

# The Current

FEB. 1, 2010

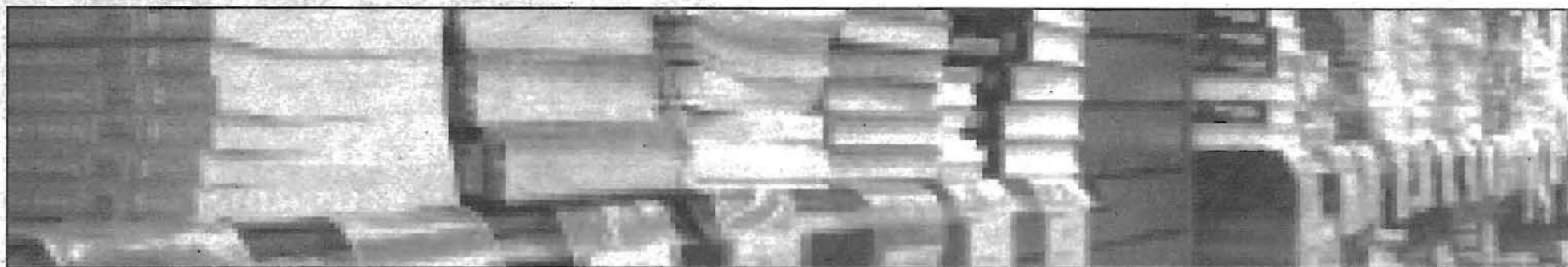
VOL. 43;

ISSUE 1301

THE CURRENT INVESTIGATES

## THE COST OF CONVENIENCE

BY CHRIS STEWART



Despite numerous complaints regarding its prices, many students utilize the bookstore (which of course sells much more than books) while others choose alternate sources like

**Online!**

Amazon.com or rival local textbook merchant The Text Book Game to purchase their textbooks for the semester.

Students often feel that that the university bookstore prices are more expensive. However,

an examination of randomly selected texts reveals less disparity than people seem to expect.

For instance, a randomly selected political science textbook, "International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth," runs at \$60 new in the bookstore or \$45 used. On Amazon, the same book is \$56.25 new. While this is less (and all of the books examined proved to be less online), it is a negligible difference

when shipping charges are factored in. "Interest Group Society," the next text selected, is offered for \$61.80 and \$46.25

respectively on campus, whereas a "good" condition used copy on Amazon costs \$39.96.

Once again, this is close to the price of the bookstore's used copies.

However, used books go quickly at the bookstore and there were none available for all three communications text books examined this week. This may be a matter of students getting their textbooks early, but once the option runs out, there

may be few who will spring for a new edition of a text on campus when they can get a gently-used copy for \$40 less online.

**Bookstore!**

See COST, page 2

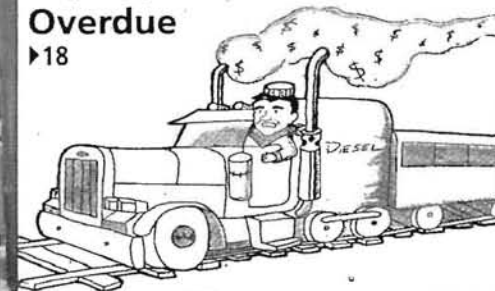
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VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1301

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FROM PAGE ONE

# The Cost of Convenience

Also encountered was a book in the honors section with a card admonishing that the title was "out of print!" The occasional sell-out or other snafu occurs. With these smaller honors course books or non textbook required readings, the library is an alternative. The campus libraries usually run out of available texts for larger classes, but local libraries also hold many of these texts.

Beyond books, the price difference between the book-

store and other options becomes much starker. An Epson Workforce 30 color printer, for instance, a small compact piece appealing to campus residents, sells for \$123 at the bookstore. Amazon offers the item new for \$99, and Best Buy's website lists it at \$69.

Among the items sold at the MSC store are some moderately priced things that are not necessarily more expensive than they would be elsewhere. Greek-lettered

shot glasses run \$5.50, which is precisely what you would pay at any convenience store. A bin near the rear of the store offers DVDs for \$9.99, which is a common price, though it is small selection.

A certain process of comparison, convenience and other considerations is involved as any student buys their necessary items throughout the semester. The bookstore offers certain benefits, and in the end the extra money you do pay goes to

the university, which benefits students. However, students still seem to be frustrated with the expense of textbooks on top of tuition. In line to check out at the bookstore, one frustrated shopper volunteered that he was "sick of this."

"I spent \$6,000 this semester. My friend spent \$3500," the unidentified shopper said. "One semester. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine if you failed a class?"

## University Bookstore prices versus Amazon.com

Prices listed below were taken from the Bookstore or [www.umslbookstore.com](http://www.umslbookstore.com). Prices compared are the "Used" prices offered by the bookstore and the first (lowest) listing in Amazon's "Used" category. As such, prices may have since changed.

TITLE	UMSL BOOKSTORE	AMAZON
Environment, Inc.	\$11.95	\$8.98
The Interest Group Society	\$46.35	\$39.96
Non-violent Resistance	\$11.20	\$10.17
Macroeconomics	\$111.00	\$107.00
Hole's Human Anatomy & Physiology	\$150.50	\$122.32
In Spite of the Gods	\$11.95	\$10.88
A Consise History of Buddhism	\$16.45	\$12.97
International Political Economy	\$45.00	\$56.22
Interpersonal Communications	\$75.00	\$58.55
The Art of Public Speaking	\$88.00	\$71.57

WEATHER

MON. 39	TUES. 39	WED. 41	THURS. 41	FRI. 36	SAT. 35	SUN. 35
30	26	29	32	31	29	28



# Pepose pledges \$1 million

Money will help optometry school training program

▶ ANNA MARIE CURRAN  
News Editor

On January 20, the University of Missouri-St. Louis posted a press release on the university website announcing that Dr. Jay Pepose of Pepose Vision Institute pledged \$1 million to the university's optometry school. The money will go towards extending the cooperative training program created in 2001 that is exploring refractive surgery. The latest pledge will continue until 2013.

According to UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George, the pledge will go towards furthering the work of the program but will not implement any new changes to the program.

"There will be no change," George said. "The pledge continues the current arrangement between the Pepose Vision Institute and the College of Optometry at UMSL."

According to the news release, the program allows optometry students to practice patient interaction as well as to learn new techniques and methods of laser vision correction surgeries that will

help give them an edge in the work force after graduation. Students also get the opportunity to observe surgery at the Pepose Vision Institute located in Chesterfield, Missouri.

George went on to say that the program has a great deal of an impact on students of the university by allowing optometry students to have the opportunity for field experience.

George said that every student at UM-St. Louis receives a top-notch education from the faculty but that for fields such as optometry first-hand experience is very important as well.

"In terms of the optometry field, training through examinations of real patients is an invaluable experience," George said. "The more patient interaction our students receive, the greater edge they will have as they enter the work force."

The program also allows prospective patients of low income families to have access to vision correction surgery whereas before it may have been out of their price range. For those eligible, it is no-cost. This service is available to people in the East St.

Louis area as well as the police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and field agents who also work in that area.

Pepose describes the program as a "win-win-win program" because there are so many beneficial aspects of it.

"With health care dollars stretched the way they are, health professionals need to learn how to work together to find efficient ways to provide access and high quality care to all residents in the bi-state region," Pepose said in a news release posted on the UM-St. Louis website.

George said that he feels the program is very important for the university and for students because it offers the students something that the university is really unable to provide.

George explained that it offers optometry students to practice on live patients rather than simulated patients and that it also helps the university with community outreach.

"Partnerships such as this one with the Pepose Vision Institute help the university actively pursue the fulfillment of its mission of community outreach," George said.

# Mix-up puts students at risk

Social Security Numbers visible on University tax forms

▶ AMANDA ROACH  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 19, an e-mail and letters were sent to inform University of Missouri-St. Louis students that, due to an unknown and unforeseen cause, the Internal Revenue Service 1098-T forms sent to students through U.S. mail might have had Social Security Numbers (SSNs) partially or fully visible through the envelope window.

However, the university does not know which or how many students had their social security numbers visible, although the number is believed to be low.

The concern for the safety of the students' personal and private information was expressed, along with regret

for the mix-up. There was also a suggestion to prevent identify theft by tracking one's credit if one's SSN was visible.

The letters and e-mail gave the telephone numbers of three national credit agencies that the students can call in order to track their credit. These agencies include Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian (an agency with which the university has an agreement).

The letter and e-mail also provided two Web sites containing information that help the students answer any questions they may have.

The first Web site is help page for students who are interested in using Experian. It contains a list of questions and answers that a student might have in the event of

an identity theft scare. These questions include the cost of the services of Experian (which is reduced due to UM-St. Louis' agreement with Experian), how to sign up for the service and why the university chose Experian over other agencies.

The second is a tax form notice. On this page, one can find other questions such as "How can I tell if my social security number was viewable through the envelope window?" and "How high is the risk that my Social Security Number will be compromised?"

According to the notifications the university sent, there is no definite answer to how this mix-up happened, but the University is investigating both the procedures and the problem.



WE'RE ALWAYS THE FIRST ON THE SCENE!

(at UM-St. Louis)

(sometimes...)

loveline  
with dr. drew

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For more information contact the University Program Board  
(314) 516-5531 or the Office of Student Life (314) 516-5291



# Statshot

## UNDERCURRENT by Ahmad Aljuryed

UM-St. Louis instated a new vehicle registration policy. How do you feel about the new policy?



"I don't have a car. I don't know about the vehicle policy."

**LaNicia Savage**  
Junior  
Criminal Justice



"It was simple because everything was online."

**Kathryn Sullivan**  
Sophomore  
Undecided



"I thought it was fast and easy, and is a good method for keeping track of who has a pass."

**Bryan Ziegler**  
Junior  
Music



"I didn't know what it was, but I certainly wasn't bothered by it. It took only a matter of minutes."

**Diana Callmeyer**  
Junior  
Social Work

## VERBATIM

"You might have to knock me out, because I can't take the pain. Just grab something and hit me on the back of my head."

-Channing Tatum  
to his driver, after his injury



"I just want to say: In my long career I've played so many extraordinary women that basically I'm getting mistaken for one"

-Meryl Streep

"I'm very klutzy in real life to begin with, and we just captured that on film. There wasn't much stunt coordinating going on."

-Kristen Bell  
on *When in Rome*

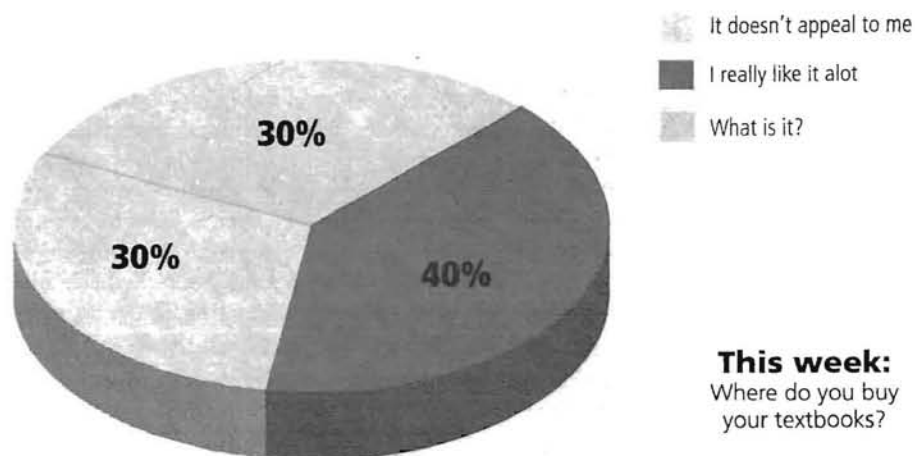


"The very first idea that I ever had about making a film was when I was 16 years old. I wanted to make a Viking movie"

-Mel Gibson

## POLL

What do you think of the new mascot?



### This week:

Where do you buy your textbooks?

Answer at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

## CRIMELINE

### Monday, Jan. 19

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

Sometime between 01-18-10 at 8:00 PM. and 01-19-10 at 9:30 AM person(s) unknown removed a day planner and pepper spray from an unlocked vehicle parked overnight in parking lot XX. There are no suspects in this incident.

### Thursday, Jan. 20

#### Burglary/Stealing Under \$500.00 - Villa

At about 11:15 PM, an UMSL Employee witnessed three subjects standing around the exterior of the Villa building. Then one of the subjects was observed entering the building through a window on the North Side. The witness called the UMSL Police and the police officers along with the assistance of a police dog from a neighboring municipality were able to locate three suspects in the building. After entering the building illegally, all three suspects allegedly stole items from inside the building and were found by the searching officers. All three suspects were arrested and brought to the UMSL police station where they were formally processed for the burglary and stealing charges, and then transported to the St. Louis County Jail.

### Friday, Jan. 26

#### Stealing Over \$500.00 - Bookstore

At about 1:30 PM., The victim left her backpack on the floor near the "storage cubbies" for a few minutes as she was in the bookstore. When she returned, her backpack containing her laptop computer and textbooks along with personal information in two planners was stolen. The surveillance video from the bookstore does show a suspect pick up the backpack and walk out of the Bookstore. The UMSL Police Department is in the process of attempting to identify the individual in the video. Some of the victim's property was recovered in the city of Florissant and returned to the owner. The investigation in this matter is on-going.

### Friday, Jan. 27

#### Stealing Under \$500.00-Lucas Hall

A custodian working early in the morning around 6:00 AM., found a small make-up type case in the auditorium with money and credit cards in it. It was turned into the UMSL Police. The owner was located and responded to the police station to claim the item. While at the police station the victim indicated that the case was missing a digital camera. The report was then taken on the stolen camera. The victim advised that she did not know she was missing the case until the police called her, and that she had a class in that room the day before that was over at 1:45 PM. There are no suspects in this incident.

**If you knew the news today, thank a journalist!**



# Sports

## Two More Losses

### *Men's basketball falls to Drury and Rockhurst*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

After last week's three straight disheartening losses, the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team saw things go from bad to absolute disaster this week when the Tritons lost two more home games against Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division rivals Drury University and Rockhurst University.

The two losses last week extended UM-St. Louis' current losing streak to six games and dropped the team's overall record to 10-11, after beginning the season 6-0 and 7-1 for the first time ever.

"We've hit a tough stretch," UM-St. Louis head coach Chris Pilz said. "And now, we've got our four toughest games of the year coming up. So we'll have to stay as positive as possible."

