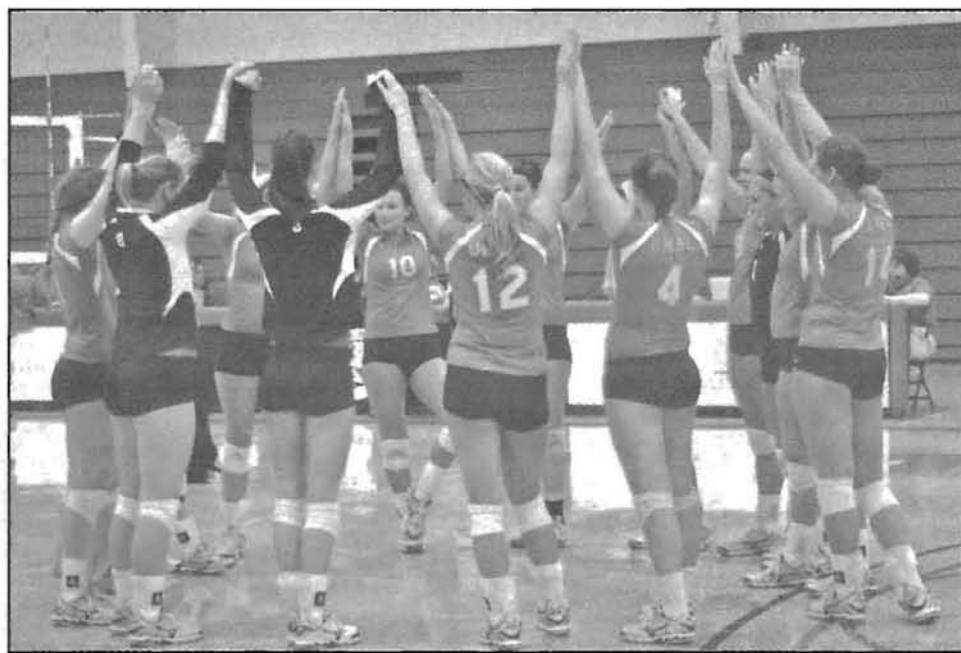
UM-St. Louis got that spark when backup setter Samantha Martley, junior, came in late in the second set. The 5'10" transfer from Neosho County Community College played the rest of the match—finishing with a career-high 28 assists—as the Tritons won the final two sets to claim the match.

"That is a tough thing to

ask a backup setter to do, but that's the role she has and I thought Sam played well," Jones said. "She did what I asked her to do."

If it hopes to keep winning, UM-St. Louis will have to play much better when it spends its Halloween weekend traveling to road matches at Southern Indiana on Friday, and Kentucky Wesleyan on Saturday.

The Tritons next home match will be Friday, Nov. 6, when they'll host Bellarmine, at 7 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building.



PHOTOS BY AHHHHH!-MAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

The Triton volleyball team celebrate a 3-1 victory Saturday afternoon at Maryville University.

Hoops squad hopes to make it to postseason, yet GLVC requires braaaaaaaains!

► **CEDRIC KILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

For many years now, the Great Lakes Valley Conference has been nationally recognized as one of the best college basketball leagues in the country.

In both men's and women's hoops, the GLVC often produces some of the best teams in Division II. That

fact alone is usually enough to get fans of the league excited about basketball season.

But this year, GLVC fans have even more reason to get pumped up for the season, thanks to the league's realigned three division format and expanded postseason tournament, which will offer more teams from the league a shot at playing some playoff

basketball.

"I like the changes," Chris Pilz, University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball coach, said.

"I like how it's split up. I like the fact that we've got more teams in Missouri in the league now. It sets up a lot of natural rivalries, and makes it easier for our fans and the parents to travel to

road games."

Last year, the GLVC featured 13 teams, which played in two separate divisions (East and West). Each team played the other teams in its division twice, and then played a single game against the teams in the other division.

Through that schedule, the league invited just eight

of its members (the top three teams from each division and two wild-cards) to play in the GLVC Postseason Tournament, an annual event the league uses to determine its champion, which also serves as a precursor to the NCAA National Championship Tournament.

Last year, even though it finished with a 14-13 record

and its first winning season since 2006, the UM-St. Louis men's team missed out on the postseason by one game.

This year, because the GLVC added two new schools (Illinois-Springfield and Maryville University), and now has 15 members, the basketball league will compete as three.

See BASKETBALL, page 14

Top Triton Jessica Hampton: scaring the opposition all semester

► ANTHONY "THE ANIMAL" PADGETT
Asst. Sports Editor

At three in the afternoon on Thursday, the women's soccer team here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis departed for Louisville, Ky., to face Great Lakes Valley Conference rival Bellarmine on Friday. On Sunday the team will play another conference rival: Northern Kentucky.

These are the last two GLVC games of the season for the Tritons who are look-

ing to improve their 4-7-1 Great Lakes Valley Conference record.

A key part of any successful team is defense. Jessica Hampton, junior, is one of seven defenders on the team.

All seven players are not in their senior years and will be returning next season.

Prior to college, Hampton played four years of soccer at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kan., and helped lead the Saints to three straight class 5A State Championship seasons.

She has played soccer with the Tritons for three years and has played in every game thus far in the season.

In 14 games, Hampton has recorded nine shots, with six on goal giving her a shots-on-goal percentage of .667.

Jessica has one goal on the season and it was against another GLVC rival, Illinois-Springfield.

Jessica scored her goal, unassisted, in a 4-0 blowout at UIS. In 2008, she played in every game of the season—18 total—and has played in 32 straight games going back to

last season.

Her ability to stay healthy shows great durability and reliability. In 2008, she also recorded one assist, three shots, and two on goal. In the last two seasons Jessica has had a .667 shots-on-goal percentage.

In soccer, there are no defensive statistics such as blocked kicks or steals. If there were such statistics they would show why Jessica is a pivotal part of this Triton team and its future.

Before leaving for the last two games of the season, I

was able to briefly interview Jessica Hampton after practice on Wednesday.

She told me she has been playing soccer since she was four years old. She started playing forward but was moved to defense halfway through her freshmen year here at UM-St. Louis.

TC: What do you think of next season, can the team replace seven seniors?

"It is going to be hard. It will sort of be a rebuilding season, but the players we are keeping will definitely continue to help us next season,

and hopefully the recruits that come in are going to be able to contribute. I think we will be fine."

TC: Any plans for Halloween?

"Depending with how we do this weekend—hopefully we win—and if we win both games, there is a chance we can make it into the GLVC tournament.

If we do that, the first round of the GLVC will be the weekend of Halloween so the team will be traveling. That's what I would like to be doing on Halloween."

PROHO, from page 5

On Sept. 27, 1916, the Provincial House was consecrated and began to be used. From then to 2002 the sisters and their staff worked out of these buildings.

They performed the business of the province, pro-

vided a place for sisters to go through their formation into the community, and also provided a place of retirement for the elderly sisters.

"Much of UM-St. Louis' South Campus is land that used to be owned by the

Daughters of Charity ... those buildings [such as the Marillac Hall and the Ward E. Barnes Library] were originally built in the 1950s for a college that the sisters ran that was called Marillac College ... [it was] sold to UM-

St. Louis in 1976," Prietto said.

The rest was sold in the 1990s. The only thing that remains is the cemetery plot which is still in the ownership of the sisters.

Having been a member

of The Daughters of Charity since 1962, sister Rosa Lee Kramer has seen the Provincial House transform. Being her home for roughly 40 years, she experienced the campus life of the now gone Marillac College.

"There was a lot going on...it was all about preparing for service." Kramer said.

She finds the grounds around the Provincial House to be more possessed by this spirit of service than any supposed hauntings.



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009
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- College of Nursing
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences (includes BGS/BIS)

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program

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November 3, 4, 5 at the UMSL Bookstore
in the MSC • 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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Visit the UMSL Commencement website at www.ums.edu/commencement for more information
and to pre-register for your commencement photos with Gradtrak® by Chappell.

Ghosts of regular season remain as GLVC soccer tournament begins in victory

► **MATTHEW B. HAUNTED**
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's soccer team came into their final week of regular season action with a record of 8-5-2.

They also had a great chance at making it into the GLVC soccer tournament with two victories or one victory and a little help from a loss by some other GLVC schools.

UM-St. Louis plays Drury next weekend in a first round game. "Everyone who ever wore the Triton jersey would have been proud today," Head Coach Dan King said.

They accomplished this feat despite a loss on Friday night, because on Sunday they beat conference opponent Northern Kentucky 2-1.

The Northern Kentucky Norse where ranked No. 12 in the NCAA's Division II at game time on Sunday. Northern Kentucky had just beaten No. 3-ranked Drury last week.

Drury fell in the rankings to No. 7 this week.

On Friday, the UM-St. Louis men's soccer team lost 2-0 to Bellarmine. The Tritons were short three starters at the beginning of the game. Two were out with the flu.

They also lost senior Blair Spencer—who had been playing all season with rods and pins in his leg—during the game with what was thought to be a broken leg. Fortunately, x-rays turned out to be negative.

That loss brought UM-St. Louis' record to 8-6-2 and their chance at a GLVC tournament spot close to nil, but losses by other GLVC teams left the door open and a win against Northern Kentucky became a must.

At Northern Kentucky, the game started off with a goal by UM-St. Louis at the 52-minute mark of the second half. It was scored by

Johnny O'Mara, sophomore, on an assist by Andy Schaul, senior.

Schaul was one of the men who missed Friday's game with the flu. Northern Kentucky's lone goal came at around the 80th minute when All-American forward Steven Beattie scored. Beattie had 16 goals this season and 48 career goals in 58 games so far.

Beattie was to be marked, played man-to-man, by UM-St. Louis' Ryan Vines, senior. "I have no doubt if I have to mark anybody that I can shut them down," Vines said in an interview earlier in the season. "If he scores it's my

fault."

Shut him down he did.

"It was a team thing, but Vines did most of the work," King said. Goalkeeper Tim Boruff, sophomore, had to have eight staples placed in his leg at halftime to close an open wound. He came out and played a great second half.

UM-St. Louis' second goal came at around the 83rd minute of regulation play when Justin Barwick, junior, passed to Jordan Bruce, freshman. It was Bruce's first career goal and the game winner to boot.

UM-St. Louis will be seeded No. 8 in the GLVC tournament, while Drury will be

the No. 1 seed.

Earlier in the season, Drury defeated UM-St. Louis 3-0. UM-St. Louis' regular season record finished at 9-6-2. Their record last season was 6-10-2.

During two-a-days in August, King said, "[The] team is in really good physical shape and I thought they came back prepared to strive to improve on last year's record—which was one of our goals—and I think they are prepared to strive to reach that goal."

Game time for UM-St. Louis' first round GLVC playoff game on Sunday was not yet announced before publication.

Women's soccer face the terrifying 1st ranked team in the GLVC

► **ANTHONY "THE ANIMAL" PADGETT**
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's soccer team at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is nearing the end of their season. They played three of their final four games of the year last week.

On Tuesday, the Tritons hosted SIU-Edwardsville at Don Dallas Field. SIUE was once a member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, but now competes at the Division I level and entered Tuesday's match with an overall record of 1-8-1.

The Tritons would lose the game 4-0, and end their four-game homestand with a record of 2-2. The Tritons failed to score a single goal and had only four shots with one on goal. SIUE had 14 shots with five on goal. Amy Boehm, senior, played goalkeeper the entire game for the Tritons and recorded one save while allowing four goals.

On Friday, the team took to the road to Kentucky to face the conference foe Bellarmine. Bellarmine entered the match with an overall record of 11-2, and was ranked

24th in the nation, and second in the GLVC.

The Tritons stepped up their game and did not allow a single goal to be scored against them in the first and second halves, but the offense for the Tritons failed to score a goal for the second straight game. It was not until the 72nd minute of the second half that forward Jesa Jenkins, sophomore, would have the first shot of the game for the Tritons. The game would go into double overtime before Bellarmine would score the game winner.

It was the fifth time the Tritons were shutout this season and the second 1-0 loss on the season. The Tritons were outshot 19 to 5. Boehm played goalkeeper the entire game, 103 minutes, and recorded four saves while allowing one goal. On Sunday, the Tritons faced another tough conference school, Northern Kentucky, who is ranked 12th in the nation, and first in the GLVC with an overall record of 14-2.

It was the last GLVC game of the season for the Tritons. They would lose the game

4-1 and would score their only goal in the 80th minute with Danielle Dahm, senior, scoring her third goal of the season. Both Anne Nesbit, senior, and Sarah Stone, senior, would receive assists for the goal. Boehm again played

goal the entire game and recorded nine saves while allowing four goals. Northern Kentucky outshot the Tritons 31-13 and had more shots on goal with 13 to the Tritons' six.

With the loss, the Tritons

overall record is 4-11-1 and ends any chance they had for a GLVC playoff run.

A rainout from Oct. 7 has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at Don Dallas Field against Washington Universi-

ty. Wash U plays at the Division III level, with an overall record of 10-2-1, and currently sits in first place in the University Athletic Association. It will be the final game of the season for the women's soccer team.

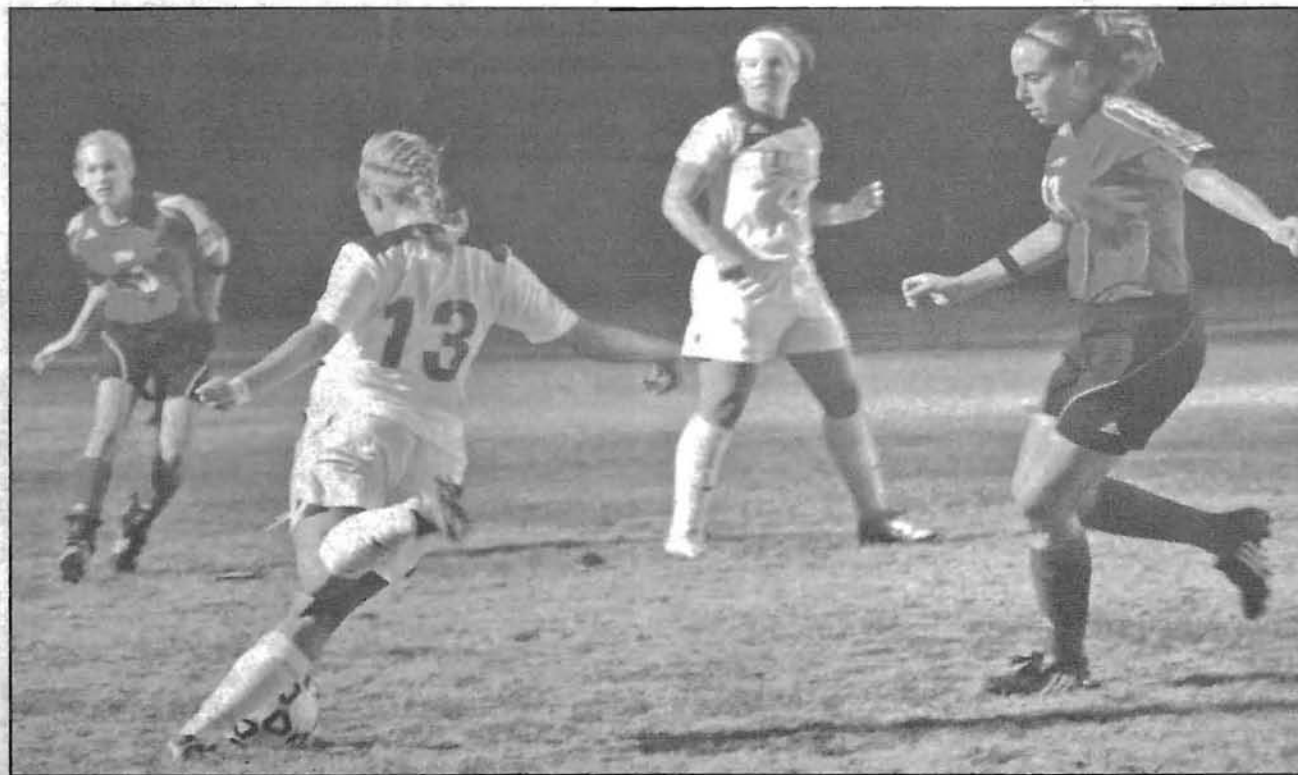


PHOTO BY AHHHHH!-MAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

The UM-St. Louis women's soccer team closed out a four game homestand with a 4-0 loss to SIU-Edwardsville.

CEDDIE SAYS...

Flag football playoffs: something to do on Tuesday besides stalking the living in search of blood

► CEDRIC KILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The campus rec flag football playoffs are here, and I have to admit, I am as excited about them as I am for any of the other campus sports here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

That is not a knock on our varsity sports teams. I am proud to be a Triton, and by now, everyone oughtta know I am UM-St. Louis' number one sports fan.

Instead, my sometimes wacko interest in the flag football league comes from my deep love for the game itself and my heartfelt support for the guys that play in the

league.

If you have ever watched even one of the campus rec football games, then you know those guys are half-way nuts, but it's cool, because so am I.

Last week, the folks that work at the Mark Twain Building must have thought I was completely nuts. I was supposed to be watching the men's and women's basketball teams practice inside the gym, but I just couldn't help going back outside to the rec field to find out what was going on in the football games.

The best game from last Tuesday was a matchup of two of the more exciting teams in the league: the

Suicide Kings and the Free Agents.

The Suicide Kings jumped out to a 14-0 halftime lead, thanks to a touchdown pass and a brilliant touchdown run by dynamic quarterback Harvey Binford, freshman, dance, but somehow the Free Agents managed to tie the game up early in the second half.

I am disappointed that I did not see how they did it—I had gone inside to watch the women's basketball team practice—but I returned to the gridiron in time to see Binford throw another touchdown pass in the game's final minutes to lead his team to a very important win.

"I thought we played pretty good as a team," Binford said. "We really wanted to win this game. I think if we keep playing good defense like we did today, we have a real good chance to win the championship."

The Suicide Kings finished the regular season 5-1 and will enter the playoffs as the No. 2 seed. That's because three-time defending league champ Sigma Pi earned the No. 1 seed by holding off Eye Win, 13-12 in the final game of the day.

The win was significant for Sig Pi because it was their first victory in more than two years without star quarterback P.J. Tallo, junior,

physical education, who recently left the team to pursue a professional hockey career in Italy.

If the campus rec folks gave out an MVP award, Tallo would have won it the last two years, but Sig Pi team member Mike Dowd, senior, marketing, said his team is perfectly capable of winning with someone other than Tallo at quarterback.

"It's not like we built the team around the guy," Dowd said. "We've got a bunch of good players. As long as everybody shows up, we've still got a solid team."

The Sig Pi guys will get a bye in the first round and won't have to play un-

til next week when they'll face the winner of the 4 vs. 5 game between Eye Win and the Midwest Maulers. It should be an excellent matchup.

The middle game on Tuesday will pit the Suicide Kings against the league's only winless team, the Pikes. That one might be a slaughter. The first game of the day is another fun matchup between the Free Agents and a new team called the PE Gongshow.

I'm gonna be there and I hope you will too, because here at UM-St. Louis, it just doesn't get any better than the fun we have playing and watching campus rec flag football.

BASKETBALL, from page 11

five-team divisions, with 12 teams (the top three in each division and three wildcards) qualifying for the postseason.

Thanks to the expanded postseason format, teams all over the league are excited about their chances to reach the postseason. And the Triton men seem like one of the teams most likely to benefit.

"Everybody in our league is pretty good," Pilz said. "So I don't think there's an easy way to get in the GLVC Tournament. That said, I think our team is very capable [of qualifying for the postseason]."

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team will play the same conference schedule as the men. And although the Triton women are coming off a 7-21 season, they also seem like a team destined to reach the postseason this year.

"Either way, I wanted a better shot at making the conference tournament," Lisa Curliss-Taylor, UM-St. Louis women's basketball coach, said. "Whether it was in three divisions or two, our goal this year is to get to the confer-

ence tournament, especially for our seniors. The work they've put in, they deserve to get to that postseason."

UM-St. Louis will remain in the GLVC West this season, and will play a home-and-home series against other West Division members: Drury (Springfield, Mo.), Maryville (Chesterfield), Missouri S&T (Rolla), and Rockhurst (Kansas City).

The GLVC East will consist of out-state schools Bellarmine, Indianapolis, Kentucky Wesleyan, Northern Kentucky, and Southern Indiana, while the remaining teams, Lewis, Quincy, St. Joseph's, UIS, and Wisconsin-Parkside, will form the new GLVC North.

The UM-St. Louis women will get the hoops action started this season when they host their home opener at the Mark Twain Building on Monday, Nov. 16, against crosstown rival Lindenwood.

The Triton men will host their home opener two days later on Wednesday, Nov. 18, against Blackburn. Both games will tip-off at 7 p.m.

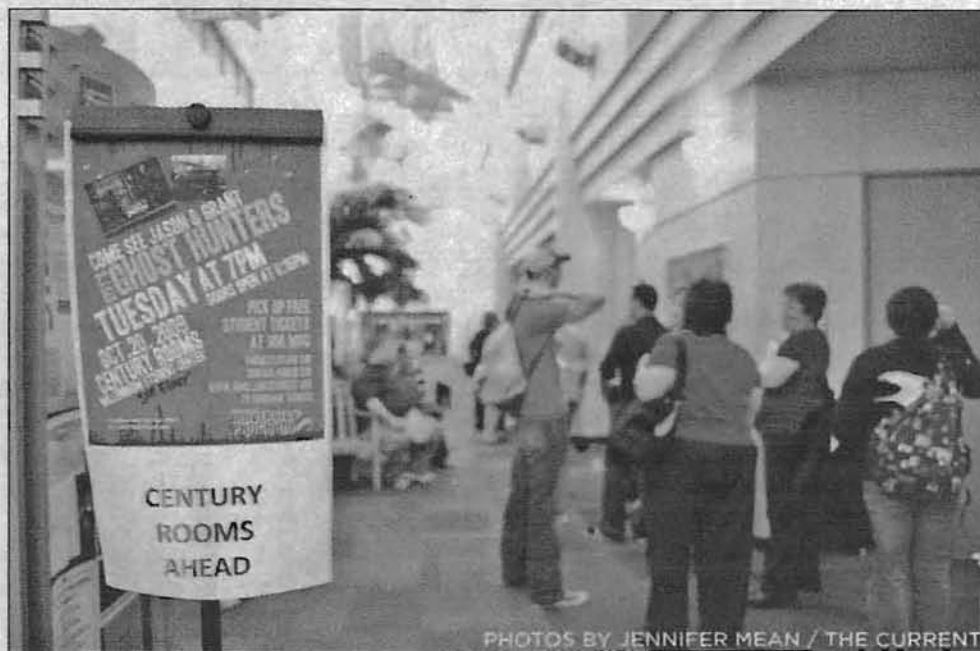
STAT BOX

MEN'S SOCCER			WOMEN'S SOCCER			VOLLEYBALL		
Team	GLVC (W-L-T)	Overall (W-L-T)	Team	GLVC (W-L-T)	Overall (W-L-T)	Team	GLVC (W-L)	Overall (W-L)
Drury	11-0-0	14-1-0	N. Kentucky	10-2-0	13-2-0	Lewis	8-0	21-3
N. Kentucky	10-2-0	13-2-1	Bellarmine	9-2-0	11-2-0	Indianapolis	7-1	26-1
Lewis	9-3-0	11-3-1	Quincy	9-2-1	11-4-1	UM-St. Louis	6-2	16-9
UW-Parkside	7-2-2	12-3-2	Drury	9-3-0	12-4-0	N. Kentucky	6-2	16-9
Bellarmine	7-4-0	9-4-1	Indianapolis	9-3-0	12-4-0	Rockhurst	5-3	14-11
Missouri S&T	6-4-1	6-5-1	UW-Parkside	7-3-2	8-3-3	St. Joseph's	5-3	11-14
UM-St. Louis	6-4-2	8-5-2	S. Indiana	6-5-1	8-7-2	Bellarmine	4-4	10-6
Quincy	6-5-1	7-7-2	Rockhurst	6-5-1	7-7-1	Drury	4-4	12-10
Rockhurst	6-6-0	8-8-0	Missouri S&T	5-6-0	5-7-1	S. Indiana	4-4	11-12
St. Joseph's	5-5-2	8-6-2	Maryville	4-7-1	5-9-1	Missouri S&T	4-5	9-20
Indianapolis	5-6-1	7-6-2	UM-St. Louis	4-7-1	4-8-1	UW-Parkside	3-5	18-8
S. Indiana	3-9-0	4-10-1	Ky. Wesleyan	4-9-0	7-9-1	Quincy	3-5	6-16
Ky. Wesleyan	2-10-1	5-12-1	Lewis	3-8-1	4-9-2	Ill. Springfield	1-7	8-15
Maryville	1-10-1	1-13-1	St. Joseph's	1-11-0	2-13-0	Maryville	1-8	3-17
Ill. Springfield	0-12-1	1-13-1	Ill. Springfield	0-13-0	2-13-0	Ky. Wesleyan	0-8	2-20

**WE'RE ALWAYS
THE FIRST ON THE SCENE!**
(at UM-St. Louis)
(sometimes...)

Features

Group gathers to greet and glean from ghost hunters Hawes and Wilson



The line for the Ghost Hunters event wrapped around the third floor of the MSC on Tuesday. The doors opened at 6:15 p.m. and though the line was long, the wait wasn't.

► AARON HELLFIRE Staff Writer

Peering through the crack between the doors, possessed fans caught a glimpse of the two men who attracted a large crowd of believers to the Millennium Student Center on Tuesday night.

The men on the other side were Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson. Once former plumbers, they now investigate paranormal activity on their popular television show "Ghost Hunters," which airs regularly on the SyFy channel.

On Tuesday night the

popularity of their show was evident. Crazy fans were dismembering books for autographs and the line for entry encircled the top floor of the MSC. It was not clear whether the people packed into the Century Room were there to validate their supernatural beliefs or just to be in the

presence of these men. Either way the crowd seemed overly pleased by what they were presented with that night.

Hawes and Wilson took the stage and explained their methodologies of ghost hunting. Their slideshow took the crowd through case studies, photos, videos and audio recordings from their hunts. A portion of the night was plunged into darkness when they showed footage of paranormal activities. Scenes of a dark apparition speeding down a hallway to a possessed gate that continually closed when approached were part of the presentation.

In a question-and-answer session after their presentation, a boy asked whether they had ever come across any "real" paranormal activity. While eliciting a good laugh from the crowd, the answer revealed that these two men were not forcing conclusions onto their viewers.

"I don't know. All I can do is rule stuff out until I run out of information, then I can show it to people like you

and hopefully you guys can figure out what it is or rule it out," Wilson said.

Earlier in their talk they made it clear that the majority of cases they come across can be explained by natural reasons.

They mentioned a couple of cases where it was comically obvious, such as investigating a homeowner's claim of paranormal activity. Upon searching the house they found the culprit to be a cookie jar full of marijuana.

Students from the University Program Board held the event this year. Marcel Scaike, senior, liberal studies, was one of the students that brought the Ghost Hunters to University of Missouri-St. Louis last year.

"We brought them to campus and we got up to 600 students and outside community to participate. It was so well received, we decided to bring them back this year," Scaike said. "I think they have a huge following. I think paranormal activity is something that interests a lot

of people."

Adam Feldmanis, junior, accounting, would agree with these reasons for attending. Having continually watched the show since its beginning, he was definitely excited about seeing the two in person.

He finds their show more appealing than others because they present their evidence in a more trustworthy manner. "There's a few out there that I have watched and I don't believe them ... I feel like they are acting for the camera and I don't get that with these guys ... Their goal is to disprove," Feldmanis said.