The next four games for the Tritons might be the toughest four games any team in the country has to play all season.

Beginning Thursday night, UM-St. Louis will play four straight games on the road against three ranked opponents and the team that beat them at the Mark Twain Building last Saturday.

First, the Tritons will travel to take 19-0 and No. 2 nationally-ranked Southern Indiana. Then, on Saturday, UM-St. Louis will play at 21-3 and No. 16-ranked Kentucky Wesleyan. The Tritons will return home for

classes next week, and then head out on Thursday to play at No. 15-ranked Drury before closing out the road trip at 14-7 Rockhurst.

"The kids have got to be tough," Pilz said. "They gotta believe. And when you hit a stretch like this, it's just no fun."

UM-St. Louis just completed its longest homestand of the season and finished it with absolutely nothing to show for it.

Many thought having five straight home games in the middle of the conference season would be a boon for the Tritons as they tried to establish positioning for the GLVC Postseason Tournament.

Instead, the five games proved to be a bust as the team lost each game in increasingly maddening fashion.

UM-St. Louis lost to Belarmine with 23 points two weeks ago, and then lost by 14 points to St. Joseph's on Pack the Stands Night.

This was before losing a two-point nail-biter in the final seconds against Illinois-Springfield.

This week, the Tritons lost by 10 points to Drury before suffering a 14-point defeat against Rockhurst on Saturday.

"We just had untimely turnovers, and the inability to make some shots hurt us," Pilz said.

Against Drury, the game really turned on two three-pointers by Drury guard and

native St. Louisan Brandon Lockhart. The first three by Lockhart came at the end of the first half, after UM-St. Louis' Ryan Lawrence, junior, criminology, made a layup with just four seconds left to make the score 24-20.

But Lockhart managed to break free on the inbounds pass and drained a long-range shot at the buzzer that made the score 27-20 at the half, and sent the Panthers into the break fired up.

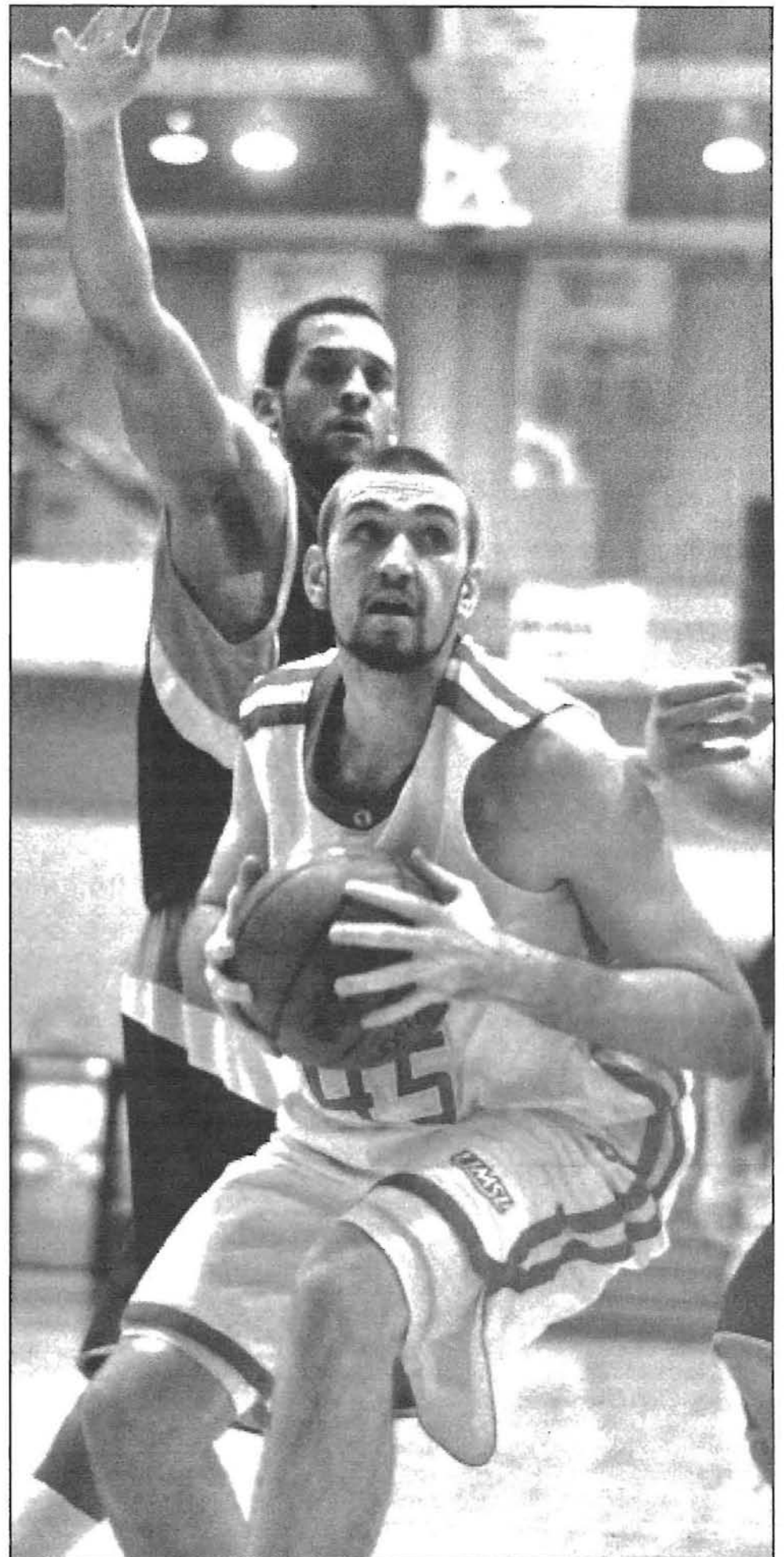
Lockhart's only other basket of the game came in a similar situation. The Tritons' Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided, made a layup to cut the score to 51-47. But Lockhart again found himself with the ball, this time with the shot clock running down, and again he drained a long range shot to push the four-point lead up to seven.

UM-St. Louis had some time left to possibly overtake the Panthers, but the lead proved insurmountable and Drury escaped with a 61-51 win.

Then on Saturday, UM-St. Louis' only lead came on the opening bucket of the game, a jumper by Lawrence. Rockhurst quickly tied the score and took the lead soon after.

The Hawks never gave up the lead after that and eventually won 63-49.

Redel led the Tritons with 14 points and seven rebounds, while teammate Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, came off the bench to add 12 points and three assists in the loss.



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team lost Saturday afternoon to visiting Rockhurst in Mark Twain. Zach Redel, Sophomore.



## Roller hockey back to business

*National champion team back after hiatus*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

It had been more than two months since the last time the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's roller hockey team had hit the rink in a game that counted.

But you would not have known it from watching the Tritons last Saturday at the Omni Sportsplex in St. Peters, in their first game of 2010 calendar year. UM-St. Louis wasted little time jumping on top of rival Mizzou before eventually winning the game in mercy rule fashion 10-0.

The win lifted UM-St. Louis' record to 10-3 on the season, with all three losses coming to archrival Lindenwood University. The Lions are 10-0 on the season and are ranked among the best teams in the country.

But last Saturday, it was the Tritons who looked unbeatable as they dominated control of the puck almost from the outset and fired shot after shot at the beleaguered Mizzou goalkeeper.

The competition will get considerably tougher for UM-St. Louis next weekend when it travels to Palantine, Ill., to play in an event at

the Hat Trick Hockey Complex. The Tritons will play three times in the event, with a Saturday morning game against the State University of New York at Buffalo, a Saturday afternoon contest against Central Michigan, and a Sunday morning faceoff against Michigan State.

Those three teams rank right along with Lindenwood as some of the best teams in the country. SUNY-Buffalo is 14-0-1 and stands with Lindenwood as the only two remaining unbeaten teams in the country; Central Michigan is 11-3-1 and sits in second place in the Midwest Collegiate Roller Hockey League; and Michigan State is 13-1 and in first place in the MCRHL.

One of the reasons for UM-St. Louis' tremendous start to the season has been the brilliant play of goalkeeper Jimmy Steger, sophomore, education. After last week's contests, Steger's save percentage of .917 and his goals-against-average of 2.10 rank second and third in the nation among all players.

Steger has also already posted two shutouts this year after leading the nation with five last season, and is on his way to being named National

Freshman of the Year by some publications and National Player of the Year by some others.

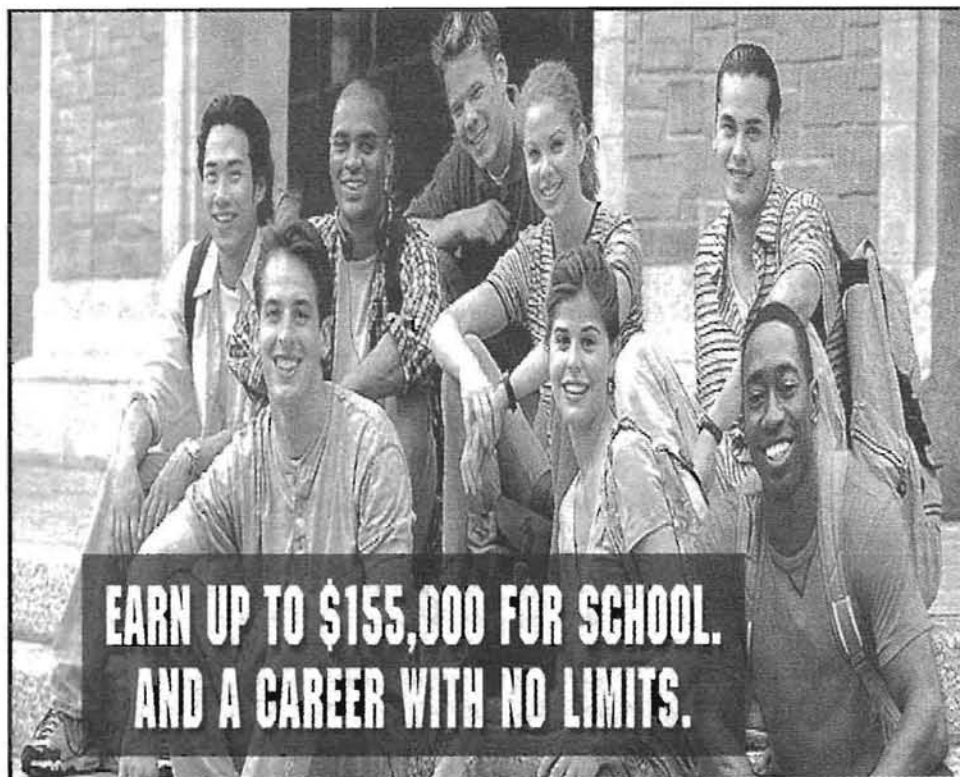
Offensively, UM-St. Louis has been led by defenseman Marty Gwozdz, sophomore, business marketing, and forward Danny Dwyer, sophomore, business. Heading into Saturday night's contest, both Gwozdz and Dwyer had scored 17 goals each, which, before the teams' two-month hiatus, had both players ranked among the top scorers in the country.

Teammates Aaron Schulz, Andy Meade, Jon Wilkinson, and Chris Dolan, have all been double-digit scorers for the Tritons as well.

After the trip to Palantine, UM-St. Louis' next local contest will be against the dreaded Lindenwood on Friday, Feb. 19, at the Midwest Sport Hockey facility in Ballwin at 9:30 p.m.

The Tritons will play three other games that weekend as well. On Saturday, Feb. 20, UM-St. Louis will take on St. Louis Community College.

Then, on Sunday, Feb. 21, the Tritons will play back-to-back games against national opponents Louisiana-Lafayette at noon and against Middle Tennessee State at 2 p.m.



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400DADG0F08



## Triton women finish winning 4 of 5 games

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

The best time for any sports team to play its best is at the end of the season, and then to carry that confidence and level of play into the playoffs. The Tritons appear to be doing just that. Despite starting the season 1-7, the women's basketball team at the University of Missouri-St. Louis has since rebounded by winning nine of their last 13 games and having an overall record of 10-11.

"I think our chemistry is completely different than ... at the start of the season, when we had a lot of key players out due to injury," Lisa-Curliss-Taylor, the third year head coach, said. The Tritons were finishing a five-game home stand against conference teams after winning the first three.

On Thursday, the Tritons hosted the Drury Panthers, who had an overall record of 16-4 on the year with a conference record of 8-1 leading the GLVC West Division. The Tritons have yet to beat Drury in 11 meetings between the two. Despite taking an early 5-3 lead just two minutes into the game, the Tritons found themselves trailing Drury 36-45 entering the second half.

Drury played like a top ranked team with excellent defense that gave the Tritons offensive woes as they tried to drive down the lane with little success. Despite Kelly Carter, junior, elementary education, Kristi White, senior, accounting, and Hailee Deckard, sophomore, secondary education, scoring 12 points each for the Tritons, they would fall to Drury.

Drury made 23-31 (74.2 percent) of their free throws while UM-St. Louis made 16-26 (61.5 percent) of their free throws. Drury also fared better in field goals, making 51 percent from the field while UM-St. Louis shot 42.6 percent from the field. UM-St. Louis did do better than Drury in a few areas such as steals, with seven to Drury's six, and in three-pointers by making nine of their 18 attempts, while Drury only made six of 18 three-point shots. The Tritons will get another shot to beat Drury for the first time in school history on Feb. 11.

On Saturday afternoon, the Tritons hosted the Rockhurst Hawks, who had a season record of 2-9 in the conference and an overall record of 6-13. Rockhurst was trying to snap a losing streak.

See **WOMEN**, page 23

## The right hands of basketball

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**  
Staff Writer

Military leader of the Colonial rebels General George Washington hired a German, Frederick William Baron von Steuben, to train that undisciplined army of patriotic citizen soldiers.

President Abraham Lincoln had General Ulysses S. Grant to run his military campaign.

Throughout time leaders have always had what has been called "their right hand man."

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis within the athletic department there are some excellent assistant coaches occupying positions of the right hand man on the Triton women's and men's basketball teams.

Those individuals are Lora Westling, women's basketball, third season, and Steven Gum men's basketball, second season.

Westling possesses both a marketing and MBA from Washburn University and Gum has a degree in exercise physiology from Drury University. They both also had great careers as players at those schools.

Some of their athletic accomplishments are: Westling, named to the All-Tournament team when Washburn won the D2 national title, and Gum who led the league and was ranked fifth nation-

ally, at the D2 level, with a three-point field goal percentage of 49.4 as a senior.

"My MBA coincides with a lot of the stuff you do as a college coach, whether it's budgeting, films or recruiting," Westling said.

"And I love basketball. I love working with younger people and I love competition."

"Basketball has been a thing I have never lived without," Gum said. "My dad has been around it and it's something I love doing. I'm 24-years old and I've done it for 22 years."

"[Head coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor] lets me be involved in a lot of behind the scenes stuff," Westling said. "I touch on everything."

"I keep track of players' grades and write the scouting reports," Gum said. "[Head coach Chris Pilz] and I do a lot hand-in-hand."

Some of Westling's responsibilities during a game include a lot of gathering and relaying of information to Curliss-Taylor. Some of the information can be the number of timeouts both teams have and the number of team and personal fouls on both sides.

They also look at player combinations on the floor and then offer offensive suggestions.

"I set up for filming, get the DVD's labeled right," Gum said. "If I see something

we can exploit I will make a suggestion and talk to our players about the opponent's team and player tendencies."

And finally Westling and Gum are very involved in recruiting. Both evaluate high school and junior college prospects by film and personal trips as well as receiving tips via their networks of former teammates, coaches and other contacts.

"It's nice having Lora as my assistant," Curliss-Taylor said of Westling. "She knows what I expect and does a good job of reinforcing that level of expectation."

Many in the south say that the south only lost the Civil War because General Robert E. Lee's right hand man, General Stonewall Jackson was killed by wounds received at Chancellorsville.

More say that the reason General Dwight D. Eisenhower was so successful in Europe during WWII was because he had General George S. Patton and that President Harry S. Truman was so successful in the Pacific because he had General Douglas MacArthur.

Let's hope the assistant coaches at UM-St. Louis are around a long time. They are very much needed, and wanted.

Some of the information in this article was obtained from the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Athletic Department Records.

JOHN TRAVOLTA
JONATHAN RHYS MEYERS

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TAKEN  
IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 5

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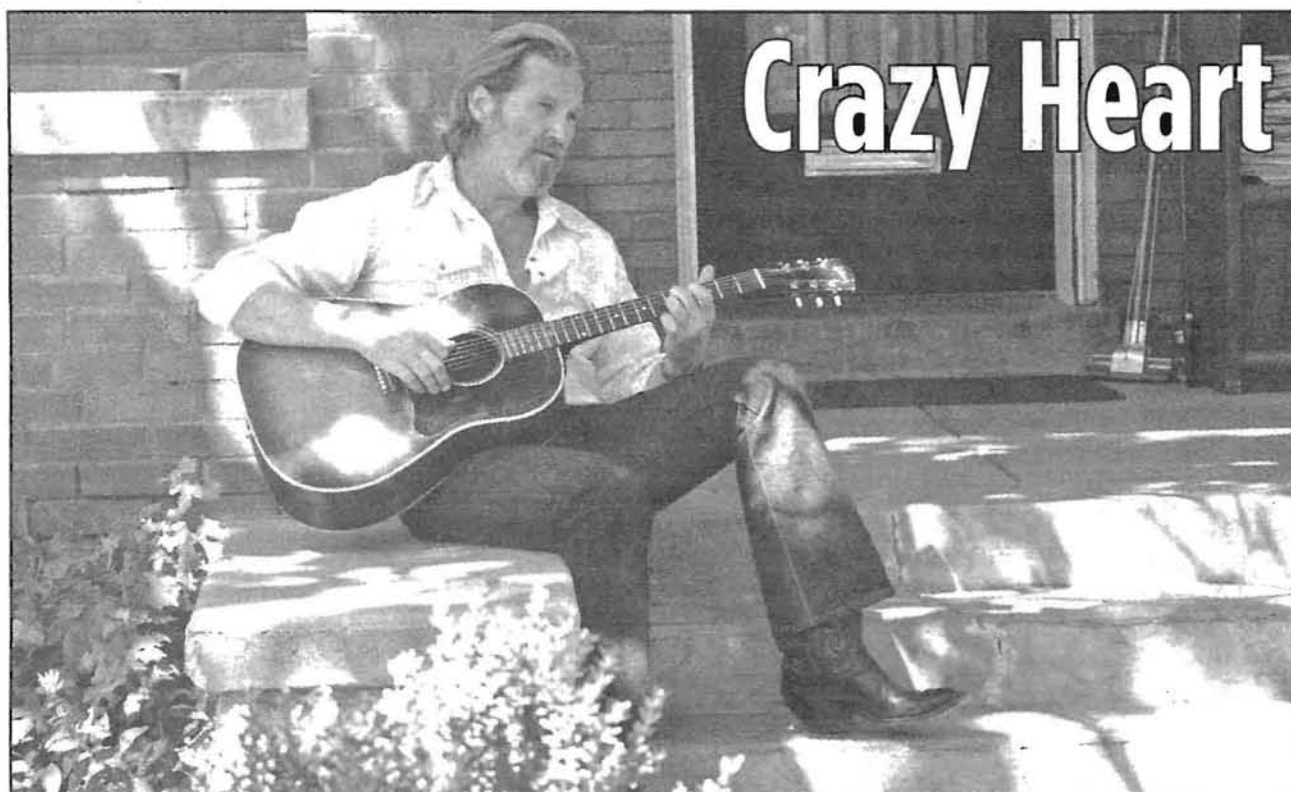
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COURTESY / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Jeff Bridges has swept male lead acting awards for his performance as "Bad" Blake, a hard-living country singer who forms an unlikely bond with a reporter (Maggie Gyllenhaal). Bridges did most of his own performing for the role.

## 'Crazy Heart' is Jeff Bridges at his best

"Crazy Heart," first-time director Scott Cooper's drama about a hard-drinking, has-been country star, has been building buzz for Jeff Bridges' starring performance.

Bridges has been racking up award wins, like the Critics' Choice award and Screen Actors Guild award, and generating some Oscar hopes for his sincere and moving performance.

But the film is also getting attention—and awards—for its toe-tapping music.

Whether Bridges will beat out Colin Firth in "A Single Man" or Michael Stuhlbarg in "A Serious Man" for the Oscar remains to be seen, but the actor is certainly in his best element in this role as a talented musician who may be his own worst enemy.

Director Cooper originally wanted to make a film about Merle Haggard, but, unable to secure permission,

came across the novel "Crazy Heart" by Thomas Cobb, which had a similar theme.

Bad Blake (Jeff Bridges) is an ex-star: a country music legend now reduced to playing bowling alleys and small-town bars on a continual Southwestern tour just to scratch out a living.

Blake has run through all his money and several marriages to end up as a hard-drinking loner driving a beat-up truck, with the proverbial chip on his shoulder but still able to turn on the charm when it suits him.

Blake still has talent and some name recognition but he cannot seem to break through to get back into the big money.

At one small-town gig, he is interviewed by attractive reporter Jean Craddock (Maggie Gyllenhaal), who really seems to enjoy his company and laughs at all of his jokes.

She is more down-to-earth and also more reserved than the usual star-struck women he sometimes meets at bars.

He starts a gentle flirtation with Jean, although the first

words out of his manager's (James Keane) mouth are "don't marry her," knowing Blake's whirlwind romance history.

Although the premise sounds a tad like "The Wrestler," with a faded star as the central character, this is a fresh story.

The film takes us deep inside Blake's life, his alcoholism and his expectation that his charm and his talent will influence people to forgive him for anything.

This is a modest little drama with a good script about late romance and redemption, but what really stands out in this film is Jeff Bridges' performance and the music by T. Bone Burnett.

Bridges is wholly convincing as a gifted but hard-living country star, both on-stage and off. Both Bridges and his co-star Colin Farrell, who plays a protege who is now a big star, did their own singing.

They are very entertaining and reveal some real talent.

Because Bridges' concert scenes are so good, we are easily convinced that he real-

ly is a professional musician, which adds a great deal to the character's believability.

Bridges does an excellent job of creating a character who has coasted on his charm and talent while indulging in irresponsible and self-indulgent behavior.

But no matter how much of a bad boy he is off stage, once on stage, Blake cares deeply about his work.

Bridges gives all the nuances needed for this complicated man.

Of course, Bridges is aided by a fine supporting cast. Maggie Gyllenhaal plays her role as the aspiring small town journalist and mother with warmth and appeal. Colin Farrell and Robert Duvall (who plays Blake's old friend Wayne) are also perfect in their roles.

"Crazy Heart" is a well-crafted, realistic drama with an excellent lead performance and some great music. It is one of a number of Oscar-hopefuls still in theaters. "Crazy Heart" is now showing at the Plaza Frontenac.

**B+** —Cate Marquis

# A&E

## 'Grease' returns to St. Louis, attracts large audience

The musical "Grease," original stage score by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, played at the Fabulous Fox Theater in midtown St. Louis from January 13-24.

The musical, familiar and a favorite for many, is set in the 1950s and depicts the trials and tribulations of a group of high school friends, focusing especially on the conflict one of the main characters, "Danny Zuko," feels, torn between his summer sweetheart "Sandy" and keeping his cool reputation with his friends.

More detail of the plot is probably unnecessary as most people seem to know the musical so well they are practically ready to portray Zuko or Sandy themselves.

This latest rendition of "Grease" that came to the Fox theater was directed and choreographed by Kathleen Marshall.

The theater was packed to the brim with fans anxious to hear the songs and

see the characters that have made the musical such a hit. The performance included many songs made even more popular by the movie version, such as "You're the One that I Want," "Sandy," "Hopelessly Devoted to You," "Grease" and "Greased Lightnin'."

Tough girl Betty Rizzo also left a memorable impression when she sang her solo, "There are worse things I could do," impressively well, turning one of the least popular songs of the show into a personal favorite.

The cast included numerous actors familiar with the St. Louis stage as well as "American Idol" winner Taylor Hicks, who played the role of "Teen Angel," a guardian angel who advises one of the Pink Ladies to drop out of beauty school and go back to high school to earn her diploma.

See **GREASE**, page 9  
Hicks returned to the

## Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

**I Love You Phillip Morris.** Jim Carey as a con man who meets the man of his dreams (Ewan MacGregor) behind bars. After that sentence, is there any reasonable excuse to not be reserving your tickets on your iPhone's Fandango app while you read this? **A**—Chris Stewart.

**Edge of Darkness.** Mel Gibson stars as an angry old man who will stop at nothing to screw all kinds of stuff up. Ah, hell this looks pretty good. **B**—Chris Stewart.

**Dear John.** Channing "yummy" Tatum stars as some kind of boy and Amanda Seyfried is some sort of girl in this movie. When the steel mill shuts down, he's forced to rally survivors in a barren land where a virus has turned many into cannibals. All of this gets in the way of Tatum's dream of building rockets. Seyfried, meanwhile, just wants to dance. **D-**—Chris Stewart.



## VIDEO GAME REVIEW



COURTESY / THQ

The end of the world is a popular theme these days, be it in books, movies or video games. Most apocalypse media, however, focuses either on the struggle for survival during catastrophic events or after.

Very few go into what would happen to the earth after humanity has been scoured from it. For a wonder, Vigil Games' "Darksiders" for the Xbox 360 and PS3 does.

You see, humanity does not end in "Darksiders" because of man's hubris or folly. It ends because the millennia-old truce between heaven and hell is broken, and as a result humanity is wiped out as hell's armies take over the world.

War, one of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse, is the star of the game and is integral to the complex and intriguing story. It is War's job to ensure the truce is not broken until the appointed time and to punish those who violate it.

Instead, he is blamed for starting the apocalypse, and damned by his masters to undo "his" work. He looks like a cross between the over-muscled form of Marcus Fenix from "Gears of War" and the head and hair of Arthas from the "War-Craft" universe.

The game plays like a little bit "God of War,"

a little bit "Dynasty Warriors," a little bit "Prince of Persia" and a lot of "Legend of Zelda" distilled down into one game.

By this point, you have probably noticed the plethora of other games made reference to in this review.

"Darksiders" simultaneously borrows concepts from a wide variety of genres and games and then refines them down into a cohesive, engaging experience.

Most next-gen games that involve the end of the world (or end of a world—looking at you, *Gears of War*) often use a dark, muted palette of browns, blacks and grays to show the world's desolation.

"Darksiders" shuns this trend—both the characters and locations are quite colorful, which is a welcome breath of fresh air stylistically.

The end of the world can be a dangerous place. One could say it is dangerous to go alone. Thankfully, in *Darksiders*, you are never alone, thanks to The Watcher.

He is your constant companion, lying dormant in your glove until he is needed to make a snarky comment or guide your path. He is voiced by the talented Mark Hamill, so that is another plus as

well.

With all these pluses, "Darksiders" seems like a great game—and it is. Only a few flaws hold it back from being a perfect one.

The controls are nice and responsive, but the noted lack of a dedicated dodge button is a problem. Instead of being able to dodge, you are given the ability to rush forward suddenly; nice for moving faster to escape enemies and regroup, but not so good for avoiding incoming blows.

"Darksiders" emulates the "Legend of Zelda" formula quite nicely—almost too well. There's the usual go-here-get-weapon/object-in-dungeon-to-use-in-overworld-to-get-to-next-dungeon as well as the commentary from The Watcher (Midna, anyone?). A little straying from the formula would have been nice.

There is also a really nasty screen tear that initially plagued the Xbox 360 version of the game, but by the time you read this an update will already be released.

"Darksiders" is really fun, and while the story may not make a lot of sense early on, rest assured that it is all (kind of) explained in the end. The end of the world is never a fun place to be, but "Darksiders" is. **A-**—*Andrew Seal*

See **GREASE**, page 9

Hicks returned to the stage after the last curtain call to perform a song from his latest album, much to the delight of a majority of the audience which apparently included numerous fans.

Hicks also signed CDs in the lobby after the performance had ended. Also added into the show were a

few sly references to Hick's appearance on *American Idol* by "Frenchie" as the two sang their duet.

Also part of the cast for the male lead of Danny Zuko is "American Idol" finalist from Season 5, Ace Young. Lauren Ashley Zakrin plays Zuko's sweetheart, the goody-two-shoes Sandy. Zakrin may be familiar

to some as the face of Elle Woods when "Legally Blonde, The Musical" came to the Fox Theater a year ago. Both Young's and Zakrin's performance were exceptional and really helped to bring to life the characters that so many in the audience already felt they knew.

The set for the performance was

also put together very well.