Caitlyn Kelly, sophomore, criminology and criminal justice, finds trust to be the main reason why she is attracted to the show.

"They're really honest people. They don't sugar-coat stuff like most shows like that do. They show you when something is just your heater making noise ... they really are there to help the person who feels scared from their experiences," Kelly said.

E-mail hoaxes, scams, and urban legends have come to terrorize your computer

► SPOOKY SEQUITA BEAN Features Editor

One of the most annoying things for anyone is getting a hoax e-mail. Most of them are harmless, and say things like, "You will get a kiss at midnight from your crush if you forward this to seven people," but some of them are viruses that can wipe out your entire operating system.

More recently, an e-mail with the subject line "Bad-times" has been circling the Web.

This virus will wipe out your entire hard drive if

opened, Dr. Robert Banis, teaching professor of logistics and operating management, said.

These viruses are sent out in masses to millions of people, but how? "There is computer software you can buy that can search the internet for e-mail addresses," said Banis.

"If you put your e-mail address on a Web site, then the software can be used to search on the Web for anything that has a formatted e-mail address."

Dr. Banis suggests writing your e-mail address like

student(at)umsl.edu instead of student@umsl.edu to avoid your e-mail being picked up with the e-mail search.

Then there are e-mail urban legends. Most all are harmless, but the e-mails suggest forwarding, oftentimes by guilt.

"When I get those e-mails [that say] 'forward this to 30 people to save this child's life' I say to myself 'Oh I'm a bad person if I don't forward,'" Angela Williams, junior, business administration, said.

An e-mail urban legend going around for a few years

now is about a little girl named Kylie who is dying of a heart defect.

The e-mail even has a picture of the child, and encourages readers to forward by saying that billionaire Bill Gates will donate \$1 every time the e-mail is forwarded.

"Students can find out what is true or not by visiting <http://www.snopes.com>," Banis said. Snopes.com is a site that will dispel any e-mail hoax, virus rumor, or urban legend, like the one about Kylie.

Some hoaxes are fraudulently coming from popu-

lar retailers like Abercrombie and Fitch, Gap, Whole Foods, and even the Japanese car maker Honda. E-mail recipients are encouraged to forward the e-mails for a "chance to win" gift certificates, prizes and even cash, Snopes.com said.

E-mail recipients can avoid all the confusion and forwarding woes by simply moving their cursor over any links in the e-mail and checking the status bar to see where the link leads to. "Most of the time it's going to either Russia or China," Banis said.

Beware of the e-mail hoaxes

that say you must update your eBay or PayPal login information for security purposes.

"You automatically know that's false because PayPal is not going to send you something like that," Banis said. Another way to tell if the e-mail is a hoax is if it contains severely broken English and grammar.

The sender is most likely from another country, and is trying to gain money from the e-mail recipient.

UMSL After Dark

STORY AND CAPTIONS BY THE UNDEAD JESSICA KEIL
PHOTOS BY CHERA MEYER 'N' BRIMSTONE

After dark, after the night classes are let out, after the university staff has locked all the locks, after all living souls have vacated the premises, the University of Missouri St. Louis campus is transformed. Somewhat. Recently, a few staff members at *The Current* took a walk around campus in order to find out the low-down on "UMSL After Dark."

It was a breezy night, and a light drizzle fell upon the reporters' heads. Starting on South Campus, the Provincial House was first. A place many who do not attend the Pierre Laclede Honors College might not be familiar with, the Provincial House is unique for a college campus. Formerly owned by nuns and built in the beginning of the 20th century, the Provincial House includes classrooms, dorm rooms, a courtyard, a chapel and a clock tower. However, if the antiquated building is interesting to explore during the daylight, it is downright eerie in the darkness.

The group was most frightened by the basement of the building: from the sinister-looking vacant restrooms, to the haphazard items lying on the floor or on shelves (journals, old toys, trophies), to the indiscriminate noises heard. However, reporters hiding around corners and then yelling "boo!" at other reporters, may have helped keep pulses high.

On North Campus there were an uncanny few cars in the vacant parking lots and the group never encountered another person, not even a single graveyard shift security guard. The halls were silent, the Quad forlorn; nothing but the sound of windblown leaves scraping concrete could be heard. Strangely enough however, from the Quad the Social Sciences Building could be seen and of 13 floors lined with windowed offices, just one was lit. It was a frightening waste of energy!

Visiting UM-St. Louis after dark certainly came with its share of creepy moments, although there is nothing to report in the paranormal activity department. Campus slept quietly, and the MSC bridge, while shadowy, still played The U's tunes, albeit for a non-existent audience. The experience itself was edifying, as the group was undoubtedly able to view the UM-St. Louis campus in a different light - a darker, slightly menacing, but different, light.

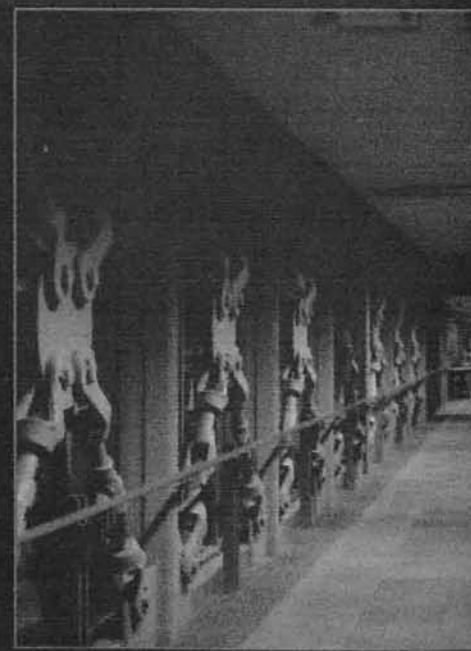


▲ Midnight at the clock tower

Ominously looking down on the darkened courtyard below is the South Campus Provincial House clock tower. Built in 1916, the tower was designed by the same firm that designed the Cathedral Basilika downtown and it was modeled after the Hampton Court Palace in Great Britain.

◀ Ghost dorms

A hallway, third floor Seton Hall, where students once lived on South Campus. Today the once-dormitories look like the rest of the world will after the inevitable zompocalypse comes to pass. The hallway is spooky, similar to a ghost town, making it seem as if a large tumbleweed might blow by at any second.





▲ Pilot "Haunted" House

Many hours after La Cantina Loca closes its fence for the day, the Pilot House does too. After all those commuters commute home, and as graveyard shift staffs' alarms start to go off, the Pilot House closes, blocking any potential human visitors for the night. However, it is unlikely that the fence can keep out those with a more airy, gossamer exterior. Be sure not to fall asleep in an armchair and get locked in the Pilot House after hours. It is so dark that even a peek through the chain link will show nothing but black.



▲ Trapped in the closet

Easily the scariest place on campus is the basement of the near-century old Provincial House. The above photo was taken there, where a row of old, wooden closets reside, housing things like rusty chairs, shelves, and belongings of persons unknown. A switch turns on a light in the closet farthest to the right, reminiscent of an interigation room from the 1940's. The closets, the darkness, the random leftovers from those who have come and gone, make the Pro Ho basement a place you probably do not want to visit alone after dark.

▲ There's a light

The Social Science Building is scarily tall (13 stories!) and after dark it must be haunted; why else would there be a lone office light on so late at night? Either the light was left on for the phantom of the SSB, or someone wasn't being very environmentally friendly. Either option has terrifying consequences.

◀ Shout, shout, let it all out

At night, the Millenium Student Center's bridge makes the same noises that it does during the day. When this photo was taken, "Shout" by Tears for Fears could be heard, as The U never rests. Despite the comfort of the radio station, the bridge is shadowy and seriously creepy after dark.





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Staff Spotlight



Dr. Kathleen Nigro
Assistant Teaching Director

PHOTO BY CHERA MEYER 'N' BRIMSTONE / THE CURRENT

▷ SPOOKY SEQUITA BEAN Features Editor

Women and gender studies instructor Dr. Kathleen Nigro's dissertation focused on women's writings in nature, which has spawned an interest in unique topics such as 19th century spiritualism and feminism in witchcraft.

The Current: So why teach gender and women studies?

Dr. Kathleen Nigro: When I was studying not only for that degree but also earlier degrees, gender studies was really relegated to certain classes, like Women in Literature. That was the only place you would study gender.

As I wrote my dissertation ... I realized how influential the issue of gender, socioeconomic class, [and] power issues are so intertwined with our realities because we have grown up that way, or that was the world in which we were born, we really never thought about it.

So I really became very intrigued in looking how those, what we call intersections, operated in the world; not only in literature but also in politics ... kind of to go back and re-examine how those things affected everything I had ever learned, which of course invalidated everything I had ever learned.

TC: Do you teach a ghost sto-

ries class?

KN: I don't really look at the gothic element of ghosts. What I look at more is a [phenomenon] through the 19th century, which is the fastest growing religion in the United States of all time.

A million people called themselves spiritualists and nobody knows anything about that religion today ... It grew up basically around the time of the Civil War, where people lost so many loved ones, and really wanted to believe that the membrane between the two dimensions was much thinner and more permeable than they might of believed or had been taught.

It was really a perfect time for people who felt they could mediate those two worlds, mediums, to be able to communicate. Now whether or not they really did communicate, we will never know the answer to that question. The point is that people wanted to believe in that.

One of the main focuses of the class in terms of gender is that this is the first and only religion in the United States in which women had a founding voice and a directing voice.

You really have to discuss when someone is speaking through somebody; is that someone else's voice or is that the voice of the person who is speaking?

There are a lot of things to debate, so we really investigate that aspect of it. Now I'm not going to say we're above saying this is a really creepy story, we do share those very popular culture things, but we really try to keep the focus on issues of power in 19th century, certainly in terms of the spiritualist movement.

TC: You also teach a class about witchcraft and feminism.

KN: It's really a very serious study into why, [and] when there were women who supposedly had a certain amount of power, did they have to be destroyed?

Why were we so terrified of women having knowledge and power? We kind of look at that through time, not only about that time which is the literal witch hunt, but also metaphorically how do we see that notion of why are we afraid of people gaining power from the ruling class.

TC: What else does gender and women studies have to offer students?

KN: There is no occupation that a person can go into, that you could name, that the knowledge that they would gain would not benefit them ... I think the thing about it is such a "click" experience when you realize that you hadn't thought about this but how much you can rethink what you thought.

Halloween events, on and off campus

▷ BRIDGET "GHOST" RYDER Staff Writer

Halloween is one of the most fun nights of the year. With the holiday being just a few days away, now is the time to check out the festivities both on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus and around St. Louis.

In anticipation of Halloween, the Resident Hall Association at UM-St. Louis will be hosting its annual "Heaven and Hell" party for students living in the resident halls. Beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29, the multipurpose room of the Pro-

vincial House will be turned into a most unusual scene of devils and angels dancing and dining together.

As the title implies, attendees should come dressed either as figures from heaven or hell. "Students decided on the theme of the party themselves", Khalilah Doss of Residential Life said.

For those of a cultured literary bent, the Lemp Mansion is offering a free "Evening of Edgar Allen Poe" on Wednesday, Oct. 28 beginning at 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy readings from the author known for his tales of murder and mystery as well

as his dark poetry. "Annabell Lee," "The Raven," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Black Cat," "Dream Within a Dream," and excerpts from "The Fall of the House of Usher" will be interpreted by Anne Louis Williams.

"An Evening with Poe" will take place in the intimate setting of the Victorian parlor. According to Patty Pointer, vice president of the Lemp Mansion, the audience of last week's Poe reading varied in age from 15 to 65.

The James Mitchell Salon is also hosting "Haute Halloween" at the Mad Art Gallery in Soulard to benefit the

Ronald McDonald House. In the eclectic atmosphere of the Mad Art Gallery, the Haute Halloween will include a decade dance party with music from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and the new millennium, as well as food and drinks all night long.

According to Shannon Rayburn, arts and public events director, this former police station was the scene of many violent acts. Although it is now rehabbed into an art gallery, visitors can still see the old jail cells.

Not far from the old jailhouse on South Grand, Absolutli Goosed will be having

its first annual Vampires Ball. That the atmosphere will be "elegant, with a little creepy," Kim Keplar, assistant manager, said.

The waiters and staff will all be dressed as vampires in their finest, and the tables will be rearranged to provide more space to move about and mingle, as well as dance. There will be a cash prize contest for the most blood curdling scream and six new cocktails have been created specifically for the evening.

Halloween night will also draw children from the Bel-Nor neighborhood to the nearby Catholic Newman

Center. For over five years, the Newman Center on Natural Bridge across from campus has been converting their garage into a "Haunted Garage."

Approximately 15 UM-St. Louis students will be playing parts in the "Haunted Garage," Mike Ruzycki, senior, Spanish, who is helping to coordinate the event, said. The students will also help facilitate the 350-400 children expected to come through the Newman Center's garage.

Halloween has something to offer for everyone in St. Louis. Find a costume, pick a venue, and enjoy the night.

Top Twenty Halloween Costumes for 2009

► JINXED JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

Whether they are five or forty-five years old, almost everyone enjoys dressing up for Halloween.

Here are the top five costumes for men, women and children.

Men

1. Zombie

Zombie costumes have rarely gone out of style. Why would they when people are only given a chance to be the living dead once a year?

2. Barack Obama

Presidents are usually prone to become Halloween costumes. As the new president in office, Barack Obama's face will be appearing in abundance on All Hallows Eve.

3. "Star Wars"

Most men love new technology and science fiction. Star Wars themed Halloween costumes allow them to "use the force" without being looked at with raised eyebrows for one night.

4. "Star Trek"

An addition to the science fiction theme, Star Trek also holds popular among men. Becoming Captain Kirk or Spock on Halloween gives new meaning to "Boldly going where no man has gone before."

5. Michael Meyers

What would Halloween be without a crazy murderer impersonation?