The set, designed by Derek McLane, included a burger joint complete with a hollow ice cream cone that opened up during the duet between Frenchie and Teen Angel to reveal Taylor Hicks. **A-**—*Anna Marie Curran*

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## FILM REVIEW

# 'When in Rome' is predictable, but funny

Just from glancing at the commercial, this movie seems pretty easy to guess. But for those who enjoy the happy endings of the world, "When in Rome" is another movie to add to the list.

The film begins with Beth (Kristen Bell) as an upbeat art curator, putting on a show at New York's Guggenheim Art Museum. She sets up the movie in a conversation with her friends, proclaiming that her love for her job often overpowers her love in relationships, despite her yearning for one. She announces that once she finds a man she loves more than her career, she will know it is real.

When her younger sister Joan (Alexis Dziena) arrives with the news of her whirlwind engagement to her Italian boyfriend Umberto (Luca Calvani), Beth finds herself being swept off to

Rome in less than two weeks to perform her duties as maid of honor.

While there, at the prospect of remaining single forever, Beth becomes intoxicated and frolics about in the Fountain of Love, where it is believed that after throwing a coin in, true love will find you.

In her drunken state, she decides to tempt superstition and steals coins from the fountain. After returning to New York, she finds herself being pursued by a hand full of very different men, including an artist (Will Arnett), an insecure magician (Jon Heder), a middle-aged sausage king (Danny DeVito), and a self-centered (to say the least) model (Dax Shepard).

Meanwhile, Beth believes she is falling for Nick (Josh Duhamel), who coincidentally at-



COURTESY / DISNEY

Kristen Bell (right) looks for a happy ending in "When in Rome."

tended and wooed her at the wedding in Rome. Both are not particularly looking for love but are falling for one another regardless of this fact. The problems begin and persist when she is unsure of how to rid of the unwanted suitors.

"When in Rome" is overall predictable. A classic romantic comedy is as follows: main character either wants or finds love in an unexpected way, then follows a series of scenes full of humorous antidotes and mishaps, only

to lead into a happy ending for everyone. "When in Rome" follows these cues without hesitation.

However, the characters really make the movie. Beth is a young, quirky and ambitious woman who, despite past experiences and what she says, still seems to have an open heart. Nick could be classified as equally ambitious, and is the standard tall, dark and handsome charmer.

See ROME, page 11

## Times New Viking vs. Yo La Tengo tour makes stop at Pageant

▶ JOE SCHAFFNER  
Asst. A&E Editor

Times New Viking and Yo La Tengo took a tour of the Midwest together, repeating a similar tour they completed in 2008. They played in St. Louis on Sunday, Jan. 24 at the Pageant.

Times New Viking is attempting to rekindle the prolific standard that bands needed to live up to in the late 60s, when churning out multiple releases in the same year was necessary to avoid falling off the radar. Drummer/vocalist Adam Elliott has referred to the band as a product, and this incessant self-consciousness has seen them charge punk energy into three LP releases in four years.

All things considered, the songs TNV have produced to

date are sweet and melodic but intrinsically damaged. It is initially difficult to tell if they are too prickly to embrace. Their do-it-yourself defense of cheap guitars and broken microphones sparks interest, but causes problems too. The vocals that Elliott and keyboardist Beth Murphy provide do not weave together as much as undermine each other in an enthusiastic hurry to make noise.

Still, they do pretty well. TNV is genuinely talented at writing catchy songs, and the harshest critic cannot help but recognize a graceful, albeit fairly lackadaisical, know-how imbedded in their garish trappings.

At this point, TNV has tightened what they first started doing on "Presenting the Paisley Patch" into grooved and more immediately accessible gems. The songs are still prickly, but the feel-good pop sensibility that has earned them notoriety is more overtly displayed even, at times, with pub-rock gusto rather than artistic stand-offishness.

At this point, Yo La Tengo is

the matured version of a similar process. The start of their career was a collection of ostensibly unlistenable jams. Now, 15 years and 12 studio albums later, Yo La Tengo has produced everything from experimentally loud to experimentally soft.

The bond they share musically is only the start of the interest to which this bill gave rise. Times New Viking has a track on their 2008 release "Rip It Off" called "Times New Viking Vs. Yo La Tengo," and the question of the night was whether the two-decade-late upstarts could outclass their exalted seniors.

Yo La Tengo was perfect. They played for two encores and two hours. Their set list, which always has the potential to confuse even their most hardened fans by becoming too obscure, showed off their diversity while maintaining stylistic equilibrium. They were charming, appreciative and professional. TNV played short songs and a short set. They were entertaining but clearly underdeveloped in comparison.

Ira Kaplan of Yo La Tengo was worth the admission price by himself. He twitched and crooned his way through the set, matching an animalistic deconstruction of guitar with easygoing vocals. TNV likes making noise but Kaplan is on a whole different level. He approached his synth with the same wild-eyed glee as Dr. Frankenstein approaching reanimation.

The two bands came together during the first encore to perform a cover of The Electric Eels' "Accident." Yo La Tengo, and Kaplan in particular, had no trouble keeping up with the youth's boisterous participation. The result was a somewhat uneven blend, but the two bands seemed to be enjoying their personal moment.

Yo La Tengo closed the set with a couple of low-key acoustic numbers. Though an abrupt change of pace at the time, it reminded the audience that Yo La Tengo has been around for ages, that they know both sides of sonic affluence, and that they are still happy to just relax for a second with their fans.

## SWEET JAMS

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

1

'Tik Tik'  
Ke\$ha

As soon as the deal that Ke\$ha made with Thaglorak, Demon God of the music industry, runs out; we will all be spare her "music" and "lyrics", but until then, I for one, am just gonna do so much coke that I don't feel anything.

2

'Imma Be'  
Black Eyed Peas

This song sucks. It makes me want to soak my whole body in water, go to a power plant, strip the end of every juiced wire bare, and roll around for awhile. Do you know why? Not because I don't like living. Because it would feel better than hearing this song.

3

'Hey, Soul Sister'  
Train

Train, I've been reading your lyrics. What the hell are you talking about? Seriously. Why don't you make like normal people and get a job at a fast-food place so that you can afford cable television and the occasional tall can.

4

'Carry Out'  
Timbaland

Finally, someone has realized the great untapped lyrical reservoir that is "fast food restaurant sex metaphors". Timbaland and Justin Timberlake, are you to tell all the young ladies out there that they can "have it their way". But can we order breakfast any time of the day?

5

'In My Head'  
Jason DeRulo

This catchy ditty gives us a rare glimpse into the complex working of the male mind. Ever wonder what goes on in Jason DeRulo's head? Lots of things about sex, apparently. Indeed, it is going down in DeRulo's head. Tragically, the week's "best" song.



## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Back to the good ol' days

*George's Diner is proof that good food never goes out of style*

Just four miles from campus, George's Diner is in a tiny white building at 2539 Woodson Rd. where it been serving customers since 1941. It is difficult to choose which stands out more: the diner itself or the food: The interior of the Diner, as locals affectionately call it, is nondescript and probably not much different from the day it opened nearly 70 years ago, much like its food.

It is mostly white with no decor aside from a large dry-erase board listing the hours, daily specials and cash-only policy. Sporadically lining the only wall with available space are two pinball machines, a touch-screen game and a jukebox. The menu is simple: basic fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is not the place to go if you are counting calories or switching to a vegetarian diet but it is what many people would call real food, made with real ingredients by real hands.

After settling in on one of the 15 red, padded, floor-mounted bar stools surrounding the L-shaped counter, the server/cook/cashier takes your order and gets to work cooking it. The burgers are made from real ground beef, formed into patties and grilled the way you want after being ordered, not before.

Forgive the brush-off to political correctness, but these are simple and tasty with just the right amount of greasiness one would expect from a true burger joint. For a light snack, the single-patty burger is the way to go but for any semblance of an appetite, the (crispy) bacon double-cheeseburger is a must. Eat delicately though or the bun will certainly not make it to the last bite. The server/cook/cashier is happy to cook your thick-cut (but not steak-cut) fries the way you want, so order them on the crispy side if that is your preference.

When ordering breakfast, try the hash browns. It is a rare treat indeed to eat hash browns freshly grated from real potatoes, even at home. As if fresh-from-scratch were not enough, the Diner has a specialty — biscuits and gravy. It is made nightly from Wednesday to Saturday, and when it is gone, it is gone. Having only been a loyal Diner customer for a year, the few times breakfast was the preference, the biscuits and gravy had already been gobbled up by other more-loyal patrons. However, the word around the counter is that the b&g are not to be missed (pun intended).

Ever wonder why you can't get eggs to cook as well at

home as you can at a restaurant? So do the server/cook/cashiers. A recent debate concluded that it must be the industrial grill, and the Diner lends credence to the theory. Eggs, scrambled or otherwise, are cracked from real eggs, and not until you order them. With crispy bacon and well-done sausage (patties or links), breakfast is better than homemade.

George's Diner is not for everyone; there are no booths or private tables, and on a busy day, if you can find an empty stool, you may very well bump elbows with your neighbor. The employees do not always wash their hands before working with the food after clearing away dirty dishes and working with money, which may turn off some folks, but they do clean them frequently. Customers will either love or hate the bathroom, which might be twice the length of an airplane bathroom, but no wider.

What customers do like are the round-the-clock hours (closed Sunday noon to Monday 5:30 a.m. and closed Monday nights), the friendly, relaxed atmosphere, and the leave-when-you're-ready attitude. Oh yeah, and the freshly-made-in-front-of-you food. **B+** —*Stacy Beckenholdt*

See **ROME**, page 11

Comedy enters when we see what in reality would be uptight, unamusing people who consistently stumble and are the leading acts for slapstick comedy. In the midst of serious emotions, the main characters are running into objects, falling down or get-

ting sprayed in the eyes with breath spray.

In addition, the suitors are completely extreme and unexpected and provide comic relief in their displays of love for Beth in their own unique ways.

This makes the subject

of stalking lighthearted and friendly for all audience viewers.

"When in Rome" is a good movie for an hour and a half of laughs and a couple of "aww" moments, even if we all do know how things will end. **B+** —*Jen O'Hara*

Know of a restaurant that needs to be reviewed?  
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

## Dance St. Louis presents 'Ballet Folklorico'

Dance presenter Dance St. Louis brings many dance delights to St. Louis. Last weekend, they brought Ballet Folklorico de Mexico at the Fox Theater on Jan. 29-30.

The troupe performed a series of colorful, energetic and often playful dances that drew on the history of Mexico and the cultures of its peoples and regions. Many of the dances had storylines, and all had beautiful, brightly colored costumes inspired by Mexican traditional dress.

The first piece, "The Gods," drew on Aztec theology. Lines of male dancers, in colorful, Aztec-inspired costumes with flat, feathered hats, held rattles and bows and performed rhythmic dances with elaborate footwork and looping turns. Set to percussive music, the dance symbolized a conversation between man and the Aztec gods. The dance was hypnotic and pulsating with a touch of war dance.

For the rest of the performance before intermission, the music switched from native peoples' influence to mariachi bands. "Guerrero" featured three dances: "Guerrero," honoring Mexican hero Vicente Guerrero, "Las Amarillas," inspired by beautiful yellow and orange birds and featuring dancers dressed in yellow and waving red scarves, and "El Gusto," a lively traditional

tap dance.

Next was "Revolution," which honored the 1910 Mexican Revolution. The most striking portion was dedicated to the women soldiers and danced by women in traditional skirts and braids, brandishing rifles in a martial routine.

Next was the rodeo-themed "Charreada," with a performer dressed in cowboy attire and spinning out a terrific series of rope tricks, including a bit where he danced in and out of his whirling rope, which was met by thunderous applause. The rope-twirling cowboy was joined by a female dance partner and then by other pairs of dancers in a flirtatious kissing dance.

"Tlacotalpan Festivity" portrayed a January festival in seaside Veracruz. It began with the dance of fishes, with dancers holding puppets on sticks. Before a seaside town backdrop, traditionally-dressed dancers performed fandangos on wooden platforms that amplified the tapping sound. They were joined by playful dancers wearing large, puppet-like heads that represented traditional characters, who then danced down the theater aisles to the delight of the children in the audience.

After intermission, the Zapotec Indian-inspired "Feather Dance" featured male dancers in high feathered headdresses and elabo-

rate costumes, performing a rhythmic, high-stepping dance. Next was "Wedding in the Huasteca," a little drama of a philandering bridegroom, a wedding and a murder of a rival, all handled with a touch of ironic humor.

"Life Like A Game" was the most comic, imaginative piece in the program. With a mischievous comic devil as our guide, we are led through a fantasy world that mixes romance, humor and death but maintains a playful, humorous spirit.

The next dance, the "Deer Dance," was inspired by the Yaqui Indian people. Against a desert backdrop, a single dancer, costumed as a Yaqui wearing headgear shaped like a deer head, frolicked about, imitating the movements of the animal. Eventually, hunters with bows joined in the dance, stalked the deer and killed it.

The program finale was "Jalisco," a Ballet Folklorico de Mexico tradition. A large mariachi band, dressed in black traditional outfits, took the stage for a musical interlude that featured some breathtaking vocal work. The dancers soon returned with a series of festive dances and ended with the familiar Mexican hat dance. The audience could not have been more pleased with this show of Mexican delights.

**A** —*Cate Marquis*

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# Campus Celebrates

## *The life of Des Lee*

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN  
News Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis hosted a celebration last week in honor of the memory of Desmond Lee or "Des." The celebration included performances by five different musical groups from around the St. Louis area as well as speeches from numerous E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professors from UM-St. Louis, including former chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, the president of the Missouri Historical Society Robert Archibald, Chancellor Tom George, and Gary Lee, son of Desmond Lee. The Master of Ceremonies was Lynn L. Beckwith Jr., E. Desmond Lee endowed professor in urban education in cooperation with the St. Louis public schools.

The many speakers and groups represented at the celebration demonstrated the spectrum of people who were affected by the late Desmond Lee. The celebration, organized by the Des Lee Collaborative Vision director Steffanie H. Rockette, was tailored to give the people in attendance a feel of what Desmond Lee was like. There was a small drum set on one side of the stage to which Rockette referred to as she was speaking about Lee, saying that "Des never lost his passion," and that the drum set helped to represent that.

"We have the drum set, set up in honor of Des, and if you all know any of the birthday parties that I held, we always had a drum set, and [Des] edged over, and edged over, and eventually that little guy got up and handed over the sticks and Des had a good time," Rockette said.

Endowed professor Patricia G. Parker was another speaker at the

celebration. She spoke particularly of how Lee was always very inquisitive of the projects he was helping to make a reality. Parker said that before she would meet Lee, she would prepare a list of questions that she expected he would ask, as well as what her answers to them would be. Parker also read a letter written by one of her students speaking of his gratitude to Lee and his personality.

"His eyes were like ones of a little child when we were telling him about our research, and he was always asking more and more questions about it," Park said.

Lee's son, Gary Lee, was the final speaker and spoke on behalf of the entire Lee family. Gary Lee expressed that he could tell that all of the speakers truly knew his father from the anecdotes they mentioned, especially that of his father continually asking more and more questions about all of the projects.

Gary Lee also expressed his gratitude for the university and other groups around St. Louis that have helped the family in obtaining closure through numerous tributes—including an hour-long radio tribute on KWMU.

Gary Lee also spoke about the character of his father and how his philosophy with donating money was to give a person enough money to get started but not enough to "take away their initiative."

"The plan was that he would not give too much money so that they would stop working, just enough so that they could get started," Lee said. "I didn't understand that until a week ago, but his plan worked."

The celebration was concluded with a display of fireworks on the South Lawn of the Touhill Perform-



The audience claps and celebrates the life of Des Lee while fireworks sound outside the Touhill Wednesday night. Fittingly, the reception was held outside the Des and Mary Ann Lee Theater.

Audience members present for the celebration included former Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, Des' son Gary, several E. Desmond Lee endowed professors and Chancellor George. Refreshments were served after the fireworks show as the guests reminisced about Des Lee's life accomplishments.



## FACULTY PROFILE



**Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris**  
Professor's travels influence teaching

MICHELLE KAUFMAN/THE CURRENT

► **SEQUITA BEAN**  
Features Editor

Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris is an assistant professor of education and the director of the Center of Human Origin and Cultural Diversity at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Also a ubiquitous traveler, Dr. Lewis-Harris' latest project can be seen at the Missouri History Museum, where she offers a look at the anthropology of their newest exhibition, "RACE: Are We So Different?" The exhibition runs through April 2.

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

Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris: In a way, I really didn't want to. My grandmother was a teacher, my mother and my aunt were both teachers, and that was enough educators in one family. Plus my mother was also a principal. Actually, I got my first degree in fine arts with the intention on just basically practicing art, and then I would teach art as a backup.

*TC:* How do your experience and your travels influence your teaching?

JLH: It actually enforced my teaching. It started in 1973. I was offered a position in Boston to teach art. It was a special situation because they needed minority teachers, so I went there and found out that was okay—except for in the winter time. After that I went to Liberia and I ended up teaching there, but it was more informal education because I was working with people in the village, and also I was working with reinforcing education on the village level. That was a different type of education ... than sitting in a classroom. Then I ended up teaching [at the] University of Liberia and that gave me a different perspective on education as well.

*TC:* What has been your greatest experience abroad and what did it teach you?

JLH: In Liberia, where basically I had to hit the ground

and learn culture. You might be African-American, and you might have read books about West Africa, [but] it's a whole different thing when you're living in West Africa. First I was working with people who are Christians in the village, and then later on I ended up working with Muslim women, so it was the culture overlay, the gender overlay and the religion overlay. I think in Papua, New Guinea, it was like, there's 732 different ethnic groups there, so there it was learning how to manage between groups and finding out very quickly who got along with who. Since I was supposed to be educating people, I had to learn about a lot of cultures really fast. I was there for 6 years, and in Liberia for 2 years.

*TC:* You've lived everywhere!

JLH: No, I haven't been to South America! I'm working on that now.

*TC:* What brings you to St. Louis?

JLH: I was born here. We were in Papua, New Guinea, and my mother was crying on the phone ... and she didn't get to see her grandbabies, so we came back here and I got a job at the art museum within a month and a half that I was here, so that's how I ended up staying here. It was strictly family and job availability.

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

JLH: Cultural competency, and how your environment shapes your life. 'Middle class American' is not the only culture. We have 42 different ethnic groups residing in St. Louis and it behooves us to know that it's not just black and white. We are in a global society.

*TC:* Any hobbies outside of art and education?

JLH: Plants, gardening, growing orchids and taking my little cousins on field trips.

# The Runway

*The misadventures in copyright, take one*

One of my favorite fashion blogs on the Internet has a hard time when low-end designers and labels "knock off" or are "inspired by" clothing made by high-end designers. The editors of the blog are usually very vicious when the topic comes up, often belittling the low-end designer for ripping off the high-end one. Those posts generate the most traffic and comments of any posts on the site, so it is clear to see why they keep up the bickering.

I think they are being ridiculous, for lack of a better word. On one end, I understand their viewpoint. For those of us that see fashion as an art form, it is a bitter pill to swallow to see someone's work emulated and sold to the masses for cheap. However, the fact is that these days, even the best designer's work is hardly original.

If I had a nickel for every time I saw someone in knock-off clothing, I'd be a trillionaire. I'm not talking about those Coach bags with the Gs in place of their signature C, or the Louis Vuitton gear with the backward LV, but instead every item of clothing on every person. Take shirts, for example. All of the many styles of shirts were developed over the years by various designers, and all—when they came out—were considered innovative.

Last year, that same fashion blog made a huge ordeal about the moderately priced shoe and accessories brand, Aldo, "ripping off" the famed French luxury brand, Givenchy. Their main argument was that Aldo's shoe copied Givenchy's because both shoes were t-strapped, studded sandals. The only differences were that Givenchy's



Sequita Bean

came out first and cost hundreds of dollars more. It is annoying that this site's editors seem to think the studded stiletto gladiator was invented by Givenchy. A mindless idiot can get on Google and find out that the sandal was invented by the Mesopotamians as early as 1200 B.C. The t-strap was invented by the Greeks. A stud is considered a button, and the button was invented in China circa 2600 B.C.—need I go on? To insinuate that Givenchy ripped off those people is just as silly as saying Aldo is ripping off Givenchy.

Even when the garment is clearly inspired, like mass retailer Forever 21's inexpensive take on various pieces of Gwen Stefani's Harajku Lovers line (which Stefani sued the company for), I really do not see the problem. Fashion should not be unavailable to someone who is on a budget and would like that same look. If a pair of leggings is \$75 cheaper at Target, by golly, I am buying the cheaper ones!

Chances are, they are made by the same company in China. Keeping in mind that nothing is original in the first place, I will not lose any sleep supporting a company who "ripped off" someone else's design, which is someone else's design, which is someone else's design.

# Turn on the lights! It's dark out here!

▶ ASHELY ATKINS  
Staff Writer

After a series of attacks on both the North and South Campuses, the Student Government Association, Student Life and Residential Life decided to hold a Safe Walk to inspect security issues on campus. A group of University of Missouri-St. Louis administrators and students, draped in winter wear, gathered at Provincial House on South Campus to participate in the Safe Walk.

The event was lead by SGA Comptroller, Dan Rosner, and the main goal the organizations wanted to achieve was to raise safety awareness on campus—especially for the students forced to walk at night. “If you walk around

campus there [is a] lack of light and we want to bring awareness to that,” Rosner said.

Upon entry into the museum room of the Provincial House, each volunteer was presented with a flashlight and whistle, and assigned a numbered name tag. The numbers were used to divide the volunteers into their Safe Walk groups. Considering the cold weather and the circumstance that brought everyone together, the atmosphere in the room was of high spirits. Some students were present at the event out of request from their resident assistants, while some transformed it into an outing with friends.

“It is a big concern for me and my fraternity brothers,”



RIKI TANAKA/THE CURRENT  
Groups summarize the findings of Wednesday night's Safe Walk at the Museum Room of Provincial House- South Campus.

Shiraz Bhuddo, senior, said. “We are coming out to see what we can do for them, or to help.” He also mentioned bringing along a friend who just came back from Iraq who would do well in pointing out security issues.

The Safe Walk was not just a walk full of students. Some administrators were present as well, such as Associate Vice

Provost Dean of Students Orinthia Montague. “I wanted to see it through the eyes of someone who walks back and forth through the campus,” Montague said.

After a couple of minutes of conversing, the task at hand was presented.

See SAFE, page 21

# Angelic Fiction: Touched by an UM fiction writing class

▶ CHRIS STEWART  
Staff Writer

University of Missouri-St. Louis student Caroline Hinton is many things: mother, grandmother and published author. Her unique brand of fiction deals mostly with stories where the spiritual and the physical interact—think Touched by an Angel in an updated, urban setting. The Current spoke with Hinton about how she came to be a writer, and how she juggles school, personal life, writing and the faith that influences all of these aspects of her life.

The Current: To begin with, how long have you been writing?

Caroline Hinton: I've

been writing since I was a child, but I'm just now getting stuff really published. I've been working with the UM SL teachers and even some classmates that critique my work. I've had some bit-ter-sweet experience but it's for the best.

TC: Care to elaborate?

CH: I've had some resistance because my writing is different ... even though there are Christian writers out there, my writing is still seen as different and people respond to that, people in class ...

See FICTION, page 21

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7	8	9 State Farm Presentation: Job Fair Readiness 3:30 p.m.	10 Resume Critiques in the Nosh featuring Edward Jones 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Peace Corps Info. Session, 3:30 p.m.	11 Resume Writing Workshop 11 a.m.	12	13
14	15	16 February 16: Two Events Resume Critiques in the Nosh 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Career Conversation: Applying for Graduate School 2 p.m.		18	19 20 UMSL Career Key Search for jobs & internships using our FREE web-based software for students & alumni. Activate your account at <a href="http://careers.umsl.edu">http://careers.umsl.edu</a> .	
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# Science/Health

## Apple iPad introduced, but will it live up to the hype?

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
Science/Health Editor

On a movie-theater-sized screen, the image of Moses carrying down the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai was displayed with this quote from *The Wall Street Journal*: "Last time there was this much excitement about a tablet, it had some commandments written on it."

"I chuckled when I saw this," Apple CEO Steve Jobs said as he stood on the stage below the image and quote.

Weighing in at 1.5 pounds, the .05 inch thick, wifi and 3G Internet enabled iPad is, more or less, an iPod touch or iPhone on steroids.

What it represents in the long run could be far greater than the iPad's technical specifications could ever express.

Prior to the formal unveiling of the iPad, Jobs asserted Apple's place as an industry leader in mobile consumer electronics.

Citing the runaway sales of the iPod, iPhone and Macintosh laptops, Jobs said, "Apple is a mobile devices company. That is what we do."

That said, the iPad is meant to compete with e-book readers and netbooks

(cheap, slimmed down laptops). The touch-screen interface allows for full-color reading of e-books, magazines and newspapers while Apple's touch-enabled version of their iWork office suite will allow users to use the device to create or edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents.

It also provides users with the ability to browse the Internet or check e-mail, and even utilize the same iPhone and iPod Touch applications they may have been using previously, though with much more screen real estate.

Still, following its unveiling, the device created more questions than answers about how it will change the media landscape. Marcel Bechtoldt, system administrator and professor of mass communication at UM-St. Louis, authored a UM System study of the network scalability of another Apple device similar to the iPad—the iPod touch—last year. Bechtoldt said that media support is what Apple is going for in the device. However, lofty ambitions could fall prey to corporate hegemony.

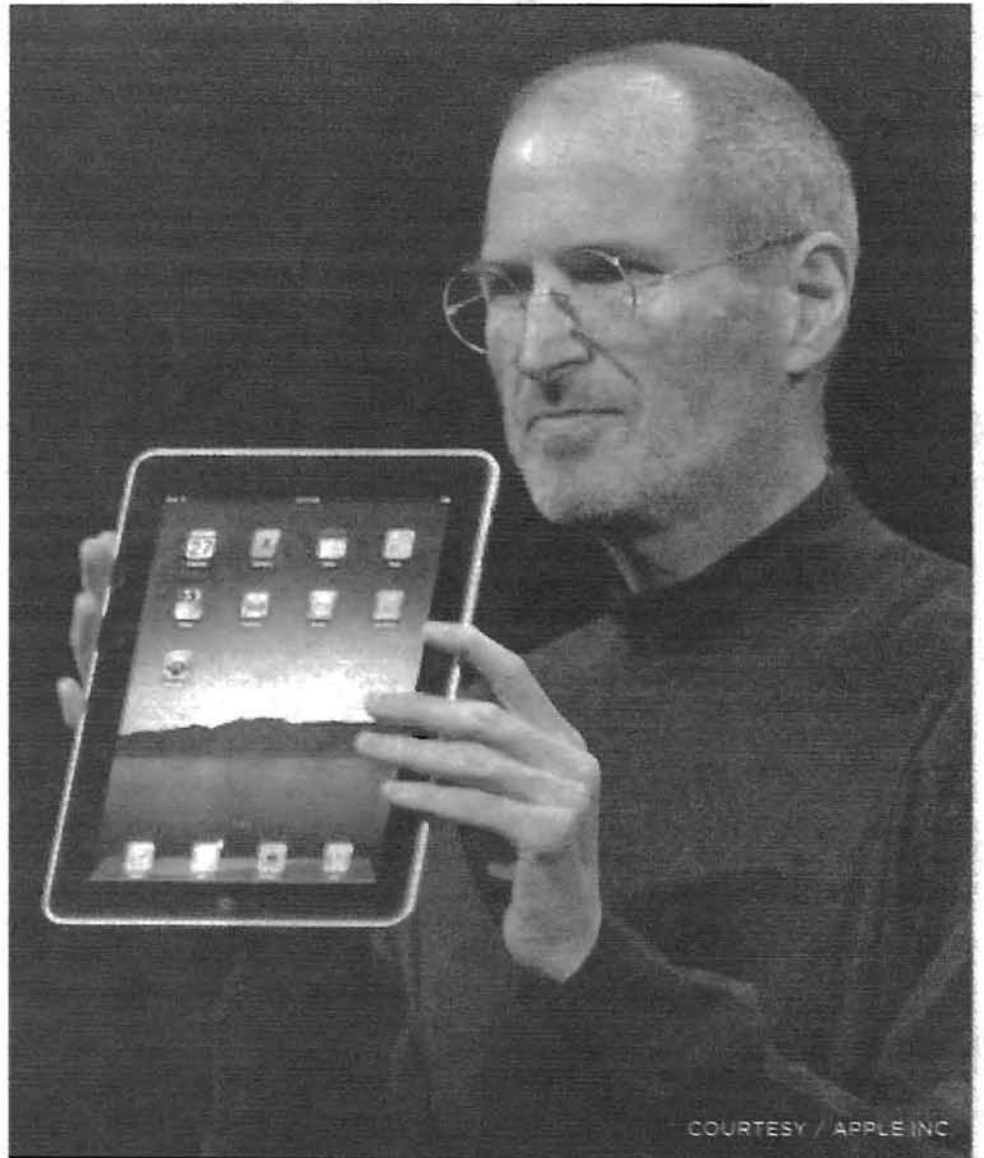
For instance, as on the iPhone, there is no support for Adobe Flash in the iPad's Web browser. How-

ever, Apple has developed a stand alone application for YouTube, which uses Flash to deliver video content. While Apple supports this Internet standard in a widely used application, it does not support it in its mobile Web browser.