Women

1. Fairy Tales

From Red Riding Hood to Maid Marian, fairy tales will be coming to life in multi-

tude this Halloween.

In addition to the fairy tale theme, there are Disney movie classics. Many stores are selling a number of Disney women characters, namely Alice in Wonderland and Cinderella.

3. Farrah Fawcett

Another ode to lost celebrities, Farrah Fawcett wigs and 1970s outfits have been selling out in numbers among women.

4. Decade Costumes

With a wide range of years to choose from, decade costumes never go out of style. Most women take preference in the 1920s, 1950s, and 1970s.

5. Superhero

Superhero women that are popular this year include Superwoman, Robin, and Batgirl.

Children

1. Hannah Montana

The Disney Channel sensation has spread influence to little girls everywhere. This Halloween will consist of a number of blonde wigs and fake microphones to emulate the superstar.

2. Witches

In addition to the traditional pointy hat and broom wands, are Harry Potter fans who will be donning wands, capes, and most likely one of the four houses emblem.

3. "Transformers"

These were originally toys manufactured by Hasbro. The recent movie releases have inspired more Bumblebee and Optimus Prime costumes.

4. "High School Musical"

As another Disney channel sensation, expect many tiny Troy Boltons and Gabriella Montezs, with the possibility of singing and dancing coming along with them.

5. Mario Brothers Characters

Whether it is Luigi, Yoshi or Mario himself, the Mario Brothers are expected to take over streets this year.

General

1. Michael Jackson

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, they say. As an ode to the recently deceased king of pop, many are taking it upon themselves to mimic the infamous white gloves, curly hair, and red jacket.

2. Vampire

"Twilight" fans have escalated the demand of vampire costumes this year. Expect lots of Edward Cullen and Bella Swan look-a-likes running around among the traditional vampires.

3. Pirate

Arggh! Pirates are still in style and a hot costume, thanks mostly to the portrayal in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

4. Reality stars

This includes that of Jon and Kate (minus the eight), the judges of "American Idol," and the Kardashian sisters.

5. Community service members

These are known as the finest in our community, including firefighters and policemen, generally with a little twist.



KILL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT



Arts & Entertainment

'Brutal Legend' game ultimately triumphs

Tim Schafer is one of gaming's icons.

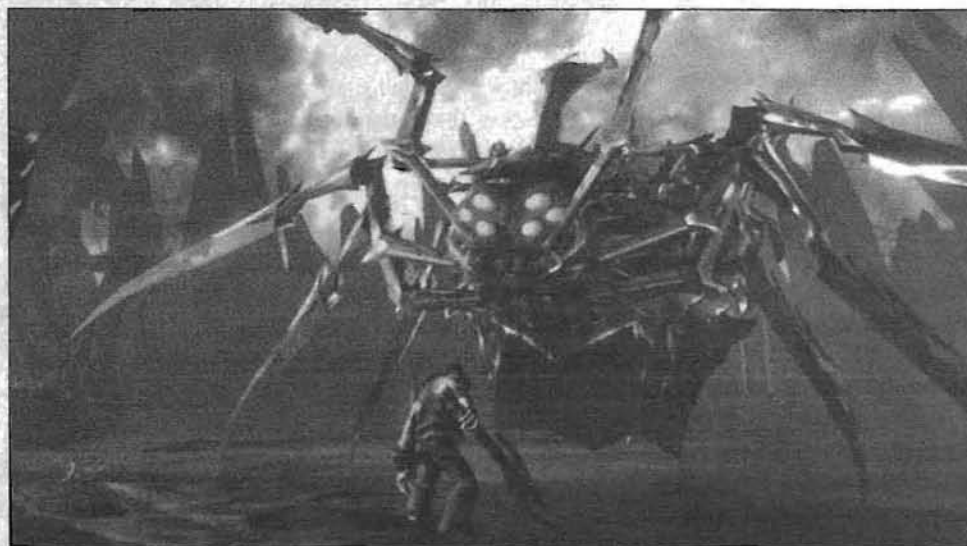
Known for his witty and genius work on LucasArts classics like "The Secret of Monkey Island," "Day of the Tentacle" and "Grim Fandango," Schafer has set the bar for engaging, comedic plots.

He left LucasArts in 2000 to found Double Fine Productions, whose first game "Psychonauts" would go on to win a bevy of awards for its hilarious humor and creative characters.

Double Fine's sophomore effort, the M-rated "Brutal Legend," is not nearly as funny or precocious as its T-rated predecessor.

However, it is an amazing game that deserves to be enjoyed, if you can look past its flaws.

"Brutal Legend ... [is] this



COURTESY / DOUBLE FINE PRODUCTIONS

overlap between medieval warfare and heavy metal ... That all gets put together, the heavy metal, and the rock, and the battling, actually does happen. Let's not flirt around with this, let's just do it," Schafer said.

And he did. "Brutal Legend" is an eclectic mix of all genres of metal and rock, lovingly crafted into a living, breathing world.

Many of the characters and places are named after or

for metal bands, metal icons or influential rockers.

Even the wildlife is hardcore, from the metal-quilled porcupines to the half-board-half-motorcycle creatures.

See BRUTAL, page 29

'The Darkness' continues to frighten

Created in 1994, "The Darkness" haunted house, located in downtown St. Louis near the Soulard Market, continues to terrify every year around the time of Halloween.

Since its creation, over 600,000 people have run from the various haunts inside, making it one of the "top ten most visited haunted attractions in America," according to USA Today, AOL.com, and Hauntworld.com. The haunted attraction was also spotlighted on the National Geographic Channel, the "Today Show," and The History Channel's "Modern Marvels."

At the door to the attraction, a man with a bullet through his head kindly offers a wedding band to every girl in sight and when

refused, suggests he will find a way to convince them, while the rest of the people in queue stand wondering where the screams inside are coming from. Once inside, it is eerily quiet, building tension until the first monster pops out from behind a door. Continue on through the two story attraction and one will encounter a "swamp house" filled with a maze and animated monsters that pop out when least expected. Next is the graveyard, and then the "mansion."

The mansion part of the attraction has various rooms, including a meat room, pig-man-bloody-cleaver-in-hand included. Also in the mansion is a maze of mirrors, trapping visitors with whoever happens to be hiding in the shadows and a giant

greenhouse with oversized plant creatures, including a massive, man-eating Venus Flytrap!

Arguably one of the best parts of the Darkness is the newest addition of the "Terror Visions in 3D." This latest nearly \$1 million addition gives guests the opportunity to experience the terror of a 3D haunted house, complete with crazy clowns that chase the guests, an ice-cream killer, and the puppet from "Saw" who charmingly asks each guest if they wish to "play a game."

The attraction ends in a "Monster museum" with costumes and props used in Hollywood Horror movies such as the ghost costume from "The Haunted Mansion," and the bicycle puppet used in the "Saw" movies. There

is also a store where visitors can purchase horror paraphernalia such as the poster for their favorite horror flick or an action figure of their favorite spook. Guests also have the option of paying to be "electrocuted" or to have their fortune read by a tarot card reader.

If a person is looking for a professional haunted house that really knows how to get the blood flowing, they should check out "The Darkness." For more information, potential victims, er, visitors can visit <http://www.scarefest.com>. Between the monsters roaming through the attraction and the animated machines that seem to pop out from nowhere, "The Darkness" gives its guests more than their money's worth. **B+** —Cannibal Curran

TOP 10 SCARY MOVIES by Spooky Sequita Bean

Depending upon personal taste and level of fearfulness, the scariness of a film can vary from one person to another. Here is my list of top ten scary movies of all time.

10. "Jesus Camp" (2006)

This documentary film is about kids attending a camp for Pentecostal children. The scariest thing about this film? The fact that the children deprive themselves of normal child behavior to protest at abortion clinics, call Harry Potter the devil, and find humor in reading Jack Chick comics.

9. "The Shining" (1980)

This psychological horror film is based on a Stephen King novel and directed by Stanley Kubrick. The story follows Jack Torrance (a writer), his wife, and his son Danny, who has psychic abilities.

8. "Candyman" (1992)

Say his name in the mirror five times and you will summon him... at the cost of your own life! This horror flick is based on an urban legend of a slave murdered for his relationship with his master's daughter.

7. "Jeepers Creepers" (2001)

This movie tells the tale of siblings returning home from college only to find an ancient demon known as "The Creeper."

6. "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" (1974)

A group of friends pick up a hitchhiker and run out of gas in the wrong place at the wrong time. The hitchhiker turns out to be part of a cannibalistic family who's most psychotic member has a knack of chasing down his victims with a chainsaw.

5. "The Devils Rejects" (2005)

This Rob Zombie directed thriller follows a murderous, mentally unstable family as they run from the police.

4. "Rosemary's Baby" (1968)

This Roman Polanski directed thriller stars Mia Farrow as Rosemary Woodhouse, who becomes pregnant after having a dream about being raped by the devil.

3. "Halloween" (1978)

Michael Meyers makes your pesky little brother seem like an angel in this classic horror flick. The film centers around Meyers, who escapes from a psychiatric hospital to kill his sister Laurie.

2. "Nightmare on Elm Street" (1984)

Directed and written by Wes Craven, the story follows teenagers as they are terrorized by serial murderer Freddy Krueger, although he can only haunt them in their dreams.

1. "The Exorcist" (1973)

Adapted from a novel of the same name, a Catholic priest attempts to free a young girl from demonic posses-



Paranormal Activity

Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Blumhouse Productions, R

COURTESY / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

There is a revolution in horror movies currently going on. "Paranormal Activity" is in theaters right now, and it is doing horror differently.

For too long, "fright" movies have been confused with the horror genre. Fright movies rely on sudden scares, cheap thrills, and the antagonist(s) are usually human in nature.

The word "fright" implies "a sudden shock or fear," usually of short duration, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Horror, on the other hand, implies a "sense of shock at a danger that is also evil."

The last decent horror film was "The Blair Witch Project" in 1999. Sure, it was a little over-marketed, but it at its core, it was a good movie. Its use of "shaky" cam and actor-filmed scenes was something that had not been attempted on a mainstream scale, and it was very commercially successful.

"Blair Witch" and "Paranormal Activity" have some similarities. Both were shot in a non-traditional way (documentary-style), both had a smaller-than-normal budget, and both involve the paranormal. But there the similarities end.

"Paranormal Activity" is the tale of Katie (Katie Featherston) and Micah (Micah Sloat), a couple who believes the house they are living in

together is haunted. Things tend to happen at night—there are random noises and other spooky things happening—so Micah purchases a video camera to record what happens while the couple is sleeping.

The atmosphere of "Blair Witch" was made spookier by the entire thing occurring in the woods at night, which is fairly creepy stuff.

"Paranormal Activity," on the other hand, takes place entirely in the couple's unremarkable house, which at first glance appears average and mundane.

One of the more intriguing aspects of "Paranormal Activity" is its back story. Director Oren Peli shot the movie in 2007 using only \$11,000, with a handful of amateur actors in his own house.

Paramount picked up the film this year.

The movie was distributed virally, originally opening in 13 college towns across the U.S.

From there, people were encouraged to vote to bring the film to their town.

If it garnered 1,000,000 votes, the film would be released nationwide.

It got more than enough, and the movie was released nationwide Oct. 16.

The film begins in media res, with Micah turning on the camera and giving a quick

tour of the house. The beginning moments of the film are all about pacing and slowly setting up the heavy atmosphere for later on. It seems easy for the casual watcher to be lulled into a false sense of security.

"Paranormal Activity" is a hard movie to review.

To talk about the plot would give too much away. Suffice to say that the plot is exquisitely paced and incredibly engaging.

It is also incredibly scary. You will jump out of your seat, and multiple times at that.

The actors do an amazing job. You really get the feeling that you are getting a glimpse into the lives of a real couple. Micah's camera shows the couple's day-in, day-out activities, while the events occurring at night continue to worsen.

The breakdown of the loving couple as the paranormal activity increases is masterfully done.

For the jaded horror junkie tired of the same old Hollywood remakes, "Paranormal Activity" is a godsend. It is a breath of fresh air in the crowded horror genre. It is currently selling out across the country, and its viral status is well-deserved: this is one hell of a film.

Go see it now, and do not go alone. **A+** —Andrew "Clubbin' Baby" Seal

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant

John C. Reilly, Josh Hutcherson
Universal Pictures, PG-13

"Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant" mixes vampires, circus sideshow freaks, magic and Grand Guignol theater into a spooky comic entertainment, but what really makes the show is the delightful John C. Reilly as a vaudevillian vampire who tap dances with his deadly trained spider.

Oh, come on, you know you want to see that!

"The Vampire's Assistant's" story centers on two high school friends: Darren (Chris Massoglia), a good kid who gets good grades and obeys his parents, and his rebellious best bud Steve (Josh Hutcherson), who has a little taste for vandalism and secret wish to be a vampire.

A new factor enters their suburban lives, with a flier for a one-night only "freak show" by a traveling troupe called Cirque du Freak, at an old abandoned and run-

down theater in the seedy side of town. Parents are outraged at the thought of a freak show but Darren and Steve sneak off to see it anyway.

At the dusty theater, a whole cast of outcasts dazzle and frighten the audience with Halloween-flavored magic show and circus acts, including the tap-dancing magician Larten Crepsley (John C. Reilly). However, there are sinister forces tracking the performers, more scary than the magic on stage. Darren is drawn to Crepsley's colorful spider and soon the boys are both drawn in to the world of the Cirque and the more sinister world they are fleeing.

Spooky suspense, action and comedy all blend to make director Paul Weitz's movie a kind of vampire world fun ride. The tale of good and evil vampires is based on a series of teen books but its humor tack makes it entertaining to all audiences.

Of course, this is all tongue-in-cheek Halloween fun, but what really makes this film work is John C.

Reilly.

A star of musical theater in Chicago before switching to movies, gifted actor Reilly strikes just the right balance, gracefully menacing with voice pitched lower than usual and amusingly droll as a wise-cracking vampire, who has found a new life in a traveling spooky vaudeville show. His fright wig hair and caveman face add just the right touch to his hypnotic, graceful vampire who is clothed in elegant, dark 19th century attire and flowing overcoat, all elements turned to good use, as he plays the character straight-faced.

There is also the surprisingly good supporting cast, which includes Willem Dafoe as mustachioed vampire ally Gavner Purl, Salma Hayak as the psychic, bearded (sometimes) lady Madame Truska, Ken Watanabe as ringmaster Mr. Tall (who is), Daniel Fugit as blue, scaly-skinned Evra the Snake Boy, who really just wants to be in a band, and Orlando Jones as Mr. Ribs.

See ASSISTANT, page 24

Also in Theaters

Saw VI Another Halloween, another Saw flick. The sad thing is, as the movies get worse and worse and adults stop taking them seriously, the audience gets younger and younger. 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*.

Couple's Retreat. Vince Vaughn has got to be getting too old for this, and yet it's almost like "Fred Claus" and "Four Christmases" didn't teach him a lesson. Maybe he's mad at us because people still occasionally recognize him on the street as Norman Bates in Gus Van Sant's 1998 re-make of "Psycho." **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*.

Dark, deadly, tragic, but 'La Boheme' is for lovers

"La Boheme," a French opera, was performed at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. An opera after Louis-Henri Murger's "Scènes de la vie de bohème," it was performed by the European opera touring company Teatro Lirico D'Europa. And an excellent performance this touring company presented. Encore, encore, encore.

Where to start a tres, or very, positive review is difficult.

It is a tragedy about talented, but broke, starving and dying French artists in the 1800s. But the main theme in this opera is amour, or love. These singers communicated this greatest of emotions excellently throughout the entire performance.

Quite an accomplishment since the opera is French but it is sung in Italian, the traditional language of opera. The singers conveyed that love by effective acting, in looks and actions, as well as deeply moving lyrics in song.

The characters of Rudolfo the poet (tenor Orlin Goranov) and his lover

Mimi (soprano Elena Razgylaeva), a seamstress, spoke of their love for each other so well. They start off just meeting accidentally, but it is clear from the beginning they are enamored with each other. From coy looks to accidental touches, they fall head-over-heels for each other. It was exciting to see two performers carry out their craft so well.

Then you have the painter Marcello (baritone Marian Jovanovsky) and his former lover, and soon to be lover all over again, Musetta (soprano Snejana Dramcheva). These two are at each others' throats when the audience first meets them. Musetta arrives with another man, wealthy and elderly Alcindoro (baritone Hristo Sarafov) but cannot stop trying to get Marcello's attention.

Musetta describes Marcello as just a "house painter." Marcello calls Musetta, in lyrics, a "hellcat." But that is all a farce. These two cannot keep their true thoughts, revealed in actions, hidden from the audience. Musetta even pulls the stunt of sitting down, pulling up her full-length dress and flashing



SCREAMIN' SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

"La Boheme" performed at the Touhill Performing Arts Center Last Wednesday. The Show was performed in Italian with English supertitles. The Opera was production by Teatro Lirico d'Europa. Arguably the most beloved and the most often performed of all operas, Puccini's tender yet tragic tale depicts the struggles of young artists as they fight to cling to life, love and laughter in the seedy world of Bohemian 19th century Paris.

her legs.

This is totally effective for her in winning the complete attention of Marcello. You can almost see his heart stop. They then are once again in each others' arms and are throughout the balance of the opera. Another aspect of this love and caring in the opera is shown by each friend's treatment of their companions. It is an emotion so well imparted at the end when Mimi is dying and all of them are so distraught.

Mimi needs medicine

but they are all monetarily broke. But in a sacrificial move similar to O. Henry's "Gift of the Magi," Musetta sells her prized earrings. Another friend Schaunard (baritone Plamen Dimitrov), a musician, pawns his long beloved overcoat, a sacrifice for a dying friend.

The orchestra, conducted by Krassimir Topolov, produced the greatest of music while never drowning out the vocalists. The sets were crisp and clean, even though they move with the opera

company as they travel. It felt very much as if Paris was in St. Louis, Mo., at the Touhill PAC.

The costumes were first rate in every respect. The "hellcat" Musetta's flaming red dress in the beginning set her apart from every character on the stage. Mimi's green dress, although weathered, fit her character to a "T." And the male starving artist's clothing made you feel as if you were in Paris in the 1800s. **A** —Matthew B. Haunted

Haunting contemporary music for Halloween

If you are looking for some haunting music for Halloween, here are some suggestions from more recent releases:

Zombie Zombie, "A Land for Renegades" (2008)

With a name like Zombie Zombie, it is easy to be misled.

Zombie Zombie, however, is perfectly indicative of the music. Sinister analog synthesizers couple with a driving rhythm section to produce soundtracks to slasher-film chase scenes. Occasional screaming adds a tongue-and-cheek layer to

the murderous militaristic beats reminiscent of punk forerunners Suicide.

Though a year old, this record is still a must for anyone playing out on Halloween who has enough sense to realize nobody actually enjoys dancing to "The Monster Mash."

Best heard while: dancing with a guy who is holding a bloody ax.

Cheveu, "Cheveua" (2009)

Cheveu is so French, it is scary. The lyrics are indistinguishable, song-structure is idiosyncratically winding and the recording is off-the-

cuff and homemade.

With only a computer drum machine, a guitar and occasional vocal tracks, they have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at rock 'n' roll.

Crust punk and eerie, windy synth backdrops make for a wonderful public service announcement.

Best heard while: fighting with the pumpkin of Halloween past ... and losing.

No Age, "Losing Feeling" (2009)

Ambient, relaxed EP from a band who made its name blowing out eardrums

at clubs in New York. This is a new direction for No Age.

What has not changed, though, is No Age's concern with being a great band. They still make their fans wait, playing with artistic feedback before leading into catchy guitar riffs and fast-paced drumming.

Though it takes a little while to get into No Age, once the bug grabs hold, it is pretty much all that you will want to hear.

Best heard while: the schedule is packed, school has started and there is no time for anything, but chilling out still

seems like a good idea.

St. Vincent, "Actor" (2009)

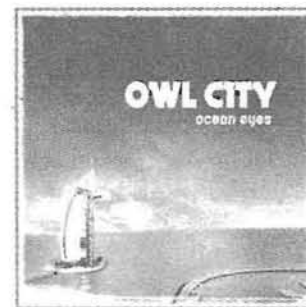
This is eerily beautiful like the children in "The Shining." The affect seems to be intentional, as the music often hints toward the poised scores from old films.

St. Vincent herself is equally poised, and more than a little disarming. There is a degree of intelligence in her lyricism that leaves the listener reminded of the barrier between ordinary people and cartoon princesses.

Best heard while: getting dressed for Halloween.

—Joe Stabber

iTUNES TOP 10 DOWNLOADED SONGS



01 Fireflies

Ocean Eyes
Owl City

02 Party in the USA

Party in the USA
Miley Cyrus

03 Meet Me Halfway

The E.N.D.
The Black-Eyed Peas

04 Whatcha Say

Whatcha Say
Jason DeRulo

05 3

The Singles Collection
Britney Spears

06 Replay

Replay
Lyz

07 Down

Down
Jay Sean

08 I Gotta Feeling

The E.N.D.
Black Eyed Peas

09 Paparazzi

The Fame
Lady GaGa

10 Sweet Caroline

Glee Cast Recordings
Glee Cast

What's your favorite album?
Let us know:
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

Rep's 'Sleuth' brings murderous gamesmanship for Halloween

What could be better for Halloween than a little mystery? How about a cat-and-mouse game of trickery and skullduggery? That is what "Sleuth," the current production at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, offers—a Halloween treat full of tricks.

Audience members who have seen one or both of the movie versions of this psychological thriller are still in for surprises, as there are changes. Because the entertainment depends on what happens, we will limit description of the plot to its set-up. Andrew Wyke (Munson Hicks) is a successful, wealthy but aging upper-crust British mystery writer. Wyke specializes in the kind of murder mystery series in which his gentleman sleuth out-foxes the plodding police in rooting out the real killer, in tales set in English countryside manors, a sort of Agatha Christie-Sherlock Holmes hybrid.

Wyke has invited Milo Tindle (Michael Gabriel Goodfriend), the owner of a moderately-successful travel agency who is the son of an Italian immigrant, up to his posh but quirky country mansion to talk—about Tindle's relationship with Wyke's wife. After some initial verbal sparring, Wyke, who adores games, involves the younger

man in a curious plan with a touch of gamesmanship.

Deceit, class prejudices, disguises, age-versus-youth and a will to win at any cost are all themes that run through this quick-footed, quick-witted psychological thriller entertainment. "Sleuth" was written by Anthony Shaffer, whose brother Peter penned the Rep's season opener "Amadeus." Michael Evan Henry directed the deliciously evil production.

The Rep has a reputation for some of the best staging and sets in St. Louis theater. This opulent set reinforces that reputation.

The interior of Wyke's mansion is all red and black, modern and Gothic, with a grand staircase dominating the center, a balcony and large, multiple-paned window on the back wall that supposedly opens on a back garden. There are doorways leading off stage, closets to hide things in and an entryway with an unseen front door—a set with plenty to hide.

The striking set was supposedly inspired by the home of Shaffer's friend, composer Steven Sondheim, who was partial inspiration for the game-loving Wyke character.

The two actors are on stage most of time and some

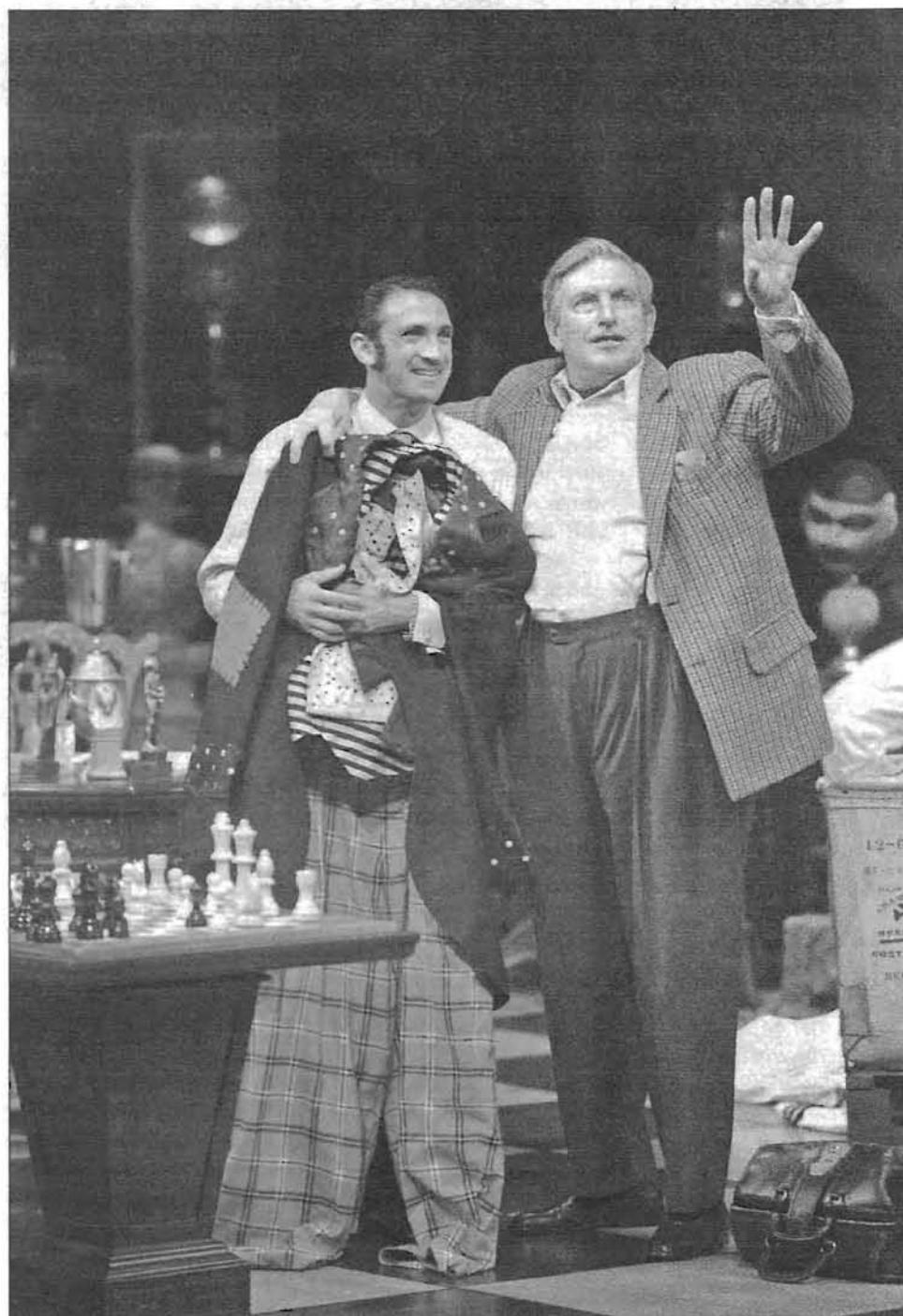
energetic work is required of them. Munson Hicks plays Andrew Wyke with a broadly playful manner, a man who seems the life of the party but with a cunning spoiled brat lurking underneath. When the issue of game-playing, and who wins, comes up, Wyke salivates like an addict. Michael Gabriel Goodfriend's Milo Tindle is a more straight-forward man, someone who prefers plain-dealing, and is clearly a bit rattled by the larger-than-life, egotistical Wyke—at least until he, too, gets into the spirit of the game.

The plot plays games with the audience, just as the characters play games with each other, but the resulting play is a satisfying evening's entertainment. Conventions of murder mysteries and preconceived notions all get a work out. While all is revealed at the end, the Rep encourages you not to tell, lest you spoil the fun for the next audience.

"Sleuth" runs through Nov. 8 at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' Loretto Hilton Theater on the Webster University campus.

Information on show times and ticket prices are available at the Rep website www.repstl.org. **A**

—Cate "Du Freak" Marquis



COURTESY / REPERTORY THEATER OF ST. LOUIS

Andrew Wyke, a prominent English mystery writer, invites young Milo Tindle to his isolated, elaborate country house to settle a rather unpleasant bit of business: Milo is having an affair with Wyke's wife. "Sleuth" runs through Nov. 8 at the Loretto Hilton Theater.

ASSISTANT, from page 22

Of course, the Cirque "freaks" are a good deal less freakish than the rigid townspeople and less scary than the mysterious villains like Murlaugh (Ray Stevenson) and Mr. Tiny (Michael Cervensis), who is not, lurking in the shadows and plotting around them.

The visual elements are all

perfect, from the dusty dark theater, to the graveyard fight scenes, to the Cirque's gypsy camp. Costumes are spooky Halloween styles that hit all the right keys for circus, vampires and Gothic.

There are slapstick bits about learning vampire powers, some supernatural fight scenes and nasty little trolls

that look like Golem in a tiny monk's robe. Because it is all played straight but tongue-in-cheek spooky, "The Vampire's Assistant" is very amusing light entertainment. It is not great cinema, just lots of fun—the perfect popcorn-munching movie treat for Halloween. **B** —Cate "Du Freak" Marquis

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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*.

Hateful tracts passed around campus

What may be more horrifying than the very idea of sacrilege is the exploitation of it. Chick Publications, one of the better known Christian tract companies, has a knack for being hateful. As the characters representing ultimate evil are severely exaggerated, the tracts aim to sensationalize the presented evils of non-Christian ways. Geared towards converting sinful minds, Chick clearly seeks to provoke more fear than love.

In the past few weeks, piles of these tracts have been left in various areas around campus, including the MSC study lounges.

This was done, presumably, without University permits, thus revealing that the

individuals promoting this particular brand of Christianity bear no respect for either common courtesy, or University bylaws.

Even if someone had requested a permit for these publications, however, this would hopefully be immediately denied.

The spread of material which often comes off as fear-promoting, vile, lie-filled, stereotypical and homophobic (as well as generally xenophobic) rhetoric tends to be frowned upon by our university.

One reason for this recent inundation would seem to be the approaching holiday. Two of Chick's Halloween tracts focus on the idea that Satan

created Halloween as trickery for naive Christian children, to lure them into sinful ways.

"Happy Halloween" features the death of a young boy, and his reckoning in Hell. All the while, his friends and family members talk of how he could not have been saved, for lack of asking Christ to forgive him.

The tract "Boo" explains Halloween's origins as nights of sacrifice held by the Druids. In order to relay the dreadful character of the Druids, the tract says, "Those guys were really spooky." Later, we are informed that as judgement day approaches, so will Satanic activity, "including human sacrifice" the tract yells. Apparently this is

all part of what Chick and co. see as their God's divine plan.

Another non-halloween tract, which exposes the "truth" of Islam, focuses more on dehumanizing the members of the faith than it does on its salvation message. Alluding to violent ways and blatant disregard for other religions, the tract paints Islam's defendant as misguided and rough skinned - a stark contrast to the Christian witness.

Apparently Chick does not realize the multitude of violence and violent-promoting passages in the Bible that most people are good enough to realize are not practiced by most Christians, just as the vast majority of Muslims

are peace-loving people concerned with living and worshipping in the manner they choose. Deuteronomy 21:18-21 for instance instructs how parents should take their disrespectful teenagers out to the city elders and stone them to death if they remain rebellious.

"This was your life" is the top selling tract from Chick. Illustrating a rich man, suddenly deadened at the hands of the Grim Reaper, the tract goes on to explain the wickedness in the man's life by including only the most incriminating aspects.

It is immediately clear that the God of Chick Publications, will not budge. Instead of open arms of everlasting

love, Chick shows its readers that this God is more apt to slam the pearly gates in your face. Considering that this is how Chick views your average person, we will spare you how they depict homosexuals and homosexuality.

As a final note. If there is a God who is loving, forgiving, and perfect, He probably has a plan worked out in which the people that He created may live as best they can.

God doesn't make mistakes, so Chick and co. needn't feel the need to criticize other people, who also happen to be God's creation; even queers, muslims, and teens. After all, it's rude to criticize an artist's work when you're living in their house.

Come on and get motivated!

For most of our country's 233-year history, our Presidents have left office and passed into obscurity.

The idea of a post-Presidential career has largely been a product of the 20th century, as our former leaders have lived longer and found a need to fill the void in their lives once leaving the White House.

In some cases, their achievements have eclipsed their time in office.

Some have concentrated on preserving their legacy by building their Presidential museums or writing memoirs, like Gerald Ford. Others have continued to work for a greater good.

Jimmy Carter is a notable

example, he won the Nobel Prize in 2002 for his work toward peace in the Mid-East and has contributed greatly to the successes of Habitat for Humanity.

Since leaving office nine-months ago the newest ex-President, George W. Bush, has kept a low profile.

Apart from speaking engagements outside the U.S. in Canada and China, he has rarely been seen in public outside of Senator Ted Kennedy's funeral or the occasional Texas Rangers game.

This may seem fitting for a president who left office with a 22 percent approval rating, but George W. Bush has finally booked his first state-side speaking engagement as

a "special guest speaker" with the Get Motivated! business seminar today at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena in Fort Worth Texas, with a follow-up appearance in San Antonio on December 2.

"Get Motivated!" is a production of Peter and Tamara Lowe, a motivational speaking "dynamic duo" who's website describes their seminars as being, "world famous for its energizing, action-packed, star-studded, fun-filled, spectacular stage show."

As a part of his Fort Worth engagement, former President Bush will join the likes of Dr. Robert Schuller who is described on the Get Mo-

tivated! web site as "America's Best Inspirational Speaker," Rick Belluzzo "Legendary President of Microsoft" and Terry Bradshaw "Legendary NFL Hall of Fame Quarterback."

While we at *The Current* find the idea of our 43rd President moonlighting in his retirement as a motivational speaker a bit hilarious (the combined linguistic acrobatics of Bush and Bradshaw is humorous enough to consider).

We also believe it to be degrading to the image of the presidency and ill fitting of this one in particular.

Retired Presidents doing speaking engagements for money is nothing new.

Bill Clinton does similar engagements for Tony Robbins in Canada.

Bush's engagement, however, smacks of a type of cheapness typically reserved for get-rich-quick through real estate seminars at the airport Marriot and late night infomercials for Cash4Gold.com.

In particular, the idea of a president whose administration has been called by Bob Woodward the most secretive and dishonest since that of Richard Nixon, one that misled the American people into a costly war, neglected another conflict of greater importance and left our economy in its worst shape since the Great Depression as

a motivational speaker seems downright wrong.

We wonder what inspiration this man can offer an audience after he failed to inspire the people of this nation for eight years?

Bush's Presidency was characterized by its self-serving, walk-tall attitude and swagger, as well as a go-it-alone ethos that alienated our country internationally, reducing our stature and influence abroad.

The Current wonders if this leadership philosophy will be Bush's message this afternoon and on November 2nd. Moreover, we hope that if it is, that his audience will turn a deaf ear to it for their own sake and prosperity.

Bet you have something to say about these hot opinions. Let us know at:

TheCurrentOnline.com

Viewpoints

Unleashing America's sexual demons

Halloween is to voluptuous women in school uniforms as Christmas is to pleasantly plump men in Santa Claus suits.

Although festivities benefit from costumes, it is my understanding that the former is usually frighteningly foxier. By hook or by crook, a societal mutation in Halloween's evolution has manifested not only a night for children tromping about in costumes and collecting candy, but one for an older generation's annual garnering of sexual demons.

Varying from the Playboy Bunny (I never recommend going dressed as a centerfold), the tried and true school girl (always a personal winner), the naughty nurse, the French maid (there is probably nothing French about it), and even several scantily clad popular media characters like Jessica Rabbit, sex fits the bill for Halloween attire.

Usually, the American Halloween is a holiday in which society unleashes the demons it constructs—in this case, freedom of attire. Seductively selling cheap makeshifts of our fears to us in plastic Halloween packages, the costume companies annually profit from our societal dysfunctions.

I say these things primarily because the daily life of a woman can easily involve situations which can directly

result in fear.

Remarkably, something as simple as a poor choice of words might deliver an upercut into slut status, the last place women are taught to be.

Imposing a self-inflicting fear on women, society sadistically promotes accepting a role of untainted subservience in the patriarchal society.

All the while we see the counterpart, the male "stud," and how it enforces the notion that only males are allowed to be sexually active and explorative creatures without backlash. If a woman were to act in this fashion, she may be considered a slut, but does the external really trump the internal?

Even though I understand this as part of my culture, I have noted that as many Halloweeners have passed, even I have become one of the many clad as sexual demons. Deviating further and further from Pippi Longstocking or Hunter S. Thompson as my ideal costume choice, I haphazardly fall instead toward school girl uniforms, various types of maids, and even sexually frustrated housewives from the 1950s.

Sadly, Thompson was the most poorly received of all choices, but also one of the best constructed costumes.

As I aim toward exploiting the exploitations imposed



Sarah "House on Haunted" Hill

upon girls and women with costumes on Halloween, I have found it troubling that statements like this are only well-received on such a holiday.

This year, I plan to entertain the gender demons as Tank Girl. Coincidentally, Pippi Longstocking is in fact a popular costume this year. To this I say "bah"! My heroic Halloween harlot has a tank.

As it stands, the title of "slut" is obviously low rank in the Homo sapiens' world. Yet the word "slut" actually refers to fertile female horses. Usually mating with only a few males that were selected for their "stud" status, the slut makes it far less around the pasture than the male counterpart.

Either way, as the festivities come and go once again this year, I expect to witness the pushing of envelopes. Perhaps I shall have a friend dress as one, and then push him, with my tank.

Vampires suck, seriously

Why our love affair with the undead has led to a media flood

There is absolutely nothing sexy about Vampires. There, I said it.

America's terribly misinformed love affair with these supernatural suckers just does not make sense to me.

The nation's fascination with these unnatural undead is remarkably repulsive.

They are deceased abominations, immortal rotting corpses (corpses, mind you!) that rely on fresh blood just to survive.

Sure, the blood temporarily refreshes their desiccated features, but in no way would it make them even remotely attractive.

Their inability to withstand sunlight would not make them sparkle during the day.

Rather burst into flame and re-die in a delirium of pain as the very sun abhors their unholy presence.

Then again, I am not a teen girl, nor am I a fan of Stephanie Meyer's "Twilight" series.

Perhaps I am out of touch; maybe rotting corpses are what teenage girls find attractive these days.

My literary tastes run more toward the "Dracula" side of things.

Instead of vampires going out on dates, they are staked, drowned in holy water, their head is removed and a clove of garlic is stuck into their gaping maw before being lit on fire.

You hunt vampires, not date them. You treat them to a nice wooden stake, not a T-bone.

I do not blame Meyer for starting the vampire craze, because she did not.

That honor belongs to John Polidori with his book

"The Vampyre", all the way back in the 1800s.

However, the success of Meyer's books has led to an oversaturation of the vampire genre.

The vampire genre! There is no such thing, or at least, there did not used to be.

Once, vampires were relegated to the hallowed shelves of "Horror" and "Fantasy" much like their zombie cousins.

But now? Now, vampires have their own section in my local Barnes & Noble. The misguided worship and glorification of these creatures has reached a fever pitch.

Ahem: Ladies and gentlemen, may I present these books for your consideration.

We have: The "Twilight" series (of course), "The Vampire Diaries," "The Vampire's Assistant," "True Blood," "Vampire Academy," "Real Vampires," "The Morganville Vampires," "Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter," and the list goes on.

Really, all I need to mention is one book series: "Vampirates."

You read that right. Vampire pirates.

Really. Really!

Of course, there is big money in writing a vampire novel.

The bloodsuckers have even lured Dacre Stoker, very distant relative to "Dracula" author Bram Stoker, into partnering with writer Ian Holt to write a "sequel" to "Dracula."

That is right, you again read correctly, someone had the audacity to write a sequel to the best vampire novel ever written.



Andrew "Clubbin' Baby" Seal

These days, even if you are a hack author, as long as your book has sex, blood, fangs and drama, it will be devoured.

These books target teenagers and young adults, making them like vampires, and drinking up every blood-stained word on every blood-soaked page.

Now that I think about it, perhaps this craze is not that bad.

The oversaturation means that writing a vampire novel is definitely profitable.

Books are profitable when people buy them, and people buying books means they are reading them.

And with reading trends in America being as they have been in past years, let's not forget that anything that gets the younger generation to put down the cell phone or iPod and pick up a book should be encouraged.

Perhaps I was wrong to say teenagers are like vampires.

Maybe, just maybe, technology is the biggest vampire here, sucking up people's time instead of blood.

A book is like a stake through the heart of technology, and really, killing a vampire is never a bad thing.



The conservative war on Halloween

I grew up in the Baptist Church and was exposed to a profoundly backwards type of evangelical ignorance that I credit with making me the warped adult I am today.

One of the most confounding aspects was their hatred of Halloween.

The religious right believes that Halloween is celebrated as the birthday of Satan by Pagans and Satanists, when they perform blood sacrifices and what not.

Their reasoning is that if kids go out in costumes to knock on doors and collect candy, they are participating in satanic rituals and will burn in hell for it.

To escape this, most churches offer something called "Kids Fun Night."

This is almost always billed as "the safe alternative to Halloween" and involves simple games (think ring toss or bean bag throw) in a church basement filled with straw and scarecrows.

In my day, no matter how pitiful your attempt was at winning, you got candy.

In fact, you could stop by each booth and take the candy without playing the game if you wanted.

It was an incredibly Christian act to give away candy like that, but God forbid you showed up dressed as a vampire, demon or Disney character.