In journalism, Apple seeks to change "how the gate keepers work on newspapers, meaning the editors," Bechtoldt said.

With a device such as the iPad, persons working in the media will not be limited to the narrow choices of print. For example, rather than choose between three photos, Bechtoldt anticipates a rich media environment in which an editor can choose to give their readers all three without having to make a definitive decision.

As for technical hurdles, Bechtoldt sees the iPad as having some of the limitations of its predecessors, like the iPhone, in which viewing the LCD screen is stymied by sunlight. "There is going to be, maybe, people that read outside ... Are they going to come in so that they can read their paper?" Bechtoldt asked. Aside from the myriad of technical hurdles for the new device, Bechtoldt said that it will only have a place in education if institutions,



COURTESY / APPLE INC

faculty and publishers lay a foundation for it. Added to that is the fact that IT at UM-

St. Louis will be equipped to provide the same support given to an iPhone or iPod

Touch user for any student bringing the device on campus when it is released.

## Google/China: Western influence in booming Chinese economy

► **JOE SCHAFFNER**  
Staff Writer

China has undergone a lot of economic development in recent years, including joining the World Trade Organization in 2001. Because economic control is still in the hands of the Communist Party, and companies operate under command capitalism with fixed prices, influenced lending and investing strategies, the Chinese economy has been able to avoid the grasp of an otherwise worldwide recession.

But the question of how China has

managed to build its economy is also a political issue. When mega-corporation Google threatened to quit doing business with China last month, the inherent differences between the American and Chinese points of view were highlighted. The role of free speech in modern China came under closer scrutiny.

The problem is one of censorship. Google initially agreed to comply with the Chinese government's restrictions, but officially announced last month that because they were hacked, and suspect the Chinese government of hacking into Chinese human rights activists' Gmail

accounts, that they will stop censoring their results on Google.cn and are going to "review the feasibility of [their] business operations in China."

Fareed Zakaria, an international relations commentator, has made the point that the Google incident may reflect a larger concern, mainly that to what extent has the Chinese leadership decided that it no longer needs the West or needs to be sensitive to the concerns about democracy and human rights that Americans and Europeans might have.

See **GOOGLE**, page 17

# HOTWIRE

► ANDY PHIPPS  
Science/Health Editor

## 1. Ticketmaster and LiveNation merge

Last week, the Justice Department approved the merger of the nation's largest ticket sales outlet with the largest promoter of live music. Critics say that the \$889 million merger between the two companies will create a monopoly over promotion and ticket sales for concerts in the United States.



## 2. Amazon announces Kindle App store

Even before the iPad was announced, Amazon geared up for competition with the e-book reader by announcing that their device would have applications available for their device delivered in a fashion much like Apple's own App Store for the iPhone/iPod touch. Amazon also raised revenue sharing for publishers and authors of Kindle books in an attempt to compete with Apple.



## 3. Massive virus hits Windows Vista PCs on a university campus

A computer virus targeted directly at computers running Microsoft's Windows Vista crippled the entire network at the University of Exeter in New Hampshire. The virus affected computers on the university's network running Vista Service Packs one and two, and took the entire university's online services down for about a day.



## 4. Google introduces Nexus One smartphone

Running its Android operating system, Google introduced its first piece of self-designed and developed consumer electronics hardware with the Nexus One, a smartphone meant to compete head-to-head with Apple's iPhone. The phone runs the same Google developed operating system as the Motorola Droid but is unlocked to cellular networks, meaning that any user can use the Nexus One with their existing plan.

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# Taking Care of Business

► CHRIS STEWART  
Staff Writer

"Why should I pursue a business degree at UMSL?" is a question on the University of Missouri-St. Louis' web page for the department of Business Administration.

While any department at most large universities is bound to have a string of sound bytes bundled up into a mission statement, there is more to UM-St. Louis' Business College than even its students are likely to know. It reaches farther than the university walls (as well as state and national borders, too, more on that later) and broader than simple degree-pursuit.

If you mention that you are enrolled at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the casual conversationalist will often be well-enough trained in the social graces to remark upon the revered international business program. Along with optometry, criminology and others, international business is known as UM-St. Louis' area of expertise.

The undergraduate business program is comprised of three main degrees: bachelor of science in business administration, bachelor of science in accounting, and bachelor of science in information systems.

Students pursuing these degrees can take part in any of 18 student organizations, ranging from Accounting Club to the Black Business Student Association to various Greek organizations that cater to undergraduate business majors.

The next tier in the framework of UM-St. Louis' business program contains six minors: general business, accounting, finance, logistics and operations management, management, marketing, IS, transportation studies, and international business.

"We also are offering more and more online classes, and classes in Wildwood for students who live way out in West County," Michael Elliott, director of undergraduate business programs said.

The international business program in particular has been the subject of various accolades, most recently and notably its ranking in U.S. News and World Reports' top twenty international business programs in the nation. UM-St. Louis has made this list—most recently in the 2009 publication—the past three years running.

See BUSINESS, page 21

GOOGLE, from page 15

"The question is whether China perceives itself as a world power at least on par with the United States, and can do what it wants in the world, including flouting human rights treaties, flouting world trade organizations. Under the rules of the world trade organization, China and every other country is supposed to promote free trade, open access, open borders. It seems as if the Chinese increasingly are prepared to violate those rules," Martin Rochester, professor, political science said.

Professor Hung-Gay, Chinese studies, remains skeptical of Google's claims. "The U.S. Government does not assume that China attacked Google purposely. I don't believe Google will withdraw. I think Google is using [their threat] as a bargaining chip. Historically there is already conflict between Google and China because of screening and censorship. Google was initially okay, but there is an ongoing dispute. I think that maybe Google wants to use this as a way to gain leverage."

As far as the China's internet use is concerned, Baidu.cn is clearly the preferred search engine at the moment.

"Google's market [in China] is less than

30%. It's small. Even though it's small, it wants to keep going. Google has its core client base in China, to withdraw would not be wise business tactics. I'm optimistic that we will solve the dispute. I don't see Google withdrawing. There has to be a compromise, some way," professor Hung-Gay said.

There's nothing to do but wait and see how the situation plays out. As of now, one of the world's largest and most powerful companies has tarnished the Chinese government's reputation.

"If I had to guess I would think that in the short term there may be some breach between Google and the Chinese government and growing tensions between them. In the longer term I think the Chinese government will feel pressure to rethink the direction they're going in," professor Rochester said.

"It's difficult to control the internet, it's a waste of time and energy. But of course the Chinese government wants to stop obscene pictures.

From the American perspective it's different, it's freedom of expression, but each country, each culture is different. We cannot impose U.S. viewpoints on other countries," professor Hung-Gay said.

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# Opinions

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 Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Anna Marie Curran • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel  
 Anthony Padgett • Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal

## High-speed train is good start to recovery

During his State of the Union address, President Obama announced a plan for the U.S. to catch up with the rest of the developed world by building a high-speed rail system. One of the first lines built would be between St. Louis and Chicago.

The plan is for \$1.2 billion of the \$8 billion for high-speed rail in the new stimulus plan to be used for the rail line between the two cities. The project would bring much-needed jobs through construction work on track upgrades and by the purchasing of American-made goods such as steel.

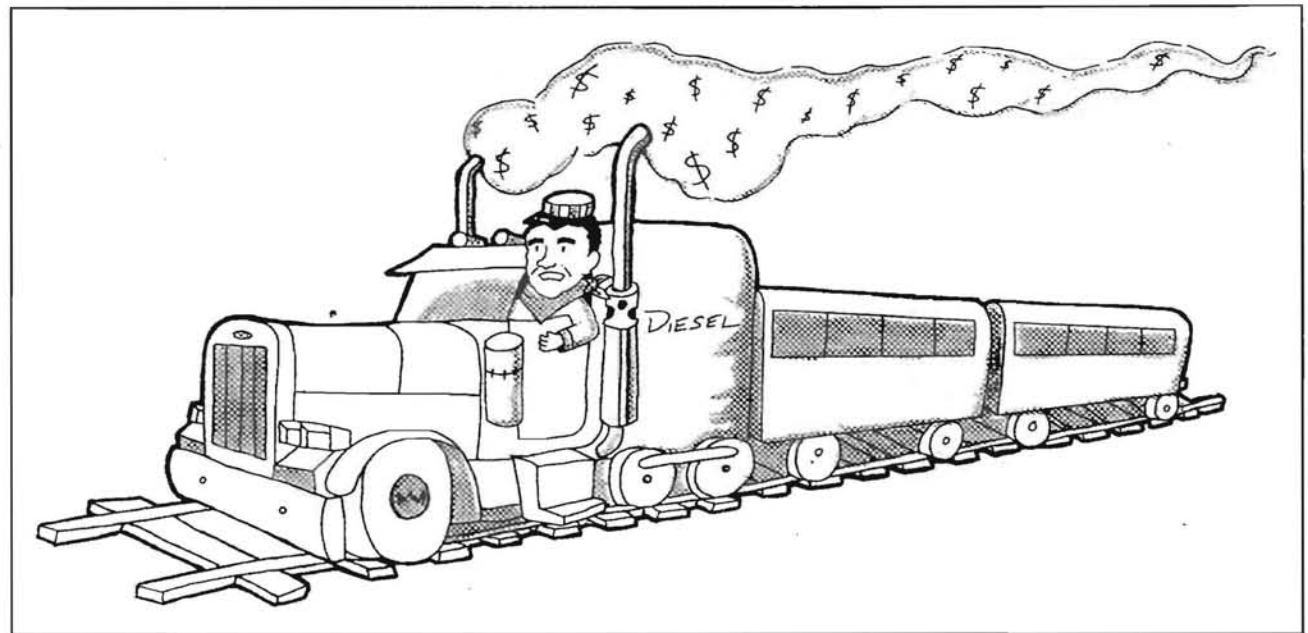
There would also be an increased number of rail employees needed to handle additional riders.

The system would create a real third option for intercity travel in this country. Now Americans' major travel options are to fly or to drive. In most other developed nations, there is a third option: rail travel. Skeptics of high-speed rail talk of "choo-choo" trains and 19<sup>th</sup> century technology, but anyone who has traveled on the Eurostar "bullet train" from Paris to London knows that high-speed rail is cheap, comfortable and hassle-free, and perhaps the

most enjoyable way to travel.

Modern trains are a far more luxurious way to travel; they come at a fraction of the cost of flying, have big comfortable seats, more leg-room, a smooth, quiet ride, and have no airport hassles or flight delays due to overcrowded skies. Train travel is relaxing and allows riders to view much more of the countryside than while driving, where you must watch the road, navigate the correct turns and face traffic congestion. The lack of traffic jams is a bonus even riders of the local Metrolink know and treasure. Trains are also less prone to weather delays than airplanes.

You can take a train between St. Louis and Chicago now, which will get you to downtown (rather than an airport on the outskirts) in about the same time as driving; about five hours. If you fly, you must allocate time for screening and boarding, which can turn an hour-long flight into something approaching the same travel time as by car, but for much more money. Upgrading to high-speed trains will offer a low-cost, speedy and relaxing alternate option to both car and plane.



PHIL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT

Train travel can offer cost-control and environmental benefits. Jet fuel costs will continue to rise and flying has a great impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Gasoline prices will also continue their upward trend, and getting stuck in traffic creates long lines of cars spewing CO<sub>2</sub> while going nowhere.

But there are questions about the president's plan from both sides of the political spectrum. Obama is not talking about a bullet train (a high-speed electric-powered train traveling up to 200 miles per hour) or the cutting-edge Maglev train for the Chicago-to-St. Louis route. The plan is only to upgrade tracks to allow Amtrak diesel trains to travel at their

maximum speed of about 110 mph.

These trains are still powered by diesel fuel, which emits CO<sub>2</sub>. Switching to electric trains would be a doubly positive move toward controlling greenhouse gases by offering an alternative to air and car travel, replacing diesel trains and controlling energy costs.

Electricity is an energy source with unlimited flexibility because it can be made from a variety of sources, including carbon-free energy sources like solar, wind or hydropower.

Some question why the project would start in the Midwest. But "flyover country" needs modern transportation too. Adding more dai-

ly trains between these two cities already led to a boost in ridership.

Other opponents engage in hand-wringing over the costs. What they fail to note is this country already spends billions of dollars every year funding "legacy" weapons programs that were designed to fight the old Soviet Union but are useless against modern terrorist threats. We could cut loose those old, useless programs, which are mostly maintained because of the few jobs they create, and spend that money on something actually useful, which will create the same number of jobs or more.

But none of these objections are sufficient to warrant dropping plans for an up-

graded passenger rail system. However, to really catch up to or even lead the world in this area, it would make far more sense in the long-term to go with a state-of-the-art passenger rail system. The U.S. was once a technology leader but has been falling ever further behind in recent decades.

Naysayers debating whether the country can tackle something this big seem to forget about how the Eisenhower administration built the national highway system. We need to build the next step in transportation, high-speed rail, to move into the future, recapture our leadership role, help our environment, create jobs and restart our economic system. That is a whole lot of win.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Your Jan. 19 editorial on Haiti rightly condemns Pat Robertson's inanities about God judging the unhappy country, but your response, which is to blame "Us" (the white man), is equally inane. The revolution there destroyed a place that was considered the jewel of the Caribbean. Thousands of whites were massacred, including women and children. White babies were even impaled on stakes. When the country was falling apart, its leaders reinstated slavery, and one oligarchy after another followed Haiti throughout its history. As usual, when whites oppress blacks it is horrible; when blacks do it to blacks, no one cares.

The U.S. intervened twice—true, to collect the bills, but also to keep order, build up the infrastructure, provide hospitals, etc. Once the U.S. withdrew, everything fell apart. Now, it will happen again. Haiti, like most of Africa, is incapable of keeping up civilization. It is East St. Louis with palm trees. The country's one charm seems to draw in do-gooders of all kinds, a sort of bleeding heart tourism.

*The Current* needs to accept that people are responsible for their messes.

Steven Clark  
 UM-St. Louis '80

*The Current* would like to take this opportunity to point out that letters to the editor are the opinion of the author, and not those of *The Current*.

If you have a letter to the editor or would like to comment on a past letter to the editor, let us know at [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu)



# Give me liberty or give me d20

To a role-player, a 20-sided die has many uses. It can be used to roll for initiative, for damage given or taken, or for any number of various saving throws.

Unfortunately for long-time Dungeons and Dragons player Kevin Singer, not even a perfect d20 toss could have helped his case. He failed his saving throw—that is, his appeals.

Singer is a convicted felon currently serving time in a modern-day dungeon, one Waupun Correctional Institute in Wisconsin. In 2002, Singer was convicted and given life in prison.

Since then, the lifelong gamer has been in jail playing “Satan’s game” with fellow inmates. One inmate, however, complained to prison officials (maybe he was feeling left out?) that Singer had formed a dangerous “DnD gang.”

Citing the facts that Dungeons and Dragons “promotes fantasy role-playing, competitive hostility, violence, addictive escape behavior and possible gambling,” officials confiscated Singer’s DnD paraphernalia, according to an article in the New York Times.

Not only were his manuals and dice taken, but also the custom campaign he had written. As someone who has written a custom campaign before, let me assure you: it requires patience, time and hard work.

Singer knows about hard work. After all, the reason he is incarcerated is because he beat his sister’s boyfriend to death with a sledgehammer.

However, the wardens took away his materials for the wrong reasons. “Promotes fantasy role-playing?”

Well done, Sherlock. You’ve determined that it is a role-playing game.

I can understand the “competitive hostility and violence” charges, but personally, I’d rather have inmates shanking imaginary goblins and owlbears than each other.

“Addictive escape behaviors?” You have to be kidding—isn’t escape something every prisoner thinks of? This kind of behavior is going on in jail, regardless of DnD.

“Possible gambling.” Again, it’s better that prisoners are rolling d20s for damage than trading the new guy for three cigarettes.

About this “DnD gang” that was so worrisome to the one inmate—can you imagine if Dungeons and Dragons actually promoted gang life?

You’d find yourself all alone in the wrong part of town when you’re suddenly accosted by a pimply-faced bunch of wayward youth looking for an easy mark.

Their leader is an acne-scarred, bespectacled 17-year-old. “Roll for initiative,” he sneers, rolling a wicked-looking aluminum d20 between his palms.

His buddies surround you, pulling out their PVC pipe and foam live-action role-playing weapons.

Suddenly, they attack! “Lightning Bolt!” screeches the kid wearing the wizard robe and hat, chucking a small yellow-colored piece of cardboard at you. It bounces off you harmlessly and the kids stand around looking dejected.

“Like, can you buy us beer, man?” the leader asks. “Like ale?—it has to be authentic.”



Andrew Seal

Yeah. Case in point. Prison officials may have taken away Singer’s role-playing gear for bad reasons, but that does not mean that taking them away was a bad thing.

In fact, it is a good thing. Let us not forget that Singer committed premeditated murder with a freaking sledgehammer!

Prisoners these days are coddled too much: three meals a day, books, TV (for some) and role-playing games?

Prisons should be a place where the only thing criminals can do all day is sit and think about what they did to land themselves in the clink in the first place.

Or better yet, prison should be a place where criminals are rehabilitated, not where they can recreate. A prison is a correctional facility, not a YMCA.

Singer sued to get his DnD stuff back. Last week though, he lost his appeal. The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit upheld the warden’s decision to remove them.

Good thing. It is about time Singer and his fellow inmates understand who is really Dungeon Master at the Waupun Correctional Institute. Here’s a hint: it’s not the guy in the orange jumpsuit.

## SOCIAL AWARENESS 101

# The harm of porn: Part I: Exploitation

From teenagers working at fast food restaurants for little pay to managers taking advantage of illegal immigrants’ status to avoid correcting unsafe work conditions, the examples of exploitation seem innumerable. As for the multi-billion dollar pornography, women are exploited in more ways than one.

Exploitation is the “unfair treatment of someone, or the use of a situation in a way that is wrong, in order to get some benefit for yourself,” as defined in the Macmillan dictionary. This is precisely what Joe Francis, creator of Girls Gone Wild, has done for over two decades.

Notorious for cheesy advertisements on late-night television, the basic GGW concept involves young women at Spring Break and Mardi Gras parties who, after signing contracts, dance and flash select body parts for the cameras in exchange for some inexpensive GGW merchandise. Compilations of these are then sold for the purpose of erotic enjoyment.

Many people complain that a t-shirt is an unfair exchange for doing something that has ultimately led to Joe Francis’ company, Mantra Films, Inc., being worth many times more than Playboy Enterprises, Inc. However, the real problem is that intoxicated women, most of who are not legally allowed to drink, are making choices that should only be made when their minds are clear enough to do so.

Paradfirm.com and small-business.findlaw.com both state that a contract is void if the person signing is intoxicated, especially “if the other party to the contract knew about the intoxication and took advantage of the intoxicated person.” Mr. Francis and his crews are aware that the women are drunk and understand that the chances of getting them naked are

greatly increased because of it.

This is not news to anyone reading this—when people drink, their defenses are down and will say and do things they normally would not. Unlike the majority of bad choices people make while intoxicated, these mistakes can follow them for the rest of their lives. Even when arrested for drunk driving, one’s driving record can ultimately be cleared and the person can successfully move forward with his or her life.

Not so when participating in a GGW video. It does not become a relic of one’s past. For the rest of her life, at any moment, a woman can be harshly and unfairly reminded of a 10-minute mistake she made, and the repercussions can negatively affect her relationships as well as employment opportunities.

While Mantra Films, Inc. takes advantage of women who are drunk, the hard core porn industry entices women with money.

Unlike the films and videos of the ‘70s and ‘80s where sex was usually fun for everyone involved, the industry has taken a serious turn, requiring women to push themselves to their limits physically and emotionally.

Many claim that this is simply fantasy, and that the women choose to be involved. As for the fantasy, the videos are not pretend and there are no body-doubles to do the difficult scenes. Much of what women do in porn are things that girlfriends and wives are unwilling to do, not because they are frigid, but because it is painful and degrading in many ways.

As for choosing to be involved, have you ever played the game “What would you do for a million dollars?” We all would do things we normally wouldn’t if there was a large sum of money involved. Countless women who ap-



Stacy Beckenholdt

pear in live-action porn only do it because they need the money.

Try this exercise: think of a job that you would hate to do. Now imagine you could make \$1,000-2,000 doing that job for just two hours. If you can’t afford to fix your car, feed your kids or pay your tuition, it would be pretty tempting.

We don’t live in a trade/barter society; money is the means by which we have our needs filled.

The industry is well aware of this and uses it to their advantage. Now here is the real test: if offered the same amount of money to be a receptionist, how many of these women would still be in an adult video? Probably not that many.

The reach of responsibility goes far beyond those directly exploiting women for their own financial gains. Watching, even on free websites (which receive advertising revenue based on the number of hits to their sites), supports these industries.

To make a difference you don’t need picket signs—just spend your time and money on responsible companies. There are women who happily participate in adult videos produced by reputable companies who deserve your business.

Aside from his other faults, Hugh Hefner actually prefers his models to not be intoxicated during working hours.

Stacy Beckenholdt is a copy editor for The Current.

## SCIENCE MATTERS

# Does BPA make you fat?

Last week, the science column focused on a chemical in plastics—bisphenol A (BPA) that has been ruled unsafe by several developed countries but is still being used here—and wondered why the FDA has postponed making a ruling, several times, on eliminating the chemical from food packaging, drinking containers and baby bottles, despite growing evidence of health risks.

On its website, the FDA suggests that the evidence is not clear enough. So let us take a look at some of the range of research on BPA.

A report on the website Science Daily, "FDA Says Bisphenol A (BPA) Exposure Is of 'Some Concern' for Infants and Children," states that studies in animals have shown BPA can negatively impact the brain and reproductive system, and has been linked to metabolic diseases.

One concern expressed about the FDA is its reliance on chemical industry research.

Frederick vom Saal, a Curators Professor in Biology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is one researcher studying BPA. His survey of published research on BPA, published on his website, indicated a bias in chemical industry-funded research. Of 231 studies of the effect of low-doses of BPA in experimental animals, 202 showed adverse health effects and 29 showed no adverse effects. All 14 studies funded by the chemical industry showed no harmful effects. Some studies with a no-adverse effect result lacked a positive control or used an experimental animal not sensitive to estrogen-like compounds.

BPA is one of a number of estrogen-like chemicals becoming increasingly common in our environment and linked to a number of

reproductive and developmental impacts.

The greatest concern that the FDA has expressed for BPA has been for its impact on babies and pregnant women. Scientists have long known that plastics breakdown over time and when heated shed BPA. It is a common ingredient in baby bottles, the lining of infant formula cans and a host of other baby products.

The two public health concerns are heart disease and rising rates of obesity and diabetes. There is talk of an obesity epidemic here and the problem is growing even in less-developed countries.

BPA exposure before birth has been linked to obesity. A 2008 survey of research presented by the European Congress on Obesity, with support by the U. S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, reported that in studies on mice, exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals during pregnancy, such as BPA, led to offspring that became fat as adults. The offspring also altered metabolic function in regulating weight.

BPA is linked to both obesity and heart disease through an effect called metabolic syndrome. A 2008 study from the University of Cincinnati conducting tests on human tissue, found BPA suppresses adiponectin, a hormone that regulates insulin sensitivity in the body. In a Science Daily web report on this research, metabolic syndrome is defined as "a combination of risk factors that include lower responsiveness to insulin and higher blood levels of sugar and lipids." The syndrome can lead to cardiovascular disease, stroke and Type 2 Diabetes.

A study published this month on the online science



Cate Marquis

journal PloS by researchers at Peninsula Medical School and the University of Exeter, UK, supports previous research, finding a link between BPA and heart disease, using U.S. population data on cardiovascular disease and looking at higher concentrations of BPA in urine.

One study links BPA to behavioral problems in children. A 2009 study from Simon Fraser University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, links early pregnancy exposure to BPA and increased aggression and hyperactivity in 2-year-old girls.

Other studies have found impacts on reproductive health in adults. Two recent examples are 2009 studies from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign presented to the Society for the Study of Reproduction, and from North Carolina State University and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, published online Biology of Reproduction.

One reason to be concerned about BPA is how common it is. It is one of the most common production chemicals and has been used for 40 years in hard plastics.

Cate Marquis is a columnist and A&E Editor for The Current.

## THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

# State of the Union packed a punch but leaves it up to us

I am a sad, pathetic soul. This is because one of my earliest memories is of watching a State of the Union. I have been watching them since the late 1980s and I have to say that the address Barack Obama gave last Wednesday night was the most impressive I have seen.

I think that David Gregory and Brian Williams at NBC had the best analysis of it.

During their after speech banter, they said what I had been thinking for most of the speech—that it was more like Question Time in the British House of Commons than an American State of the Union.

The reason for the comparison was due to the rampant den of murmuring through the house chamber that night that came from the delegations of both parties. No, there were no "You Lie!" type outbursts. But when considering the amount of times President Obama called out and picked on both parties, the supreme court and members of the joint chiefs one might think of that as a miracle.

Possibly the best example of Obama's heckling from the podium was his shouting out of the court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which will open the floodgates to corporate donations to political candidates.

Obama prefaced his screed against them with the statement, "I am all for the separa-

tion of powers," but he delivered a resounding punch to the robed individuals sitting directly in front of him and asked congress to immediately pass legislation to counter their decision and render it at least partially ineffective—something incredibly bold for a President to do, but if there ever were one, it would be Obama.

Indeed, the whole speech was a characterization of his campaign persona. Obama was the man we all knew from the campaign trail Wednesday night. He was once more the outsider, in the way he skewered the Washington power structure as he demanded that all parties begin working together to deliver the change that the American people had elected him to bring and expected congress to help him bring about.

But the idea that this Obama had left his bubble, that he was the man we had known in 2008 had been the whole idea of the speech. The President had sought to reconnect with the American people through it, and he did so using one of the most controversially successful aspects of his stump speeches in '08: the ability to tell the American people what is wrong with the country—to deliver bad news.

Candidate Obama did this in a way that inspired us to vote for change and I believe that in this State of the Union he managed to do the



Andy Phipps

same yet again.

But what smacks most of his campaign message lies in the rest of that speech. Obama's renewed call for change sounded very much like an old campaign speech in that change could only be accomplished by moving the numbers around: tax increases for the wealthiest two percent of Americans, expansion of aid to aspiring college students and passing health care reform in order to reduce the deficit.

All of these things depend on the factor that they have always been contingent on since he first proposed them. That factor is the cooperation of congress in passing these ideas as law.

And after Wednesday, it will remain to be seen whether his call for change through cooperation has changed the minds of anybody in that chamber at all.

I fear that it will not and that in the end, real change will be up to us.

Andy Phipps is a columnist and Science/Health Editor for The Current.

**What do you think about this week's columns?**

Post a comment at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)



# Classifieds

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

## 100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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## 400 FOR SALE

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

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

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## 700 MISCELLANEOUS

**If you used Yaz or Yasmin Birth Control Pills** between 2001 and the present time and developed blood clots or suffered a stroke or heart attack requiring hospitalization, you may be entitled to compensation. Call attorneys Anna Yakle & Charles Johnson, 1-800-535-5727

**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](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu) to place your ad today!

Check out our all-new website at  
[thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

### BUSINESS, from page 17

So what is so special about it? To begin with, UM-St. Louis' business program is as visible in Arabian Gulf countries Kuwait and Oman as it is in Missouri.

UM-St. Louis has been uncannily successful in developing and, crucially, maintaining close relations with her affiliate colleges, the Gulf University of Science and Technology (Kuwait) and the Modern College of Business and Science (Oman).

"For the International Business program, we now require that students have an international experience and spend time abroad in Europe or Mexico," Elliot said. "It's one thing

to take courses and discuss these things but another to actually experience them."