That would bring frowns

and nervous whispers all around and you were sure to be asked if you had given your soul to Jesus.

When I got too old for "Kids Fun Night," I found myself being shoved in a van every October with the members of my youth group and taken to something called a Judgment House.

This is the Christianized version of a haunted house.

Instead of having people come out of dark corners at you, there was a narrative about hell and damnation. Plus, the odds of you having sex with your date that night were nil.

The narrative of a Judgment House was that you had died in an accident.

Entering Heaven, you are judged for your sins, fall short of the admission guidelines and go to hell.

This means wandering through a maze filled with the horrors of the damned, which is like wandering through a G-rated haunted house.

At the end there were refreshments and you were inevitably asked if you had given your soul to Jesus.

I find this nonsense to be annoying.

The reality is that Halloween is not Satan's birthday.

I doubt that anybody is sacrificing anything other than sugary treats to children on it.



Richard Millhouse Phipps

Actually, Halloween is All Souls Day, a Catholic holiday that is a remembrance of the dead.

It is followed on Nov. 2 by All Saints Day—both holidays are Christianized versions of Pagan festivals instituted by the church a millennium ago to get people to jump on their bandwagon.

The same is true of Easter and Christmas—both were Pagan holidays—the church just chose them as the birth and death dates of their savior because there was already a party going on.

So, I kindly petition the Southern Baptist Convention, whose religious insanity screwed up my head: Leave the kids alone and stop trying to spread your religion on their sleeves.

Otherwise I will write a column this December claiming that you are having orgies while burning yule logs during your Christmas pageants.

ing.

All it takes is a simple message: stop watching Fox and MSNBC if you have half a brain and wish to become more informed about the world.

Sincerely,

J. Martin Rochester
Curators' Distinguished
Teaching Professor of Political Science

Halloween is harmless

Growing up, I always took particular glee when the end of September would roll around and the first magazines toting Halloween costumes would slip into my mother's mailbox.

Sitting in the front seat of her car while she picked through her bills and letters from family members, I would pour over the pages and pages of costumes, so enticing to me in all of their glossy perfection.

Growing up, I was the definition of a tomboy, with skirts and anything besides black, blue or red nonexistent in my closet.

But there was something about flipping through the shiny pages of a magazine, seeing smiling little girl after smiling little girl, that would make me think that even a frilly pink princess costume would be acceptable (but only for Halloween, of course.)

To me Halloween was a time when I could let my "rep" slide just a teensy bit and wear something that made me appear some semblance of a girl.

That was the beauty of Halloween; for one night you could dress up as something totally ridicu-

lous, knock on the doors of strangers all night, mumble some nonsense about "trick or treat" and be showered with candy.

It truly was the best holiday, at least as a kid. I could never understand why there were kids in my class who WERE NOT allowed to trick or treat, or why the day we wore our Halloween costumes to class we could not call them a Halloween costume.

No, on that day they just happened to be our "fairy tale" costumes... which our elementary school would coincidentally have the same week as Halloween. Mere coincidence, I am sure.

"Demon's Holiday" and "Satan's Day" are just a few of the nicknames a couple overzealous parents in my grade's class christened Halloween with.

Unlike how I perceived Halloween, as a night of imagination and a family outing, they managed to turn the holiday into an ugly image of Satan corrupting all the sweet innocent children into horrible demons and witches and what not.

The thought of children using their imagination was apparently ghastly (no pun



Cannibal Curran

intended.)

Tell kids they cannot dress up with their friends, and they are sure to be bummed, but when they figure out they are missing out on a pillowcase of free candy, they are sure to be heartbroken.

Letting a kid have one night of feeling silly and joining in the supposed "chaos" of Halloween will not only help them feel normal with their peers, but maybe it will keep them from being witches and demons the rest of the year.

If they grow up and decide, "Hey, Halloween isn't for me," so be it, but don't make them miss out on it while they are at the trick or treating age. So I guess my point is, let the kids have their candy, and stop making imagination a crime.

ONLINE VOICES

On "They call her Ardi and she pushes back human ancestry":

"Um...it's a monkey."

—Matt Beaudreau

On "Limbaugh shouldn't be surprised about Rams bid":

"Well said"

—Peter

On "Jon & Kate + 8 = unnecessary drama":

"The reporter seems one sider [sic]. Is there a desire to be one of Jon's playmates?"

—Linda

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I wish to applaud *The Current* for its editorial criticizing the cable news television stations as well as many other media for poor journalism in their substituting biased news reporting and analysis for serious, balanced presentation of information and viewpoints.

In particular, I applaud the editorial staff for its evenhandedness in citing both Fox

News and MSNBC's exemplars of disgraceful news operations. Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, and Glen Beck on the right and Keith Olbermann, Rachel Maddow, and Chris Mathews on the left are all polemicists, screamers, ideologues, and unworthy of serious viewing.

They all contribute to the polarization and dumbing-down of our political culture.

However, there is no need for any "media literacy" train-

Columns

MAD SCIENCE COLUMN

Going bats for vampires!



Cate "Du Freak" Marquis

It is almost Halloween, so let's go bats—vampire bats.

Bats have long been associated with Halloween, being nocturnal creatures whose silent flight and eerie appearance make them all the more mysterious.

And vampires are a Halloween staple. Folk legends about vampires are found in various places around the world.

Vampire bats are the only mammals that feed only on blood. They feed only after dark and on the same victim, er... prey, over several nights. But rather than being natives of Transylvania, vampire bats are found only in Central and South America.

The vampire legends actually predate the discovery of vampire bats in South America in the 16th century. They are not native to Europe or Asia, so they are not the source of vampire folk legends. In fact, it appears real vampire bats were named for the folkloric tales.

However, "Dracula" author Bram Stoker was certainly aware of vampire bats: He incorporated information about them with the folk tales in crafting his 1897 novel, and he even mentioned vampire bats in the original vampire novel.

But what about these real

vampires?

There are three vampire bat species: *Desmodus rotundus* (common vampire bat), *Diphylla ecaudata* (hairy-legged vampire bat) and *Di-aemus youngi* (white-winged vampire bat). Vampire bats weigh about 30 to 40 grams.

The common vampire bats feed on mammals while the other two species prefer birds. They range from Mexico to Argentina.

Feeding on blood is called hematophagy, literally blood-eating. Several animals feed on blood including leeches, mosquitoes, ticks and lamprey eels.

While some are opportunistic blood-feeders, others are obligate hematophages, meaning they must drink blood. Vampire bats are the latter. Other species that feed on blood, such as ticks and mosquitoes, are more of a health threat, but there is something creepy about vampire bats.

And "creepy" is the right word. Vampire bats creep up on their prey to feed only at night, when their prey is sleeping. After locating the prey, they land nearby and walk up to it. The vampire bat makes a small wound in the ankle or lower leg from which it feeds.

Most bats are better at flying than walking but the common vampire bat is one of only two species that are good walkers.

Unlike most other bats, vampires escape by scurrying away, perhaps to prevent awakened prey from stepping on them while also allowing them to quickly return to resume feeding.

A 2005 Cornell University study said that vampire bats

not only walk but can actually run, using their powerful forelimbs to propel themselves.

Like other blood-feeders, vampire bats need a way to prevent their prey's blood from clotting as they feed. Their saliva contains an anticoagulant substance called, appropriately, *draculin*. However, vampire bats do not really suck blood, they lap it up from the wound site.

Because vampire bats feed on the same prey over several nights, they need a way to find the same animal again. A 2006 research study described how vampire bats can identify their victims by their breathing, much as we can identify individuals by their voices.

While the original prey of common vampire bats are rainforest mammals, they reportedly often feed on cattle now, less because of an acquired taste for beef blood than because cattle are more available and easily accessible.

But vampire bats are not all bad. Like humans, vampire bats display a behavior called "reciprocal altruism" because they share food with unrelated members of their group.

According to an article on <http://www.sciencedaily.com> about the above 2005 research study, one researcher called them "cute, adorable, big-eyed and family-oriented."

But they will still suck your blood.

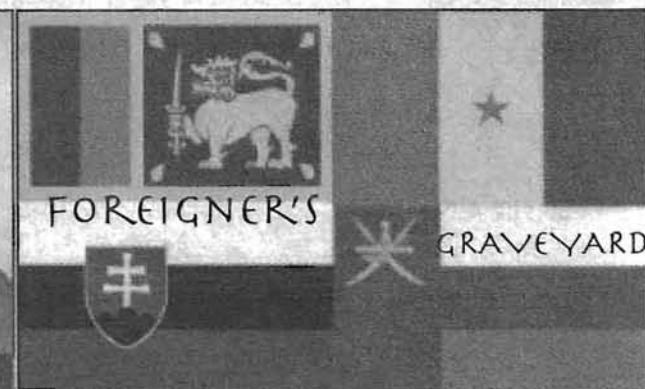
Yes, it's as fun as it looks.

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Screamin' Sofi Seck



Worldly celebrations of the dead

Growing up, I actually knew nothing about Halloween.

In Senegal, we have nothing like Halloween, so I was a little confused my first year in America.

Truth be told, Halloween is one of the world's oldest and most-celebrated holidays.

Halloween started from a Celtic celebration, known as Samhain.

It was recognized as Hallow's Eve, as it took place the day before All Saint's Day—which is November 1—marked the end of harvest and was frequently linked with death.

I was surprised to learn that many countries around the world celebrate Halloween, and each in their own unique ways.

For example, the Japanese do not celebrate Halloween in the traditional western approach.

Actually, most people in Japan know little about Halloween in the United States or how it is celebrated.

Halloween is kind of like the Japanese celebration of the Obon Festival because it is dedicated to the spirits of ancestors. Special foods are made and red lanterns are then set to float on rivers and seas.

During the Obon Festival—which takes place during July or August, instead

of October—a fire is lit every night in order to show the ancestors where their families might be found. Obon is one of the two times throughout the Japanese year when the dead are supposed to return to their places of birth.

Along the Spanish-speaking nations, mainly Mexico and Spain, Halloween is recognized as "El Dia de los Muertos," which means the day of the dead. It is a time where families celebrate their dead ancestors.

It is a blissful and cheerful holiday, a time to remember friends and family who have died.

To celebrate the dead who are thought to return to their homes on Halloween, many families make altars in their home and decorate it with sweets, flowers, photographs and the deceased's favorite foods.

To help the dead find their way home, candles are burned every night.

The families also decorate the graves of family and friends who have passed away.

The entire celebration is about life from start to finish.

The fall season in Mexico is the time when untold numbers of monarch butterflies take shelter in Mexico's oyamel fir trees.

The Aztecs believed these

butterflies carried the spirits of dead ancestors.

These celebrations are considered by many to be the most important celebrations of the year.

The French, on the other hand, do not celebrate Halloween in order to honor the dead.

Halloween is actually seen as an American holiday. Halloween in France is usually celebrated by costumed people of all ages going to parties at homes, restaurants or clubs.

The costumes themselves lean towards traditional mummies, ghosts and witches, but trick-or-treating for kids is rare. In France, Halloween is more about having fun than anything else.

Ironically, Halloween did not originate from the States but rather about 2,000 years ago in the area of the world that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France.

Celebrating the dead, as well as death itself, can be found in a large number of different cultures around the world.

As Halloween quickly approaches in the States, it is time to reflect on why these traditions exist in so many different places.

So, Happy Halloween world, whether you celebrated it a couple of months ago or this week.

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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

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!

BRUTAL, from page 21

"Brutal Legend" is an epic heavy metal tragedy centered on Eddie Riggs (voiced by Jack Black, who thankfully tones down his over-the-top personality). Riggs is a roadie for the worst metal band in the world when an on-set accident causes him to be transported to that alternate world.

Here the human population has been enslaved by the evil emperor Doviculus, deliciously voiced by Tim Curry. Aiding him in his oppression of the humans is his glam metal commandant General Lionwhyte (voiced by Rob Halford, and whose glam hair is so large that it actually allows him to fly).

The resistance movement is headed by Lars Halford (voiced by Zach Hanks), his sister Lita Halford (Kath Soucie) and Ophelia (Jennifer Hale), a girl who ends

up being Eddie's love interest. Eddie's arrival has been prophesied but like a good roadie, he does not take the spotlight. Instead, he offers to help Lars and his group defeat Lionwhyte and Doviculus.

From there, the game is a whirlwind of battles, road trips, and sidequests. All told, there is only around six hours of actual story—but it is one hell of a story!

Sadly, the game's Achilles heel is that it simply tries to do too much.

Playing as Eddie by himself is like a hack-and-slash, whereas the big set piece battles play out more like a real-time strategy game, with opposing factions producing units to send against the opponent's stage. On top of that, all of Eddie's special attacks are pulled off by playing a Guitar-Hero-like mini-

game in real time.

It just does not work as well as it should. The set piece RTS battles are confusing, brutish affairs, and winning all depends on how fast you can rush to overwhelm the enemy's stage. Luckily, the combat is only gimped in the single player game. In the online multiplayer however, battling real live opponents is a blast.

"Brutal Legend" is not another "Psychonauts," but that is alright. The draw of "Brutal Legend" is not its gameplay, it is the story.

Schafer is in fine form: the world he has created feels surreal and real at the same time, and the tale he tells in it is something everyone should experience. If you can look past the blunders, this heavy metal game is ready to rock you. **B+** —Andrew "Clubbin' Baby" Seal

DEBATE, from page 5

Dr. Joyce Mushaben, professor of political science, was the most vocal attendant, and her debate with Feigenbaum on national and international examples of various items of the currently proposed health

care reform occupied much of the event's allotted 90 minutes.

A variety of ages, backgrounds, and political philosophies were represented at the event, which continues to

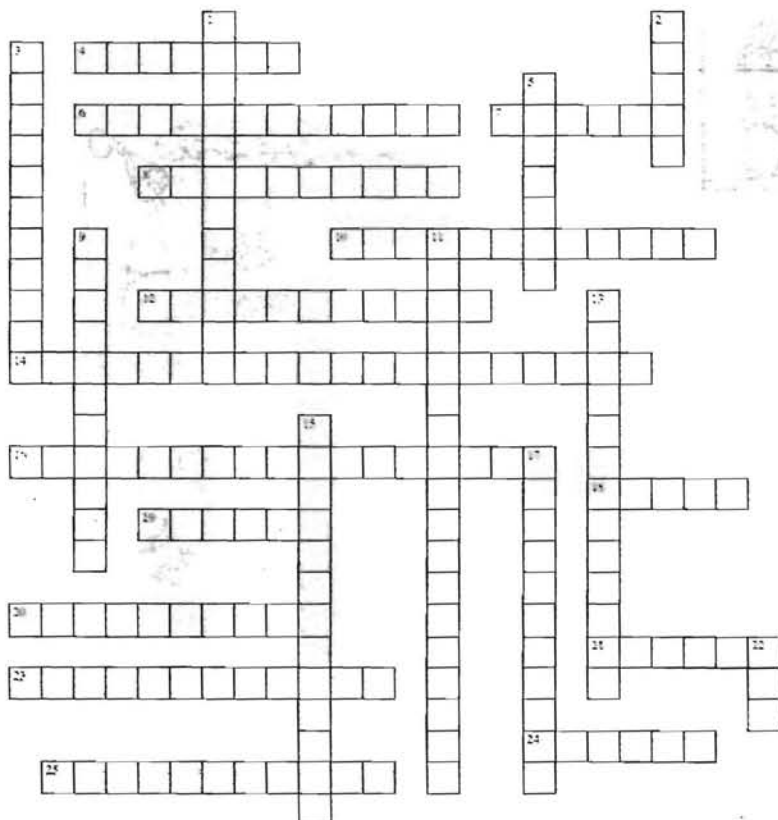
grow in the number of participants. The Millennium Student Center's Meeting Room was filled to capacity, with a couple of attendants standing in the corners as the discussion, heated though respect-

Check out the newly redesigned
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Coming Oct. 27.

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD by Matthew 'El Monstro' Hill

This week's theme: Halloween



ACROSS

4. Halloween has origins in this ancient Gaelic festival.
6. His "monster" is generally called by his name.
7. All Hallow's Eve or All ___ Eve.
8. Haunted attractions run by some fundamentalist churches.
10. The original Mummy.
12. Some events of the book and film were performed in Bel-Nor.
14. Lon Chaney played him and Andrew Lloyd Webber made him sing.
16. The annual Simpsons Halloween special.
18. You may have to eat one hanging from a string.
19. "An American Werewolf in ___"
20. This author's great-grandnephew recently wrote a sequel.
21. Bobbing for ___
23. Smith's Grove escapee.
24. Black and ___
25. Lance Henriksen had to battle this vengeful jack-o'-lantern.

DOWN

1. A carved pumpkin.
2. Traditions from these immigrants are attributed to starting Halloween.
3. The night before Halloween, esp. in Detroit.
5. The Arabic holiday similar to Halloween.
9. "They're here."
11. Charlie Brown's Halloween special.
13. ___: The Vampire's Asst.
15. Rob Zombie remade this director's classic horror film.
17. Some protestants celebrate this event on Oct. 31
22. This horror franchise just came out with its sixth installment.

CURRENT HORRORSCOPES

ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

This is a good week to indulge in late-night activities, and in fact it may be best to avoid daylight altogether. Also stay away from garlic and crosses; these may be hazardous to your health.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Things may be getting a little hairy for you this week. Bring out your inner animal with long walks in the moonlight, but do try keep from biting anyone.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Feeling haunted lately? Try an exorcism. Now is the perfect time to get rid of your ghosts, so find your friendly local priest and get to work clearing out your attic.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

This week you may feel like you're losing your head. And you probably are. On the bright side, now you can use it to bowl or even play polo.

LEO

(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

If life's been miserable lately, well, maybe you're cursed. You've got a lot of options at this point, but your best bet is to go see the witch doctor; he'll tell you what to do.

VIRGO

(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

You'll be experiencing some strange cravings this week, but just go with the flow. After all, a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

LIBRA

(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Your habit of hanging out under beds may be frightening small children. And what's the best way to deal with a frightened child? Eat it.

SCORPIO

(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Feeling a little green lately? Others may notice that you seem a little slow this week. Don't let it bother you; it's probably just a side effect of those bolts in your neck.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You haven't been feeling yourself lately, almost like you're living someone else's life, or someone else is living yours. Just sit back and enjoy the ride.

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

If you're feeling a little out of place, maybe you should consider phoning home. We'll take you to our leader as long as you keep the probing to a minimum.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

You might be feeling a little wrapped up with responsibilities lately. Take some time to relax. Unwind a little. You've got a whole afterlife ahead of you.

PISCES

(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

You've lost a lot of weight lately, but that's not always a good thing. Start eating a little more or you may find yourself in an anatomy classroom.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Demon Doyel

This week's rating:

★★★

(Hard)

Last week's answers

Last week's rating: Easy

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

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

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 As in the message, and so on. (Hint: V=A)

YCLXIW, YCLXIW NCOI VEY NTCLXIW;
UOTW XLTE VEY
ZVLIYTCE XLXXIW.

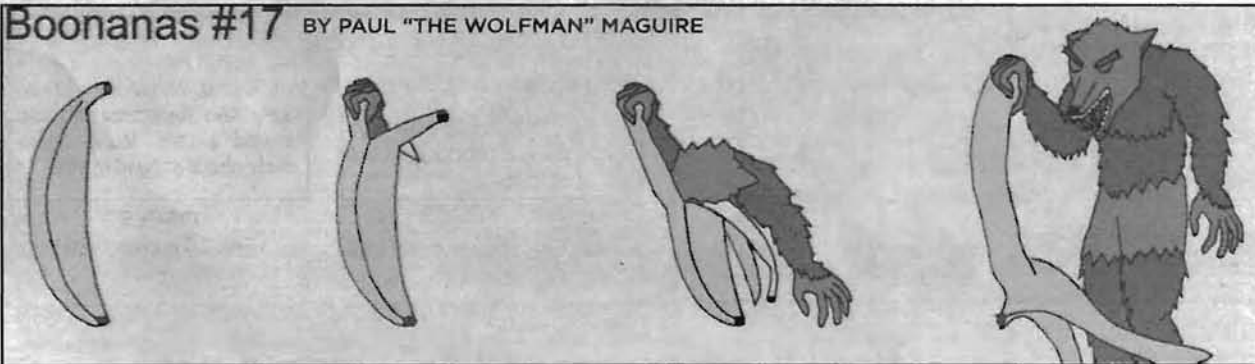
The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt!

Comics

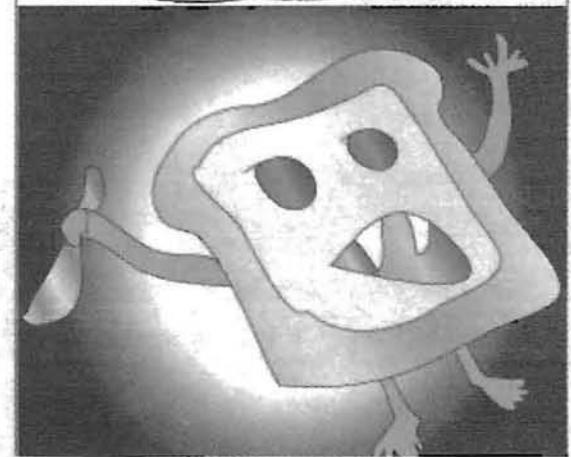
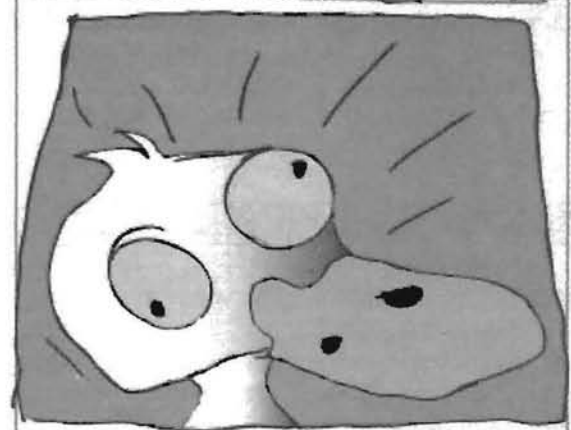
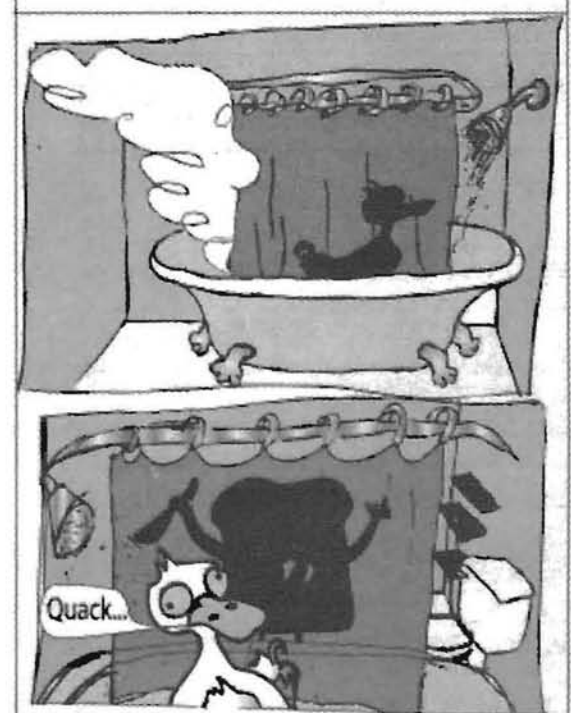
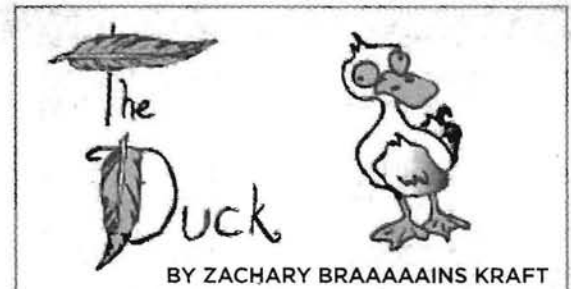
MARGARET & HOORAY BY GORY PERKINS



Boonanas #17 BY PAUL "THE WOLFMAN" MAGUIRE



Good Guys BY KILL FREEMAN



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, Oct. 26

Haunted Scavenger Hunt Part of the University Program Board's Creepy Week series! Join us for a halloween-themed scavenger hunt with prizes! The fun starts in the Nosh at 3pm.

The 2 and 4 of Latin, Cuban, and West African Music Matt Henry, director of percussion studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and members of the UMSL Afro-Cuban Ensemble demonstrate and explain concepts and styles in Latin, Cuban, and West African music. Located in 222 J.C. Penney Conference Center, from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Caramel Apple Bar Part of the University Program Board's Creepy Week series! Free apples and toppings! Join us in the Pilot House from 11 AM to 1 PM.

Carve for a Cause Come carve up your best Jack o Lantern! Sponsored by SGA & Delta Zelta. Benefits go to The Painted Turtle, a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses. Located in the Nosh, from 2 PM to 4 PM.

Pumpkin Picking on a long-standing Newman tradition at our 10th annual Pumpkin Carving Contest! Tables, designs, and carving tools provided. Be sure to B.Y.O.P (Bring your own pumpkin)! Located in Catholic Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge), at 7:30 PM. For more information contact Liz Detwiler at 314-385-3455.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Harry Potter & the Half Blood Prince Part of the University Program Board's Creepy Week series! A free showing of the latest Harry Potter flick. Join us in the Pilot House at 6:30 PM.

Carve for a Cause Help us judge who's best Jack o Lantern! Sponsored by SGA & Delta Zelta. Benefits go to The Painted Turtle, a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses. Located in the Nosh, from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Noon at the Nosh Eat with your favorite CNC Staff at the Nosh! Located in 222 J.C. Penney Conference Center, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. For more info contact Liz Detwiler at 314-385-3455.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Costume Contest Part of the University Program Board's Creepy Week series! Compete with your peers for top costume! Join us in the Nosh at 12:30PM.

Trick or Treat in the MSC & Huge Spirit Sale Sponsored by the University Bookstore. Pick up a free Trick or Treat bag and visit the offices throughout the MSC. Also, check out the bookstore for some horrific deals!

Political Science Academy Join us for a lively discussion of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and other hotspots. Speaker will be Dr. Martin Rochester. Located at 7425 York Dr., Clayton, MO, at 7:30 PM.



CHERA MEYER 'N' BRIMSTONE / THE CURRENT

Spooky decorations adorned the quad last week as the spirit of Halloween took over UM-St. Louis. The skeleton and ghost were on display to advertise the Ghost Hunters' Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson visit to campus on Tuesday hosted by the University Program Board. The pair discussed their investigations and shared some creepy stories as well as answered questions from students and faculty.

Friday, Nov. 1

Experience St. Louis: SIX FLAGS This is our 5th year ending Creepy Week with our student trip to SIX FLAGS St. Louis. Fright fest is one of the best events that Six Flags hosts, and we want our students to enjoy it with Discounted tickets and free transportation from the University Program Board. Sign up in 366 MSC, and call us for more details. For more information contact Darren Nesbitt at 314-516-5531.

Saturday, Nov. 2

Haunted Garage Transform the Newman Center's sometimes scary garage into a VERY scary Haunted Garage for 350 neighborhood kids on Halloween! Help set-up, plan, or build in advance (talk to Liz), volunteer to be a creepy character, or show up at 6pm on Halloween night! Located at 8200 Natural Bridge. For more info contact Liz Detwiler at 314-385-3455.



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*

The Current is hiring a SBTH editor.
Email cover letter/resumes to thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu or stop by 388 MSC