The business program has, beyond mere logistical and academic noteworthiness, been an asset for one of the most important and beneficial features of campus life: diversity. The business department and campus diversity may not seem instantly connected, but the outreach of the former has led to the increase of the latter; both in the direct manner that our affiliate schools overseas have transfer programs with us, and also in that the esteem of our business program draws students from across the nation and farther.

### FICTION, from page 14

TC: Which classes allow you to have other students critique your work?

CH: My class was UMStL's fiction writing class.

[The instructor] Mary Troy worked with me ... some of the things came as a result of an assignment and some material I've had several years. The assignment was several things put together. I took this course in April 2009 and before that class ended, I had published my first book.

TC: So the class and instructor were supportive?

C.H.: Yes, I think I write a little bit like her [Troy]. But just to have something that began as an assignment and got published is awesome.

TC: And what was that first book?

CH: That first story I wrote is called "The Angel and the Looking Glass." It's about a girl who interacts with her guardian angel and can see him. Since that point I've been writing

and editing my own stuff.

TC: Mostly books, or do you have a blog or website?

CH: I need to. I was trying to blog a little bit, I really need to. I have my little niece here, and maybe she can help me get started.

TC: What themes or emotions are you trying to evoke with your stories?

CH: I try to write where I can touch the human condition on different levels. Me myself, I've had some trying things in my life. My first book—yeah parts of it make me laugh but this girl is also dealing with some serious issues, like domestic violence.

TC: So would you call yourself a novelist?

CH: Well no, my most recent book is a collection of shorter stories, though my first one was just one. But [Introirey and the Never-Ending House of Hope] is a small book that has a lot of information in it, and a lot of diversity in its stories.

### SAFE, from page 14

The assigned groups walked through nine different sections of the UM-St. Louis campus and searched for poorly lit areas and shrubs that could be trimmed down.

In the end, evaluation sheets received by the organizations concluded that the main problem around campus did indeed seem to be the lack of light.

In response to this concern, the Student Government Association is in the process of converting all findings from the Safe Walk

into a report that they intend on presenting to the campus administration within a month. Rosner is confident about the support of the administration.

Since the attacks, campus police have stepped up the quality of security with the presence of more patrol cars around campus. They have also collaborated with Student Life in promoting self defense classes for students, which are in addition to safety programs for residents already in place offered in Oak Hall.

Dude!  
Your Ad  
Could  
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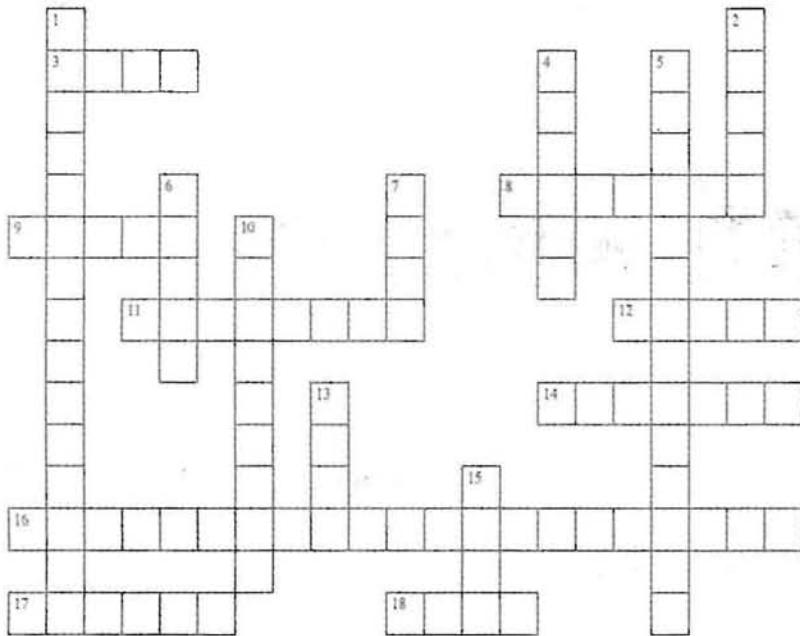
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# Puzzles

## CURRENT CROSSWORD

### Let's talk Apple.



## HAVE AN IDEA FOR A CROSSWORD?

Let us know at [thecurrenttips@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrenttips@umsl.edu)

### ACROSS

- 3. Announced last week, it looks to trump the Kindle's early success as a tablet computer.
- 8. Apple co-founder with Jobs.
- 9. Video game company that Steve Jobs worked at before co-founding Apple.
- 11. It is an once an annual conference, magazine, website and to some a state of mind.
- 12. Released in 1984, The Macintosh was the first personal computer with this now common attachment.
- 14. The chief executive who forced Steve Jobs out of his jobs in 1985.
- 16. Newton.
- 17. Apple's online music store.
- 18. When it came out in 1998 it was Apple's first "one-box" computer in more than a decade.

### DOWN

- 1. Medical procedure Steve Jobs had last year.
- 2. Their sleek and colorful laptop for the late 1990s.
- 4. Has become the second best selling smartphone on the market.
- 5. Holiday that Apple Computer was founded on in 1976.
- 6. Animation studio that Steve Jobs sold to Disney.
- 7. The massively popular personal music device, launched in 2001.
- 10. Apple's first laptop that came out in 1991.
- 13. Computer company Steve Jobs created after leaving Apple in the 1980s.
- 15. She was one of the first personal computers made by Apple.

## CURRENT HOROSCOPES

<b>ARIES</b> (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20) You're feeling very generous right now, and while that's a positive thing, you should take care not to make promises you can't keep and to be alert to people trying to take advantage.	<b>LIBRA</b> (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23) Don't worry too much about a bit of trouble you encounter with a close friend or family member. Any misunderstandings or hurt feelings should clear up by this weekend.
<b>TAURUS</b> (APRIL 21 - MAY 21) You may be feeling off this week but resist the urge to pour your heart out. Someone close to you is having troubles of their own, and while they'll want to support you they won't be much help.	<b>SCORPIO</b> (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22) Delicate topics may be up for discussion this week with friends and family. Approach these talks cautiously and don't be afraid to call an end to a conversation that's getting a little too heated.
<b>GEMINI</b> (MAY 22 - JUNE 21) A friend in trouble this week may not immediately appreciate your intervention in their life but right now it's more important to help them than to mind your own business.	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b> (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22) It may be difficult for you to work as part of a group this week; it will only get worse as time goes on. Try to resolve conflicts quickly, but don't be surprised if no one is interested in cooperating.
<b>CANCER</b> (JUNE 22 - JULY 22) Be careful of what you say. It's very possible this week that an innocuous comment could be misinterpreted, so be prepared to explain yourself and do a little damage control if necessary.	<b>CAPRICORN</b> (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20) You're not sure where you're at this week, emotionally speaking. Spend some time talking with trusted friends who can help you figure it out, but be prepared to return the favor down the line.
<b>LEO</b> (JULY 23 - AUG. 21) A lot of people may be looking to you for support right now, and if you're in a position to give it, great. However, chances are you're not able to handle everyone's problems at once.	<b>AQUARIUS</b> (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19) It's important for you to avoid embroiling yourself in a conflict between two friends this week. As good as your intentions may be, they probably just need to fight it out.
<b>VIRGO</b> (AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23) A get together with the family of a close friend is as likely to be tense as to be enjoyable. To ensure that it goes smoothly, make sure that your inclusion is okay with the host or hostess.	<b>PISCES</b> (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20) You've been spending a lot of time with friends lately at the expense of another relationship. Set aside some time this week to spend with your family or significant other.

## CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★★  
(Hard)

Last week's answers

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

Last week's rating: Medium

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

## CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

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

"JK'XK KGRXKPKMD UVXXD RV CWLK  
PWNK QOURVPKXU OSKWUD."

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



# Comics

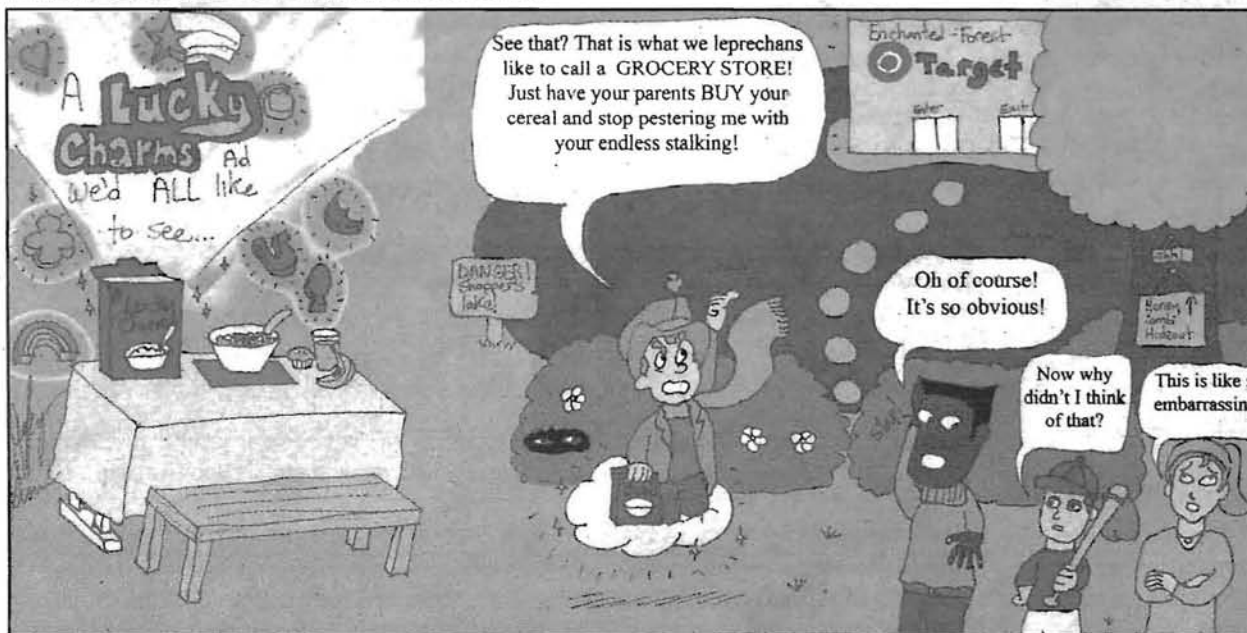
## MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



## STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



## RANDOM MINDS BY JEFFREY GROSSMAN



## Bananas #24

by Paul Maguire



## WOMEN, from page 7

UM-St. Louis won their last meeting in the previous season at home by a score of 75-69. The Tritons came ready to play and showed it by taking an early lead and never giving it up.

Rockhurst tied the game once at 2-2 before White made two three-pointers and teammate Kelly Mitchell, junior, communications, made another to give UM-St. Louis a lead of 11-2 just five minutes into the game. The Tritons would never look back and would secure their 10th win of the season by a score of 71-51. With the win, the Tritons now have a 6-6 conference record. White played for 28 minutes, leading the Tritons in scoring with 20 points in addi-

tion to seven assists and six rebounds.

"After picking up a big win like this, we don't have anything but confidence right now. We're playing well right now and there isn't a game we ... feel like we can't win," White said after the game.

The Tritons will try to keep up their winning ways, taking to the road for a four game road trip before returning home for the final two games of the season. On Thursday, the Tritons will face Southern Indiana, who has a 6-4 conference record an overall record of 15-6. Two days later, the team will play Kentucky Wesleyan which has a 3-9 conference record and an overall record of 10-11.

# YOUR COMIC COULD BE HERE

thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu

# What's Current

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

## Campus Safety Walk



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

Each group of Safety Walk summarize the findings of safety walk on Wednesday night at Museum Room of Provincial House- South Campus.

### Monday, Feb. 1

**Student Life Blood Drive** Make sure to attend the Spring 2010 Student Life Blood Drive! Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation. When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Currently only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood. Come to the MSC Century Rooms on from 10:00am-3:00pm to become a blood donor! For more info contact Cindy at 314-516-5442.

**Workshop for Making a Smooth Transition** Transfer students will be provided with the tools and knowledge necessary for a successful transition into UMSL as well as avoiding transfer shock. Students will be introduced to the campus community including academic, social, recreational, and professional development services. Located in 225 MSC from 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

### Tuesday, Feb. 2

**Panopto** Join The Faculty Resource Center staff for a hands-on presentation and overview of Panopto. Panopto is a new MyGateway tool that allows instructors to conveniently and easily record, capture and share video presentations with their students. Panopto is an easy way to create course lectures, study guides, course introductions, test reviews and more. Located in SCC from 1:00 AM to 2:15 AM.

**3-on-3 Basketball Tournament** One-night with men's and women's divisions. Tournament champions win Campus Recreation t-shirts. Advance registration is necessary. Sign up in the Campus Recreation Office, 203MT. Entry deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 26. Located in Mark Twain Gym from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For more information contact Campus Recreation at 516-5326. Located in 225 MSC from 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

### Wednesday, Feb. 3

**Arena Football League** Experience Campus Rec's fast-paced, high-scoring, and fun-filled game of no-contact indoor football. This is a 3 week Wednesday night league (Feb. 3, 10, & 17). Teams consist of four players plus subs. League champions win t-shirts. Team and individual signups accepted. Advance online registration is required by Thurs, Jan. 28. Located in Mark Twain Gym from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For more info contact Campus Recreation at 516-5326.

### Thursday, Feb. 4

**Breakfast and Business** is sponsored by the College of Business Administration. The discussion topic for the February event is "Residential Real Estate Rollercoaster" Located in UMSL WCEC from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. For more information contact Jane Ferrell at 516-5883.

**Greek Musicians in the United States** A reception will precede this lecture at 7:00 PM. Located in MSC Century Room C at 7:30 PM. For more information contact Bob Ell at 516-7299.

### Friday, Feb. 5

**College of Business Administration Research Seminar Series** Dali Jiang, Visiting Scholar, Ctr. for Transportation Studies, UMSL, will present "The Design of Uncapacitated Single Allocation Hug-and-Spoke Networks Based on Hybrid Algorithm". Located in 401 SSB from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. For more information contact Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 314-516-7654.

**Night Skiing at Hidden Valley** This off-campus adventure at Hidden Valley Ski Resort includes ski or snowboard rental, lift tickets, and one hour beginner ski instruction. Registration fee is \$25 for UMSL students and \$35 for faculty & staff. Transportation for students is available for an extra \$10 charge. Registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 29, however, enrollment is limited, so don't delay, sign up today in the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain.